

Navy probes: Truman mishaps preventable

Findings focus on 4 incidents involving carrier during Mideast, Europe deployment

By MATTHEW ADAMS

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Insufficient communication, low level of knowledge for certain operations and the lack of integrated training were factors involved in the four accidents during the USS Harry S. Truman's deployment, the Navy said in its reports on the investigations released Thursday.

One incident, a collision with a merchant vessel in February, "could have caused catastrophic results," the Navy concluded.

The Truman sailed 24,000 nautical miles across Europe and the Middle East during the eight months it was deployed. The four mishaps took place from December 2024 to May 2025.

During deployment, the crew conducted 50 days of continuous strikes, including the launch of Tomahawk land attack missiles and precision airstrikes, meant to degrade Houthi capabilities and disrupt threats to commercial shipping. The Truman fired

more than 1.1 million pounds of ordnance against enemy targets. Of that, 125,000 pounds were launched against Islamic State terrorists in northeast Somalia in what the Navy called the largest airstrike in history launched from an aircraft carrier.

"The Navy's sustained combat operations in the U.S. Central Command area of operations for the past two years demonstrated our battle effectiveness and ability to maintain freedom of navigation," Adm. James Kilby, vice chief of naval operations, said in a statement. "As we reflect on these incidents and ongoing improvement efforts, the Navy remains laser-focused on producing battle ready sailors and forces to ensure the Navy provides our nation with the most lethal, combat-credible, and ready force possible."

The four individual investigations focused on lost aircraft and a tow tractor, the collision and a case of friendly fire involving the carrier and its strike group. The four

preventable mishaps cost the Navy more than \$100 million as well as multiple injuries.

Sailors also told investigators that they felt the strain of "a pressurized schedule and a culture of 'just get it done.'"

Collision at sea

On Feb. 12 at 11:45 p.m. local time, the Truman — five months into its operational deployment — collided with a merchant vessel in the vicinity of Egypt's Port Said. There were no injuries to crews of the Truman or the Besiktas-M, a bulk cargo carrier sailing under the flag of Panama.

The Besiktas-M struck the starboard quarter of the Truman. The damage was all above the waterline, and the Truman navigated to safe waters after the collision.

The Truman established communications with the security control accessor and

SEE NAVY ON PAGE 2

Trump's new security strategy slams European allies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's administration set forth a new national security strategy that paints European allies as weak and aims to reassert America's dominance in the Western Hemisphere.

The document released Friday by the White House is sure to roil long-standing U.S. allies in Europe for its scathing critiques of their migration and free speech policies, suggesting they face the "prospect of civilizational erasure" and raising doubts about their long-term reliability as American partners.

It reinforces, in sometimes chilly and bellicose terms, Trump's "America First" philosophy, which favors nonintervention overseas, questions

decades of strategic relationships and prioritizes U.S. interests above all.

The U.S. strategy "is motivated above all by what works for America — or, in two words, 'America First,'" the document said.

This is the first national security strategy, a document the administration is required by law to release, since the Republican president's return to office in January.

It is a stark break from the course set by Democratic President Joe Biden's administration, which sought to reinvigorate alliances after many were rattled in Trump's first term and to check a more assertive Russia.

The United States is seeking

to broker an end to Russia's nearly four-year war in Ukraine, a goal that the national security strategy says is in America's vital interests. But the document makes clear the U.S. wants to improve its relationship with Russia after years of Moscow being treated as a global pariah, and that ending that war is a core U.S. interest in order to "reestablish strategic stability with Russia."

The document also is critical of America's European allies. They have found themselves sometimes at odds this year with Trump's shifting approaches to the Russia-Ukraine war, and are facing domestic economic challenges as well as an existential crisis, according to the U.S.

Economic stagnation in Europe "is eclipsed by the real and more stark prospect of civilizational erasure," the strategy document said.

The U.S. suggests that Europe is being enfeebled by its immigration policies, declining birthrates, "censorship of free speech and suppression of political opposition" and a "loss of national identities and self-confidence."

Despite Trump's "America First" maxim, his administration has carried out a series of military strikes on alleged drug traffickers in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean while weighing possible military action in Venezuela to pressure President Nicolás Maduro.

Navy: Collision, friendly fire, jet loss cited

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

learned the Besiktas-M “anchored after collision, reported no engineering or personnel casualties, and requested no assistance,” according to the report.

The Truman returned on Feb. 16 to Souda Bay, Greece, to conduct damage assessment and temporary repairs. A final cost assessment was not included in the report.

The results could have been “catastrophic,” the investigation concluded, if there had been small change in the path of the ship.

Eight sailors were in a space less than 10 feet from the impact location. A 1-degree change in trajectory could have destroyed the space and caused eight fatalities.

“My team spoke with those eight sailors, and they will never forget how close they came to losing their lives. Neither should we,” the report says.

The incident was avoidable, the report concluded.

Capt. Dave Snowden, commander of the Truman, was relieved of duty after the incident.

Friendly fire

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group entered the Red Sea on Dec. 14, 2024, and quickly conducted its first defensive strike against Houthi positions.

