

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, December 13, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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15K troops deployed in terrorism fight

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The United States has about 15,475 combat troops deployed to fight the war on terrorism, about 2,650 more troops than six months ago.

President Barack Obama reported those troop levels Friday, saying they are authorized under a 2001 law giving the president the authority to use force against those responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Under the War Powers Resolution, the president must update Congress every six months on

the number of troops deployed to combat zones.

Friday's report comes as Obama has renewed his call for Congress to pass a new law updating his authority to fight the Islamic State group. "If Congress believes, as I do, that we are at war with ISIL, then it should vote to authorize the continued use of military force against these terrorists," he said in a televised address from the Oval Office.

The largest U.S. presence of combat troops is in Afghanistan, where Obama has aban-

doned his plans for a complete withdrawal by the time he leaves office. There are 10,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, 1,400 more than in June.

Also, 3,550 troops remain in Iraq, and small teams are in northern Syria to train and advise local opposition troops. The report says up to 50 new personnel "may be deployed in Syria as circumstances warrant."

The U.S. deployed 350 personnel to Turkey in July to support airstrikes from Incirlik Air Base, and added 375 more

in November.

U.S. troops are also conducting counterterrorism operations in the African nations of Niger (350 troops) and Cameroon (300 troops). Since June, the U.S. has conducted counterterrorism operations in Somalia, Yemen, Djibouti and Libya. Obama also cites the 2001 law as authorization for U.S. involvement in Somalia, Yemen, Djibouti, Libya and Cuba. Those numbers don't count another 3,700 combat troops deployed in hot spots like Jordan, Egypt, Kosovo and central Africa.

Zumwalt helps with rescue of fisherman

Associated Press

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — The U.S. Navy's new stealth destroyer, the USS Zumwalt, assisted in the rescue of a Maine fisherman suffering chest pains early Saturday off the Maine coast.

Coast Guard officials said they received a distress call about 3 a.m., saying the captain of the fishing boat Danny Boy was suffering chest pains about 40 miles southeast of Portland.

A Jayhawk helicopter responded from Air Station Cape Cod, Mass., but the crew determined a hoist of the fisherman would be too dangerous due to the configuration of the fishing boat's deck.

Officials said a crew and small boat from the Zumwalt transferred the man to the destroyer's deck. The helicopter crew then hoisted the patient and transported him to the

Portland Jetport for ground transportation to Maine Medical Center.

"Our main concern with this type of medical emergency is to recover the patient safely and transport them to a higher-level care as quickly as possible," said Lt. David Bourbeau, public affairs officer at Sector Northern New England. "Fortunately, the Zumwalt was operating in the area and was able to provide valuable assistance to facilitate a safe hoist evolution for the rescue crew."

The 600-foot Zumwalt — the largest destroyer ever built for the Navy — left Bath Iron Works on Nov. 7 for sea trials and made at least one port of call in Portland Thursday to swap personnel and pick up supplies.

Bath Iron Works will be testing the ship's performance and making tweaks this winter. The goal is to deliver it to the Navy sometime next year.

Lawmaker: Halt move of women into combat

Biloxi (Miss.) Republican

Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., has sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense saying women can't be allowed in certain combat roles. It "raises serious questions about what appears to be blatant disregard for the safety of the men and women who serve in our armed forces," his letter said.

"While many of us agree that there are roles that women can and will perform just as well as any man, there are many Military Occupational Specialties that must for the safety of all remain closed to females."

Palazzo sent the letter Thursday following a speech he made on the floor of the House last week criticizing President Barack Obama's strategy on terrorism and his call for more gun control after the San Bernardino, Calif., attack.

He also criticized Secretary of Defense Ash Carter's decision to open combat positions to

women, saying Carter and the president ignored the Marine Corps' recommendation to keep those jobs from women. In the video, he calls it "unbelievably dangerous."

Palazzo questions Carter's motivation and accuses the civilian leadership of making decisions for the military "based on political objectives and legacy instead of the safety and security of the men and women who serve in uniform."

