

STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, December 7, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Report: DOD can't track 44,000 troops

BY STEPHEN CARLSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has more than 44,000 troops across the globe that the Pentagon claims it cannot track, according to a recent report.

"We are not at a point where we can give numbers other than those officially stated," said Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman.

The report — compiled by the Defense Manpower Data Center under the Office of the Secretary of Defense — shows more than 44,000 personnel in a category labeled "Unknown."

Active-duty military personnel number slightly more than 1.3 million in the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Air Force, and hundreds of thousands more civilian personnel fall under the Defense Department. That number does not include Reserve and National Guard formations that might be active at any particular time.

The U.S. has military personnel in nearly every country in the world, ranging from two

liaison officers in Fiji to tens of thousands from all of the service branches in Japan and Germany, according to the report.

Manning said during a news briefing Wednesday that troop numbers in Syria are about three times higher than reported by the Pentagon, with 2,000 present in the country. He also clarified that there are 5,200 in Iraq, up from about 5,000 reported earlier.

"We seek to balance informing the American public with the imperative of operational security and denying the enemy any advantage," Manning said at the briefing.

The Pentagon's previous number of troops in Syria was 503. Though the additional 1,500 acknowledged Wednesday is small compared with the size of Defense Department manpower — more than 246,000 in California alone, according to the data center — such discrepancies could help explain why 44,000 are unaccounted for.

The data center is charged with accounting for troops and civilian personnel who fall under the DOD. The numbers

are updated quarterly on the center's website, www.DMDC.osd.mil.

"Our commitment is to be as transparent as we can, within the constraints of operation security," Manning said.

The Pentagon acknowledged in a statement that it has no good way to track how many servicemembers are stationed overseas, where they are and when they were there.

"There is no one personnel system in the [Defense Department] that tracks the daily location of all DoD personnel. There is no easy way to track all deployments, training exercises, TDY (being attached to another unit for training or specific missions, typically for less than six months) or temporary assignments," according to the statement. "If you take the total numbers assigned in the United States and assigned overseas, and add the 'Unknown,' you get the total force numbers for each service."

However, another Pentagon spokesman questioned the value of the data center numbers.

"Those numbers are not

meant to represent an accurate accounting of troops currently deployed to any location," said Eric Pahon. "They should not be relied upon for a current picture for what is going on."

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis ordered a review of how personnel are counted in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

"There's a very strange accounting procedure I inherited. ... What I'm probably going to end up doing is outputting everyone into one thing and saying, 'Here's how many are really there now,'" Mattis said in August.

The murkiness of the posted numbers of personnel across the world follows a congressional outcry over a lack of knowledge of how many soldiers are stationed in Niger, where four Special Forces soldiers were killed Oct. 4 in an attack by militants thought to be associated with radical Islamists.

Some members of Congress claimed they had no idea that so many soldiers — about 800, according to Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — were deployed to Niger.

Ex-Vinson commander latest to face 'Fat Leonard' charges

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — A Navy captain who once commanded a destroyer squadron attached to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is the latest to face charges in military court in connection with the long-running "Fat Leonard" scandal.

Capt. John Steinberger appeared briefly for an arraignment over video conference Tuesday from San Diego, where he is assigned to the Undersea Warfighting Development Center. He faces charges including

conspiracy, violation of a lawful order, conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, graft and bribery, according to a charge sheet.

"Fat Leonard" is the nickname for the central figure in the massive corruption scandal that has embroiled the Navy's 7th Fleet. Leonard Francis is the owner and chief executive of Glenn Defense Marine Asia. Francis pleaded guilty in 2015 to presiding over a conspiracy involving "scores" of Navy officials, tens of millions of dollars in fraud and millions of dollars in bribes and

gifts in return for lucrative contracts to provide services to ships in southeast Asia, according to the Justice Department.

According to a charge sheet, Steinberger conspired with Francis from Jan. 22, 2011, through about April 27, 2012, and accepted gifts of "discounted and free hotel rooms, food, beverages, and services of prostitutes" at or near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Manila, Philippines; Hong Kong; and Perth, Australia, in exchange for providing information about competitors and attempting to influence senior officials in the

selection of locations of port visits and the husbanding of Navy vessels to the benefit of the out-sized defense contractor.

Steinberger declined to enter a plea Tuesday. He is the fourth naval officer to appear before a military judge in Norfolk in recent months in connection with the scandal.

A trial is scheduled June 7-15. If convicted on all charges, Steinberger could face a maximum sentence of 14 years and six months confinement, dismissal from the Navy, forfeiture of all pay and allowance, and a fine.

Pentagon picks new head for Navy forces in S. Korea

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon has named a new leader to oversee naval forces on the tension-heavy Korean Peninsula.

Capt. Michael Boyle will take charge of Navy Region Korea, Naval Forces Korea and the naval component of United Nations Command, said a Defense Department statement issued this week. The selection was made by Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson.

Boyle — who was selected for appointment to the rank of rear admiral in October — now serves as director for international engagement for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Before that, he commanded the Japan-based Carrier Air Wing 5, which is the aviation wing of the Navy's 7th Fleet.

