

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, December 11, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## DOD: Trans people may enlist as of Jan. 1

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is allowing transgender people to enlist in the military beginning Jan. 1, despite President Donald Trump's opposition.

The new policy reflects growing legal pressure on the issue, and the difficult hurdles the federal government would have to cross to enforce Trump's demand to ban transgender people from the military. Two federal courts already have ruled against the ban. Potential transgender recruits will have to satisfy a lengthy and strict set of physical, medical and mental requirements that make it possible, though difficult, for them to join the armed services.

Maj. David Eastburn, a Pentagon spokes-

man, said the enlistment of transgender recruits will start Jan. 1 and will go on amid the legal battles. The Defense Department also is studying the issue.

Eastburn told The Associated Press on Monday that the new guidelines mean the Pentagon can disqualify potential recruits with gender dysphoria, a history of medical treatments associated with gender transition and those who underwent reconstruction. But such recruits are allowed in if a medical provider certifies they've been clinically stable in the preferred sex for 18 months and are free of significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas.

Transgender individuals receiving hor-

mone therapy also must be stable on their medications for 18 months.

The requirements make it challenging for a transgender recruit to pass. But they mirror concerns President Barack Obama's administration laid out when the Pentagon initially lifted its ban on transgender servicemembers last year.

The Pentagon has similar restrictions for recruits with a variety of medical or mental conditions, such as bipolar disorder.

"Due to the complexity of this new medical standard, trained medical officers will perform a medical prescreen of transgender applicants for military service who otherwise meet all applicable applicant standards," Eastburn said.

## US, Afghan troops to target ISIS in northwest

BY CHAD GARLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. and Afghan special operations forces are preparing an offensive against Islamic State enclaves in northwestern Afghanistan, where the group has gained a foothold despite an intensive allied effort to destroy it.

Since early last year, when the U.S. State Department designated the regional ISIS branch a terrorist organization, U.S. troops have aided Afghan forces battling the Islamic State-Khorasan Province, or ISIS-K, mainly in eastern Afghanistan, where it sprouted in 2015.

Operations against a budding ISIS-K group in the northwest could begin as soon as this week, said Gen. Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry.

"These operations are to chase the enemy — the terrorists who oppose the Afghan people and the Afghan National Defense Security Forces," he said.

The campaign comes as reports indicate ISIS veterans could be filtering into northern Afghanistan from Iraq and Syria as the group's grasp on that region slips.

U.S. officials have maintained that battle-hardened ISIS fighters haven't made their way into Afghanistan, but a report on Sunday by the Agence France-Presse news

agency cast doubt on whether that's still the case.

Citing local officials, AFP reported that an unknown number of Algerian and French nationals, along with Chechens and Uzbeks, entered ISIS-held territory in Afghanistan's northwestern Jowzjan province last month. At least three of them are believed to have fought in Iraq and Syria.

The military has "nothing substantial to corroborate those reports," military spokesman Lt. Col. Kone Faulkner said Sunday.

Even before the latest report, U.S. troops and their Afghan counterparts were expected to launch efforts to destroy ISIS-K "where they have appeared in Jowzjan and Faryab" provinces, Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, told Pentagon reporters in late November. He said then it was a matter of days.

At the time, U.S. Special Tactics airmen and Afghan air force officials were surveying airfields in Faryab province to accommodate special operations and conventional aircraft, according to a military news release in November.

"Our work is critical to extending the access and reach to fight our adversaries in their safe havens," one unnamed Special Tactics airman said in the news release.

Since early 2016, more than a dozen ISIS leaders and thousands of its fighters have

been killed. This year, officials vowed to totally eradicate the group, which has carried out several devastating attacks in the Afghan capital.

"We're committed to their destruction wherever they appear across the country," Nicholson said.

Much of that fight so far has been in eastern Nangarhar province, where more than one-third of the 21 U.S. combat deaths in the country since January 2016 have occurred.

Since March, the U.S. has conducted more than 1,400 ground operations and strikes against ISIS-K, killing more than 1,600 fighters and destroying more than 600 of the group's structures and fighting positions, Nicholson said.

One of the highest-profile strikes came in April, when an Air Force MC-130 dropped a Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, known as "the mother of all bombs," on a cave network in Nangarhar province. Officials said it killed nearly 100 ISIS-K fighters.

The constant military pressure has kept ISIS-K from establishing a caliphate in the country, officials said. The group is composed mainly of militants from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. They swapped allegiances, enticed partly by the prospect of better pay supported by funding from the main ISIS group in the Middle East, officials have said.

# Report: Arms sales rise amid N. Korean threat, F-35 demand

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The growing threat from North Korea and demand for advanced fighter jets helped spur the first increase in global arms sales in six years, a leading research institute said Monday.

Sales of weapons and military services by the world's largest defense contractors totaled \$374.8 billion in 2016, a 1.9 percent increase from the previous year, according to the most recent international arms industry data from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

It was the first year of growth by the top 100 arms-producing and military services companies since 2010, when the figure was \$432 billion, SIPRI said.

U.S. companies on the list increased their share of arms sales to 57.9 percent, with a combined total of \$217.2 billion in 2016, boosted by military operations overseas and the acquisition of large weapon systems by other countries, according to the report.

That growth was led by the world's biggest arms producer, Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed Martin Corp., which saw its sales climb 10.7 percent.