Palazzo points to a Marine Corps study on integrating ground combat units done by the Neuromuscular Research Laboratory of the University of Pittsburgh, which he says shows combat units with men and women failed to perform assigned tasks and were more prone to injury.

"[T]hese independent studies showed beyond doubt that pushing forward on integration at this time, is not only ill-advised, it is dangerous."

Obama aims to alleviate fears over terrorism fight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fears of terrorism are hanging over America's holiday season, so President Barack Obama is planning a series of events this week aimed at trying to allay concerns about his strategy for stopping the Islamic State group abroad and its sympathizers at home.

Obama's visits to the Pentagon and the National Counterterrorism Center are part of a push to further explain his terrorism-fighting strategy, White House officials said, after a prime-time Oval Office address Nov. 6 that critics said failed to do much to reassure the public. Another goal is to draw a contrast with Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and his inflammatory remarks about Muslims. The Obama administration has warned that Trump's rhetoric emboldens extremists

looking to pull the U.S. into a war with Islam.

"Terrorists like ISIL are trying to divide us along lines of religion and background," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address, using an acronym for the extremist group. "That's how they stoke fear. That's how they recruit."

In the coming week, he said, "we'll move forward on all fronts."

The public-relations campaign, one week before Christmas, comes as the public is jittery about the specter of terrorism after the mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., this month and the Paris attacks a few weeks before. Seven in 10 Americans rated the risk of a terrorist attack in the U.S. as at least somewhat high, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll, a sharp increase from the 5 in 10 who said that in January.

Navy to spend \$4M on tossable, versatile robots

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

During the bloody battle for Fallujah in 2004, Marines took heavy casualties clearing the Iraqi city house by house, room by room, never knowing where a deadly ambush might be waiting.

Now there's a small robot capable of reducing that risk. The key advance is durability: It can be tossed from behind cover, around corners, through windows and up onto balconies and still send real-time images.

According to contract listings on usaspending.gov, Naval Explosive Ordnance from the Naval Surface Warfare Center bought a few of iRobot Corp.'s 110 FirstLook robots for \$138,790 in 2012. Veterans Affairs in Lebanon, Pa., got some for hazardous material handling a year later for \$45,764.

Now iRobot says the Navy has put together a \$4 million purchase of robots and accessories, which could be heading into action soon. Delivery is scheduled by February.

It's compact — 4 inches tall, 9 inches wide and 10 inches long — and can travel at just over 3 mph and weighs just five pounds, according to iRobot's website. It has four 360-degree cameras, is waterproof up to several feet, can survive a fall of 15 feet to concrete and rights itself when flipped over. The cost is about \$19,000 to \$20,000 apiece.

FirstLook can be outfitted with a manipulator to interact with its environment and various mission packages for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, explosive ordnance disposal, hazardous chemical detection and day, night and all-weather operations.

S. Korea unlikely to get American missile defense system soon

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

Placement of a U.S. mobile missile defense system in South Korea remains unlikely in the near term despite continued concern about North Korea's nuclear program, analysts and government officials say.

Top U.S. military officials want the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, ready to deploy in the Asia-Pacific region on a permanent basis — and its bases in South Korea are ideally where they need to be to counter a possible North Korean offensive.

Last year, Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work said the Pentagon had conducted site surveys for THAAD within South Korea. However, what makes sense from a military, tactical standpoint doesn't always correspond with how leaders view the strategic and diplomatic consequences.

When rumors spread in

March of a deal to deploy THAAD to South Korea in an emergency, China decried the possibility as a threat to its security, with Russia voicing opposition as well.

That left South Korea uncomfortably positioned in a dispute pitting China and Russia on one side and the United States and Japan on the other, said Kim Hyun-wook, a professor at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy in Seoul.

The result was that despite discussions between President Barack Obama and South Korean President Park Geun-hye earlier this year, along with high-level ministerial talks between both nations, neither side has confirmed ever having had formal talks about THAAD.

Seoul's caution with regard to THAAD also comes from concern over harming its recently stabilized relations with Pyongyang, Kim said.

