

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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## Pence: DOD eyeing 2020 for Space Force

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will establish a new military service focused exclusively on space by 2020, citing the need to combat recent advances in space capabilities by rival nations, Vice President Mike Pence announced Thursday.

The new Space Force would defend America's satellite systems in outer space at a time when adversaries, including Russia and China, have worked to develop technology aimed at disabling or jamming them, Pence said during a speech at the Pentagon at the same time the Defense Department released a study of its space operations. The establishment of a Space Force would require congressional approval, and Pence said President Donald Trump's administration would request funding for it in its next budget proposal, due in February.

"The time has come to establish the United States Space Force," Pence said to a Pentagon audience filled with uniformed military and civilian leaders. He added later, "Our adversaries have transformed space into a warfighting domain already and the United States will not shrink from this challenge."

Top Pentagon leaders for years have spoken with urgency about the need to invest heavily in defense of American outer space systems, especially as China has recently displayed the ability to hit satellites with missiles and Russia has vowed to develop space-based laser weaponry. But the establishment of a new military service for space operations is a more recent development,

first suggested last year by several members of Congress who pitched it as a service that the Air Force would oversee, similar to how the Navy oversees the Marine Corps.

In recent months, Trump has championed the Space Force idea, demanding publicly in June that the Pentagon prepare to establish a new space service, which would be "separate but equal" from the Air Force.

"Space Force all the way!" Trump tweeted Thursday following Pence's speech.

However, some officials in the Defense Department had pushed back against the establishment of a new military service, including Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who last year wrote to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, that establishing a new service would add "additional organizational layers at a time when we are focused on reducing overhead and integrating joint warfighting functions."

On Thursday, Mattis appeared to embrace the creation of a new service overseeing space operations, which he called "one of our vital national interests."

"The [Defense Department] is taking the steps necessary now to implement President Trump's vision for a Space Force," Mattis said, endorsing the Pentagon's space report, which was authored by Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan.

The Pentagon proposal would pull the bulk of space operations from the Air Force, which has overseen most of the Defense Department's space capabilities for

some 35 years. The Air Force operates 77 of the military's more than 100 satellites.

Pence said the new Space Force would pull servicemembers at first from the existing services — primarily the Air Force, but all five branches have some space programs. He said the White House would request \$8 billion during the next five years for space security programs that eventually would be overseen by the Space Force.

Neither Pence nor the Pentagon report indicated precisely how much money establishing the new service would cost taxpayers.

In the Defense Department space report provided to Congress on Thursday, the Pentagon announced it would take a series of unilateral steps to prepare for the establishment of the service, the first new military branch since the Air Force was established in 1947.

By the end of 2018, the Pentagon will establish a new four-star combatant command, U.S. Space Command, to oversee all of the U.S. military's space-related operations, according to the 15-page report. The command would be led by a four-star general and would be akin to other top-level commands such as U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command or U.S. Strategic Command, which oversees space operations now.

The Defense Department also will establish a Space Development Agency, tasked with rapidly building and deploying new technology into space outside the bureaucratic confines of the Pentagon's normal acquisition system.

## Iranian exercise in Strait of Hormuz seen as message

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A large-scale naval exercise by Iran last week in the Strait of Hormuz was a designed message to the U.S., Army Gen. Joseph Votel said Wednesday.

The U.S. Central Command chief told reporters at the Pentagon that the exercise was a reaction to new sanc-

tions imposed by President Donald Trump's administration against the Iranians, who wanted to demonstrate they were capable of shutting down the strait, which is a major oil transportation route because it is the only water passage from the Persian Gulf to the ocean.

"I think it's pretty clear to us that they were trying to use that exercise to send a message

to us that as we approach the period of the sanctions here that they have some capabilities," he said.

The exercise included about 100 Iranian vessels, primarily from its elite Revolutionary Guard Corps, and occurred much earlier in the year than such Iranian maritime operations have in past years, said Votel, who oversees American

operations in the Middle East and Southwest Asia. However, the scope and scale of the exercise were not unusual, he said.

Moreover, Votel said there were no unsafe or unprofessional interactions between the Iranians and American warships during the exercise, continuing a roughly yearlong pattern of professional interactions between the two sides.

# Navy announces 'up and stay' program

*Stars and Stripes*

Chief petty officers willing to serve additional sea duty, to take on tougher jobs and to pursue promotions can apply for waivers that extend their Navy careers beyond the time when they would be discharged involuntarily, the Navy said Thursday.

Under the Navy's "up or out" policy, E-7s normally must retire after 24 years, E-8s

after 26 years and E-9s after 30 years.

The new "up and stay" program aims to retain higher-ranking enlisted personnel who show ambition and are "willing to do the hard jobs with a sustained superior performance," the Navy said in a statement.

The chief petty officers who extend their service won't be stuck at the same rank and, in fact, must work toward advancement.

Those applying for the waivers must be

endorsed by their commanding officers. Sailors on the "retired on active duty program" are not eligible to apply.

