

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Trump taps new national security adviser

The Pueblo (Colo.) Chieftain

President Donald Trump's choice for his national security adviser is a battle-tested Army general whose leadership in dealing with insurgents in Tal Afar, Iraq, in 2005 made him a leading U.S. strategist.

In March 2006, then-Col. H.R. McMaster had just brought the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment back to Fort Carson, Colo., from a year of vicious street fighting in Tal Afar, which is near the Syrian border.

McMaster, with his trademark bald head, was conducting several days of after-action review with his commanders at Fort Carson but took time to talk to reporters about the combat in Tal Afar — which often meant insurgents murdering any Iraqis who cooperated with U.S. troops, frequently beheading them in gruesome warnings to others.

McMaster was already a decorated veteran of Operation Desert Storm and the invasion of Iraq, and he made a point of bringing his young company and even platoon commanders forward to tell their war stories that day. He was happy to step into the background.

The military has an expression — “unit cohesion” — and it was clear the 3rd ACR had it in spades.

When the 5,200-soldier regiment got to Tal Afar, the schools and shops were closed, there was a handful of Iraqi police afraid of being killed and the insurgents were hiding among the population in the city of 250,000.

When firefights broke out, McMaster said, it was common for the insurgents to grab civilians as body armor.

“These were some of the most evil people on Earth,” he said. “They used mass murder to terrorize the city, to make anyone afraid to cooperate with us or their city government.”

The key to changing the atmosphere in Tal Afar was to kill the enemy, McMaster said, and the 3rd ACR did that in street fights and raids. He estimated the regiment killed or captured 1,500 insurgents in that year of combat. Not without losses, though. The 3rd ACR suffered 39 killed and 126 wounded in the fighting.

McMaster said when his troops first arrived, many insurgents were “foreign fighters” — Saudi Arabians, Libyans, Syrians and others who wanted to kill U.S. troops.

As the 3rd ACR established control, local Iraqis were more willing to point out the in-

McMaster outspoken, respected

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump on Monday named Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster as his new national security adviser, replacing the ousted Michael Flynn — a move meant to help put the White House on firmer footing after missteps on multiple fronts.

Trump called McMaster “a man of tremendous talent and tremendous experience” while briefly introducing him to reporters at the president's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida before returning to Washington.

In tapping McMaster, Trump turned to a widely respected and fiercely outspoken military strategist who was recognized for his battlefield leadership during both the Persian Gulf War and the Iraq War.

But unlike many officers, McMaster has spent virtually no time at the Pentagon or in Washington, which could prove a challenge in his new role.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, who has been serving as acting national security adviser, will return to his role as the National Security Council chief of staff.

“I think that combination is something very, very special,” Trump said, later adding: “What a team. This is a great team.”

Both men were among several candidates whom White House aides said Trump had planned to interview over the weekend to replace Flynn, a retired general and an early and vociferous Trump political supporter.

Flynn was asked to resign last week amid allegations that he discussed U.S.

sanctions with a Russian official before Trump took office and then misrepresented the content of that conversation to Vice President Mike Pence and other administration officials.

Trump's first choice of a replacement — retired Navy Vice Adm. Robert Harward — turned him down, compounding the embarrassment surrounding the episode.

Trump's bid to move forward with a replacement comes as his fledgling administration is seeking a reset on several fronts. The president has pledged to issue a new executive order this week, replacing his court-frozen directive on immigration, which has come to symbolize his struggle to translate ambitious campaign promises into policy.

The national security adviser, part of the senior White House staff, serves as the chief in-house counselor to the president on national security issues and has traditionally sought to play the role of a broker among agencies. The position does not require Senate confirmation.

McMaster will assume the position at a time of widespread security challenges, including Russia's alleged meddling in last year's election and North Korea's ballistic missile test this month.

McMaster is widely known as smart, intense and fiercely outspoken, qualities that have won him wide praise among his fellow officers — and have sometimes grated on his superiors.

A White House official said McMaster will not retire from the military but will remain a three-star general, as Colin Powell did as Ronald Reagan's national security adviser.

surgents hiding among them.

“In Tal Afar, the people were deciding this wasn't a legitimate insurgency anymore,” McMaster said, crediting his soldiers with accomplishing that mission.

His success in Tal Afar made McMaster the subject of newspaper and magazine profiles, as well as being featured on “60 Min-

utes” and other news programs.

In his later career, McMaster went on to be an Army planner and strategist, both in the U.S. and in Afghanistan.

He eventually was promoted to lieutenant general in July 2014 and was deputy commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

Bill to pay wrongly convicted former sailor advances in Va.

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

Legislation is sailing through the Virginia General Assembly this week to compensate a former U.S. Navy sailor who served more than three decades behind bars in a Newport News, Va., slaying that he didn't commit.

Two separate but identical bills to pay Keith Allen Harward \$1.55 million have so far carried unanimously through all committees and floor votes, with the Senate version fully passing on Feb. 15 and the House of Delegates' version likely to get a final vote by week's end.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe is expected to sign the legislation into law.

"This is clearly a wrong that needs to be righted," said Del. Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan Jr., D-Arlington, the bill's chief sponsor in the House. "We can't give him back his 33 years. Money can't accomplish giving him back what amounts to most of his adult life. But it is the process that the General Assembly

has put in place to try to right these wrongs."

