

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Survey: Demand on troops 'unsustainable'

BY DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Financial issues remain the top priority for military members and their families, but high operational tempo, increased time away from home and the impact on families have grown into key concerns — highlighting the changing nature of the U.S. military and the fight it faces, according to a survey released Wednesday.

The Blue Star Families' seventh annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey involved 8,390 active-duty servicemembers, family members and veterans.

It found that while military

pay, benefits and retirement continue to rank as the top stressors, family stability, time away from home and the impact on children have newly emerged as key issues.

The findings demonstrate far more than a shift of individual concerns, said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO and founder of Blue Star Families.

The group is named after the custom of military families hanging a service flag in a window with a blue star for each member who was serving.

The findings of the survey reflect an unsustainable demand on servicemembers who are being called to serve in

protracted, low-level conflicts around the globe and on the modern military families suffering under an outdated military structure that doesn't account for their needs, she said.

In 1974, when the U.S. military was last redesigned into an all-volunteer force, most servicemembers were single, did not have a high school degree and rarely deployed, she said. Today, most are married, better educated, living off one income when the majority of American families have two. Ongoing conflicts continually take troops away from home.

The takeaway: "We've taken the current structure of this

military force as far as we can, and it has got to change," she said.

Among its key findings, the survey said that 72 percent of active-duty servicemembers and their families believe the current pace of operations is untenable and "exerts an unacceptable level of stress of a healthy work-life balance," the report said.

Active-duty respondents ranked the impact of deployment on their children among the top five concerns — for the first time since the survey began ranking issues by subgroups in 2014, the report said.

## DOD top tester pans 'misleading' F-35 progress report

*Bloomberg*

Pentagon officials have been preparing a misleading assessment of progress on Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-35, the costliest U.S. weapons program, the Defense Department's chief tester warned.

"If not changed, the existing responses would at best be considered misleading and at worst, prevarications," Michael Gilmore, director of operational test and evaluation, wrote in an internal memo criticizing the draft response to questions about F-35 testing from Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain.

Gilmore's memo is the latest example of his vocal doubts about the F-35's performance in key tests. His critiques are at odds with the Pentagon's narrative that the program is on course after earlier problems. President-elect Donald Trump and his defense secretary — he's nominating retired Gen. James Mattis — will have to decide next year whether to in-

crease F-35 production to 70 in fiscal 2018 from 63 this year, as requested by the DOD.

Trump has raised questions in the past about the F-35. In October 2015, Trump criticized its cost and said he heard "that it's not very good" and that "existing planes are better."

In a Nov. 3 letter to Defense Secretary Ash Carter, McCain, R-Ariz., said he was "extremely disappointed to learn of another delay" in the \$57 billion development and demonstration phase of the F-35 "with an associated cost overrun that may be upwards of \$1 billion."

Several of the answers in the draft response to McCain "ignore acknowledged facts, are ambiguous and misleading and if signed and sent as-is" could "generate substantial issues with the Congress," Gilmore wrote to Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, in the Nov. 28 memo obtained by Bloomberg News.

The draft answers should "be revised to provide clear, accurate and complete answers,"

said Gilmore, who also raised concerns about the F-35 in a Nov. 18 letter to Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work.

Gilmore "has shared his concerns" with Kendall, who "has them for advisement in his response to Senator McCain," spokesman Mark Wright said in an email. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Courtney Hillson, a spokeswoman for Work, said in an email that Gilmore's information "was and continues to be used to help senior leaders make informed decisions."

Gilmore challenged passages in the DOD's draft response to McCain that assert:

■The F-35's development phase is due to end in "early 2018." Gilmore said the department should "state clearly that development flight testing will not complete — at the earliest" — until mid-2018.

■Operational combat testing that all weapons systems must pass will start in mid-2018 and be completed a year later. Gilmore labeled that "false." Instead, he said the tests will commence

"no sooner than late 2018, or, more likely, in early 2019 but could be as late as 2020."

■An Air Force certification to lawmakers that F-35s delivered in fiscal 2018 will have full combat capability remains "valid." Gilmore said that is "highly unlikely" because of delays in testing the critical final version of the plane's software and correcting 276 pending deficiencies. Live-fire testing of the jet's gun system for attacking ground targets and in dog-fights against enemy jets faces new delays, Gilmore said. In flights last month, symbols on the helmet display used by pilots to aim air-to-ground attacks were "unusable and unsafe to complete the planned testing."

Joe DellaVedova, spokesman for DOD's F-35 program office, said in an email that "there have only been a couple of flights" where the stability issue "was apparent, and the flight test data is still under review to determine root cause."

# Mattis waiver added to must-pass budget bill

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON – Republicans in Congress proposed legislation Tuesday that could speed up approval of a waiver for Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis to be considered for defense secretary.

The legislation, which is opposed by some Democrats, is part of a federal budget bill that must be passed by the end of the week. It would allow the Senate to move quickly next year to exempt Mattis, who retired in 2013, from a law requiring any defense secretary nominee to be out of the military for seven years.

It could simplify the popular retired general's nomination, announced Dec. 1 by President-elect Donald Trump, by avoiding lengthy debates in the House and Senate over amending the law. Mattis would still face a confirmation hearing and vote in the Senate after any waiver is passed.

