

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy sends 2 destroyers into Black Sea

BY SCOTT WYLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

Two American destroyers sailed into the Black Sea over the weekend, the first time since 2014 that more than one U.S. warship has operated in this tense region other than in an exercise.

The destroyers USS Ross and USS Carney are patrolling the sea to help maintain regional security and stability, the Navy said.

“Our decision to have two ships simultaneously operate in the Black Sea is proactive, not reactive,” said Vice Adm. Christopher Grady, 6th Fleet commander, in a statement Sunday. “We operate at the tempo and timing of our choosing in this strategically important region.”

Russia has viewed U.S. ships transiting these international waters as provocative ever since Moscow annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

The U.S. is sending a message that it will defend its allies, uphold maritime laws and protect its offshore interests in Europe and Asia, said Jim Holmes, Naval War College professor of strategy.

“We’re putting Russia on notice in the Black Sea and China on notice in the South China Sea that we will not be deterred from going into those waters, and doing so in force,” Holmes said.

The U.S. has sent destroyers into the Black Sea more often in the past year as Russia has deployed more naval forces. But the last time two U.S. warships conducted a security patrol there was during

the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, just before Russia annexed Crimea.

Two warships have been present in the Black Sea for multinational exercises, such as last year’s Sea Breeze and Sea Shield.

Beefing up patrols is a way of telling adversaries the Navy has bounced back after some high-profile accidents, Holmes said. The destroyers USS John S. McCain and USS Fitzgerald collided with commercial ships in separate incidents last year, resulting in the deaths of 17 sailors and forcing the Navy to review many of its procedures.

“Yes, we have some remedial work to do on the fundamentals, but we won’t surrender our ideals or interests while we do it,” Holmes said.

## Special counsel files new charge in Russia probe

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The special counsel investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election charged an attorney Tuesday with lying to federal investigators about his interactions with a former Donald Trump campaign official.

A charging document filed in federal court in Washington accuses Alex van der Zwaan of lying to investigators about his interactions with Rick Gates, a longtime business associate of President Donald Trump’s former campaign chair, Paul Manafort. Both Gates and Manafort were indicted last year on charges of conspiracy to launder money and acting as unregistered foreign agents.

The plea hearing comes on the heels of an extraordinary indictment from Special Counsel Robert Mueller last week that charged 13 Russian nationals and three Russian

companies in a hidden social media effort to meddle in the 2016 presidential election by denigrating Democrat Hillary Clinton and boosting the chances of Trump.

The single-count information against van der Zwaan was filed ahead of a plea hearing scheduled for later Tuesday.

The charge stems from a part of the special counsel’s investigation into Manafort and Gates, who are accused of directing a covert Washington lobbying campaign on behalf of pro-Russia Ukrainian interests.

According to the court filing, prosecutors say van der Zwaan lied to federal investigators about his role in the production of a report on the trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She is a political foe of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, whose political party was a client of Gates and Manafort.

In the charging document, van der Zwaan is accused of lying during an interview with prosecutors and FBI agents on Nov. 3, 2017. The charging document accuses him of lying about the timing of his last communication with Gates and an unidentified person described as “Person A.” It also accuses him of deleting emails sought by the special counsel’s office and lying about a phone call he surreptitiously recorded in September 2016 with Gates and Person A regarding the Tymoshenko report.

The report was cited in the 12-count indictment against Manafort and Gates. It accuses the two men of acting as unregistered lobbyists in connection with the rollout of the report, which was commissioned by the Ukrainian government. According to the indictment, Manafort and Gates “used one of their offshore accounts to funnel \$4 million to pay secret-

ly for the report.”

The report was authored by Washington law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, known as Skadden Arps.

Van der Zwaan’s now-defunct LinkedIn page lists him as an associate in the London office of the prominent law firm.

Trump is showing signs of frustration with the continued Russia probe, blaming Democrats for shrugging off his prior claims that the U.S. election system was rigged only to point to Russia influence.

Trump tweeted Tuesday a quote from former President Barack Obama in October 2016 that “there is no serious person out there who would suggest somehow that you could even rig America’s elections.” Obama was addressing Trump’s claims of voter fraud, not Russia’s attempt to influence voters on social media.

# Report: N. Korea planning cyberattacks

*The Washington Post*

TOKYO — North Korea is quietly expanding the scope and the sophistication of its cyberweaponry, laying the groundwork for more devastating attacks, according to a report published Tuesday.