Harward was 27 years old, stationed on an aircraft carrier being completed at Newport News Shipbuilding, when he was first arrested in the brutal 1982 rape and murder at a house near the shipyard. Though he was sentenced to life behind bars, he walked out of a state prison in Burkeville last April a free, 60-year-old man.

He was convicted largely on the basis of bite mark evidence — in which a person's dental records are matched against the marks on the victim. But such evidence has been discredited in recent years. In early 2016, new DNA testing proved that another man was actually responsible for the crime, leading to Harward's complete exoneration.

Under a state statute, those who were wrongfully convicted can get 90 percent of the state's per capita income — as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis — for each

year locked up, so long as lawmakers agree to the payment.

With Virginia's per capita income now at \$52,136, that translates into \$1.55 million for Harward's 33 years lost.

Under the statute, 20 percent of the total — or \$309,688 in this case — will be paid in a lump sum.

The rest, or \$1.24 million, will be used to purchase a state annuity in Harward's name to make regular payments to him for a fixed term, likely about 20 years.

Harward also will qualify for \$10,000 in education credits with the Virginia Community College system, though he's unlikely to use that because he's now living in North Carolina.

As a condition of taking the deal, Harward must "release all claims" regarding the 1983 conviction.

In other words, he must sign an agreement not to sue Newport News police or prosecutors, state forensics examiners or any other entity involved.

US advisers move closer to front lines in Mosul

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — The Pentagon is deploying U.S. military advisers closer to the front lines in the campaign against the Islamic State as Iraqi security forces wrestle for control of the city of Mosul, the top U.S. commander here said Monday.

Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend said the advisers, numbering about 450, are "operating closer and deeper into Iraqi formations" as a new assault on western Mosul begins.

U.S. commanders made the adjustment during the fight for the eastern side of the city, which began in October and ended last month, and the deployment has continued with the attempt, beginning Sunday, to capture western Mosul, Townsend said.

It marks the first time the U.S. military has acknowledged how close American servicemembers are to the front lines as it assists what Townsend characterized as a force of more than 40,000 Iraqi police officers and soldiers fighting to retake Mosul.

The battle for the western half of the northern Iraqi city is likely to stretch for months in urban neighborhoods where up to 1,000 militants are believed to be entrenched, U.S. military officials said.

The fight for the western half of the city is expected to be more challenging even than the grueling and bloody battle in the east, which lasted for months, according to Iraqi and U.S. commanders. The terrain, including the narrow streets of Mosul's old city, is more daunting. And hundreds of thousands of civilians will be caught between the militants and the advancing army.

Iraq's U.S.-trained counterterrorism forces, the country's most effective unit and the vanguard force during the fight in eastern Mosul, is expected to join the offensive in the coming days.

Search on for missing Navy civilian in Japan

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A search is underway for a Navy civilian who went missing Monday while skiing the Japanese alps at a Nagano winter resort.

Friends and family of Mathew Healy, a physician's assistant whose wife serves in the Air Force on Okinawa, posted a plea for donations via a GoFundMe site that by Tuesday evening had garnered more than \$28,000 toward the search-and-rescue operation's estimated \$40,000 cost.

"Mat Healy, a wonderful father of two small children, has gone missing while skiing

[Hakuba Happo-one Winter Resort] in Nagano Japan," the GoFundMe page says. "Unlike in the US, the funding of search and rescue fall on the family of the missing individual. Please help us bring Mat home safe."

U.S. Forces Japan did not immediately respond to messages asking about efforts to help with the search.

Healy's wife, Brooke, told Stars and Stripes she last saw her husband at a ski resort restaurant around lunchtime Monday.

"He's a very good skier and likes backcountry skiing," she said.

Volunteers spent Tuesday searching around the ski area

with no luck.

The Japanese alps are a dangerous place for backcountry skiers, and there have been numerous reports in recent years of people becoming lost or caught in avalanches.

Locals reported 16 inches of snow at the resort on Monday and Tuesday. Temperatures on the mountain were due to drop to 14 degrees overnight, with a wind-chill of 3.2 degrees.

Sunshine and higher temperatures were expected Wednesday; however, the warmth could increase the risk of avalanches.

Heavy snow and rain has been predicted for Wednesday evening.

Creeks, rivers top banks after latest Calif. storm

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Creeks and rivers topped their banks, hundreds of homes were evacuated and several thousand people found themselves trapped in a rural hamlet as Northern California emerged Tuesday from yet another winter storm.

The atmospheric river of moisture that has saturated drought-parched ground with a series of drenching storms in recent weeks returned with a vengeance to the north on Monday after briefly focusing its fury on Southern California.

The downpours swelled watercourses that already teetered near or above flood levels and left about half of the state under flood, wind and snow advisories.

However, the storm system began to weaken late Monday night and was moving away after dumping 1.86 inches of rain in San Francisco, about 2 inches in much of the Central Valley and more than 7 inches in the mountains above Big Sur, the National Weather Service reported. Scattered showers were expected Tuesday.

On Monday, a levee break along the San Joaquin River prompted an evacuation order for about 500 people living in mainly ranch and farmlands near Manteca, San Joaquin County authorities said.

