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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US, British, French forces strike Syria

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—American, British and French air and sea forces launched 105 missiles at three Syrian facilities late Friday, striking at “the heart” of President Bashar Assad’s ability to produce the chemical weapons that he has used repeatedly against civilians, Pentagon officials said Saturday.

The Pentagon’s initial assessments of the highly anticipated strike indicated all of the missiles fired into Syria struck their targets about 4 a.m. local time, destroying a key chemical weapons research and manufacturing facility in metropolitan Damascus and two chemical weapons stockpiles outside Homs, said Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, the director of the Joint Staff, at a news briefing at the Pentagon.

“I’d use three words to describe this operation: precise, overwhelming and effective,” he said. “This is going to set the Syrian chemical weapons program back for years.”

President Donald Trump ordered the strikes after securing support from British and French allies in the effort to punish Assad’s repeated use of banned chemical weapons against civilians. It was the second time that Trump ordered a single round of strikes against the Syrian regime for their use of banned chemical agents.

“This massacre was a significant escalation in a pattern of chemical weapons use by that very terrible regime,” Trump said in a television address to the nation Friday evening just as the missiles were set to hit their targets. “The evil and the despicable attack left mothers and fathers, infants and children thrashing in pain and gasping for air. These are not the actions of a man. They are crimes of a monster, instead.”

The attack on Syria came from multiple directions as the coalition launched missiles from warships in the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf, while a pair of American B-1 Lancer conventional bombers and French and British fighters struck from the air, McKenzie said.

The United States fired 69 cruise missiles, launched from a pair of guided-missile destroyers, one cruiser and one nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, McKenzie said. The Lancers fired 19 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles, the first use of the long-range missiles in a combat operation.

The bombers did not enter airspace in range of Syrian anti-air systems, a defense official said Saturday. The JASSMs used were the extended-range version that can strike targets from about 600 miles away.

The British attacked with eight Storm Shadow missiles from Tornado and Typhoon aircraft, while the French launched three SCALP missiles from a frigate in the Mediterranean and nine more from fighters during the operation, McKenzie said.

Seventy-six of the missiles struck Syria’s Bazrah research and development center in greater Damascus, leveling three buildings in an area known to be heavily defended from air attacks, the general said Saturday. He identified that facility as “the heart” of Assad’s chemical weapons program.

A storage facility near Homs, where illegal sarin gas was produced, was bombarded with 22 missiles, and another weapons storage facility and command post near that north Syrian city was struck with seven missiles, McKenzie said.

Those targets were carefully selected to avoid collateral damage and the risk of hitting Rus-

sian or Iranian troops, an act that Pentagon officials worried could draw the United States into a brutal face-off with near-peer enemies.

“Targets that were struck and destroyed were specifically associated with the Syrian regime’s chemical weapons program,” Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said just after the mission was completed. “We also selected targets that would minimize the risk to innocent civilians.”

McKenzie said the Pentagon had not received reports of civilian casualties in the attack. He did not detail how many Syrian troops might have been killed in the barrage.

The strikes were not meant to incur maximum casualties or draw the United States or its allies into the Syrian civil war, said Dana White, the Pentagon press secretary. She emphasized the United States’ policy is not to push for a regime change in Syria.

“We do not seek conflict in Syria, but we cannot allow such grievous violations of international law,” she said Saturday at the Pentagon. “Our goal in Syria remains defeating ISIS (Islamic State) ... but we will not stand by passively while Assad backed by Russia and Iran ignores international law.”

While Syrian and Russian officials reported shooting down more than 70 cruise missiles in the attack, McKenzie said the Pentagon was confident none was successfully intercepted. No American servicemembers were injured during the attack, nor was any aircraft damaged, he said.

The Syrians fired some 40 surface-to-air missiles, he said, but most were launched after all of the coalition’s missiles had already struck their targets.

Worry about confrontation with Russia seems to ease

The Washington Post

Western leaders warned Syria on Saturday that they could launch further missile strikes if chemical weapons are used again, while the pre-dawn attacks were denounced by Damascus and its backers as illegal actions that would carry repercussions.

But one major worry appeared to ease: that the coordinated attacks by the U.S., France and Britain late Friday could have set off a direct confrontation with Syria’s most powerful military partner, Russia.

At the Pentagon, the director of the Joint Staff, Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, said the more than 100 missile strikes delivered a blow to the “heart” of Syria’s chemical weapons network. He acknowledged, however, that Syria retained “residual” capacity but gave no details on the scope of what could be left.

There was, however, a wider sense of relief that the strikes on three targets — believed to be research and storage cogs in Syria’s chemical weapons production — had not caused Russian casualties, which could have led to a direct confrontation between Washington and Moscow.

McKenzie confirmed there was no Russian response and said Syrian air defenses had “no material effect” on the incoming barrage. Earlier, Russian officials said some missiles were intercepted by the Soviet-made anti-missile batteries used by Syrian forces.

Trump on Syria: 'Mission Accomplished'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As he declares the U.S.-led airstrikes against Syria a success, President Donald Trump is adopting a phrase that a previous president came to regret — “mission accomplished.”