Kim Jong Un's cyberwarriors have been accused of causing huge disruptions in recent years, including the massive hack on Sony Pictures in 2014 and last year's WannaCry ransomware worm, as well as many attacks on South Korean servers.

Now it appears that North Korea has also been using previously unknown holes in the internet to carry out cyberespionage — the kinds of activities that could easily metamorphose into full-scale attacks, according to a report from California-based cybersecurity company FireEye.

Although the North Korean regime bans the internet for ordinary citizens and is decidedly behind the times with most technology, it has funneled a huge amount of time and money into building a cyberarmy ca-

pable of outsmarting more technologically advanced countries like South Korea.

"Our concern is that this could be used for a disruptive attack rather than a classic espionage mission, which we already know that the North Koreans are regularly carrying out," said John Hultquist, director of intelligence analysis for FireEye.

FireEye said it has "high confidence" that a cyberespionage group it has identified as APT37 is responsible for a number of "zero-day vulnerability" attacks not just in South Korea but in Japan, Vietnam and in the Middle East. Zero-day attacks are when hackers find and exploit flaws in software before the developers have had an opportunity to create a patch to fix it. "It's like your security system is a big wall, but someone knows that there's a hole somewhere in that wall and can crawl through it," Hultquist said. "It's fairly rare."

It's also a sign of sophistication as hackers are able to obtain access and defeat mature

security programs, he said.

Experts say all the evidence suggests that Lazarus, the cyber collective that launched the embarrassing attack on Sony and was behind the \$81 million cyberheist of a Bangladeshi bank in 2016, has links to the North Korean regime. It is also accused of masterminding last year's WannaCry attack, which crippled companies, banks and hospitals around the world.

North Korea also is accused of numerous attacks in South Korea. The most recent involved the hacking of a South Korean cryptocurrency exchange. The bitcoin exchange Youbit lost 17 percent of its total assets in the December attack and said it would close down as a result.

This APT37 appears to have been operating under the radar, exploiting holes in South Korean cybersecurity since 2012 to covertly gather intelligence on issues of concern for the North Korean regime, the government, military, media and human rights groups among them. Those targets, together with the times of day that at-

tacks happen, strongly point to North Korea, FireEye said.

Last year, however, APT37 appears to have targeted a Japanese entity involved in imposing sanctions on North Korea, a Vietnamese company and one in the Middle East.

FireEye did not name any of the targets for legal reasons, but its description of the attack on the company in the Middle East perfectly describes Orascom, the Egyptian telecommunications company that had started a cellphone company in North Korea, only to have almost all its profits retained by the regime.

As well as expanding its geographical reach, APT37 appears to be targeting a wider range of industries, including chemicals, electronics, manufacturing, aerospace, automotive and health care entities, the report said.

While the damage is currently much lower than that caused by the huge cyberattacks blamed on North Korea, it suggests the regime is looking for new ways to launch stealthy attacks when it wants to.

## More than 100 die in Syrian assault on Damascus rebels

*Associated Press*

BEIRUT — Intense Syrian government shelling and airstrikes on rebel-held Damascus suburbs killed nearly 130 people in two days, marking some of the deadliest bombardment of the rebellious region in three years, a monitoring group and paramedics said Tuesday.

Retaliatory shells rained down on Damascus, killing at least eight people and causing panic among residents of the Syrian capital, seat of President Bashar Assad's power.

The violence in the capital and nearby areas came as scores of pro-government gunmen began entering the northern Kurdish enclave of Afrin. Turkish troops shelled the areas shortly after

the fighters entered the area, forcing journalists to flee. Turkish state media reported the pro-government forces then fell back 6 miles from Afrin city.

The targeted suburbs — scattered across an area known as eastern Ghouta — have been subjected to weeklong bombardment that has killed and wounded hundreds of people. Opposition activists say government forces have brought in more reinforcements in recent days, suggesting a major assault is imminent to recapture the area that is the last main rebel stronghold near Damascus.

The area that has been under tight siege since last year is home to some 400,000 people as well as thousands of insurgents belonging to different factions.

## US-S. Korea war games will go on after Olympic Games

BY KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea and the United States confirmed Tuesday that they will hold joint war games on the divided peninsula after the Olympic Games despite concerns the drills could jeopardize a fragile detente with North Korea.

The longtime allies had agreed to postpone the annual exercises until after the Winter Games in a bid to ease rising tensions with the nuclear-armed North, which considers the exercises to be a rehearsal for an invasion.

