

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Navy moving chiefs to sea to fill 'gaps'

By WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy announced Monday it will begin shifting more than 1,100 senior enlisted sailors from certain shore billets to fill about 3,000 "gaps" in operations at sea.

"Our number-one priority is to keep the Fleet properly manned," Vice Adm. Robert Burke, chief of Naval Personnel, said in a statement. "We are aggressively using all force-shaping levers to do just that."

Twenty-five ratings are now overmanned ashore, and more than 1,100 senior enlisted supervisors in grades E-7 through E-9 could potentially be transferred to operational units over the next several months, the Navy said.

This is the latest in a series of policy changes this year designed to bolster enlisted sea-duty manning, previously focusing on grades E-1 through E-6.

The lopsided manning ashore arose largely from "strict adherence to sea-shore-flow and sea-shore-rotation rules, regardless of when an individual is selected

for chief petty officer," the Navy said.

The revised rules will more closely resemble officer career paths, it added.

Flow and rotation will be a secondary consideration to fleet manning requirements, the Navy said.

"So you wouldn't be guaranteed three years at shore, five years at sea, three years at shore, five years at sea," Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, a Navy spokesman, offered as an example.

"This is not the end of sea-shore flow," he said. "I want to be clear about that. We need leaders at sea, and if there are billets that are gapped at sea, then we're going to try to do everything within our power to minimize those gaps. So if every single gap at sea is filled, are we going to rotate people to sea? I just can't say we're going to do that because it's case-by-case dependent."

Overall, the Navy has about 7,500 gaps at sea, and the new rule is intended to begin filling the roughly 3,000 gaps at the E-

7 through E-9 levels, he said.

Newly selected chiefs "should expect assignment to sea and operational billets as the new norm," the Navy said.

Chiefs at all three levels will be considered for reassignment if they are assigned to unfunded billets where there are too many supervisor billets, or to a billet of a lower pay grade, the Navy said.

The Navy's plan for longer sea time for chiefs got a cool welcome from the president of the National Chief Petty Officers Association.

"It's not going to help the Navy in their retention program," said Robert McCauley. "That's the bottom line."

A retired master chief petty officer who spent 40 years in the Navy, McCauley recalled the past when the Navy farmed out "non-military billets" to civilians and contractors, which left fewer places for sailors to spend shore rotations.

"So now they're going further and saying they're going to let them stay at sea even longer?" he said. "That doesn't enhance

people's desire to stay in the Navy."

"To be sure, some will not love this new policy," Fleet Master Chief Russell Smith said in an opinion column published in Monday's Navy Times.

"When selected for chief, senior chief and master chief, we are reminded that we have not been selected as a reward for our achievements, but identified as having the tools and the talent to take our craft to the next level," he wrote.

Asked if the so-called redistribution policy would lead to double sea duty for some, Christensen said, "I think it's completely individual."

"The idea is to go away from strict adherence to sea-shore flow so if what you're saying is in sea-to-shore-to-sea, would we skip the shore? I don't have a good answer for that question because I think it depends on the individual. It depends on the rating. It depends on considerations for reassignment."

For example, "sea-going" ratings will be more likely to live up to their name, he said.

## New Navy device helps dogs train to smell mixed-odor explosives

By SCOTT WYLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

A bomb-sniffing dog trains by sniffing individual chemicals within an explosive, but isn't likely to get a whiff of a complete device until coming across the real thing.

Current training on homemade explosives, which typically use readily available commercial products, is limited because while each chemical is inert and safe, they can become dangerous when mixed.

Trainers say it's like teaching

dogs to identify a cheeseburger by smelling a meat patty, followed by cheese and then a bun, rather than the whole thing at once.

However, a new device developed by the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory safely combines all the volatile chemicals in a small box. The device exposes dogs to the mixed odors, which better mimic those of a homemade bomb.

Chemicals are placed into separate vials and kept apart within the box. The odors mingle in a central tube and ema-

nate enough for a dog to smell. Known as the Mixed Odor Delivery Device, it will become available to military canine units in September.

Members of the U.S. Navy's canine unit in Naples, Italy, said the device seems promising, but they won't know how effective it is until they test it on their six dogs.

"I'd like to see their reactions when encountering it," said Chief Petty Officer Susan Collins, kennel master for the unit, which aids police and security teams in sweeps and occasion-

ally has a handler and dog deploy to a war zone.

Allowing dogs to smell an explosive's entire chemical composition seems a more realistic simulation, Collins said. Still, a device might not work equally well on all dogs, she added.

"Each dog is unique in how they sniff and develop and become efficient," Collins said.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Travis Kruciak, a dog handler at the unit, said he is open to anything that helps them and the dogs do their jobs better.

# Marines might let women train with men

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Marine Corps for the first time is eyeing a plan to let women attend what has been male-only combat training in Southern California as officials work to quash recurring problems with sexism and other bad behavior among Marines, according to Marine Corps officials.

If approved by senior Marine leaders, the change could happen as soon as next spring. It could be the first step in a broader campaign to give male

Marines who do their initial training on the West Coast the opportunity to work with female colleagues early in their career.

