

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Vinson strike group far from N. Korea

By ERIK SLAVIN

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — If the USS Carl Vinson strike group is heading to the Korean Peninsula, it is taking its time.

More than a week after reports first emerged that the aircraft carrier and its accompanying ships were headed toward the peninsula amid fears North Korea may conduct another nuclear test, Navy photos from Saturday show the Vinson operating nearly 3,500 miles away, off Indonesia.

Defense News first reported the existence of the photos, which are freely available on the official Navy.mil website.

If traveling at maximum speed, which the Navy lists at “34.5+ mph,” it would take the carrier, two destroyers and a cruiser roughly four to five days to reach the peninsula from Indonesia’s Sunda Strait.

Submarines also regularly provide undersea cover for carrier strike groups.

U.S. Pacific Command officials in Hawaii on Monday referred questions about the strike group to Pacific Fleet, which said it does not discuss details of ship movements.

“The Carl Vinson Strike Group cancelled a previously planned port visit to Australia and is continuing on track for all assigned missions in the Western Pacific,” a state-

ment said.

Thus far, reports on the Vinson’s impending arrival in waters near South Korea have come from White House and other Washington officials. The Navy and Pacific Command haven’t contradicted any of those reports, but never explicitly confirmed Korea as its destination or discussed a timeline.

PACOM directed the Vinson strike group “to sail north and report on station in the Western Pacific Ocean after departing Singapore on April 8 ... rather than executing previously planned port visits to Australia,” according to its initial statement on the move.

Soon afterward, PACOM spokesman Cmdr. Dave Benham said the strike group was ordered north “as a prudent measure to maintain readiness and presence.”

“Third Fleet ships operate forward with a purpose: to safeguard U.S. interests in the Western Pacific,” Benham said. The number one threat in the region continues to be North Korea due to its reckless, irresponsible and destabilizing program of missile tests and pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.”

In an interview with President Donald Trump on Fox Business News last week, host Maria Bartiromo asked, “You redirected Navy ships to go toward the Korean Peninsula. What are we doing right now in

terms of North Korea?”

“You never know, do you? You never know,” Trump responded.

After declining to discuss military movements initially, Trump then said: “We are sending an armada. Very powerful.

“We have submarines, very powerful; far more powerful than the aircraft carrier, that I can tell you,” he added.

A Reuters reporter covering the Pentagon first reported April 9 that the Vinson strike group was headed toward the Korean Peninsula, citing an unnamed U.S. official.

“We feel the increased presence is necessary,” the official told Reuters, citing North Korea’s worrisome behavior.

The Vinson group includes the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and its embarked air wing, the destroyers USS Wayne E. Meyer and USS Michael Murphy and the cruiser USS Lake Champlain.

Trump has stated that all options, including military action, are possible as North Korea continues to develop its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons program. The communist state has conducted two nuclear tests and test-fired nearly 30 missiles since last year.

A North Korean missile exploded seconds after launch Sunday, according to U.S. officials. The failure came as Vice President Mike Pence arrived in the South for talks.

## Mattis: N. Korean missile test was meant to provoke

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — North Korea’s latest attempt over the weekend to launch a missile aimed to elicit a response from the United States, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday.

“The leader of North Korea, again, recklessly tried to provoke something by launching a missile,” Mattis told reporters aboard a military aircraft bound for Saudi Arabia.

The attempted missile launch failed, exploding immediately, he said. He declined to describe what kind of missile North

Korea attempted to fire. However, he did say it was not an intercontinental ballistic missile and it posed no threat to the mainland of the United States.

Mattis vowed to continue to work with China to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula and reach a peaceful agreement to end North Korea’s nuclear program.

“It shows why we are working so closely with the Chinese right now coming out of the Mar-a-Lago meeting (in Florida) between the two nation’s leaders ... to try to get this under control and aim for the denuclearized Korean Peninsula,” Mattis said.

North Korea attempted the missile launch on Sunday as Vice President Mike Pence arrived in South Korea during his tour of the east Asian region.

President Donald Trump’s administration has taken a hard line on the North Korean regime but has stopped short of indicating it would launch a pre-emptive military strike to stop the reclusive nation from testing nuclear weapons or missiles that don’t directly threaten the United States or its allies.

On Monday, Pence said “all options” remain open but the administration seeks “peace through strength.” He added that “the era of strategic pa-

tience is over.”

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Monday that the recent U.S. missile strikes on a Syrian government air base following President Bashar Assad’s use of chemical weapons should be a warning to the North Koreans that Trump is prepared to use force if he must.

“I think that the action he took in Syria shows that when appropriate, this president will take decisive action,” he said.

North Korea blames joint U.S.-South Korean war games for increasing the tension in the region.

## Black Hawk crash in Md. kills GI, injures 2

WASHINGTON — A soldier was killed and two were injured Monday afternoon when the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter they were flying crashed at a Maryland golf course, according to an Army news release.

The crewmembers were conducting a routine training flight, the Army said. The Black Hawk is from the 12th Aviation Battalion stationed at Davison Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Va. One of the injured crewmembers is listed in serious condition and the other is in critical condition at R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, the Army said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, and a team from the Army Combat Readiness Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., was to be at the site of the crash Tuesday, the Army said.