Christmas comes early to isolated Pacific island

BY JAMES KIMBER

Stars and Stripes

FAIS, Federated States of Micronesia — Santa arrived early to the villagers on Fais, a small island within the Federated States of Micronesia.

Last week, about 20 men from the three villages here recovered nearly 800 pounds of supplies, food and toys that were packed into two boxes and then airdropped from a C-130 Hercules from Yokota Air Base, Japan, onto the island, which measures 1 square mile.

The supplies, all donated by

the international community, included everything from coolers to fishing equipment, trucks to boxes of crayons. Even the materials used to package the supplies — such as the cardboard box — are prized commodities for the island residents.

The airdrop was part of Operation Christmas Drop, an annual tradition dating back 64 years.

"Most years, it's the most important day of the year for us," said Chief Louis Mangtau, the head chief on Fais. "The people are very excited and truly appreciate the generosity."

Reynolds, 21st-ranked Navy hold off Army

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Maybe the people who ran the Heisman Trophy ceremony were too busy with preparations to watch Saturday's Army-Navy game on television and observe yet another great performance from the player whom they neglected to include among the finalists.

Navy senior Keenan Reynolds put the wraps on an unblemished record in the annual service academy rivalry. He rushed for 136 yards and two touchdowns and threw for a score in a record-setting performance that carried the Midshipmen to a 21-17 victory over Army on a springlike day before a crowd of 69,722 at Lincoln Financial Field.

Reynolds' performance, plus the play of a Navy defense that forced three turnovers by the Black Knights, all in the fourth quarter, propelled the 21st-ranked Mids (10-2) to their 14th consecutive victory in the series and increased their advantage to 60-49-7 against Army (2-10).

Reynolds left the Linc with a bevy of records. He is the only quarterback in the series, which dates back to 1890, to compile a 4-0 record. His two rushing touchdowns, of 58 yards and 1 yard, gave him a Division I record 85 for his career. His 50-yard third-quarter touchdown pass to Jamir Tillman, which put Navy ahead to stay, was his 30th career scoring toss, an academy record.

So what if he didn't have enough votes to be invited as a finalist to Saturday night's Heisman presentation? He played Saturday — and all season — like one of the top football players in the country.

"Whether he finishes top five, top six (he's) from the Naval Academy, are you kidding me?" coach Ken Niumatalolo said.

"With the workload academically that this guy is taking here and the things he's done, to come from a service academy and be in the mix, what a phenomenal accomplishment," he said.

There were five lead changes in the

game, all coming in the first 39 minutes. The Black Knights actually held a 17-14 lead at halftime — the first time they've had the advantage at the break since 2009 — on a 39-yard pass from freshman quarterback Chris Carter to Edgar Poe.

But Army was unable to score in the second half. It advanced into Navy territory three times in the final 15 minutes, but the result was a missed 29-yard field goal by Daniel Grochowski, a fumbled snap recovered by Navy linebacker Ted Colburn, and an interception by rover Daiquan Thomasson on a trick play by the Black Knights. Free safety Lorentez Barbour also had an interception for the Mids.

"Our guys gave it everything that they had, laid it on the line, and it just came down to execution," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "We can't make those errors. When you do, sometimes you get beat."

Carter, making just his second career start, completed 9 of 15 passes for 208

yards and one TD.

The trick play, from the Navy 39, saw Carter throw a backward pass to wide receiver DeAndre Bell in the left flat. Bell fired a pass to the goal line for Tyler Campbell, but Thomasson backed up and made a great play for the pick with 2 minutes, 3 seconds remaining.

The Black Knights got the ball back one last time at their own 42 with 11 seconds left. On the final play, quarterback-turned-tight end Kelvin White heaved a pass into the end zone, but the ball fell incomplete among three Army receivers and six Midshipmen defenders.

Had Reynolds been named as a Heisman finalist, a helicopter would have taken him from Philadelphia to New York to be part of the presentation. As it was, it couldn't have worked out better for him.

"It was my No. 1 goal to win today, and now I can stay here," Reynolds said. "Instead of rushing to a chopper, I can stay here and celebrate our win with my teammates."