The region has seen an uptick in naval activity in recent months as North Korea conducted a string of ballistic-missile tests — including three intercontinental ballistic missiles — and detonated its sixth and most powerful underground nuclear blast.

Last month, the USS Ronald Reagan strike group conducted a rare tri-carrier exercise with the USS Nimitz and USS Theodore Roosevelt strike groups east of the peninsula. In October, U.S. ships took part in a four-day exercise with the South Korean navy.

Problems spur US to shift aircraft in S. Korea exercise

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Bad weather and a temporary runway closure forced the Air Force to move U.S. fighter jets and Warthogs to a South Korean base Thursday during joint war games that have raised tensions with North Korea.

F-16 and A-10 aircraft were being relocated from Osan Air Base to the South Korean base at Gwangju “due to adverse weather conditions,” while the F-35s and F-16s were moved to Gwangju due to a runway problem at Kunsan, the 7th Air Force public affairs office said in an email.

The warplanes are participating in the annual military exercise known as Vigilant Ace, but the Air Force said flying operations weren't disrupted by the move.

The runway at Kunsan was closed temporarily after an F-16C assigned to the 8th Fighter Wing “experienced a ground emergency affecting the integrity of its landing gear” while taxiing, Capt. Chris Mesnard, a spokesman for the fighter wing, said separately.

“As a safety precaution the aircraft was stopped immediately to assess the situation and avoid any damage to the aircraft and runway — resulting in the temporary

closure of our runway. Once the aircraft was removed, normal flying operations resumed,” he said.

Mesnard stressed the incident “in no way impacted our real-world readiness to launch and receive combat aircraft.”

The announcement came after Fox News reported that two B-1B supersonic bombers were supposed to fly over South Korea on Wednesday in a show of force against the North, but only one made the trip after the other reported a maintenance issue while taxiing to the runway.

Pacific Air Forces didn't immediately reply to a request for comment on the report.

In another glitch, an F-22 Raptor had to be towed after landing on the runway at Gwangju, 170 miles south of Seoul, as the drills began on Monday, but the Air Force said an inspection later found no problems with the aircraft.

More than 200 aircraft and 12,000 U.S. personnel, along with South Korean airmen, are participating in the drills, which were scheduled to be held on eight U.S. and South Korean military installations.

Pyongyang has denounced the exercise as it usually does, warning the joint drills are pushing the two sides to the brink of a nuclear war.

N. Korea rips US drills, warns war is inevitable

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea warned that war has become “an established fact” as it lashed out Thursday against U.S. bombing drills and recent tough talk by Trump administration officials.

The hard-line rhetoric came as a former American diplomat representing the United Nations met with North Korea's foreign minister in the highest-level U.N. visit to Pyongyang since 2010.

The twin developments underscore the delicate balance in pursuing a diplomatic resolution to the worst crisis to face the Korean Peninsula in de-

CADES, even as President Donald Trump's administration and the North trade threats of military action.

The Air Force also sent a supersonic bomber to join state-of-the-art fighter jets Wednesday in a show of force during joint war games with South Korea.

The B-1B Lancer, which used to be nuclear-capable but has been converted to carry conventional weapons, took part in a simulated bombing drill, South Korean officials said.

Fox News reported that two bombers were supposed to be flying together during the sortie, as has been the case in the past. But the second reported a maintenance issue while taxiing to the runway for takeoff,

an Air Force officer told Fox on condition of anonymity.

Pacific Air Forces did not immediately reply to a request for comment about the report.

The U.S. also sent F-22 Raptors and F-35s for the first time to join more than 200 other warplanes in the annual exercise known as Vigilant Ace, which ends Friday.

A North Korean Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying the military drills and “bellicose remarks” by U.S. officials “cannot be interpreted in any other way but as a warning to us to be prepared for a war on the Korean Peninsula.”

The reclusive communist state broke more than two months of relative calm last

month when it test-fired its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile into the sea.

It also sent two intermediate-range missiles soaring over Japan and conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test earlier this year, prompting officials to worry it's making faster-than-expected progress toward its goal of developing a nuclear weapon that could reach the U.S. mainland.

National Security adviser H.R. McMaster said during the weekend that the North's pursuit of long-range nuclear capabilities poses the “greatest immediate threat” to the U.S.

Navy officer in rape trial: 'No' meant 'keep going'

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A Navy commander accused of trying to rape a subordinate officer at her San Diego home last year testified Wednesday that she told him if she said "no" to his advances, she meant "keep going."

But when she yelled "stop" and "get off," John Michael Neuhart II said, he understood her literal meaning.

"So there was no 'opposite-world' meaning to those words?" Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Tag asked him.

Neuhart, 40, is on trial in San Diego Superior Court on three counts involving assault with intent to commit rape, as well as burglary on suspicion of forcing his way into the woman's home and resisting arrest afterward. He could spend life in prison if convicted of the most serious charge.

On the witness stand, Neuhart said, "I believed it was all consensual between us. It made sense."