On Dec. 22, the commanding officer of the USS Gettysburg and combat information center team fired missiles at two friendly F/A-18Fs. The troops from one jet ejected before the missile struck, and the ship stopped the second missile shortly before impact. The Gettysburg targeted but did not fire at a third friendly aircraft, according to the report.

“The decisions to shoot were wrong when measured across the totality of information available to the [Gettysburg commanding officer]. Constrained by a series of previous actions and decisions, the commanding officer had low situational awareness, and his [combat information center] team was unable to help him regain it,” the report says.

In the hours leading up to the incident, the Truman Carrier Strike Group had successfully intercepted two anti-ship cruise missiles and two one-way aerial attack drones with reports of other unmanned vehicles in the air, an official said at the time.

On a day when skies were clear, the Gettysburg commanding officer reported to the

Truman Carrier Strike Group commander that “he held no tracks that met unmanned aerial system profiles,” the report says.

In the 40 minutes that followed, the Gettysburg and Truman gave conflicting guidance to the defense aircraft that remained airborne. On orders from the strike warfare commander on watch, the aircraft returned to base. While this was communicated in various ways, it wasn’t understood across the force.

“The process repeated itself nearly verbatim, and [the Gettysburg commanding officer] ordered the launch of a second SM-2 at the aircraft, 5 miles apart from the [first] aircraft, which had begun a left turn in response to the first missile launch,” the report says.

The pilots were rescued and were evaluated and released by medical staff.

The report made 42 recommendations.

“In totality of circumstances ... [the Gettysburg’s commanding officer’s] decision to engage was neither reasonable nor prudent, and could have been prevented by action at multiple levels,” the report states.

Super Hornet lost at sea

On May 6, an F/A-18F Super Hornet was lost in the Red Sea after attempting to land on the aircraft carrier at 8:46 p.m. local time. According to interviews and the pilot’s landing aid camera recording, the fighter jet’s approach appeared normal until it caught the cross-deck pendant wire.

Witnesses heard a loud boom and saw sparks and flames, according to the report. The investigation found that a cable designed to bring the 50,000-pound jet to a halt in just a few hundred feet snapped mid-landing.

The aircraft was unable to stop on the flight deck and did not have enough airspeed to take flight before hitting the Red Sea, the report says. The pilot and weapons systems officer ejected from the two-seat aircraft and were recovered by a rescue helicopter, suffering only minor injuries.

Damage was estimated at more than \$60 million.

The report stated that a low level of knowledge among certain operators and crew, including the sheave damper operator and arresting gear personnel, contributed to the incident.

The investigation also noted there was a

malfunction in the No. 4 starboard sheave damper, the hydraulic shock absorber used in arresting gear systems to reduce tension and vibration in the cable.

Jet, tractor go overboard

On April 28, an F/A-18E Super Hornet and a towing tractor were lost overboard on Hangar Bay 3 of the Truman during an evasive maneuver to avoid an incoming medium range ballistic missile.

Fighter jets are routinely towed across the hangar deck to park them for flight operations or other work. The carrier made a “hard turn,” a defense official said at the time, though it wasn’t enough on its own to cause a \$67 million Navy fighter jet to slide off a ship.

At the time, the Truman had been traveling at “135 degrees true at approximately 15 knots” in the Red Sea when the ship received a report of an inbound missile and began the maneuvers.

The junior officer of the deck desired a greater turn rate and ordered an increase in the rudder angle, causing the ship to tilt at a faster rate. The bridge team noticed and attempted to mitigate by easing the rudder back.

At the same time, the wheel chocks and tiedown chains were removed from the aircraft in order to pull it forward into the hangar bay to close the deck edge doors. The investigation determined that about eight seconds after the ship hit maximum tilt, the aircraft and tow tractor slid out of the hangar bay.

“Multiple interviews revealed inadequate communication of the upcoming turn from bridge to flight deck control and hangar bay control. Proper communication would likely have resulted in [the aircraft] remaining tied down to the hangar bay deck through Truman’s evasive turn, as the standard operating procedure now codifies,” the report says.

Ten recommendations were listed regarding the incident, but “the investigation determined the Truman’s changes to standard operating procedure since the April 28 incident adequately address the re-prioritization of hangar bay priorities and will significantly decrease the likelihood of similar incidents in the future.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

US strikes another suspected drug boat while probe begins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Southern Command announced that it had conducted another strike against a small boat in the eastern Pacific Ocean on Thursday, following a pause of almost three weeks.

It is the 22nd strike the U.S. military has carried out against boats in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean that the Trump administration claimed were trafficking drugs.

There were four casualties in Thursday's strike, according to the social media post, bringing the death toll of the campaign to at least 87 people.

In a video that accompanied the announcement, a small boat can be seen moving across the water before it is suddenly consumed by a large explosion. The video then zooms out to show the boat covered in flames and billowing smoke.