McGregor wins belt, KOs Aldo in 13 seconds

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Conor McGregor backed up every word he ever said to Jose Aldo with one spectacular punch.

McGregor stopped Aldo with a left hand to the jaw just 13 seconds into the first round Saturday night, claiming the undisputed featherweight title at UFC 194.

McGregor (19-2) finished the fight with an electrifying exchange shortly after the opening bell, slipping Aldo's lead right and cracking the champ with his formidable punching power.

Aldo (25-2) actually finished his punch and hit McGregor with a left, but the champ fell senseless to the ground. McGregor pounced, only to be pulled off in his fifth consecutive knockout victory.

"What I say happens, happens," McGregor said. "There is no doubt now."

Aldo had won 18 consecutive fights over the last 10 years, but not even the only previous 145-pound champion in UFC history could survive McGregor.

The loquacious Irish brawler goaded Aldo throughout the promotion of their delayed bout, only to earn a victory that was even more dramatic than he predicted. McGregor's victory was the fastest title fight in UFC history, surpassing Ronda Rousey's 14-second win over Cat Zingano at UFC 184 in February.

"Precision beats power, and timing beats speed," McGregor said. "Jose was a phenomenal champion. He deserved to go a little bit longer, but I still feel at the end of the day, precision beats power and timing beats speed. That's what happened."

Luke Rockhold also claimed the UFC middleweight title with a bloody fourth-

round stoppage of previously unbeaten champion Chris Weidman in front of a frenzied crowd at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

But the sellout crowd was packed with thousands of screaming Irish fans who traveled to see whether their braggadocious countryman could back up his talk.

McGregor, a former plumber who was fairly late to take up mixed martial arts as a career, has won 15 consecutive fights since November 2010 while building an international celebrity on his combination of MMA skill and verbal dexterity. He is 7-0 in UFC bouts, stopping all but one opponent with his vaunted punching power.

McGregor picked one of the UFC's most daunting targets in Aldo, who had made seven consecutive title defenses. The Irishman targeted the imperious Brazilian champion with a steady stream of trash talk and entertaining antics, infuriating Aldo while making himself into a pay-per-view draw and arguably the UFC's second-biggest star behind Rousey.

McGregor and Aldo were scheduled to meet at UFC 189 in July, but Aldo pulled out with an injury two weeks before the bout. McGregor stopped Chad Mendes to win the interim title belt but never stopped talking about Aldo.

For just the third time in UFC history, two undisputed title belts changed hands on the same card.

Rockhold (15-2) finished his own championship victory with brute style, pounding Weidman on the ground late in the third and again in the fourth. When referee Herb Dean finally pulled Rockhold off the bloodied Weidman (13-1), the new champion collapsed face-down on the canvas in relief.

Henry becomes Alabama's 2nd player to take home Heisman player of season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alabama's supersized running back Derrick Henry was awarded the Heisman Trophy on Saturday for college football's player of the season.

The 6-foot-3, 242-pound Henry is the second Alabama player to win the Heisman, joining Mark Ingram. Since Ingram won the award in 2009, it had gone to five straight quarterbacks.

Stanford tailback Christian McCaffrey was the runner-up, making it four second-place finishes for Cardinal players in seven seasons.

Deshaun Watson, quarterback for Clemson, finished third.

It was the closest Heisman voting since Ingram won by the slimmest margin ever, but still a comfortable victory for Henry. He received 1,832 points, 293 more than McCaffrey (1,539).

Watson received the third-most points for a third-place finisher with 1,165.

Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield came in fourth and Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds was fifth, but Henry, McCaffrey and Watson dominated the voting.

Henry broke the Southeastern Conference record with 1,986 yards rushing — previously held by 1982 Heisman winner Herschel Walker — and matched a league mark with 23 touchdowns, leading the Crimson Tide to the four-team College Football Playoff.

He choked up during his speech, thanking his family, coaches and teammates,

and mentioning former Alabama teammate Altee Tenpenny, who was killed in a car crash two months ago.

Henry was born to teenage parents and raised with the strong influence of his grandmother, Gladys, in the small north Florida town of Yulee, which is just outside Jacksonville, but very much country living.

