

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, December 17, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## AF offering drone pilots 6 figures to stay

BY TARA COPP

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — To attract and keep a drone pilot workforce that's been stretched thin by rising demands for global surveillance, the Air Force announced Wednesday that it's offering as much as \$125,000 in bonuses to keep the pilots from leaving for the private sector.

Personnel eligible for the cash awards would be the more experienced and current pilots in the force. Military personnel must be active-duty lieutenant colonels or below who already have six years of experience flying remotely piloted aircraft and meet specific education and ratings requirements.

Drone pilots "are increasingly critical to

national security, and our ability to retain experienced [drone] pilots will enable us to meet current and emergent mission requirements," said Lt. Gen. Jay Raymond, Air Force deputy chief of operations.

The cash bonuses would amount to \$25,000 annually for five years, but eligible recipients could elect to receive up to half of the bonus in the first payment, the Air Force announced in a news release.

The bonuses are meant to compete with the private sector, where drone pilot salaries start at about \$102,000 yearly, according to the jobs website Indeed.com.

The Air Force has spent much of the year addressing the strain that rising demand for unmanned surveillance, intelligence gathering and targeting support

have placed on the force.

Because of ongoing operations in Iraq and Syria, and rising requests for drone surveillance in Africa and the Pacific, the current force of drone operators is badly strained, Air Force chief of staff Gen. Mark Welsh said earlier this year.

"They've been working six days on and two days off since they came into the job," Welsh said. "Every time we go into one of those surge periods [where operational demand increases], they go to seven on, one off. This has never stopped.

"That's the stress, and we've got to figure out how to get ahead," he said. "We can't afford to lose these people."

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## Carter to Navy: Build fewer ships, spend more on jets

*Bloomberg News*

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Ash Carter has ordered U.S. Navy leaders to buy fewer ships so the service can spend more on jets such as the F-35 as well as munitions and upgraded systems for electronic warfare.

"For the last several years, the Department of the Navy has overemphasized resources used to incrementally increase total ship numbers at the expense of critically needed investments in areas where our adversaries are not standing still, such as strike, ship survivability, electronic warfare and other capabilities," Carter wrote in a memo obtained by Bloomberg News that's rare in its blunt rejection of a military service's approach.

Carter said the Navy is well on its way to reaching a 308-ship goal that "should be met but not irresponsibly exceeded."

The size of the naval fleet has long been a political flashpoint.

In the 2012 presidential race, Republican Mitt Romney criticized President Barack Obama for letting the number of ships shrink to "levels not seen since 1916."

Navy spokesman Cmdr. William Marks said service officials were aware of the memo but "budget discussion are pre-decisional and it would inappropriate to discuss anything further until the FY 17 budget is finalized."

"Shipbuilding has always been a priority for the Navy," Marks said in an email. "We will continue to balance capability with capacity in our shipbuilding programs as we have always done."

In the memo to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Carter said the Navy's upcoming five-year plan for fiscal 2017-21 should reduce the combined purchases of littoral combat ships and a new frigate to 40 from 52.

The littoral combat ship, made in separate versions by

Lockheed Martin Corp. and Austal Ltd., has been dogged by questions about its mission, performance and ability to survive in combat.

At the same time, Carter directed the Navy to increase purchases over the five years of Lockheed's F-35 and the F/A-18E/F made by Boeing Co. Thirty-one of the Navy's version of the F-35 would be added over the Navy's request.

He also called for more Raytheon Co. SM-6 missiles, a new, lightweight torpedo, upgraded electronic warfare systems on surface ships and increased compartment space to carry more Tomahawk cruise missiles on Virginia-class submarines.

Carter praised the system, known as the "Virginia Payload Module."

"The Navy's strategic future requires more on focusing on posture, not only on presence, and more on new capabilities, not only on new ship numbers,"

Carter said.

With the Obama administration ending in little more than a year and Carter's tenure at the Pentagon likely to end then as well, the Navy and its supporters in Congress may simply outlast his directive.

Questions about the littoral combat ship's survivability and mission led former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel a year ago to truncate the number of ships planned at 32, to be followed after 2019 by development and purchase of 20 better-armed frigates.

But the littoral's political survivability is buoyed by strong support on Capitol Hill.