The strike was conducted the same day Adm. Frank "Mitch" Bradley appeared for a series of closed-door classified briefings at the U.S. Capitol as lawmakers began an investigation into the very first strike carried out by the military on Sept. 2. The sessions came after a report that Bradley ordered a follow-on attack that killed the survivors to comply with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's demands.

Bradley told lawmakers there was no "kill them all" order from Hegseth, but a stark video of the entire series of attacks left some lawmakers with serious questions.

Bradley spoke to lawmakers alongside the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Dan Caine, in a classified session.

Lawmakers offered differing accounts of what they saw on the video.

Republican Sen. Tom Cotton

of Arkansas said he saw the survivors "trying to flip a boat loaded with drugs bound for United States back over so they could stay in the fight."

Connecticut Rep. Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said, "What I saw in that room was one of the most troubling things I've seen in my time in public service."

"You have two individuals in clear distress, without any means of locomotion, with a destroyed vessel," he said, adding they "were killed by the United States."

Washington Rep. Adam Smith, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said the survivors were "basically two shirtless people clinging to the bow of a capsized and inoperable boat, drifting in the water — until the missiles come and kill them."

Report: Iran launches big missiles in naval drill

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran launched massive missiles in the Sea of Oman and near the strategic Strait of Hormuz during the second day of a naval drill, state TV reported Friday.

The report said the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched the missiles from the depth of Iran's mainland, hitting targets in the Oman Sea and neighboring area near Strait of Hormuz in a drill that began on Thursday.

It identified the missiles as cruise Qadr-110, Qadr-380 and Ghadr that have a range of up to 1,250 miles.

It said the Guard also launch a ballistic missile identified as 303, without elaborating.

TV footage showed the missiles' launch and hitting their targets.

The drill is the second one following the Israel-Iran war in June that killed nearly 1,100 people in Iran, including military commanders and nuclear scientists.

Missile attacks by Iran killed 28 in Israel.

Since the end of the war, Iran has increasingly insisted that it is ready to counter any future Israeli attack.

Iran launched its first naval drill in the area in August.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is mainly in charge of operations in the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth, the Strait of Hormuz. The national navy is in charge of Sea of Oman and beyond.

Iran long has threatened to close off the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of all global oil trade passes.

The U.S. Navy has long patrolled the Mideast through its Bahrain-based 5th Fleet to keep the waterways open.

Russian drone strike kills 12-year-old boy as peace negotiations remain under wraps

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian drones struck a house in central Ukraine, killing a 12-year-old boy, officials said, while long-range Ukrainian strikes reportedly targeted a Russian port and an oil refinery as U.S. peace efforts continued out of public view.

President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, were set to meet Thursday in Miami with a Ukrainian delegation, but there was no official confirmation whether the meeting took place.

Those scheduled talks came after discussions between President Vladimir Putin and the U.S. envoys at the Kremlin on

Tuesday.

Previous diplomatic attempts to break the deadlock have come to nothing and the nearly four-year war has continued unabated. Officials largely have kept a lid on how the latest talks are going, though Trump's initial 28-point plan was leaked.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country's delegation in Miami wanted to hear from the U.S. side about the talks at the Kremlin.

Zelenskyy, as well as European leaders backing him, have repeatedly accused Putin of stalling in peace talks while the Russian army tries to press forward with its invasion.

Zelenskyy said in a video address late Thursday that offi-

cials wanted to know "what other pretexts Putin has come up with to drag out the war and to pressure Ukraine."

Meanwhile, Kremlin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, who accompanied Putin on a visit to India on Friday, repeated the Russian leaders' recent criticism of Europe's stance on the peace talks.

Kyiv's European allies are concerned about possible Russian aggression beyond Ukraine and want a prospective peace deal to include strong security guarantees.

Kyiv's allies in Europe are "constantly putting forward demands that are unacceptable to Moscow," Ushakov told Russia's state-owned Zvezda TV.

Shops empty as crackdown hits Louisiana

AP/Report for America

KENNER, La. — The doors of Carmela Diaz's taco joint are locked, the tables are devoid of customers and no one is working in the kitchen. It's one of many once-thriving Hispanic businesses, from Nicaraguan eateries to Honduran restaurants, emptied out in recent weeks in neighborhoods with lots of signs in Spanish but increasingly fewer people on the streets.

In the city of Kenner, which has the highest concentration of Hispanic residents in Louisiana, a federal immigration crackdown aiming for 5,000 arrests has devastated an economy already struggling from ramped-up enforcement efforts this year, some business owners say, and had far-reaching impacts on both immigrants and U.S. citizens alike.

"Fewer and fewer people came," said a crying Diaz,

whose Taqueria La Conquistadora has been closed for several weeks now with both customers and workers afraid to leave home. "There were days we didn't sell anything. That's why I made the decision to close the business — because there was no business."

On Wednesday, convoys of federal vehicles began rumbling back and forth down Kenner's main commercial streets as the Department of Homeland Security commenced the latest in a series of immigration enforcement operations that have included surges in Los Angeles, Chicago and Charlotte, N.C.

Bystanders have posted videos of federal agents detaining people outside Kenner businesses and at construction sites.

Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino also made an appearance in the city, surrounded by agents in tactical gear, to tout to reporters the

launch of the operation dubbed Catahoula Crunch, a name derived from the big game hound that is the Louisiana state dog.

The state's Hispanic population has boomed in the last two decades, with many of them arriving in the aftermath of 2005's Hurricane Katrina to help rebuild. In Kenner, just west of New Orleans between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain, Hispanics make up about 30% of residents.

Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said Thursday that federal agents have already made dozens of arrests, though the agency has not released a full list of people detained.

"Americans should be able to live without fear of violent criminal illegal aliens harming them, their families, or their neighbors," McLaughlin said in a statement.

"In just 24 hours on the

ground, our law enforcement officers have arrested violent criminals with rap sheets that include homicide, kidnapping, child abuse, robbery, theft, and assault."

The office of Mayor Michael Glaser, a former police chief, declined to comment on his stance on the operation. But it said the crackdown "falls under federal jurisdiction" and the mayor expects all agencies operating in the city to conduct themselves "professionally, lawfully and with respect for our community." It also said the city is "not participating in or advising" on the operation.

However, the city's police are among the hundreds of local and state law enforcement agencies nationwide that have signed agreements to be part of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement program that authorizes them to hold detainees for potential deportation.

Court: National Guard can stay in DC for now

The Washington Post

The Trump administration will be allowed to continue its National Guard deployment in D.C. at least temporarily, pending another appeals court decision, a panel of U.S. Court of Appeals judges said Thursday.

The ruling means the deployment of troops to the nation's capital could persist beyond Dec. 11, the date a lower-court judge had previously set as a deadline for the administration to halt the mission. Last month, that U.S. District Court judge handed D.C. a preliminary legal win in its lawsuit over the deployment, writing in an opinion that it was illegal and ordering the administration to pause it while litigation proceeds.

The Trump administration then asked the appeals court to

intervene and allow the troops to remain longer — and on Thursday, judges with the D.C. Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals granted an administrative stay in the case, meaning the drawdown of troops will be delayed at least until the appeals court makes another ruling.

The court emphasized that Thursday's decision had nothing to do with the merits of the Trump administration's arguments in the case and that it merely buys the judges more time.

"The purpose of this administrative stay is to give the court sufficient opportunity to consider the motion for stay pending appeal and should not be construed in any way as a ruling on the merits of that motion," they wrote.

Trump praises Rwanda, Congo as they sign deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump praised the leaders of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda for their courage as they signed onto a deal on Thursday aimed at ending the conflict in eastern Congo and opening the region's critical mineral reserves to the U.S. government and American companies.

The moment offered Trump another chance to tout himself as a dealmaker extraordinaire on the global stage and make the case that he's deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize. The U.S. leader hasn't been shy about his desire to receive the honor.

"It's a great day for Africa, a great day for the world," Trump said shortly before the leaders signed the pact. He added, "Today, we're succeed-

ing where so many others have failed."

Trump welcomed Presidents Felix Tshisekedi of Congo and Paul Kagame of Rwanda, as well as several officials from other African nations who traveled to Washington to witness the signing.

But the Trump-brokered peace is precarious.

The Central African nation of Congo has been battered by decadeslong fighting with more than 100 armed groups, the most potent being the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels.

The conflict escalated this year, with M23 seizing the region's main cities of Goma and Bukavu in an unprecedented advance, worsening a humanitarian crisis that was already one of the world's largest, with millions of people displaced.

High Court allows Texas to use map favorable to Republicans

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court on Thursday came to the rescue of Texas Republicans, allowing next year's elections to be held under the congressional redistricting plan favorable to the GOP and pushed by President Donald Trump despite a lower-court ruling that the map likely discriminates on the basis of race.

With conservative justices in the majority, the court acted on an emergency request from Texas for quick action because qualifying in the new districts already has begun, with primary elections in March.

The Supreme Court's order puts the 2-1 ruling blocking the map on hold at least until after the high court issues a final decision in the case. Justice Samuel Alito had previously temporarily blocked the order while the full court considered the Texas appeal.

The justices cast doubt on the lower-court finding that race played a role in the new map, saying in an unsigned statement that Texas lawmakers had "avowedly partisan goals."

In dissent, Justice Elena Kagan wrote for the three liberal justices that her colleagues should not have intervened at this point. Doing so, she wrote, "ensures that many Texas citizens, for no good reason, will be placed in electoral districts because of their race. And that result, as this Court has pronounced year in and year out, is a violation of the Constitution."

The high court's vote "is a green light for there to be even more re-redistricting, and a strong message to lower courts to butt out," Richard Hasen, an election law expert at the University of California at Los Angeles law school, wrote on the Election Law Blog.

The justices have blocked

past lower-court rulings in congressional redistricting cases, most recently in Alabama and Louisiana, that came several months before elections.

The Texas congressional map enacted last summer at Trump's urging was engineered to give Republicans five additional House seats. The effort to preserve a slim Republican majority in the House in next year's elections touched off a nationwide redistricting battle.