"With the acquisition of helicopter producer Sikorsky in late 2015 and higher delivery volumes

of the F-35 combat aircraft, Lockheed Martin reported significant growth in its arms sales in 2016," said Aude Fleurant, director of SIPRI's Arms and Military Expenditure Program.

South Korea, meanwhile, took a step toward its goal of becoming a major arms exporter, dominating arms sales by emerging producers that also include Brazil, India and Turkey.

South Korean companies, which occupied eight spots in the top 100, saw a 20.6 percent overall increase in arms sales and total sales amounting to \$8.4 billion, SIPRI said.

President Moon Jae-in has stressed the urgency in improving South Korea's ability to defend against the North, which has test-fired three intercontinental ballistic missiles and conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test this year.

"We must realize superiority over North Korea based on overwhelming power to ensure our own peace and security," he said Friday.

SIPRI said Japan's largest arms companies — including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. — experienced sharp falls last year.

The database, which is based on sales of military goods and services to military customers, doesn't include Chinese companies that are large enough to rank among the top 100 but lack accurate, comparable data.

## Putin plans drawdown of forces from Syria

*Associated Press*

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin declared victory against "terrorists" in Syria on Monday during a surprise visit to a Russian military base in the country, where he also announced a partial pull-out of Russian troops.

It was Putin's first trip to Syria, where Russia launched an air campaign in 2015 that allowed President Bashar Assad's forces to gain the upper hand against Islamic State as well as Syrian rebels. It was also the first visit by a foreign head of state to war-ravaged Syria since the civil war began in 2011.

Putin's brief stop at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's coastal province of Latakia while en route to Egypt came days after the Russian president said he would run for reelection on March 18.

In a televised speech to the Russian troops at the base, Putin hailed their "excellent" performance in Syria, where the Russian military declared victory against ISIS last week.

Russia launched its air campaign in Syria at the end of September 2015, when Assad's government was teetering on the brink of collapse and quickly changed the course of the conflict. Russian officials say the troops were sent to Syria mainly to fight "terrorists," including ISIS and al-Qaida, but they also battled mainstream rebels opposed to the Assad family's four-decade rule.

Putin said that he had ordered the military to withdraw a "significant part" of the Russian contingent in Syria.

He added, however, that the Russian military will maintain its presence at Hemeimeem and a naval facility in Tartus.

## Envoy: US looks to offset Iran's clout in Iraq

*Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — As Iraq emerges from three years of war with Islamic State, the U.S. is looking to roll back the influence of neighboring Iran and help the central government resolve its dispute with the Kurdish region, the American envoy to the country told The Associated Press.

U.S. Ambassador Douglas Silliman took up his post in Baghdad in September 2016, just weeks before the start of the operation to retake the northern city of Mosul. With ISIS now driven out of all the territory it once held and Iraq's declaration that the war against the extremists is over, he said Washington is focused on keeping the peace and rebuilding, and sees Iran's influence as a problem.

"Iran simply does not respect the sovereignty of its neighbors," Silliman said. "The Iranians have — to some extent — assisted the government of Iraq in defeating ISIS," he said. "But, frankly, I have not seen the Iranians donating money for humanitarian assistance; I have not seen them contributing to the U.N. stabilization program."

Iran gained major influence in Iraq after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led dictatorship and empowered the country's Shiite majority.

When ISIS swept across northern and central Iraq in the summer of 2014, Iran-backed militias mobilized in the country's defense, providing a bulwark in many areas while the beleaguered armed

forces were rebuilt. The now state-sanctioned paramilitaries, known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, consist of tens of thousands of mostly Shiite fighters deployed across the country.

Iraq is meanwhile seeking external support for reconstruction after the war, which the government says caused an estimated \$100 billion in damage.

The U.S. is also hoping to help calm tensions between the central government and the northern Kurdish region following a September independence referendum that was rejected by Baghdad. Federal forces clashed with Kurdish fighters in October as Baghdad retook disputed territories that the Kurds had seized from ISIS.



# 3 hurt in explosion near Times Square

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A crude pipe bomb strapped to a man inspired by Islamic State went off Monday in a crowded subway corridor near Times Square, injuring the man, slightly wounding three others and snarling the rush-hour commute for hundreds of thousands of New York workers.

Surveillance cameras captured the man walking casually through the crowded passageway when the bomb suddenly went off at 7:20 a.m. amid a plume of white smoke, which cleared to show the man sprawled on the ground and commuters fleeing in terror. Investigators said it was not clear if the bomb was set off intentionally or went off prematurely.

“This was an attempted terrorist attack,” Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters. “Thank God the perpetrator did not achieve his ul-

time goals.”

The suspect, who was identified as Akayed Ullah, 27, was being treated at a hospital for burns to his hands and abdomen. The others who were injured suffered ringing in the ears and headaches.

Law enforcement officials said Ullah was inspired by ISIS but apparently had not had any direct contact with the group. The officials said he lives in Brooklyn and came to the U.S. from Bangladesh about seven years ago. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the blast.

The explosion, which happened in an underground passageway under 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues, triggered a massive emergency response by police and firefighters both above and below

ground, tangling subway and bus service at the nearby Port Authority bus terminal.

Everything around Times Square was shut down, halting what ordinarily would have been a bustling rush hour at the “Crossroads of the World.”

Authorities said the bomb was a low-tech explosive device attached to the man with Velcro and plastic ties.