Some Democrats said adding the waiver

to the sprawling bill to keep the federal government funded after Friday limits needed debate on the nomination and the importance of civilian control of the Pentagon.

"Brushing aside the law that enshrines civilian control of the military — without discussion, in a massive must-pass funding bill — would set a terrible precedent," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said in a released statement. "It is troubling that Republicans are working so hard to shield President-elect Trump's choice for Secretary of Defense from the scrutiny and debate of Congress and the American people."

A law requiring a 10-year gap between military service and defense secretary was passed in 1947 and Congress amended it to seven years in 2008. Gen. George C. Marshall was the only officer to receive a waiver and he served as defense secretary in the early 1950s.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., has said she will oppose the general's nomination

and urged resistance.

"As we continue to debate a waiver for Gen. Mattis in the coming days, I urge my colleagues to oppose any attempts to ram this change through," she tweeted Tuesday.

But the move by Republicans put Democrats in Congress in a tough political position — few of them may be willing to scuttle the federal funding bill and risk a government shutdown just to oppose the Mattis waiver. The general's widespread popularity could also make opposition risky.

Mattis, 66, spent more than four decades in the Marine Corps and has infantry leadership experience that includes leading troops during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His nomination raised widespread cheers among the military community, particularly Marines, where he is regarded as a strong, thoughtful leader known for colorful statements, such as PowerPoint presentations makes the military "stupid."

## Obama makes final pitch for wartime policies

*The Washington Post*

President Barack Obama made a final public defense of his counterterrorism record at a military base in Tampa, Fla., on Tuesday just hours before President-elect Donald Trump introduced his choice of a vocal Obama critic to lead the Pentagon at a rally in North Carolina.

In his remarks, Obama took on virtually all of the criticisms of his policies in the Middle East over the past eight years, including the full withdrawal of American forces from Iraq in 2011. He insisted that the United States could protect itself from terrorists without betraying core American values. Obama has said that those values are under threat from his successor.

Obama never mentioned Trump by name, but his speech served as a stark rebuttal to the counterterrorism approach that Trump and other Republicans laid out during the presidential campaign. Obama rejected the president-elect's contention that "dropping more bombs,

deploying more troops" or placing restrictions on Muslim immigrants would make America safer.

"The United States is not a country that imposes religious tests as a price for freedom," he said. "The United States is not a place where citizens have to carry an ID card."

The timing of Obama's speech, which came only hours before Trump introduced retired Marine Gen. James Mattis as his choice for defense secretary, raised questions about how much of Obama's approach will survive his successor.

Obama is finishing his second term at a time of widespread bloodshed and unrest in the Middle East. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which he had vowed to end, likely will grind on long after he leaves office. "On January 20th, I will become the first president of the United States to serve two full terms during a time of war," he mournfully noted.

Obama's defense of his record is largely built around the crises he avoided, the large num-

ber of troops he brought home from Iraq and Afghanistan, and the terrorist attacks that did not happen on his watch.

"No foreign terrorist organization has successfully planned and, executed an attack on our homeland, and it is not because they didn't try," Obama said. Today, he added, there are about 15,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, down from about 180,000 when he took office.

Instead of deploying large battalions of American forces — an approach Obama called "unwise and unsustainable" — the United States has relied on small teams of special operations forces to fight alongside Iraq, Syrian and Afghan forces.

The critique from Trump and Mattis is that the president did not do enough to prevent the Islamic State group from taking root in Iraq and Syria and has moved too slowly to destroy it.

Obama's final speech in defense on his counterterrorism policy, meanwhile, focused on the dangers of overreach and the pitfalls of overstating the

terrorist threat. At moments, he seemed to be speaking directly to Trump and retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, the incoming national security adviser, who have cast the battle against Islamic extremism as a global fight for survival.

"These terrorists want to cast themselves as the vanguard of a new world order," Obama said. "They are not. They are thugs and they are murderers and they should be treated that way."

Obama's speech in Tampa also amounted to a defense of his past decisions, including his much-criticized move to pull all U.S. forces from Iraq in 2011. Obama said the move was driven as much by necessity as strategy. The agreement that President George W. Bush signed with the Iraqi government called for American troops to depart the country by the end of 2011 unless the Iraqis agreed to an extension.

"By 2011 the Iraqis wanted our military presence to end," Obama said.



## Court dismisses injunction to halt helipad construction on Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An Okinawa court has dealt a likely death blow to efforts to halt helipad construction related to the largest Okinawa land return from the U.S. military since 1972.

A three-judge panel from Naha District Court on Tuesday dismissed a provisional injunction to suspend construction on four helipads in a consolidated area of the remote Northern Training Area. Two of the six helipads have already been completed, and the others are expected to be finished this month.

The construction will facilitate the return of 4,000 of the Northern Training Area's 7,542 hectares to the Japanese.

The injunction was an emergency measure filed in September at the same time as a lawsuit by 33 plaintiffs from Takae and Aha over noise concerns.

With the suit projected to take years, the injunction was seen as the final means to halt the project.

"The environmental impact assessment conducted by the Japanese government is

rationally acceptable," the verdict read. "Operations of the [MV-22] Osprey at the helipads would not undo the rationality."

