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US sailors adapt to life on French carrier

BY CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE CHARLES DE GAULLE — U.S. Navy Lt. Osbaldo walked through the catapult spaces beneath the flight deck, shaking hands with every present member of his French crew, a morning routine he's grown accustomed to since attaching to the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle.

Today, he's ensuring his catapult and arresting-gear systems are in perfect operational condition for the launching and landing of aircraft supporting the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Elsewhere on the ship, four other Americans are also adapting to the customs and courtesies of serving on a French naval vessel. They all fill roles designed to improve the ability of the U.S. and French militaries to work together.

The Americans find funny the perception among some of their U.S. Navy colleagues that the assignment must be a pleasure cruise.

"I think that the perception of when you say you're going to do an exchange tour on a French aircraft carrier is everyone thinks about you driving around on a motorcycle through the Alps with a glass of wine in your hand, or something like that," said Lt. Cmdr. Gerald, a helicopter pilot. "And in reality, it's a lot of work. It's a lot of effort to be able to learn the language and be able to participate, and you are away from home the entire time."

This is the first time Army Capt. Joe Winglemire has been on a naval vessel and he is particularly aware of the amenities and the restrictions. "Clearly, the ability to be able to cook delicious food in a nice kitchen is an amenity, but you are also confined to such a small area. The gym is small for 2,000 people. We get to run on the deck maybe once a week. You give up things as well."

Having other Americans aboard does help the experience, Winglemire said. It's good to have people to talk to about Thanksgiving or other things going on back in the U.S.

A personnel exchange

Three of the five Americans on board are taking part in an exchange program

in which U.S. Navy personnel serve on the French ship or with its air wing while French personnel serve with U.S. naval units.

Currently the nuclear-powered Charles de Gaulle has a U.S. E-2C Hawkeye naval flight officer; Gerald, the helicopter pilot; and Osbaldo, the catapult officer, along with two liaison officers. The Americans in the exchange program, including Gerald and Osbaldo, couldn't be identified by their full names due to French military regulations.

When the U.S. provided France with the steam catapults and arresting-gear systems, part of the deal was to have an American maintenance officer aboard to assist with operations, Osbaldo said.

Beyond building relationships and enhancing the ability of the two countries to work together, the exchanges are an opportunity to share expertise, Gerald said.

He may have faced the biggest challenge of the Americans aboard, having to adapt to a completely different helicopter type. In the U.S. Navy, he flew the Sikorsky SH-60, while on the "Grande Charles," as the carrier is known in the French navy, he is flying the smaller Eurocopter Dauphin.

"Almost everything is different, down to the direction the rotors on top of the helicopter spins," he said.

After a year and a half with the French, Gerald has gained insight into the different procedures used by the two services.

"I don't think there's anything that either navy needs to start or stop doing tomorrow, but it's been interesting seeing a lot of the things that I never really considered why we do them, and then to go to a different navy and see that in fact everything is different in a lot of ways," Gerald said.

Liaison officers

The two U.S. liaison officers share information and facilitate smooth operations with the U.S. military and the coalition fighting the Islamic State group.

"This allows us, between the allies, to coordinate our efforts," said 6th Fleet Liaison officer Lt. Cmdr. John Amiral.

Amiral, who joined the U.S. Navy in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, feels a special connection to the crew because the ship has been deployed in response to recent terrorist attacks on French soil.

"To be able to defend the values, the lib-

erties and the freedoms that we share as allies ... I think that's the biggest thing that draws us all together," he said.

Amiral helped ensure the USS Mason's easy transition into the French task force — the destroyer officially joined Task Force 473 late last month. He also will help smooth operations with the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower strike group in the eastern Mediterranean.

Winglemire's job is to coordinate between Charles de Gaulle pilots and joint terminal attack controllers, or JTACS, and those in charge of the ground operations in Iraq and Syria.

The role is vital because it fills a gap in a pilot's knowledge between the overall situation ("we are attacking Mosul") and specific information ("look at this coordinate"). Winglemire provides broad information on the locations of friendly and enemy forces, where the friendly forces plan to attack, where they'll be moving, and what kind of equipment they are using.

If pilots know this information, it's "not so much of a 'Where's Waldo?' on the ground looking for the enemy," he said.

Language barrier

The three Americans in the personnel exchange program received language training and learned basic French. But mastering the intricacies of slang and job-specific jargon remains a challenge. Neither of the liaison officers had formal French training before arriving on board.

The job of Lt. Tiffany, the Hawkeye flight officer, requires constant communication. The Hawkeye's mission as a command-and-control platform is to provide big-picture awareness for the Rafale fighters — continuous exchanges of data with the carrier and other aircraft. Much of that information is relayed in English. However, when relaying information between fighters and the ship, that communication is often in French, which can get tricky, Tiffany said. In those situations, Tiffany is able to enlist the help of the other Hawkeye crewmembers.

It also helps that many French pilots have had some of their training in the United States.

"What I've learned here, you don't have to speak French to work here [but] it obviously helps," Tiffany said.

DOD chief visits Iraq to assess Mosul fight

Associated Press

QAYARA AIR BASE, Iraq — Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition forces have killed or gravely wounded more than 2,000 Islamic State fighters in the battle for Mosul since October, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend told reporters there are still an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 Islamic State fighters still defending Mosul.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter made an unannounced visit Sunday to an Iraqi air base where several hundred U.S. troops are helping Iraqi forces stage for their offensive to retake Mosul.