Marine leaders are also considering allowing women to attend boot camp in San Diego, the officials said. Currently all female recruits go through boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., while male recruits go either there or to San Diego. The combat training comes after troops have finished boot camp and is done both in South

Carolina and at Camp Pendleton in Southern California, but women attend the course only on the East Coast.

The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter because final decisions have not been made, so they spoke on condition of anonymity. The boot camp decision is still under discussion.

Marine leaders have come under persistent criticism from members of Congress because the Corps is the only military service to separate men and

women for portions of their boot camp. And only the Marine Corps allows half of its recruits to go through initial training without any female colleagues.

Because there are only a small number of female Marines, they all go through boot camp at Parris Island, where they are separated from the men for portions of the training. Congress members have been highly critical of that policy and demanded changes, and the Corps has been reviewing the issue.

# Japan sees N. Korea, China as top threats

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Japan's latest defense white paper depicts the country as vulnerable to North Korean missiles and hard-pressed to defend its southern territory against China's rapidly growing and aggressive military.

The more-than-500-page Defense of Japan 2017 report, approved by the nation's Cabinet on Tuesday, lists North Korea as the top threat and says the communist nation may already possess nuclear warheads and the ability to deploy a solid-fu-

eled ballistic missile that could hit Japan.

"Since last year, the security threats have entered a new stage considering North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles as well as its enhancement of operational capabilities," said the report, which includes three more pages about the North than last year's edition.

On July 28, Pyongyang test-fired its second intercontinental ballistic missile, which splashed down in waters off Hokkaido.

"North Korea could be aiming at increasing the range of missiles, improving accuracy,

enhancing the ability to conduct surprise attacks and diversifying launch forms," the report added.

A top priority for the Ministry of Defense will be acquiring Standard Missile-3 Block IIA and Patriot Advanced Capability-3 ballistic-missile defense systems "as soon as possible," the report said.

In February, the U.S. and Japan successfully intercepted a target ballistic missile during an SM-3 test. A similar test of the system in June was unsuccessful, although the failure was later attributed to human error, media reports said.

The defense report also singled out increased incursions by Chinese ships and aircraft into Japanese territory, adding that China's military reforms "have taken shape at a rapid pace" after the country upped its military spending over the past decade.

"China, particularly over maritime issues, continues to act in an assertive manner, including attempts at changing the status quo by coercion," the report said. "These actions include dangerous acts. China remains poised to fulfill its unilateral demands without compromise."

# S. Korean general, wife accused of treating soldiers like slaves

BY KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A four-star South Korean general and his wife have been accused of treating soldiers like "slaves," prompting calls for measures to improve conditions for the nation's conscripts.

Soldiers serving at Gen. Park Chan-ju's official residence were ordered to remain on call around the clock and wear electronic bracelets that vibrated

whenever family members called on them, the Defense Ministry said. They also had to pick up golf balls, take care of gardening, do laundry and chauffeur the couple's children in a private car, the ministry said, adding it is still investigating other allegations.

Park's wife also has been accused of treating the soldiers as though she was their commander and subjecting them to verbal and physical abuse.

The scandal, which initially was raised by the nongovern-

mental Center for Military Human Rights Korea, cast a spotlight on South Korea's system of assigning so-called "housekeeping soldiers" to commanders' residences.

More than 100 soldiers are on duty at some 90 residential compounds of Army commanders nationwide, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

The Army has launched a review into the operation of the official residence soldier system.

Defense Minister Song Young-moo convened an emer-

gency meeting with top commanders from all the branches Monday to find ways to improve conditions for members of the 625,000-strong military.

"Unless the human rights of troops are protected, the people won't trust our military," Song was quoted as saying.

Issues concerning possible military abuses receive a lot of attention in this U.S.-allied nation because all able-bodied South Korean men are required to serve about two years in the military.

# Drones flying into restricted airspace can be destroyed

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — U.S. military officials are now authorized to destroy personal or commercial drones flying into restricted airspace in and around 133 domestic military installations, Pentagon officials said Monday.

The Pentagon provided classified instructions last month to commanders at the installations detailing measures that they can take against drones flying over their bases, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman.

The Federal Aviation Administration in April announced a ban for nearly all types of un-

manned aerial systems over 133 military installations and testing sites because of security concerns.

Davis said Monday that he could not detail the “rules of engagement” for targeting drones, but he said they included steps such as “tracking, disabling or destroying” them, depending on whether they are perceived to pose a threat.

Drones have rapidly grown in popularity in the United States, and the FAA in March estimated the market would grow from about 1.1 million small personal drones in 2016 to more than 3.5 million by 2021. It also estimated commercial drones would

expand from about 42,000 to some 442,000 in the same time period.

As the number of drones has increased, Pentagon officials have grown increasingly concerned they could interfere with military training operations within the United States or be used to target personnel.

Davis said the Defense Department worked with the FAA and other federal agencies to develop its new policy. Installations will soon begin working with local communities to engage the public about restrictions on drone usage around military installations, he said.