Residents in the area surrounding the helipads are few, but they have complained of their houses shaking from low flyovers and near around-the-clock flights frightening family members.

With four additional helipads, they expect things to get worse.

Protesters also seized upon the project, sparking demonstrations and arrests, because while the land being reverted is significant and has been touted by officials in Japan and Washington, it does nothing to reduce the disproportionate burden of U.S. troops on Okinawa.

In the panel's decision, Judge Hajime Morikagi rejected residents' claims that the noise would be harmful and the surrounding communities would become unlivable.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs disagreed and said residents would appeal to a higher court. In the past month, courts have ordered the Japanese government to pay more than \$30 million to residents living around Marine Corps Air Station Futenma over aircraft noise.

## Judge rules for Marine who warned of danger

*Newsday*

A federal judge in Central Islip, N.Y., on Tuesday barred the Marine Corps from dismissing a major who emailed a classified document over an unsecured line but claimed he did it to potentially save the lives of fellow Marines in Afghanistan.

Maj. Jason Brezler, a reservist and also a member of the Fire Department of New York, had argued that when the Marine Board of Inquiry recommended his dismissal in 2013, it did so in retaliation after Republican U.S. Rep. Peter King inquired into the U.S. Naval Academy graduate's treatment, which also had become the subject of media attention. Brezler also said the board did not give him an adequate chance to defend himself.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Bianco ruled that the Marine board, in violation of military procedures, denied Brezler a number of internal documents he might have used in his defense. Among them were materials that could have shown the board was apparently convened only after an article on Brezler's situation appeared in the Marine Corps Times and King had made his inquiries. King said Tuesday that Bianco's decision represented "a great day for Jason Brezler and a great day for justice."

The classified email Brezler sent from Oklahoma back to his former base in Afghanistan involved what he said was the sordid history of an Afghan official. A teenage boy with the official eventually shot and killed three Marines on the base.

Bianco said there would have to be a fair hearing if the Marine Corps wished to kick Brezler out.

"The Court emphasizes that ... it has not concluded that the [Board of Inquiry] was in fact retaliatory, or that the final agency action in separating the plaintiff from the Marine Corps was arbitrary and capricious," Bianco said. "[Rather it] clearly prevented Major Brezler from fully and fairly litigating his retaliation claims."

James Margolin, a spokesman for the Southern District U.S. Attorney's office, which represented the Marines and the Navy in the case, declined to comment.

## Ewa Field defenders honored on Pearl Harbor attack anniversary

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

EWA FIELD, Hawaii — Sgt. John Hughes and his fellow Marines had finished Sunday breakfast on Dec. 7, 1941, and most had returned to the tents that served as their barracks.

Their home, Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, was still under construction several miles west of the Pearl Harbor inlet.

"All of a sudden, we heard some noise," Hughes said during a Tuesday ceremony at the airfield that has sat largely undisturbed since the surprise attack. "I ran out into the street, looked up the street ... and saw this low-flying airplane come across — a big red ball on the side and a big torpedo underneath. So I knew this was no drill."

Hughes raced back to the tents and alerted the men of the Japanese attack.

"So I grabbed a bandolier of my own and went down to clear the area," he said. "Several of us were gathered, and we shot at a few planes."

The next two hours were futilely spent alternately shooting at Japanese planes as

they approached and trying to push the aircraft out of a formation that was so handily strafed. At the "end of the whole deal," there was not one flyable airplane among the 60 at the air station, Hughes said. Four Marines were killed on the airfield.

"We had nothing to do but clean up the mess," he said.

The events in Ewa have always been overshadowed by the immense catastrophe that took place at Pearl Harbor, where the U.S. battleship fleet was decimated. Ewa had been largely forgotten through time, but in recent years a group of locals has spearheaded an effort to preserve and remember the Ewa Field battlefield, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in May.

"Surrounded by the brush and the approaching development around it, this Marine Corps airfield still speaks to us," said keynote speaker Daniel Martinez, a historian with the National Park Service, which manages the major Pearl Harbor historical sites, only yards from slabs of concrete still riddled with machine-gun bullets 75 years after the attack. "The echoes of history are still here."

# Retired Marine general tapped to lead Homeland Security

*The Washington Post*

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen retired Marine Gen. John F. Kelly to run the Department of Homeland Security, turning to a blunt-spoken border security hawk who clashed with the Obama administration over women in combat and plans to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, according to people familiar with the decision.

Kelly, who retired in February as chief of U.S. Southern Command, would inherit a massive and often troubled department responsible for overseeing perhaps the most controversial part of Trump's agenda: his proposed crack-down on illegal immigration. DHS is the third-largest Cabinet department, with more than 240,000 employees who do everything from fight terrorism to protect the president and enforce immigration laws.

Kelly, 66, is a widely respected military officer who served for more than 40 years, and he is not expected to face difficulty winning Senate confirmation. Trump's team was drawn to him because of his southwest border expertise, people familiar with the transition said. Like the president-elect, Kelly has sounded the alarm about drugs, terrorism and other cross-border threats he sees as emanating from Mexico and Central and South America.

Yet Kelly's nomination could raise questions about what critics see as Trump's tendency to surround himself with too many military figures. Trump has also selected retired Marine Gen. James N. Mattis for defense secretary and retired Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn as national security adviser, while retired Army Gen. David Petraeus is under consideration for secretary of state.