Carter and a small entourage flew to Qayara air base from Baghdad after meeting with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and sharing lunch with American troops. It was Carter's first visit to Qayara since it began operating as an Iraqi staging base in October.

Sunday's visit came as Iraqi security forces have been slowed in their nearly two-month-old offensive against the Islamic State group, which has occupied Mosul for more than two years.

In Bahrain on Saturday, Carter announced he is sending another 200 troops to Syria to train and advise local fighters combating Islamic State militants. There

are already 300 U.S. troops authorized for the Syria effort, and some 5,000 in Iraq.

The recapture of Mosul, the country's second-largest city, is crucial to the Iraqis' hopes of restoring their sovereignty, although political stability likely will remain a challenge afterward.

Carter told an international security conference in Bahrain that the battle for Mosul and for the Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of the extremists' self-described caliphate, would be crucial for defeating the group, which has claimed attacks worldwide.

"The seizure of these two cities is necessary to ensure the destruction of ISIL's parent tumor in Iraq and Syria — the primary objective of our military campaign — and put ISIL on an irreversible path to a lasting defeat," he said, using another acronym for the Islamic State group.

He did not predict how long it might take for Iraqi forces to prevail in Mosul, but he sounded a note of optimism.

"This is a complex mission that will take time to accomplish, but I am confident that ISIL's days in Mosul are numbered," he said in Bahrain.

Iraqi forces have captured only a handful of eastern Mosul neighborhoods since launching the offensive in mid-October. On Sunday they came under mortar fire as they worked to clear villages along the

Tigris River to the south, part of operations to secure supply lines for a campaign that is likely to stretch into the coming year.

Carter, whose tenure as defense secretary will end in January if his designated successor — retired Marine Gen. James Mattis — is confirmed by the Senate as expected, also made the case for keeping U.S. forces in Iraq even after the Islamic State group is dislodged from Mosul.

"Beyond security, there will still be towns to rebuild, services to re-establish and communities to restore," he said in Bahrain. The extremists, he predicted, will attempt to survive by reinventing themselves "in some other shape or form" after they lose their grip on Iraq and Syria.

In Baghdad, six separate bombings targeting mostly streets and markets frequented by civilians killed 12 and wounded more than 30 people Sunday, according to Iraqi police and hospital officials. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for one of the attacks in southern Baghdad in a statement posted by the group's Amaq news agency. All Iraqi officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief the press.

Left unaddressed by Carter during his visit to Iraq was a possible change in course under President-elect Donald Trump when he takes office next month.

Activists: Islamic State group has retaken Palmyra

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Islamic State militants seized the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra on Sunday from government troops despite a wave of Russian airstrikes, opposition activists and the group reported, a major advance after a year of setbacks in Syria and neighboring Iraq.

The group's new push came hours after government troops and Russian air raids pushed the group out the city. Islamic State militants regrouped and attacked the city from multiple fronts, forcing government troops to retreat. Palmyra opposition activists said the militants were going door to door in the city, looking for remnants of government forces.

State news agency SANA

quoting an unnamed military official saying that the militant group received reinforcements from its de facto capital in Raqqa, enabling it to attack with "large numbers" against military checkpoints around the city.

Backed by Russian air power, the Syrian government had recaptured Palmyra, home to towering 2,000-year-old ruins, amid great fanfare in March. But the militants have been steadily advancing in recent days while the government has been focused on a major offensive against rebels in the northern city of Aleppo.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Palmyra Coordination group said Islamic State militants fought their way into

the town in a multi-pronged assault, forcing government forces to retreat to the south. A map by the Observatory shows the areas in control of Islamic State to extend east, south and north of Palmyra, securing a number of strategic hills around the city and expanding the group's presence in rural Homs. Palmyra lies in Syria's largest province, Homs, which is mostly under government control.

Osama al-Khatib, of the activist-run Palmyra Coordination group which keeps in touch with residents in the city, said remaining government and allied troops were escaping from the southwestern edge of the city where the ancient ruins are. He said the few remaining families in the city are also

attempting to escape. Another activist-run platform, Palmyra News Network, said intensive airstrikes followed the Islamic State takeover of the city.

Russia had earlier claimed to have repelled an Islamic State attack on Palmyra, saying it had launched 64 airstrikes overnight that killed 300 militants. But hours later, the activists said the Islamic State group had seized a castle just outside the town that overlooks its famed Roman-era ruins.

Palmyra was a major tourist attraction before the civil war broke out in 2011 and is home to world-famous Roman ruins. The Islamic State group seized the town last year and held it for 10 months. During that time, it dynamited a number of temples and destroyed other artifacts.

Republicans win big in La. runoff

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — The 2016 campaign season has finally ended, with Republican state Treasurer John Kennedy becoming Louisiana's newest U.S. senator. The GOP also held onto the two U.S. House seats that were undecided going into the state's runoff election.

Kennedy's victory Saturday gives the GOP a 52-48 edge in the Senate starting in January. His runoff campaign focused on his support for President-elect Donald Trump and opposition to the Affordable Care Act.

Voters also chose Republican Clay Higgins, a former sheriff's captain known as the "Cajun John Wayne," in the 3rd District representing southwest and south-central Louisiana. Republican state Rep. Mike Johnson won the 4th District, covering northwest Louisiana.