## Navy says Iranian drone flew near US jet

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An Iranian drone flew within 100 feet of a U.S. Navy fighter jet over the Persian Gulf on Thursday, forcing the F/A-18E Super Hornet to change directions to avoid a collision, the Navy said.

The Iranian QOM-1 drone executed “dangerous” altitude changes over international waters as the Super Hornet was preparing to land on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz in the central Persian Gulf, according to a U.S. Naval Forces Central statement. The Navy deemed the interaction unsafe and unprofessional.

The drone ignored repeated radio calls for air traffic in the area to stay clear of active flight operations around the Nimitz, according to the statement.

“The dangerous maneuver by the QOM-1 in the known vicinity of fixed wing flight operations ... created a collision hazard and is not in keeping with international maritime customs and laws,” the statement read.

The drone was not armed, a defense official said.

Interactions with Iranian aircraft and vessels are not uncommon in the Persian Gulf region, and Tuesday’s incident was the 13th unsafe or unprofessional interaction between American and Iranian forces this year, according to the statement.

Last month, sailors aboard the USS Thunderbolt, a Cyclone-class patrol ship, fired warning shots near an Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps military boat when it sped within 150 yards of the U.S. ship in the northern Persian Gulf.

That was the second time this year that a U.S. ship fired warning shots at an Iranian vessel in the Persian Gulf.

In January, the USS Mahon fired warning shots as four Revolutionary Guard boats approached the guided-missile destroyer at a high rate of speed in the southern Persian Gulf.

## SD-based Lancers assume Guam bomber mission

BY LEON COOK  
*Stars and Stripes*

A South Dakota-based detachment of B-1B Lancers is on Guam to assume U.S. Pacific Command’s continuous bomber presence mission at Andersen Air Force Base.

Six supersonic bombers and 350 airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base’s 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, 28th Bomb Wing, arrived at the end of July, an Air Force statement said. The squadron is relieving the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, which deployed from

Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in February.

During their six-month deployment, the Dyess bombers flew a wide range of missions, including a low flyover of the Korean Peninsula as a show of force after North Korea test-fired its second intercontinental ballistic missile on July 28. They were escorted by Japanese and South Korean fighters during the 10-hour mission.

Since 2004, Air Force bombers including Lancers, B-2 Spirits and the venerable B-52 Stratofortress have maintained a continuous presence at Andersen.

The mission has been performed solely by B-1 squadrons since last August, when a squadron from Ellsworth took over for an aging fleet of B-52s, an aircraft adopted for service in 1955.

Both the 9th and 37th squadrons operate state-of-the-art Block 16 B-1B Lancers that boast improved avionics, datalink equipment and other systems, the Air Force said.

The four-engine supersonic jet was designed for nuclear capabilities but switched to an exclusively conventional combat role in the mid-1990s, according to Boeing’s website.

## 3 Marines missing off Australian coast identified

*Associated Press*

SYDNEY — The three Marines missing since the U.S. military aircraft crash Saturday off the east coast of Australia have all been identified and were officially declared dead Tuesday.

U.S. Marine base Camp Butler in Japan said they were Marine 1st Lt. Benjamin Cross, 26, of Oxford, Maine; Cpl. Nathaniel Ordway, 21, of Sedgwick,

Kan.; and Pfc. Ruben Velasco, 19, of Los Angeles.

The submerged wreckage of the MV-22 Osprey was found Monday. An Australian navy ship arrived in Shoalwater Bay in Queensland state Sunday night to help the U.S. military hunt for the aircraft, which the Marines said was conducting regularly scheduled operations on Saturday when it crashed

into the water.

The wreckage was found shortly after the ship’s arrival, Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said in a statement.

An Australian navy dive team was helping to recover the aircraft, Camp Butler said.

Twenty-three other personnel who were on board the Osprey when it crashed were rescued.

## UN braces for Iraq evacuations amid ops

GENEVA — The U.N.'s humanitarian aid coordinator for Iraq says aid providers are bracing for the possible evacuation of hundreds of thousands of civilians as Iraqi forces prepare for the "imminent" start of three operations against Islamic State holdouts.

Lise Grande says teams are moving to areas near the expected operations in Tal Afar near Mosul; Hawija in Kirkuk province to the southeast and the western Anbar province.

She says they were briefed in recent days about military "mustering points" and planned evacuation routes.

Grande told reporters on Tuesday in Geneva that some 3.3 million people remain displaced from their homes across Iraq, including 700,000 people from Mosul alone.

From The Associated Press

# Iraqi Shiite militia: Coalition attacked, killed 40 troops

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A powerful Iraqi Shiite militia said Tuesday that at least 40 of its militiamen were killed in an attack the previous day on its positions across the border in Syria. The militia blamed the U.S.-led coalition for the assault but Islamic State claimed its fighters had targeted the militiamen.

The deputy head of the militia, known as Kattaib Sayeed al-Shuhadaa, accused U.S. forces of carrying out the early Monday assault. The Baghdad-based spokesman of the U.S.-led coalition, Army Col. Ryan

Dillon, dismissed the allegation, saying on Twitter that no coalition airstrikes took place in the area at the time.