On Saturday, Trump tweeted: “A perfectly executed strike last night. Thank you to France and the United Kingdom for their wisdom and the power of their fine Military. Could not have had a better result. Mission Accomplished!”

In May 2003, President George W. Bush stood on an aircraft carrier under a giant “Mission Accomplished” banner and declared that “major combat operations in Iraq have ended” — just six weeks after the invasion.

But the war has dragged on for many years after that, and the banner became a symbol of U.S. misjudgments and mistakes in the long and costly conflict. Bush was heavily criticized for the move.

After shifting explanations,

the White House eventually said the “Mission Accomplished” phrase referred to the carrier’s crew completing its 10-month mission, not the military completing its mission in Iraq.

Bush, in October 2003, disavowed any connection with the “Mission Accomplished” message. He said the White House had nothing to do with the banner; a spokesman later said the ship’s crew asked for the sign, and the White House staff had it made by a private vendor.

Said former White House press secretary Dana Perino in 2008: “We have certainly paid a price for not being more specific on that banner.”

The Pentagon backed Trump’s assertion in his tweet Saturday, with chief Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White saying: “We met our objectives. We hit the sites, the heart of the chemical weapons program. So, it was mission accomplished.”

She added, “What happens next depends on what the Assad regime decides to do.”

Army Ranger awarded Silver Star

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The gun fire was intense from the moment the helicopters carrying a force of Army Rangers and Afghan commandos landed at the raid target.

Within moments, the battle left two soldiers mortally wounded. Staff Sgt. Michael Young needed to coordinate attacks against the Islamic State fighters to eliminate them, so he moved himself to higher ground to locate the enemy’s fortifications. Eventually, Young pushed forward through a field of fire and also secured a landing zone for a helicopter to evacuate the wounded soldiers.

On Friday, Young was awarded the Silver Star, the nation’s third highest honor for battlefield valor, during a ceremony at Fort Benning in Georgia for his actions on April 27, 2017, during that mission in Afghanistan’s Nangarhar province. Throughout the fight, the noncommissioned officer displayed an “extraordinary ability to maintain composure in a terrifyingly chaotic situation,” his award citation reads.

Young, 28, was ultimately credited with saving the lives of 22 Rangers, according to the citation.

It’s an award that Young, a member of elite 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, never anticipated receiving, he told Stars and Stripes on Friday following the ceremony. But the honor served to validate the importance of that mission and the sacrifices made by Sgts. Joshua P. Rodgers and

Cameron H. Thomas, who were killed during the operation.

“My actions were not at all done alone that day,” Young said. “Any leader in this organization would have conducted themselves in

‘To be honest, I felt like just a Ranger leader. ... The only real thoughts that went through our minds (when the firefight started) were to destroy the enemy.’

Staff Sgt. Michael Young
Army Ranger awarded the Silver Star

the same manor in the situation. Start to finish, every Ranger on the ground that night — they may not have been formally recognized — they know, and I know their contributions to that mission were monumental in ensuring success and making sure we got our guys home.”

He described Rodgers and Thomas as “heroes,” struggling to find the words to describe the fallen Rangers whom he’d known for years.

“Sgt. Rodgers and Sgt. Thomas were — like every other member of this organization — they were ... testament and memory to what it means to be a lethal and dedicated fighting force in defense of the United States,” he said.

Young was a Ranger weapons squad leader with the raid force of some 50 Rang-ers and 40 Afghan commandos during the nighttime operation on an ISIS headquarters compound to kill or capture a senior leader of the militant group’s Afghan affiliate. The secretive raid force killed Afghan Emir Abdul Hasib, who had been responsible for command and control of ISIS forces in Afghanistan and had ties to the terrorist organization’s parent group in Iraq and Syria, Pentagon officials said last year.

Some 35 additional ISIS fighters were killed during the fight, they said.

Young downplayed his role in the battle, crediting his Ranger training with instilling the instincts to do what was necessary to ensure the success of the operation.

“To be honest, I felt like just a Ranger leader, just another member of this organization at the time,” he said. “The only real thoughts that went through our minds [when the firefight started] were to destroy the enemy.”

Young enlisted in the Army in 2011 and has spent his entire career with the 3rd Ranger Battalion. He has served five deployments to Afghanistan.

He credited the support for the military in his hometown of Savannah, Ga., for his desire to join the Army.

Young said he idolized the Army Rangers as a young man, with 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment stationed at Savannah’s Hunter Army Airfield. He aimed to join their ranks one day.

“The community is very involved with the military and with the Ranger battalion there,” Young said. “Growing up in that environment, it’s not too hard to find a group of people to look up to.”

Trump backs law protecting pot industry

Associated Press

DENVER — President Donald Trump has promised to support legislation protecting the marijuana industry in states that have legalized the drug, a move that could lift a threat to the industry made by the U.S. attorney general just three months ago.

Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., said Friday that Trump made the pledge to him in a Wednesday night conversation.

Gardner has been pushing to reverse a decision made by

Attorney General Jeff Sessions in January that removed prohibitions that kept federal prosecutors from pursuing cases against people who were following pot laws in states such as Colorado that have legalized the drug.