They were investigating how it was made.

A photo published by the New York Post showed a bearded man crumpled on the ground with his shirt apparently blown off and black soot covering his bare midriff. A police officer was holding the man’s hands behind his back. Another photo shown on cable channel NY1 showed the bearded suspect, wide-eyed, on a stretcher being loaded into an ambulance.

## As GOP strains to speed tax bill through, precision falters

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Republicans are moving their tax bill toward final passage at stunning speed, blowing past Democrats before they’ve had time to fully mobilize against it but leaving the measure vulnerable to the type of expensive problems already popping up in their massive and complex plan.

Questionable special-interest provisions have been stuffed in along the way, out of public view. Drafting errors are cropping up in need of fixes, which must be tackled by congressional negotiators working to reconcile competing versions of the legislation passed separately by the House and the Senate.

And the melding process underway has opened the door to another frenzy of 11th-hour lobbying as special interests make one last dash for cash.

Veterans of congressional tax overhauls, particularly the seminal revamp under President Ronald Reagan in 1986, have been stunned and in some cases outraged at how swiftly Republicans are moving on legislation that touches every corner of the economy and all Americans.

“I think it would have looked better if we had taken more

time and had more transparency, had more open committee hearings,” said freshman Rep. James Comer, R-Ky. “Having said that, the goal that everybody had was to reduce the tax rates. ... So at the end of the day, the goal is going to be achieved, but we could have done it in a more transparent manner that probably would have given the voters that are being polled a little more confidence,” Comer said, referring to the effort’s poor showing in opinion surveys.

The specific legislation that probably will become law, sold as a middle-class tax cut but featuring a massive corporate rate reduction at its center, is moving from release toward passage without any hearings, unusual for a bill of such magnitude.

As they got additional drafts of the bill, Democrats were incensed at some of what they found, including new breaks for the oil and gas industry, and a provision that appeared aimed specifically at helping Hillsdale College, a small liberal arts college in Michigan that doesn’t accept federal funding and has a large endowment funded by wealthy conservatives including the family of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

## Raging fire threatens Calif. seaside towns

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters kept a wall of flames from descending mountains into coastal neighborhoods after a huge and destructive Southern California wildfire exploded in size, becoming the fifth-largest in state history.

Tens of thousands remained under evacuation orders Monday as the fire churned west through foothill areas of Carpinteria and Montecito, seaside Santa Barbara County towns about 75 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Much of the fire’s rapid new growth occurred on the eastern and northern fronts into unoccupied areas of Los Padres National Forest, where the state’s fourth-largest fire burned a decade ago.

The blaze, which had already destroyed more than 750 buildings, gutted six more in Carpinteria on Sunday, officials said. It’s just 15 percent contained after charring nearly 360 square miles of dry brush and timber.

Forecasters predicted that dry winds that fanned several fires across the region for a week would begin to lose their

power Monday. Light gusts were pushing onshore, driving the flames back up hillsides and away from communities, Santa Barbara County Fire spokesman Mike Eliason said. But the possibility of “unpredictable” gusts would keep firefighters on edge for days, he said.

Santa Ana winds have long contributed to some of the region’s most disastrous wildfires. They blow from the inland toward the Pacific Ocean, speeding up as they squeeze through mountain passes and canyons.

Meanwhile, containment increased on other major blazes in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties. Resources from those fires were diverted to the Santa Barbara foothills to combat the stubborn and enormous fire that started Dec. 4.

Fires are not typical in Southern California this time of year but can break out when dry vegetation and too little rain combine with the Santa Ana winds. Though the state emerged this past spring from a yearslong drought, hardly any measurable rain has fallen in the region over the past six months.

# Duterte seeks extension of martial law

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte asked Congress on Monday to extend the martial law he declared in the country's south by one year to ensure the "total eradication" of pro-Islamic State extremists, warning they plan more uprisings after an unsuccessful but disastrous siege of Marawi city.

Duterte said the remaining militants hope to establish a caliphate in the Philippines and Southeast Asia after government forces killed more than 900 fighters and quelled the five-month siege in October.

Left-wing and pro-democracy groups have protested Duterte's imposition of martial law because of human rights concerns,

but the Supreme Court has upheld its legality.

In a letter to the Senate and the House of Representatives, Duterte said extending martial law in the southern Mindanao region through the end of 2018 would allow government forces to press offensives against other armed groups, including the Abu Sayyaf and communist guerrillas, who have intensified attacks. Despite the killing of Isnilon Hapilon, long wanted by the U.S. and the Philippines, and other leaders of the Marawi attack, "the remnants of their groups have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion," Duterte said in his letter, which was pro-

vided to reporters.

Rep. Edcel Lagman said Congress should reject Duterte's request because there was no more constitutionally outlined ground for martial law after the president declared Marawi has been freed from terrorist influence. Congress, which is dominated by Duterte's allies, approved Duterte's martial law declaration this year. The Senate and House will meet jointly Wednesday to decide.

Duterte's request for an extension amounts to a "patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension," Lagman said.

The violence displaced about half a million people and turned

mosque-studded Marawi's business and residential districts into a war zone. The uprising that began May 23 prompted Duterte to declare martial law and reinforced fears that ISIS was taking steps to gain a foothold in Asia and beyond as it faced setbacks in Syria and Iraq. Some gunmen and commanders escaped during the fighting, the military said.