The helicopter crashed roughly 55 miles southeast of Washington in Leonardtown, the Army said.

From staff reports

# USMC to swap more courses to face-to-face from online

By TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Marine Corps is replacing more online courses with face-to-face training, according to an early copy of an internal message obtained by Stars and Stripes.

The cuts, which include seven classes representing five hours of annual training, take effect May 1, the message said. Those courses are Hazing, Tobacco Cessation, Unit Marine Awareness and Prevention Integrated Training, Marine Corps Records Management, Combating Trafficking in Persons, Violence Prevention and Social Media Conduct.

Online training on operational security, terrorism awareness and cybersecurity will

continue, the message said.

The changes are part of a plan for less online instruction and more face-to-face training by small-unit leaders, said Lt. Gen. Robert S. Walsh, head of Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

“The leader-led discussion approach optimizes the transfer of learning, provides the opportunity for immediate feedback and remediation, and can occur at almost any time or place,” he said in the message announcing the changes.

Small-unit leaders will gain experience and maturity as they lead training discussions, he said, adding that Training and Education Command will offer online support to help leaders conduct in-person training.

Lance Cpl. Bradley Wood, a flight equipment technician with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on Okinawa, welcomed the changes and said Marines learn better in person.

“Switching to a more hands-on approach, as opposed to a primarily computer-based learning environment, will help mold Marines to better suit their jobs in the fleet,” he said.

Since 2015, the Marines have reduced annual online-training requirements by 19 hours by consolidating classes, making some biennial and removing others. The latest move follows the Navy’s decision to end most annual online-training classes for sailors.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jessica Bidwell contributed to this report.

## High concentrations of pollutants found in Futenma’s water

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — High levels of a banned pollutant have been detected in water running under Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa, a year after the substance was found in streams and underground water wells adjacent to Kadena Air Base.

High concentrations of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, or PFOS, and perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, were found during two underground-water surveys conducted in August and January, according to a statement released by the Okinawa prefectural government’s environmental protection department.

PFOS and PFOA are virtually the same, Okinawan officials said, though their concentrations differ, depending on the product.

PFOS and PFOA — both synthetic, fully fluorinated organic acids — are found in firefighting foam, aircraft grease, water-repellant materials and fluorine chemicals.

They have been known to cause tumors, increases in body and organ weight and death in animals, Okinawan officials said. Their manufacture and importation have been prohibited in Japan since 2010.

Drinking water on and off base is safe despite the acids’ presence in groundwater, said a spokesman from Ginowan City’s water bureau. The water on and off base is supplied by the Chatan Water Treatment Plant, which also serves Kadena and the surrounding area.

“High levels of contamination was detected in underground water samples taken from the Oyama and Kiyuna districts,” said Yoshinari Miyahira, team leader of the environmental protection department’s water

environments control team. “Both sit on lower grounds adjacent to Futenma.”

Local officials said it isn’t clear whether the material leaked recently or is from past contamination.

When the material was discovered outside Kadena last year, local officials in that case called for an immediate investigation, the suspension of its use and proper disposal of any on-hand stock.

Marine Corps officials did not respond to requests for comment.

In August, Okinawan officials found three locations out of 35 monitored throughout the prefecture that exceeded U.S. drinking water health advisory levels, which is 0.07 micrograms per liter, they said.

All three — 1.3, 0.21 and 0.71 micrograms per liter — were adjacent and downstream from the air station.

Japan has no guidelines on

how much of the acids are safe.

In January, the chemical were found in six out of 41 locations — with levels ranging between 0.11 and 0.88 micrograms per liter.

Miyahira said the chemicals did not appear in crop samples, and there is no immediate health risk as long as the water is not consumed. He said that signs point to the air station as being the culprit of the pollution, though Okinawan officials cannot be certain because Marine Corps officials won’t let them on base to investigate.

“The concentration of the substances is notably high in the vicinity of the downstream area of the air station,” Miyahira said. “Meanwhile, samples taken at higher grounds of the air station detected lower levels of the substances.”

Okinawan officials vowed to continue monitoring the situation.

## Calif. governor pardons 3 vets deported to Mexico

BY DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Easter weekend came to Army veteran Hector Barajas-Varela with a gift — the kind he could hope for but hadn't dared expect at the small shelter he runs for deported veterans in Tijuana, Mexico.

California Gov. Jerry Brown on Saturday pardoned Barajas-Varela and two other honorably discharged veterans who were deported from the United States after serving prison terms for criminal convictions.

The American Civil Liberties Union of California applauded the decision as historic and said it will likely clear the path for their return to the U.S. But the pardon comes with no promise. The final decision rests with U.S. immigration authorities.

For Barajas-Varela, 40, who has been on an emotional roller coaster since the U.S. government agreed to review his deportation status last year, the news was "huge." He was deported in 2004 and, after returning illegally to the U.S., was banned for life in 2009. He has been fighting to get back home ever since. *Stars and Stripes* featured Barajas-Varela and his efforts in 2016.

"It's a glorious Easter weekend for myself and 2 other veterans that were pardoned and their families," Barajas-Varela

posted on his Facebook page. A video showed him in tears as he announced the news. "This is awesome."