Kelly, a Boston native, was chosen over an array of other candidates who also met with Trump after his surprise elec-

## Time magazine names Trump Person of Year

WASHINGTON — Time magazine on Wednesday named President-elect Donald Trump its Person of the Year.

"It's a great honor. It means a lot," Trump said in a telephone interview on NBC's "Today" show.

The magazine's managing editor, Nancy Gibbs, said on the program that Democrat Hillary Clinton was the No. 2 finalist. Gibbs said the choice of Trump this year was "straightforward."

The Manhattan real estate

magnate went from fiery underdog in the race for the GOP presidential nomination to president-elect when he defeated Clinton in the Nov. 8 election.

Trump won 306 electoral votes, easily enough to make him president when the electors meet on Dec. 19. Clinton won the popular vote.

Trump has begun the process of preparing for his presidency and filling Cabinet posts.

From The Associated Press

tion victory last month. Those in contention included Frances Townsend, a top homeland security and counterterrorism official in the George W. Bush administration; Milwaukee County sheriff David Clarke and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. Clarke and Kobach are vocal Trump backers, with Kobach being nationally known for his strong views on restricting illegal immigration.

In the end, people familiar with the transition said, the choice came down to Kelly and Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. McCaul was considered an early favorite, but his chances were hurt by opposition from some conservatives who found him insufficiently tough on border security, the people said.

Known inside the Pentagon as a thoughtful man who continued serving his country even after his son was killed in combat, Kelly has talked in stark terms — much like Trump — about the threats America faces in the Middle East and beyond. In speeches, he has expressed frustration with what he calls the "bureaucrats" in Washington, and he described the military's counterterror-

ism operations abroad as a war against a "savage" enemy who would gladly launch more deadly attacks.

"Given the opportunity to do another 9/11, our vicious enemy would do it today, tomorrow and everyday thereafter," Kelly said in a 2013 Memorial Day address in Texas.

"I don't know why they hate us, and I frankly don't care, but they do hate us and are driven irrationally to our destruction."

His blunt manner led to conflicts within the Obama administration, where he served more than three years as Southern Command chief — overseeing military operations across Central and South America — and as senior military adviser to defense secretaries Robert M. Gates and Leon E. Panetta.

Kelly opposed Obama's failed plans to close Guantanamo, people familiar with his views say, and he has strongly defended how the military handles detainees.

He also publicly expressed concerns over the Pentagon's order in December that for the first time opened all jobs in combat units to women, including the most elite forces such as the Navy SEALs.

## Facing defeat, Syrian rebels propose truce

*Associated Press*

BEIRUT — Staring a punishing and brutal defeat in the face, several Syrian rebel factions on Wednesday proposed a five-day cease-fire in the eastern part of the city of Aleppo so the wounded, sick and other civilians can be evacuated.

The proposal came as Syrian government troops and allied militiamen declared they have seized control of three-quarters of the enclave that the opposition controlled since 2012.

The cease-fire proposal was signed by the Aleppo command center, apparently a reference to the collection of factions fighting inside the eastern enclave. A rebel spokesman said al-Qaida-linked group Fatah al-Sham Front, which has a limited presence in the enclave, will abide by the proposal.

The offer made no mention of a rebel pullout from Aleppo, though the proposal said the fate of the city is to be negotiated after the humanitarian crisis eases.

The Syrian government and its ally Russia had previously rejected a cease-fire for the war-torn city, keeping up the military offensive that has forced rebel retreats and massive displacement of Aleppo civilians. On Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were meeting for talks on Syria in Germany.

Earlier Wednesday, Syrian government troops and allied militiamen seized more ground in Aleppo's ancient quarters, further widening their control over an enclave in the divided city, Syria's state media and an opposition monitoring group said.

With the latest gains, the endgame for Aleppo, which has been carved up between the government and the rebel side for the past four years, appears to draw even closer. If Aleppo — the country's former commercial hub — is captured by government troops, it would be a turning point in the conflict.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Plane diverted after baby is born midflight

**SC** CHARLESTON — A Southwest Airlines plane made an emergency landing in Charleston after a baby was born in the middle of the flight.

Airline spokeswoman Melissa Ford told local media outlets that Flight 556 was on its way from Philadelphia to Orlando, Fla., on Sunday when a woman went into labor.

Ford said medical personnel who were on the flight helped with the delivery, and the family was taken to an area hospital when the plane landed.

Officials said the flight and the remaining passengers arrived in Orlando just over an hour behind schedule.

### Lawmaker charged with assaulting an officer

**NH** LACONIA — A newly elected New Hampshire representative faces a misdemeanor charge after he was arrested for allegedly assaulting a police officer while attending a concert.

The Laconia Daily Sun reported that the trial for Michael Maloney, of Gilmanton, was scheduled for Monday, but his attorney filed for a continuance so additional investigating could take place.

The judge granted him an extension of 45 to 60 days.

Police said Maloney, 51, was part of a rowdy group that refused to settle down when asked by a security officer outside the gate at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion in September.

Police said Maloney chest-bumped a responding officer.

Maloney, a Republican, was elected to his first term in the state House in November. He didn't respond to a request for comment.