Tag dismissed his statement, calling it "bizarre" that he and the highly intoxicated victim would agree beforehand that if she wanted him to stop their aggressive foreplay, he should ignore her words and continue.

Under questioning from his attorney, Brian White, Neuhart testified that "I did not try to rape [her]. I had no intention of raping [her]."

Prosecutors said that Neuhart, who at the time commanded a helicopter squadron in Guam, came to San Diego

last year for a conference. On Sept. 11, he met for drinks with members of the squadron who were in town for training, and with the woman, a former squadron member who had transferred to Coronado as a helicopter flight instructor.

Neuhart has been relieved of his command while his trial is underway. He is assigned to headquarters section of San Diego-based Navy Region Southwest.

Security video from the downtown Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel, where they were drinking, was shown in court. The woman can be seen staggering, barely standing up at some points, with Neuhart's arm around her as they walk down a hall and use an elevator.

The woman testified earlier in the trial that she became very drunk and ended up taking a ride-share or cab with Neuhart to her Valencia Park home. She said he pulled off her pants and nearly raped her as she repeatedly screamed at him to stop and to leave.

Neuhart testified Tuesday and Wednesday that they discussed having sex at her house before they left the hotel. He said he "waffled" about it because he is married, with five children, and because he was her superior officer.

Tag said the hotel video showed the woman repeatedly pushing Neuhart away, including keeping her arms up between her body and his as they kissed.

Lawyer: Aviano airman didn't intend to kill

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The airman accused of entering a fellow airman's dorm room and repeatedly stabbing her in April was "just interacting with things in his environment" and didn't intend to kill her, his lawyers said Wednesday.

Airman Cameron Owens is accused of attempted murder, assault, breaking and entering and three specifications of conduct "being to the prejudice of good order and discipline." His court-martial opened Wednesday after three days of pretrial motions.

Shortly before 4 a.m. on April 11, Owens entered the victim's bedroom after climbing over a wall to reach the common area of her dorm and stabbed her several times, according to the prosecution and the victim's testimony.

Capt. Andrew Paulson, one of two defense attorneys representing Owens, argued that there was no evidence Owens was angry or meant to kill anyone and that the victim's injuries were not life-threatening. Without offering a possible motive for Owens' actions, he said the government "overreacted, overreached and overcharged this case."

Paulson and Maj. Jacob Ramer, the other defense attor-

ney, also called into dispute the government charges of breaking and entering by arguing that Owens entered unlocked, open doors.

Many of Owens' actions on the outside of the dorms were captured by video cameras, and that's how he was later identified, arrested and charged.

Paulson said he can be seen wandering into several rooms that morning, including one where he took a knife while "just reacting to things in his environment."

Paulson said Owens stabbed the victim only in response to her movement in a dark dorm room.

The victim later testified that she was sleeping and the first thing she remembers was her comforter being "ripped away" followed by a sharp pain in her head. "I never saw the knife, but I felt it."

The victim said she was stabbed "at least eight times" and was slow to defend herself from a rapid series of attacks, eventually raising an arm, then sitting up and moving back farther onto her bed. "It took me a few seconds to understand what was going on."

The attack stopped, she said, after she screamed. The assailant fled out the patio door and back over the wall, and she ran out the front door and to another airman's dorm.

Amid accusations, Sen. Franken says he'll resign

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Minnesota Sen. Al Franken said Thursday he will resign from Congress in coming weeks following a wave of sexual misconduct allegations and a collapse of support from his Democratic colleagues, a swift political fall for a once-rising Democratic star.

"I may be resigning my seat, but I am not giving up my voice," Franken said in the otherwise-hushed Senate chamber.

Franken quit just a day after new allegations brought the number of women al-

leging misconduct by him to at least eight. Wednesday morning, one woman said he forcibly tried to kiss her in 2006, an accusation he vehemently denied. Hours later, another woman said Franken inappropriately squeezed "a handful of flesh" on her waist while posing for a photo with her in 2009.

"I know in my heart that nothing I have done as a senator — nothing — has brought dishonor on this institution," Franken declared Thursday.

"Some of the allegations against me are simply not true," Franken said Thursday. "Others I remember quite differently."

Still, he said he could not both cooperate with an investigation and fully carry out his duties to his constituents.

Franken had gained respect as a serious lawmaker in recent years and even has been mentioned in talk about the 2020 presidential campaign.

His resignation means Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, a fellow Democrat, will name a temporary replacement. The winner of a special election in November would serve through the end of Franken's term in January of 2021. Among the possibilities is Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, a trusted ally.

Palestinians protest Trump's Jerusalem move

BY ILAN BEN ZION

Associated Press

JERUSALEM—Hundreds of Palestinian protesters clashed with Israeli troops across the West Bank on Thursday while demonstrators in Gaza burned posters of President Donald Trump over his widely denounced decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The leader of the Hamas militant group, which runs Gaza, called for a new armed uprising in a widespread show of anger as the demonstrators torched American and Israeli flags.