Marijuana has been fully legalized in eight states, and 24 states allow some form of marijuana use.

“President Trump has assured me that he will support a federalism-based legislative solution to fix this states’ rights issue once and for all,” Gardner

said in a statement.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Gardner’s account was accurate and the president supported states’ rights in the matter.

Gardner hopes to introduce bipartisan legislation keeping the federal government from interfering in state marijuana markets.

During the campaign, Trump said states should be able to chart their own course on marijuana. But Trump has also railed at the dangers of drug-related crime and sug-

gested recreational marijuana should not be permitted.

When Trump selected Sessions, a former federal prosecutor and U.S. senator from Alabama, as his attorney general, marijuana supporters girded themselves for a crackdown. But Gardner said Sessions had promised him he’d do nothing to interfere with Colorado’s robust marijuana market.

Gardner said he was blindsided when Sessions made his announcement in January regarding pot prosecutions.

Man who married daughter kills her after their breakup

Associated Press

NEW MILFORD, Conn. — A man killed his wife — who was also his daughter — and their 7-month-old son before taking his own life after the woman broke up with him, according to a 911 call.

Steven Pladl’s mother called police in North Carolina to say she’d had a disturbing call from her son and to ask officers to check on the well-being of her infant grandson.

The mother told police Pladl said he’d killed his baby in Knightdale, N.C., as well as his daughter and her adoptive father, who were shot in Connecticut. Pladl’s mother said he was upset because the woman had broken up with him. The slain infant had been born of the relationship between Steven Pladl and his daughter, Katie, 20.

The woman asked police to check on her grandson, Bennett Pladl. She said Steven Pladl had told her that he left a key under the front mat.

Police found the baby dead, alone in the house. Authorities have not said how he was killed.

The 911 call came shortly after witnesses in rural western Connecticut reported hearing what sounded like semi-automatic gunfire Thursday morning. Inside a pickup truck with the window shot out

police found the bodies of Katie Pladl and her adoptive father, Anthony Fusco.

Pladl had contacted his daughter’s adoptive family in Wingdale, N.Y., on Wednesday night and said he would be coming to see them, according to Shawn Boyne, chief of police in New Milford, Conn. Police said Steven Pladl was later found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a minivan across the state line in Dover, N.Y.

Steven Pladl and Katie Pladl had been arrested on incest charges out of Henrico County, Va., in January. Since the arrests, their son had been in the custody of Steven Pladl’s mother. Knightdale police said the boy was last seen alive by his grandmother on Wednesday night, when Steven Pladl asked to take the child home to Knightdale, telling his mother he planned to speak with his daughter via Skype.

Steven Pladl told his wife last year that he had impregnated their daughter and planned to marry her after obtaining a divorce, according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

As a child Katie Pladl had been adopted by a family out of state, but after turning 18, she reached out to her birth parents through social media and began living with the family.

In court, Cosby accuser describes alleged assault

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby’s chief accuser took the witness stand for the second time to tell a story of molestation and broken trust, describing for jurors how the comedian knocked her out with three blue pills and then sexually assaulted her at his home.

“I was weak. I was limp, and I just could not fight him off,” said Andrea Constand, who found herself in the same cavernous courtroom on Friday less than a year after a jury was unable to reach a verdict on charges against Cosby.

Her account of the events in 2004 was consistent with the one she gave at last year’s trial in suburban Philadelphia, and jurors watched and scribbled notes as she told how Cosby, the good-guy celebrity she viewed as a mentor and friend, had betrayed her.

The defense has blasted Constand as a “con artist” who leveled false accusations against the star as part of a scheme to get money. During cross-examination, Cosby lawyer Tom Mesereau went through a thick binder of Constand’s police statements and prior testimony as he tried to poke holes in her story. But the jury heard only minor discrepancies between what she said in the past and her

account on the witness stand.

And, after telling jurors in his opening statement that Constand had operated a Ponzi scheme while running women’s basketball operations at Temple University, Mesereau’s evidence was a cut-and-paste email Constand sent for a friend years ago. She testified that she barely remembered it.

The defense was expected to continue its cross-examination on Monday.

Under questioning by the prosecution, Constand said Cosby offered her pills and a sip of wine after she said she was “stressed” about telling the Temple basketball coach of her plans to leave to study massage therapy in her native Canada. She said Cosby, a Temple alum and powerful trustee, called the pills “your friends” and told her they would “help take the edge off.”

Instead, Constand said, the pills made her black out. She awoke to find the actor penetrating her with his fingers, touching her breast and putting her hand on his penis.

The entertainer has said he gave Constand the cold medicine Benadryl and that she consented to a sexual encounter.

A jury deadlocked after last year’s trial, unable to reach a verdict after more than 52 hours of deliberations over six days.

Tornado, blizzard spawned by potent US storm system

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A potent spring storm system that's expected to persist through the weekend raked across the Midwest, spawning at least one tornado in Arkansas, as blizzard conditions blanketed much of the Northern Plains.

A tornado ripped through the tiny Ozark Mountain town of Mountainburg, Ark., injuring at least four people and causing widespread damage Friday afternoon.