### Anger management, no jail in fish patties case

**MA** SAUGUS — A member of a Massachusetts town's school committee charged with assaulting a man with frozen fish patties has been ordered to attend anger management classes.

The Daily Item, of Lynn, reported that Arthur Grabowski, 67, was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. He was accused of hitting Martin Graney, 73, with a bag of frozen fish patties during an argument at a veterans' food drive at the Saugus Senior Center in May.

Both men said the other man was the aggressor.

Grabowski, a member of the Saugus School Committee, was scheduled to go on trial this month but he agreed to take anger management classes.

### Burglary suspect taken into custody naked

**AL** HENAGAR — Authorities said a man charged with burglary was naked when he was taken into custody.

DeKalb County Sheriff Jimmy Harris told al.com that Mark Tucker, 40, of Flat Rock, is charged with third-degree burglary, second-degree burglary, breaking into a vehicle and attempted murder.

Harris said his office received a call about 5:45 a.m. Monday about a man prowling around a house and possibly in a garage near Henagar. The sheriff said the prowler was confronted by a resident, and the two men had begun to struggle when the prowler fired a gun. A woman was grazed by the bullet but not seriously injured.

Harris said the suspect ran into the woods and was later found inside a home naked.

### Woman gets diploma 7 decades later at age 88

**FL** LAKE WALES — An elderly Florida woman who was just two half-credits shy of graduating high school but had to drop out has received a high school diploma some seven decades after the fact.

The Lakeland Ledger on Monday reported that Ellen Marie Weddle, 88, received a diploma from Bradford High School in Arkansas last month.

Weddle was a senior at the high school in Bradford, Ark., in 1943, when her family moved to Michigan as her father looked for work. Her mother died not long after that, and she gave up hope of ever getting a high school diploma.

In July, Weddle wrote to the principal of the school asking what avenues there were to graduate.

Principal Rick Wood asked her to write two essays, and she got her diploma.

### Video shows cat thrown from window; 1 charged

**NJ** NEWARK — A New Jersey woman has been charged with animal cruelty after someone posted a video of her throwing a cat out of a third-story window on social media.

Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose said Tikeemah Lassiter, 19, of Clinton, was arrested and charged on Saturday.

Ambrose said Lassiter was in Newark visiting a relative when she threw the cat out of a window on South Orange Avenue Thursday. A citizen alerted police to the video.

The cat survived the fall and is being treated by the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Ambrose said Lassiter also

had a warrant for her arrest on a charge that she assaulted a New Jersey Transit police officer.

### Man dies after his car crashes on home's roof

**AZ** TUCSON — Authorities said a man died from injuries he suffered when his vehicle lost control and ended up on the roof of a Tucson home.

Tucson police said the man was speeding Saturday night when he crossed a lane of traffic, struck a utility pole and entered a concrete-lined arroyo, causing his vehicle to launch onto the roof of the house.

No one inside the home was injured.

Investigators said they were trying to determine the identity of the driver.

### Police nab suspects, their fowl accomplice

**MA** NORTHAMPTON — Two suspects in a weekend break-in at a Massachusetts convenience store had a fowl accomplice.

Northampton officers investigating a robbery in progress at a store about 3:45 a.m. Sunday quickly found two men and a live rooster in a nearby car.

The men were arrested on breaking-and-entering and other charges, and the stolen property was recovered.

The rooster was taken to the station for safekeeping.

Police said on their official Facebook page that while they have provided temporary shelter for a variety of animals before, this was the first rooster.

There was no word on why the suspects had the bird.

From wire reports

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# Cardinals' Johnson reaping high praise

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. —David Johnson's NFL career is only 28 games old, and already he is being compared to some of the great running backs of the game.

Statistics bear those comparisons out, and his performance in the Arizona Cardinals' 31-23 victory over Washington on Sunday did nothing to diminish such talk.

Johnson's multi-purpose skills were on full display when he rushed 18 times for 84 yards and a touchdown and caught nine passes for 91 yards and a score.

With those statistics, the second-year player and third-round pick out of Northern Iowa became the second player in NFL history to top 100 yards per game in the first 12 games of a season. Hall of Famer Edgerrin James did it in a record 13 games to start the 2005 season.

Johnson joins another Hall of Famer, Marshall Faulk, as the only players to have 1,000 yards rushing and 700 yards receiving through 12 games.

Faulk did it in 1998, scoring six touchdowns in the process. Johnson has an NFL-leading 15 TDs.

Arizona coach Bruce Arians was an assistant coach at Indianapolis when first Faulk, then James were there.

Johnson, Arians said, "reminds me a lot of those guys."

The lofty comparisons are nothing new to Johnson.

"It's a great achievement just to hear that," he said. "to be talked about amongst those great players."

Johnson mostly just smiles on the field when he's doing his damage. There's no chest-thumping over his success.

"I think it's the past, growing up, not getting looked at (by big colleges)," he said of his humility, "still not getting looked at going into the pros. I think those are the main things. Also, I'm a Christian and reading the Bible and God is letting me know to be humble amongst men."

Johnson caught a 25-yard touchdown pass and scored on a 1-yard run against the Redskins, but it was a play late in the

game that was most crucial.

Late in the fourth quarter and leading 24-23, the Cardinals had the ball fourth-and-1 at their own 34-yard line and Arians called for one of his characteristic gambles, going for it.