Born in Mexico, Barajas-Varela came to the U.S. illegally as a 7-year-old with his family, growing up in a tough neighborhood in Compton, Calif. When he was old enough, he joined the Army, where he served with the 82nd Airborne from 1995 to 2001 and was honorably discharged.

After his service, he got into trouble. In July 2002, Barajas-Varela was convicted and sent to jail for an incident in which a weapon was fired from a vehicle, according to the pardon.

After completing his sentence in 2004, he was detained by immigration authorities and deported. He had never become a naturalized citizen even though serving in the military had given him the right to apply for citizenship. Military members are automatically granted the right to citizenship but they have to apply by filling out paperwork and taking tests. A report by the ACLU last summer said many don't always realize their naturalization is not automatic. Barajas-Varela said he thought he was a citizen until his arrest.

By his second deportation, Barajas-Varela had a daughter — an even more powerful pull to go home. Lilliana is now 11. In 2013, he founded the Deported Veterans Support House.

## Mattis pushes for political resolution for war in Yemen

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — As the United States considers increasing support for the Saudi Arabian-led coalition backing the Yemeni government in a brutal two-year civil war, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis insisted a political process was the only option to break the stalemate.

"Our goal is for that crisis down there [in Yemen] — that ongoing fight — be put in front of a U.N.-brokered negotiating team and try to resolve this politically as soon as possible," Mattis told reporters aboard a military aircraft Tuesday en route to Riyadh. "It has gone on for a long time."

The return to Saudi Arabia is the first leg of a weeklong tour of nations throughout the Middle East and North Africa. For Mattis, it is a chance to reconnect with kingdom leadership that he worked closely with in the past — including King Salman, who he will visit Wednesday. Mattis, a retired Marine general, spent the final years of his service as

the chief of Central Command, responsible for operations throughout the Middle East.

President Donald Trump's administration is weighing options that could further the military's involvement in Yemen, where a Saudi-led group has been fighting Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who control from Yemen's capital, Sana'a.

Mattis on Tuesday declined to discuss specific examples of what the American military could offer to boost the Saudis' campaign.

The U.S. could increase intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance operations and boost logistical support, including aerial refueling operations, for the Saudis and Emirati troops, but the Americans' primary focus in Yemen remains al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, Pentagon officials have said. The terrorist group has taken advantage of the ongoing war to carve out areas of ungoverned territory in the country's southwest to train its fighters and plot attacks against Western targets, according to the Pentagon.

## Film written by Iraq War vet is fiction shaded by realities

BY ALEX HORTON  
*Stars and Stripes*

SAN ANTONIO — Chris Roessner received great and terrible news at age 17. He was accepted into the prestigious film program at the University of Southern California, but he had no way to pay for it.

Roessner came from a military family and knew he could serve a few years for education benefits, but he also was interested in creating the story of a life. He spoke with an Army recruiter in Ohio who offered an exaggerated claim of how much

money he'd receive in GI Bill benefits to pay for film school. It sounded low-risk, and he enlisted in the summer of 2001, when his filmmaking ambitions and an Army life were two distinct pursuits, he said.

But the 9/11 attacks a few months later drew those ideas closer together, and his orders to deploy to Iraq as forces massed for the U.S. invasion synchronized his life with his passion, Roessner said.

With a filmmaker's eye, Roessner crossed the border into Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division in April 2003. What he

experienced there helped shape the script of "Sand Castle," a film he wrote that debuts Friday on Netflix, the popular video-streaming service.

Some veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have created novels, plays, short fiction, sculptures and poems, all at least partly chiseled by their wartime service. But "Sand Castle," according to Roessner, could be the first film about the war in Iraq penned by a veteran who served there and released by a well-known studio.

"The torch is in your hand if you want it or not," Roessner,

now 33, said about the responsibility of being among the first of his generation of veterans to depict their own war. The distinction is an echo of "Platoon," a Hollywood film written and directed by Oliver Stone, a Vietnam veteran, and among the most famous movies about that war.

Roessner hopes the film resonates with veterans, but he believes some of them might not see their own experiences translated on screen. He encourages them to find their own way to convey their story.

## May calls for early UK vote

Associated Press

LONDON — In a shock announcement, Prime Minister Theresa May on Tuesday called for an early general election to be held June 8 to seek a strong mandate as she negotiates Britain's exit from the European Union.

Standing outside 10 Downing Street, May said she would ask the House of Commons on Wednesday to back her call for an election, three years before the next scheduled date in May 2020. She said that since Britons voted to leave the EU in June, the country had come together, but politicians had not. She said the political divisions "risk our ability to make a success of Brexit."

May's governing Conservatives have 330 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons. May said that "our opponents believe that because the government's majority is so small, our resolve will weaken and that they can force us to change course" on leaving the EU.

"They are wrong," she said.

Under Britain's Fixed-Term Parliaments Act, elections are held every five years, but the prime minister can call a snap election if two-thirds of lawmakers vote for it.

# Suspect in Ohio Facebook video shooting kills himself

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The man who randomly killed a Cleveland retiree and posted video of the crime on Facebook shot himself to death in his car Tuesday during a police chase in Pennsylvania, ending a multistate manhunt less than 48 hours after it began.

Acting on a tip, Pennsylvania State Police spotted Steve Stephens, 37, in Erie County, in the state's northwest corner, and went after him. After a brief chase, he took his own life, authorities said.