"This initiative to provide increased opportunity for our senior enlisted leaders to stay Navy will help us maintain the leadership experience and technical acumen we need at sea as we grow the force," Vice Adm. R.P. Burke said in the statement.

## Craparotta takes command of Marine Corps in Pacific

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Hawaii — Lt. Gen. Lewis Craparotta assumed command Wednesday of the roughly 86,000 Marines and sailors serving under the Oahu-based Marine Corps Forces Pacific.

In a ceremony held here outside by World War II-era hangars, Lt. Gen. David Berger relinquished command to Craparotta, who was most recently the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force in Southern California.

Berger now heads to his new assignment as deputy commandant of the Marine Corps for Combat Development and Integration, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Four companies of Marines assembled on the field for the ceremony and were

flanked by a phalanx of Ospreys, helicopters and other war machines.

Addressing those Marines and a couple of hundred more in the audience, Craparotta said, "I can only promise you 100 percent effort for as long as I'm afforded the privilege of command, and I look forward to serving in your ranks."

Craparotta commanded 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines from 2001 to 2003; 1st Marine Regiment from 2006 to 2009; and was commanding general of 2nd Marine Division (Forward) from 2010 to 2012.

Gen. Robert Neller, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, spoke briefly to the audience that included many military officials from Pacific nations allied or partnered with America.

"For the Marine Corps, the Pacific — this is our place," Neller said.

"Seventy-six years ago yesterday, members of 1st Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal, and that began a three-quarters-of-a-century commitment by the United States Marines to the Indo-Pacific theater," he said. "It was on those islands where, with our Navy shipmates and our Army partners, we began our legacy of service."

To the visiting foreign dignitaries and military officials, Neller said the Marine Corps chooses its "very, very best" to command Pacific operations.

"That's what we need to do out here to assure our allies and deter any would-be adversaries," he said. "We'll be there with you. We'll be there for you. We appreciate your support for us to be able to train and be ready for whatever the future may bring to us."

## USS Wasp strike group departs Sasebo for patrol of Western Pacific

BY JAMES BOLINGER

*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Two U.S. warships have left their homeport in southern Japan for a mission in the Western Pacific.

The USS Wasp amphibious assault ship and the USS Ashland landing-dock ship departed Sasebo Naval Base this week for a deployment that marks only the second time F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters have embarked aboard the Wasp.

The Iwakuni-based short-takeoff, vertical-landing aircraft operated from the ship for the first time during a patrol earlier this year. The test of the "upgunned expeditionary strike group" concept included the

guided-missile destroyers USS Dewey and USS Sterett and Marines from the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

An upgunned ESG combines the lethality of the F-35B with destroyers, giving the strike group the ability to hunt enemy submarines and ships and engage in surface-to-surface combat. The 844-foot flat-deck Wasp acts like a mini-aircraft carrier that can support more than 1,600 Marines during an amphibious assault or protect a strike group at sea. It can also carry 31 aircraft and launch hovercraft from its well deck.

The Wasp arrived in Japan in January after being fitted with a new flight deck to handle the heat generated by the F-35B during vertical landings.

## 2 Koreas set to meet again

SEOUL, South Korea — The two Koreas have agreed to hold high-level talks Monday to prepare for another summit between their leaders even as nuclear talks between the North and the United States have stalled.

Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon will lead the South Korean delegation to the meeting on the northern side of the truce village of Panmunjom, the ministry said Thursday.

The North offered to hold the talks but has yet to announce its chief delegate, a ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with department policy. The two sides planned to discuss preparations for another summit, as well as review the implementation of agreements made during the first one on April 27.

From staff reports

# Navy: Welding problem on tubes for new subs

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The U.S. Navy said Tuesday there's a problem with welds on missile tubes that are destined for new submarines.

The welding issue was identified on missile tubes that have been delivered to General Dynamics Electric Boat for new ballistic-missile submarines for the U.S. Navy and the Royal Navy, and on tubes for weapons being manufactured for new U.S. attack submarines, according to the Naval Sea Systems Command.

BWX Technologies, Inc., a subcontractor to Electric Boat, found the quality control

issue, the command said. A testing instrument did not adequately inspect the welds. Defense News first reported the story.

Electric Boat is based in Groton, Conn., and has a manufacturing facility in Rhode Island. BWX Technologies is headquartered in Virginia.

The tubes have not been installed on any submarines. A dozen were affected. BWX Technologies said it recently suspended welding operations relative to an area of concern and that the company takes quality very seriously.

The Navy is working with Electric Boat to determine the next steps, which could include further inspections and fixing or

replacing welds.

William Couch, a spokesman for Naval Sea Systems Command, said he wouldn't know the cost to the programs or additional details until they finish the assessments.

In 2015, three attack submarines were sidelined due to welding problems by a different defense contractor.