According to the militia's deputy, Ahmed al-Maksousi, they were hit by artillery fire in Syria's Jamouna area, about 7.5 miles from the Iraqi border.

He said the attack was launched from around Iraq's city of Mosul, recently recaptured by Iraqi forces from ISIS, and was followed by an on-the-ground assault by militants. Along with 40 killed, at least 30 militiamen were wounded, al-Maksousi added.

The militia vowed "this

act will not pass without punishment."

In an online statement, ISIS said it staged a three-pronged attack that included a suicide bombing, followed by fighters storming the militiamen's positions. The group added that one ISIS fighter was captured.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, speaking at a press conference Tuesday, said he spoke with the militia's leadership and that reports of the incident were still being confirmed.

Several Iran-backed Iraqi Shiite militias have been fighting in Syria alongside Syrian government troops.

## Analysis: N. Korea making missile-ready nuclear weapons

The Washington Post

North Korea has successfully produced a miniaturized nuclear warhead that can fit inside its missiles, crossing a key threshold on the path to becoming a full-fledged nuclear power, U.S. intelligence officials have concluded in a confidential assessment.

The new analysis completed last month by the Defense Intelligence Agency comes on the heels of another intelligence assessment that sharply raises the official estimate for the total number of bombs in the communist country's atomic arsenal. The U.S. calculated last month that up to 60 nuclear weapons are now controlled by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Some independent experts believe the number of bombs is much smaller.

The findings are likely to deepen concerns about an evolving North Korean military threat that appears to be advancing far more rapidly than many experts had predicted. U.S. officials last month concluded that Pyongyang is also outpacing expectations in

its effort to build an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking cities on the American mainland.

While more than a decade has passed since North Korea's first nuclear detonation, many analysts believed it would be years before the country's weapons scientists could design a compact warhead that could be delivered by missile to distant targets. But the new assessment, a summary document dated July 28, concludes that this critical milestone has already been reached.

"The IC [intelligence community] assesses North Korea has produced nuclear weapons for ballistic missile delivery, to include delivery by ICBM-class missiles," the assessment states, in an excerpt read to The Washington Post. The assessment's broad conclusions were verified by two U.S. officials familiar with the document. It is not yet known whether the reclusive regime has successfully tested the smaller design, although North Korea officially last year claimed to have done so.

The DIA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence declined to comment.

An assessment this week by the Japanese Ministry of Defense also concludes there is evidence to suggest that North Korea has achieved miniaturization.

Kim is becoming increasingly confident in the reliability of his nuclear arsenal, analysts have concluded, explaining perhaps the dictator's willingness to engage in defiant behavior, including missile tests that have drawn criticism even from North Korea's closest ally, China. On Saturday, both China and Russia joined other members of the U.N. Security Council in approving punishing new economic sanctions, including a ban on exports that supply up to a third of North Korea's annual \$3 billion earnings.

The nuclear progress further raises the stakes for President Donald Trump, who has vowed that North Korea will never be allowed to threaten the United States with nuclear weapons.

Producing a compact nuclear warhead that can fit inside

a missile is a technically demanding feat, one that many analysts believed was still beyond North Korea's grasp. Last year, state-run media in Pyongyang displayed a spherical device that government spokesmen described as a miniaturized nuclear warhead, but whether it was a real bomb remained unclear.

Kim has repeatedly proclaimed his intention to field a fleet of nuclear-tipped ICBMs as a guarantor of his regime's survival. His regime took a major step toward that goal last month with the first successful tests of a missile with intercontinental range. Video analysis of the latest test revealed that the missile caught fire and apparently disintegrated as it plunged back toward Earth's surface, suggesting North Korea's engineers are not yet capable of building a reentry vehicle that can carry the warhead safely through the upper atmosphere. But U.S. analysts and many independent experts believe that this hurdle will be overcome by late next year.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Lost school ring keeps coming back to owner

**FL** PENSACOLA — A Florida woman said her high school ring “keeps coming back to me.”

Shannon Rose Forester, who lives near Pensacola, lost the ring while stationed at the Navy Reserve Center in Hancock, Wis.

A Wisconsin woman turned to Facebook when she found the 1979 Pace High School ring that didn't belong to anyone in her family while cleaning her father's house in Custer after his death.

Nicki Hintz's search led her to Forester. Hintz told the Pensacola News Journal she believes her dad found the ring when he moved into the house and put it in a drawer.

It's not the first time Forester lost the ring. It was misplaced during a car wreck shortly after she graduated high school. Her father, a sheriff's deputy, found it at a pawn shop.

## Amtrak train slices car in two; none hurt

**SC** HARDEEVILLE — Authorities in South Carolina said a beginner driver and her passenger got out just in time after she got stuck trying to turn around at a railroad crossing.

An Amtrak train carrying 400 passengers sliced the car in two, and the wreckage caught fire as it was dragged down the tracks early Sunday morning. No one was seriously injured, although one train passenger was hospitalized with an asthma attack.