"This started with one tragedy and ended with another person taking their own life," said Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams. "We would have liked to have brought Steve in peacefully and really talked to him about why this happened."

Stephens, a job counselor who worked with teenagers and young people, was wanted on an aggravated murder charge in the shooting of Robert Godwin Sr., 74, who was picking up cans Sunday when he was gunned down.

Stephens posted a video of himself killing Godwin, a former foundry worker and a father of 10. "I snapped, I just snapped," Stephens said.

Police would not speculate on what was behind the killing, but in the video and other footage, Stephens talked about losing everything to gambling and having trouble with his girlfriend.

One of Godwin's daughters, Debbie Godwin, said she wished Stephens had been captured.

"I'm not happy he's dead at all, not at all. If you did it, you have to face your crime," she said.

The break in the case came when police received a tip that Stephens' car was in a McDonald's parking lot, Williams said.

The chase lasted 2 miles, and troopers disabled Stephens' car, state police said. As his car was spinning out of control, he shot himself in the head with a pistol, police said. A pursuing trooper's car slid into Stephens' vehicle, but the officer was not

injured.

Law enforcement officials had said on Monday that Stephens' cellphone was last tracked Sunday afternoon near Erie, about 100 miles east of Cleveland.

Williams said Tuesday it wasn't clear whether Stephens had help while he was on the run or where he had been and that investigators will try to retrace his steps.

The video of the killing was up for three hours before it was taken down, raising questions about Facebook's handling of objectionable material posted by its users. Facebook said it removed the video 23 minutes after learning of it.

In the video of the shooting, Stephens told Godwin the name of his girlfriend and said, "She's the reason that this is about to happen to you." Godwin did not seem to recognize the name. The woman Stephens spoke of, Joy Lane, said in a text message to CBS that "we had been in a relationship for several years. I am sorry that all of this has happened."

## Order targets visa program for high-skilled workers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump went to the politically important state of Wisconsin on Tuesday to sign an order aimed at curbing abuses in a visa program used by technology companies that rely on high-skilled foreign workers.

The order, dubbed "Buy American, Hire American," marks a return to the populism Trump seemed to all but abandon with a series of recent reversals on economic policies.

Trump planned to sign the directive at the headquarters of tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc. in Kenosha, Wis., a state he narrowly carried in November on the strength of support from

white, working-class voters. But Trump is currently facing a 41 percent approval rating in the state.

Trump is targeting the H-1B visa program, which the White House says undercuts American workers by bringing in large numbers of cheaper, foreign workers, driving down wages.

The tech industry has argued that the H-1B program is needed because it encourages students to stay in the U.S. after getting degrees in high-tech specialties — and they can't always find enough American workers with the skills they need.

The order would direct U.S.

agencies to propose rules to prevent immigration fraud and abuse in the program. They would also be asked to offer changes so that H-1B visas are awarded to the "most-skilled or highest-paid applicants," said administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity despite the president's frequent criticism of the use of anonymous sources.

The officials said the order also seeks to strengthen requirements that American-made products be used in certain federal construction projects, as well as in various federal transportation grant-funded projects. The commerce secretary will review

how to close loopholes in existing rules and provide recommendations to the president.

The order specifically asks the secretary to review waivers of these rules in free-trade agreements. The waivers could be renegotiated or revoked if they are not benefiting the United States.

Trump campaigned on populist promises to stand up to China, which he claimed was manipulating its currency and stealing American jobs, and to eliminate the Export-Import bank, which he billed as wasteful subsidy. In a series of interviews last week, Trump reversed himself on both positions.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Paralyzed veteran found dead in wheelchair

**VA** GOOCHLAND — Virginia authorities are investigating the death of an Army veteran, paralyzed from the waist down, who was found in his wheelchair outside his apartment complex.

Media outlets reported Goochland County Sheriff Jim Agnew identified the man as Paul Chisholm, 38. The sheriff said he showed no signs of trauma other than to his feet, which apparently dragged under his wheelchair, leaving a trail of blood from his apartment. The blood pooled outside other apartment doors, where he may have sought help. A newspaper carrier found his body early Monday.

WWBT-TV reported that Chisholm's mother said he suffered from post-traumatic stress and was medically discharged after he was injured in Afghanistan, where he served with the 101st Airborne.

## Mom accused of taking photos, video of abuse

**TX** HUMBLE — Court records show a Houston-area woman is accused of placing a plastic bag over the head of her 1-year-old son and sending video of the abuse to relatives because she was upset that the child's father had a new girlfriend.

Jamelle Peterkin, 23, of Humble appeared in court Monday on a charge of endangering a child and was freed on \$15,000 bond.

The boy's aunt, Ra'Neicha Broadnax, told KTRK-TV in Houston that she received videos and pictures from Peterkin also showing the child being slapped.

Broadnax said Peterkin indicated she was angry about the

father's new girlfriend.

## Kids find syringes at Easter egg hunt

**OR** PORTLAND — Children searching for Easter eggs at a southeast Portland playground found a water bottle that contained syringes.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported the bottle was hidden in bushes at the playground that's across from a church.

Geoffrey and Molly Halsey took their two children to the playground to join other kids. A boy returned to the adults holding the bottle.