In the West Bank, crowds of protesters set tires on fire and hurled stones at Israeli troops. In Bethlehem, troops fired water cannons and tear gas to disperse a crowd in clashes that could cloud the upcoming Christmas celebrations in the town of Jesus' birth. In Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian government, protesters set tires on fire, sending a thick plume of black smoke over the city.

Trump's dramatic break on Wednesday with decades of U.S. policy on Jerusalem counters long-standing international assurances to the Palestinians that the fate of the city will be determined in negotiations. The Palestinians seek Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in 1967, as a future capital.

Palestinians shuttered their schools and shops on Thursday to begin three "days of rage" over Trump's decision. Rallies were underway in other West Bank cities, and a demonstration was being held outside the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem's Old City.

"We are here. We believe in our rights," said Rania Hatem, a protester outside the Old City.

Palestinian officials said dozens of protesters were lightly wounded, most from tear gas inhalation. Friday, the Muslim holy day when Palestinians gather for weekly mass prayers, could prove more violent.

In the Gaza Strip, Hamas'

leader Ismail Haniyeh called on Palestinians to launch a new intifada, or uprising, against Israel on Friday.

"The American decision is an aggression on our people and a war on our sanctuaries," Haniyeh said in a speech, urging supporters "to be ready for any orders."

"We want the uprising to last and continue to let Trump and the occupation regret this decision," he said.

The Israeli military said two rockets were fired from Gaza but fell short, landing in Palestinian territory. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Hamas, a group that seeks Israel's destruction, killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings and other attacks in the early 2000s. But the group's capabilities are more limited now. Gaza, Hamas' stronghold, is closed by an Israeli blockade, while in the West Bank, many of its members have been arrested. Nonetheless, it possesses a large arsenal of rockets in

Gaza capable of striking much of Israel.

The Israeli military said it would deploy several battalions to the West Bank ahead of Friday, while other troops have been put on alert to address "possible developments."

The conflicting claims to Jerusalem, and especially its Old City, where sensitive Jewish, Muslim and Christian holy sites are located, lie at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While Trump's decision had no impact on the city's daily life, it carried deep symbolic meaning and was seen as an attempt to impose a solution on the Palestinians.

Israel, which claims all of Jerusalem as its undivided capital, has welcomed Trump's decision. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Trump "bound himself forever" to the history of Jerusalem with the move and claimed other states are considering following suit.

House GOP confident vote will avert shutdown

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top Republicans left no doubt that the House would approve legislation Thursday preventing a weekend partial government shutdown, erasing any suspense over an impending budget clash that would put a calamitous exclamation point at the end of the capital's tumultuous year.

"I feel good where we are," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told reporters hours before his chamber planned to vote on legislation keeping federal agencies afloat through Dec. 22. Their money runs out at midnight Friday without approval of fresh funding, and Senate approval was also expected.

The leader of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, whose members had been threatening to withhold needed

support, also made clear that the bill would be approved.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., told him Republicans had the votes needed to approve the short-term spending measure. Freedom Caucus members will likely give leaders whatever support they need to pass the legislation, Meadows said.

Meadows said they'll help it pass to avoid distractions from the GOP drive to push their treasured \$1.5 trillion tax bill through Congress this month.

But hours before Trump was to bargain with congressional leaders at the White House over longer-term spending decisions, Meadows said the conservatives would oppose any agreement they feel allows excessive federal spending.

Tillerson: Ukraine a sticking point in ties between US, Russia

Associated Press

VIENNA — Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Thursday that Ukraine was the sole sticking point keeping the United States and Russia from forging a closer relationship.

President Donald Trump campaigned on the need to improve ties with Russia, Tillerson said, adding that "normalizing" relations between the nuclear powers was something the U.S. "badly would like to do." He said that from the start, the Trump administration had told Moscow that addressing Ukraine was essential to warmer ties.

"We can have differences in other arenas, in Syria; we can have differences in other areas," Tillerson said. "But when one country invades another, that is a difference that is hard to look past or to reconcile."

The assessment from America's top diplomat notably played down other areas of dispute,

particularly Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election. U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA and FBI, have concluded the Kremlin interfered in the election in an effort to help Trump.

Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on that finding, and a special counsel is investigating if members of the Trump campaign colluded with the Russian effort. He has said he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin's denials that the Moscow meddled.

But Tillerson hasn't shied away from accusing the Kremlin of election interference. One of the Trump team's toughest voices on Russia, he said in a speech last week there was "clear evidence of Russia meddling in democratic elections in the U.S. and Europe" and he called it part an "active threat of a recently resurgent Russia."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Town's elf on a shelf has been returned

NH DEERFIELD — A New Hampshire town is happy to report that its beloved elf on a shelf has been returned, more than a day after he vanished.

The Deerfield Rescue Squad posted on Facebook on Wednesday morning that Zippy the elf is a little wet but safe. It featured photos of him carried by a police officer and parked in a car.

The rescue said "Our Holiday Magic is back."

Deerfield Rescue Squad EMS captain Cindy McHugh said a town resident was getting ready for work when he saw that Zippy was on his doorstep. He called police.

McHugh said the town isn't interested in pursuing the matter further, and just wants Zippy back for the children.

