

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, December 3, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Navy blames training, leadership in collision

BY TYLER HLAVAC

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Poor training and leadership led to an “avoidable” collision between a U.S. warship and a South Korean fishing boat last spring, according to a Navy report on the incident.

Failures in watchstanding and navigation were the main causes of the May 9 collision between the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain and the fishing vessel Nam Yang 502, the service said in the report released Thursday.

The cruiser’s bridge team and combat information center also were at fault, it said. Sailors there didn’t communicate properly or notify the ship’s executive officer of the situation.

The collision, which resulted in administrative and disciplinary actions against the Lake Champlain’s captain, executive officer and several other crewmembers, was one of several incidents involving U.S. warships in the Pacific this year.

In January, the USS Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay. In June, a collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a merchant ship killed seven sailors; and an Augusta collision between the USS John S. McCain and a merchant vessel killed 10 sailors.

The Navy initially withheld details of the Lake Champlain incident, citing litigation concerns. However, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said in the report that it was “paramount that the Navy transparently explain the causes and lessons learned to the American people.”

He added, “I am committed to make every effort to ensure these types of incidents do not happen again.”

On the morning of the accident, the Lake Champlain was operating in the Sea of Japan alongside the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and a South Korean destroyer, ROKS Yangmunchun. A radar display on the bridge was not working and the cruiser was not transmitting its position to civilian ships, the report said.

At 10:31 a.m., the Carl Vinson spotted the fishing boat on radar 11 nautical miles from the Lake Champlain and reported the information. The Lake Champlain identified the fishing vessel, which didn’t have a working global positioning system or radio, at 10:50 a.m., tracked it for 45 minutes and lost contact with it at 11:35 a.m.

The Lake Champlain’s crew tried to change position to stay on course with the Carl Vinson, not realizing that they’d turned in front of the fishing boat. The cruiser then ordered maximum speed and attempted to turn right and then left in a futile attempt to avoid a collision. The bridge watch team was “slow to react and

executed improper and untimely maneuvers,” the report said.

The Lake Champlain attempted to contact the fishing boat twice by radio but received no response, it said. The cruiser gave the international signal for danger at least three times.

“The Nam Yang 502 did not respond to radio attempts, use its whistle or take necessary action to avoid the collision,” the report added.

At 11:51 a.m., the fishing boat’s bow struck the cruiser on the center of its left side. The impact “created a 3-foot-by-5-foot-wide dent as well as visible scrapes to the paint,” the report said. There were no significant injuries reported aboard either ship, and the Lake Champlain remained operational.

The warship’s then-commanding officer, Capt. Chris Cegielski, was attending a meeting aboard the Carl Vinson and the executive officer and navigator were not on the bridge during the collision, the report said.

The Lake Champlain’s crew “was ultimately unprepared for the situation in which they found themselves through a lack of preparation, ineffective command and control, and deficiencies in training,” the report said.

The crew also was faulted for poor radar operation and seamanship as well as improper use of lookouts, it added.

## Personnel head tapped to lead Naval Surface Forces

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The rear admiral in charge of Navy personnel has been nominated to command Naval Surface Forces, a dual-hatted role that includes leadership of U.S. Pacific Fleet’s troubled surface force.

Rear Adm. Richard Brown, commander of Navy Personnel Command and deputy chief of Naval Personnel in Millington, Tenn., would be promoted to vice admiral for the command,

based in San Diego.

Pacific Fleet has been rocked this year by two deadly collisions of guided-missile destroyers with merchant ships that left 17 sailors dead. The USS Fitzgerald crashed in June, followed by the USS John S. McCain in August.

The surface fleet’s current commander, Vice Adm. Tom Rowden, requested early retirement, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported in September. Rowden told the newspaper that he believed reforming the surface fleet could best be

achieved with new leadership.

Top officers of the Fitzgerald and the McCain were relieved of command, as well as the commanders of Task Force 70, Destroyer Squadron 15 and the 7th Fleet, to which the ships belonged.

Adm. Scott Swift, the Pacific Fleet commander, announced in September that he would retire after learning he would not be nominated to lead Pacific Command. His retirement date has not been announced.

Brown had become involved in addressing manning short-

comings in the 7th Fleet. In July, he attended a summit at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, where Navy officials discussed the impact that manning policies were having on the forward-deployed 7th Fleet.

Brown has headed Navy Personnel Command since September 2016. His sea tours included command of the guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans and the USS Gettysburg. He also commanded Carrier Strike Group 11.

## Marines crack down on hazing at Camp Pendleton

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SAN DIEGO — The Marine Corps' crack-down on an epidemic of hazing at Camp Pendleton now includes at least one court-martial decision.

Cpl. K.D. Lee, of Camp Pendleton's 7th Engineer Support Battalion of the 1st Marine Logistic Group, pleaded guilty recently at summary court-martial to belittling and berating a subordinate, according to Marine spokesman 1st Lt. Adam B. Miller.

"Hazing is contradictory to our core values of honor, courage and commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline," Miller said by email. "Hazing violates our institutional character and disrespects our most precious asset — our Marines and sailors. Hazing is absolutely not tolerated in the Marine Corps."

