

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## 16 punished over Kunduz hospital bombing

BY TARA COPP AND CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has punished 16 military personnel for an airstrike last year on a Doctors Without Borders medical facility in Afghanistan that killed 42 civilians, including doctors and patients.

The results of the investigation into the Oct. 3, 2015, airstrike in Kunduz were announced Friday by Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command.

For 12 of the 16 personnel — who included members of the AC-130U gunship aircrew that fired on the hospital, a general officer and a U.S. Special Forces unit that was on the ground and identified the target — the punishments included suspension and removal from command, letters of reprimand, formal counseling and extensive retraining, according to a letter released Friday by the Pentagon that outlined the results of the investigation.

Three aircrew members still face recertification boards that will determine whether they are eligible to be returned to flight status. Votel said those crewmembers have not flown since the incident and their recertification is still in progress.

Five of the 16 personnel, including the

general officer, were ordered out of Afghanistan. The general officer also was removed from command.

The hospital airstrike occurred in the early-morning hours of Oct. 3 as Afghan forces battled Taliban insurgents, who had overrun Kunduz on Sept. 28 and briefly held the city of 300,000. Fourteen staff members, 24 patients and four caretakers were killed, according to Doctors Without Borders, which goes by its French initials, MSF.

In the days after the attack, President Barack Obama apologized, and Defense Secretary Ash Carter said he would hold personnel accountable if an investigation showed U.S. culpability in the airstrike.

The Pentagon has concluded that the personnel did not know they were striking a medical facility; therefore, the charges against them fell short of a war crime.

Instead, Votel said Friday that the incident was the result of a string of communication and operational breakdowns that occurred as U.S. and Afghan forces were on their fourth day of firefights against the Taliban in the area. The area was unusually hostile, he said.

"This was an extraordinarily intense situation," Votel said, noting that the air crew had to evade a surface-to-air missile

that was shot at them shortly after they reached the target. "That's a very significant thing. That does not happen very often in Afghanistan."

The hospital was marked on a "no strike list" database, though the crew flying the mission did not have access to that database during the attack. The flight crew was launched in response to an emergency call, which resulted in it taking off 69 minutes earlier than planned and kept it from receiving all of the information that they normally would process before takeoff, Votel said.

Afghan forces provided the correct grid coordinates for the Taliban building that the gunship intended to strike, but the onboard system on the AC-130 malfunctioned, and the system directed the crew to an open airfield instead. The investigation found one crewmember did identify the correct Taliban target, but the aircraft was redirected to the hospital.

The Pentagon said it would not release names of the personnel to protect their privacy and because some of them are still serving overseas. The Defense Department has provided \$5.7 million in funds to rebuild the hospital. It also has paid between \$3,000 and \$6,000 to an estimated 170 people who were killed, injured or otherwise affected by the airstrike.

## SIGAR: US drawdown will leave Afghans with 'gaps'

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Current plans to reduce the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan will leave Afghan forces with "capability gaps" in a number of areas, which could threaten the success of reconstruction efforts in the country, a government watchdog said Friday.

Since 2001, the United States and its allies have worked to strengthen Afghanistan's army and police forces to be able to single-handedly defend the country, but major challenges

continue to hinder those efforts, and further troop withdrawals likely would exacerbate the situation, according to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction's quarterly report to Congress.

"The U.S. ability to influence operational outcomes on the ground is constricting, while (that of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces) has not correspondingly risen," the report said.

One major challenge is that the U.S. has lost much of its ability to directly observe the capabilities and effectiveness of Afghan forces since troop re-

ductions last year. Uncertainty over Afghan troop numbers is also a concern, as is the Afghans' ability to properly manage U.S. financial aid to support the military and police, SIGAR said.

The U.S. is currently scheduled to draw down its 9,800 troops in Afghanistan to about 5,500 by the start of next year. This reduction, SIGAR said, could result in "gaps in air support, signals, intelligence and other areas."

In light of the challenges, it said the long-term stability of Afghan forces remains uncertain.