The Island Packet, of Hilton Head, reported that the driver is in her 20s and faces misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and violating a beginner's permit. According to a statement from the City of Hardeeville, damage to

the train will cost \$100,000 to fix. The passenger in the car does not face charges.

## Man trapped under Hummer in river saved

**NY** SCHROEPPEL — Three men working at a central New York car dealership teamed up to save a man who had become trapped under his Hummer after backing the vehicle into a river.

Kip Northrup told The Post-Standard, of Syracuse, that he was working at a car dealership in Schroepel on Friday night when he heard someone yelling for help. He followed the sound to a neighboring property, where he found a man whose legs were trapped under a back tire of a Hummer that was partially in the Oswego River.

The man told Northrup he had backed into the river and got trapped under the back end as he was checking his progress. Northrup called 911, then ran back to the dealership. He and two employees freed the man, who was treated at a hospital and released.

## Robbery suspect snoozes at scene

**TX** ABILENE — Police in West Texas arrested a robbery suspect after investigators say he was caught snoozing at the scene.

Taylor County jail records show Kanyoni Sedekiya, 20, of Abilene, was being held Sunday on an aggravated robbery charge, with bond set at \$60,000.

Sedekiya was arrested before dawn Friday at an Abilene apartment complex. An Abilene police statement says Sedekiya had a gun when he entered his apartment and argued with his roommate. Police said the victim was bound as the suspect demanded money.

Authorities said Sedekiya then fell asleep. The victim managed to get free about 4 a.m. Friday. He went to a neighbor's apartment and summoned police.

## Gun dealer stops sales to settle suit

**FL** OLDSMAR — A long-time Florida gun dealer agreed to abandon the industry to settle a lawsuit brought by a national gun control group that argued his store should be held liable for selling a firearm to a mentally ill man who used it to kill his mother and her boyfriend in 2012.

The Tampa Bay Times reported owner Gerald Tanso has sold his Oldsmar gun store, Lock N Load, and promised to never engage in selling firearms again.

The remainder of the settlement is confidential. But an attorney with the Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence said Tanso also agreed to make a public statement urging gun dealers to adopt stringent background checks, security measures and other practices to prevent straw purchasers and criminals from obtaining firearms.

## Gurney in coroner's van rolls into traffic

**WA** OLYMPIA — Police said a gurney holding a dead body fell from the back of a coroner's van into Olympia traffic.

The Olympian reported the van was heading back to the county coroner's office Monday after responding to a home death.

Olympia Police Department Lt. Paul Lower said two gurneys fell out of the van at the intersection of Martin Way East and Phoenix Street Southeast.

The gurney holding the deceased person was found in the intersection, while the second

gurney rolled down the street and was found in a parking lot.

Lower said officers rerouted traffic while the coroner's office was notified and returned to load the gurneys back into the van.

## Police: Dentist tried to work while drunk

**PA** MARS — Police said a dentist in Pennsylvania tried to work on patients while drunk, and after his staff called 911 he told responding officers he'd had an entire bottle of vodka.

The Butler Eagle reported Gregory Bellotti is charged with public drunkenness and reckless endangerment.

Police said his staff at Refresh Dental Management in Mars called authorities on March 23 to report someone with an “altered level of consciousness.”

When officers arrived, they found Bellotti heavily intoxicated. He was treated at a hospital for alcohol poisoning.

## 'Donut Boy' on mission of police appreciation

**MD** BALTIMORE — A young caped crusader who's supporting law enforcement through generosity descended on Maryland in his nationwide journey.

Local news outlets reported that “Donut Boy” came to Harford County on Friday after he's visited more than 10 states on a mission to deliver doughnuts to police as his way of showing appreciation.

Officers from at least 10 agencies met Tyler Carach, 9, of Florida, in Edgewood where County Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler and State Police Capt. Mike Wann honored him for bringing more than 1,000 pastries donated by a local Dunkin' Donuts.

From wire reports

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# Titans support ALS-stricken teammate

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tim Shaw warns Tennessee coach Mike Mularkey not to overuse his story looking to inspire the Titans, seeing limits to the emotional tale of the former NFL linebacker and special teams ace fighting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Mularkey, and the rest of the Titans, respectfully disagree.

"He's a teammate, he's a brother, and he always will be no matter what," said long snapper Beau Brinkley, who sits next to Shaw's spot in the Tennessee locker room.

A year ago, Tennessee surprised Shaw by inviting him to training camp to sign a one-day contract and retire as a Titan. The Titans were the last team Shaw played for in his six-year NFL career. The 6-foot-1, 233-pound special teams captain played through muscle weakness late in the 2012 season. Test after test found nothing, so he reported for training camp in 2013 only to be released in the final roster cuts.

Shortly after his 30th birthday in March 2014, Shaw

learned his life-altering diagnosis: ALS.

He shared the news during the "Ice Bucket Challenge" with the Titans and then-coach Ken Whisenhunt accepting Shaw's challenge to help raise money for ALS research. Then Shaw took a break from football as he bungee-jumped in New Zealand, visited Australia and helped drill a well in Brazil. He met with congressmen and other lawmakers. He even wrote a book called "Blitz Your Life" about how to make a difference.