One of the militants who might replace Hapilon, Esmail Abdulmalik, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Turaife, has been monitored to be planning bombings in the south, Duterte said. An ISIS-linked faction in another militant band, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Group, has intensified roadside bombings and attacks on troops.

## Blogger who chronicled ISIS atrocities reveals identity

Associated Press

He would wander the streets of Mosul, Iraq, by day, chatting with shopkeepers and Islamic State fighters, visiting friends who worked at the hospital, swapping scraps of information. He grew out his hair and his beard and wore the shortened trousers required by the extremists. He forced himself to witness the beheadings and stonings so he could hear killers call out the names of the condemned and their supposed crimes.

By night, anonymously from his darkened room, Mosul Eye told the world what was happening. If caught, he too would be killed.

But after more than three years, his double life has grown too heavy to bear. He misses his name.

His secrets sap energy he'd rather use for his doctoral dissertation and for helping Mosul rebuild. In conversations with The Associated Press, he agonized over how to end the anonymity that plagues him. He made his decision.

Mosul Eye is Omar Mohammed, historian, scholar, blogger. He is 31.

The revelation of his identity

is for his thousands of readers and followers, for all his volunteers in Mosul who have been inspired by a man they have never seen. But above all, it is for the brother who died in the final battle and for his grieving mother.

"I can't be anonymous anymore. This is to say that I defeated ISIS. You can see me now, and you can know me now," he told the AP.

Mohammed first posted about ISIS under his own Facebook account in the first few days after its fighters swept into Mosul, but a friend told him he risked being killed. So in those first days he made himself a promise: Trust no one, document everything.

A newly minted teacher with a reputation for secular ideas, he had lost his university job.

He found another calling.

"My job as a historian requires an unbiased approach which I am going to adhere to and keep my personal opinion to myself," he wrote on that first day, June 18, 2014.

Mosul Eye became one of the outside world's main sources of news about ISIS fighters, their atrocities and their transformation of Mosul into a shadow of itself. During Friday sermons,

Mohammed feigned enthusiasm. He collected propaganda to post online later. He drank tea at the hospital, fishing for information.

Much of what he collected went on the blog. Other details he kept in his computer, for fear of giving away his identity. Someday, he promised, he would write history with them.

The most sensitive details initially came from two old friends: a doctor and a high school dropout who had joined an ISIS intelligence unit. Mohammed's information sometimes included photos of the fighters and commanders, complete with biographies surreptitiously pieced together during the course of his normal life.

He expanded into a Facebook page and a Twitter feed to parcel out information at a time when little news was escaping.

Intelligence agencies made contact as well and he rebuffed them.

"I am not a spy or a journalist," he would say. "I tell them this: If you want the information, it's published, and it's public for free. Take it."

He tested out different voices, Christian, Muslim.

Sometimes he indicated he was gone, other times that he

was still in the city.

Finally, after leaving Mosul a thousand times in his mind, he decided it was time to get out.

A smuggler agreed to sneak him out for \$1,000. Mohammed left the next day, the contents of his computer transferred to a hard drive that he packed with him. No one gave him a second look during the two days and some 300 miles it took to reach Turkey.

Once there, Mosul Eye kept at it via WhatsApp and Viber, from Facebook messages and long conversations with friends and relatives who had contacts within ISIS. From hundreds of miles away, his life remained consumed by events back home.

By mid-2016, deaths were piling up faster than he could record. ISIS was on a hunt for traitors, and the airstrikes were taking an increasing toll on everyone. His records grew haphazard, and he turned to Twitter to document the atrocities. In February 2017, he received asylum in Europe.

Only after his elder brother Ahmed was killed in a mortar strike and ISIS was gone from the city did Mohammed reveal his secret to a younger brother — who greeted the news with shock, pride and happiness.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Police department running out of citations

**FL** MIAMI — It's a good time to be a bad driver in Florida's most populous county.

The Miami Herald reported that Miami-Dade County police officers are rationing the paper tickets they issue as the department awaits a new electronic system next month. County officials didn't want to order new paper tickets and then have leftovers. Department officials concede that means only the worst of the worst traffic scoff-laws are getting tickets.

Maj. Hector Llevat told the paper that "officers are using their discretion." Officers told the paper they are down to their last ticket book, which contain 25 citations.

### Glue-like substance on mailboxes investigated

**NJ** PATERSON — Some residents in a New Jersey city have noticed a glue-like substance on mailboxes is preventing their letters from going down the chute.

The U.S. Postal Service said what's happening in Paterson is often a method used by thieves to try to snatch envelopes containing cash or checks.

Postal inspector Greg Klimisch told The Record the agency has launched an investigation. He declined to say how many incidents have been reported.

### 3 hurt in fire caused by effort to kill bed bugs

**OH** CINCINNATI — Authorities said three people were injured and 10 people left homeless after a woman accidentally started a fire while trying to kill bed bugs with rubbing alcohol at a

home in Cincinnati.

WXIX-TV reported it's the second time in two weeks that a fire sparked by attempts to kill bed bugs has caused extensive damage in Cincinnati.

Officials said the fire late Friday heavily damaged a five-unit building and sent three people to a hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. Damage is estimated at \$250,000.

Eight people were left homeless Nov. 28 when a 13-year-old boy set fire to an apartment building after dousing a bed bug with alcohol.