Crawford County Emergency Management Director Brad Thomas said there were at least three entrapments following the twister. He said he did not know the condition of the four people hospitalized.

Video from the scene showed uprooted trees, overturned cars, damaged buildings and downed power lines.

The huge storm, packing enough energy to cause widespread disruption, isn't unprecedented for April, said Jake Beitlich, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, Minn.

"We do get pretty powerful systems coming throughout the Midwest, and on the cold side, we do get snow. And this one

is particularly strong, so we do have a lot of moisture with it and a lot of energy," Beitlich said. "Over the next 24 hours, cold air is going to get wrapped into this system, and we're going to see a band of heavy snow develop from southwestern Minnesota through northern Wisconsin. Also, we're going to have really strong winds, especially in western Minnesota."

Blizzard warnings stretched from northern Kansas across most of Nebraska and South Dakota into southwestern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa, with winter storm warnings and watches covering most of the rest of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Snow, freezing rain and high winds were expected through Saturday night, with heavy ice accumulations in parts of Michigan through Sunday morning.

A swath of southern Minnesota, including Minneapolis through northern Wisconsin, was expected to get 8 to 12 inches of snow or more. Parts of northern Nebraska could get up to 18 inches, with up to 12 inches in northwestern Iowa.

Police: Woman who drove family off cliff was drunk

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A woman was drunk when she drove her large family off a Northern California cliff last month, and her wife and several children had large amounts of a drug in their systems that can cause drowsiness, authorities said Friday.

Police had previously said they believed the Hart family died in a suicide plunge from a scenic overlook. The crash happened just days after authorities in Washington state opened an investigation following allegations the children were being neglected.

Preliminary toxicology tests found Jennifer Hart had an alcohol level of 0.102, said California Highway Patrol Capt. Bruce Carpenter. California drivers are considered drunk with a level of 0.08 or higher.

Toxicology tests also found that her wife, Sarah Hart, and two of their children had "a significant amount" of an ingredient commonly found in the allergy drug Benadryl, which can make people sleepy. Toxicology results for a third child killed are still pending, Carpenter said, adding that none of the car's occupants were wearing seat belts.

Sarah and Jennifer Hart and their six adopted children were believed to be in the family's SUV when it plunged off a cliff in Mendocino County, more than 160 miles north of San Francisco.

Authorities have said data from the vehicle's software

suggested the crash was deliberate, though the California Highway Patrol has not concluded why the vehicle went off an ocean overlook on a rugged part of coastline. A specialized team of accident investigators is trying to figure that out with help from the FBI, Carpenter said.

"We believe that the Hart incident was, in fact, intentional," he said.

Carpenter said the family stopped in the small town of Naselle, Wash., about 80 miles northwest of their Woodland, Wash., home, during their drive to the California cliff. But investigators are still trying to determine why they stopped in Naselle, which added an hour and a half to their trip, and whether they contacted anyone. Naselle is near U.S. Highway 101, a popular scenic route along the coast.

Five bodies were found March 26 near the small city of Mendocino, but three of their children were not immediately recovered from the scene.

Two more are missing, and another body has been found but not identified.

The 100-foot drop killed the women, both 39, and three of their children: Markis Hart, 19; Jeremiah Hart, 14; and Abigail Hart, 14. Hannah Hart, 16; Devonte Hart, 15; and Sierra Hart, 12, have not been found.

A neighbor of the Harts had filed a complaint, saying the children were apparently being deprived of food as punishment.

Watchdog report: Former FBI deputy director misled investigators

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Andrew McCabe, the fired FBI deputy director, misled investigators multiple times about his role in a news media disclosure about Hillary Clinton just days before the 2016 presidential election and authorized the release of information to "advance his personal interests," according to a Justice Department watch-

dog report.

The report alleges that McCabe authorized FBI officials to speak with a Wall Street Journal reporter for a story about an investigation into the Clinton Foundation, in violation of agency rules, and then misled FBI and Justice Department officials when later questioned about it.

The report also reveals con-

tradictory accounts between McCabe and his boss at the time, Director James Comey, over whether the conversation with the journalist had received proper approval.

McCabe, who was fired just two days before his scheduled retirement, denied the report's allegations in a detailed rebuttal statement. McCabe says that when he believed his answers

to the inspector general were misunderstood, he returned and tried to correct them. The report notes that McCabe, as deputy director, had full authority to authorize sharing information with the media and permitted subordinates to do so in this case to correct had a false narrative that he had tried to stymie an FBI probe into the Clinton Foundation.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman found tied in dumpster faces charges

CO VAIL — Police have arrested a woman on suspicion of false reporting after she was found in a Vail dumpster with her hands zip tied in front of her.

The Vail Daily reported that Linnea Hayda, 31, found in a dumpster on March 27, is being charged with attempting to influence a public servant, tampering with physical evidence and misdemeanor false reporting to police.

Vail police said they spent more than 200 hours investigating Hayda's allegations, which they say are "fictitious." Police said Hayda's account of how she got into the dumpster led to an alert sent to the community asking about suspicious activity.

Vail Police arrested her Thursday and she posted \$7,500 bond.