Lee had been accused of inflicting "cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful" treatment on a junior enlisted Marine on April 6, according to a charge sheet obtained under the federal Freedom of Information Act. She was charged Aug. 4 with three counts of violating a lawful order designed to prevent hazing and pleaded not guilty at an initial hearing Oct. 13, according to the military court docket.

Lee, a three-year veteran of the Corps, threatened to toss the subordinate off a rooftop, questioned his gender, derided him with salty language and told other Marines that she was "not (expletive) done with him" and "we'll get him, don't worry," or similar phrases, her charge sheet indicated.

## Ex-commanders pushing Congress over gun violence

*The Washington Post*

Sixteen of the nation's top retired military commanders are urging Congress to pass gun control legislation, arguing that there are many steps that can be taken to curb gun deaths that do not violate the Second Amendment.

In a letter they plan to send to Congressional leaders, the retired commanders, including Army Gens. Wesley Clark and Michael Hayden, Navy Adm. Eric Olson, Air Force Lt. Gen. Norman Seip and Marine Brig. Gen. Stephen Cheney, argue that Congress is "no longer speaking or voting for the majority of Americans, including gun owners" when it comes to the issue of firearms.

"There is no acceptable excuse for our elected leaders to avoid addressing this as a national crisis," they write.

The group is part of the veterans coalition of a gun control group founded by former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Mark Kelly. They laid out their arguments in the letter they plan to send.

The retired military men and women said that as military leaders, they defended the Constitution and have considerable firearms training. As Americans, they said, they find the level of gun violence across the country unacceptable, calling the shootings that killed 58 people in Las Vegas in October and 26 in a church in

Sutherland Springs, Texas, in November "but the latest instances of shocking horror" that the nation has experienced in recent years.

"Thoughts and prayers will not bring solutions," they write.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of gun deaths rose for the second straight year in 2016, to 12 per 100,000 people.

The letter comes as a House panel last week voted to advance a measure that expands the ability to carry concealed firearms across state lines. Under the bill, known as concealed-carry reciprocity, a person with a concealed-carry permit and a photo identification would be able to have a concealed weapon in any state that allows them. The gun owner still would have to follow state and local laws regarding where and what types of weapons can be carried. The National Rifle Association has called the bill its "highest legislative priority in Congress."

The legislation is scheduled for a House vote next week. Its sponsor, Richard Hudson, R-N.C., said in a statement that the bill is extremely popular and "momentum, common sense, and the facts are on our side."

Giffords said the bill weakens public safety, and Retired Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal said he agrees.

## 2-star to head USAREUR as hunt for new leader goes on

BY JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The two-star deputy at U.S. Army Europe will take command of forces on the continent in the coming weeks as the Army continues its search for a permanent replacement for retiring Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges.

Maj. Gen. Tim McGuire, who has served as USAREUR's second in command since June 2016, will be acting commander when Hodges steps down Dec. 15, USAREUR said. USAREUR will hold a ceremony at its headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, to mark the occasion.

During three years at the head of USAREUR, Hodges led the Army through its largest expansion on the continent since

the end of the Cold War.

The Army has been at the center of efforts by U.S. European Command to bolster its mission along NATO's eastern flank in response to concerns about a more aggressive Russia. A U.S. tank brigade now operates on a year-round rotation in Poland, the Baltics and Romania, along with aviation assets.

McGuire, a West Point graduate who has served as a battalion commander with the Vicenza, Italy-based 173rd Airborne Brigade, will oversee USAREUR's growing mission.

The Army said it was in the process of vetting candidates for the three-star billet.

USAREUR, a four-star post since the 1950s, was reduced to three stars in 2011 during a period of downsizing.

As the command's stature has grown

during the past several years, Army officials have discussed whether the command again should be elevated to four stars. For now, there are no immediate plans for such a move, the Army said.

"Many factors come into play in filling vacancies of this type," William Sharp, an Army spokesman, said in an email. "These factors include a thorough Army and [Department of Defense] vetting and recommendation process."

If the Army recommendation is accepted by the White House, the nomination moves forward to the Senate for confirmation.

"All involved understand the importance of filling these high-visibility positions. However, the entire process takes time," Sharp said.



# President goes on tweetstorm about FBI

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump issued a fresh denial Sunday that he asked former FBI Director James Comey to halt an investigation into the conduct of his dismissed national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

"I never asked Comey to stop investigating Flynn," Trump said in a pre-dawn message on Twitter. "Just more Fake News covering another Comey lie!"

The tweet was the latest in a running commentary on the case from Trump that began Saturday, a day after Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his interactions with a Russian official.

In other tweets Sunday, Trump also seized on news that Peter Strzok — the former top FBI official assigned to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election — was taken off that job last summer after his bosses discovered that he and another member of Mueller's team had exchanged politically charged texts disparaging Trump and supporting Democrat Hillary Clinton. Strzok was also a key player in the investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server, which ended without charges against her.

"Report: 'ANTI-TRUMP FBI AGENT LED CLINTON EMAIL PROBE' Now it all starts to make sense!" Trump wrote, before proceeding to criticize the FBI and promise to bring it back to "greatness" under his administration.

Trump fired Flynn 25 days into this administration for misrepresenting the nature of his conversations with Sergey Kislyak, then the Russian ambassador, to Vice President Mike Pence and other administration officials.

Comey has alleged that the day after that, Trump urged him to be lenient with Flynn, producing notes that said Trump told him, "I hope you can let this go."