Kennedy entered as the front-runner and never relinquished that position, even when the field swelled to two dozen contenders in November. In the runoff, he defeated Democrat Foster Campbell, a state utility regulator who was such a long-shot that national Democratic organizations gave him little help.

It was Kennedy's third U.S. Senate run since 2004 and this time, he won in a landslide, taking 61 percent to Campbell's 39 percent in the low-turnout election.

Kennedy declared that he represents change in Washington.

"I believe that our future can be better than our present, but not if we keep going in the direction the Washington insiders have taken us the last eight years," he said. "That's about to change, folks."

Louisiana's open-primary system pits all candidates against each other and sends the top two vote-getters into a runoff when no one gets more than 50 percent.

The results keep Louisiana with one Democratic representative among its six congressman and two senators.

Potential Cabinet pick known for free-trade support, Russia ties

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top contender to lead U.S. foreign policy as secretary of state under Donald Trump is known for his long-standing support of free trade, international law and an expansive presence in the Middle East that doesn't fit with Trump's pitch to supporters.

ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson also is known for his Russia connections and would be the Trump's most concrete outreach yet to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Success in Russia required aligning the company's interests with those of the Russian government, mettle and good relations with Putin. Exxon steadily expanded its Russian business even as its rivals faced expropriation and regulatory obstacles, and in 2013 Putin bestowed the Order of Friendship on Tillerson.

"He's a world-class player," Trump said on "Fox News Sunday." "To me, a great advantage is he knows many of the players and he knows them well. He does massive deals in Russia, he does massive deals not for himself, for the company."

Trump's own relationship with Russia was an issue through much of the campaign. The CIA has concluded with "high confidence" that Russia sought to influence the U.S. election on behalf of the Republican, an assessment Trump has rejected.

A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Tillerson came to ExxonMobil Corp. as a production en-

gineer straight out of the University of Texas at Austin in 1975 and never left. Groomed for an executive position, Tillerson came up in the rough-and-tumble world of oil production, holding posts in the company's central United States, Yemen and Russian operations.

In 2006, Tillerson won the battle to succeed former Exxon CEO Lee Raymond. Under the Texan's leadership, oil prices broke records and Exxon's profits helped make it the most valuable public company in the world, with a security force totaling thousands of employees, direct channels with governments worldwide and a strong aversion to American sanctions or limitations on where it could operate.

Tillerson has used Exxon's enormous profits to explore new regions for oil and gas and to invest in new acquisitions like XTO Resources, a company that had helped pioneer drilling for natural gas in formations of shale in the United States.

But over the years, oil has become more difficult and expensive to find as large, easy-to-tap reservoirs in stable countries were slowly depleted. Exxon and other giant oil corporations found it ever more difficult to replace the oil they sold every day with new resources, and they were forced to look in increasingly difficult and hostile regions for oil and gas.

"Energy made in America is not as important as energy simply made wherever it is most economic," he said in 2007 in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations.

Trump: CIA report on hacking 'ridiculous'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday called a recent CIA assessment of Russian hacking "ridiculous" and says he's not interested in getting daily intelligence briefings — an unprecedented rejection of the nation's massive and sophisticated intelligence apparatus.

Trump rejected the CIA's conclusion that Russia tried to interfere with the presidential election and blamed "very embarrassed" Democrats for the public release of the assessment. The Washington Post first reported the CIA finding on Friday.

"It's ridiculous," Trump said. He added, however, that he doesn't necessarily oppose President Barack Obama's

order for a review of campaign-season hacking.

Trump's remarks come as key congressional Republicans joined Democrats in demanding a bipartisan investigation into the Kremlin's activities and questioned consideration of ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson — who has close business ties with Moscow — as head of the State Department.

The CIA has concluded with "high confidence" that Russia sought to influence the U.S. election on behalf of Trump. The finding alarmed lawmakers, including Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who said Sunday he planned to put Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., a staunch Trump critic, in charge of investigating the claim.

McCain has vowed to scrutinize Tillerson's business relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin if Tillerson is nominated.

"Maybe those ties are strictly commercial and got to do with his business in the oil business. Fine," McCain told CBS' "Face the Nation." And "we'll give him a fair hearing. But is it a matter of concern? Certainly it should be a matter of concern." Meanwhile, asked on "Fox News Sunday" whether he's rejecting valuable intelligence, Trump was defiant.

"I get it when I need it," he said of the top-secret briefing sessions, adding that he's leaving it up to the briefers to decide when a development represents a "change" big enough to notify him.

N. Korea denies cyberattack on South

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has denied involvement in a cyberattack against the South Korean military, calling the allegations a “childish, slanderous ploy” by Seoul to distract people from the president’s political crisis.

South Korea’s Ministry of National Defense said Tuesday that an investigation showed that North Koreans had apparently hacked into its internal cyber network and may have compromised some classified materials earlier this year.

As evidence, ministry officials said the Internet Protocol address linked to the attack had been traced to a location in China that was previously used by North Korean hackers.

An article published Friday on North

Korea’s main propaganda website, Uriminzokkiri, rejected the accusation, saying hackers would never allow their IP addresses to be exposed.

“People who try to hack never make a mortal mistake such as leaking IP addresses, which can blow their cover or be used as decisive evidence,” it said.