Bus driver pleads not guilty to drunken ride

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A bus driver who is suspected of taking high school students on a drunken, profanity-laced ride through San Francisco before hitting a light pole has pleaded not guilty to felony charges.

The San Francisco Chronicle said Aaron Friedman entered pleas Thursday to 15 counts including DUI and child endangerment.

Prosecutors said the charter bus driver picked up the George Washington High School varsity swim team from a pool April 6. But instead of taking the 19 students back to school, he mistook AT&T Park for their campus and steered through Market Street while honking his horn and swearing at motorists.

Authorities said the swim coach got Friedman to pull over after the bus hit a light pole. No injuries were reported.

Police said they found four empty vodka bottles in the bus.

Jail job applicant not hired, arrested instead

NH MANCHESTER — A woman applying for a job at a New Hampshire county jail has been arrested because it turns out she was wanted on a charge in Maine.

Police said Kristina Hoefs of Manchester applied for the job April 6 at the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections. But workers soon realized she was being sought on a theft-related offense in Maine.

Hoefs was taken into custody and was taken to police headquarters.

6 students diagnosed with whooping cough

ME SANFORD — Maine school officials say six students in Sanford have been diagnosed with whooping cough.

WMTW-TV reported there were four reported cases at Margaret Chase Smith School and two cases at Sanford Junior High School.

Whooping cough, or pertussis, is spread through sneezing or coughing. Symptoms include sore throat, uncontrollable coughing and fever.

The Maine Centers for Disease Control said the state has one of the highest rates of pertussis in the country. Incoming seventh-grade public school students are required to receive a second dose of Tdap, a vaccine that protects against tetanus, pertussis and diphtheria.

Efforts have been hindered by parents who opt out of vaccination.

Boat captain charged in passenger's death

FL MIAMI — A Florida charter boat captain was charged in a death that occurred during one of his trips.

A U.S. Department of Justice news release said Mauricio Alvarez, 49, was arrested recently at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport as he attempted to board an overseas flight. He was charged with misconduct or neglect of a ship officer that resulted in the death.

Court records said Alvarez was operating a motor yacht called "Miami Vice" with seven passengers April 1. Officials said the boat stopped in Biscayne Bay, between Miami and Miami Beach, and some of the passengers went swimming. The complaint says Alvarez engaged the engines at some point, and one of the swimmers was hit and killed by the propeller.

Officials: Man boards train, takes off clothes

DC WASHINGTON — Officials say a man boarded a train, took off his clothes and reportedly "acted aggressively" toward customers of Washington's Metro.

Metro spokesman Dan Stessel told WTOP-FM that Deon Tyrel Toye, 24, entered the system clothed and took off his shoes, prompting the station manager to call Metro Transit police Thursday. He then boarded the train and took off his clothes.

Officials said the suspect appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

Officials told The Washington Post the man failed to comply with police directives and was given warnings. An officer then used a stun gun on him and he was taken into custody.

4 women fight in fast food drive-thru

GA ATLANTA — No one was seriously hurt in a fight involving four women in a Chik-fil-A drive-thru, but another customer who recorded the fracas said it really got crazy when one of them pointed a handgun at another's head.

The cellphone video shows the women leaving their cars at the drive-thru window. Shouting leads to fists as a woman jabs a gun at least a dozen times at the face of another woman, who ultimately slaps the weapon to the ground. Two others get involved, slapping and punching each other.

WSB-TV reported that two of the women involved later called Atlanta police, and Vonshay Redding, 24, was charged with aggravated assault.

Woman, 89: Neighbor drugged, stole from her

SC CHARLESTON — Authorities said a 19-year-old South Carolina man brought his 89-year-old neighbor brownies laced with a tranquilizer and then stole money and a television when she passed out for four hours.

Charleston police said the woman told officers Christian Jellico would come over to her home every few weeks and they would talk and she would give him money.

Police said that when Jellico came over April 7, he offered the woman brownies. She said the next thing she remembered, was waking up on her couch.

Authorities said a television and \$500 were taken from the woman's home.

Police said a high level of a tranquilizer was found in her system.

Jellico is charged with abuse of a vulnerable adult and larceny.

From wire reports

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Knights top Kings, take 2-0 series lead

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — What happens in Vegas, continues to happen in Vegas.

The NHL's Golden Knights are the toast of the town.

Erik Haula's goal in double overtime gave Vegas a 2-1 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Friday night for a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

"Honestly, I think that's my first overtime goal and I'm happy it came at this time; that's one of the best feelings in sports," Haula said. "Going into overtime we just stressed it in the locker room to just keep going after 'em, to keep getting pucks behind 'em, keep playing north, keep playing fast and I think we executed our game plan."

With less than five minutes on the clock in the second overtime, James Neal skated into the zone, looked past Alex Tuch and instead found a streaking Haula, who skated in on his own to beat goalie Jonathan Quick and send a towel-waving crowd of 18,588 into a frenzy.

"Obviously, he had the composure to hold the puck. I knew he was going to make that play.