"Without the ability to call on U.S. and coalition military components for help ... without the strong monitoring and mentoring arm of U.S. and coalition troops, it is increasingly questionable whether the ANDSF will develop into a robust and sustainable force," the report said.

The new head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson, is conducting a review of the security situation in Afghanistan, which could affect Washington's troop-withdrawal plans. His assessment is expected to be ready at the end of May.

# New charges in academy misconduct case

*The Washington Post*

The military has filed new criminal charges against Marine Maj. Mark Thompson, a former U.S. Naval Academy instructor who insisted he had been unfairly convicted of sexual misconduct with two female midshipmen.

After revelations about his case, the military has charged Thompson with making a false official statement and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

If convicted of lying under oath, Thompson could face up to five years in prison, dismissal from the service and a total

loss of his retirement benefits. Retired U.S. Air Force judge advocate Rachel VanLandingham said the potential penalty for the conduct-unbecoming accusation depends on the underlying offense.

The Marine Corps will hold an Article 32 preliminary hearing in May at Quantico, Va.

Thompson, who served in Afghanistan, has long fought to show he was falsely accused of having sex with two students in 2011, but a Post investigation revealed he'd been dishonest when he testified under oath in 2014 to an administrative board deciding if he should be

expelled from the Corps. Asked in January why he had lied to authorities, Thompson described the immense pressure he faced after one of the women asserted that he had raped her.

Thompson was acquitted of the rape charge but found guilty of five lesser offenses. He served two months in a military brig and was fined \$60,000.

After the Post story was published last month, the Marine Corps launched a new investigation.

A prosecutor met this month with one of the accusers, Sarah Stadler, to review the contents of her long-missing cellphone.

A number of the messages she and Thompson exchanged appear to contradict several assertions he made at the administrative hearing.

Then, this week, Marine Maj. Michael Pretus — a key witness for Thompson's defense at his 2013 court-martial — told The Post he would now serve as a witness for the prosecution.

"I feel vindicated," Stadler said of the new charges. "I feel relieved that this might now finally be coming to an end and that the end might actually be justice."

Thompson has maintained that he did nothing wrong.

## Marine general nominated to lead AFRICOM

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — A Marine three-star general was nominated Thursday to serve as the next leader of U.S. Africa Command, the mission of which has taken on greater urgency in recent months as Islamic State fighters spread their reach into northern Africa.

Lt. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, currently serving as director of joint force development at the Pentagon, would replace Gen. David Rodriguez at the Stuttgart, Germany-based

command.

AFRICOM, the military's youngest geographic command, became fully operational in 2008. Initially conceived as a command focused on training missions, the focus over the years has steadily shifted toward more lethal operations. Now, drone strikes against Islamic militants are periodically carried out in places such as Somalia and, more recently, Libya, where Islamic State fighters have gained a foothold.

For Waldhauser, countering terrorist groups in those countries as well as Boko Haram in

Nigeria will be the top areas of concern. AFRICOM is expected to continue training indigenous forces in the region to carry out the day-to-day fighting against such groups.

Waldhauser, a native of Minnesota who began his military career in 1976, has served in various infantry commands over the years. In 2001, as a colonel, he led some of the first forces into Afghanistan as well as Iraq. Rodriguez, a veteran of multiple tours in Afghanistan, where he held key command posts, is slated to retire.

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## Use of drugs considered in Prince probe

*The Washington Post*

An official in Minneapolis said there are still many open questions about Prince's death: Specifically, did Prince die from a painkiller overdose?

A law enforcement official said Thursday that an investigation was exploring Prince's history of prescription drug use. Strong pain relievers like Percocet, the investigator told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity, are possibly involved. The official also reportedly confirmed an incident TMZ reported in the wake of Prince's death: Prince collapsed on a plane six days before he died. When medical help arrived, they gave the unconscious musician a Narcan shot — a drug administered when opioid overdoses are suspected.

Should the investigation ultimately show that Prince overdosed, it will be another link in the grim chain connecting fame and fatal drug use — though risk of death is, historically, higher than average for younger artists.