Washington's bejeweled medal on display

PA PHILADELPHIA — A jewel-encrusted medal owned and worn by George Washington is going on display in Philadelphia for the first time since it was presented to Washington in the city 233 years ago.

The Diamond Eagle is the badge of office of the president general of the Society of the Cincinnati. The organization was founded by officers of the Continental Army at the end of the Revolutionary War to preserve the revolution's memory.

The Eagle was presented to Washington by officers of the French Navy and designed by military engineer Pierre L'Enfant. It was fashioned in gold and silver and embedded with nearly 200 diamonds, emeralds and rubies.

It will be on view at the Museum of the American Revolution

Sandwich shop to add ax throwing, beer

WV CHARLESTON — A sandwich shop in West Virginia's capital plans to expand next week to add craft beer and ax throwing.

Chadrick Harper, owner of the Lucky Dill Deli, told WSAZ-TV the addition will be called "Axes and Ales."

It's scheduled to start Thursday with five ax-throwing courts open Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

You have to be 21 to play and get safety training.

It costs \$40 to reserve one court, separated from others by Plexiglas dividers, for one hour.

10 manatees rescued and taken to Florida

SC CHARLESTON — Wildlife officials have moved 10 manatees found near a warm-water discharge pipe in a South Carolina coastal river back to their more traditional winter home in Florida.

SeaWorld officials said veterinarians checked each one of the manatees captured last week near the Kapstone Paper and Packaging mill on the Cooper River.

Officials told media outlets that nine of the manatees were released in Brevard County, Fla., while one manatee was kept at a zoo after showing signs of stress from the cold.

Manatees are migrating to Florida as the ocean water cools, but sometimes the animals will stay in a warm pool of water and get trapped.

State mulling a ban on flying drone while drunk

NJ TRENTON — New Jersey lawmakers are moving ahead with legislation

that would make it illegal to operate a drone while drunk.

The legislation cleared an Assembly committee Monday and was up for a vote in the full Senate on Thursday.

The National Conference on State Legislatures said at least 38 states are considering drone legislation this year, going beyond the Federal Aviation Administration's regulations.

The bill specifically would make operating a drone under the influence of alcohol a disorderly persons offense, which carries a sentence of up to six months in prison, a \$1,000 fine or both. It also would make using a drone to hunt wildlife and endanger people or property a similar offense.

Delta flight makes emergency bathroom stop

MT BILLINGS — A Delta flight from New York City to Seattle had to make an unplanned stop in Billings after the plane's toilets filled up and passengers couldn't hold it any longer.

The Billings Gazette reported that the direct flight diverted hundreds of miles south last weekend to make the emergency bathroom stop.

Delta said ground crews rolled a stairway to the airplane so passengers could "disembark to find relief of built-up pressures."

Suspect falls through ceiling in front of officer

PA SCRANTON — A Pennsylvania man hiding from police in the crawl space of his girlfriend's home was taken into custody after he fell through the ceiling in front of an officer.

Police were searching the Scranton home for Justin Thompson, 29, who was want-

ed on charges of assault and harassment.

The (Scranton) Times-Tribune reported that officers found Thompson in the crawl space and tried to grab him. He was able to get away, but then plunged into the kitchen, where an officer was waiting.

Woman drives with sign sticking out of her car

NJ SOUTH HACKENSACK — Police in New Jersey said a woman was drunk when she continued driving with a mass transit sign sticking out of the roof of her car.

The 52-year-old was pulled over Saturday on Route 46 in South Hackensack.

Police said the woman didn't know the sign was there.

The woman was charged with driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

Man accused of illegally catching tuna, dumping it

MA GLOUCESTER — A Massachusetts man has been accused of catching a tuna out of season and then dumping its headless 400-pound carcass in the woods.

The Gloucester Daily Times reported that Harold Wentworth, 40, pleaded not guilty to state charges including improper disposal of waste and expelling trash or litter from a motor vehicle.

Federal fisheries regulators said they also served him with an enforcement action for allegedly illegally harvesting tuna out of season.

Authorities said they have video of Wentworth landing the tuna 15 days after the close of the initial fall season.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Service academies tough sell to recruits

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw likely won't forget the moment he was offered a chance to play football at West Point.

It was during Bradshaw's junior year in high school on Chicago's South Side when Army assistant coach Tucker Vaughn stopped by.

"My head coach took me out of the classroom and introduced me to coach Vaughn," Bradshaw recalled. "I said, 'Thank you, sir (for the offer).' Then I kind of whispered to my coach, 'What's West Point?' That was the first time I heard of it."

In this day and age, that's the norm.

Army coach Jeff Monken said most of his players had never heard of West Point when he first recruited them.

"We have a few on our team where this is where they always wanted to go, but very few. I would say it's likely the same at (Navy)," he said.

Welcome to the world of recruiting for football at a service

academy, where coaches are tasked with asking prospective players for a commitment like no other — ceding the freedom that teenagers relish, playing for four years at an unfamiliar school then serving a stint in the armed forces, pretty much relinquishing any dreams of playing professionally.