Trump stoked the controversy with one of his Saturday tweets in which he said part of the rationale for firing Flynn was that he had lied to the FBI.

"I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI," Trump wrote in that tweet.

On Sunday, Sen. Mark Warner, of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Trump should have taken action against Flynn sooner if he knew that then-national security adviser had lied to the FBI.

# DOD IDs 100 killed on USS Oklahoma

*Associated Press*

HONOLULU — The military has identified 100 sailors and Marines killed when the USS Oklahoma capsized during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor 76 years ago, officials said Friday.

The milestone comes two years after the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency dug up nearly 400 sets of remains from a Hawaii cemetery.

Officials exhumed the bodies after determining that advances in forensic science and genealogical help from families could make identifications possible. The buried Marines and sailors have been classified as missing since World War II.

The agency has said it expects to identify about 80 percent of the battleship's missing crewmembers by 2020.

The most recent identification came last month, the agency said in a news release. The family hasn't been notified yet, so his name hasn't been released.

Many of those identified have been buried in their hometowns. Others were reinterred at the National Memorial Cemetery in the Pacific, which is

located in an extinct volcanic crater in Honolulu.

One reburial is planned for this week. Navy Radioman 3rd Class Howard W. Bean, of Everett, Mass., will be buried Wednesday in Arlington National Cemetery. Bean was 27 when he was killed.

Altogether, 429 people on board the battleship were killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, bombing that plunged the United States into World War II. Only 35 were identified in the years immediately after.

Many remains buried in Hawaii were comingled with other sailors and Marines. The 388 men disinterred in 2015 were buried in 46 plots.

The agency has been studying dental records and DNA to make identifications. It sent exhumed remains to a lab at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., for analysis. The lab sent some 5,000 samples to a military DNA lab.

The agency has family DNA reference samples for 85 percent of the unaccounted-for Marines and sailors.

More than 2,400 sailors, Marines and soldiers were killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

# Far-right nonprofit fails to file proper paperwork

*Los Angeles Times*

Richard Spencer is one of the country's most prominent white nationalists. He's also a terrible bookkeeper.

For the second time this year, the state officials in Virginia who regulate nonprofits have rebuked Spencer's far-right think tank for failing to register to solicit donations.

Fundraising without such registration is illegal in Virginia. As of Thursday, Spencer's National Policy Institute website continued to solicit donations, asking they be sent to a P.O. box in Alexandria, Va.

Like other white nationalists, Spencer uses the mail because over the last year Silicon Valley tech companies have denied far-right figures access to crowdfunding websites.

Spencer's fundraising problems started

in March. After he failed to file federal tax returns for three straight years, the IRS stripped the National Policy Institute of its tax-exempt status.

Later that month — following an inquiry by the Los Angeles Times — Virginia state regulators determined that the National Policy Institute had broken state law by fundraising while failing to register in the state and by not telling prospective donors it had lost its tax-exempt status with the IRS.

Spencer worked with state regulators to obtain a six-month extension in May to keep his group in good standing.

On Nov. 15, that extension ran out.

Alerted by the Times that the National Policy Institute was continuing to solicit donations, Elaine Lidholm, a spokeswoman for the Virginia Department of Agriculture

and Consumer Services, said the regulatory agency would investigate.

For his part, Spencer had the same reaction as he did on the previous occasions the Times called him about delinquent filings: befuddlement.

"Is that online?" he asked. (Yes.)

"I just got a letter to pay a fee," he said, promising to do so soon. "Can I just hire you to do this for me?" (No.)

Spencer is unusual compared with most white nationalists in that he uses a nonprofit to support him financially.

Some far-right supporters have created for-profit companies and platforms to provide their own financial infrastructure for neo-Nazis and other fringe figures.

Some far-right figures also ask supporters for donations in bitcoin, the digital currency.

# Kurds say Euphrates area free of ISIS

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syria's main Kurdish forces declared Sunday that they have successfully cleared areas east of the Euphrates river of Islamic State militants, with help from the U.S.-led coalition and Russian forces.

The announcement comes after Defense Secretary James Mattis said Washington will stop arming the YPG as offensive operations come to an end.

Noureddine Mahmoud, spokesman for the People's Defense Units, known as the

YPG, and the backbone of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, praised U.S. and Russian air and logistical support as well as ground operations coordination. He said his forces are ready to form joint operation rooms with the different partners to complete the fight against ISIS.

"We hope for an increase of the support and ensuring air protection and necessary cover," Mahmoud said at a press conference in al-Salihiya, a town in Deir el-Zour province, on Sunday.

The SDF has been battling ISIS fighters east of the Euphrates river in Deir el Zour province since September. In a separate campaign, Syrian government forces, backed by Russia and allied Iran-backed militia, have been chasing ISIS militants on the other side of the river.

Mahmoud also praised the role tribal leaders played in the fight against ISIS in the oil-rich Deir el-Zour province, where tribesmen play an integral role in consolidating power there.

## Final death toll in Somalia attack is 512

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The final death toll in October's massive truck bombing in Somalia's capital is 512 people, according to the committee tasked with looking into the country's worst-ever attack.

The final toll is a dramatic increase from previous estimates of more than 350 killed. The committee's report, obtained by The Associated Press, says another 312 people were wounded in the Mogadishu bombing and 62 people remain missing.