Molly Halsey recalled the boy saying, "Look what I found."

She said the parents — several of whom are nurses — were horrified by the discovery but grateful the needles were at least in a container and didn't prick someone.

## Widow gets husband's ashes back after theft

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A North Carolina woman said she has gotten back her husband's ashes after they were stolen from a garage in San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf area.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported thieves broke into Mary Wilkinson's rental vehicle last week. They stole cash, credit cards, clothing and a velvet pouch carrying the ashes.

The theft happened the day before Wilkinson and her daughter planned to scatter the cremains among the redwoods of the North Coast.

Wilkinson said she received a call from San Francisco police Saturday saying that a man had dropped off the ashes. He wasn't arrested and the other missing items weren't recovered.

Wilkinson said she no longer

plan to scatter her husband's remains and will instead take them back home to Charlotte.

## Rare gold coin helping church build new home

**IN** VALPARAISO — A gold coin donated to a northwestern Indiana church is so rare it's helping pay for construction of a new church building.

A woman who is a member of GracePoint Church in Valparaiso donated the coin to help finance a new church building for the congregation, which has held services in an elementary school since its founding in 2009.

Sarah Miller, of Heritage Auctions, said the \$20 gold piece is one of only 10 known surviving 1866 Liberty Head double eagles stamped with "In God we trust." It could fetch more than \$300,000 when it's sold at auction April 27.

Pastor Ben Lamb said Heritage Auctions wired the church \$150,000 for advance payment toward the coin's final auction price and that's allowed construction to begin on the new building.

## Cursing discouraged at school construction site

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Foul language is being discouraged at one construction site in Philadelphia.

WTXF-TV reported a sign saying "No Foul Language" has been spotted at the site of the new library being built on the Temple University campus.

The station asked about the sign and was told nobody complained about bad language. Instead, Madison Construction said it put up the sign so workers will keep it clean around the students and anybody else who happens by.

## Rapping firefighters go viral with ode to hose

**ME** NEW GLOUCESTER — They've got hose in different area codes.

Actually, they don't because New Gloucester, like the rest of Maine, is located entirely in the 207 area code. But New Gloucester Fire & Rescue's parody of the song "Area Codes" by Ludacris and Nate Dogg is going viral anyway.

The fire department is using its parody video of the song as a recruitment tool. It features firefighters rapping and folding firehoses while singing about how they've "got hose in different area codes."

WGME-TV reported the video started as a collaboration by two firefighters. Conner Boucher was the main force behind it. He's hoping to parlay it into an appearance on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

## Judge under fire for rape case sympathy

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah judicial oversight commission representative said the number of comments about a judge calling a convicted rapist a "good man" during his sentencing hearing has nearly tripled since Friday.

Jennifer Yim said Monday that she has received about 120 emails, phone calls and Facebook messages about Judge Thomas Low. That number was up from about 46 on Friday.

The messages started coming in late March when Low came under scrutiny for letting Keith Robert Vallejo out of custody after a jury found him guilty of 10 counts of forcible sexual abuse and one count of object rape. Yim said most of the messages have come since Low's remarks at Vallejo's sentencing hearing April 12.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

On a mission to provide credible reporting and daily news to America's military, wherever they serve.

Mobile apps available: [www.stripes.com/apps](http://www.stripes.com/apps).

# Ryan scores in OT to propel Senators

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Ottawa Senators needed a late rally in Game 2 to tie up their Eastern Conference quarterfinal match-up with the Boston Bruins.

In Game 3, they had to stave off a furious charge by the Bruins to regain the series lead.

Bobby Ryan scored on a tip-in on a power play 5:43 into overtime, and Ottawa recovered after giving up a three-goal lead to beat Boston 4-3 Monday night and take a 2-1 edge in the first-round series.

Just over a minute after Bruins center Riley Nash received a two-minute penalty for roughing Ryan, Ryan got free in the zone, tapping the puck in on assists by Kyle Turris and Erik Karlsson. Mike Hoffman added two goals for Ottawa, with Derrick Brassard scoring the other. Craig Anderson finished with 17 saves.

“I always say that you make your money during the season, but you make your reputation in the playoffs, and right now he’s showing everybody that

he’s a gamer,” Senators coach Guy Boucher said of Ryan.

It was the second straight overtime game of the series, and second consecutive win for the Senators following their 4-3 victory in Game 2.

This time, the Bruins rallied from a 3-0 deficit with three goals in the second period, tying the game on a power-play goal by David Pastrnak.

Noel Acciari and David Backes also scored for the Bruins. Tuukka Rask stopped 28 shots.

“We were allowed to play in the second and third (periods), we were a better team,” Pastrnak said. “We had many opportunities to end it in the third.”

Bruins fans rained sustained boos on the referees after Ryan’s goal and threw items on the TD Garden ice in protest of Nash’s penalty, which gave the Senators the man advantage.

Boston interim coach Bruce Cassidy said the penalty zapped the energy from his team’s surge to tie it in regulation.

“Yeah, I agree with you 100

percent — demoralizing,” he said.

Ottawa seemed to be cruising in the second period following Hoffman’s second goal of the night off a power play to make it 3-0. But then Boston finally got going on the offensive end.