Construction on the U.S. Navy's new ballistic missile submarine program, the Columbia class, is expected to begin on schedule in fiscal 2021, Couch said. The Navy awarded a \$5 billion contract to Electric Boat last year to finish designing the class.

# Insider attack on Marine in Syria disclosed

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

The shooting of a U.S. Marine by a member of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces in February does not reflect the partner force's commitment to the anti-Islamic State mission in Syria, the military said Thursday.

"We continue to work by, with and through our partners to achieve the lasting defeat of ISIS in designated parts of Iraq and Syria," Operation Inherent Resolve officials said in a statement.

The previously undisclosed insider attack apparently was the first during the anti-ISIS campaign in Iraq and Syria. It

first was reported Wednesday by Task & Purpose, a military news website, in an account based largely on anonymous sources and award citations. It was not clear why the shooting in an undisclosed outpost in Syria had not been divulged earlier because the Pentagon regularly reports such incidents in Afghanistan.

U.S. Central Command referred an inquiry from Stars and Stripes to Inherent Resolve, which said in an email that an investigation into the shooting had been completed but would have to be obtained by request under the Freedom of Information Act. The coalition declined to provide further comment.

"Until we have thoroughly reviewed

the redacted report, we have no specific details to offer on this incident," the statement said.

The website report said Marine Sgt. Cameron Halkovich and Cpl. Kane Downey were checking perimeter security on Feb. 17, when Halkovich was shot by an SDF member who apparently had been lying in wait.

Downey shot the SDF soldier, killing him.

The Marines, a small contingent from Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, out of Twentynine Palms, Calif., had mainly been keeping watch over a "mission support site" in eastern Syria's Deir al-Zour province.

# For now, Army halts immigrant recruits' removal

Associated Press

The U.S. Army has stopped discharging immigrant recruits who enlisted seeking a path to citizenship — at least temporarily.

A memo shared with The Associated Press on Wednesday and dated July 20 spells out orders to high-ranking Army officials to stop processing discharges of men and women who enlisted in the special immigrant program, effective immediately.

It was not clear how many recruits were affected by the action, and the Pentagon did not immediately respond to requests for comment about the memo.

"Effective immediately, you will suspend processing of all involuntary separation actions," read the memo signed by Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Marshall Williams.

The disclosure comes one month after the AP reported that dozens of immigrant enlistees were being discharged or had their contracts canceled. Some said they were given no reason for their discharges. Others said the Army informed them they'd been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them.

Early last month, the Pentagon said there had been no specific policy change and that background checks were ongoing. In mid-July, the Army reversed one discharge, for Brazilian reservist Lucas Calixto, 28, who had sued.

Nonetheless, discharges of other immigrant enlistees continued. Attorneys sought to bring a class-action lawsuit last week to offer protections to a broader group of reservists and recruits in the program, de-

manding that prior discharges be revoked and that further separations be halted.

A judge's order references the July 20 memo, and asks the Army to clarify how it affects the discharge status of Calixto and other plaintiffs. As part of the memo, Williams also instructed Army officials to recommend whether the military should issue further guidance related to the program.

Margaret Stock, an Alaska-based immigration attorney and retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel who helped create the immigrant recruitment program, said Wednesday the memo proves there was a policy.

"It's an admission by the Army that they've improperly discharged hundreds of soldiers," she said. "The next step should be go back and rescind the people who were improperly discharged."

# Votel says Afghan War plan unchanged

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A year after the Trump administration unveiled a broad new strategy for the 17-year war in Afghanistan, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East said he doesn't expect any major change in the strategy to end the conflict as a new general takes over the campaign.

Army Gen. Joseph Votel told reporters that the campaign to use military, social and political pressure to force the Taliban to the peace table is still valid. Incoming Afghanistan commander Army Gen. Scott

Miller will make his own assessment of the war's progress, Votel said, but while he may make tactical changes on the ground fight, "I don't think that that will result in a relook at the strategy of the overall approach here."

Speaking to Pentagon reporters on Wednesday, Votel said Miller is likely to take a close look at the Afghans' continued use of checkpoints in remote regions, where their forces are often more vulnerable to Taliban attack.

He said the U.S. also wants to address concerns about the Afghans' dependence

on their increasingly competent special operations forces. Miller, he said, will want to make sure the commando troops are being deployed properly and not overused.

Votel also said the reconciliation plan doesn't extend to Islamic State fighters in Afghanistan.

"While we apply military pressure against the Taliban to bring them to the table of reconciliation, we harbor no illusion about reconciliation with ISIS-K," said Votel, using the acronym for the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan. "Our mission there is to destroy that organization."

## Study: Some MWR programs more costly for families

**BY WILL MORRIS**

*Stars and Stripes*

A category of Morale, Welfare and Recreation that includes youth programs and outdoor sports is costing military families more because of underfunding by the four branches, the government's watchdog agency said.

Military officials haven't evaluated during the past 20 years whether spending targets for the multibillion-dollar MWR program, which encompasses services ranging from day care to vacation lodging and movie theaters, are keeping up with servicemembers' paychecks, the Government Accountability Office said in a report released on Wednesday.