## Senators take fresh steps in effort to reform VA

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — Senators took fresh steps this week in the effort to reform the beleaguered Veterans Affairs Department just as news broke of a new scandal — cockroaches in food at a VA hospital in Chicago.

"Almost every morning there's a story on the news about some other failure at a VA hospital," said Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Veter-

ans' Affairs Committee.

He said the Chicago story was "just another failure of care for our veterans that we need to see stopped."

Nearly every committee member joined Isakson on Thursday to unveil the Veterans First Act, the product of nearly a year of negotiations.

The bipartisan bill combines other legislation aimed at increasing accountability, including lowering barriers to hire

and fire senior executives, expanding health care programs, protecting whistleblowers, reviewing prescription drug use, increasing access to disability compensation and expanding education access.

Isakson said leaders from both parties were aware of the bill but declined to say when it might be considered, especially in light of the constrained congressional calendar in an election year.



# LA takes QB Goff with top pick

Associated Press

CHICAGO— The Los Angeles Rams selected quarterback Jared Goff with the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft on Thursday while a former candidate for the top selection tumbled down the order after a bizarre video was shared on his Twitter feed showing him smoking marijuana.

Goff started every game during his three college seasons at California, setting records with 977 completions, 12,220 yards passing and 96 touchdown passes. The Rams, back in Los Angeles for next season after relocating from St. Louis, traded with Tennessee to get the pick.

"I'm taking it as an honor and something I'm going to have to prove them right, that they made the right decision," Goff said.

The No. 2 selection for the Philadelphia Eagles was Carson Wentz, making it the second straight year that quarterbacks were the first two selections.

Wentz led North Dakota State to its fifth consecutive FCS second-tier college championship in January. He passed for 1,651 yards and 17 touchdowns during his senior year that was shortened by a broken wrist.

After the top quarterbacks were off the board, the focus quickly turned to the slide by offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil, once thought to be a potential first overall selection. He fell all the way to Miami at 13 after a pair of damaging posts to his social media accounts.

Shortly before the draft began, a video was shared on Tunsil's Twitter account which showed him smoking marijuana out of a bong/gas mask contraption. His Instagram account reportedly showed a text-message exchange indicating he took money from coaches at his college team Mississippi, something he acknowledged during his news conference after he was selected by the Dolphins.

"Somehow, somebody got in my pho-

tos and hacked my Twitter account and somebody hacked my Instagram account, so it's crazy," Tunsil said. "I can't control that, man."

Miami wasn't turned off.

"He's a smart kid," general manager Chris Grier said. "He's very football intelligent. This guy is one of those grinders. There's no doubt this guy loves football, and football is very important to him."

A third quarterback went in the first round when Denver moved up to No. 26 to take Paxton Lynch of Memphis, making him a possible successor for Peyton Manning with the Super Bowl champion Broncos.

Three of the top 10 picks were players from Ohio State, and five in all.

San Diego took defensive end Joey Bosa at No. 3 with the first real wild card of the night, Dallas selected running back Ezekiel Elliott with the fourth pick, and cornerback Eli Apple went to the New York Giants at No. 10.

# Tunsil falls to Dolphins after leak

Associated Press

Laremy Tunsil, considered a potential No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft, tumbled down the board Thursday night after a bizarre video of him was posted on his Twitter account minutes before the start of the proceedings, potentially costing the offensive lineman millions of dollars.

The approximately 30-second video, which showed him smoking from a mask equipped with a bong, was posted to his verified Twitter account before quickly being deleted. The entire account was deactivated about 30 minutes later but the video was another indicator of Tunsil's off-the-field problems.

His troubled past — one chapter at a time — seemed to unfold on social media and national television for the world to see.

The excruciating wait for Tunsil finally ended when the Miami Dolphins took him with the 13th overall pick.

Tunsil initially wouldn't say he was the person in the video, but eventually confirmed it was him. He said his Twitter account was hacked and that he "made that mistake several years ago."

Dolphins general manager Chris Grier said the team had been aware of the video's existence well before the draft, and said it was two years old.

But Tunsil also had other social media problems.