First, Acciari, who returned from injury, scored with a tip-in off a miss by John-Michael Liles. That was followed 42 seconds later by Backes’ slap shot after he broke through the defense to swipe the puck and open the ice.

Then, the Bruins finally cashed in on Pastrnak’s goal, with Dion Phaneuf in the penalty box for slashing.

It nearly nullified what was a dominant start by the Senators, who kept the action on their side of the red line for most of the first period.

The Bruins played through a rash of injuries in the first two games and were missing defensemen Adam McQuaid, Torey Krug, Brandon Carlo and Colin Miller on Monday.

Acciari and center David Krejci both returned, but Bos-

ton struggled early to find much offensive traction.

Hoffman and Brassard scored just 25 seconds apart in the first period and exploited a depleted Boston defense to give Ottawa a 2-0 lead.

The Bruins made up for their sloppy start and came out more aggressive on the offensive end in the second period, scoring three goals on just seven shots — including the two in 42 seconds — to get back into the game.

The Senators outshot the Bruins 10-3 in the first, taking advantage of several defensive breakdowns on their side of the ice.

Ottawa’s first goal of the night came after Karlsson flipped a pass behind Boston’s defense to spring Hoffman on a breakaway. Hoffman controlled the puck and easily tapped it by Rask into the right corner of the net.

Then Brassard got on the board, slipping a slap shot by Rask for his second goal in two games.

## Predators’ overtime win leaves them up 3-0 on Chicago

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Nashville Predators are at a point they’ve never been before in franchise history, and now they have a chance to keep their first-round series from going back to Chicago.

They can thank a 20-year-old playing the fourth postseason game of his career for putting them in that position.

Kevin Fiala scored on a backhand 16:44 into overtime, and the Predators rallied from a 2-0 deficit in the third period to push the Blackhawks to the brink of elimination with a 3-2 victory early Tuesday morning in Game 3 of the first-round series.

“That’s good for him, a young kid in a big situation like that,” Nashville coach Peter Laviolette said of Fiala scoring his

second career playoff goal. “I thought he handled it well.”

The Predators have never won the first three games of any playoff series, and they got here by outscoring the Western Conference’s No. 1 seed 9-2. Even with the Blackhawks finally ending their scoring drought in this series, it wasn’t enough as Filip Forsberg scored twice in the third period to force overtime.

“Obviously, we want to close it out at home, but we’ve got to focus just the same way we focused on this one and prepare the same,” Nashville goaltender Pekka Rinne said.

Rinne made 34 saves, even with his franchise playoff scoreless streak ending early in the second period at 141 minutes, 5 seconds.

**Maple Leafs 4, Capitals 3 (OT):** Tyler Bozak scored 1:37

into overtime to cap his team’s comeback from two goals down in the second period as host Toronto beat Washington to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

Auston Matthews and Nazem Kadri each had a goal and an assist and William Nylander also scored for Toronto. Frederik Andersen made 23 saves.

Toronto trailed 2-0 in the first period, and then 3-1 early in the second, before Kadri and Nylander scored 4:07 apart late to tie the score in the final minute of the period.

Alex Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom and Evgeny Kuznetsov all scored for the Presidents’ Trophy-winning Capitals. Braden Holtby stopped 24 shots.

All three games so far have been decided in overtime.

**Ducks 5, Flames 4 (OT):** Corey Perry scored 1:30 into overtime as visiting Anaheim

rallied from three goals down to take a 3-0 series lead in the first-round series.

Perry’s sharp-angled shot deflected off several players and past Flames goalie Brian Elliott.

Shea Theodore had two goals while Nate Thompson had a goal and two assists and Nick Ritchie also scored for the Ducks. Rickard Rakell, Kevin Bieksa and Hampus Lindholm each had two assists.

John Gibson gave up four goals on 16 shots before he was replaced by Jonathan Bernier in the second period. Bernier stopped all 16 shots he faced.

Sean Monahan had a goal and an assist while Kris Versteeg, Sam Bennett and Michael Stone also scored for Calgary. Mikael Backlund and T.J. Brodie each had two assists and Elliott finished with 22 saves.

# Spurs hold off Grizzlies, lead series 2-0

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The Spurs responded to another late-game meltdown as they have all season: relying on a little three-point shooting and a whole lot of Kawhi Leonard.

They also got an assist from the officials, according to Memphis coach David Fizdale.

Leonard had a postseason career-high 37 points and added 11 rebounds, and San Antonio beat the Memphis Grizzlies 96-82 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Memphis.

San Antonio led for all but 13 seconds in winning its 10th consecutive postseason game over Memphis.

"This team has character, be-

sides the talent and the desire to win," Spurs center Pau Gasol said. "We have to keep that up every single night. We responded well when they made their run, and that's the mindset we have to have every night."

Leonard finished 9-for-14 from the field and was 19-for-19 on free throws.

Leonard attempted more free throws than Memphis had as a team, which infuriated Fizdale.

"We don't get the respect that these guys deserve because Mike Conley doesn't go crazy, he has class and he just plays the game," Fizdale said. "But I'm not going to let them treat us that way. I know (Spurs coach Gregg Popovich has) got pedigree and I'm a young rookie, but they are not going to rook us. That's unaccept-

able, that was unprofessional. My guys dug in that game and earned the right to be in that game, and they did not even give us a chance."