Only a few attacks since the ones on Sept. 11, 2001, have killed as many people, according to the Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland.

Somalia's government has blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group for the Oct. 14 attack, which struck a crowded street.

Security officials said the bomb weighed between 1,300 and 1,700 pounds as the extremist group's bomb-making capabilities grow.

The attack appalled Somalis, with some calling it their "9/11."

The hundreds of wounded overwhelmed Mogadishu's hospitals, where many people defied traditional hesitations and rushed to donate blood.

Bewildered family members picked through the rubble days afterward as hopes of finding survivors faded.

Thousands of Somalis later marched through the capital in defiance against the extremist group, while the Somali-American president, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, announced a new military offensive and asked regional neighbors for assistance.

Al-Shabab, which was pushed from the capital years ago but controls large parts of rural southern and central Somalia, often attacks high-profile areas in Mogadishu.

Somali intelligence officials have said the massive truck bomb was meant to target the heavily guarded airport, where several countries have embassies, but instead detonated in the crowded street after soldiers opened fire and flattened one of the truck's tires.

The Islamic extremist group, the deadliest in Africa, has been targeted this year by nearly 30 U.S. military drone strikes after the Trump administration approved expanded operations against it and declared the southern part of the Horn of Africa nation a zone of active hostilities. The U.S. now has more than 500 military personnel in Somalia.

## UAE denies claim of Yemen missile attack

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United Arab Emirates on Sunday denied a claim by Yemen's Shiite rebels that they fired a missile toward an under-construction Emirati nuclear plant. The denial came as heavy fighting in Yemen's capital unraveled a rebel alliance that has been at war with a Saudi-led coalition, including the UAE.

The Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, have been clashing in the capital, Sanaa, for five consecutive days with supporters of Yemen's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, an ally turned adversary.

The alliance between the Houthis and Saleh had helped the rebels retain control of Sanaa despite nearly three years of coalition airstrikes.

The Houthis accuse Saleh of striking deals with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Since the recent clashes erupted in Sanaa, the Saudi coalition has been targeting the Houthis and backing Saleh's camp.

The Houthi claim Sunday came as the UAE celebrated its 46th National Day with a public sector holiday that began on Thursday with a commemoration of the country's fallen soldiers.

In a statement posted on the UAE's state-run WAM news agency, authorities said: "The National Emergency and Crisis

and Disasters Management Authority denies the claim that the Houthis fired a missile toward the country.

"The UAE possesses an air defense system capable of dealing with any threat of any type or kind," the statement added, saying that the nuclear power plant in Abu Dhabi was well-protected.

The National, a state-aligned newspaper in Abu Dhabi, also reported that the Barakah nuclear power plant's operations were "unaffected on Sunday, while sources on the ground confirmed there were no signs of an attack to the structure." The newspaper did not elaborate.

The \$20 billion Barakah plant, being built with help from South Korea, is near Abu Dhabi's border with Saudi Arabia. The plant lies some 140 miles west of the UAE capital. The first of its four reactors is scheduled to come online in 2018. When fully built, officials hope the nuclear plant will provide up to 25 percent of all energy needs in the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula.

The UAE is a major U.S. ally that hosts some 5,000 American troops and is the U.S. Navy's busiest foreign port of call. The U.S. military declined to comment on the Houthi missile claims other than to acknowledge being aware of them.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teacher's aide charged with kicking student

**RI** MIDDLETOWN — A special education teacher's assistant has been charged with kicking a 16-year-old nonverbal student who was in a wheelchair at a Rhode Island high school.

The Newport Daily News reported that Stephanie LaRocque was arrested Friday on a charge of simple assault.

Police said two teaching assistants told them LaRocque had kicked the boy at Middletown High School. The assistants allege LaRocque lifted her foot and made contact with the back of the chair, pushing the boy, because he had been moving too slowly.

Police said a witness described the incident as more of a "tap" and said the boy didn't seem to be injured.

LaRocque has been placed on administrative leave.

## City thanks French city for misspelled jerseys

**VT** MONTPELIER — Vermont's capital city said merci via Skype on Thursday to a French city it's named after for some misspelled soccer jerseys that were sent its way.

Montpellier, France, ordered jerseys for its professional soccer team and fans but the jerseys came in misspelled, with just one L instead of two. The city in southern France decided to send the jerseys to Montpelier, Vt., which is spelled with one L.

Montpelier Mayor John Hollar thanked Montpellier Mayor Philippe Saurel by Skype from the city's high school gym, where students wore the donated jerseys for the event.

The jerseys will be auctioned off to benefit the athletic department and other charities.

## Cat banned from library has online following

**MN** ST. PAUL — A tabby named Max has been playing a game of cat and mouse with some Minnesota college librarians.

The furtive feline has been sneaking into the Macalester College library in St. Paul when people open the door and has been seen scampering around the bookshelves. The library put up a poster asking patrons, "Please do not let in the cat."

The Star Tribune reported the conundrum has caused a stir on Twitter and Reddit. Max has been grounded by his owner over his naughty behavior.

## Man cooks meal as eatery worker sleeps

**SC** WEST COLUMBIA — When a man found the only worker at an empty South Carolina Waffle House asleep, he took his meal into his own hands.

On Facebook, Alex Bowen chronicled with selfies how he made his own double Texas bacon cheese steak melt at the 24/7 diner about 2 a.m. Thursday.