"This is a great place if you can break through the military piece because that's where they get hung up," said Monken, who also was an assistant at Navy under Paul Johnson. "I'm not a military guy. I don't know if the military's for me, and that's always going to be a challenge."

"Ultimately, it's what keeps us from being able to sign a lot of the guys that we go after, and that's the same at Navy as well."

Monken, in his fourth season at Army, thinks the three service academies face the most difficult recruiting challenges in America, in part because they recruit nationally (Army has players from 29 states on its 2017 roster, Navy has players from 32 states and Air

Force 21).

Global politics certainly add a dimension not seen at other schools.

"Moms and dads are nervous about their sons coming to the Army and going into ground combat, and I understand that and respect that," said West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen Jr., who played center for the Black Knights in the 1970s. "I had a son who went to Iraq and it was really hard for my wife. She started crying, so I do understand."

Vaughn and a dozen other coaches divide the country into 13 sections and the initial number of prospects can reach as many as 8,000. Not surprisingly, Army chases a lot of the same players as Navy and Air Force.

"They're fighting for the same things that I'm fighting for. We've all lost players to each other over the years," Vaughn said.

Army football is steeped in tradition. It was the AP national champion in 1944 and 1945 and boasts three Heisman Trophy winners — Doc Blanchard

in 1945, Glenn Davis in 1946 and Pete Dawkins in 1958. All played during the academy's heyday under Hall of Fame coach Earl "Red" Blaik, who retired after his 1958 squad finished 8-0-1.

The Black Knights remained a winner until the Vietnam War era, but success has been fleeting since.

Caslen, who played on the 1973 Army team that finished 0-10, was recruited by both Army and Navy and says he got an earful of the same advice at his high school in northern Vermont.

"All of my teachers did not go to Vietnam — they found a way not to go — and every single one of them was trying to talk me into going to Navy," Caslen said. "They said, 'Don't go to West Point. You're going to go in the Army and be a baby killer. Go to Navy where you'll be safer on a boat.' That's what they said. I'm sure that's what some of these kids who are also being recruited to Navy and Air Force are being told as well, but that's OK."

Manning moves back into role as Giants' starting QB

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning is back as the New York Giants' starting quarterback.

A week after being benched by former coach Ben McAdoo, Manning was put back into the starting lineup for Sunday's game against the Dallas Cowboys by interim coach Steve Spagnuolo.

"My gut right now says Eli should be the starter," Spagnuolo said in explaining the move after practice Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Manning was told of the decision on Tuesday. He had walked into Spagnuolo's office on Monday after McAdoo was fired and told the former defensive coordinator that he wanted to start again.

"It's important to play, that's what I love to do," Manning said after practice. "I love to play quarterback and I love to play quarterback for the New York Giants. So that's what I will work on."

Manning had started 210 consecutive games over the past 13-plus seasons until being replaced by Geno Smith against Oakland last week. The streak was the second-longest in NFL history, only surpassed by Brett Favre (297).

The first hint of the change back to Manning came early in practice when he took the first snap with the offense.

Of course, some of the offensive linemen appeared to tease him as he entered the huddle.

"We reintroduced ourselves to him, especially me," said tackle Justin Pugh. "I have been out for a little while (three

weeks) and I wanted to let him know who I was, even though we shared the scout team huddle last week. It was good to see 10 in there. He has been my quarterback ever since I have been in the league."

The benching of Manning last week upset the quarterback and angered Giants fans. Combined with the team's 2-10 record and other problems, it led co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch to fire McAdoo and general manager Jerry Reese on Monday.

"I think you all know how I feel about Eli," Spagnuolo said. "What happened, happened. In the long run, hopefully it's a really good thing. He walked in my office, and as a coach you want every player to walk into your office with the intent and determination he had."

When McAdoo benched Man-

ning, he said the team needed to evaluate Smith and rookie Davis Webb in the final month of the season so it could head into the offseason with a clearer plan about the quarterbacks.

Spagnuolo was not sure whether the evaluation would be done, adding his goal is to win games. He said that Manning gives the Giants the best chance to do that.

Spagnuolo had a long meeting with Smith and understood his disappointment at losing the starting job through no fault of his own. Spagnuolo added he was impressed with Smith's professionalism in handling the situation.

"I am just going to continue to be the same guy, continue to support my guys, my teammates," said Smith. "I am going to continue to be prepared. You never know what will happen."

Yankees' skipper out to prove himself

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Boone was pulling into the driveway of his home in Scottsdale, Ariz., last Thursday, bringing 8-year-old daughter Bella home from school so his wife could drive her to a dance lesson, and he noticed a missed call from Brian Cashman.

Boone called back the New York Yankees general manager as his wife looked on and said Cashman told him: "Hey, just first and foremost, I want to make sure you're completely on board and understanding the commitment level that is now expected of you."

"If that's the case," Boone recalled Cashman saying, "I'm going to recommend to ownership that you're the guy we move forward and focus on."

And with that, at age 44 Boone had secured his first manager or coaching job of any kind since his retirement as a player eight years ago.