Memphis closed within 75-71 early in the fourth quarter, but San Antonio responded with three-pointers by Parker and Pau Gasol in rebuilding their double-digit lead.

The Grizzlies forced seven turnovers while outscoring the Spurs 34-19 in the opening 16 minutes of the second half. Conley, Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph accounted for 21 points.

Conley finished with 24 points, Randolph had 18 points and Marc Gasol added 12 points for the Grizzlies.

Tony Parker added 15 points for the Spurs, who had three others score in double figures.

San Antonio had a better start than in Game 1. Leonard made sure of that.

Leonard opened the game by making his first three shots and four free throws as the Spurs built a 13-point lead, the same deficit they faced in the opening period Saturday.

Unlike Game 1, there was no coming back from that deficit for Memphis.

San Antonio had a 26-point lead in the first half on the strength of its outside shooting. The Spurs only had 12 points in the paint, but got two three-pointers from Parker and Danny Green, in building a 26-point lead in the first half.

Randolph had his 21st double-double this season and his first of this postseason after being limited to six points and three rebounds in Game 1.

# Irving scores 37 points as Cavs pull away from Pacers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Blown big leads. Defensive breakdowns. Bad shots. None of it means anything to LeBron James.

The only score that matters is 2-0.

Kyrie Irving scored 37 points, Kevin Love added 27, James had 25 and the Cleveland Cavaliers averted another fourth-quarter collapse in Game 2, beating the Indiana Pacers 117-111 on Monday to take a 2-0 lead in the series.

After giving up a late lead and squeaking out the opener by just a point, James and Co. showed more intensity on defense, more swagger in general and held on to win their 10th straight first-round game in the past three seasons.

However, the defending champions, following a pattern that began late in the regular season, nearly gave away an 18-point lead in the fourth as the Pacers crawled within four in the final minute before Cleveland closed it out at the foul line.

Still, James came away en-

couraged. The Cavs are finding their groove.

"We're right there of what we know we can become," James said. "We'll figure it out. I'd much rather have an 18-point lead than not have a lead at all. We're right there on turning the switch on what we really can become."

James added 10 rebounds and seven assists while winning his 19th straight game in the first round. He did have eight of Cleveland's 19 turnovers, miscues that allowed the Pacers to hang around.

Game 3 is Thursday night at Indianapolis.

Paul George scored 32 and Jeff Teague 23 for Indiana, which showed more fight, but now has a steep hill to climb to get back in the series. Cleveland is 12-0 when starting 2-0 in the postseason.

Teague injured his right wrist in the second half and coach Nate McMillan said the starting guard will undergo X-rays.

The Cavs vowed they would play better after their near-disaster in Game 1 and they

mostly backed up their talk, delivering the kind of performance that was routine last season but rare in 2017.

In the third quarter, Cleveland took advantage of a mismatch underneath and pounded the ball inside to Love, who scored 10 straight and drew a charging foul on Lance Stephenson in a span of two minutes as the Cavs opened an 89-70 lead.

Irving ended the period by draining a three-pointer over Stephenson and the All-Star made sure Indiana's antagonizing guard knew about it, yapping in his direction long after the horn sounded.

"I thought we lost our composure and got frantic out there," McMillan said of his team's third-quarter meltdown. "We lost our poise and wasn't calm during that third quarter. And that was big."

The Pacers regrouped, ripped off 13 straight points and were within 113-109 when George hit a three-pointer with 20 seconds left.

Now, they're heading home in a hole they still believe they

can climb from.

"We know what's at stake," C.J. Miles said. "We're going to go out there, keep trying to give them hell, keep competing and we'll get ourselves a win."

The other hitch for Cleveland was that starting guard J.R. Smith didn't play in the second half because of a left hamstring injury. Iman Shumpert, who sat out the opener, replaced Smith and played 20 solid minutes.

George was upset that the fiery Stephenson briefly lost his composure.

"He's got to learn to control himself," said George, who was critical of Miles for taking the final shot in Game 1. "He's got to learn to just be in the moment. In our locker room Lance is looked at as one of our leaders. His body language has to improve, just for the team."

"We all know that Lance is an emotional guy. A lot of it is his heart and his competitiveness, that emotion comes out on him. He's just got to channel that and put it towards making effort plays on the court and do whatever he needs for us to succeed."

# Thames homer helps Brewers top Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Milwaukee Brewers have found a left-handed complement for Ryan Bryan in the batting order, and everything is right in their world at the moment.

Early season sensation Eric Thames homered in his club record-tying fifth straight game and the streaking Brewers turned back the Chicago Cubs 6-3 on Monday night. The victory was their sixth in the last seven games.

Milwaukee never trailed after Thames hit an opposite-field homer to snap a 3-3 tie in the third inning. Jeromy Burnitz became the first and last Brewers player to homer in five straight games in August 1997.

“You’ve just got to ride the wave and enjoy it,” said Thames, 30, who played in Korea the last three years. “There’s always dark times around the corner,

so you’ve just got to take it in stride.”

Braun and Jeff Bandy also went deep for Milwaukee, the only team to hit as many as three homers in a game off Chicago starter John Lackey (1-2) last season.