"Until DOD comprehensively evaluates the appropriateness of the targets ... it can-

not be certain that the targets reflect the current operating environment and do not pose undue financial burden on servicemembers," the report said.

The services generally have met the 85 percent target for spending for Category A programs, which are considered essential to servicemembers' physical and mental well-being. They include activities that generate little or no revenue, such as weightlifting facilities, parks and military unit programs.

However, Category B programs, which are focused primarily on families, generally did not receive funding in line with DOD targets from 2012 to 2017 to keep them affordable, the GAO said.

While the report did not break down which programs were least supported, the category includes Child Development

Center day care, which can cost several hundred dollars monthly per child. The category also includes tours, outdoor recreation equipment, arts and crafts, theater and sports programs.

In 2017, only the Army met the target of using appropriated funding to cover 65 percent of the cost of Category B programs. That year, DOD spent about \$3.9 billion on MWR programs administered by the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Air Force.

In concurring with GAO recommendations, the Pentagon said it is conducting a review of Category A and B funding targets, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Military officials said they would work to "develop measurable goals" to weigh program cost-effectiveness.

## Petition seeks Chick-fil-A eateries on military bases

*Northwest (Fort Walton Beach)  
Florida Daily News*

FORT WALTON BEACH — An airman at Colorado's Buckley Air Force Base is taking her desire for tasty chicken sandwiches directly to the U.S. president.

In a Change.org petition, Senior Airman Emily Carby asks President Donald Trump to bring Chick-fil-A to U.S. military bases.

She calls Chick-fil-A "one of the most wholesome, happy and beloved fast food chains to exist in America today."

As of Wednesday morning, the petition, also aimed at Chick-fil-A management, had gathered nearly 50,000 signatures in the week it's been posted. Signers include a

mix of active-duty personnel, family members, veterans and other Chick-fil-A fans.

Locally, the sentiment of the petition, if not the petition itself, is attracting support from military personnel.

"I would actually like to have a Chick-fil-A on base," said an airman from Hurlburt Field who was eating lunch Monday with two other Hurlburt airmen at the Chick-fil-A on Beal Parkway.

All three spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to talk with the media.

Just one said he'd heard about the petition, but the trio's love for the fast-food restaurant was clear: They make the short drive from Hurlburt to Chick-fil-A at least once per week.

Asked for their favorite thing about Chick-fil-A, all three deadpanned, "chicken."

"And waffle fries," one added.

Chick-fil-A's corporate officials are aware of the petition, but are noncommittal about getting onto military bases.

"We are always exploring new opportunities to serve our customers, however, we have no plans to expand onto military bases at this time," the company's marketing agency said in a prepared statement.

"We will continue to look for ways to serve great food and remarkable service while supporting the military locally with events such as Military Appreciation Night, in-restaurant commemorations and more."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Cat survives being hit twice by cars

**NY** GRAFTON — A cat named Harley has used up two of its nine lives after surviving being hit by two vehicles on an upstate New York road.

State police said they recently received a report of a cat being struck by two vehicles in the rural town of Grafton, just outside Albany.

The drivers said the cat ran into the road, where it was hit by one car and thrown into the path of the second vehicle.

The cat's owner said Harley is expected to fully recover.

### Bovine herd helps police corral suspect

**FL** SANFORD — A herd of 16 cows helped police officers in Florida corral a fleeing suspect who bailed out of a car and ran through a pasture.

A Seminole County sheriff's helicopter captured the incident on video as the crew gave play-by-play to officers on the ground. A crewmember offered this nugget to pursuing officers: "If you see a large group of cows, they're literally following her."

The cows eventually ran Jennifer Anne Kaufman into a fence, where police were waiting to arrest her. An arrest report says the car Kaufman was in crashed during a police pursuit.

### Officials rescue man stuck in storm drain

**AZ** FLAGSTAFF — Flagstaff fire officials said a special operations team was needed to rescue a man who got himself trapped in a storm drain.

The Arizona Daily Sun reported crews found the man

Saturday morning about 30 feet below the ground. Officials believe the man crawled into a storm drain on the east side of Flagstaff and fell through a series of drainage tubes.

The man told rescuers that he had been there for two days.

### Snakes put library out of circulation

**DC** WASHINGTON — A D.C. Public Library branch was briefly closed upon the discovery of some uninvited guests: snakes.

The Washington Post reported the Georgetown Library closed Saturday after staff noticed snakes near a meeting room. Another snake was found earlier that day and released outside.

The library called pest control and closed until the building was given the all-clear, reopening Tuesday.

Spokesman George Williams says the pest company found a single dead snake during the library's treatment. The Post reports library staff suspect four snakes were in the building.

According to the D.C. Public Library's website, the library will have another gathering of snakes on Wednesday, but these are invited. Reptiles Alive is providing the snakes for an animal show.