U.S. military officials have al-

ways said the operations known as Key Resolve and Foal Eagle would resume after the March 8-18 Paralympics. But some observers speculated that Seoul may ask for them to be further postponed or scaled down to maintain a spirit of reconciliation with Pyongyang.

Defense Minister Song Young-moo dismissed that idea on Tuesday, telling a parliamentary defense committee that the allies would announce the start date for the drills by the end of March, according to the Yonhap News Agency. He also said the North didn't ask for the postponement of the drills as a condition for participating in the Olympics or the inter-Korean talks.

# Immigrant families worried about limits

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When the U.S. government approved Ricardo Magpantay, his wife and young children to immigrate to America from the Philippines, it was 1991. By the time a visa was available, it was 2005, and his children could not come with him because they were now adults.

More than a decade later, his children are still waiting.

Magpantay gets worried when he hears the White House is aiming to limit the relatives that immigrants-turned-citizens can sponsor, a profound change to a fundamental piece of the American immigration system.

“It is really frustrating and it is very dreadful for me because after a long wait, if this will be passed, what will hap-

pen for them?” said Magpantay, 68, a mechanical engineer in the Southern California city of Murrieta. “I won’t be able to bring them forever.”

For the past 50-plus years, family reunification has been central to U.S. immigration law. Those who become naturalized citizens can bring spouses and minor children and petition for parents, adult children and siblings to get their own green cards and become Americans in their own right, with their own ability to sponsor.

Many on opposing sides of the immigration debate have long felt the family reunification system needs reform. Immigration advocates want a reassessment of the quotas on how many people can come from a given country in a given year, which has created decadeslong backlogs

for citizens of some countries.

Self-described “restrictionists,” including President Donald Trump, want a narrower, nuclear definition of family, making spouses and minor children the only relatives a citizen could sponsor. That’s a central plank of the sweeping immigration overhaul Trump has proposed, a move that activists say could cut legal immigration in the U.S. by half.

Congress rejected competing bills last week meant to resolve the status of hundreds of thousands of young people brought to the U.S. illegally, including one plan that mirrored Trump’s overall immigration proposal. The lack of resolution on an issue that was pivotal to Trump’s election leaves it as potential tinderbox for the mid-term congressional elections

this fall.

Trump is giving a spotlight to an idea that “was clearly out in the wilderness” in a policy sense, and something only its advocates were really talking about, said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which has long pushed for limits on family sponsorships. “He has forced issues to the forefront that need to be debated,” Krikorian said.

Advocates of family reunification call the rhetoric around merit and skills a smokescreen. “They’re being disingenuous — their goal is to reduce immigration overall,” said Anu Joshi, director of immigration policy at the New York Immigration Coalition. “This is just about cutting family. It’s a family ban.”

## Fla. students demand action on gun control

Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — A hundred Stoneman Douglas High School students were busing 400 miles to Florida’s capital Tuesday to urge lawmakers to act to prevent a repeat of the massacre that killed 17 students and faculty last week.

The students plan to hold a rally Wednesday in hopes it will put pressure on the state’s Republican-controlled Legislature to consider a sweeping package of gun control laws, something some GOP lawmakers said Monday they would consider. Shortly after the shooting, several legislative leaders were taken on a tour of the school to see the damage firsthand and they appeared shaken afterward.

“I really think they are going to hear us out,” said Chris Grady, a 19-year-old senior who is going on the trip. He said he hopes the trip will lead to some “commonsense laws like rigorous background checks.”

The attack last Wednesday seemed to overcome the re-

sistance of some in the state’s leadership, which has rebuffed gun restrictions since Republicans took control of both the governor’s office and the Legislature in 1999. However, there is still strong resistance by many in the party to any gun control measures.

Students also have vowed to exert pressure on Congress as the aftermath of the rampage resonates beyond Florida. Hundreds of protesters converged Monday on a downtown Los Angeles park, demanding tougher background checks and other gun safety measures after the shooting.

Sen. Bill Galvano, a Republican and the incoming Florida senate president, said the state Senate was preparing a package that would include raising the age to purchase any firearm to 21, creating a waiting period for purchasing any type of firearm, banning bump stocks that can allow semi-automatic guns to spray bullets quickly and creating gun violence restraining orders.

## Alternative health care plans may be permitted

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration Tuesday cleared the way for a lower-cost, limited alternative to the comprehensive individual medical plans required under former President Barack Obama’s health law.