Some farmers took their tractors and other equipment to the levee to help shore it up, Manteca resident Dino Warda told television station KCRA.

Crews finally filled in the breach and at least temporarily halted the leak Monday night.

Water had been backing up almost to the top of the San Joaquin River levees before the downpour.

In Napa County, water flowed into Lake Berryessa's unique spillway for the first time in more than 10 years. The Monticello Dam Morning Glory Spillway, also known as the Glory Hole, operates similarly to a bathtub drain for the Northern California lake.

Familiar government shutdown threat looms in Trump's future

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Add a potential government shutdown to President Donald Trump's growing roster of headaches.

Beneath the capital's radar looms a vexing problem — a catchall spending package that's likely to top \$1 trillion and could get embroiled in the politics of building Trump's wall at the U.S.-Mexico border and a budget-busting Pentagon request.

While a shutdown deadline has a few weeks to go, the huge measure looms as an unpleasant reality check for Trump and Republicans controlling Congress.

Despite the big power shift in Washington, the path to success — and averting a shuttering of the government — goes directly through Senate Democrats, whose votes are required to pass the measure. And any measure that satisfies Democrats and their new leader, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, is sure to alienate tea party

Republicans. Trump's determination to build his wall on the U.S.-Mexico border faces a fight with Democrats, too.

For now, the new Democratic leader is cautious.

"We'll have to wait and see what happens," Schumer said. "I hope they won't jam up the supplemental (spending bill) with poison pills."

At issue is the annual must-do legislation funding government agencies and departments. The path for the huge spending measure — by Republicans' own choice a piece of leftover business from last year — would be difficult and complicated in a smoothly running Washington. But partisanship has engulfed the city, and the upcoming measure is made even more challenging once upcoming Trump requests for \$18 billion or more for the Pentagon and money for his contentious border wall are added to the mix.

For years, Republicans needed President Barack Obama's signoff and relied on Democratic votes to pass the measures

and balance out opposition from tea partiers.

Trump's election has shifted the balance of power in Washington, but the GOP's grip on the Senate — where 60 votes are needed for most legislation — is actually weaker. Some House conservatives are demanding a round of budget cuts to "offset" new spending on the Pentagon and Trump's wall.

"If all of a sudden we're not worried about pay-fors for our spending, then we have been hypocrites," said tea party Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho. "I'm not going to vote for anything that just increases spending without looking for a way to pay for that in the future."

That's far easier said than done, especially with the budget year nearly half over. Democrats might accept the Pentagon funding even though it would unravel a hard-won 2015 budget pact. But they won't stand for cuts to domestic programs to pay for it, and neither will more pragmatic Republicans.

Justice, DHS debate new travel ban rules

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A fight between leaders at the Justice and Homeland Security departments could delay release of President Donald Trump's revised executive order to limit travel to the United States by citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries, according to a person who was briefed on the dispute.

The department leaders are debating whether to again revoke the visas of 60,000 to 100,000 people from those countries whose permission to come to the U.S. was reinstated after a federal judge in Seattle suspended Trump's initial executive order.

Homeland Security and White House officials want to revoke the visas, while Justice Department lawyers worry about running afoul of the Seattle judge's order.

Trump has said that he would issue a new executive order this week "tailored" to a federal appeals court decision that blocked his Jan. 27 order, which temporarily suspended entry into the United States by citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

Homeland Security and Justice officials are haggling over whether the court's ruling would apply to a new executive order or only to the original. The two sides are debating three possible ways to proceed. One would be to revoke nonimmigrant visas — those issued for tourism or business, for example — for citizens of the seven countries. A second would be to not revoke the visas but stop issuing new ones. The third option would be to announce plans to revoke

the visas and then wait for the court's approval before carrying out the plan. The Justice Department does not want to revoke the already-issued visas, but would agree to either the second or third option.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly appeared to hint at the distinction at the Munich Security Conference. He said Trump's plan was to release a "streamlined version" of the ban. The new executive order, Kelly said, would allow permanent U.S. residents — green-card holders — to enter the U.S., but people with other types of visas would be allowed in only if they were already in the process of traveling to the U.S. when the order was issued, according to news agency accounts of his comments.

Bodies of 74 migrants wash up in Libya

Associated Press

CAIRO — At least 74 bodies of African migrants have washed ashore in western Libya, the Libyan Red Crescent said Tuesday, the latest tragedy at sea along a perilous but increasingly popular trafficking route to Europe.

The bodies were found near the city of Zawiya on Monday, Red Crescent spokesman Mohammed al-Misrati told The Associated Press, adding that he feared more might surface. He said a torn rubber boat, the kind that usually carries up to 120 people, was found nearby.

The Red Crescent's branch in Zawiya said there are bodies still floating out at sea but it has no means to retrieve them.

The International Organization of Migration said the traffickers took the engine and left the boat to drift. Another 12 mi-

grants remain missing and are "presumed drowned," and a sole survivor was transferred to a hospital in a coma, the U.N. migration agency said on Twitter.