### Man arrested while awaiting driving test

**MD** GLEN BURNIE — A Baltimore man who went in for a driving test left under arrest when police say marijuana, cash and a gun were found in his car.

News outlets cited a Maryland State Police arrest report that said Reginald D. Wooding Jr., 22, was arrested Monday afternoon. Police said he was waiting to take his test when an examiner became suspicious about an odor emanating from

the car.

She contacted a trooper who was working an assignment at the Motor Vehicle Administration office. A search of the car led to the discovery of nearly a pound of marijuana, scales, more than \$15,000 and a handgun with a loaded 30-round magazine.

### Officials catch turkeys causing traffic jams

**RI** JOHNSTON — Officials in Johnston captured two of three wild turkeys that were causing traffic problems.

The Providence Journal reported animal control officers from three municipalities teamed up to corral the turkeys Tuesday at a strip mall. Officers used corn to lure the birds into a corner and a net to help capture them.

A third bird managed to evade officers before sprinting across the street. Officers chased after the turkey but were no match for its top-end speed.

Mayor Joseph Polisena said he's happy animal control officers were able to capture two of the birds for relocation. Polisena had worried the turkeys would continue holding up traffic or cause a crash.

### Insurance firm sued over skunk damages

**OR** PORTLAND — An Oregon woman is suing a home insurance company after a skunk sprayed her dog and belongings inside her Grants Pass home.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that Katherine Schaeffer claims in the lawsuit filed in Josephine County Circuit Court last month the skunk ruined more than \$112,000 worth of her possessions last year.

The suit claims Safeco Insurance has paid only \$2,000 for the damages.

Schaeffer's lawyer, Scott Taylor, said the claims adjusters failed to grasp the extent of the stench, and a "special personal property rider" on his client's homeowner policy should cover the damages.

### Seagulls now stealing credit cards and cash

**MA** MANCHESTER — Seagulls have long plagued the shores of Massachusetts, but lately they've been particularly brazen.

A bandit gull grabbed credit and identification cards and an unknown amount of cash while foraging inside a man's bag for food last week.

The Gloucester Times reported a Beverly man set the bag down on a Manchester beach. Unable to find a snack, the gull grabbed the next best thing — a cardholder and money clip.

A month ago, another gull stole a wallet off a pizza box.

### Groom saves swimmer after beach wedding

**AL** ORANGE BEACH — A bridegroom is being credited with saving a struggling swimmer just moments after his beach wedding on the Gulf Coast.

WALA-TV reported that Zac and Cindy Edwards had just gotten married at Orange Beach and were taking wedding photos when a woman said someone was struggling in the surf.

Zac Edwards is a former lifeguard and Coast Guard member, so he stripped off his shirt and went in after the person. Edwards got to the person, but then had a hard time making it back to shore.

First responders showed up soon after and brought them both to safety.

From wire reports

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World, National  
and Military News

# Fast-football craze shows signs of fading

Associated Press

The result of the play is a first down and the offense rushes to the line of scrimmage and sets up, linemen in their three-point stances, receivers out wide. The quarterback directs traffic, barks out something or other, maybe claps his hands, and then ... he stops and looks to the sideline for a play to be signaled.

Hurry-up offense? More like hurry-up-and-wait.

The fast-paced, no-huddle offenses made fashionable by Chip Kelly, Rich Rodriguez and most of the Big 12, fueling a scoring frenzy in college football for more than a decade, are becoming less prevalent.

Last season scoring was down in college football, a drop of about a point and a half per game per team to 28.8, and the lowest mark since 2011 (28.3). But a deeper look into the numbers shows that defensive coordinators don't have much to celebrate. Offenses are still performing at a high level.

They were, generally, just operating more slowly in 2017. And there is reason to believe this is the new normal as the allure of playing fast dissipates.

"I think that what's happened is you have a group of us that are playing ultra-fast and some people that tried to get into it that really don't understand it, they're playing slower," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said this spring.

FBS teams averaged 69.9 plays per game in 2017, down from 71.6 the season before and the fewest since 2011. Eighty-three of 129 FBS teams last season ran fewer plays per game than in 2016. Seven teams averaged at least 80 plays per game last year, half as many as in 2016 and the fewest since 2011. There were 31 teams that ran fewer plays per game last season than in 2016, but saw their average time of possession increase.

Championship Analytics Inc., a company that provides dozens of FBS schools a weekly advanced metrics breakdown

of their upcoming game, uses drives per game to measure pace. Responding to a request from The Associated Press, CAI's research showed drives per game have been decreasing in FBS for the last three seasons. In 2014, FBS games averaged 25.12 drives per game. Last season that dropped to 24.39. Points per drive, however, have remained relatively steady. In 2014, teams averaged 2.21 points per drive. Last season, it was 2.23.

Multi-tempo has replaced up-tempo for a lot of college offenses. Mississippi State's Joe Moorhead, who was offensive coordinator at Penn State the last two seasons, said his offense mostly operates at three speeds.