Texas was the first state to meet Trump's demands in what has become an expanding national battle over redistricting. Republicans drew the state's new map to give the GOP five additional seats, and Missouri and North Carolina followed with new maps adding an additional Republican seat each. To counter those moves, California voters approved a ballot initiative to give Democrats an additional five seats there.

Advisers: Not all babies need shot for hepatitis B

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal vaccine advisory committee voted on Friday to end the longstanding recommendation that all U.S. babies get the hepatitis B vaccine on the day they're born.

A loud chorus of medical and public health leaders decried the actions of the panel, whose current members were all appointed by U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — a leading anti-vaccine activist before this year becoming the nation's top health official.

"This is the group that can't shoot straight," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert who for decades has been involved with ACIP and its workgroups.

For decades, the government has advised that all babies be vaccinated against the liver infection right after birth.

The shots are widely considered to be a public health success for preventing thousands of illnesses. But Kennedy's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices decided to recommend the birth dose only for babies whose mothers test positive, and in cases where the mom wasn't tested.

For other babies, it will be up to the parents and their doctors to decide if a birth dose is appropriate. The committee voted to suggest that when a family decides not to get a birth dose, then the vaccination series should begin when the child is 2 months old.

The vote passed 8-3.

Netflix to buy Warner Bros. studio for \$72B

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Netflix has struck a deal with Warner Bros. Discovery, the legacy Hollywood giant behind "Harry Potter" and "Friends," to buy its studio and streaming business for \$72 billion.

The acquisition would bring two of the industry's biggest players in film and TV under one roof and alter the entertainment industry landscape. Beyond its namesake television and motion picture division,

Warner owns HBO Max and DC Studios. And Netflix is ubiquitous with on-demand content and has built its own production arm to release popular titles, including "Stranger Things" and "Squid Game."

"For more than a century, Warner Bros. has thrilled audiences, captured the world's attention, and shaped our culture," David Zaslav, CEO of Warner Bros. Discovery, said in a statement Friday. "By coming together with Netflix, we will

ensure people everywhere will continue to enjoy the world's most resonant stories for generations to come."

The cash and stock deal is valued at \$27.75 per Warner share, giving it a total enterprise value of approximately \$82.7 billion. The transaction is expected to close in the next 12 to 18 months — after Warner completes its previously-announced separation of its cable operations. Not included in the deal are networks like CNN and Discovery.

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Gibbs rushes for 3 TDs in Lions' victory

Associated Press

DETROIT — Jahmyr Gibbs and a defense that suddenly generated pressure and turnovers helped the Detroit Lions stay in contention for a playoff berth.

Gibbs ran for three touchdowns, including a 13-yarder with 2:19 left that sealed the Lions' much-needed 44-30 win over the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday night.

The Lions sacked Dak Prescott five times — a week after they had no sacks and lost to Green Bay — and had two interceptions and recovered a fumble.

"You could see an uptick in urgency from everybody," Jared Goff said.

The Lions (8-5) avoided losing consecutive games for the first time in more than three years. They remain outside the playoff picture with four games left, but they improved their odds considerably.

"They don't get panicked,"

Detroit coach Dan Campbell said. "We played our best game that we played all year."

Detroit's playoff probability is now 54% and Dallas' fell to 7%, according to the NFL.

The Cowboys (6-6-1) had surged into postseason contention with a three-game winning streak. But against the Lions, the NFL's top-ranked offense had to lean on powerful kicker Brandon Aubrey too much and Dallas' revitalized defense was humbled.

"It seemed like every time we got some momentum, they hit another explosive play," Cowboys coach Brian Schottenheimer said. "They have a lot of speed, and they can make big plays."

Goff went 25 of 34 for 309 yards with a 12-yard touchdown pass to rookie receiver Isaac TeSlaa that put Detroit ahead 27-9.

Dallas cut the lead to three points twice in the fourth quarter, including with 3:42 left

when Aubrey matched a career high with his fifth field goal.

Tom Kennedy returned the ensuing kickoff to midfield and Goff threw a 37-yard pass to Amon-Ra St. Brown to set up Gibbs' third score.

Gibbs had seven catches for 77 yards and 43 yards rushing on 12 carries.

"He's unique," Campbell said. "He's special."

Williams had seven catches for the second straight game and finished with 96 yards. St. Brown, who had been listed as questionable with an ankle injury, left no doubt of his value with six catches for 92 yards and a lot of key blocks for teammates.

"He was going and nobody was going to talk him out of it," Campbell said.

Detroit's Al-Quadin Muhammad had a career-high three sacks and Jack Campbell had a sack and forced a fumble for a team that hadn't been generating much pressure on quarterbacks.

Prescott wished that trend continued.

He was sacked five times and pressured many more times as he was 31 of 47 for 376 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

He lost his top target in the third quarter when CeeDee Lamb suffered a concussion after he had six catches for 121 yards.

George Pickens didn't pick up the slack, catching just five of the nine passes thrown his way for 37 yards.