Carter's memo directed the Navy to cut the number of littoral combat ships in its plan for fiscal 2017 to 2021 to six from 14.

He also directed the Navy to choose between Lockheed and Austal by fiscal 2019 to build future ships, rather than continuing to turn out two variations.

# Chattoonga victims receive Purple Heart

BY TARA COPP  
AND COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Navy said Wednesday that four Marines and one sailor murdered in Chattanooga, Tenn., will receive Purple Hearts after the FBI announced earlier in the day that the July attacks were an act of terrorism.

The ambush on July 16 claimed the lives of one sailor, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith, 26, and four Marines: Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 40, a Purple Heart recipient for wounds received in Iraq; Lance Cpl. Squire K. Wells, 21; Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, 35; and Sgt. Carson Holmquist, 25.

They were attacked by lone gunman Mohammad Abdulazeez, 24, who fired on the Naval Operational Support Center in Chattanooga. Ab-

dulazeez forced his way onto the facility after shooting at a nearby Chattanooga military recruitment center, where he shot Marine Sgt. DeMonte Cheeley in the leg. The shooter then led police on a chase to the operations support center. Abdulazeez entered the facility with an assault rifle and handgun, killing the five men before he was shot and killed by police. Cheeley also will receive a Purple Heart, the Navy stated.

The attack prompted questions about the safety of U.S. troops, especially those stationed at of-installation sites, such as recruiting stations and reserve centers. Lawmakers, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.; Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas; and Rep. Scott Rigell, R-Va., renewed calls for troops to be armed on bases for self-protection.

## Officer's mistrial letdown for all sides in Baltimore

*Associated Press*

BALTIMORE — As jurors deliberated the fate of one of six police officers charged in the death of Freddie Gray, Baltimore braced for a possible repeat of the destruction and dismay that engulfed the city in April, when Gray died of a broken neck. But instead of a dramatic conclusion, there was confusion.

Baltimore Circuit Judge Barry Williams declared a mistrial Wednesday after jurors made it clear they were hopelessly deadlocked over whether Officer William Porter had committed any crimes due to actions he didn't take prior to Gray's death.

Community members gathered outside the courthouse Wednesday following the ver-

dict, and about 100 demonstrators carried signs of protest as they marched peacefully through the streets.

"I'm not expecting our community to repeat April," said Ericka Alston, who runs a children's after-school program in West Baltimore, in reference to the violence that erupted the day of Gray's April 27 funeral. "But it is a bit of a kick in the chest."

Jurors took three days to deliberate on the charges against Porter, which included manslaughter, assault, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office. After nine hours of deliberation, they told Williams they were deadlocked. He sent them back to try again.

On Wednesday, the jurors said they were at an impasse on every charge.

# Pentagon: Carter used personal email

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon acknowledged Wednesday that Defense Secretary Ash Carter used a personal email account to do some of his government business during his first months on the job.

Carter's press secretary, Peter Cook, released a statement saying Carter believes his use of personal email for work-related business was a mistake. Cook declined to say whether it was a violation of Pentagon email policies. Cook said Carter stopped the practice, but he did not say when.

The Pentagon statement was in response to a report published late Wednesday by The New York Times. The newspaper reported it had obtained 72 work-related emails that Carter sent or received from his personal email account.

Hillary Clinton came under heavy criticism when it was

revealed in March that she had used a personal email account as secretary of state. Carter took office in February.

"After reviewing his email practices earlier this year, the secretary believes that his previous, occasional use of personal email for work-related business, even for routine administrative issues and backed up to his official account, was a mistake," Cook wrote. "As a result, he stopped such use of his personal email and further limited his use of email altogether."

The Times said the emails it received under the Freedom of Information Act were exchanges between Carter and Eric Fanning, who was his chief of staff at the time and is now the acting secretary of the Army.

The emails were on a variety of work-related topics, including speeches, meetings and news media appearances.

## Putin: No major gaps with the US over efforts in Syria

*The Washington Post*

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia's intervention in the Syrian war would continue for an indeterminate period and Moscow had no significant differences with Washington over efforts to end the conflict.