Gladys Henry has been hospitalized for weeks in Florida with heart and respiratory problems.

Henry came to Alabama as a five-star recruit but being bigger, stronger and faster wasn't enough in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

He was a backup as a freshman and thought about transferring, but with the encouragement of his family decided to stay put.

As a second-year player he shared carries with T.J. Yeldon and ran for 990 yards and 11 touchdowns, showing signs of big things to come.

This season, with Alabama breaking in a first-time starting quarterback and inexperienced receivers, coach Nick Saban and the Tide decided to hook the offense to Henry and let him lead the way.

After Ingram won the Heisman in '09, he helped Alabama win the national championship about a month later. Henry will try to do the same.

The Tide faces Michigan State in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 31, trying to earn a fourth national championship in nine seasons under Saban.

Henry has not announced his intentions yet, but a jump to the NFL seems likely after this season.



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Bucks halt Warriors' streak

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Golden State Warriors walked slowly off the Bradley Center floor, exchanging handshakes with the victorious Milwaukee Bucks on the way back to their locker room.

They're not used to losing.

The Warriors' NBA-record start ended after 24 wins when they lost to the Bucks 108-95 on Saturday night.

"We didn't have it tonight," interim coach Luke Walton said. "That's why it is so hard to do what these guys have done so far. It caught up to us."

Golden State fell to 24-1. Its 28-game winning streak, counting the final four games of last season, came to a halt. The NBA's longest winning streak was 33 by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1971-72 — and it was also snapped by Milwaukee.

"Well, we knew the streak had to end at some point," the Warriors posted on their Twitter account.

It was the way they lost that was a little surprising. This was no squeaker at the buzzer, but a Bucks runaway at the end.

Greg Monroe scored 28 points for the Bucks, who got the all-around effort needed to beat the defending NBA champions.

"When you talk about the streak, what's bigger than the streak is they're the world champs," coach Jason Kidd said. "And so, for us, we didn't talk about the streak, it was about playing the world champs."

It also helped that the Warriors, perhaps fighting fatigue after needing two overtimes to win at Boston on Friday, were cold from three-point range. They usually make 13 a night, but were just 6-for-26 from behind the arc playing on the final game of a seven-game road trip.

Stephen Curry had 28 points on 10-for-21 shooting from the field, including 2-for-8 from three-point territory.

Spurs 103, Hawks 78: Kawhi Leonard scored 22 points and visiting San Antonio allowed only 25 first-half points in the strongest defensive effort by any NBA team this season in beating Atlanta.

The Spurs led 47-25 at halftime. The Hawks' total was the lowest for any NBA team in any half this season, according to STATS. The previous low was Houston's 26 second-half points on Nov. 1 at Miami.

Manu Ginobili had 17 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 13 for San Antonio, which has won six of seven.

Paul Millsap led Atlanta with 22 points. No other Hawks player scored in double figures.

Clippers 105, Nets 100: Blake Griffin and J.J. Redick each scored 21 points for visiting Los Angeles.

Knicks 112, Trail Blazers 110: Carmelo Anthony tied a season high with 37 points, helping New York rally for the road win.

Rockets 126, Lakers 97: James Harden scored 30 points, leading host Houston's romp. Kobe Bryant had 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Lakers.

Bulls 98, Pelicans 94: Pau Gasol had 18 points, and Aaron Brooks scored 15 of his 17 in the fourth quarter for host Chicago.

Pistons 118, Pacers 96: Reggie Jackson had 21 points and nine assists, leading Detroit to its fifth straight win at home.

Celtics 98, Hornets 93: Avery Bradley scored 23 points, Isaiah Thomas added 21 points, and visiting Boston snapped Charlotte's four-game winning streak.

Wizards 114, Mavericks 111: Otto Porter scored a career-high 28 points, John Wall had 26 points and 16 assists, and visiting Washington ended an 11-game losing streak against Dallas.

'Canes get past Coyotes in OT

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The Carolina Hurricanes' power play is producing, and with it have come good results.