"We want to run the best play possible against the look presented rather than a bad play quickly," said Moorhead, repeating one of his go-to lines when describing his offensive philosophy. "But at the same time have the ability that if we're getting the right looks

and calling the right plays to play at that break-neck speed."

This is the hurry-up-and-wait approach. By rushing to the line of scrimmage and making no substitutions, offenses get the benefit of forcing defenses to stick with the personnel they have on the field.

"They're getting lined up really fast so they have plenty of time left on the 40-second clock to see what you're doing defensively," said Pittsburgh coach Pat Narduzzi, a former defensive coordinator. "They all want perfect plays."

Mississippi State defensive coordinator Bob Shoop said he believes offenses are looking for more than just formations.

"I think the game has changed from going as fast as you can to lining up as fast as you can and trying to steal the defense's signals," Shoop said. "I think that's what you see a lot of teams doing nowadays. Trying to get the defensive coordinator, the defensive signal caller's signals, and get into the right play in that respect."

## Golfers over age 40 don't often win American majors

Associated Press

One news story from 50 years ago at the PGA Championship might explain why no one has touched a record set that day.

Julius Boros had to watch in front of him as Arnold Palmer made one last charge in the 1968 PGA Championship. Palmer thrashed a 3-wood out of the rough to 8 feet on the 18th hole at Pecan Valley in San Antonio, only to miss the birdie putt to tie for the lead in the only major he never won.

Boros needed par to win, and he left his approach 45 yards short.

Nerves? Not at all.

"With the heat at 103, the pressure on full force, and 14,000 spectators jammed around the 18th green, Boros nonchalantly chipped to within 3 feet of the pin and popped the winning putt into the cup," the

story said.

Boros was 48, making him the oldest major champion, then and now.

Tom Watson was an 8-foot putt away from winning the 2009 British Open at Turnberry at age 59. A year earlier, Greg Norman was 53 when he took the lead into the final round at Royal Birkdale and shot 77. Norman did that when he was younger, too.

Links golf, which leans more on skill and creativity than youthful power, seems to expand the age limit for winning majors.

American majors are different.

Only two players in their 40s have won the last 80 majors over two decades on U.S. soil. Vijay Singh, who holds the PGA Tour record for most victories in his 40s (22), won the 2004 PGA Championship at age 41.

Payne Stewart was 42 when he won the 1999 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2, four months before he died in a plane crash.

No one would be surprised if a player in his 40s won the PGA Championship at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis, which starts Thursday. Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods, Paul Casey and Matt Kuchar are all in their 40s. Five players in their 40s have won on the PGA Tour this year. Four of them won last year.

There's just not much recent history to suggest it will happen in an American major.

"Sometimes it's almost like a younger player can be naïve about what they're achieving," Paul Azinger said. "Younger players have the ability to swing the club like a kid without a care in the world, versus an older player who feels like he's playing with his last ball."

Mark Calcavecchia won the Canadian Open when he was 45. He won at Innisbrook in Florida when he was 46. He had two chances on Sunday in the majors after turning 40, and he didn't break par either time.

"It should be the same as a regular tour event," Calcavecchia said. "There's more pressure in a major. Maybe the older you get, you don't handle the pressure as well. I don't know. That's a hard one to figure out."

There have been plenty of close calls, mostly involving Mickelson, who is among the best to ever play. Mickelson won the British Open in 2013 at Muirfield. He lost the 54-hole lead in the U.S. Open at Merion that same year at 43, and he finished runner-up in the PGA Championship at Valhalla when he was 44.

# Rookie QB Rosen set for preseason debut

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Barring unforeseen circumstances, rookie Josh Rosen will begin his first NFL season on the sideline as Arizona's backup quarterback.

The preseason, though, will be his chance to shine, beginning Saturday night when the Cardinals play at home against the Los Angeles Chargers.

"We want him to play quite a bit and really get into the flow of the game," coach Steve Wilks said.

Rosen said his two weeks of training camp have "gone really well."

"I think I've gotten better pretty much every day since I've gotten here," the former UCLA star said before Wednesday's practice.

Sam Bradford is Arizona's starter but the Cardinals view Rosen as their franchise quarterback of the future. Why else would they have moved up five spots in the draft to pluck him 10th overall?

Asked for specific areas of improvement since he became

a pro, Rosen cites "a bunch of things."

"The most tangible is probably the playbook," he said. "I feel a lot more comfortable and fluid with it at the line of scrimmage. I'm focusing more and more with what the defense is trying to do to me rather than making sure I get the right snap count and in the right protection."

He said he's also picking up "the little things on how to use the double-cadence to try and buy yourself time and get someone offside, just little tricks of the trade I didn't know when I was in college."

From the beginning Bradford and Rosen seem to have gotten along well.

"Sam's actually really good with all those little things," Rosen said. "He's a crafty vet and very successful for a lot of different reasons. He might not share every reason with me, but I'll take advantage of the ones that he does."