### Scientists: Area could see more great whites

**ME** PORTLAND — Scientists say a great white shark detected in waters off Maine could be a sign that the big fish will become a more common sight in the years to come.

White sharks are near the northern edge of their range along the Maine coast, though they are not commonly seen in the area. One of the sharks was spotted in the waters off Kennebunkport in the summer of 2016.

University of New England marine scientist James Sulikowski said tracking devices discovered a different great white about 1.5 miles off Old Orchard Beach in September. Sulikowski said the next step is to find out if the sharks are feeding and reproducing in the area or just transiting through.

### Man accused of using cattle prod on children

**IA** SWAN — A man has been accused of using a cattle prod to discipline two children in south-central Iowa.

Court records say Travis Coker, 36, of rural Swan, pleaded not guilty Thursday to two counts of felony child endan-

germent causing injury.

Criminal complaints say the girls reported that Coker used the prod to shock them as a "form of discipline."

Marion County Sheriff Jason Sandholdt said Coker believed the 11- and 13-year-old girls weren't doing their chores fast enough on the family farm, so he decided to use the prod, a hand-held rod that delivers an electric shock to control livestock.

### Woman, boy arrested in package-theft case

**OH** MENTOR — A woman and a 10-year-old boy have been arrested for stealing \$1,200 worth of merchandise in packages taken from homes in Ohio.

Police said the duo were arrested Dec. 5 after someone witnessed the boy taking a package off a porch in Mentor and getting into a car. Officers stopped the car and found 21 packages inside, including marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

The woman, 18, is facing multiple charges including theft, marijuana possession and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

### Mystery 'giving man' hands out \$100 bills

**ND** FARGO — Residents of the Red River Valley know him only as "the giving man." His real name is a mystery, but his generosity is well known.

Witnesses said the man recently was at Gate City Bank in Fargo, where he was handing out \$100 bills.

Bank employee Jalyssa Sorenson said the man gave a \$100 bill to one of her co-workers, who initially declined to accept it. Sorenson said the man insisted and then gave others \$100 bills as well.

### Couple told again to get rid of support goats

**OH** BOWLING GREEN — An Ohio couple who say their three goats have helped ease the husband's depression have been ordered once again to get rid of them.

The Blade reported that Justin and Amanda Held were told during a court hearing Friday they must remove the animals from their property for a misdemeanor zoning violation to be dismissed.

It's not the first time the Helds and the village of Grand Rapids have butted heads over the goats. The couple removed the goats last year after the village cited them but brought them back earlier this year when a doctor certified them as emotional support animals.

### Inspection sticker placement to change

**VA** RICHMOND — State vehicle inspection stickers will soon have to be slapped on the lower left-hand corner of windshields.

Virginian motorists have long had to place inspection stickers in the bottom center of windshields. But local media reported the rules will change Jan. 1 for inspections that expire in 2019.

The new placement will be in line with other states.

Virginia State Police said the change was needed because of new crash-avoidance technology. In a statement, they said the "new technology utilizes the center of the windshield" and placement of items there could stop crash avoidance systems from working.

There's no need to try to peel off existing inspection stickers from a car's glass. The change applies for newly issued 2019 stickers.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News



# Eagles lose QB Wentz with torn ACL

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz threw a touchdown pass a few plays after suffering an injury that could ruin a special season for the Philadelphia Eagles, and then stuck around to greet teammates and celebrate a division-clinching victory with them.

It's always team-first for No. 11.

Wentz tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in a comeback win over the Rams on Sunday and will miss the rest of the season and playoffs, Eagles coach Doug Pederson confirmed.

Wentz, a favorite in the NFL MVP race, had an MRI on Monday that revealed the severity of the injury. Wentz was hurt late in the third quarter Sunday at Los Angeles. Backup Nick Foles rallied the Eagles (11-2) to a 43-35 win over the Rams that secured the NFC East title and put them in first place in the conference with three games remaining.

After the game, Wentz was driven in a cart up the tunnel at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and then hobbled to one of the team buses.

Wentz wrote on Twitter: "NFC East Champs! So proud of the resiliency of this team. Such a special group of men. And I greatly appreciate all the prayers! I know my God is a powerful one with a perfect plan. Time to just lean in to him and trust whatever the circumstances! #Proverbs3:5-6"

"Everyone is really excited about the win

but you have your starting quarterback go down, it's emotional," Foles said. "It's emotional for me. I work with him every day so I'm dealing with that."

Foles led the Eagles to a pair of field goals on consecutive drives against the Rams. He is 20-17 as a starter in six seasons with the Eagles, Rams and Chiefs.

"If there's ever an opportunity for me to rally the troops as the football coach, now might be the time," Pederson said. "You can't lose faith. This has been a resilient football team all season long."

Pederson insisted the offense won't change with Foles.

"He's a highly intelligent football player," Pederson said.

A third-round pick by former Eagles coach Andy Reid in 2012, Foles in his second stint in Philadelphia. He replaced an injured Michael Vick in 2013 and led the Eagles to an NFC East title during Chip Kelly's first season as coach. Foles tied an NFL record with seven TD passes in a game at Oakland in November 2013 and finished that season with 27 TDs and only two picks. The Eagles lost at home to New Orleans in the playoffs. Foles went to the Pro Bowl and was the offensive MVP.