Maybe that helps we've been playing all year," Haula said of Neal. "I had good speed going to the net. ... I was able to slide a five-hole, he reacted. I was coming in with a lot of speed, I got lucky and we got the win."

Game 3 in the best-of-seven Western Conference series is Sunday night in Los Angeles.

Tuch scored for expansion Vegas in regulation, and Paul LaDue had the Kings' goal.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves for the Golden Knights. Quick stopped 54 shots for the Kings.

"Such a relief at the end," said Fleury, who has allowed just one goal in a little more than 155 minutes over the first two games. "It was long, it was hard. The guys did an awesome job again tonight. It was a good feeling to win at home in front of our fans."

The Golden Knights outshot Los Angeles in regulation, 35-20.

Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said Friday was a good example of why his scheme of playing four lines consistently all season is important, as his team continued to play with more pep while the Kings appeared fatigued as the second

overtime wore on.

"Haula's a great skater. ... Obviously that last goal, Haula's speed created a lot of that goal," said Gallant, who got the victory exactly one year after being hired as coach of the Golden Knights. "As coaches, all year long, we played four lines and that's what we do, so hopefully that paid off a little bit tonight. We played four lines most of the overtime, because when you play that much hockey, guys start to cramp up. It was tough on them. It was a great game, great battle and unbelievable for our fans tonight."

The Kings, meanwhile, played without suspended defenseman Drew Doughty, a Norris Trophy contender who led the NHL in total minutes this season. The league's Department of Player Safety handed down a one-game suspension after Doughty's illegal hit to the head of Vegas forward William Carrier midway through the third period of the Golden Knights' 1-0 series-opening victory Wednesday night.

Kings defenseman Oscar Fantenberg led the team with 53 shifts, while fellow defenseman Alec Martinez led the club with 44 minutes, 43 seconds on

the ice.

In contrast, nobody on Vegas' roster played more than 38 minutes, with defenseman Nate Schmidt leading the Golden Knights at 37:19.

Game 1 featured 127 hits, including 68 by the Kings, and the rugged play continued in Game 2, with the same physical theme. Los Angeles outhit the Golden Knights 80-56 after the two combined for 113 in regulation.

"(Quick) gave us a chance to win like he always does," Kings coach John Stevens said. "A lot of guys played hard tonight, not just Johnny. We had some guys play real hard (to) give us a chance to win. Now we've got to go home to take care of business at home."

Vegas got on the board first after Jonathan Marchessault's shot went wide and caromed off the end boards. Tuch was in front of the net to clean it up for his first career playoff goal, on a power play, giving the Golden Knights a 1-0 lead late in the first period.

The Kings got their first goal of the series on a power play, when LaDue fired a wrist shot from the point to beat Fleury with 4:05 left in the second.

NHL playoffs roundup

Flyers bounce back from rout, take Game 2 from Pens

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — His team embarrassed by the defending Stanley Cup champions in a lopsided playoff-opening loss, Philadelphia Flyers coach Dave Hakstol could have panicked. Instead, he doubled down.

No switching up the lines. No swapping the goaltenders. Nothing. Hakstol didn't think changes were necessary. As ugly as getting blown out by Pittsburgh in Game 1 looked, it felt even worse. That was motivation enough. No personnel changes necessary.

"It was pretty tough for us

to walk out of the rink a couple nights ago," Hakstol said. "That wasn't us."

This was.

Sean Couturier had a goal and two assists, Brian Elliott stopped 34 shots and the Flyers cooled off the Penguins 5-1 on Friday night to even the first-round series at a game apiece.

"Said it coming in, nobody is really giving us a serious chance in this series," Hakstol said. "I don't know if anybody still will. I do know this: we've got it down to a five-game series and we introduced ourselves into this series tonight."

Shayne Gostisbehere, Travis

Konecny, Andrew McDonald and Nolan Patrick also scored for the Flyers. Two nights after getting crushed 7-0, Philadelphia responded by keeping Pittsburgh stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin in check and taking advantage of what few chances it produced against Matt Murray to beat the Penguins for the first time this season.

Jets 4, Wild 1: Paul Stastny, Andrew Copp and Patrik Laine scored in the third period and host Winnipeg beat Minnesota to take a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference series.

Defenseman Tyler Myers had

a goal in the second period and also had an assist. Rookie Jack Roslovic, replacing injured Mathieu Perreault, had two assists in the game that ended with a series of fights.

Zach Parise had his second goal of the series when he deflected Mikko Koivu's shot past Connor Hellebuyck to end the goalie's shutout bid with 45 seconds left. The goal came on the power play after Jets forward Brandon Tanev was called for hooking with 59 seconds left.

Hellebuyck made 16 saves. Devan Dubnyk stopped 39 shots for Minnesota.

Red Sox off to best start in 100 years

Associated Press

BOSTON — Eduardo Rodriguez's second start of the season went considerably better than his first, and the Boston Red Sox kept rolling to their best start in 100 years.

The left-hander struck out eight over six stingy innings, Eduardo Nunez hit a three-run homer and the Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 7-3 on Friday night, improving to 11-2 for only the second time in team history.