Bradford said Rosen "asks the right questions."

"He's hungry for information," Bradford said. "It seems

like he's always trying to learn something. It doesn't stop in the meeting rooms. Even at the dinner table he'll ask me.

"It's fun to be around someone like that and to hopefully try to be able to help him. I share with him some of the experiences I've had, some of the things I've learned over the years. Hopefully it can relate to him and can help him in some way."

Wilks wouldn't say how much Rosen will play on Saturday night but it will be long enough to do some serious evaluation.

"The mechanics of really running the offense," Wilks said, "putting guys in the right position from a protection standpoint, going through his progression and reads and really just trying to detail the fundamentals."

Rosen is running second on the depth chart, ahead of Mike Glennon, who also figures to play a lot Saturday.

Early in camp, Rosen said he was thinking too much.

"I think I've gotten a lot better since then and continue to each day," he said. "The less

thinking you can do, the more you can allow yourself to physically do what I've been doing since Pop Warner, and play the game I know."

As a big-name rookie quarterback, Rosen knows his every move will be scrutinized by fans and critics.

"It's part of the game," he said. "I stay relatively offline for the most part. The most pressure I feel from anyone is myself. I'm very, very highly self-critical, almost too much at times. There's no pressure that should be greater than my own."

There's no changing his throwing style, either, which includes an occasional sidearm toss on a bubble screen.

"It's not just how hard or far you can throw it," Rosen said. "It's being able to change your arm slot and delivery. I think Aaron (Rodgers) is the best at it because sort of like mid-throw, your ability to throw sidearm to fit a quick screen in there or just kind of contort your body to get halfback screens and stuff in there."

## Gruden eager to return to Oakland Coliseum sideline

Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — As much as he tries to downplay the significance, Oakland Raiders coach Jon Gruden is fully aware Friday's game against the Detroit Lions will be anything but an ordinary preseason contest.

It's been 17 years since Gruden last roamed the sidelines at the Coliseum with the Raiders. He came back in 2004 with Tampa Bay and again in 2012 as a television analyst.

Gruden's iconic status among Raiders fans promises to make this time different. Much, much different.

"I am looking forward to it," Gruden said Wednesday after the second of two joint practices with the Lions. "I'm looking forward to it big-time. I've got some things obviously I've got

to work out. So I've got to work myself through calling plays again and managing some tough situations. I'm anxious to see if I can do it."

Gruden developed a cult-like following during his first stint as the Raiders coach from 1998-2001. Those feelings didn't wane when Gruden was traded to Tampa Bay by late owner Al Davis and only strengthened when the coach went into the television booth.

Gruden showed his appreciation in 2009 while in town to broadcast a San Francisco 49ers game when he held a party at Ricky's, a Raiders sports bar not far from the Coliseum.

Gruden held another party at Ricky's three weeks ago to celebrate his return and paid for dinner and soft drinks for the

fans. About 600 people showed up.

"It's an honor to be here and it's a great story, but I also just want to do everything I can in order to try and help this team win again," Gruden said. "I love the Raider fans. I love Oakland and that's the primary reason I'm standing here."

Lions coach Matt Patricia developed a friendship with Gruden while he was defensive coordinator in New England and the Raiders coach was working at ESPN.

Gruden's return, Patricia said, is good for the NFL.

"If you meet with him, you're gonna find a guy that absolutely loves football from its core, all the way out, every aspect of it," Patricia said. "He loves to coach and I think he loves to be around the players. I

think it's great for the game. I think it's great for the Raiders organization."

The rest of the storyline around Friday's game is fairly antiseptic.

Quarterback Derek Carr and the rest of Oakland's starters will only play a series or two, with the majority of playing time being doled out to the rookies and fringe players on the roster.

"It's about finding the right 53 men, and I think you saw it today, we've got a lot of contenders," Gruden said. "There are a lot of guys that have put themselves on the brink of making this football team and we've got to make sure we give them every opportunity to showcase their skills."

# A's knock off Dodgers in Fiers' debut

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Mike Fiers felt the adrenaline pumping early in his first day on the job with his new team, and he put it to good use.

Fiers pitched 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> strong innings and the Oakland Athletics beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Fiers gave up one run on four hits. He struck out eight and walked none.

"I think it kind of stepped up another level today," Fiers said. "Just trying to put together a good performance for this team. Definitely needed it after losing last night. We needed to come back with a win and we did that."

Fiers didn't allow a baserunner until Yasmani Grandal led

off the fifth with his 20th home run.

Fiers was with the Houston Astros when he pitched a no-hitter against the Dodgers on Aug. 22, 2015.

The A's, desperate to add depth to an injury depleted rotation, acquired the 33-year-old right-hander from the Tigers on Monday for two players to be named or cash. He became the 13th starter the A's sent to the mound this season.

Fiers and battery mate Jonathan Lucroy were teammates on the Milwaukee Brewers from 2011 to 2015.