Boone was introduced Wednesday as New York's manager during a news conference at Yankee Stadium, where television throughout the ballpark

showed images of him rounding the bases in triumph after his 11th-inning home run off Boston's Tim Wakefield won Game 7 of the 2003 AL Championship Series for New York.

"It's certainly something that I'm known for in my baseball life, obviously, and in some way probably is a contributor to me being here today," he said.

Among six candidates for the job, Boone so impressed Cashman and his staff that no second round of interviews was needed.

"The interview process is to try to determine how Aaron ticks and if he an extension of our philosophies or pretty close to an extension of our philosophies and what kind of decision-making process he would gravitate to," Cashman said. "That doesn't mean there won't be some growing pains on the beginning end, and we're OK with that."

Cashman recommended Boone after consulting with a smorgasbord of his modern-day front office: assistant GMs Jean Afterman and Mike Fishman, vice president of baseball op-

erations Tim Naehring, senior director of player development Kevin Reese, assistant director of professional scouting Dan Giese, director of quantitative analysis David Grabner, director of mental conditioning Chad Bohling, head athletic trainer Steve Donohue and vice president of communications Jason Zillo.

"There was a difference of opinion among the participants as to who their number two- or three-choice was, but there was little-to-no difference of opinion as to who their number-one choice was," Steinbrenner said. "It wasn't even close."

Cashman thought back to when he was assistant GM and owner George Steinbrenner promoted him to succeed Bob Watson as GM.

"He took a chance on me back in 1998, and here I am 20 years later," Cashman said.

Hal Steinbrenner, son of The Boss, spoke briefly with Boone outside Donohue's office when Boone interviewed on Nov. 17. Steinbrenner originally had said he and his siblings would meet with candidates who

reached a second round.

"When I get that kind of recommendation from my top people, I just didn't see the need," he said.

Boone had worked for ESPN since retiring as a player. He acknowledged one of his first tasks will be to convince his players he can do the job.

"I think in short order I'll be able to earn that respect, that they'll be able to look at me, trust in me, know that I have their interest at heart, but know that hopefully I know what the heck I'm talking about," he said. "That's something that you have to earn over the initial days in spring training, in the season."

The Boones are the first family to produce three generations of major leaguers. Grandfather, Ray, was a two-time All-Star infielder from 1948-60. His father, Bob, was a four-time All-Star catcher from 1972-90, then managed Kansas City from 1995-97 and Cincinnati from 2001-03. His brother, Bret, was a three-time All-Star second baseman in a big league career from 1992-05.

NBA roundup

James' three-pointer helps Cavs win 13th in a row

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James drained a three-pointer with 15 seconds left and finished with 32 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers tied a franchise record with their 13th straight win, 101-95 over the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.

James, who changed his sneakers three times, also had 11 rebounds and nine assists, helping the Cavs rally from a 14-point deficit in the third quarter to remain unbeaten since Nov. 11. His decisive three-pointer in the final minute was in the face of JaKarr Sampson, who had jawed with

James earlier.

Cleveland also won 13 straight in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons. The Cavs will try for the team record Friday at Indiana.

Warriors 101, Hornets 87: Kevin Durant had 35 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and visiting Golden State beat Charlotte without Stephen Curry and Draymond Green.

It was Durant's first triple-double of the season and his second since joining the Warriors before last season.

Pelicans 123, Nuggets 114: DeMarcus Cousins had 40 points, 22 rebounds and four blocks, and host New Orleans won for the second time in

three games without Anthony Davis.

Celtics 97, Mavericks 90: Kyrie Irving scored 23 points and Jayson Tatum had 17 points and 10 rebounds, helping the short-handed host Boston to its fourth straight victory.

Timberwolves 113, Clippers 107: Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points and 12 rebounds, powering Minnesota to the road win.

Nicks 99, Grizzlies 88: Courtney Lee scored 24 points and Kristaps Porzingis had 18 after a slow start in his return to the lineup, leading host New York to the win.

Bucks 104, Pistons 100: Giannis Antetokounmpo had

25 points and nine rebounds, and host Milwaukee won for the fourth time in five games.

Spurs 117, Heat 105: LaMarcus Aldridge scored 18 points, leading host San Antonio to its sixth win in seven games.

Pacers 98, Bulls 96: At Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo scored 27 points, including a clutch three-pointer with 31.1 seconds left that lifted Indiana to the comeback victory.

Magic 110, Hawks 106 (OT): Evan Fournier scored 27 points before departing with a right ankle injury, and host Orlando rallied for the overtime win.

College basketball roundup

Washington knocks off No. 2 Kansas

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — First-year Washington coach Mike Hopkins saw how Kansas dissected Syracuse's vaunted 2-3 zone defense last week, so he made a couple tweaks to his own version before facing the Jayhawks on Wednesday night.

Primarily, Hopkins stretched the zone to take away the three-pointer.

It worked to perfection.

The Huskies frustrated the Jayhawks' dangerous lineup of deep threats, Matisse Thybulle hit five-pointers and scored 19 points, and Washington kept its poise down the stretch for a 74-65 victory that knocked No. 2 Kansas from the ranks of the unbeaten.