The Hurricanes withstood Arizona's third-period rally for a 5-4 overtime win over the Coyotes on Saturday night. Carolina scored twice with the man advantage and has seven power-play goals in the last five games — including four wins.

Victor Rask's left-handed wrist shot 53 seconds into overtime was the winner against Arizona.

"The power play is what's changed things," coach Bill Peters said. "Now those guys playing on the power play are starting to get some extra goals and points and it's spilled over into their 5-on-5 play and we're playing with a lead."

Rask's goal came after the Coyotes' Connor Murphy scored with 15.7 seconds left in regulation to tie it. Seconds earlier, the Hurricanes' Elias Lindholm missed an empty net with Carolina up 4-3.

Islanders 3, Blue Jackets 2 (OT): Kyle Okposo got his second goal of the game at 2:16 of overtime to lift visiting New York over Columbus.

Frans Nielsen also scored and Jaroslav Halak had 28 saves as New York improved to 7-0-2 in its last nine games.

Flames 5, Rangers 4 (OT): TJ Brodie scored at 2:09 of overtime, Johnny Gaudreau had two goals in regulation, and Calgary recovered after giving up a three-goal lead in the third period for its ninth straight home victory.

Wild 2, Sharks 0: Zach Parise broke a scoreless tie early in the second period and Darcy Kuemper earned his sixth career shutout to help Minnesota get a rare win in San Jose.

Capitals 2, Lightning 1: Braden Holtby made 35 saves to win for the 10th time in his last 11 starts as visiting Washington beat Tampa Bay.

Sabres 2, Kings 1 (OT): Ryan O'Reilly's sliding overtime goal ended host Buffalo's three-game losing streak.

O'Reilly was tripped as he cut to the slot, but got off an off-balance shot that fooled Kings goaltender Jhonas Enroth at 3:19 of overtime.

Bruins 3, Panthers 1: Ryan Spooner scored twice and Tuukka Rask stopped 26 shots to lift host Boston past Florida.

Backed by a strong stretch from Rask, the Bruins posted their eighth win in 11 games. Rask is 6-0-2 in his past eight starts.

Canadiens 3, Senators 1: Brian Flynn and Max Pacioretty scored in the first period, and host Montreal stopped a four-game losing streak.

Avalanche 3, Predators 2: Andreas Martinsen broke a tie midway through the third period, Semyon Varlamov made 34 saves and Colorado beat host Nashville.

Blues 3, Dallas 0: David Backes had a goal and an assist, Jake Allen stopped 26 shots and host St. Louis beat Dallas for the third straight time.

Vladimir Tarasenko and Ryan Reaves scored in the third period to help the Blues end a four-game losing streak at home to Dallas dating back to Nov. 23, 2013.

Texas stuns No. 3 North Carolina

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Time after time, North Carolina let Texas' missed shots land right back in the hands of Longhorns.

When the last one went straight to Longhorns guard Javan Felix, he stepped in for easy catch, shoot and swish at the buzzer for an 84-82 victory Saturday over the No. 3 Tar Heels.

"Long shots, long rebounds," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said.

"The last one, it missed badly and so it bounces out long. Still, we should have had somebody there. Five guys are supposed to box out five guys — that's the bottom line. Texas wanted the basketball more than we did," Williams said.

Felix was left unguarded as players from both teams watched Isaiah Taylor's three-point attempt in the final seconds bounce off the rim. The ball dropped straight to Felix, who calmly put it in. After a few minutes of reviewing replay video, the game officials ruled the basket good.

Felix finished with 25 points for Texas (6-3) and made five three-pointers. Marcus Paige scored 20 to lead the Tar Heels (7-2), who started the season No. 1.

The victory should be a huge boost for first-year Texas coach Shaka Smart, who needed a big win to unveil the potential of a Texas program that enjoyed many winning seasons under Rick Barnes but has mostly struggled in the postseason for most of the last decade.

The game came down to a basket-for-basket blur in the final minute. Taylor scored 18 points and Davis scored 16, including a crowd-energizer, buzzer-beating bank shot to close the first half.