Putin's remarks, during his annual news conference, were among a wide range of subjects from Russia's battered economy to tense relations with Turkey over the downing of a Russian warplane and the smoldering conflict in neighboring Ukraine. Putin denied once again that regular Russian forces were in Ukraine, where pro-Moscow rebels began clashes with the Western-backed government in 2014. But Putin hinted that

Russian military advisers or security forces were active in that country, a fact that he and senior Russian officials have sharply denied in the past.

Asked about Russia's intervention in the civil war in Syria, Putin said, "There is a plan. In its key aspects, it coincides with the American plan: working on the constitution, preparing elections in Syria and the recognition of their results. But for now, we are going to launch strikes and support the Syrian army in its offensive."

The United States and Russia differ sharply over Syrian President Bashar Assad. Washington and its allies insist Assad has no role in Syria's political future. Russia and Iran are key backers of Assad and likely will resist any outcome that lessens their influence in Syria.

# Sacks on rise as NFL season winds down

Associated Press

Khalil Mack had five of them. Dee Ford, Mo Wilkerson and Aaron Donald each had three.

The sacks brigades were out during Week 14 to the tune of a season-high 86. Quarterback knockdowns played a huge role in the outcomes of their games. That could become a trend in the NFL's stretch run toward the playoffs.

Sacks are like slam dunks, worth only one tackle, but with a carry-over effect that can change the course of any match. That was certainly true in the cases of Oakland's Mack and Kansas City's Ford, who were virtually unblockable in the second half of their team's victories Sunday.

In a pass-happy league, the only weapon more valuable than a quarterback who can tear apart defenses is a pass rusher who can rip up the QB's protection. Eleven players had multiple sacks this week, according to STATS.

Their skills aren't merely reflected by the stats. For Mack's five sacks, there were maybe another half-dozen on which he was oh so close.

Mack, who leads the league with 14 sacks, has quickly become one of the game's top pass rushers — and he's just getting

started.

"I'm going to keep working to get better," Mack said.

The Broncos and the rest of the NFL can only shudder to think about that prospect for a linebacker many are comparing to Hall of Famer Derrick Thomas.

"The way he can get around the corner and bend and get low to the ground," says Raiders safety Charles Woodson, now in his 18th pro season, "it kind of reminds you of Derrick Thomas. I remember playing Derrick Thomas my first game in the NFL against the Chiefs and he had six sacks against us. Today, Khalil kind of reminded me of that."

Just think how that feels from the quarterback's perspective.

"I felt the pressure, I knew it was coming," Broncos quarterback Brock Osweiler says of Mack, a second-year pro. "Obviously, I knew that he would be coming quick. ... He got there faster than I could get the football out."

Mack is still as good as anybody in this league after this game. He played a tremendous football game. Sometimes it's hard to do, but sometimes you have to give credit to the opposing team when credit is due. Mack played a phenomenal football game."

That Mack was so dominant against an inexperienced QB played into his success. Same thing for Wilkerson against Marcus Mariota and the Browns with their nine knockdowns of Blaine Gabbert.

Indeed, opponents can put together a blueprint for how to deal with younger passers from studying the highlights (or lowlights, depending on your perspective) of those games.

"The hunger has been building in us," says Desmond Bryant, who had 1½ of the Browns' nine sacks. "Every time we've gone out and not gotten the result that we wanted, the hunger has grown more and more, and we finally got the job done."

Unquestionably, the sacks total was bolstered by so many teams being banged-up on the offensive line. Generally, only seven O-linemen dress for games, and if one or two go down, there's often a huge drop-off to the backups.

Considering that so many teams already are without key blockers through injuries, the continuity up front is diminished. It gets worse when the replacements also go down.

Another factor playing into the upswing in sacks — four of the top six weeks for total sacks have occurred in the past month — is specialization.

While offensive linemen rarely leave the field and are not particularly interchangeable, the rotations on defense, especially in the trenches, are continuous. That means fresher bodies posing threats to tiring ones.

Maybe even unfamiliar pass rushers grab the limelight. Ford stepped into the role of injured star linebacker Justin Houston for the Chiefs and got his first three sacks of the season.

"That's lovely," teammate Marcus Peters says. "That shows the depth we have. He had some huge shoes to fill with Justin out, but he came in and made some key plays for us."