The writer, identified as Chang Gilsung, said the hacking report was “a downright lie and childish, slanderous ploy” by the South Korean government as it makes desperate efforts to stay in power.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye, a frequent target of the North’s ire, has faced weeks of mass protests calling for her resignation or impeachment over an influence-peddling and corruption scandal.

Military investigators said Wednesday the suspected hackers accessed the net-

work through a server at the armed forces’ main information center, the Yonhap news agency reported.

The Defense Ministry said 3,200 computers, including one used by Defense Minister Han Min-koo, were contaminated with malware in the Aug. 4 attack. It said some military documents were hacked but did not provide details.

The cyber command, which was established in January 2010 to counter such attacks, separated the affected server from the rest of the network in October, two months after the initial infiltration, Yonhap reported.

Pyongyang has been accused of staging numerous cyberattacks, but this was the first such breach of the South Korean military’s intranet. North Korea has denied past allegations of hacking as well.

Turkey buries dead after twin blasts kill 38

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkey declared a national day of mourning, launched a full investigation and paid tribute to the dead Sunday after two bombings in Istanbul killed 38 people and wounded 155 others near a soccer stadium. The attack was claimed by a Turkey-based Kurdish militant group.

In a statement posted on its website, the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons, or TAK, said two of its members had sacrificed their lives in the Saturday night attack that targeted security forces outside a stadium shortly after the conclusion of a soccer match.

“Two of our comrades were heroically martyred in the attack,” the statement read. It said the attack was reprisal for state violence in the southeast and the ongoing imprisonment of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK. TAK is considered by authorities as a PKK offshoot.

The attack seemed to corroborate the official version of events, although it gave a higher toll for the dead and wounded.

The twin car-and-suicide

bombings Saturday night near the Besiktas stadium enraged top officials, including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who vowed to hunt down the perpetrators.

The attack targeted police officers, killing 30 of them along with seven civilians and an unidentified person, Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu told reporters Sunday. He said 13 people had been arrested in connection with the “terrorist attack” and that authorities had some insight into how and when it was planned.

In a furious address Sunday at a funeral for the slain police officers, Soylu slammed Kurdish rebels and their allies in the West, referring to the PKK as “animals.”

“Have you accomplished anything beyond being the servants, pawns and hit men of certain dark forces, of your dark Western partners?” he asked.

Erdogan vowed his country would fight “the curse of terrorism till the end.” Surrounded in Istanbul by a crowd chanting his name and “God is great!” Erdogan vowed that the perpetrators would be found and forced to “pay an even heavier price.”

Church collapses in Nigeria killing 160

Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — Metal girders and the roof of a crowded church collapsed onto worshippers in southern Nigeria, killing at least 160 people, with the toll likely to rise, a hospital director said Sunday.

Mortuaries in the city of Uyo are overflowing from Saturday’s tragedy, medical director Etete Peters, of the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital, told The Associated Press.

The Reigners Bible Church International was still under construction and workers had been rushing to finish it in time for Saturday’s ceremony to ordain founder Akan Weeks as a bishop, congregants said.

Hundreds of people, including Akwa Ibom state Gov. Udom Emmanuel, were inside when metal girders crashed onto worshippers and the corrugated iron roof caved in, they said. Emmanuel and Weeks, who preaches that God will make his followers rich, escaped unhurt.

Screaming survivors were streaming out and there were cries from injured victims

when computer program analyst Ukeme Eyibio rushed to the scene.

“There were trapped bodies, parts of bodies, blood all over the place and people’s handbags and shoes scattered,” Eyibio said in a telephone interview.

He had parked his car outside the complex to make a phone call. He heard a deafening explosion he thought was a bomb, only to see that the church had disappeared, he said.

Eyibio and three others managed to drag 10 wounded people from an overflow area for of worshippers just outside the collapsed church, but they did not enter the main structure because a construction worker among them warned of the danger of a further collapse.

Journalists at the scene charge that church officials are trying to prevent them from documenting the tragedy, trying to seize cameras and forcing some to leave the area.

The governor’s spokesman, Ekerete Udoh, said the state government will hold an inquiry to investigate if anyone compromised building standards.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

12-year-old boy takes Mercedes, hits vehicle

CO EDGEWATER — A 12-year-old boy is in big trouble after taking his mom's Mercedes on a joyride early Saturday and crashing into a parked car.

Edgewater police Chief John Mackey said the mother left the keys to her car on a table and was unaware her child was missing until she was contacted by police.

Mackey said police saw the car moving slowly without its lights on and tried to stop it. The car ran a red light and went several blocks before making a sharp turn and hitting a parked vehicle.

The boy and two companions in the car were not seriously injured. They were returned to their parents while the district attorney looks into possible charges.

Popular pianist's home recitals irk neighbors

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A popular Twin Cities pianist known for performing in theaters and auditoriums has upset some of her neighbors by hosting recital parties at her home.

Residents near Lorie Line's home on Lake Minnetonka have complained to Orono city leaders about the extra traffic in the streets and the lack of regulation. The Star Tribune reported that the controversy has prompted officials in the affluent suburb to review how it regulates private events.

Line and her husband, Tim, who have lived in Orono for nearly 30 years, said the grievances are overblown and that their house is not being turned into a concert hall. Lorie Line said it's "the most stupid thing I've ever heard."