"We've been very fortunate this year to play a lot of teams that shoot 30 and 35 three-pointers. It's really the kryptonite of the zone," said Hopkins, who spent 22 years on Jim Boheim's staff at Syracuse, a

tenure that came in handy considering the Jayhawks just beat the Orange.

"I felt like this could be our best opportunity to win the game," Hopkins said.

Jaylen Nowell also had 15 points, and Noah Dickerson added 13 points and 14 rebounds, as the Huskies (7-2) beat the Jayhawks (7-1) for the first time since December 1974.

"We really just didn't have it tonight. You have to give them credit," the Jayhawks' Devonte Graham said. "They made every shot and they did a good job of not letting us get comfortable."

Lagerald Vick had a career-high 28 points for Kansas, doing almost all his damage in the middle of the Huskies' zone. But he didn't get a whole lot of help as the Jayhawks went 5-for-20 from behind the three-point arc, lowlighted by lousy performances from their two

best sharpshooters.

Graham, coming off back-to-back 35-point outbursts, was held to three points on 1-for-8 shooting, while Svi Mykhailiuk was 3-for-12 from the field and scored eight points before fouling out.

"They took everybody away but Lagerald — 'See if you can beat us,'" Kansas coach Bill Self said. "I thought our defense was horrendous and our hustle plays weren't very good either."

"You could see this coming," Self said. "When we're energized and moving the ball and everybody is playing with energy, I think we're a nice team. But when we're not, we get average real quick."

Loyola-Chicago 65, No. 5 Florida 59: Aundre Jackson scored 23 points, Cameron Krutwig added 14 and Loyola-Chicago handed host Florida its third consecutive loss.

The Gators (5-3) shot 36.9

percent from the field, missed 17 of 19 three-point attempts and finished with seven assists.

The Ramblers (9-1) were much more efficient, shooting 52 percent from the field and making half their 12 shots from behind the arc.

No. 11 North Carolina 104, Western Carolina 61: Luke Maye had 12 points and 12 rebounds and host North Carolina hit a season-high 16 three-pointers.

The Tar Heels (9-1) shot 57 percent and made 16 of 22 three-point attempts for the game, coming one shy of matching the program record for made threes in a game.

No. 13 Xavier 96, Kent State 70: Trevon Bluiett scored 26 points — the seventh time he's had 20 this season — and Xavier took control with an 18-point run.

The host Musketeers (8-1) never trailed against Kent State (5-4).

NHL roundup

Wilson scores pair of goals, leads Caps by Blackhawks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tom Wilson had two goals and two assists and Alex Ovechkin had a goal and three assists in the Washington Capitals' 6-2 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Wednesday night.

Nicklas Backstrom ended a 21-game stretch without a goal and added two assists, and Washington's top-line trio each scored a goal in the first period when the Capitals opened a 3-0 lead. Backstrom hadn't scored since Oct. 14 in Philadelphia.

Braden Holtby made 37 saves for Washington to help the Capitals win for the sixth time in seven games. Brett Connolly scored in his third straight game, and Evgeny Kuznetsov added a goal. Wilson had his

first four-point game, and Ovechkin also extended his goals streak to three games.

Lance Bouma and Jonathan Toews scored for Chicago. The Blackhawks are 0-3-2 in their last five.

Anton Forsberg, starting in place of the injured Corey Crawford, was pulled after Ovechkin's goal made it 3-0 with 4:38 left in the first. J.F. Berube finished in goal for Chicago.

Ducks 3, Senators 0: Adam Henrique scored his first two goals for his new team in his home debut, and Ryan Miller made 29 saves for his first shutout for Anaheim in a victory over slumping Ottawa.

Ondrej Kase also scored, and Henrique added an empty-net-

ter to his second-period opening goal as the Ducks snapped a three-game losing streak.

Miller, the 37-year-old veteran signed by Anaheim last summer, posted his 40th career shutout.

Craig Anderson stopped 19 shots in the Senators' ninth loss in 10 games. Ottawa's scoreless streak reached 138 minutes, 22 seconds.

Maple Leafs 2, Flames 1 (SO): Frederik Andersen made 47 saves in regulation and overtime and stopped three more shots in a shootout in host Toronto's victory over Calgary.

William Nylander scored the winner in the fourth round of the shootout, deking to the backhand to beat Mike Smith. Morgan Rielly scored in regu-

lation for the Maple Leafs. Toronto improved to 18-10-1 and moved into second place in the Eastern Conference, three points behind Tampa Bay.

Mark Giordano scored for Calgary, and Smith stopped 28 shots. The Flames have dropped three in a row.

Flyers 4, Oilers 2: Wayne Simmonds had a goal and an assist and visiting Philadelphia beat Edmonton for its second straight victory after losing 10 in a row.

Jordan Weal, Dale Weise and Michael Raffl also scored, Claude Giroux added two assists, and Brian Elliott made 24 saves.

Leon Draisaitl and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored for Edmonton.