Ratcheting up the pass rush will be critical to success in the final three weeks of the season. In fact, in the highly competitive if mediocre AFC South and NFC East, the team that pressures opposing QBs the most consistently will have a huge edge.

That could mean the Texans with J.J. Watt, broken hand and all, have an edge on the Colts. And the Redskins, who have yielded only 23, might be able to keep their quarterback upright with more regularity than the rest of their division.

Of course, the more disruptive the pass rush, the more dangerous a team will be in the chase for the playoffs.

## Jets focus on winning

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Todd Bowles will leave the scoreboard watching to everyone else.

The New York Jets coach insists what other teams are doing in the AFC playoff race won't change how he's approaching things.

"It's no different than the last couple of weeks," Bowles said Monday. "Just keep doing what we're doing and getting better and take it one game at a time — and try to win out in December."

Even-keeled and focused.

That has been Bowles' way all along, even a month ago when the Jets' playoff hopes appeared dim following four losses in five games. New York has made a stunning turnaround since, winning three games in a row for the first time since 2011 and positioning itself directly in the wild-card hunt.

The Jets (8-5) currently hold the sixth and final playoff spot, but are hardly on solid footing.

In fact, if New York, Kansas City (8-5) and Pittsburgh (8-5) all win out, making them all 11-5, the Jets would be on the outside looking in because of tiebreakers. That means Bowles' bunch does not control its own play-off destiny.

"That's what we were dealt and the bed we made ourselves," the coach said. "We understand that and we're just going to continue to get better as a team."

So there's no extra concern over what the Chiefs do next weekend at Baltimore. Or, what the Steelers do against Denver.

"No, I'm just rooting for our team right now," Bowles said. "Everything else will take care of itself. We don't go into the season rooting

for a certain team, so I'm not going to end the season rooting for a certain team. I'm just going to root for us and hope we do well."

The Jets' final three-game stretch begins Saturday night in Dallas, a struggling non-conference opponent in prime time.

"We're right where we want to be," Marshall said. "This is a huge week for us. Obviously, we only have three games left. We are continually trying to get better in all three phases. We have a lot of young guys. This is the week for veterans to really step up and put their foot on the pedal and push everybody because Dallas is going to give us their best shot."

After the Cowboys, the Jets host AFC East-leading New England and then head to Buffalo to face former coach Rex Ryan in what could have enormous implications in the playoff hunt.

There are several convoluted postseason scenarios, but the most simple in favor of the Jets remains this: If they win their last three games, they're in if either the Steelers or Chiefs lose once. Pittsburgh has Denver, at Baltimore and at Cleveland remaining; Kansas City is at Baltimore and then hosts Cleveland and Oakland.

"We have to take care of our business," wide receiver Eric Decker said, "and that's all that we can control."

Wideouts Brandon Marshall and Decker have been dominant, as dynamic a receiving duo as there is in the NFL. With a combined 20 TD catches — Marshall has 11, Decker nine — they are tied for the most TD catches by a Jets wide receiver tandem in team history.

"We're not complete," Marshall said after the Jets' 30-8 win over Tennessee on Sunday. "We're not even close to complete."

## Navy coach staying put

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Navy football coach Ken Niumatalolo is staying put.

Niumatalolo visited Brigham Young on Monday to discuss the opening created when head coach Bronco Mendenhall announced he was leaving for Virginia.

After giving the job at BYU much consideration, Niumatalolo decided Wednesday night to stay at Navy.

"It was a long and agonizing two days, probably the hardest two days of my life, but the Naval Academy has been my life for the last 18 years and I love it here," Niumatalolo said. "I love the kids that go to school here and the people I work with. BYU was something I need to look into because of my faith and the opportunity to coach my two sons, but ultimately I decided to stay at the Naval Academy because this is the best place for me and my family. We are at peace with the decision."

Niumatalolo said over the weekend that he chose to visit BYU because he is a devout Mormon.

In the end, though, he decided Navy was his best option.

"I'm glad to have this all behind us," Navy athletic director Chet Gladshuk said. "It's been very stressful for everyone involved. There was never any reason in my mind for Kenny to leave, but he had to go through this exercise to be sure."

Niumatalolo is 67-37 in eight seasons at Navy. He is 8-0 against Army.

His next game will be Dec. 28 against Pittsburgh in the Military Bowl in Annapolis.