He said his Instagram account was also hacked after a message was posted that showed an alleged text exchange between Tunsil and an Ole Miss football staff member where Tunsil requested money.

Tunsil acknowledged taking money from coaches during an interview after he was selected Thursday. When asked if he took money, Tunsil responded, "I'd have to say yeah."

The 6-foot-5, 310-pounder sat out the first seven games of his junior season after the NCAA ruled he received improper benefits, including the use of three loaner cars over a six-month period.

Tunsil, a three-year starter at Mississippi, was considered a potential top overall pick before the Tennessee Titans traded the pick to the Los Angeles Rams.

The Titans had a chance to take Tunsil with the eighth overall pick after a trade with the Cleveland Browns, but Tennessee passed on him, selecting Michigan State left tackle Jack Conklin instead.

The Baltimore Ravens had the No. 6 pick, but also passed on Tunsil; they went with Notre Dame offensive tackle Ronnie Stanley. But Baltimore general manager Ozzie Newsome said his decision was not influenced by the video, he just had Stanley rated higher on his draft board.

Tunsil was one of two Ole Miss players in this year's draft with off-the-field issues that at least partly overshadowed productive college football careers.

Defensive tackle Robert Nkemdiche was charged with possession of marijuana following a 15-foot fall at a hotel in Atlanta in December. He was taken by the Arizona Cardinals with the 29th overall pick late in the first round.

# Hawks overwhelm Celtics in Game 6

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Atlanta Hawks had their best regular season in franchise history spoiled last year by a dismal showing against Cleveland in the Eastern Conference finals.

They will get another shot at the Cavaliers in the second round of the NBA playoffs.

Paul Millsap had 17 points and eight rebounds, and the Hawks advanced to the second round with a 104-92 Game 6 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday night.

Al Horford and Kent Bazemore each added 15 points for the Hawks, who earned their first playoff series win over Boston since the St. Louis Hawks beat the Celtics in the 1958 Finals.

"Good to finally beat them," said Hawks point guard Jeff Teague, who was on Atlanta's 2012 team that lost to Boston in the first round. "It feels good."

The Hawks open the second round on Monday at Cleveland.

The Celtics' last three playoff appearances have ended in first-round exits.

Coming off a 27-point win in Game 5, the Hawks took advantage of poor shooting by Boston on Thursday, building as much as a 28-point lead.

Atlanta blew the game open with a 39-point third quarter in which it shot 74 percent from the field.

"I think we learned from before with this team that no lead is safe," Horford said. "To start the third it was important for us to get off to a good start and just keep attacking and have that mentality of keep attacking play after play."

"I felt we did that consistently in the third and that was the big difference."

The Celtics shot just 36 percent for the game. They made a final charge to get as close as 10 points, but Atlanta was able to close it out.

Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 25 points and 10 assists, but most of that came in the second half during the comeback effort after being bottled up early.

# Durant-Leonard matchup highlights Thunder vs. Spurs

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two years ago, the Thunder's Kevin Durant tweeted that Kawhi Leonard was a good player who got a lot of help from the San Antonio Spurs' system.

Durant recognizes the Leonard Oklahoma City is about to square off against is much more. In fact, Durant is so impressed that he checks how Leonard performs each game.

"He's grown so much," Durant said. "He's probably the best in the league at shooting the mid-range (jumper) off the dribble. He posts up, dribbles, can shoot the three, catch and shoot. Their team, their system, their continuity and how they move allows him to get free a lot of times and utilizes his game."

Durant respect for Leonard has also grown over the years.

After Leonard was named Finals MVP in 2014, Durant said on Twitter he would take Indiana's Paul George over Leonard, and that Leonard was "doing work like this because of the system."

Durant later clarified, saying he meant no disrespect to Leonard, he simply liked George better. Last month, Durant, unprompted, said Leonard is not a "system player."

On Saturday, Durant and Leonard will renew acquaintances in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals in San Antonio.

From The Associated Press

"We just wore them down," Teague said. "We tried to make other players beat us. He (Thomas) is a one-man wrecking crew. They have other good players over there, but everybody feeds off him."