Mother fires gun during fight with son, is jailed

WA TACOMA — A Tacoma woman who fired a gun during an argument with her son has been sentenced to a year and three months in prison.

The News Tribune reported that Rosa Mae Johnson, 67, pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree assault. Prosecutors had sought an 18-month sentence, but Pierce County Superior Court Judge Kathryn Nelson gave her a low end of 15 months.

Her lawyer said she fired the gun because she thought she was under attack. He said she shot at the ground to get her son to leave. According to charging papers, Johnson told investigators the shooting happened after she and her son argued and that he had assaulted her before.

She said she didn't regret the shooting, only that she missed.

Up to 300 salamanders missing from facility

TX SAN MARCOS — Up to 300 live, endangered salamanders disappeared from a federal facility south of Austin over Thanksgiving, and authorities said they might have been stolen because of a potential black market value of \$15,000.

The Austin American Statesman reported that most of those missing are Texas blind salamanders. They are pale, 3- to 4-inch amphibians with frilly gills that can regenerate lost limbs and are believed to live only in roughly 25 square miles of aquifer beneath San Marcos. It's also possible a predator got into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center and ate the salamanders without being detected.

Dog, owner reunited 2 weeks after car crash

MN MAPLE GROVE — A Maple Grove man has been reunited with his golden retriever, which went missing after a traffic accident last month.

Daryl Algren's car was hit by a semitrailer as he and the dog, Zoey, were on their way back from his cabin in Deerwood on Nov. 18, KMSP-TV reported. Zoey was thrown out of the back window on impact.

Algren and his friends and family drove to Milaca to search for Zoey every day for the next two weeks.

Algren's nurse spotted Zoey near her home, and her husband tracked the dog to a nearby house.

Oldest known seabird expecting once again

HI HONOLULU — The world's oldest known seabird is expecting — again.

Biologists spotted the Laysan albatross called Wisdom at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge earlier this month after she returned to the island to nest.

She was incubating an egg at the same nest she uses each year with her mate. She's believed to be 66 years old. She's also the world's oldest known breeding bird in the wild.

Police say fake officer arrested by real officer

MO ST. LOUIS — St. Louis police said a man impersonating a police officer tried to pull over the wrong motorist: a real police officer.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Nicholas Keeton, 20, was charged Thursday with false impersonation of a law en-

forcement officer.

Police said Keeton was driving an Impala equipped with a siren and flashing lights when he pulled up next to another vehicle Thursday at an intersection and allegedly identified himself as a police officer. The driver of the other vehicle — an actual city officer in his personal vehicle — then arrested Keeton.

Military helo lands on school field; none hurt

VA ARLINGTON — Arlington County police said no one was injured when mechanical problems forced a military helicopter to make an unexpected landing on a high school football field.

Local media reported the helicopter landed Friday night at Yorktown High School. Arlington County police responded for crowd control.

The pilot told TV station WTTG a transmission issue and warning light prompted him to make the landing.

Wild turkeys blamed for power outages

OR MEDFORD — A flock of wild turkeys, long considered menaces to one Oregon town, have sparked new ire after causing power outages in the eastern part of Medford.

The Mail Tribune reported that wild turkeys flying into Pacific Power Lines have been responsible for four morning outages in the last month, each time cutting off power for more than 1,600 residents and businesses.

Pacific Power spokesman Monte Mendenhall said the outages are definitely caused by the turkeys, though it's unclear how the utility will resolve the issue.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

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Army tops Navy to end long drought

BY SEAN MOORES
Stars and Stripes

BALTIMORE — Army was watching a familiar story play out Saturday. Then it wrote a new ending.

The Black Knights, mired in a 14-game losing streak against Navy, rallied for a 21-17 victory in the 117th meeting between the teams before 71,600 at M&T Bank Stadium.

“Well what a game. It was a hard-fought game,” said Army coach Jeff Monken, a former Navy assistant who got his first victory over the Midshipmen in three tries. “I just couldn’t be more proud of the effort that they put forth out there.”

Army led 14-0 at halftime, but Navy clawed back in the third quarter and cut the lead to 14-10 heading into the final 15 minutes. The game was taking on a familiar feel of futility when sophomore quarterback Zach Abey twisted his way through the Black Knights’ defense for a 41-yard TD run and a 17-14 Midshipmen lead with 12 minutes, 42 seconds

remaining.

“That’s a time where you can look around and maybe some teams would get that look in their eye like (they have) doubt or concern,” Monken said. “I think our guys just knuckled down and were determined to win.”

The Black Knights (8-5) answered the challenge. Army’s ensuing possession began with a 29-yard completion from junior quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw to senior wide receiver Edgar Poe. Army thought it had kept the drive alive with a shovel pass from Bradshaw to running back Joe Walker to convert on a third-and-seven at the Navy 24-yard line, but a review of the spot determined Walker was a yard shy. Sophomore fullback Andy Davidson rendered the spot moot by crashing through the line for a 7-yard gain on fourth-and-1. Three plays later, Bradshaw scored on a 9-yard run. Blake Wilson’s PAT kick made it 21-17 with six minutes left.

“I told the guys (before the

final drive) to just be prepared; (Navy) may try to do something foolish to draw a flag,” Bradshaw said. “I told them to keep their composure and to protect the ball and focus on ourselves.”