The Red Crescent posted photographs of dozens of bodies in white and black bags lined up along the shore. Al-Misrati said the bodies would be taken to a cemetery for unidentified people in the capital, Tripoli. The Red Crescent appealed for help on Facebook, saying there are no vehicles to transport the bodies.

Al-Misrati had initially said the bodies were found overnight but later clarified that they were recovered Monday afternoon and evening.

Libyan coast guard spokesman Ayoub Gassim said over 500 migrants were rescued at sea on Friday and Saturday off the coast of Sebratha, a city to the west of Za-

wiya. The migrants' boats were about 5 to 7 miles from the coast.

Gassim said the smugglers pack larger rubber boats with up to 180 people, dramatically increasing the risk of capsizing.

"We are seeing the new boats, which are not equipped with anything, but they carry more people," he said. "This is going to be even more disastrous for the migrants."

The Libya-to-Italy smuggling route across the Mediterranean saw record numbers of migrant drownings in 2016, Fabrice Leggeri, director of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, said last week. Some 4,579 migrant deaths were documented in 2016, up from 2,869 deaths the previous year and 3,161 in 2014. The real number of deaths is believed to be much higher.

Israeli soldier receives 18 months for fatal shooting

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — An Israeli military court on Tuesday sentenced a soldier to 18 months in prison for his deadly shooting of a Palestinian attacker who lay wounded on the ground, capping a nearly year-long saga that has deeply divided the country.

The sentence, which included a year's probation and a demotion in rank, was lighter than expected — prosecutors had asked for a prison term of three to five years.

Yet it still triggered disappointment from protesters who had gathered outside the Tel Aviv court and had hoped to see the soldier walk free. Politicians immediately called for Sgt. Elor Azaria to be pardoned.

Azaria was convicted of manslaughter last month in a rare case of a military court ruling against a combat soldier for lethal action taken in the field.

The verdict marked a victory for commanders who said Azaria had violated the army's code of ethics. But the soldier himself generated great support among the public, many of whom see him as a scapegoat

for a misguided elite that has sought to harshly punish a soldier who they say responded to an armed attacker trying to kill other soldiers.

Azaria, an army medic, was caught on a cellphone video in March fatally shooting the wounded Palestinian just after the man stabbed a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron. The Palestinian, Abdel Fattah al-Sharif, was lying on the ground and already unarmed when Azaria shot him in the head.

The shooting occurred at the height of what has become more than a yearlong wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Azaria's defenders said he shot the assailant in self-defense, and hard-line politicians have said he should be either cleared or released with a light penalty. But his detractors, including senior military commanders, have said his actions violated military procedures.

The uproar has put the army in a delicate position. Military service is compulsory for Israel's Jewish majority, and there is widespread sympathy for soldiers, since virtually every family has a member who is serving or has served in the past.

US-born panda cub Bao Bao heads to China

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Zoo in Washington packed up its American-born panda cub Bao Bao for a one-way flight to China, where the 3-year-old will eventually join a panda breeding program.

The cub didn't have to worry about finding overhead bin space or dealing with a talkative seatmate on the 16-hour, nonstop flight Tuesday afternoon into Wednesday. She was to be the only panda on the plane, traveling with a keeper and a veterinarian. Her accommodations were first class, too: a special metal crate the size of a double bed she can stretch out in. A sticker on its outside announces its contents: "one panda."

In preparation for the trip, keepers have a packing list of Bao Bao's favorite foods, including 55 pounds of bamboo, 5 pounds of apples and 2 pounds of sweet potatoes.

"Most of the flight, we hope she's going to eat," said panda keeper Marty Dearie, who will travel with Bao Bao to China and says pandas spend 13 to 16 hours a day eating.

Bao Bao was scheduled to depart the zoo Tuesday morning

and travel to Washington Dulles International Airport in northern Virginia to board a special FedEx plane.

Once Bao Bao arrives in Chengdu, China, she'll be driven to her new home, one of the bases run by the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda. Dearie will briefly remain with her while she gets adjusted. In time, when she reaches sexual maturity, between 5 and 6 years old, she'll become part of a panda breeding program.

The National Zoo said Bao Bao is traveling now because it's better for pandas to travel in the winter months when it is cool.

Laurie Thompson, the assistant curator of giant pandas, said keepers have been preparing Bao Bao to leave for China since she was born, teaching her behaviors that will allow her Chinese keepers to do things such as draw blood and perform ultrasounds. Thompson said Bao Bao's departure is "definitely bittersweet," but her keepers "know she's ready" to leave.

"We're ready. We've done our part, and we're ready to send her to China so she can have her own babies someday," Thompson said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Missing dad of 3 found; met someone online

OH AKRON — Police in Ohio said they safely located a father of three whose mysterious disappearance from the San Antonio area spurred weeks of searching by his family and volunteers.

Police told the Akron Beacon Journal a tip led them to Lee Arms, 44, near Bath Township. They say he tried to escape his life in Texas and ended up in Ohio after meeting someone online.

Police notified his family but wouldn't release details because Arms wasn't charged with a crime.

WOAI-TV in San Antonio reported Arms was found Thursday, and his actions are under review by the Bexar County Sheriff's Office.

The Falls City, Texas, man vanished Feb. 5. His car was found still running and abandoned with its lights flashing, with his wallet and belongings still at the scene.