Jae Crowder added 15 points for Boston, but it wasn't enough to turn around the second straight game underlined by their inconsistencies.

For most of the game, the Hawks simply benefited from Boston's struggles.

The Celtics played most of the second half with Crowder battling foul trouble.

He went to the bench after picking up his fourth foul with 11:21 left in third quarter. Coach Brad Stevens rolled dice and re-inserted him, only for Crowder to be called for his fifth foul with 8:13 to play.

Crowder fouled out with 3 minutes to play.

But most of the damage was done much earlier.

There was lots of energy inside TD Garden from the home fans at tipoff, and Boston did a decent job of matching it on the defensive end, forcing four early turnovers.

The offensive end was another story. The Celtics started game by connecting on just four of its first 18 field goal attempts and shot 28 percent in the first half.

It let the Hawks get a little separation with Boston managing only four points in the first 6 minutes of second quarter.

"I think we should give the Hawks credit. They're better right now," Stevens said. "It pains me to say that, it's a sour ending. But they just proved it over six games. That's just kind of how my world works."



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# Cubs' Arrieta wins 16th straight

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jake Arrieta's bid for a second straight no-hitter was dashed on his fifth pitch. His Wrigley Field scoreless streak ended at 52 2/3 innings.

Oh, and he won his 16th consecutive decision, the longest streak in the major leagues in a decade.

"I was a little flat today," the NL Cy Young Award winner said Thursday after leading the Chicago Cubs over the Milwaukee Brewers 7-2.

Chicago improved to 16-5, its best 21-game start since opening 1907 at 17-4.

"Our most important ballgames are still ahead of us," Arrieta said. "We're still lined up pretty well."

Arrieta (5-0) gave up one run, three hits and four walks in five innings — the first run he allowed at home since July 25. Alex Presley's fifth-inning RBI double ended Arrieta's home scoreless streak at 52 2/3 innings, four outs shy of Ray Herbert's major league record set with the Chicago White Sox in 1962-63.

Arrieta's streak of consecutive winning decisions is the longest since Jose Contreras of the White Sox won 17 in a row from August 2005 to July 2006, according to STATS. Chicago has won in Arrieta's last 18 starts, a team record.

Cubs catcher David Ross believed some perspective was needed.

"For him to have an off night, and he gave up one (run)," Ross said.

Arrieta's streak of consecutive quality starts ended at 24, two shy of Bob Gibson's record from 1967-68.

"I saw 92 pitches. I saw the Cubs trying to win a World Series. I saw the next five years of his career," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "All that stuff mattered much more than breaking Gibson's record."

Cubs left fielder Kris Bryant left in the fifth after rolling his right ankle while running the bases two innings earlier. The team called it a "mild" sprain, but said Bryant was to undergo an MRI.

After throwing 119 pitches at Cincinnati on April 21 in his second no-hitter in a span of 11 regular-season starts, Arrieta had six days' rest. The Cubs were off Monday, and Wednesday's game was rained out.

Arrieta acknowledged he's "not accustomed" to the extra days off.

Wearing short sleeves on a 45-degree cloudy day with a 12 mph wind at his back, Arrieta had trouble locating his fastball.

He needed 31 pitches to get through the first inning, when Jonathan Villar led off with an opposite-field, broken-bat single over third base. A pair of one-out walks loaded the bases before Chris Carter and Kirk Nieuwenhuis struck out on elevated 94 mph fastballs.

Arrieta initially protested, then agreed with Maddon's call to lift him after five innings.

"The extra off days, the rainout last night, cold weather, extended pitch counts, long first inning, it is the right way to go," Arrieta said.

Ben Zobrist hit a two-run single in the first off Taylor Jungmann (0-4), who gave up five runs, six hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings as his ERA rose to 9.15. He also hit Bryant with two pitches.

"I think right now I'm a little timid," Jungmann said. "That's never been me, but it's obvious when you watch the game. Too much going on in my head and not competing."

Ross hit solo home run onto Waveland Avenue in the second, and Anthony Rizzo and Tommy La Stella added RBI doubles in the third for a 5-0 lead.