Bowen said on Facebook he waited 10 minutes, then cooked his meal and "even scraped the grill when I was done." His photos showed him with the sleeping worker, frying bacon and putting the sandwich together.

Bowen even posted a selfie returning to pay for his meal.

## Bill to end immunity over police, prostitutes

**MI** LANSING — Police in Michigan will no longer be legally allowed to have sex with prostitutes during undercover investigations under legislation nearing Gov. Rick Snyder's desk.

The Senate unanimously approved a bill Thursday, and the House passed a related one.

Michigan is believed to be the last state in the U.S. that gives police immunity from prosecution in such circumstances after Hawaii made a change in 2014.

A sponsor of the legislation has said she does not believe officers are actually taking advantage of the law, but it should still come off the books.

## Police: Man accidentally shoots his grandson

**MA** SOUTHBRIDGE — Police in Massachusetts are investigating after a 68-year-old man apparently accidentally shot his grandson in the chest during target practice.

Southbridge police said on Facebook that the grandson, 22, was taken to the hospital after the shooting Wednesday.

Responding officers were told the men were shooting .22-caliber rifles when the younger man apparently stepped in front of his grandfather just as he fired. The younger man was conscious and kept telling police it wasn't his grandfather's fault.

## Men steal dog at gunpoint during walk

**NJ** NEWARK — Police in New Jersey's largest city are looking for the suspects who stole a dog at gunpoint.

Police said a man was walking his Yorkshire Terrier on North 6th Street in Newark on Friday night when he was approached by a vehicle occupied by three men.

Police said two of the men got out, displayed a handgun and went through the man's pockets before taking his dog. Police said that suspects fitting the same description robbed a male

at gunpoint on 3rd Avenue West.

Police are seeking the suspects and the return of the dog, Munchkin.

## Hunter's elk stolen from bed of his truck

**MT** MISSOULA — Ethan Donaldson shot his first bull elk on the last day of big game season, but a head won't be mounted on his wall because it was stolen from the bed of his truck.

The Missoulian reported that the 23-year-old shot the elk on Nov. 26 and left the head in his truck overnight. When he went out the next day to take the head to his father's house, it was gone.

Donaldson reported the theft to a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks warden and to the Missoula Police Department. He said the warden told him there are about 12 ongoing cases such as his.

## Man who impersonated stars for sex acts jailed

**CT** HARTFORD — A Connecticut man who pretended to be pop stars like Justin Bieber and Harry Styles to entice young girls into performing sexual acts during online video chats has been sentenced to 17 years in prison.

Federal prosecutors said John Eastman, 50, of Waterbury, was also sentenced Tuesday to a lifetime of probation.

Prosecutors say Eastman contacted girls through online video chatting services in 2012 using screen names such as justin.bieber727 and Harry. Styles888 and enticed them into sexually explicit conduct, which he then recorded and saved on his computer. Eastman has 31 past convictions, including for sex-related crimes.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news  
updated 24/7 from bases  
around the world.  
Now online at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

STARS AND STRIPES®

# Alabama in College Football Playoff

Associated Press

Alabama is in.

The Crimson Tide got the nod over Ohio State and will play Clemson in the College Football Playoff on Jan. 1 in the Sugar Bowl. Oklahoma and Georgia will meet in the Rose Bowl semifinal a few hours earlier.

Tide or Buckeyes was the question facing the selection committee, the toughest call in the four-year history of the playoff.

The Tide had been more consistent and lost just once. The Buckeyes lost twice, including an embarrassing 31-point beating at unranked Iowa, but have the more impressive set of victories. Ohio State won the Big Ten while Alabama did not even win its Southeastern Conference division.

The committee rolled with the Tide, and for the first time the playoff will include two teams from the same conference. Alabama joins SEC champion Georgia and an all-SEC title game is possible.

Committee chairman Kirby Hocutt said the Iowa loss weighed Ohio State down and the Buckeyes were not close enough to the Tide for the Big Ten championship result — a 27-21 win over previously unbeaten Wisconsin — to matter.

“As we saw Alabama play week in and week in out, the selection committee be-

lieved Alabama was the better football team,” Hocutt told ESPN. “When we looked at Ohio State, when you looked at their resume it was impressive but it wasn’t enough for the selection committee to place them in above Alabama.”

Alabama (11-1) made it 4-for-4 in the playoff, the only team that has made them all. And for the third straight season, college football gets an Alabama-Clemson matchup in the playoff, though this time in the semifinals.

The Tide beat the Tigers in a classic national championship game in Glendale, Arizona, two seasons ago. The teams played another thriller last season and Clemson took the title in Tampa, Florida.

Clemson (12-1) is making its third straight playoff appearance, but first without star quarterback Deshaun Watson. The Tigers won another Atlantic Coast Conference championship with Kelly Bryant as the quarterback.

Georgia (12-1) and Oklahoma (12-1) have never played. The Bulldogs have surged in their second season under coach Kirby Smart. After winning eight games last season, Georgia won the SEC for the first time since 2005.

Oklahoma is in the playoff for the second time and will likely bring the Heisman Tro-

phy winner. Quarterback Baker Mayfield is the favorite to win the award next weekend. If so, Mayfield will be the third player to go from winning the Heisman on to the playoff, joining Oregon’s Marcus Mariota in 2014 and Alabama’s Derrick Henry in 2015.