"I was dealing with losing the game, losing my physical abilities to play, losing my identity as an NFL player," Shaw told The Associated Press. "I mean just for me, I needed to be away from it to come to grips with who I really was and who I was apart from the game."

A year ago, Tennessee called Shaw to training camp for the retirement — and invited him to visit anytime.

Within the month, his name was on a locker inside the revamped locker room. Then Mularkey asked Shaw to give the team a quick report one Mon-

day looking ahead at the next opponent. To help him scout, the Titans gave him an iPad to watch film.

"It's nice to see people who are about action, and they back their words up with action," Shaw said. "The Titans have done that for me. ... I don't need a locker. But it's the simple act of saying, 'You're one of us. You're with us.'"

When Mularkey fired special teams coordinator Bobby April on Oct. 3, the Titans needed a bit more. Mularkey asked if Shaw could help out special teams coach Steve Hoffman. Shaw accepted, taking over the quick special teams report due each Monday looking ahead to the next opponent.

"He had seen so much as a player, he was able to do some advance scouting for me," Hoffman said. "He'd watch the other team. He was great. He'd call me, sometimes shoot me a text or write an email or whatever, and he'd actually detail it out. 'Game two, play three, this is what I see. Game four, play five, this is what they're doing. Watch for that.' Then he'd come in on Mondays and kind of give

me a little synopsis of what he saw."

Shaw also spent time in the locker room, giving suggestions to players on special teams.

"My leverage was always kind of getting jacked up, and Tim basically simplified it for me and made it real easy for me," linebacker Nate Palmer said.

Mularkey hired a special teams assistant this offseason.

Shaw is preparing for a third trip to Israel later this month for a stem cell treatment hoping to slow the progression of a disease that weakens the muscles with no known cure. He believes football played a role in him developing ALS, which is why he's pushing the NFL to do more to figure out the links between brain trauma and concussions to CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) and ALS.

Former Saints receiver and special teamer Steve Gleason suffers from ALS and has been a leading advocate for more action by the league, as has former linebacker O.J. Brigrance, who has survived 10 years with the disease.

## Redskins' linemen use boxing to improve hand speed

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — With his hands drenched in sweat moments after taking his boxing gloves off, Anthony Lanier worked quickly to catch his breath.

Lanier sparred with members of the Washington Redskins' equipment staff for several rounds after practice, and believes days of the boxing exercises are making an impact on his game.

"It's helping me be able to stay loose, actually helping my hands to fire," Lanier said. "When I'm seeing a reaction from my eyes, my hands have the reaction time now to follow where the man is going so I'm not falling behind."

Boxing is all the rage at Red-

skins camp, introduced by new defensive line coach Jim Tom-sula to help players improve hand speed, footwork, moves and conditioning. The intense, enthusiastic Tomsula believes it helps linemen by making their hands more aggressive, eyes sharper, hips stronger and whole body balanced and better-conditioned.

"When you go three rounds in three minutes, you're getting some conditioning and it's in a competitive, fun way," Tomsula said.

Fun, Joey Mbu said, is subjective. A.J. Francis called it exhausting.

But across the line of scrimmage, left tackle Trent Williams knows it is working.

"They're so much more active

with their hands and they're getting off the ball, they're pressing the point," Williams said of Washington's defensive linemen. "He's teaching them how to use your momentum against you. A lot of things he taught Justin Smith back in San Fran, a lot of things he did well, it's kind of shedding on the defensive line over here."

Technique-wise, Lanier feels that boxing is making his punch more explosive and helping him feel more game-ready. His fellow linemen might not enjoy the breath-sucking activity, but they understand there's a method to Tomsula's approach.

"It hurts a lot, man, but there's a great art to it," Mbu said. "The whole art of it is staying low because we box lower than usual for our size. We stay

low through it and use our hips more. It translates well for a defensive lineman."

That's the point. Tomsula, who was the 49ers' defensive line coach for eight years before one ill-fated season as head coach, has done this for a long time.

When he and new strength and conditioning coach Chad Englehart brought the idea to coach Jay Gruden, he was all for it.

"A lot of the boxing moves are very similar for what you have to use as a football player," Gruden said. "We did it in the OTAs and the group did a great job teaching them, and I think they had fun with it. Really it's a lot of the same movements and good for their conditioning and good for their strength."

# PGA Championship will be moved to May

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Players are allowed to wear shorts during practice rounds at the PGA Championship. That won't be necessary in two years when it moves to May.

The PGA of America is moving its major championship to May for the first time in 70 years when it goes to Bethpage Black on New York's Long Island in 2019 as part of a long-term plan that involves a major shift in the golf calendar, including The Players Championship going back to its March date, The Associated Press has learned.

Two officials involved in the discussions said the PGA of America and PGA Tour would discuss details of the move as early as Tuesday at Quail Hollow Club, site of this year's PGA Championship. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the move had not been announced.

The change has been in the works for four years, one official said. The catalyst behind the movement was golf's return to the Olympics, along with the PGA Tour's desire to wrap up its FedEx Cup before

the NFL begins.