Rodriguez lasted just 3²/₃ innings Sunday in his season debut against Tampa Bay, allowing three earned runs and five hits. Five days later he got himself out of an early jam in the first, holding the Orioles to one run on five hits and two walks with a mix of pitches

he didn't show in his initial outing.

"That's what we want. I want him to attack," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "He keeps learning, but you can see it — his stuff is there. He's electric."

Rafael Devers went 3-for-5 and scored twice for the Red Sox. J.D. Martinez had a pair of hits and drove in a run with a sacrifice fly during a four-run first inning, to put Boston in command on the way to its 11th win in 12 games.

Mookie Betts added an RBI double in the second.

The Red Sox had already matched their best 12-game start with a 6-3 win over the New York Yankees on Thursday night. With this victory, Boston reached 11-2 to equal the 1918 club that went on to

win the World Series.

Adam Jones hit a sacrifice fly in the first and Manny Machado had a two-run double in the seventh. Chris Tillman (0-3) struggled through the first two-plus innings for Baltimore, which lost for the third time in four games.

Tillman "came out a little crisper in the second inning, but just couldn't get the ball where he needed to get it," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said. "Never really had a lot of things working in his favor. It was a struggle from the start."

Trey Mancini scored the only run Rodriguez yielded after leading off the game with a single and scoring on Jones' sacrifice fly. Rodriguez settled down from there, striking out the side in the second and shutting out the Orioles for five

straight innings.

Baltimore's only lead didn't last long. Betts reached on a leadoff walk, advanced to third on Mitch Moreland's one-out single and scored on a sacrifice fly by Martinez. Devers followed with a double, putting two on for Nunez, who drove a 1-1 pitch from Tillman into the seats atop the Green Monster.

Tillman faced three batters in the third before getting pulled with the bases loaded and nobody out. He was charged with six runs, seven hits and two walks. He did not have a strikeout for the second time in three starts.

Tillman was removed after hitting Jackie Bradley Jr. with a pitch. Pedro Araujo's first pitch got past catcher Caleb Joseph, and Devers raced in for another run to make it 6-0.

MLB roundup

Cole strikes out 14, gets no decision in Astros' victory

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Gerrit Cole struck out a career-high 14 in seven innings and Derek Fisher scored the go-ahead run on center fielder Drew Robinson's error in the eighth, sending Houston to a 3-2 win over Texas.

George Springer homered twice against Rangers ace Cole Hamels. Springer has three homers this season — all against Hamels.

Cole allowed two runs and three hits. The ace right-hander has 36 strikeouts in 21 innings during his first three starts with the Astros after he was acquired from Pittsburgh in an offseason trade.

Fisher came in to run for Evan Gattis after he walked with one out. Marwin Gonzalez followed with a single to center off Kevin Jepsen (0-2), and Fisher scored all the way from first after Robinson misplayed the ball.

Mets 6, Brewers 5: Todd Frazier hit his first two home

runs with his new team, and host New York extended its winning streak to nine by beating Milwaukee.

Steven Matz ended an 11-start winless streak dating to June 28 as New York improved to 11-1 under new manager Mickey Callaway, the best start in team history. The Mets are on their longest winning streak since 11 consecutive victories from April 12-23, 2015.

Yankees 8, Tigers 6: Aaron Hicks hit an inside-the-park home run in the second inning, then added a solo shot over the fence in the sixth to send visiting New York past skidding Detroit.

Hicks came up with a runner on second and hit a drive to right-center that bounced off the wall and past center fielder Leonys Martin. The ball rolled across the turf while Hicks circled the bases for the Yankees' first inside-the-park homer since 2011.

Angels 5, Royals 4: Albert Pujols homered and drove in

three runs, Ian Kinsler had three hits and a sacrifice fly that scored Shohei Ohtani with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and Los Angeles rallied to beat host Kansas City.

Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 7: Daniel Descalso homered and drove in four runs, and visiting Arizona held off Los Angeles for its 10th straight regular-season victory over its NL West rival.

Rockies 2, Nationals 1: At Washington, Carlos Gonzalez homered and had a sacrifice fly to drive in both of his team's runs, leading Colorado to its third straight victory.

Cardinals 5, Reds 3: Yadier Molina homered and drove in three runs, leading visiting St. Louis to a victory that deepened Cincinnati's worst season-opening slump since 1955.

Braves 4, Cubs 0: Anibal Sanchez pitched three-hit ball over six innings, Preston Tucker backed him with a three-run homer and Atlanta spoiled Yu Darvish's first home start.

Blue Jays 8, Indians 4: Teoscar Hernandez made the most of his season debut, driving in the go-ahead run with a single off All-Star Andrew Miller in the seventh inning as Toronto rallied past host Cleveland.

Marlins 7, Pirates 2: Justin Bour homered and drove in two runs to help host Miami defeat Pittsburgh.

Phillies 2, Rays 1: Jorge Alfaró hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the ninth inning and visiting Philadelphia won its fourth straight game by beating Tampa Bay.

Padres 5, Giants 1: Tyson Ross hit an RBI single with the bases loaded to snap a scoreless tie in the fifth and pitched six-plus strong innings to lead San Diego past visiting San Francisco.