Arizona went with its bread-and-butter play, giving the ball to Johnson behind left tackle D.J. Humphries.

Johnson ripped off a 14-yard gain and, moments later, Carson Palmer threw a 42-yard touchdown pass to J.J. Nelson to make it an eight-point game.

"He's going to make you right most of the time," Humphries said of his young running back. "He was really just supposed to cram that for a yard. We only needed a yard. He saw a little seam right there and said 'Let me hit that.'"

After the game, Palmer called Johnson "the best player in the NFL — point blank."

"I think he's proven that," Palmer said. "Our wins and losses have affected some of the hype that he has not gotten and other guys have gotten because they are on winning

teams. He's the best player in the NFL."

Larry Fitzgerald called the fourth-and-1 play "a gutsy call that I knew coach would make."

"I mean, what do we have to lose at this point?" Fitzgerald said. "... I just knew that getting the ball in the — I think the National Football League's MVP in David Johnson — getting the ball in his hands and let him do what he does. He delivered as he always does."

Johnson wasn't the only one mentioned among the game's greats after Sunday's contest.

With his 10 catches and 78 yards, Fitzgerald moved past Cris Carter and Marvin Harrison into third on the NFL's career receptions list (1,106). He has caught a pass in 191 consecutive games, third-longest streak in league history.

Fitzgerald also became the youngest player to reach 1,100 receptions — from 16 different quarterbacks. Sunday was his 13th double-digit reception game.

## Heisman winner Salaam found dead at 42

Associated Press

Friends, ex-teammates and former coaches remembered 1994 Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam as much more than a football star upon hearing of his death in a park not far from the University of Colorado, where he stamped his name as one of the greatest players in the program's history.

"This is a great loss to the lives he had touched," said former Buffaloes assistant coach Brian Cabral, who recruited Salaam to Boulder.

Ex-teammate Kordell Stewart, who went on to achieve the kind of NFL success that eluded Salaam, said, "This is a tough one. He was our jewel." He said Salaam "never wanted to be celebrated, he just wanted to play football."

"He just wanted to be one of the guys, a big kid playing a child's game, and he won the biggest prize there is," Stewart said. "Football wasn't who he was; it was just what he did. He didn't care about his accomplishments. He cared about the people

around him."

Salaam was found dead Monday night in Eben B. Fine Park in Boulder, less than 2 miles from Folsom Field, where he carved his name into the school's record book from 1992-94. Police said foul play wasn't suspected.

Salaam's mother, Khalada, told USA Today Sports on Tuesday that police said they suspect he killed himself. "They said they found a note and would share that with us when we get there," Salaam's mother said.

Salaam's death stunned the Colorado football community, which this year celebrated a revival with the team's 10-3 record, an appearance in the Pac-12 championship game and the Buffaloes' first bowl bid in almost a decade.

"You talk about a young man who was smart, handsome, talented. He was very, very gifted. He was humble. He was a team guy," former Colorado coach Bill McCartney told The Associated Press.

Salaam rushed for 2,055 yards and 24 touchdowns as a junior in 1994, leading

the Buffaloes to an 11-1 record, a win over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl and a No. 3 finish in the final polls.

"We are all hurting tremendously today," said former teammate Blake Anderson, who lauded Salaam's work ethic, strength and dedication.

Salaam was one of the nation's most prized high-school recruits coming out of eight-man football at La Jolla Country Day, a private school in San Diego. His father played freshman football at CU in 1963 before transferring to San Diego State to be closer to home.

The Chicago Bears made Salaam a first-round draft pick in 1995, and he rushed for 1,074 yards and 10 touchdowns in winning NFC Rookie of the Year honors.

Injuries cut short his career. He rushed for only three TDs over the next two years in Chicago and played his last NFL game with the Cleveland Browns in 1999. Salaam played for the Memphis Maniax of the defunct XFL and attempted one last comeback with the NFL before retiring.



# White Sox trade ace Sale to Red Sox

Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. — The Cubs could use a closer, maybe someone like Wade Davis. Texas needs a center fielder, and most every team wants an extra arm.

So now that Chris Sale got traded, baseball executives are trying to figure out who's next.

Andrew McCutchen is still available, perhaps the Tigers really would deal Miguel Cabrera or Justin Verlander, and Cincinnati speedster Billy Hamilton might be on the move.

"It's incredible, the different directions that our conversations in the suite go," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Boston made a big splash at the winter meetings Tuesday, getting Sale. The AL East

champion Red Sox sent a package of four prospects including high-priced and highly talented hitter Yoan Moncada to the Chicago White Sox for the All-Star ace.

The Red Sox also acquired top setup man Tyler Thornburg from Milwaukee for third baseman Travis Shaw and two minor leaguers, and neared a deal with free agent first baseman Mitch Moreland.

Tampa Bay closed in on a two-year contract with All-Star catcher Wilson Ramos worth about \$12.5 million. The 29-year-old hit .309 with a career-high 22 home runs and 80 RBIs before tearing a knee ligament late in the season.

More action could be in the works, too.

Kyle Schwarber, of course, isn't going anywhere. The Cubs

slugger completed a remarkable comeback from a knee injury in April by bashing his way to a World Series championship.