The move to May also puts the PGA Championship in the middle of the major championship season — after the Masters, before the U.S. Open — instead of being stuck at the end in August when courses typically are softer because of the summer heat and sports fans have one eye turned toward football.

Still to be determined is the how the rest of the PGA Tour schedule is constricted to finish around Labor Day. One official said the playoff event in Boston is likely to go away after 2018. Another official said one plan is for the Greenbrier Classic, typically held in July, to move to the fall.

The PGA Championship has been in August since 1969 with two exceptions. Jack Nicklaus won in February 1971 when it was held at PGA National in South Florida, and last year it was held the final weekend in July at Baltusrol ahead of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The PGA is scheduled for Harding Park in San Francisco in 2020, so there was always the possibility of moving to May during the next Olympic year.

However, that would mean the PGA gets bounced around the calendar every four years.

The PGA of America was interested in building continuity, and a move to May could energize what has been looked upon as the last of the four majors. That also would allow it to go to some areas that were deemed too hot for August, such as Texas, Florida and parts of the Southeast. It already has said the PGA Championship would return to Southern Hills in Tulsa before 2030. The last time it was held at Southern Hills, in 2007, temperatures topped 100 degrees.

The move also could serve as a boost to golf courses around the country — the PGA of America has some 27,000 golf professionals — going into the heart of the season.

But it also eliminates other parts of the country from hosting the PGA.

One official said two traditional sites — Whistling Straits in Wisconsin and Hazeltine in Minnesota — would not be able to host the PGA Championship in May. Officials feel comfortable with the weather and agronomy for Bethpage Black,

and they are hopeful for good weather in 2023 for Oak Hill in Rochester, N.Y.

The Players Championship, traditionally held in March two weeks before the Masters, moved to May in 2007 to get away from the biggest major of the year and create a sequence of big events through the summer.

By going back to March, and creating space for the PGA Championship in May, it allows the tour to end its season around Labor Day instead of late September when the NFL is in full swing, and it keeps a strong sequence of events leading into the FedEx Cup playoffs.

The PGA Championship celebrates its 100th anniversary next year, and it has a long history of moving around the calendar. The first one was played in October in New York. Since then, it has been held in every month except for January, March and April.

The last time it was played in May was 1949, when Sam Snead won at Hermitage Country Club in Virginia.

## QB Mallett out to prove he's capable starter

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Baltimore Ravens quarterback Ryan Mallett has quietly gone about his business despite outside distractions throughout training camp.

The seven-year veteran has been under close scrutiny running the first-team offense with starter Joe Flacco sidelined with a back injury.

The Ravens have talked about going through a process that could end up with them signing Colin Kaepernick, who gained widespread attention last year for his decision to not stand during the national anthem.

Mallett, however, has remained undaunted. He will get to showcase his skills as the starter in Baltimore's first preseason game Thursday against the Washington Redskins.

"I have tunnel vision," Mallett said. "I'm not really worried about what's going on

outside this building."

Mallett has experienced mixed results atop the depth chart. Some days, he throws multiple interceptions, and on others, he shows a big-time arm that justifies the Ravens' confidence in him.

Baltimore coach John Harbaugh even jokingly chastised the media for its coverage of him.

"I think Ryan has played well," Harbaugh said. "He has a really not good day, and I saw a lot of stories about that. I see he's having some pretty good days, and I haven't seen any stories about that. What's up with that?"

"But no, I think he's doing a good job, and he's had some good days."

Mallett signed in December 2015 after Flacco went down with a season-ending knee injury. Mallett started the final two games and led the team to a 20-17 victory over Pittsburgh.

Overall, he has appeared in six games for the Ravens and has completed 59.2 percent of his passes for 592 yards with two touchdowns and three interceptions. Despite the limited reps, Mallett re-signed in March for a one-year, \$2 million deal.

He prides himself on being ready when his number is called.

"I always prepare as if I was starting," Mallett said. "That's the only way you can do it and try to be successful, anyway. So, every week I prepare like the starter just in case."

There doesn't appear to be a set timeline for Flacco to return to practice. Now, it is up to Mallett to show he is capable of being a starter.

"It's an opportunity for Ryan to get ready," Harbaugh said. "Those reps are really huge for a quarterback. He wants to make the most of all those reps with the" first-team offense.

# US goalkeeper Solo looks to stay abroad

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — American goalkeeper Hope Solo is looking to resume playing and says she has had offers to play overseas.

Solo was handed a six-month suspension and her contract with U.S. Soccer was terminated last year after the Rio de Janeiro Olympics when she called Sweden's team "cowards" for their defensive style of play against the Americans.

Since the abrupt break in her career, the 36-year-old Solo has

focused on recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.

"Let's be clear, a goalkeeper peaks a little bit later in their career, so I feel like I have many years ahead of me if that opportunity arises," Solo said in an interview Monday. "I'm very happy with my career should I walk away from the game today, but I'm not one to retire. I have not retired."

Even before her Olympic outburst, Solo was at odds with American soccer leadership as she lobbied for women's players

to earn equitable salaries to the male national team players.