But Kelly traded Foles to St. Louis for Sam Bradford after the 2014 season. Foles spent a year with the Rams, a season with the Chiefs and returned to Philadelphia as a free agent this season.

Second-year pro Nate Sudfeld is Philadelphia's No. 3 quarterback. Pederson said he hasn't spoken to personnel boss Howie

Roseman about adding a third quarterback yet.

"I'm absolutely ready to go — need be," Foles said after the win over the Rams. "I prepare every day."

The Eagles have overcome several key injuries and now have to move forward without their most indispensable player. Nine-time Pro Bowl left tackle Jason Peters, return specialist/running back Darren Sproles, star linebacker Jordan Hicks and special teams captain Chris Maragos already went down for the season.

But they're not the franchise quarterback.

"It [stinks] more so for Carson as a person and a friend and a teammate and what he puts into the game and his preparation," safety Malcolm Jenkins said. "But as a team we have all our goals in front of us."

Wentz is the latest NFL star to go down in a season in which several high-profile players have been sidelined. Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman and safety Kam Chancellor, Texans defensive lineman J.J. Watt and quarterback Deshaun Watson, Giants receivers Odell Beckham Jr. and Brandon Marshall, Chiefs safety Eric Berry, Browns tackle Joe Thomas and Vikings running back Dalvin Cook and quarterback Sam Bradford each sustained season-ending injuries.

After starting all 16 games as a rookie, Wentz made a giant leap this year. He passed for 3,296 yards, 33 TDs and only seven interceptions.

## Steelers rally past Ravens, clinch AFC North

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger's record-setting day finished with a carry just as valuable as any of the franchise-record 66 passes he threw.

As the Pittsburgh Steelers poured onto the Heinz Field turf to celebrate a frantic 39-38 victory over Baltimore that wrapped up their third AFC North title in four years, Roethlisberger grabbed the familiar No. 50 jersey of injured linebacker Ryan Shazier and joined in the party.

An emotionally draining week for the Steelers ended with Shazier recovering from spinal surgery in a nearby hospital but still very much in the middle of things.

"We love our brother," Roethlisberger said. "We wanted to get this one for him, and I'm glad we did."

The Steelers (11-2) blew an early 14-point lead and found themselves trailing by 11 going into the fourth before exploding for 19 points over the final 15 minutes, the last three coming on Chris Boswell's 46-yard field goal with 42 seconds left.

"I think championship teams find ways to win," Roethlisberger said.

Having an offense that is starting to peak after a sleepy start certainly helps. Roethlisberger threw for 506 yards and two scores to become the first player in NFL history to go over 500 yards passing

three times in his career. Antonio Brown caught 11 passes for 213 yards to fuel an MVP candidacy that no longer feels so far-fetched, including gains of 57 and 34 yards in the fourth to spark Pittsburgh's comeback and running back Le'Veon Bell finished with 125 total yards and three scores.

"Shazier suffered his injury in the first quarter of a victory over Cincinnati last Monday. He underwent surgery on Wednesday and Roethlisberger visited him on Thursday.

"When you walk in and see him and see the smile and give him a hug, it really has taken that weight off and let us breathe a little easier," Roethlisberger said.

The Steelers have done their best to let Shazier know is very much a part of their run. Linebacker James Harrison borrowed a page from Shazier's pregame routine and warmed up shirtless even with the temperature hovering around freezing. Shazier's helmet and jersey spent the game on the bench and several Steelers wore cleats with a special design featuring Shazier's face and the popular #Shalieve hashtag.

"It was very emotional," linebacker Arthur Moats said. "Any time you can bring something to him that brings him some type of joy, some type of happiness, that's good. At the end of the day we're just trying to make sure he's good."



## NFL roundup

## Bills celebrate snowy OT victory

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — LeSean McCoy scored on a 21-yard run with 1:33 left in overtime to secure the Buffalo Bills' 13-7 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday in a wintry, white-out setting best suited for snow shoes and sled dogs.

McCoy finished with 156 yards rushing and topped the 1,000-yard mark for the sixth time in his career on a slick, snow-covered field.

The Bills' sideline erupted after McCoy's touchdown, with numerous players running on to the field to either make snow angels or engage in celebratory snowball fights.

Buffalo (7-6) stayed alive in the AFC playoff picture, while the Colts (3-10) were mathematically eliminated from playoff contention.

The game began in nearly white-out conditions with a major lake-effect storm blowing in off nearby Lake Erie. The snow fell so hard a half-hour before kickoff it was nearly impossible to see New Era Field's west-end scoreboard from the east-end stands.

**Broncos 23, Jets 0:** The Broncos snapped their longest losing streak since joining the NFL in 1970 thanks to wide receiver Demaryius Thomas' big game and a return of host Denver's stingy defense.

Trevor Siemian threw for 200 yards and his favorite target was Thomas, who caught eight passes for 93 yards and a touchdown as the Broncos (4-9) avoided tying their franchise futility record of nine consecutive losses set way back in 1967.

**Jaguars 30, Seahawks 24:** Blake Bortles threw two perfect passes for touchdowns and Jaydon Mickens set up another score with a 72-yard punt return for the host Jaguars.

The Jaguars (9-4) intercepted three passes by Russell Wilson, including two on deep balls, and won for the sixth time in their last seven games. This victory, coupled with Tennessee's loss at Arizona, moved Jacksonville

atop the AFC South.

It's the first time since 2010 that the Jaguars have had the outright division lead this late in a season.