The Alabama-or-Ohio State debate was the trickiest of the playoff era. Most talented or most accomplished? Neither team neatly matched precedent. Ohio State made it to the playoff without even playing in its conference title game last season, but those Buckeyes had a more convincing resume, with three victories against top-10 teams. Alabama could not match that.

Not only had no team ever made the playoff with two losses, but none had as ugly a stain on its resume as Ohio State’s 31-point loss at Iowa. Tide coach Nick Saban mentioned it Saturday night on ESPN as the selection committee went to work for the last time this season.

That the most controversial playoff pick yet came down to these two teams made it an even juicier plotline. Alabama has dominated college football for a decade since Saban took over. Ohio State is one of the few teams to interrupt the Tide’s championship machine during the Saban era, beating the Tide in the semifinals in 2014 on the way to a national title.

## Roundup

# No. 1 Clemson pounds Miami for ACC title

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kelly Bryant long ago laughed off those worried he couldn’t succeed Clemson’s national championship icon Deshaun Watson this year.

How’s the ACC championship game MVP look now?

Bryant ran for a touchdown, threw for another and passed for 252 yards to help the top-ranked Tigers claim their likely spot atop the College Football Playoff poll with a 38-3 victory over Miami on Saturday.

Bryant, the smiling, lanky, 6-foot-3 junior has shaken off defenders the way he’s pushed aside concerns he would not match Watson’s success. But Bryant’s shown week after week, he’s more than up to the

challenge.

Bryant proved it once more against the Hurricanes. He set a championship game record by completing his first 15 passes — topping the mark held by teammate you know who from two years ago — and putting the Tigers ahead 14-0 on his twisting, 11-yard TD run in the opening quarter.

**No. 2 Oklahoma 41, No. 10 TCU 17:** At Arlington, Texas, Baker Mayfield and Oklahoma never fretted the potential consequences of having to play in the revived Big 12 championship game.

The Sooners just went out and proved how deserving they are of that playoff berth coming their way by dominating TCU again, 41-17 on Saturday in the second top-10 matchup

in four weeks between the Big 12’s top two teams.

**No. 8 Ohio State 27, No. 3 Wisconsin 21:** J.T. Barrett looked just fine Saturday. It just wasn’t enough for college football’s selection committee to decide that the Buckeyes had done enough to earn a playoff bid.

Six days after having surgery on his right knee, Barrett threw two touchdown passes, ran for another and had a crucial fourth-down conversion late in the game to give the Buckeyes a win over previously unbeaten No. 3 Wisconsin in Saturday’s Big Ten championship game.

**No. 6 Georgia 28, No. 4 Auburn 7:** Shaking off a blowout loss to Auburn just three weeks ago, Jake Fromm threw two touchdown passes and No. 6

Georgia made the College Football Playoff with a win over the Tigers in the SEC championship game.

Auburn (10-3) was the hottest team in the country, rolling into Atlanta after wins over Georgia and then-No. 1 Alabama in its last three games. But the Tigers were stymied by two crucial turnovers, a blocked field goal and a Georgia team eager to make up for its embarrassing 40-17 defeat on the Plains.

**Boise State 17, No. 25 Fresno State 14:** Boise State quarterback Brett Rypien threw for 246 yards and engineered a 90-yard scoring drive late in the fourth quarter to help Boise State upend Fresno State to win the Mountain West Conference championship.



## College basketball roundup

# Bragging rights: Xavier beats Cincinnati

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Trevon Bluiett had another big game against Xavier's crosstown rival, one that ended with more hard feelings. The Musketeers' annual grudge match with Cincinnati fit the mold and left the city's college basketball fans with plenty to debate for another year.

Bluiett scored 28 points as the 21st-ranked Musketeers ran away to an 89-76 victory over No. 11 Cincinnati on Saturday, their eighth victory in the last 11 games of the series.

There were three technical fouls and animosity at the end. Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin exchanged words with Xavier senior J.P. Macura and had to be pulled away from the postgame handshake line by an official and an assistant Cincinnati coach.

Xavier coach Chris Mack emotionally defended his player afterward and tried to keep the focus on the Musketeers' impressive win.

"There's no other narrative other than us playing better than Cincinnati and beating Cincinnati," Mack said.

In this one, they were better in all ways.

The Musketeers (7-1) led by 17 midway through the first half by dominating every aspect. They pushed the lead to 23 in the second half. Cincinnati's Jacob Evans III hit four straight shots that cut it to 80-72 with 1:26 to go, but Bluiett hit a pair of free throws that put it away. Evans had a team-high 23 points.

The Bearcats (7-1) hadn't faced a ranked team all season, and they came apart against Xavier's man-to-man defense and patient offense. They haven't won at Xavier since 2001, when Bob Huggins was the coach. They've dropped seven straight at the Cintas Center.

Bluiett had 40 points last season in Cincinnati's home-court win. He put his imprint on the game with an early three-pointer and finished it with free

throws, playing despite a stiff back that had limited him earlier in the week.

"I wanted it bad," Bluiett said. "We had this game on our calendars."

There was a dust-up in the final minute of the first half, when Macura and Cincinnati's Trevor Moore got technical fouls and Cronin got one for yelling something from the bench.