Villar had three hits and stole three bases as the Brewers lost to the Cubs for the 14th time in 15 games thanks to suspect pitching.

"There's no success in 11 walks, that's for sure," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "We were fortunate to only give up seven runs."

**Phillies 3, Nationals 0:** Cameron Rupp hit a tiebreaking, two-run double off Jonathan Papelbon in a three-run ninth, and visiting Philadelphia completed a three-game sweep of Washington.

Aaron Nola, Dalier Hinojosa, Elvis Araujo (1-0) and Jeanmar Gomez combined on a four-hitter and extended Washington's scoreless streak to 22 innings.

Odubel Herrera singled off Felipe Rivero (0-1) opening the ninth and took third on Freddy Galvis' double.

Maikel Franco was walked intentionally, and Papelbon came in to strike out pinch-hitter Darin Ruf. Rupp hit a drive that landed over a backpedaling Bryce Harper at the warning track in right, and David Lough followed with a run-scoring single.

Gomez got a save for the third straight day, his seventh overall.

**Tigers 7, Athletics 3:** At Detroit, Anthony Gose doubled and homered, and Anibal Sanchez (3-2) allowed two runs and three hits in 52/3 innings. Sanchez struck out nine, but walked seven — one shy of his big league high.

Chris Bassitt (0-2) gave up seven runs, 10 hits and three walks in 32/3 innings as Oakland lost for the fifth time in six games.

Francisco Rodriguez got one out for his fifth save.

**Orioles 10, White Sox 2:** Manny Machado had a grand slam and a career-high five RBIs, helping host Baltimore stop Chicago's six-game winning streak.

Chris Davis and Mark Trumbo hit consecutive third-inning homers for the Orioles, 8-1 at Camden Yards.

Machado stopped an 0-for-17 slide with an RBI double in a four-run third against John Danks (0-4) and homered in the sixth off Jake Petricka.

Mychal Givens (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings. Danks gave up six runs and nine hits in six-plus innings. He has lost seven straight starts.

**Braves 5, Red Sox 3:** Nick Markakis had three singles, a double and three RBIs, helping visiting Atlanta end an eight-game losing streak.

Mallex Smith doubled twice and had an RBI single for the Braves, a big league-worst 5-17.

Jhoulys Chacin (1-1) gave up two runs and six hits in five-plus innings to win for the first time since signing with the Braves as a free agent.

Clay Buchholz (0-3) allowed five runs, eight hits and four walks in 61/3 innings.

**Diamondbacks 3, Cardinals 0:** Rubby De La Rosa struck out a career-high 10 and pitched two-hit ball through seven innings and Chris Herrmann and Brandon Drury homered for host Arizona.

The Diamondbacks forced a split in the four-game series. De La Rosa (3-3) had been shaky this year and was demoted to the bullpen for a time but turned in his second straight strong start.

Herrmann's two-run home run — after Drury's blooper dropped in for a double — gave the Diamondbacks a 2-0 lead in the second. Drury lined a 2-1 pitch from Michael Wacha (2-1) into the seats in left for a solo shot in the fourth.

It was Drury's second home run in two days.

Wacha (2-1) lasted seven innings. He struck out nine with two walks and allowed three runs and five hits.

**Marlins 5, Dodgers 3:** At Los Angeles, Dee Gordon and Martin Prado drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with consecutive two-out singles in the seventh inning, and Miami got home runs from Giancarlo Stanton and J.T. Realmuto to complete a four-game sweep.

Jose Fernandez (2-2) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings, striking out eight and walking three.

Kenta Maeda (3-1) was charged with four runs and seven hits over 62/3 innings in his fifth big league start, after allowing just one run in 252/3 innings.

The Dodgers held a 2-1 lead into the seventh before Gordon chased Maeda with his RBI single. Prado then greeted Pedro Baez with a first-pitch single, and the right-hander balked home Gordon with the Marlins' fourth run.

Stanton added his 18th homer in the eighth against Baez, and A.J. Ramos got three outs for his sixth save.