"My contract got terminated because of my fight for equal pay with the United States Soccer Federation," Solo said. "I'm not sure until the lawsuit is over, that anything will change that. In the meantime I've had great opportunities and great contract offers to go back overseas and play. Possibly you'll see me overseas next year."

Especially as Solo, who played in Sweden and France in 2004 and 2005, said her

"shoulder is doing great."

"I have a completely metal arm now — I'm bionic," she said. "I'm better now than I have been in the last 10 years so I'm pain free and I have more range of motion. I'm very happy with my health right now and I'm very happy with my fitness. I'm ready to get back."

Solo, who was voted into the World XI team by fellow players in March, still hopes to be back with the United States for its World Cup title defense in France.

## Machado upstages Trout, lifts Orioles over Angels

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Mike Trout delivered his 1,000th career hit with a cracking double down the line. Two innings later, he homered on his birthday for the fourth time in his six big league seasons.

Moments after that, Manny Machado made sure Trout's birthday gifts didn't include a victory.

Trout reached another milestone and hit another homer on his 26th birthday, but Machado hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the seventh inning of the Baltimore Orioles' 6-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Monday night.

"A lot of good things happened tonight," manager Buck Showalter said after Baltimore got back to .500 for the first time since June 29. "Everybody got to see a 1,000th hit, and we won the game, so it's another milestone."

After surviving a pregame shower of eggs, cream, shampoo and various unmentionables from his teammates, Trout doubled in the fourth inning to become the 11th player with 1,000 hits in an Angels uniform. The two-time AL MVP then tied it in the sixth, sending his 23rd homer of the season high off the left-field pole.

"It means a lot," Trout said. "A lot of milestones with hits.

You see (Adrian) Beltre, he just hit his 3,000th. Pretty incredible. I felt pretty good. I just wanted to get it over with. A lot of people talking about it."

But Machado connected moments later against J.C. Ramirez (10-10) for his fifth career grand slam.

Dylan Bundy (11-8) recorded a career-high 10 strikeouts while pitching seven innings of five-hit ball for the Orioles.

"Just a real mature effort," Showalter said. "He managed the game real well. It was fun to watch."

Baltimore (56-56) won the opener of a three-game series between two teams on the fringe of the AL wild-card race. The Orioles have won eight of 10, while Los Angeles has followed up a 6-1 stretch with three straight losses.

Trout got a standing ovation after reaching the latest milestone of his precocious career. The Big A crowd also sang "Happy Birthday" to Trout a few minutes earlier.

Trout joined Mel Ott, Jimmie Foxx and Mickey Mantle as the only players to compile 1,000 hits, 500 runs and 500 walks by their age-25 season. Trout already was the only player to get 150 homers, 400 extra-base hits and 150 stolen bases before his 26th birthday.

"When you hear your name with the greats, the Hall of

Famers when you do something, it makes you feel good," he said. "It makes you feel special just to be a part of such a good company, but for me, it's just going out there and playing. I'm not trying to chase any numbers."

**Nationals 3, Marlins 2:** Max Scherzer pitched seven sharp innings for host Washington in his first start since he was sidelined by neck spasms.

Bryce Harper homered for Washington, and pinch hitter Adam Lind singled in the tie-breaking run in the eighth inning. The Nationals expanded their lead in the NL East over second-place Miami to 14 games.

**Cubs 5, Giants 3:** Javier Baez hit an inside-the-park homer to back Jake Arrieta's 11th win in the champion Cubs' first visit to AT&T Park since eliminating host San Francisco in Game 4 of the NL Division Series last October.

Baez's 16th homer took a tricky bounce off the low wall in right-center and deflected past oncoming right fielder Carlos Moncrief nearly 100 feet back in the direction of the corner in right.

**Cardinals 11, Royals 3:** Matt Carpenter hit a three-run homer in St. Louis' six-run fourth inning, helping the Cardinals earn their third consecutive victory.

Paul DeJong and Kolten Wong also connected for the visiting Cardinals, who returned to .500 at 56-56. Carlos Martinez (8-9) pitched eight innings of two-run ball for just his second win in his last nine starts.

**Twins 5, Brewers 4:** Eddie Rosario doubled home the tying run in the seventh inning and scored the winning run for host Minnesota on a balk.

After Eduardo Escobar drew a leadoff walk, Rosario hit a smash to right field that fooled Domingo Santana, who took two steps in before watching the ball sail over his head. Escobar scored to tie the game at 4.

**Pirates 3, Tigers 0:** Trevor Williams pitched seven crisp innings, leading host Pittsburgh to the win.

Williams (5-4) struck out five and walked two, giving up only a leadoff single to James McCann in the third. Williams threw a career-high 107 pitches and never allowed a runner to third base.

**Reds 11, Padres 3:** Joey Votto homered for the third straight game and pulled into a tie with Ted Kluszewski on host Cincinnati's career list.

The Reds homered four times in all, with Patrick Kivlehan hitting his first career grand slam. Adam Duvall and Zack Cozart also connected.