Coach faces DUI charge in school bus incident

SC NEWBERRY — South Carolina troopers said a Goose Creek High School coach was charged with driving under the influence after officers saw him drive the team bus the wrong way down a highway.

Highway Patrol Sgt. Bob Beres said Brent Carter, 50, was driving the bus east in the westbound lanes without its headlights on along state Highway 34 near Newberry around 7 p.m. Sunday.

Beres said Carter's blood-alcohol level was 0.18 percent, more than twice the legal limit.

Authorities said the 15 students and three adults on the

bus were not hurt and were picked up by another driver and taken back to the school near Charleston. They had been attending a drama competition.

Transgender wrestler wins regional title

TX ALLEN — A 17-year-old Dallas-area high school transgender wrestler who is transitioning from female to male has won a girls regional championship after a female opponent forfeited their match.

Mack Beggs, a Euless Trinity High School junior who is undefeated this wrestling season, hugged opponent Madeline Rocha, from Coppell, on the victory stand Saturday after their match for the 110-pound Class 6A Region 2 championship never took place.

Beggs and Rocha advanced to the state championships. The top four finishers in the region qualified for the state tournament.

Beggs' coach, Travis Clark, told The Dallas Morning News the forfeit was expected but declined further comment.

Truck breaks through ice; plane flips on lake

NH ALTON — New Hampshire Fish and Game conservation officers had a busy afternoon on Lake Winnepesaukee, where a truck broke through the ice and a plane crashed trying to take off from an ice runway.

It happened Sunday in Alton. First, officers helped a New Durham man whose pickup truck ended up partially submerged as he tried to remove a bob house from the lake. During that investigation, they saw a plane land upside down after trying to take off from the Alton Bay runway. Both the pilot and

passenger were trapped in the cockpit. Bystanders lifted the tail of the plane, while conservation officers broke the glass of the cockpit.

The pilot suffered minor injuries.

Man hits blind relative who called him by name

FL BOCA RATON — Boca Raton police said a 21-year-old man repeatedly punched a blind relative who called him by his given name.

The Palm Beach Post reported that Bernard Muscadin said "Don't call me Bernard" before attacking the relative.

Police reports said he prefers to be called Ben.

Muscadin told police he was upset the relative was criticizing him about staying out late drinking and smoking.

He faces charges of battery and abuse of a disabled person.

Cops warn of cows 'trying to sell dairy products'

CT SUFFIELD — Police in a Connecticut town are reminding people to not open their doors to "any unfamiliar cattle" after a pair of cows escaped from their pen and were found near the front door of a home a couple of houses away.

Sgt. Geoffrey Miner told WGGB/WSHM a driver reported seeing the cows walking on the side of a road and in yards in Suffield on Sunday morning.

Officers took a photo of the cows before herding them back to their pen.

Police posted the photo on Facebook, saying two "suspicious males" were going door-to-door "trying to sell dairy products." They were "apprehended after a short foot pursuit."

Town getting drive-thru pot shop, possible first

CO PARACHUTE — The western Colorado town of Parachute is getting a drive-thru marijuana shop, believed to be the first in the state.

The Parachute Board of Trustees approved a business license for Tumbleweed Express last week, the Glenwood Springs Post Independent reported.

"As far as I can tell, we are not aware of this business model ever coming up before," said Robert Goulding, spokesman for the state Marijuana Enforcement Division.

The business is expected to open in March in a former car wash.

Man allegedly attacks people with screwdriver

AZ PHOENIX — Police arrested a man who allegedly attacked two Phoenix police officers and two nurses with a screwdriver.

Police said Arturo Reyes Garcia, 37, was jailed on suspicion of two counts each of aggravated assault on a police officer and aggravated assault on medical staff.

Two nurses called police from a north Phoenix medical facility after Garcia became combative.

Authorities said that during the nurses' attempts to calm Garcia, he allegedly attacked them with a screwdriver and left them with wounds to their hands wrists.

Police found Garcia a short distance away and say he was uncooperative. Garcia allegedly attacked a female officer with a screwdriver as police were trying to handcuff him.

From wire reports

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Giants' Posey ready for fresh start

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Buster Posey leans on the back of the batting cage under Arizona's blue skies, one leg crossed over the other as he watches his teammates take their cuts while awaiting his turn. The star catcher chats up athletic trainer Dave Groeschner and talks hitting with manager Bruce Bochy.

"Hi, Buster!" hollered 6-year-old Jordan Larocco, a first-grader from Peoria, Ariz., who attended Monday's workout with father Michael and 1-year-old brother, Sebastian. Posey immediately turned and offered a wave and smile.

Gearing up for the World Baseball Classic and his ninth major league season in an already decorated career, Posey is perfectly happy to leave last year behind.

He is unable to put a finger on why his power numbers fell or say for certain whether fatigue was a factor. He cleared the fences for the fewest times when playing a full season in his eight years as a big leaguer.

"Oh, you feel worn down at the end of every year regard-

less if you have power numbers or not. You usually feel a little bit better when you are hitting a few more homers, just the way it goes," Posey said. "I don't know exactly what the explanation was. I'm looking forward to getting out and getting after it this year."