Cam Ridley scored 12 for Texas. His layup and free throw put the Longhorns ahead 79-76 with 2 minutes left.

The Tar Heels tied it twice in the final minute.

No. 1 Michigan State 58, Florida 52: Denzel Valentine scored 17 points and host Michigan State moved within one victory of matching the program's best

start, beating Florida to improve to 11-0.

Only the 2000-01 Spartans had a better start, winning their first 12 games.

Dorian Finney-Smith and Kasey Hill each scored 13 points for the Gators (6-3). Bryn Forbes scored 12 points for Michigan State.

No. 2 Kansas 82, Oregon State 67: Wayne Selden scored 22 points, Frank Mason had 18 and host Kansas used a big second half to beat Oregon State in its annual trip to the Sprint Center.

Tres Tinkle hit five three-pointers and scored 20 points for Oregon State (6-2).

No. 5 Kentucky 72, Arizona State 58: Jamal Murray scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half, helping host Kentucky pull away from Arizona State.

No. 6 Maryland 77, UMES 56: Melo Trimble scored 18 points and the host Terrapins found their ahooping form in the second half.

After struggling to take a 35-29 halftime lead, Maryland (9-1) made its first eight shots from the field after intermission during a 27-11 run.

No. 7 Oklahoma 96, Oral Roberts 73: Buddy Hield had 30 points and a career-high five steals to lead host Oklahoma.

Hield was 9 of 15 from the field to fall one point short of his career high.

No. 11 Purdue 95, Youngstown St. 64: At West Lafayette, La., freshman Caleb Swanigan and senior A.J. Hammons both scored 15 points to lead four Purdue players in double figures.

Rapheal Davis and Isaac Haas both scored 13 points for Purdue, which had a 54-point second half.

No. 12 Xavier 65, No. 23 Cincinnati 55: Myles Davis scored a season-high 17 points and Xavier ran out to an 18-point lead and beat its crosstown rival for the third straight time.

The Musketeers (10-0) matched the best start in school history and extended their domination over Cincinnati (8-2), winning the annual game for the seventh time in nine years.

No. 15 Providence 74, Bryant 67: Drew Edwards scored a career-high 17 points, including five three-pointers,

and usual starter Ben Bentil came off the bench to get 16 points and eight rebounds as host Providence won without preseason All-America Kris Dunn.

No. 18 Butler 94, Tennessee 86: Reserve Kelan Martin had 25 points and 11 rebounds for host Butler.

Martin scored all of Butler's points during a 13-4 run in the second half.

UCLA 71, No. 20 Gonzaga 66: Isaac Hamilton scored 20 points, Tony Parker added 16 and UCLA beat host Gonzaga.

Down 48-47 midway through the second half, the Bruins (7-3) scored nine straight points to take the lead for good.

No. 22 Louisville 86, E. Michigan 53: Damion Lee scored 16 points, all in the second half, and host Louisville shot 53 percent from the field.

Quentin Snider scored 13 points, Chinanu Onuaku had 12 and Ray Spalding and Trey Lewis added 11 each for Louisville.

Boise State 74, No. 24 Oregon 72: Anthony Drmic scored 19 points and host Boise State overcame a double-digit deficit in the first half.

James Webb III had 12 points and Mikey Thompson added 11 for the Broncos.

Wichita St. 67, No. 25 Utah 50: Zach Brown scored 14 points to lead a balanced Wichita State offense.

Jacob Poeltl had 11 points for Utah (7-2), which had 19 turnovers and only 14 field goals.

Navy 68, VMI 62: Jace Hogan scored 17 points and grabbed 8 rebounds to help lead Navy past host VMI.

Tim Abruzzo finished with 14 points and Tilman Dunbar added 13 for Navy (8-3), which has won eight of their last nine.

Army 90, Air Force 80: Kyle Wilson scored 19 points and grabbed five rebounds as Army beat host Air Force.

Air Force closed to within five points, 81-76, with 1:19 left but a Wilson three-pointer with 56 seconds to go helped keep Army on top.

Hayden Graham posted a double-double, scoring 21 points with 12 rebounds for the Falcons (6-4).