After the postgame handshake, Cronin turned around and went back toward the Xavier bench, yelling. An official and a Cincinnati assistant grabbed him by the elbows and led him away. Cronin said Macura directed an obscenity at him during the game and again afterward.

"If he was playing for me, he wouldn't play," Cronin said. "He wouldn't play for me."

**No. 1 Duke 96, South Dakota 80:** Grayson Allen scored 15 of his 25 points in an 8-minute opening blitz and the host Blue Devils rolled over South Dakota.

Freshman Marvin Bagley III added 19 points and 12 rebounds for Duke (10-0).

**No. 2 Kansas 76, Syracuse 60:** Devonte' Graham matched his career-high with 35 points for the second consecutive game, and Lagerald Vick added 20 for Kansas in the HoopHall Miami Invitational.

Graham shot 10-for-17 from the field and 7-for-13 from three-point range for Kansas (7-0), which is off to its best start in seven years.

Tyus Battle scored 22 points for Syracuse (6-1), which was playing away from the Carrier Dome for the first time this season.

**No. 4 Villanova 94, Saint Joseph's 53:** At Philadelphia, Mikal Bridges scored 18 points, Phil Booth had 17 points and Villanova hit 10 straight three-pointers in a record performance.

Omari Spellman buried a three with 3:06 left to give the Wildcats their school-record

18th three-pointer of the game. Villanova (8-0) sank 19, topping the 17 hit on Nov. 27, 2005 vs. Lehigh.

**No. 7 Kentucky 79, Harvard 70:** Kevin Knox had 20 points and Hamidou Diallo added 19 for the host Wildcats, who went a 13-0 run midway through the second half.

Kentucky (7-1) returned from a six-day break to shoot well for most of the game and lead the Ivy League Crimson throughout. The Wildcats needed that initial accuracy to counter Harvard's 12 three-pointers — including six by sophomore forward Seth Towns (25 points) — that kept the Crimson within reach.

**No. 8 Wichita St. 69, No. 16 Baylor 62:** Conner Frankamp scored 17 points and Wichita State closed the game on a 7-0 run, ending Baylor's 46-game nonconference home winning streak.

The Shockers (6-1) shot 10-for-16 from three-point range, with Frankamp's 5-for-8 from beyond the arc leading the way. It was the senior's three-pointer from the right corner with 2:50 remaining that began Wichita State's decisive run, and the Shockers were 4-for-5 from the free throw line in the final 1:38.

**No. 10 Miami 80, Princeton 52:** DJ Vasiljevic scored 20 points and Bruce Brown Jr. added 17 for the Hurricanes in the HoopHall Miami Invitational.

Lonnie Walker IV had a season-high 12 points for Miami (7-0), which shot 14-for-25 from three-point range.

**SMU 72, No. 14 Southern California 55:** At Dallas, Ben Emelogu had 11 of his 16 points in a big go-ahead run after halftime and SMU got some measure of revenge with a the win over USC.

Shake Milton added 22 points for the Mustangs (7-2), who stretched their home winning streak to 28 in a row.

It was the third meeting in 13 months between the teams. The Trojans (4-2) won both games

last year, including in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last March.

**No. 20 Arizona St. 75, San Francisco 57:** Redshirt freshman Romello White scored 16 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead five players in double figures for host Arizona State.

Tra Holder added 15 points — despite 3-for-10 shooting — and Shannon Evans had 14 for the Sun Devils (7-0), off to their best start to a season since 1980-81, when the team had Lafayette Lever, Byron Scott and Alton Lister and finished 24-4.

**No. 18 Virginia 75, Lehigh 54:** Kyle Guy scored 21 points and host Virginia never trailed.

Isaiah Wilkins added 14 points and Devon Hall had 11 for the Cavaliers (8-0), who led by as many as 23 in the second half.

**No. 23 TCU 92, Yale 66:** Desmond Bane scored 18 points and Jaylen Fisher had 17 points and seven assists as host TCU won its nation-leading 13th straight game.

Kenrich Williams had his fourth straight double-double and fifth of the season with 12 points and 10 rebounds to help TCU start 8-0 for the second straight season.

**Army 83, Marist 75:** At Charleston, S.C., Tommy Funk scored 16 points, Matt Wilson and Tucker Blackwell scored 15 points apiece and the Black Knights captured the Bulldog Bash title at The Citadel.

Blackwell had a career-high 13 by halftime when Army (5-2) made seven of 16 three-pointers and shot 56 percent overall to open a 49-36 lead.

**Air Force 61, Denver 59:** Ryan Manning scored 19 points, Pervis Louder 14 including a game-winning dunk with four seconds left as Air Force squeaked past host Denver.

Denver rushed out to a 27-5 lead to begin the game, but the Falcons (4-3) battled back to trail 38-27 by halftime and kept climbing after the break.

## NBA roundup

## James' 34 lifts Cavs to 11th straight win

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 34 points, including seven in the final 1:22, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Memphis Grizzlies 116-111 on Saturday night for their 11th straight victory.

Memphis has lost 11 in a row, including three since David Fizdale was fired Monday and replaced by interim coach J.B. Bickerstaff.

James, the reigning NBA Player of the Month, also had 12 assists. Kevin Love added 20 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland.

Evans had 31 points and 12 assists for Memphis. Marc Gasol scored 27 and passed

10,000 career points.