Now, the 2010 NL Rookie of the Year and 2012 MVP is working on an abbreviated spring schedule with the San Francisco Giants to learn the pitchers and find his hitting stroke before departing for the WBC to play for the U.S. team.

He batted .288 with 14 home runs, 33 doubles and 80 RBIs in 146 games. Posey has read statistics that his exit velocity — or how hard he hit the ball — was as high as ever.

"If I look at that, that tells me I was probably hitting too many balls on the ground," said Posey, who turns 30 next month. "Maybe that could be something mechanical. More than likely it probably is. Hopefully there's an adjustment I can make where I can keep that consistent hard contact rate but maybe get a few more balls in the gap or better."

Posey also made a career-high 122 starts behind the plate last season and played 123 games at the position in all. Bochy plans to have him catch fewer games if at all possible.

"I'd like to try to rest him a little more, to be honest. We'll see how it goes, how the games go more than anything," Bochy said. "If they're good crisp games, that plays a part in how much he plays. If you have a bunch of long games you have to rest him a little bit more."

Improving his diet became a priority for Posey, with wife Kristen's assistance.

"My wife gets credit for that," Posey said of his clean eating. "I just don't have the option to eat bad stuff from what she buys. I think it can be very beneficial. The main thing is trying to eat as raw as possible. That's kind of the way we look at it. We're still going to eat our grains and we're not against the carbs that way, but just trying to eat as raw as possible."

They also work together through his foundation as strong advocates and support for pediatric cancer research and treatment through their

foundation.

Posey has never had a hard time finding motivation to work in the offseason, yet the disappointing way last season ended provided "a little bit of an extra push."

The Giants are revamping their bullpen after the struggles down the stretch and in their final game: squandering a three-run lead in the ninth against the Cubs using five relievers.

"This is the first time that we had lost in the playoffs and even coming off of World Series wins, I've been ready to go at this time of the year," he said.

Posey caught new closer Mark Melancon on Day 1 last week at Scottsdale Stadium and has made a point to quickly get up to speed with all the pitchers.

"I'm excited to learn from him and just get better together," Melancon said. "I feel like we're going to be able to help each other out a lot. I already know his work ethic and the thought that he puts into each game. Those things really excite me because I'm on the same page with that."

Dodgers add Gutierrez, show off depth at every position

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Although Franklin Gutierrez officially joined the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday afternoon, the veteran outfielder had already been working out at their spring training complex for two days.

The Dodgers reached a deal with him last week, but they couldn't formally announce his arrival because they hadn't been able to clear a spot for him on their 40-man roster until they traded veteran left-hander Vidal Nuno to Baltimore for a prospect on Sunday.

Such is the nature of the Dodgers' remarkable roster depth heading into a season of enormous expectations. The

four-time defending NL West champions are bursting with high-quality big leaguers at every position, ranging from seasoned veterans to blue-chip young talent, as they chase their first World Series title since 1988.

The Dodgers' extraordinary depth is a luxury for manager Dave Roberts, but it also means spring training is uncommonly important as they begin the difficult process of trimming this roster to a 25-man group.

For instance, Roberts can choose among 10 legitimate big-league starters for his five-man rotation. The club also must make tough calls from the bullpen to the outfield, and the process took another step forward Tuesday with the first

full-squad workout.

"We're going to have a lot of competition around here, and someone is not going to be happy," ace Clayton Kershaw said. "But it's going to be good for us in the long run."

Since the deep-pocketed Guggenheim Baseball Management ownership group took over the team in 2012 and hired top baseball executive Andrew Friedman away from Tampa Bay two years later, the Dodgers have spent the bounty from their multibillion-dollar television deal with remarkable vigor. They did it again during this offseason, committing a combined \$192 million to keep third baseman Justin Turner, closer Kenley Jansen and starter Rich Hill from the team that

finished two wins shy of the World Series.

The Dodgers also were deep last season, and they had to be: They won 91 games and reached the NL Championship Series despite setting a single-season major league record by putting 28 different players on the disabled list. They had seven starting pitchers on the DL at the same time in August, and they used 55 different players, tying a team record.

If injury problems ravage them again, the Dodgers think they will be ready.

If the Dodgers stay healthy, they'll just be loaded.

"You could say that we have more depth," Roberts said Monday. "You could argue that. I think that's a good thing."

Lakers fire Kupchak, Buss; hire Magic

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers fired general manager Mitch Kupchak on Tuesday and put Magic Johnson in charge of basketball operations in a major shake-up of the struggling franchise's front office.

Lakers owner Jeanie Buss also removed her brother, Jim, from his job as the Lakers' executive vice president of basketball operations.

Jeanie Buss then promoted Johnson, the Hall of Fame point guard who returned to the franchise earlier this year in an executive role. Johnson is the Lakers' new president of basketball operations, reporting directly to Jeanie Buss.

Jeanie Buss made the extraordinary moves two days before the NBA's trade deadline. The Lakers are 19-39 this season, plummeting out of contention after an encouraging 10-10 start under new coach Luke Walton, who got a strong vote of confidence from Jeanie Buss.

In a statement, Jeanie Buss said she "took a series of actions I believe will return the Lakers to the heights Dr. Jerry Buss demanded and our fans rightly ex-

pect," referring to her father, the late Lakers owner.