The loss didn't sit well with the Seahawks (8-5), who had two players ejected in the final minute. Defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson was ejected for throwing a punch during a melee that included defensive tackle Michael Bennett and Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette.

**Cardinals 12, Titans 7:** Phil Dawson kicked four second-half field goals and the host Cardinals shut down Tennessee's offense nearly all day.

Dawson connected from 47, 23, 32 and 35 yards and missed from 40 for the Cardinals (6-7), whose victory came two weeks after they beat then-AFC South leader Jacksonville on the same field.

**Chargers 30, Redskins 13:** Philip Rivers passed for 319 yards and two touchdowns, and the host Chargers continued their ferocious playoff push with their fourth straight victory.

Tyrell Williams caught a 75-yard touchdown pass and Hunter Henry had another scoring grab for the Chargers (7-6), who have won seven of nine after an 0-4 start to their relocation season.

While outscoring their opponents 131-53 during their winning streak, the Chargers also moved above .500 for the first time since September 2015 with a dominant offensive performance against Washington.

**Panthers 31, Vikings 24:** Jonathan Stewart ran for 103 yards and three touchdowns, and the host Panthers snapped the Vikings' eight-game winning streak.

Cam Newton threw for a touchdown and ran for 75 yards as the Panthers (9-4) racked up 216 yards on the ground against the league's No. 2 ranked defense to pull even with the Saints atop the NFC South standings.

Carolina sacked Case Keenum six times and forced three turnovers to keep the Vikings

(10-3) from clinching the NFC North division title.

**Cowboys 30, Giants 10:** Dak Prescott threw three touchdown passes and the desperate Cowboys spoiled Steve Spagnuolo's debut as interim coach, as well as the return of quarterback Eli Manning to the host Giants' starting lineup.

Prescott threw a go-ahead 20-yard score to tight end Jason Witten with 7:38 to play. Rod Smith scored on an 81-yard pass play with 4:08 left and added a 15-yard scoring run a little more than a minute later after an interception by Sean Lee.

**Chiefs 26, Raiders 15:** Kareem Hunt ran for 116 yards and a touchdown and the host Chiefs shut down Derek Carr and his offense to snap a four-game losing streak.

The suddenly stingy Chiefs (7-6) also made a big statement in the crowded AFC West race. They are tied atop the division with the Chargers; the Raiders are 6-7.

**Lions 24, Buccaneers 21:** Matthew Stafford passed for 381 yards with an injured throwing hand and set up Matt Prater for a 46-yard field goal in the closing seconds.

Stafford made his 109th consecutive start despite being limited in practice after his right hand was stepped on during the previous week at Baltimore. He completed 36 of 44 attempts against the host Bucs (4-9), and the Lions (7-6) overcame two interceptions and a fumble to stop a two-game losing streak.

**49ers 26, Texans 16:** Jimmy Garoppolo threw for a career-high 334 yards and a touchdown to help the 49ers to their second straight win.

T.J. Yates threw for 175 yards and two touchdowns after Tom Savage left with a concussion in the second quarter.

**Bears 33, Bengals 7:** Rookie Mitchell Trubisky threw for a touchdown and ran for another in his best showing yet, and the Bears ended a five-game losing streak with their most lopsided victory in five years.

## Packers win in OT

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Aaron Rodgers stood on the sideline, fighting off the December chill inside a large green Packers jacket and stocking cap.

His game-day look could soon be more familiar.

Relegated to being a cheerleader since breaking his collarbone in October, Rodgers may be back on the field next Sunday for Green Bay, which kept its playoff hopes ticking by rallying to beat the Cleveland Browns 27-21 in overtime.

The Packers (7-6) overcame a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter and were helped by the always generous Browns (0-13), who found yet another way to lose and are now three defeats from NFL infamy.

Brett Hundley, who had the unenviable job of stepping in as Rodgers' part-time replacement, threw three touchdown passes, and the Packers forced Browns rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer into a critical mistake in the OT to keep their season relevant.

When Rodgers went down on Oct. 15, slammed to the turf by Minnesota linebacker Anthony Barr, the Packers' season seemed to be as good as over. But Green Bay managed to go 3-4 without its star QB, winning the past two weeks in OT, and the Packers are now poised to make a postseason push.

"We're like a zombie, we refuse to go down," said Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari. "That's a nice characteristic you want from a team when physically, the injuries are piling up. I don't know what percentage we've had with back-to-back overtime games and having two walk-offs. It's definitely a momentum builder."

The Packers are rolling indeed. Rodgers returned to practice in pads last week, and as long as he clears medical tests this week, he is expected to be back behind center when the Packers visit Carolina.



## NHL roundup

# Tarasenko gets 'lucky' on OT goal to lift Blues

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Mired in a scoring slump, St. Louis forward Vladimir Tarasenko was looking for that lucky bounce.

He found it when the Blues needed it most.

Tarasenko scored with 36 seconds left in overtime, and the short-handed St. Louis Blues beat the Buffalo Sabres 3-2 on Sunday night.

"I think when so many chances and the puck doesn't go in, you just have to play simple and get that lucky bounce," Tarasenko said. "But I think overall our line is playing better every game. We're getting more chances all the time."

Brayden Schenn and Paul Stastny also scored, and Joel Edmundson recorded two assists as the Blues topped the Sabres for the 10th time in their past 11 meetings. Jake Allen made 22 saves, improving to 5-1 in six career starts against Buffalo.