Dallas settled for too many field goals from its extraordinary kicker.

The 30-year-old Aubrey converted from 63, 57, 55, 42 and 29 yards, becoming the first in NFL history to make three field goals of 55 yards or more in a game, according to Sportradar.

"These guys aren't deflated right now, they are (ticked) off," Prescott said. "We just need to use that the right way — as fuel for the rest of the season."

NFL requires installation of approved turf by 2028

Associated Press

The playing surfaces at every NFL stadium will have to meet new enhanced standards set through lab and field testing by the start of the 2028 season.

NFL field director Nick Pappas detailed the plans for a program on Thursday that will provide each team "a library of approved and accredited NFL fields" before the start of next season. Any new field will immediately have to meet those standards and all teams will have two years to achieve the standards, whether they use a grass or synthetic surface or a hybrid.

Most artificial surfaces are replaced every two or three years, Pappas said. Natural fields can be replaced several times a season.

Pappas said the fields will

have undergone extensive testing and been approved by a joint committee with the NFLPA.

Pappas said fields have been tested in labs and on site using two main tools. One is called the BEAST, which is a traction testing device that replicates the movements of an NFL player. The other is called the STRIKE Impact Tester, which helps determine the firmness of each field.

The goal of the league is to find fields that are as consistent as possible across all 30 NFL stadiums, as well as at each stadium throughout the season. Pappas said the "key pillars" for a field are optimized playability, reducing injury risk and player feedback.

The NFL has no plans to require natural grass fields across the league.

The league's chief medical officer, Dr. Allen Sills, said there are no "statistically significant differences" in lower extremity injuries or concussions that can be attributed to the type of playing surface or a specific surface, despite widespread preferences by players for grass fields and complaints about surfaces such as the one at MetLife Stadium, where the New York Giants and Jets play.

"The surface is only one driver of these lower extremity injuries," Sills said. "There are a lot of other factors, including player load and previous history and fatigue and positional adaptability and cleats that are worn. So surfaces are a component, but it is a complex equation, and so I'm excited about where we are in the work because I think we'll get away

from a very crude measurement of artificial here and the grass here, and now we can say for any individual surface, let's look at the biophysical properties of that surface. How might those correlate with injury? And then, obviously, how do we optimize them?"

Pappas also shared plans for the Super Bowl to be held on Feb. 8 at the San Francisco 49ers' home at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif.

The field has been growing at a sod farm about two hours east of the Bay Area, with Pappas making several visits over the past 18 months to monitor the field.

The league will plan to install the field around the third week in January — or later if the 49ers could be hosting playoff games.

Lebron gets winning assist but ends streak

Associated Press

For LeBron James, the win mattered more than the streak.

James' NBA-record run of 1,297 consecutive regular-season games with at least 10 points ended Thursday night at Toronto, and he was the one who made the decision to have it end. Instead of trying to score to win the game — and extend his streak — he set up Rui Hachimura for the final shot.

Hachimura connected on a 3-pointer at the buzzer, James got the game-winning assist, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Raptors 123-120. James finished with eight points and had no regrets.

"None," James said. "We won."

James' streak started Jan. 6, 2007, and lasted nearly two decades. It was, by far, the longest such streak in NBA history: Michael Jordan had 866 consecutive double-digit scoring games, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was third best at 787 games, and Karl Malone had the fourth-longest run at 575.

James was fully aware that if Hachimura scored, the streak would end.

But Hachimura, in that moment, gave the Lakers the best chance of winning, James figured.

And James didn't hesitate to fire the pass.

"Just playing the game the right way. You always make the right play," James said. "That's just been my M.O. That's how I was taught the game. I've done that my whole career."

James checked back into the game for the final time Thursday with 5:23 left, the outcome and the streak hanging in the balance.

He had six points on 3-of-15 shooting at that point. He scored with 1:46 left to tie the game and missed a 14-footer with 1:01 left that would have gotten him to double digits.

He didn't take another shot — but could have. Lakers guard

Austin Reaves gave James the ball with a few seconds left, but James was happy to get the assist.

"LeBron is acutely aware of how many points he has at that point," Lakers coach JJ Redick said. "He did it like he's done so many times. ... The basketball gods, if you do it the right way, they tend to reward you."

The last time James was held under 10 points in the regular season was Jan. 5, 2007, when he had eight points for Cleveland in a 95-86 win over Milwaukee. He had 19 the next night against New Jersey, and the streak had rolled on ever since.

"You tip your hat to a guy who just cares about winning and making the right play," Reaves said. "That's what he's done his whole career."

James was held under 10 points twice in the playoffs during the regular-season streak, once in 2011 and again in 2014. Jordan still has the longest streak, counting playoffs, of double-digit scoring games at 1,045.

Including playoffs, James' streak ended at 865 consecutive 10-point games.

It would take a long, long time for someone to catch James' regular-season total. Houston's Kevin Durant now has the longest active streak at 267 games — meaning he'd have to play until he's at least 49 or so to break the record.

The next-longest streak is by Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who has 170 consecutive double-digit efforts.