"Our search for a new general manager to work with Earvin and coach Luke Walton is well underway, and we hope to announce a new general manager in short order," Jeanie Buss added. "Together, Earvin, Luke and our new general manager will establish the foundation for the next generation of Los Angeles Lakers greatness."

Kupchak has been the 16-time NBA champion franchise's GM since 2000, when Jerry West left the club. Kupchak had been in the Lakers' front office for 30 years, including the last 17 as general manager — the longest current stretch running a front office in the NBA.

Jim Buss had been in the Lakers' front office for 19 years, including 12 in charge of basketball operations alongside Kupchak.

The Lakers are mired in the worst four-year stretch in franchise history, missing the playoffs in three consecutive years with their three worst records ever. They finished 17-65 last season, a franchise low in the last year of Kobe Bryant's two-decade run with the franchise.

Johnson's return made Jim Buss' departure seem quite likely, particularly given

Jim Buss' vow several years ago to leave the franchise if they weren't in contention for a Western Conference title by this year or next.

Johnson has never been a decision-making NBA executive, but he has been a successful businessman and investor since his playing career ended. He also briefly coached the Lakers, but dropped his ceremonial title as a team vice president last June after his frequent criticisms of Jim Buss and former coaches. He sold his ownership stake in 2010.

The departure of Kupchak is even more dramatic. The former Lakers center had worked with Jerry West and Jim Buss in relative harmony for years with the tradition-bound Lakers.

The Lakers' recent ineptitude didn't hurt their place as Los Angeles' most beloved sports franchise and a worldwide brand, but Jeanie Buss finally tired of the apparent lack of progress. The Lakers have a talented young core with D'Angelo Russell, Julius Randle, Brandon Ingram and Jordan Clarkson, but haven't been able to translate that potential into wins despite playing an exciting style under Walton.

Trocheck's goal lifts Panthers over Blues

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Florida Panthers began their five-game road trip near the back of a crowded field in the Eastern Conference playoff race. After sweeping the trip they're near the top of the Atlantic Division.

Vincent Trocheck scored with just under 5 seconds remaining to lift the Panthers to a 2-1 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Monday night.

"It felt like we won the Stanley cup for just a second," Trocheck said. "I think to do it with four seconds on the clock, we showed a lot of poise there in the third period, even when they tied it up."

Jonathan Marchessault also scored and James Reimer stopped 26 shots to help the Panthers complete a 5-0 road trip — their first perfect trip of at least that many games in franchise history.

Reimer has won five straight

decisions and has not lost in regulation since Jan. 7 against Boston, going 6-0-1 since.

The Panthers moved into a tie with Boston for third place in the Atlantic Division, but have the edge because they have a game in hand on the Bruins.

"It's a great group of players and everybody deserves it," said Panthers interim coach Tom Rowe, "It's been a long season, it's been a hard season and now everything is coming together but again we've got a long way to go. It's going to be a dog fight until the end of the season."

Kyle Brodziak, playing for the second time after missing 10 games due to a broken foot, scored for the Blues and Jake Allen finished with 31 saves. St. Louis lost its second straight since winning six in a row.

"We had 30 seconds left to salvage a point in a game that we played not good," Allen said.

"Those are huge points right now. Couldn't end up with two points and it slipped away."

Marchessault opened the scoring when he beat Allen short side for his 17th goal of the season in the middle of the first period.

Brodziak tied about three minutes into the second when he put Ryan Reaves' rebound past Reimer for his seventh.

Trocheck won it with his team-leading 21st.

St. Louis dominated the offensive action in the first period, outshooting Florida 12-8. The Panthers then outshot the Blues 25-15 the rest of the way.

St. Louis dropped to 7-3 under Mike Yeo and remains third in the Central Division, three points ahead of Nashville.

The Blues don't play again until visiting Chicago on Sunday.

Coyotes 3, Ducks 2: Radim Vrbata capped Arizona's

three-goal first period and the host Coyotes held on to beat Anaheim.

Christian Dvorak and Jakob Chychrun also scored for Arizona, and starting goalie Mike Smith had 27 saves before leaving about 4½ minutes into the third period after a collision in the net. Marek Langhamer helped kill a power play after being pressed into action for his NHL debut and stopped seven of the eight shots he faced.

The Coyotes have won four of their last six.

Langhamer gave up Ryan Getzlaf's second goal of the night with 26.8 seconds to play, but thwarted two quality shots in the final seconds.

Jonathan Bernier gave up three goals on six shots in the first period for the Ducks. John Gibson came on to start the second and stopped all 14 shots he faced.

Big NBA trades could still be on tap

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jahlil Okafor viewed New Orleans during All-Star weekend with a different lens than usual, since he thought there was a chance it may have been his next home.

That's life in the rumor mill.

Welcome to trade season, already underway in earnest and will remain so until Thursday afternoon's deadline. All-Star DeMarcus Cousins is changing his address from Sacramento to New Orleans, Serge Ibaka was sent last week from Orlando to Toronto — and the next few days will likely see Carmelo Anthony, Jimmy Butler, Taj Gibson, Reggie Jackson and many more all discussed

by various teams.