The lead back in hand, the Black Knights defense sacked Abey on first down and forced a three-and-out with 4:07 left. Army received the punt and ran out the clock, effectively ending the game when Bradshaw converted a third-and-1 on a sneak with 1:49 left. After taking a knee three times, The Streak was over.

Abey was forced into the starting lineup when junior Will Worth suffered a foot injury in Navy’s loss to Temple in the American Athletic Conference championship game last weekend. The Midshipmen (9-3) also lost starting slotback Toneo Gulley in that game, but had no time to feel sorry for themselves with just a week to prepare for the annual showdown with Army.

“It is what it is. They weren’t

going to postpone the game,” said Navy coach Ken Niumat-alolo, who lost to Army for the first time after winning his first eight. “We knew coming into the conference if we played in the championship game we would have only a week to prepare. You don’t expect to get that many guys hurt. It is football. We’re not going to use that as an excuse. They outplayed us. Just tip your hat to them.”

Navy will face Louisiana Tech in the Armed Forces Bowl on Dec. 23, while Army heads to a meeting with North Texas in the Heart of Dallas Bowl on Dec. 27. It will be the Black Knights’ first bowl game since 2010.

Army outgained Navy 351 yards to 201. Both teams were hurt by turnovers. Abey threw two interceptions and Bradshaw had one pass picked off. Army lost three fumbles, including one by Bradshaw that allowed Navy to gain momentum coming out of the break.

Louisville sophomore Jackson wins Heisman

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lamar Jackson leapt over a loaded field of Heisman Trophy contenders early in the season and by the time he slowed down nobody could catch him.

The sensational sophomore quarterback became the first Louisville player to win the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night, beating out preseason favorite Deshaun Watson of Clemson despite some late-season struggles.

Baker Mayfield finished third and Oklahoma teammate and fellow finalist Dede Westbrook was fourth. Michigan’s Jabrill Peppers was fifth.

Watson, who finished third in Heisman voting last year, led a stacked group of contenders entering this season that included five of the top seven vote-getters in 2015.

Jackson outdid them all in his first season as Louisville’s full-time starter, accounting for 51 touchdowns and averaging 410 yards per game in total offense. He ultimately won going away, with 2,144 points to Watson’s 1,524. By percentage of possible points re-

ceived, Jackson’s victory was the sixth largest in Heisman history, and he became the youngest winner at 19 years, 352 days.

Jackson is the first Heisman Trophy winner to play on a team that lost its last two games of the regular season since Tim Brown of Notre Dame in 1987. He’s the first to enter the postseason without a chance to win the national title since Johnny Manziel of Texas A&M in 2012.

No matter. Jackson did so much before November it was difficult to deny him the award because of a couple of missteps at the end.

He provided a signature moment against Syracuse, hurdling a defender on his way into the end zone, and then played his best against Louisville’s toughest competition.

In a romp over Florida State and a close loss at Clemson, Jackson threw for 511 yards, ran for 308 and accounted for eight touchdowns. After ripping apart Florida State in September, he earned the stamp of approval from his idol, former Virginia Tech and NFL star Mike Vick.

Jackson left that Oct. 1 game in Death Valley as a threat to run away with the Heisman, but losses to Houston and Kentucky, when he committed four turnovers, in late November provided an opportunity for others to sway voters.

Watson made the biggest surge, but ultimately fell short.

Jackson continues a recent trend of breakout stars winning the Heisman. He is the sixth player to win the award as either a redshirt freshman or sophomore, all since 2007, joining Manziel (redshirt freshman), Jameis Winston (redshirt freshman), Mark Ingram (sophomore), Sam Bradford (sophomore) and Tim Tebow (sophomore).

Jackson spent this season adjusting to newfound fame, growing into the role of face of the team and trying to stay out of the spotlight. He said he cut down on trips to the mall to avoid the inevitable crowds he drew.

He is about to become even more popular. Especially back in Louisville, where he has another year before he can even consider his next big jump — to the NFL.

Hart lifts No. 1 Villanova past Irish

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Jay Wright doesn't follow who is in the running for national player of the year. However, the Villanova coach thinks he has the best player in the country in senior guard Josh Hart.

After Saturday's career-best performance, it would be hard to argue.

"He's as good as any player in the country is and he's so complete. He will do whatever it takes to win a game and he has the ability to do it and at the right time," Wright said. "He got big rebounds at the end of the game. He got offensive rebounds, he scored, he made passes, he made free throws, he defended. He did everything. He's as complete a player as we've ever had."

Hart scored a career-high 37 points and No. 1 Villanova (10-0) rallied from an 11-point deficit to beat No. 23 Notre Dame 74-66 on Saturday at the Prudential Center.

"I honestly didn't know how many points I had. I was just trying to make the right play," Hart said, later adding, "I want to be great. I want to be as good as Josh Hart can be, and I have no idea how good that is, but I'm going to try and figure out."

Hart was the only Villanova player to score in double figures.

No. 2 UCLA 102, Michigan 84: At Los Angeles, T.J. Leaf scored 21 points, fellow freshman Lonzo Ball added 19 and UCLA

shot 67 percent in beating Michigan to improve to 10-0.

Zak Irvin scored 18 points to lead the Wolverines (7-3).