Gilgeous-Alexander could catch James — that is, if he keeps the streak going for another 14 years, when he'll be 41.

"He's such an unselfish player," Lakers forward Jake LaRavia said of James. "He's just playing the game of basketball. He had the opportunity but because of the player he is and just who he is as a person, he made the unselfish play, passed

it to Rui and we won the game."

James reaching double figures was usually an afterthought long before the start of fourth quarters. During the streak, he had reached the 10-point mark through three quarters 1,266 times entering Thursday.

Celtics 146, Wizards 101: Derrick White scored a season-high 30 points, Jordan Walsh added a career-high 22 and Boston, playing without Jaylen Brown, routed Washington.

White had nine assists and seven rebounds to help the Celtics improve to 13-9. They have won eight of 10.

C.J. McCollum led Washington with 22 points. Khriston Middleton had 15.

The 45-point loss was their worst of the season as the Wizards tumbled to 3-18. They lost for the 10th straight time against Boston.

Brown, who scored a season-high 42 points against the New York Knicks on Tuesday night, was out with an illness.

Peyton Pritchard had 20 points and eight assists for Boston. Neemias Queta scored 17 points, and Anfernee Simons added 16.

76ers 99, Warriors 98: Rookie VJ Edgecombe made the go-ahead follow shot with 0.9 seconds left, Tyrese Maxey raced back for a game-saving blocked shot and Philadelphia beat short-handed Golden State.

Maxey scored 35 points but missed a jumper with the 76ers trailing by one. Edgecombe tipped it in, but the Warriors quickly fired an inbound pass to De'Anthony Melton, who had broken away downcourt. Maxey got back to block the shot off the backboard just before time expired.

Joel Embiid had 12 points in his return to the 76ers lineup.

Pat Spencer scored 16 points for the Warriors, who erased a 24-point deficit despite playing with their two leading scorers, Stephen Curry (left quad contu-

sion) and Jimmy Butler (left knee soreness), then losing Draymond Green to an injured right foot late in the second quarter.

Maxey's 3-pointer made it 67-43 with 8:06 left in the third quarter. But the Warriors used a 15-0 run early in the fourth quarter to get back in the contest, then had a late lead before Edgecombe stole an inbound pass with 8.2 seconds to play.

Jazz 123, Nets 110: Lauri Markkanen scored 30 points, Keyonte George had 29 and Utah used a huge fourth quarter to beat Brooklyn.

The Jazz outscored the Nets 42-20 in the final quarter after trailing by 15 points in the first half. Markkanen and George nearly outscored the Nets by themselves, combining for 18 points.

Kyle Filipowski had 15 points and Walter Clayton Jr. added 13 off the bench for Utah, which shot 14 for 22 (63.6%) in the fourth.

Noah Clowney scored 29 points and Ziaire Williams had 23 off the bench for the Nets, who had their two-game winning streak snapped.

Timberwolves 125, Pelicans 116: Julius Randle had 28 points and nine rebounds, carrying Minnesota on a quiet night from Anthony Edwards, over New Orleans.

Edwards finished with just 11 points in 31 minutes. He scored a season-high 44 points on Tuesday in Minnesota's 146-142 overtime victory in the opener of the two-game set.

Naz Reid added 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Timberwolves, who won their fourth straight. Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 12 rebounds, and Donte DiVincenzo also had 15 points.

Trey Murphy III had 21 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for the Pelicans, who have lost five straight and fell to 3-20. Jeremiah Fears and Sadiq Bey each added 20 points.

Malkin scores 2 as Penguins edge Lightning

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Evgeni Malkin scored his second goal of the game with 2:43 left and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-3 on Thursday night for their fourth victory in five games.

Tristan Jarry stopped 36 shots, Ville Koivunen scored his first career goal for Pittsburgh, and Ben Kindel had a power-play goal. Malkin also had an assist.

Brandon Hagel scored twice in the third period for Tampa Bay. He has 10 goals in the past seven games.

Nikita Kucherov had a goal and an assist, and Darren Raddysh had two assists. Jonas Johansson finished with 26 saves.

Tampa Bay has dropped consecutive games in regulation for the first time since Oct. 18-23.

Malkin scored the winning goal off a one-timer feed from Tommy Novak.

Kucherov appeared to tie it with 55.4 left in the third but the goal was overturned after a league-initiated review determined there was a missed stoppage for a hand pass.

Maple Leafs 5, Hurricanes 1: Joseph Woll made 22 saves, Bobby McMann scored twice and Toronto beat Carolina to complete a six-game trip with its third straight victory and fourth in five games.

Auston Matthews, Scott Laughton and Matthew Knies also scored for Toronto.

Seth Jarvis scored for Carolina, and Frederik Andersen stopped 18 shots. Playing the fourth game of a seven-game homestand, the Hurricanes had been off since beating Calgary 1-0 in overtime Sunday night for their second straight victory.

McMann opened the scoring at 53 seconds of the first on Toronto's first shot on goal, beating Andersen with a one-timer from the high slot.