In other college football news:

■ Texas A&M quarterback Kyler Murray missed practice this week amid reports that he wants to transfer.

Coach Kevin Sumlin talked about Murray missing practice on Wednesday but did not specifically address the transfer rumors, which were reported on Twitter by TexAgs.com

"I met with the (Murray) family before practice, he's going through some things and didn't feel well," Sumlin said in a story in the Houston Chronicle. "I told him to stay home today. I expect him to be back out here (Thursday). We had discussions about all kinds of things."

The problems with Murray come less than a week after quarterback Kyle Allen transferred a few weeks after being benched.

Sumlin addressed Allen's departure for the first time on Wednesday.

"He and his family got together and made a decision they thought was best for them," Sumlin said. "Obviously we didn't agree with it. But this program is not about one person or one coach."

If the highly touted freshman Murray does decide to transfer, the Aggies will be in an interesting predicament for the Music City Bowl against Louisville on Dec. 30. His departure would leave them with just one scholarship quarterback on their roster: Jake Hubenak a junior college transfer who played only sparingly.

Murray has thrown for 686 yards with five touchdowns and seven interceptions this season.



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# Warriors back to winning ways

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Luke Walton had nearly finished drawing up a play when Stephen Curry chimed in: Run one for Klay.

Walton obliged, and so did Klay Thompson.

"I stepped in. I need to be a little quicker," Curry said. "I raised my hand. We got a bucket on it, too. It worked."

There were so many buckets, in fact, Thompson couldn't remember that exact one. He scored 27 of his season-high 43 points in the third quarter and the Golden State Warriors responded after their first loss following a record 24-0 start by beating the Phoenix Suns 128-103 on Wednesday night.

Curry added 25 points on 10-for-14 shooting and seven assists as Golden State returned home from its two-week road trip that ended with its lone defeat, 108-95 on Saturday at Milwaukee. That also ended a 28-game overall winning streak by the Warriors, second-longest in NBA history.

**Spurs 114, Wizards 95:** Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points as San Antonio set a club record with its 23rd straight home victory, rolling past Washington.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 14 points and Manu Ginobili and Patty Mills each had 11 for San Antonio. The Spurs are 14-0 at home and 22-5 overall.

**Heat 104, Nets 98:** Dwyane Wade scored 10 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, and Hassan Whiteside had 20 points and 13 rebounds to help Miami beat host Brooklyn.

Goran Dragic added 16 points, Gerald Green had 13 and Justise Winslow 11 for Miami in the Heat's third straight victory. Brook Lopez scored 25 points, and Jarrett Jack had 22 points and 10 assists for the

Nets. They dropped the final three games of their six-game homestand.

**Clippers 103, Bucks 90:** Chris Paul had 21 points and eight assists as host Los Angeles overcame center DeAndre Jordan's ejection to beat Milwaukee.

Jordan had nine points and eight rebounds in 18 minutes. He left with 6:49 remaining in the third after getting a pair technical fouls from referee Marc Davis with the Clippers leading 66-52. The calls stemmed from a battle over a loose ball with Bucks guard Michael Carter-Williams.

**Knicks 107, Timberwolves 102:** Carmelo Anthony had 20 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists, and Arron Afflalo scored 29 points, as host New York beat Minnesota.

Kristaps Porzingis had 11 points, six rebounds, six blocks and three assists for the Knicks in his first matchup against fellow rookie and No. 1 pick Karl-Anthony Towns.

**Thunder 106, Trail Blazers 90:** Kevin Durant scored 24 points, leading host Oklahoma City to its sixth straight victory.

Dion Waiters scored 18 points, Enes Kanter had 12 points and 13 rebounds, and Steven Adams added 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder. They have held seven consecutive opponents under 100 points.

**Bulls 98, Grizzlies 85:** Jimmy Butler scored 24 points and Derrick Rose added 19 as host Chicago beat Memphis.

Butler and Rose shook off recent illnesses, and the Bulls used a big third quarter to tie a season high with their fourth straight win.

Doug McDermott scored 17 points — one shy of his career high — and hit four three-pointers. Pau Gasol added 10 points and 14 rebounds in his 21st game

against younger brother Marc.