"Here we go again," said Okafor, the Philadelphia 76ers forward who missed two games before the break amid looming trade speculation.

The motivations are many, and obvious in most cases. Some teams will look to add pieces with hopes of enhancing their postseason hopes; others are looking to build toward the future by shedding expiring contracts or collecting draft picks.

The jostling is already well underway, and the Cousins move would be huge for New Orleans — if they can convince him to sign an extension this summer. Ibaka figures to bol-

ster the Raptors' chances in the East, and Cleveland moved the injured Chris Andersen to Charlotte to open up a roster spot just in case the Cavs have a chance to add a piece that might help LeBron James when it's time to defend last season's title.

Even the Cavs are looking to get better. And of course, teams are looking for ways to improve enough to beat the defending champs as well.

"To know that everyone is trying to build their team or wanting to get their team to try to get to where you are and try to knock you off, it's a motivating factor," said Cleveland star LeBron James

With Cousins now moved, the next huge domino to fall may be Anthony, who has a no-trade clause — but is going through times trying enough with the New York Knicks that he might be persuaded to drop that clause.

Others have no choice. The Bulls might lose Gibson in free agency this summer, and Boston — which could easily have the No. 1 pick in this year's draft thanks to a past deal with the Brooklyn Nets — is believed to be a potential landing spot for Butler if Chicago elects to go into a full rebuilding mode. If that happens, the Bulls probably wouldn't be expecting Dwyane Wade to stay.

Brown's three-pointer in OT helps Miami top Virginia

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Bruce Brown had a tough night from the field, and yet, with the ball in his hands and Miami in need of a basket, the freshman guard put his faith in loads of summertime shooting work.

Brown made a three-pointer with 23.8 seconds left in overtime and the Hurricanes beat No. 18 Virginia 54-48 on Monday night for the Cavaliers' fourth straight loss.

"I caught it in rhythm, and my only thought was to put it up because he was playing a bit off me," Brown said.

The three-pointer was only his second field goal of the night, but it gave Miami a 50-48 lead.

Brown scored 14 points to lead the Hurricanes (19-8, 9-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) to their third consecutive victory, moving them out of a tie with Virginia and into sixth in the league. Kamari Murphy and Dejan Vasiljevic added 10 points each.

"I think this young team is finally catching our stride," senior guard Davon Reed said. "To be able to pull three in a

row out is big for us."

Devon Hall scored 15 points to lead Virginia (18-9, 8-7), which lost its fourth in a row for the first time since Tony Bennett's first season as coach in 2009-10. Isaiah Wilkins added 10 points and 10 rebounds, including two free throws with four seconds left in regulation to tie it.

"It was there for the taking, and we didn't," Bennett said. "It's where we're at. Our inexperience is showing."

Bennett especially lamented that the Cavaliers couldn't pull it out on a night they honored last year's ACC player of the year and defensive player of the year Malcolm Brogdon, now with the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks, by retiring his No. 15 jersey.

The offensively challenged Cavaliers used 12-0 run in a span of 2:24 to open a 35-24 lead with 12 minutes to play, but just as quickly, they went cold, not scoring for nearly six minutes thereafter.

"I think our defense tightened up," Miami coach Jim Larranaga said. "We played a little smaller group, and that worked pretty effectively."

Miami thought it had won

when Reed hit a 3-pointer at the end of the second half, but a video review was used to determine he released the ball just after the buzzer.

In the overtime, a putback by Marial Shayok with 39 seconds left gave the Cavaliers a 48-47 lead, but Brown made his only 3-pointer of the game on the Hurricanes' ensuing possession, and Miami sealed it at the free-throw line. The made 20 of 22 free-throw attempts.

No. 12 West Virginia 77, Texas 62: After Mountaineers coach Bob Huggins dropped to his knees and clutched his chest in a scary moment before halftime, Jevon Carter finished with 24 points to lead his team over the visiting Longhorns.

Lamont West had 23 points, helping West Virginia (22-6, 10-5 Big 12) shake off a slow start and its coach's frightening fall.

Huggins went down during a timeout just before halftime, and his players quickly came to his aid. Huggins stood, briefly massaged his chest and stayed on the sideline.

It wasn't immediately known whether Huggins received medical attention at halftime, but he returned to coach in the

second half.

ESPN's Holly Rowe said Huggins told her at halftime that he thought his defibrillator went off. A West Virginia basketball spokesman had no immediate comment.

Jarrett Allen led Texas (10-18, 4-11) with 17 points.

No. 19 Florida State 104, Boston College 72: Dwayne Bacon had 16 points and all 13 Florida State players had at least four points, helping the host Seminoles bounce back from two straight losses with a victory over Boston College.

Bacon went over the 1,000-point mark for his career on a three-pointer early in the second half after going scoreless in last Saturday's loss at Pittsburgh.

PJ Savoy added 15 points and the Seminoles' bench accounted for 59 points. Jonathan Isaac (14 points) and Jarquez Smith (10) also scored in double figures, and FSU (22-6, 10-5 Atlantic Coast Conference) never trailed and led by 34 (75-41) six minutes into the second half.

Kai Bowman had 24 points and Jerome Robinson 21 for Boston College (9-19, 2-13), which has lost 11 straight and 13 of its last 14.