"He did well," Lucroy said. "He executed. Any time you can do that it gives your lineup a chance to settle in, even against a guy like Kershaw. We

scratched two on him. If Fiers isn't keeping us locked in there for as long as he did I don't think we score those two runs."

The A's broke a 2-2 in the eighth inning when Khris Davis hit a fielder's choice grounder off Dodgers reliever J.T. Chargois (2-3), scoring Marcus Semien from third.

Dodgers third baseman Manny Machado fielded Davis' bouncer and fired home to catcher Grandal, but Grandal never had control of the ball when he swipe-tagged Semien. Grandal was charged with an error on the play.

"It's going to be one of those plays where it's going to be a bang-bang play, and if you happen to have to have the ball in your hand he's out, and if not

he's safe," Grandal said.

Jeury Familia (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win and Blake Treinen worked the ninth for his 29th save in 33 chances.

Second baseman Lowrie made a running catch with Yasiel Puig at second for the final out to preserve the win.

Oakland won for the seventh time in eight games and improved to 34-11 going back to June 16, the best record in the majors over that stretch.

The A's closed to within five games of idle Houston, which leads the AL West.

The Dodgers fell a half game behind Arizona, which beat Philadelphia on Wednesday to move into first place in the NL West.

## MLB roundup

# Lindor's 3-run homer in 9th lifts Indians over Twins

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Francisco Lindor connected for a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning as the Cleveland Indians again moved 10 games ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central with a 5-2 win over the Twins on Wednesday night.

Lindor, who struck out with the winning run at second base in the ninth in a loss on Tuesday, drove the first pitch from Trevor Hildenberger (2-3) over the wall in right to trigger a wild celebration.

Jason Kipnis singled with one out in the ninth before Twins right fielder Max Kepler robbed Yan Gomes of extra bases with a leaping catch before crashing into the wall. Brandon Guyer followed with a single to bring up Lindor, who capped a wild ninth inning with his 29th homer.

The All-Star shortstop skipped around the bases before being mobbed at home plate by his teammates.

Down 2-1, Minnesota tied it in the ninth on Miguel Sano's

leadoff homer against Cody Allen (4-4), who wound up with a blown save and win.

**Diamondbacks 6, Phillies 0:** Patrick Corbin struck out nine in a combined four-hitter, David Peralta had four hits and two RBIs, and visiting Arizona rolled over Philadelphia.

**Braves 8, Nationals 3:** Ronald Acuna Jr. hit one of Atlanta's three homers, then took away a long ball from host Washington to back Mike Foltynewicz (9-7).

**Mets 8, Reds 0:** Jacob deGrom struck out 10 in six innings, received rare significant run support and earned his first win in nearly two months as New York beat visiting Cincinnati.

DeGrom (6-7) ended a seven-start winless streak, allowing four hits in a 100-pitch outing and lowering his major league-leading ERA to 1.77. He won for the first time since June 18 at Colorado.

**Cardinals 7, Marlins 1:** Matt Carpenter hit a tiebreaking homer for the second consecutive night, and St. Louis won its

fourth series in a row by beating host Miami.

Carpenter put St. Louis ahead with a home run leading off the sixth inning, his NL-leading 31st. The Cardinals' Yadier Molina hit his 15th homer in the first and doubled home two runs in the ninth.

**Rangers 11, Mariners 7:** Joey Gallo homered twice and drove in four runs, Yovani Gallardo won his fourth straight start and Texas held off visiting Seattle.

**Brewers 8, Padres 4:** At Milwaukee, Jesus Aguilar, Travis Shaw and Eric Thames hit consecutive first-inning homers to spoil the debut of San Diego's Brett Kennedy.

**Red Sox 10, Blue Jays 5:** Rafael Devers returned from the disabled list and hit a two-run home run, Brian Johnson pitched a season-high seven innings to win his second straight start and visiting Boston extended its winning streak to six games.

**Yankees 7, White Sox 3:** Luis Severino pitched seven effective innings in his first win

in a month, Giancarlo Stanton hit his first grand slam in four years and New York finished a sweep of host Chicago.

**Pirates 4, Rockies 3:** Adam Frazier had three hits and made a run-saving play in the field in visiting Pittsburgh's victory over Colorado.

**Angels 6, Tigers 0:** Justin Upton and Albert Pujols hit back-to-back homers in the fifth inning, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of visiting Detroit.

Mike Trout missed his seventh consecutive game with a sore right wrist, but the Angels are hopeful the two-time AL MVP can return against Oakland this weekend.

**Royals 9, Cubs 0:** Heath Fillmyer allowed three singles over seven innings for his first major league win, Adalberto Mondesi and Drew Butera each drove in three, and host Kansas City beat Chicago.

**Orioles 5, Rays 4:** Trey Mancini hit a go-ahead two-run double in the ninth inning, and visiting Baltimore beat Tampa Bay despite committing five errors.