**Celtics 116, Suns 111:** Kyrie Irving had a key three-pointer and a driving basket in the closing two minutes, helping host Boston beat Phoenix.

Irving finished with 19 points, leading a balanced attack for Boston. Jaylen Brown and Marcus Morris each scored 17 points, Jayson Tatum had 15 and Al Horford added 14 points and 11 assists.

**76ers 108, Pistons 103:** Joel Embiid had 25 points and 10 rebounds and got the better of Andre Drummond down the stretch in a matchup of trash-talking big men to help Philadelphia beat visiting Detroit.

Embiid drew the fifth and sixth fouls on Drummond and

drew cheers as he waved goodbye to his fouled-out rival with 2:35 left. Drummond had 14 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and five steals.

**Pelicans 123, Trail Blazers 116:** DeMarcus Cousins had 38 points and host New Orleans overcame the absence of Anthony Davis to beat Portland.

Davis, the Pelicans' top scorer with an average of 25.2 points, was ruled out against the Blazers because of a pelvis injury.

**Mavericks 108, Clippers 82:** J.J. Barea had 21 points and 10 assists, and Dallas beat visiting Los Angeles for coach Rick Carlisle's 700th career victory.

Carlisle became the 18th

coach in NBA history with at least 700 wins.

**Bucks 109, Kings 104:** Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points and Milwaukee held off visiting Sacramento.

Antetokounmpo made 17 free throws and had 13 rebounds.

**Nuggets 115, Lakers 100:** Jamal Murray had 28 points, Will Barton scored 13 of his 16 points in the final 7:44, and host Denver scored the game's final 15 points to beat Los Angeles.

**Hawks 114, Nets 102:** At New York, Dennis Schroder scored 24 points and reserve Luke Babbitt had 20, leading short-handed Atlanta past Brooklyn.

## NHL roundup

## Johnson's two goals in 3rd lift Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tyler Johnson broke out a scoring slump just in time to help the struggling Tampa Bay Lightning.

Johnson scored twice in the third period to snap a 15-game drought and the Lightning beat the San Jose Sharks 5-2 Saturday night.

"That's how hockey goes," said Johnson, who entered with four goals. "Sometimes you get the chances and bounces and they don't go your way. Other times, you get those garbage goals that just find a way to go in. Luckily for me I was able to breakthrough."

Nikita Kucherov had two goals and Cory Conacher also scored for the Lightning, who had lost four of six. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 25 saves. Kucherov had one of Tampa Bay's four goals, his 19th, in the third.

Barclay Goodrow and Justin Braun had goals for San Jose, and Jones stopped 38 shots in his return after missing two games with a lower-body injury.

**Canadiens 10, Red Wings 1:** Paul Byron got his first career hat trick, Alex Galchenyuk had a career-best four assists and host Montreal routed slumping Detroit for its fifth straight win.

**Oilers 7, Flames 5:** Patrick Maroon

scored early in the third period to give Edmonton a five-goal lead, and the visiting Oilers held on to beat Calgary.

**Hurricanes 3, Panthers 2 (OT):** Noah Hanifin scored with 2 seconds left in overtime, and host Carolina beat Florida in a brawl-filled contest.

**Capitals 4, Blue Jackets 3:** Alex Ovechkin scored his 218th power-play goal and host Washington continued its dominance of Sergei Bobrovsky in a victory over Metropolitan Division-leading Columbus.

Brett Connolly, Alex Chiasson and Evgeny Kuznetsov also scored for the Capitals, who have won five of seven. Braden Holtby stopped 32 of 35 shots, including 16 in the third period of a matchup between the past two Vezina Trophy-winning goaltenders.

**Wild 2, Blues 1 (OT):** Matt Dumba scored 39 seconds into overtime to give host Minnesota a victory over St. Louis.

**Predators 3, Ducks 2 (SO):** Kevin Fiala and Kyle Turris scored in the shootout to lead host Nashville over Anaheim.

Nashville's Pekka Rinne and Anaheim's Ryan Miller each made 33 saves.

**Stars 3, Blackhawks 2 (SO):** Alexander Radulov and Tyler Seguin scored in the shootout to lift host Dallas over Chicago.

Ben Bishop stopped Blackhawks shots by Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane with his

pads. Bishop made 33 saves.

**Penguins 5, Sabres 1:** Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist apiece, and host Pittsburgh won its season-best fourth straight game.

Phil Kessel kept pace with Crosby for the team lead with his 12th goal. Patric Hornqvist and Carl Hagelin also scored for the Penguins, who are 14-0-1 in their last 15 games against the Sabres.

**Bruins 3, Flyers 0:** Tuukka Rask made 28 saves to help visiting Boston sent Philadelphia to a club record-tying 10th straight loss.

Brad Marchand and David Pastrnak each had a goal and an assist for the Bruins, who have won six of seven.

**Coyotes 5, Devils 0:** Scott Wedgewood stopped 27 shots for his first shutout of the season and second of his career, leading host Arizona over New Jersey.

Derek Stepan had a goal and an assist for Arizona, which snapped a three-game losing streak and won at home in regulation for the first time this season.

**Canucks 2, Maple Leafs 1:** Jacob Markstrom stopped 35 shots to lead host Vancouver over Toronto.

Markus Granlund and Alexander Edler scored for the Canucks, who were coming off a 3-2-1 trip.