Creative manager Joe Maddon sees something interesting in the future for Schwarber — as in, maybe the leadoff spot after Dexter Fowler became a free agent.

"Schwarber is not a bad name, Kyle is not a bad name at all," Maddon said.

"Two years ago, I considered leading Kyle off and putting Dexter second. But I had all the dudes do all the work, all our nerds did all the work and they really liked Fowler one and like Schwarber two just based on the data," he said. "So I went with that and it worked out well."

Fowler, meanwhile, would make a nice fit in St. Louis.

"I know about Dexter," manager Mike Matheny said. "Yeah, there's no question that he's one of the guys out there that not just the Cardinals but other teams are interested in."

"I'm always available for whatever the recruiting process needs," he said.

No movement yet on star closers Aroldis Chapman and Kenley Jansen, though the New York Yankees are looking at both of them.

The Yankees already are facing the prospect of seeing Sale a lot next year after this trade put him in the same division. Sale bolstered a Red Sox rotation that also features recent AL Cy Young winner Rick Porcello, former award winner David Price and All-Star knuckleballer Steven Wright.

## Jefferson leads No. 5 Blue Devils past No. 21 Florida

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Almost everybody in Madison Square Garden was impressed with the game Amile Jefferson had for No. 5 Duke.

Nobody appreciated it more than Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Jefferson set career highs with 24 points and 15 rebounds to lead Duke to an 84-74 victory over No. 21 Florida on Tuesday night in the Jimmy V Classic.

"Amile played one of the great games," Krzyzewski said. "God bless him. He was fantastic."

Luke Kennard scored 29 points and freshman Jayson Tatum added 22 for the Blue Devils (9-1), whose only loss was to Kansas on this same court in the Champions Classic in November.

Krzyzewski also praised Kennard, who established his career high for points in the previous game against Maine.

"Luke's played fantastic," Krzyzewski said. "When you get 29 points on 16 shots — what he'd have, 35 against Maine?"

Really efficient. He's come through for us beautifully. He's starting to put it together a little bit."

Twice in the final 8 minutes the Gators (7-2) got within seven points but both times Kennard scored to hold off Florida, once with a three-pointer and again with a long layup off a steal.

"Down the stretch in that second half, every time they made a play, we did a great job of coming back and taking the air out of the ball, using 20 seconds and then getting up a good shot," Jefferson said. "Whether it was Luke, whether it was Jayson, whether it was G (Grayson Allen) penetrating and finding somebody, our guys did an amazing job of never splintering."

The 6-foot-9 Jefferson, who also blocked four shots, was 11-for-14 from the field. Kennard went 11-for-16, including 5-for-7 from three-point range.

Kavanaugh Allen led Florida with 21 points, and John Egbunu had nine points and 12 rebounds.

"They were a better team tonight," Florida coach Mike

White said. "I thought our guys were really jacked up for the opportunity. I thought Amile Jefferson was amazing, just absolutely amazing."

Duke closed the first half with an 8-2 run — Jefferson and Tatum had four points each — for a 41-31 lead.

Allen, Duke's preseason All-America, had an off night shooting (2-for-10, including 1-for-5 on threes) but he had eight assists to go with his six points.

"I thought Jayson came out tonight and did an amazing job of just letting it all out," Jefferson said. "Luke is the smoothest player in the country. So playing with these guys has been so much fun so far."

**No. 1 Villanova 89, LaSalle 79:** Jalen Brunson scored 26 points and Josh Hart had 21 to help host Villanova hold off La Salle.

**No. 3 Kansas 105, UMKC 62:** Frank Mason scored 30 points to match his career high, Devonte Graham and Josh Jackson also had big games and Kansas rolled over host Missouri-Kansas City to give coach

Bill Self career win No. 600.

**No. 14 Virginia 76, East Carolina 53:** Kyle Guy scored 13 points to lead five Virginia players in double figures, and the host Cavaliers used strong perimeter shooting to beat East Carolina.

**No. 18 Purdue 97, Arizona St. 64:** Isaac Haas and Vincent Edwards were both 6 of 9 from the field and had 16 points as Purdue dominated Arizona State in every phase in the Jimmy V Classic.

**No. 20 Arizona 79, UC Irvine 57:** Dusan Ristic and Lauri Markkanen scored 18 points apiece, and host Arizona bounced back from its loss to Gonzaga by beating outmanned UC Irvine.

**No. 23 Notre Dame 87, IPFW 72:** S Bonzie Colson had his sixth straight double-double with 17 points and 14 rebounds, leading host Notre Dame past Fort Wayne.

**Navy 76, Bryant 74:** Tom Lacey had 16 points and a career-high 17 rebounds and Navy erased a 25-point half-time deficit.

# Spurs improve to 13-0 on the road

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kawhi Leonard is getting used to his role as the San Antonio Spurs' go-to guy.

The Minnesota Timberwolves found out on Tuesday night just how unstoppable Leonard can be when he puts his foot on the gas.

Leonard scored 31 points and the Spurs improved to 13-0 on the road this season with a 105-91 victory.

Leonard hit 11 of 15 shots after not scoring at all in the first quarter and Patty Mills scored 15 points off the bench for the Spurs (18-4), who played without Tony Parker after he bruised his left knee against Milwaukee on Wednesday night. San Antonio overcame a slow start to shoot 52.7 percent.