Bruins 5, Blues 2: Pavel Zacha scored twice, Joonas Korpi-salo made 37 saves and Boston

beat St. Louis.

Morgan Geekie had goal and two assists. Viktor Arvidsson and Alex Steeves also scored, and Elias Lindholm assisted on Boston's first two goals.

Pavel Buchnevich and Dylan Holloway scored for St. Louis. The Blues have dropped eight of their past 11 games.

Jordan Binnington made 22 saves in the building where he backstopped St. Louis to a Game 7 win over Boston in the 2019 Stanley Cup Finals.

Islanders 6, Avalanche 3: Mathew Barzal had a goal and two assists, and New York defeated NHL-leading Colorado.

Kyle MacLean, Anders Lee, Bo Horvat and Adam Pelech also scored a goal for the Islanders, who won their second straight. Ilya Sorokin finished with 35 saves and Casey Cizikas added an empty-net goal.

Valeri Nichushkin, Martin Necas and Artturi Lehkonen scored for Colorado. Mackenzie Blackwood made 36 saves.

The Avalanche's 17-game point streak was snapped and they lost in the first game of their four-game East Coast road trip.

Barzal scored with less than two minutes remaining in the second period to extend the Islanders' lead to 5-2 when he converted a backhand on the power play.

Predators 2, Panthers 1, OT: Steven Stamkos scored with 57 seconds left in overtime, and Nashville beat Florida.

Stamkos' goal came with the net appearing to be off its moorings, but it held up after a brief review and gave the Predators their fourth win in five games. It was his 53rd goal all-time against Florida, including playoffs, the most by any player against the Panthers.

Carter Verhaeghe scored two days after the birth of his son and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 27 shots for the Panthers, but the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions lost their fourth

game in a row and their fifth straight at home.

Ryan O'Reilly scored with 6:19 left in the third period to tie the game for Nashville, and Stamkos scored on a rush to win it in the extra period.

Jusse Saros stopped 30 shots for Nashville.

Rangers 4, Senators 2: Artemi Panarin reached 900 NHL points with a goal and an assist and New York won for the league-leading 12th time on the road, beating Ottawa.

The Rangers have won five of their past six to improve to 15-12-2. They are 12-4-1 on the road.

Panarin has 311 goals and 589 assists in 781 regular-season games.

Mika Zibanejad, Will Borgen and Vladislav Gavrikov also scored, and Igor Shesterkin made 25 saves. J.T. Miller had three assists.

Drake Batherson had a goal and an assist, and Dylan Cozens also scored for Ottawa. Leevi Merilainen stopped 24 shots.

Blue Jackets 6, Red Wings 5, SO: Adam Fantilli tied it with 1:31 left in regulation with his second goal of the game, Kirill Marchenko had the shootout winner and Columbus beat Detroit.

Marchenko also scored in the second period when the teams combined for six goals. Five of them were on the power play, the most in an NHL period since 2018.

Ivan Provorov and Kent Johnson also scored for Columbus.

Elvis Merzlikins made back-to-back saves early in the third period to kill a Detroit power play, stopped a shot by Dylan Larkin on a short-handed breakaway a couple minutes later and finished with 28 saves.

Larkin, Lucas Raymond, James van Riemsdyk, Patrick Kane and Alex DeBrincat scored Detroit, and Cam Talbot made 25 saves. The Red Wings have lost five of six.

Flames 4, Wild 1: Dustin Wolf made 26 saves, Jonathan Huberdeau ended a scoring drought and Calgary beat surging Minnesota.

The Flames handed the Wild their first regulation loss since Nov. 6. Minnesota was 10-0-2 during the run.

After 14 games without a goal, Huberdeau struck first for Calgary in the second period. Matt Coronato, Connor Zary and Rasmus Andersson scored in the third, with Andersson icing it with an empty-netter.

Oilers 9, Kraken 4: Connor McDavid had his 13th career hat trick to tie Mark Messier for fourth in Oilers history and added an assist in Edmonton's romp over Seattle.

McDavid opened the scoring at 7:17 of the first period, made it 5-2 on a power play at 6:14 of the second and struck again on a power play at 6:59 of the third. He has 14 goals this season.

McDavid set up Leon Draisaitl's first-period, power-play goal for his 28th assist. Along with his 16th goal, Draisaitl had three assists for a four-point night of his own.

Matthew Savoie scored twice and Vasily Podkolzin, Zach Hyman and Mattias Janmark added goals. Evan Bouchard and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins each had three assists, and Calvin Pickard made 28 saves. The Oilers have won two of their last three to improve to 12-11-5.

Blackhawks 2, Kings 1: Connor Bedard scored for the third straight games, Spencer Knight made 26 saves and Chicago beat Los Angeles to open a two-game set.

The teams will meet again Saturday night in Los Angeles.

Wyatt Kaiser had his first goal of the season to help Chicago win for the second time in three games after losing five in a row. Frank Nazar had two assists.

Trevor Moore scored, and Darcy Kuemper made 34 saves for Los Angeles.