# Capitals outlast Penguins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — T.J. Oshie raised his arms in celebration and looked at referee Dan O'Rourke. Oshie was pretty sure he scored in overtime to complete a hat trick and one of the biggest games of his career.

Oshie's third goal of the night stood up after video review and the Washington Capitals beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 on Thursday night in an overtime thriller that was a classic start to the highly anticipated second-round playoff series between Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby.

"That's kind of the stuff you dream about when you're a kid playing in the backyard by yourself is scoring the OT winner and getting a hat trick," Oshie said. "It was awesome. Great way to win."

Oshie's wraparound just barely crossed the goal line against the right pad of Pittsburgh's Matt Murray 9:33 into overtime. The call on the ice was a goal, and the NHL's situation room said video replay confirmed that the puck was completely over the line.

Murray, who made 31 saves but was beaten three times by Oshie and once by Andre Burakovsky, wasn't convinced.

"The ref called it a goal on the ice," Murray said. "I don't know how he could have possibly seen it from his angle. But I thought I had it, to be honest. I knew it was close, but I thought it never fully crossed the line. I thought it was close enough that it would be inconclusive."

To the Penguins, it was an inconclusive end to a fast game played at their blistering pace. Ben Lovejoy, Evgeni Malkin and Nick Bonino scored for Pittsburgh, which will try to even the best-of-seven series Saturday night in Game 2.

Both teams expect much of the same entertainment value that was on display in Game 1. Beyond Murray stoning Ovechkin and Braden Holtby turning aside 42 of 45 shots, there were goals off the rush, a knee-on-knee hit by Washington's Tom Wilson on Conor Sheary and even Jay Beagle getting a stick stuck between his helmet and visor.

"The momentum shifts, the big hits, the goals, overtime, the big saves: This is what the playoffs are all about," Oshie said.

The spotlight was on Ovechkin and Crosby in their first meeting in the Stanley Cup playoffs since 2009. Ovechkin assisted on Oshie's second goal, while Crosby was on the ice for three goals against and won 68 percent of his faceoffs.

"I just make stupid plays, stupid moves," Ovechkin said about his failed breakaways. "Thanks God we won this game."

The Capitals won a playoff game that Holtby allowed more than two goals for the first time since Game 5 against the Boston Bruins in 2012. The Vezina Trophy finalist was tested plenty but made a big stop on Phil Kessel in the final minutes of regulation.

Pittsburgh outshot Washington 45-35. "I thought we did a pretty good job, generated some pretty good chances," Crosby said. "I thought we had some good looks and it was a fast-paced game back and forth, a typical of a game this time of year."

After Oshie's third-period goal, Bonino scored with 10:18 left to help send the game to overtime. That's where Oshie was the hero, much like he was for the United States in the shootout against Russia at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

# NCAA board rescinds satellite camp ban

Associated Press

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors scrapped a proposed ban on satellite camps Thursday, rebuffing a request from powerhouse conferences in the South and clearing the way for coaches to hold and work at clinics far from their campuses this summer.

The decision won't end the debate that centered on whether the camps are just another recruiting tool: The board also asked the Division I Council to conduct a broad assessment of the entire college football recruiting model in coming months, and that could bring modifications to how the camps are run.

The council approved a ban three weeks ago prohibiting Bowl Subdivision coaches from holding or working at camps and clinics away from their schools. The camps had drawn a high profile after Jim Harbaugh and his Michigan staff held camps in the South last summer and he was among the first to praise the board's decision.

"Good news," Harbaugh said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "It's good for prospective student-athletes, fans, coaches and competition."

The Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference sponsored the proposal that created the ban, but there

was an outcry from coaches who contend satellite camps provide opportunities for un-recruited athletes to be noticed by high-profile coaches and possibly receive scholarships.

"While we are disappointed with the NCAA governance process result, we respect the Board of Directors' decision and are confident SEC football programs will continue to be highly effective in their recruiting efforts," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said.

The SEC had warned it would lift its ban on satellite camp participation without an NCAA-wide prohibition. The SEC and ACC both said their coaches will now be allowed to participate in the camps.