Mariners 7, Athletics 4: Mitch Haniger hit a three-run homer and Daniel Vogelbach added a two-run shot — both with two outs in the seventh inning — to rally host Seattle past Oakland.

Nassar victim claims offer of payoff

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — A sexual assault victim of former sports doctor Larry Nassar confronted Michigan State University officials Friday, alleging the school's interim leader pressured her to accept a payoff to settle her lawsuit without her attorney present.

Kaylee Lorincz spoke during a contentious board of trustees meeting, where interim President John Engler expressed regret over the university's response to another woman's federal lawsuit over the school's handling of rape allegations involving basketball players. Lorincz, who has said Nassar sexually assaulted her when she sought treatment for back pain, said Engler and Carol Viventi, who was hired in February as special counsel to the president, offered her \$250,000 when the 18-year-old and her mother were at the school a few weeks ago to sign up to speak at Friday's meeting.

According to Lorincz, En-

gler said to her, "Right now if I wrote you a check for \$250,000 would you take it?"

Lorincz said Engler also told her that Rachael Denhollander, another Nassar victim, had provided him with an amount she would consider to settle with the university. Lorincz said she later asked Denhollander, who told her she had never met with Engler. Denhollander issued a written statement confirming that encounter with Lorincz.

"I felt like I was being bullied into saying something and that if Rachael gave him a settlement amount, it was OK for me to do it, too," Lorincz said in a prepared statement that she read aloud.

Engler's spokeswoman, Emily Guerrant, said she was in the room during the conversation and does not remember Engler verbalizing a dollar figure.

"My interpretation of the discussion was not that he was saying, 'I'm offering you \$250,000,'" Guerrant said. "It

was a discussion about the civil litigation and how it was going on."

Engler did not directly respond to Lorincz during her speech except to say Lorincz's characterization of Viventi as his attorney was incorrect. He later issued a statement saying the meeting took place but he did not elaborate on Lorincz's account of it.

"Our memories and interpretations of the March 28 meeting are different than hers," Engler said. "I am sorry if anything said during the meeting was misunderstood."

Lorincz addressed Engler in a room brimming with protesters, parents and sexual assault victims of Nassar, now serving decades in prison for molesting women and girls and for possessing child pornography. She was among roughly 250 women who gave statements earlier this year during Nassar's sentencing hearings in two Michigan courtrooms.

In a separate case, a woman

sued the school on Monday, saying university counselors discouraged her from filing a police report after three Michigan State basketball players allegedly raped her in 2015. She accuses the school of violating Title IX protocol and claims staff made it clear that "she faced an uphill battle that would create anxiety and unwanted media attention" should she report her rape.

The university's immediate response to reporters asking about the lawsuit was to decline comment. But on Wednesday it issued a lengthy statement that detailed staff interaction with the woman.

The response was met with backlash from people who say Michigan State violated federal privacy laws.

In Friday's board meeting, Engler acknowledged that the school "provided an unnecessary amount of detail," saying some people saw the response as "violating privacy expectations."

Sports briefs

Backup QB Sanchez suspended four games by NFL

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL suspended free agent quarterback Mark Sanchez for the first four games of next season for violating the league's policy against performance-enhancing substances.

The league announced the punishment Friday. He is eligible to participate in offseason and preseason practices and games.

Sanchez says on Instagram he was "blind-sided" and has "never cheated or attempted to gain a competitive advantage by using a banned performance enhancing substance." He says he has been "subject to 73 drug tests" and "all but one have been clean."

He attributed the result

to "unknowing supplement contamination, not the use of performance enhancing substances."

Sanchez spent last season as Chicago's third-string quarterback. He has also played for the New York Jets (2009-13), Philadelphia (2014-15) and Dallas (2016).

The 31-year-old quarterback was the No. 5 overall pick in the 2009 NFL draft and helped lead the Jets to the AFC championship game during his first two seasons. He has been mostly a backup since being released by New York after the 2013 season, starting just 10 games over the last four years.

Sanchez has thrown for 15,219 yards and 86 touchdowns with 86 interceptions during his career. He did not

play in a game for the Bears last season.

In other NFL news:

■ Before throwing Jarvis Landry a pass, the Browns made a huge commitment to him.

Cleveland signed the star wide receiver to a five-year, \$75 million contract extension on Friday night, locking up a game-changing player they're counting on for the future.

Landry led the NFL with 112 catches last season and scored nine touchdowns, two more than Cleveland's entire receiving corps.

Pacquiao, Roach split after 16 years

LOS ANGELES — Manny Pacquiao and trainer Freddie

Roach say their 16-year partnership has ended.

Pacquiao disclosed his decision Friday in the final sentence of a news release detailing his plans for his upcoming fight against Lucas Matthisse.

Roach says he didn't officially learn about the split until Pacquiao's announcement. Pacquiao frequently credited Roach for his evolution from a raw Filipino puncher into an eight-division world champion during countless hours of work in Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

The 39-year-old Pacquiao (59-7-2, 38 KOs) is in the twilight of his career, with four losses in his last nine bouts and a noticeable decrease in the hand speed that made him an incredible fighter.