Evan Rodrigues, in just his third game this season after coming back from a hand injury, scored both goals for the Sabres, who have lost six of seven.

**Blackhawks 3, Coyotes 1:** Corey Crawford made 31 saves, Artem Anisimov scored with 4:47 left in the third period and host Chicago beat Arizona.

Tommy Wingels and Nick Schmaltz also scored in the third to help Chicago win its second straight after dropping five in a row.

**Maple Leafs 1, Oilers 0:** Curtis McElhinney made 41 saves for his first shutout of the season and sixth overall, and Zach Hyman scored in the first minute in host Toronto's victory over Edmonton.

**Wild 4, Sharks 3 (OT):** Nino Niederreiter scored 3:26 into overtime and visiting Minnesota beat San Jose after squandering a three-goal lead.

## NBA roundup

# Oladipo leads Pacers over Nuggets in OT

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Victor Oladipo had a career-high 47 points and added seven rebounds and six assists in the Indiana Pacers' 126-116 overtime victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday.

The Pacers used an 8-0 scoring run, capped by Thad Young's putback with 5 seconds left in regulation, to tie it. Then, Indiana got the first nine points in overtime to secure its fourth straight victory, outscoring the Nuggets 12-2 in the extra period.

Trey Lyles led the Nuggets with a career-high 25 points.

**Celtics 91, Pistons 81:** Al Horford had 18 points, Kyrie Irving added 16 and visiting Boston beat Detroit to get re-

venge for a rare loss.

**Raptors 102, Kings 87:** DeMar DeRozan scored 13 of his 25 points in the third quarter and Toronto held off host Sacramento for its sixth straight victory.

**Timberwolves 97, Mavericks 92:** Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points, Jimmy Butler scored 10 of his 22 in the fourth quarter and Minnesota beat visiting Dallas.

**Pelicans 131, 76ers 124:** Jrue Holiday scored 19 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and host New Orleans overcame an eight-point deficit in the final period to beat Philadelphia.

**Knicks 111, Hawks 107:** Kristaps Porzingis scored 30 points, Doug McDermott added 23 and New York beat visiting Atlanta.

## Tigers Morris, Trammell elected to Hall of Fame

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Former Detroit Tigers teammates Jack Morris and Alan Trammell were elected to the baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, completing the journey from Motown to Cooperstown.

Morris, a big-game pitcher, and Trammell, a star shortstop, were picked by a 16-man Modern Baseball Era committee that considered 10 candidates whose biggest contributions came from 1970-87.

Morris got 14 votes and Trammell drew 13, one more than the minimum needed.

They'll be enshrined on July 29. Fitting that they'll go in together — they both began their big league careers in 1977 with Detroit, and played 13 seasons alongside each other with the Tigers.

A durable right-hander, Mor-

ris posted 254 wins. His most famous victory was a 10-inning shutout, winning 1-0 for Minnesota over Atlanta in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series.

Morris had a 3.90 ERA, the highest of any pitcher in the Hall. He also won World Series in Detroit — with Trammell, in 1984 — and Toronto in 1992.

Now 59, Trammell was a steady presence in the middle of the diamond while playing all 20 of his seasons in Detroit.

Trammell was the 1984 World Series MVP, hitting .450 as the Tigers trounced San Diego in five games and finished off a season in which they started out 35-5.

A six-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove, Trammell scored 1,231 runs and drove in 1,003. He batted .285 with 185 home runs and a .352 on-base average — he walked 850 times and struck out 874.

## Top 25 roundup

# No. 16 Sun Devils upset No. 2 Kansas

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Tra Holder scored 29 points on 8-for-16 shooting and No. 16 Arizona State upset No. 2 Kansas 95-85 Sunday, handing the Jayhawks their second straight loss.

Shannon Evans II had 22 points and Remy Martin added 21 for the Sun Devils (9-0). Arizona State shot 50 percent from three-point range and 50.8 percent overall.

After a slow start that forced coach Bobby Hurley to use a timeout less than two minutes into the game, Arizona State snapped back into it, trimming the deficit to just three points at halftime. The Sun Devils outscored the Jayhawks 58-42 in the second half.

"I didn't really have to coach a whole lot tonight," Hurley said. "These guys sitting with me here deserve all the credit."

Lagerald Vick led Kansas (7-2) with 25 points. The Jayhawks fell to Washington on Wednesday night.

**No. 4 Villanova 77, La Salle 68:** At Philadelphia, Phil Booth and Donte DiVincenzo each scored 18 points and Villanova avoid an upset to remain undefeated.

The Wildcats (10-0) were sloppy, struggled from three-point range and could not shake the pesky Explorers until the final minutes of the game to win their 21st straight Big 5 game.

**No. 12 Gonzaga 97, Washington 70:** Johnathan Williams had 23 points and 12 rebounds, Zach Norvell Jr. added 21 points and the Bulldogs ran away in the second half against the host Huskies.

The Bulldogs (8-2) rebounded nicely from a loss to Villanova and never allowed the Huskies (7-3) to entertain the idea of a second Top 25 upset in one week.

**No. 21 Purdue 86, IUPUI 61:** Carsen Edwards scored a career-high 27 points and the Boilermakers beat the visiting Jaguars for coach Matt Painter's 300th win.