**Hawks 127, 76ers 106:** Paul Millsap scored 21 points and Jeff Teague added 18 as host Atlanta routed Philadelphia to snap a three-game skid.

The Hawks had lost 11 of 18 after starting the season 7-1, but they never trailed against the woeful Sixers, who dropped to 0-16 on the road, 1-26 overall.

**Pacers 107, Mavericks 81:** Monta Ellis scored 13 of his 19 points in the third quarter, C.J. Miles added 20, and Paul George had 19 to help host Indiana.

The Pacers trailed 47-45 at halftime, and outscored Dallas 30-17 in the third quarter. Ellis was scoreless in the first half, but the former Maverick scored six straight points early in the third to ignite the Pacers. Indiana led by 26 in the fourth quarter.

**Magic 113, Hornets 98:** Channing Frye had a season-high 17 points in host Orlando's victory.

Evan Fournier had 15 points, Nik Vucevic had 14 points and eight rebounds, Elfrid Payton had 12 points and nine assists and Tobias Harris had 13 points for Orlando. The Magic led by 25 points in the fourth quarter before turning the game over to the reserves.

**Pelicans 104, Jazz 94:** Ryan Anderson scored 24 points to lead New Orleans past host Utah.

Anthony Davis had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Eric Gordon added 19 points for the Pelicans.

**Pistons 119, Celtics 116:** Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a career-high 31 points as host Detroit beat Boston.

Reggie Jackson finished with 23 points, including 14 in the third quarter. Andre Drummond had 16 points and 12 rebounds. Jared Sullinger had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Boston.

# Tar Heels roll over Tulane

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Brice Johnson has been pretty consistent all season for No. 11 North Carolina. With a key big man out for a while, the Tar Heels needed even more from him.

Johnson had a career-high 25 points and 10 rebounds in North Carolina's 96-72 win over Tulane on Wednesday night.

Marcus Paige added 16 points and Justin Jackson had 13. The Tar Heels (8-2) won their first game without injured big man Kennedy Meeks and bounced back from a last-second loss at Texas that knocked them out of the top 10.

"That was my biggest goal today — just play harder, and stay out of foul trouble," said Johnson, who was whistle-prone in the Texas loss. "With Kennedy being out, I knew I'd have to play a little bit more. ... I had to be able to step up."

Joel Berry II had 12 points and Isaiah Hicks finished with 11 for North Carolina, which never trailed, shot 50 percent and built a 43-33 rebounding advantage.

Louis Dabney scored 18 points for Tulane (6-5), which pulled to 70-55 on Malik Morgan's jumper with just over 8 minutes left.

The Tar Heels countered with 15 straight points — a burst that started with Johnson's jumper, included two three-pointers from Paige and made it a 30-point game.

"We were hoping to get them just a little bit out of rhythm," Tulane coach Ed Conroy said. "For a while, it was OK. Then (later) in the second half, they got their rhythm back."

**No. 13 Arizona 92, Northern Arizona 37:** Mark Tollefesen scored 19 points, Ryan Anderson had 18 points and 12 rebounds, and the host Wildcats overwhelmed the Lumberjacks.

Arizona (10-1) stretched the nation's longest home winning streak to 45 games.

Kris Yanku had 12 points to lead the Lumberjacks (2-7).

**No. 16 Baylor 104, Hardin-Simmons 59:** Johnathan Motley had 23 points and the Bears beat the Cowboys in the first regular-season college basketball game played at Fort Hood, one of the nation's largest Army posts.

Rico Gathers had 20 points for the Bears (8-1). Cameron Barnes had 11 points for Division III Hardin-Simmons (6-5).

Fort Hood covers 340 square miles, with more than 40,000 soldiers living on the post about an hour from the Baylor campus in Waco. The game was closed to the general public, but 1,600 free tickets were distributed to soldiers and their families to attend the game at Abrams Field House on the post.

**No. 18 SMU 86, Nicholls State 42:** Ben Moore had 22 points and 15 rebounds as the host Mustangs started fast and routed the Colonels.

The short-handed Mustangs (8-0) took a 12-0 lead and kept pulling away.

SMU used its seven available players, including one walk-on, with three players out with injuries.

Freshman Shake Milton tied his season high with 20 points, and Jordan Tolbert had 18 points and a career-high 23 rebounds.