No. 3 Kansas 89, Nebraska 72: Frank Mason III had 18 points and seven assists without a turnover, and Josh Jackson and Svi Mykhailiuk added 15 points apiece for host Kansas.

The Jayhawks (9-1) had no trouble with their old conference foe despite playing without forward Carlton Bragg Jr., who is suspended indefinitely. Bragg was charged Friday with misdemeanor battery.

No. 5 Duke 94, UNLV 45: At Las Vegas, Grayson Allen shot 75 percent from the field — including a perfect 7-for-7 in the second half — en route to a career-high 34 points to lead the Blue Devils in the first college basketball game ever played at T Mobile Arena.

No. 8 Gonzaga 61, Akron 43: Przemek Karnowski scored 14 points and host Gonzaga beat Akron in a defensive battle, lifting the Zags to the best start in program history.

No. 9 Indiana 103, Houston Baptist 61: James Blackmon Jr. scored 18 points and Robert Johnson added 16 for the host Hoosiers.

No. 11 Louisville 102, Texas Southern 71: Quentin Snider scored 15 points, V.J. King added 13 and host Louisville over-

came a cold shooting start to give Hall of Famer Rick Pitino his 400th victory as the Cardinals' coach.

No. 13 Xavier 77, Utah 69: J.P. Macura emerged from his shooting slump by scoring 18 points, and RaShid Gaston helped the host Musketeers get the edge up front against the nation's top rebounding team.

No. 15 West Virginia 90, VMI 55: Daxter Miles Jr. scored a season-high 20 points and the host Mountaineers overcame an early lull to give coach Bob Huggins his 799th career win.

No. 16 Butler 75, No. 22 Cincinnati 65: At Indianapolis, Kelan Martin scored 20 points and was the catalyst in two key second-half runs for Butler.

No. 17 Wisconsin 93, Marquette 84: At Milwaukee, Bronson Koenig scored 18 points, and Ethan Happ scored all 11 of his in the second half for Wisconsin.

No. 18 Purdue 77, Cleveland St. 53: Isaac Haas scored 14 points, Caleb Swani-gan had 13 points and 10 rebounds and Dakota Mathias added 12 points on four three-pointers for the host Boilermakers.

No. 20 Arizona 79, Missouri 60: Rawle Alkins had 19 points and nine rebounds for visiting Arizona, while Kobi Simmons had 19 points and Kadeem Allen added 17 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

South Florida hires Strong as coach

Associated Press

Three weeks after being fired by Texas, Charlie Strong was hired Sunday to be the coach at South Florida, returning to a region where he has deep roots and a conference where he has won championships.

Strong was fired by Texas on Nov. 26. At No. 25 USF, he replaces Willie Taggart, who left the Tampa school to become coach at Oregon just a few days ago.

"Charlie is a tremendous leader and mentor for our student-athletes and a widely-respected coach with a resume full of achievements at the highest levels of college football," USF athletic director Mark Harlan said in a statement. "He combines a drive to win with great integrity and deep,

long-standing connections in the state of Florida. The future of USF football is very bright under his direction."

The Bulls went 10-2 this season and finished second in the AAC East to league champion Temple.

Strong was 16-21 with no winning seasons in three years at Texas after replacing Mack Brown. Before going to Texas, Strong was 37-15 in four years at Louisville (2010-13), including 23-3 in the final two seasons.

Shiffrin wins 11th straight WC slalom

SESTRIERE, Italy — Olympic champion Mikaela Shiffrin remains unbeatable in slalom.

The American won the 11th

consecutive World Cup race that she has entered in the discipline Sunday, adding to a slim first-run lead with a dominating performance in her second trip down the icy Giovanni Agnelli course.

Shiffrin finished with a massive 1.09-second advantage over Veronika Velez Zuzulova of Slovakia, with Wendy Holdener of Switzerland placing third, 1.21 back.

"I pushed and it felt really good," Shiffrin said. "The first run I felt tight and the second run I tried to let it fly and that's such a good feeling."

Shiffrin missed two months last season after tearing a ligament in her right knee during a training fall in Sweden. She has won six straight slaloms since her return.

The 21-year-old Shiffrin increased her lead over defending champion Lara Gut in the overall standings to 105 points.

Angels land Espinosa in trade with Nats

WASHINGTON — The Los Angeles Angels acquired Danny Espinosa from the Washington Nationals on Saturday night, picking up their new starting second baseman in a trade for two minor league pitchers.

The Angels sent right-handers Austin Adams and Kyle McGowin to the Nationals for Espinosa, who presumably lost his starting job in Washington when the team obtained outfielder Adam Eaton from the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday.

Streaking Grizzlies dominate Warriors

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Grizzlies bolted out of the starting gate and never looked back.

The Warriors weren't exactly gaining on them anyway.

Marc Gasol and Tony Allen scored 19 points each and Memphis rolled over Golden State 110-89 for its sixth straight win.

"We couldn't have played much worse," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said, "and I thought [the Grizzlies] were great. They came out, took it to us."

The Grizzlies led by as many as 30 points in the second half — the biggest advantage by any Warriors opponent this season. Seven Memphis players finished in double figures, including Zach Randolph and JaMychal Green with 14 points each.

"We stayed poised, we stayed in control, we stayed aggressive," Gasol said. "We played to win. We didn't play not to lose."