"Now I have game experience under my belt," Leonard said. "That's what you need to get better, get comfortable — see the ball go through the net in the game."

The Spurs moved past the 1969-70 New York Knicks to take sole possession of the second-best road start to begin

a season in NBA history. The Golden State Warriors started 14-0 last year.

"Maybe there's just a little extra focus when we go into someone else's arena," Mills said. "It's hard to put your finger on it."

Zach LaVine scored 25 points for the Timberwolves. Karl-Anthony Towns had 11 points and 14 rebounds, but shot just 3-for-16.

"You have to eliminate all the ways in which you beat yourself first," Wolves coach Tom Thibodeau said. "So we have to understand that, we have to improve in that area."

With seven new faces on the roster and Tim Duncan no longer there, it's been an adjustment for the Spurs this season. They haven't been their usual precise selves, but here they are with the second-best record in the league, tied in the win column with the Warriors (18-3).

**Knicks 114, Heat 103:** Carmelo Anthony matched a season high with 35 points, and New York beat injury-ravaged host Miami for its fourth straight victory.

Kristaps Porzingis had 14 points and 12 rebounds for New

York, which is three games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2012-13 season. The Knicks lost Derrick Rose to back spasms in the third quarter.

Goran Dragic scored 29 points and Hassan Whiteside finished with 23 points and 14 rebounds for the Heat, who fell to 2-8 at home.

**Magic 124, Wizards 116:** Elfrid Payton scored 22 of his career-high 25 points in the first half and Orlando overcame John Wall's 52-point performance to beat host Washington.

Wall had the highest-scoring game of his career and kept Washington in it with 33 points in the second half as the Wizards cut the lead below 10 in the fourth quarter. The guard made 18 of 31 from the field and added eight assists.

Payton went 8-for-8 from the field and 3-for-3 from the line off the bench in that first half, nearly matching his previous season best of 23 points in the first two quarters alone.

**Pistons 102, Bulls 91:** Tobias Harris scored 22 points and host Detroit beat Chicago. Andre Drummond added 15

points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who won for the fourth time in five games.

Jimmy Butler scored 32 points and Dwyane Wade added 19 points and seven assists for Chicago, which lost its third straight.

**Grizzlies 96, 76ers 91:** Marc Gasol had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and host Memphis finally put away short-handed Philadelphia.

Memphis scored the game's final seven points to erase Philadelphia's lead with less than 2 minutes left, sending the Sixers to their eighth straight loss.

**Jazz 112, Suns 105:** Gordon Hayward scored 28 points and host Utah held on to beat Phoenix for its seventh victory in eight games.

Rudy Gobert scored a career-high 22 points and had 11 rebounds and blocked four shots for the Jazz, who recovered after the Suns erased their big lead to tie it at 103.

Hayward had 11 third-quarter points to reach 20-plus points for the ninth consecutive game — the first Jazz player to do so since Carlos Boozer in 2007-08.

# Voracek's goal helps Flyers win 6th straight

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — With the Philadelphia Flyers in subpar form on Tuesday night, goalie Steve Mason made all the difference.

Mason made 42 saves and Jakub Voracek scored with 8.6 seconds left in overtime, lifting the Flyers to their sixth straight win, 3-2 over the Florida Panthers.

Wayne Simmonds had two goals for the Flyers, who are on their longest winning streak in five years.

Mason, who earned the NHL's First Star of the Week on Monday, won his fifth straight start.

"We weren't clicking, we weren't the team with more energy, but in the end we found a way," Flyers coach Dave Hakstol said. "The biggest thing is the saves we got. It was one of those nights where [Mason] was our best player."

Aleksander Barkov and Jussi Jokinen scored for Florida, which completed a six-game road trip with five losses although the Panthers picked up points in three of those defeats by losing in overtime.

Mason turned aside Florida's best chance in overtime when he denied Aaron Ekblad's slap shot from close range.

**Islanders 4, Rangers 2:** Andrew Ladd scored in the second period and Jaroslav Halak stopped 36 shots to lead the host Islanders over their crosstown rival.

**Blues 3, Canadiens 2 (OT):** Jaden Schwartz got his second goal of the game in overtime, leading host St. Louis over Montreal.

**Devils 3, Canucks 2:** Taylor Hall scored a goal, set up a go-ahead tally by Kyle Palmieri and delivered a crushing check that knocked Vancouver defenseman Philip Larsen out of the game to lift host New Jersey.

**Predators 4, Avalanche 3:** Roman Josi scored a power-play goal 1:04 into the third period to give host Nashville a win over Colorado.

**Blackhawks 4, Coyotes 0:** Marian Hossa had two goals, Scott Darling made 22 saves and host Chicago beat Arizona to snap a two-game slide.

**Sabres 4, Oilers 3 (OT):** Rasmus Ristolainen scored from the left circle 57 seconds into overtime and host Buffalo beat Edmonton.

**Red Wings 4, Jets 3 (SO):** Henrik Zetterberg backhanded in the deciding goal in the shootout and visiting Detroit came back from a two-goal deficit to beat Winnipeg.

**Flames 2, Stars 1:** Sean Monahan scored on a power play midway through the third period, lifting visiting Calgary over Dallas.