“It’s unique that Ryan’s not getting the attention after a five-home run start in the first couple weeks of the season,” manager Craig Counsell said. “But he’s happy with it, I guarantee you.”

The Cubs lost for the fourth straight time, their worst stretch since a five-game skid from July 5-9 last season. At 6-7, the defending World Series champs have lost four consecutive games at Wrigley Field for the first time since May, 2014.

“There’s no panic on our side at all,” Kyle Schwarber said. “We know that we’re a good baseball team and we’ll

bounce back. We have to turn the page.”

Brewers starter Chase Anderson (2-0) pitched five innings of three-run, seven-hit ball to pick up the victory. He walked two batters and struck out five. Neftali Felix pitched a scoreless ninth for his fifth save in as many tries.

Milwaukee added pair of insurance runs in the eighth inning on Braun’s RBI double and steal of third base followed by catcher Willson Contreras’ throwing error.

“We did a lot of things well,” Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. “We have to take better care of the latter part of the game.”

Chicago trailed 3-1 when Albert Almora Jr. reached Anderson for a two-run double in the third inning. The hit scored Jason Heyward and Miguel Montero, who had led off with

singles.

It took the Brewers three batters to break through against Lackey in the first inning.

After Thames extended his hit streak to 10 games with a one-out double, Braun unloaded his seventh homer in the last nine games versus the Cubs. Braun’s 651st extra-base hit moved him into second place with Paul Molitor on the Brewers’ all-time list.

Chicago closed to within 2-1 on Ben Zobrist’s two-out single in the bottom half of the inning.

Bandy quickly restored the two-run lead with a homer to open the second inning.

Former Cubs Jason Hammel, Jorge Soler and Travis Wood received their 2016 World Series rings in a pre-game ceremony. All play for the Kansas City Royals, who had an open date.

# Holiday leads Yankees to 8th consecutive victory

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jordan Montgomery took a shutout into the seventh inning for his first major league win, Matt Holliday homered in his return to the lineup and the New York Yankees romped to their eighth consecutive victory by beating the Chicago White Sox 7-4 on Monday night.

Holliday put the Yankees ahead with a titanic three-run shot in a five-run third inning, and Aaron Judge added a two-run homer that chased Derek Holland (1-2) with the score 7-0 in the fifth. New York has rebounded from a 1-4 start with its longest winning streak since a 10-game run in June 2012.

**Braves 5, Padres 4:** Dansby Swanson hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning and Atlanta, boosted by Freddie Freeman’s two home runs, beat San Diego for a four-game sweep in its first series at SunTrust Park.

Swanson’s bases-loaded hit fell just in front of diving left

fielder Allen Cordoba. The Braves have followed a five-game losing streak with five straight wins.

**Red Sox 4, Rays 3:** Andrew Benintendi hit a go-ahead, two-run single as host Boston scored three unearned runs following a dropped throw by second baseman Brad Miller and beat Tampa Bay in the annual Patriots’ Day game.

Knuckleballer Steven Wright (1-1) allowed three runs — one earned — and nine hits in six innings as Boston won its third straight. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth for a save for the third straight day, his sixth this season.

**Indians 3, Twins 1:** Danny Salazar finished six innings strong after a shaky start, Michael Brantley homered and drove in two runs and visiting Cleveland beat Minnesota.

Salazar (1-1) struck out seven and retired 15 of his last 18 batters after allowing five hits and one walk in a seven-batter stretch spanning the first two innings.

**Astros 3, Angels 0:** Charlie Morton and three relievers combined for a five-hitter, Jose Altuve drove in two runs and host Houston beat Los Angeles for its fifth straight win.

Morton (1-1) worked in and out of trouble over five innings, allowing five hits and two walks with three strikeouts. Chris Devenski followed Morton with two perfect innings, Luke Gregerson threw a perfect eighth and Ken Giles pitched the ninth for his third save.

**Cardinals 2, Pirates 1:** Lance Lynn pitched seven shutout innings, Kolten Wong homered and host St. Louis stopped a three-game losing streak.

The Cardinals, who had lost six of seven, are 4-9 and still have the worst record in the NL.

**Rangers 7, Athletics 0:** A.J. Griffin pitched six scoreless innings in his return to the Coliseum, Nomar Mazara had two hits and three RBIs, and Texas beat host Oakland.

Carlos Gomez and Mike Napoli added two RBIs apiece to

help the Rangers end a three-game skid.

**Mariners 6, Marlins 1:** Robinson Cano and Nelson Cruz hit consecutive first-inning homers, Ariel Miranda pitched seven scoreless innings and host Seattle beat Miami in Ichiro Suzuki’s first visit to Safeco Field as a member of the 3,000-hit club.

Miranda (1-1) allowed four singles and only one runner to reach second base while striking out five. Nick Vincent pitched a perfect eighth before Evan Scribner allowed Christian Yelich’s third home run in the ninth.

**Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 2:** Jake Lamb hit a solo home run in the eighth inning and David Peralta added a run-scoring triple in the ninth to lead visiting Arizona to a victory over Los Angeles.

J.J. Hoover (1-0) threw two scoreless innings in relief of Robbie Ray to earn the victory and Fernando Rodney blanked the Dodgers in the ninth to earn his fifth save.