Kevin Durant led Golden State with 21 points, while Stephen Curry added 17 points and Ian Clark finished with 10 points. Curry and backcourt starter Klay Thompson (eight points) were a combined 8-for-

28 from the field, including 3-for-14 outside the arc.

Memphis had a double-digit lead early, led 61-38 at halftime and kept building in the third quarter.

Golden State ended a four-game winning streak. The Warriors had won 16 of 17, the lone loss in the stretch coming 132-127 in double overtime to Houston on Dec. 1

Kerr benched his starters with 10 minutes left and Memphis leading 93-65.

It was just one of those rare nights for Golden State, which entered with the league's best record at 20-3. The Warriors had a season low in points, a season high in turnovers (23) and were close to their season low in shooting percentage (44.2 percent).

Golden State's 38 first-half points were its fewest in any half this season.

"We weren't on the same page. We were trying to force too many things," Thompson said, adding that "[the Grizzlies] definitely took us out of our rhythm early, and we let that affect us on the offensive end and the defensive end."

Cavaliers 116, Hornets 105: LeBron James scored 17 of his season-high 44 points in the fourth quarter and reached another career milestone as host Cleveland won its fourth straight.

James did it all, adding 10 assists and nine rebounds in 43 minutes. He took over in the fourth, scoring 13 straight during one stretch to help the Cavs hold on.

James, who moved into ninth place on the career scoring list Friday, recorded his 7,000th assist in the first half, becoming the first frontcourt player in NBA history to reach the plateau. James is the only player with 27,000 points and 7,000 assists.

Bulls 105, Heat 100: Jimmy Butler scored 31 points, Dwyane Wade added 28 against his former team and host Chicago held off struggling Miami.

Butler scored Chicago's final 10 points to help the Bulls come out on top after Miami pulled within one.

Clippers 133, Pelicans 105: Chris Paul had 20 points and a season-high 20 assists, and host Los Angeles beat New Orleans

with its highest offensive output of the season.

Rockets 109, Mavericks 87: James Harden had 18 points, 16 assists and nine rebounds as host Houston beat Dallas for its sixth straight victory.

Spurs 130, Nets 101: Kawhi Leonard had 30 points in three quarters and San Antonio rebounded from its first road loss of the season with a home romp over Brooklyn.

Jazz 104, Kings 84: Rudy Gobert had 17 points, 14 rebounds and a season-high six blocks, helping host Utah overcome a flood of turnovers to beat Sacramento.

Wizards 110, Bucks 105: John Wall had 24 points and 11 assists, Bradley Beal scored 20 and host Washington used a late 11-0 run to beat Milwaukee.

Nuggets 121, Magic 113: Danilo Gallinari scored 21 points, and Kenneth Faried had 19 points and 10 rebounds off the bench to help Denver defeat host Orlando.

Pacers 118, Trail Blazers 111: Paul George scored a season-high 37 points and Indiana rallied past visiting Portland after trailing by 20.

Canadiens score 10 in rout of Avalanche

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Max Pacioretty had four goals and Brian Flynn scored twice during a six-goal first period as the Montreal Canadiens routed the Colorado Avalanche 10-1 in the NHL on Saturday.

Flynn, Pacioretty and Artturi Lehkonen each scored against Calvin Pickard in the opening 7:12, and then Pacioretty, Paul Byron and Flynn each had a goal among the first four shots on Semyon Varlamov.

Pacioretty completed his hat trick in the second period and added another in the third to give the captain seven goals in his last four games.

Alexander Radulov and Jeff Petry also scored for Montreal, which has shown no drop-off without injured scoring leader and first-line center Alex Galchenyuk. Montreal outshot the Avalanche 36-16.

Montreal's six-goal first period was its first since Dec. 17, 1992, against the Que-

bec Nordiques in an 8-3 win.

Flyers 4, Stars 2: Brayden Schenn scored three power-play goals to lead host Philadelphia to its eighth straight victory.

Jakub Voracek added an empty-netter and also had three assists for the Flyers, who matched Montreal for the longest winning streak in the NHL this season.

Blue Jackets 6, Islanders 2: Jack Johnson, Cam Atkinson and Seth Jones each had a goal and an assist and Columbus beat visiting New York for its sixth straight win.

Penguins 4, Lightning 3: Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby each scored their second goals on third-period power plays, helping visiting Pittsburgh rally to beat Tampa Bay.

Sharks 4, Hurricanes 3: Logan Couture and Kevin Labanc scored less than 2 minutes apart in the second period and host San Jose bounced back from consecutive losses by beating Carolina.

Kings 4, Senators 1: Trevor Lewis had

a goal and an assist, and Jeff Carter and Alec Martinez scored on the same power play early in the first period of Los Angeles' victory over Ottawa.

Flames 6, Jets 2: Dougie Hamilton scored twice during a four-goal second period and added an assist to lead streaking Calgary over visiting Winnipeg.

Maple Leafs 4, Bruins 1: Auston Matthews and Zach Hyman scored in the second period, Frederik Andersen made 32 saves and Toronto beat host Boston.

Panthers 4, Canucks 2: Aaron Ekblad gave Florida a three-goal lead early in the third period and it held on against Vancouver.

The Panthers got their first home win under interim coach Tom Rowe.

Coyotes 4, Predators 1: Alex Goligoski and Lauren Dauphin scored 1:57 apart in the first period and host Arizona beat Nashville.