**No. 19 Louisville 94, Kennesaw State 57:** Damion Lee scored 18 points and the Cardinals used another strong shooting performance to beat the visiting Owls.

The Cardinals (8-1) shot 59 percent (40-for-68). They have shot over 50 percent in eight of their nine games.

# Rask stops 34 shots as Bruins blank Pens

Associated Press

BOSTON — New coach or old, it didn't matter for the Pittsburgh Penguins the way Boston goaltender Tuukka Rask is playing.

Rask stopped 34 shots for his fourth shutout, Jimmy Hayes ended a 15-game goal-scoring drought and the Bruins beat Pittsburgh 3-0 Wednesday night, keeping new Penguins coach Mike Sullivan winless after his first two games.

"He's been feeling it for a little while, maybe the last month," Bruins coach Claude Julien said of Rask. "He's been the goaltender we all know he can be. That's how we felt about him at the beginning (of the season) when he struggled."

Rask got his 30th career shutout. He's 7-0-2 with a 1.36 goals against and three shutouts in his last nine starts, but credited a lot of it to how the team is playing in front of him.

"When we play our system it's very helpful for a goalie," he said. "Today they had a lot of shots again, but they kept them to the outside. When we do that, it's helpful to a win."

Max Talbot and Ryan Spooner also scored to help the Bruins improve to 5-0-1 in their last six meetings with the Penguins. Boston is also 9-1-3 in its last 13 games overall.

Pittsburgh backup goalie Jeff Zatkoff had 26 saves as the Penguins lost for the seventh time in nine games (2-4-3). Top goalie Marc-Andre Fleury, who started 25 of the first 29, is expected to miss 1-to-2 weeks with a concussion.

Sullivan replaced fired coach Mike Johnston on Saturday, and Pittsburgh lost 4-1 to Washington in his debut Monday.

"Well, I think we are getting some chances, we are generating some chances," Sullivan said. "For me, what I see is we have to do a better job playing smarter. I think we are playing hard. I think our energy is there. I think our effort is there."

Penguins star center Sidney Crosby said the team had chances, but didn't have luck — kind of like his season, too.

"I mean, yeah, we hit a couple crossbars, but teams hit crossbars and they score different ways, too," he said. "That's totally on us to find ways to score goals and it might have to be ugly ones until we start to get some bounces."

Struggling through a season that had them in 11th in the Eastern Conference coming in, the Penguins were looking for a spark after they fired Johnston on Saturday.

The lack of goal scoring that's plagued them for most of this season continued. Crosby has just six goals in the team's 30 games.

The Bruins grabbed a 1-0 lead when Talbot slipped a wrist by Zatkoff's glove and inside the right post midway into the opening period.

Boston made it 2-0 on Hayes' score 4 minutes into the second. Hayes was charging hard to the net with Penguins defenseman Ian Cole. Spooner's pass toward the net hit Cole's skate, popped into the air and deflected into the net. Sullivan challenged that there was goaltender interference.

Spooner added an empty-net, power-play goal with 2:43 to play.

Boston defenseman Dennis Seidenberg's stick shattered and the shaft went flying about 15 rows into the stands. No one was injured.

Penguins winger Chris Kunitz hit a post late in the second when they outshot Boston 18-4 in the period — after getting outshot 10-6 in the first.

"We have to find a way to kind of change our fate in games and get an ugly one or not allow those posts or bad bounces to hurt us," Crosby said.

Pittsburgh entered the game averaging just 2.31 goals per game, which was 27th in the league.

**Capitals 2, Senators 1:** Braden Holtby made 26 saves to help host Washington beat Ottawa.

Holtby lowered his NHL-best goals-against average to 1.83 and improved to 20-4-1. He has allowed three goals in his last three games, making 35 saves in a 2-1 victory at Tampa Bay on Saturday night and 44 in a 4-1 victory over Pittsburgh on Monday night.

Michael Latta opened the scoring in the first period and helped set up John Carlson's second-period goal. Washington's Tom Wilson was hit with a late match penalty, and Bobby Ryan scored for Ottawa on the power play with 4:14 left.

Eastern Conference-leading Washington has won three straight and four of its last five. Ottawa has lost three of its last four.