Proposed regulations from the administration would allow health insurers to sell individual consumers so-called “short-term” policies that can last up to 12 months and have fewer benefits and lower premiums.

The plans would come with a disclaimer that they don’t meet the Affordable Care Act’s consumer protections, such as guaranteed coverage, or the requirement to offer robust benefits. Insurers could also charge consumers more if an individual’s medical history discloses health problems.

Nonetheless, administration officials said they believe the short-term coverage option will be welcomed by people who need individual coverage but don’t qualify for the ACA’s

income-based subsidies and face paying the full cost of their premiums.

“We need to be opening up more affordable alternatives,” Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told reporters. “It’s one step in the direction of providing Americans with alternatives that are both more affordable and more suited to individual and family circumstances.”

Critics of Trump’s approach say that making such short-term policies more attractive to consumers will undermine the health care law’s insurance markets. That’s because healthy customers will have an incentive to stay away from HealthCare.gov and its state-run counterparts.

Democrats say the solution is to increase government subsidies so more middle-class people will be eligible for taxpayer assistance to buy comprehensive coverage. Under Obama, short-term plans were limited to periods of no longer than three months.

# Few Calif. pot growers licensed

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nearly two months after recreational marijuana became legal in California, less than 1 percent of the state's known growers have been licensed, according to a report released Monday by a pot industry group.

The 38-page report from the California Growers Association says 0.78 percent, or 534, of an estimated 68,150 marijuana growers were licensed by the state as of Feb. 7. The association cited such obstacles to licensing as cost and regulatory barriers.

A study published last year by the University of California Agricultural Issues Center estimated the newly created state market for recreational marijuana should produce \$5 billion in taxable revenue this year.

At the same time, it estimated the market for medicinal marijuana, which has been legal in California since 1996, would decline from an estimated \$2 billion last year to \$1.4 billion in 2018, while about 30 percent of pot sales would continue through the black market.

If more of the smaller, independent growers are not licensed by the state, taxable revenue of recreational marijuana is likely to be lower than anticipated as the black market continues to flourish, according to the new report.

"The current system will not achieve its goals without fundamental and structural changes that allow small and independent businesses to enter into compliance," the growers association report concluded.

An after-hours message left

with the state Department of Food and Agriculture, which regulates the growers, was not immediately returned.

The growers association, which identifies itself as the state's largest association of marijuana businesses, said it hopes to work with officials in getting more growers licensed.

"We must develop a regulatory framework that will effectively curb the environmental and public safety impacts of cannabis by providing pathways to compliance for businesses currently operating in the unregulated market," said Hezekiah Allen, the group's executive director.

"If they are unable to comply, the unregulated market is likely to persist and there will be an unnecessary strain on law enforcement resources," he said.

## Chicken shortage hits KFC in UK and Ireland

LONDON — Fast-food fans were in a flutter Monday after most of the 900 KFC outlets in the United Kingdom and Ireland were forced to close because of a shortage of chicken.

The company apologized to customers, blaming "teething problems" with its new delivery partner, DHL.

KFC first apologized for the problems on Saturday. In an update Monday, it listed almost 300 stores as open but did not say when the rest might join them. It said those branches that remained open were operating a limited menu or shortened hours.

DHL, which recently took over the KFC contract from Bidvest Logistics, said that "due to operational issues, a number of deliveries in recent days have been incomplete or delayed."

From The Associated Press

# 2 valor awards for soldier killed in fire rescue

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

A soldier who died while helping people escape an apartment fire in New York City that claimed 12 lives was honored at a ceremony where military and state officials presented his family with two valor medals.

Pfc. Emmanuel Mensah, 26, is credited with saving four lives in the massive apartment fire in the Bronx on Dec. 28, the city's deadliest in a quarter-century. He entered the burning building at least four times before being overcome by smoke.

For his bravery, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal, the Army's highest award for valor outside of combat, and the New York State Medal for Valor. Both awards were presented at Fordham University in the Bronx on Friday, the Army said in a statement that quoted officials and family members at the event.

Mensah could have remained safely outside after first escaping the fire himself, but "it was not in his nature to stand by without doing whatever he could to help," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Kadavy, director of the Army

National Guard, who presented the military medal to Mensah's father.

The secretary of the Army approved the award days after the fire, the victims of which included five children. The soldier, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic, was home after completing advanced initial training at the Army's ordnance school in Fort Lee, Va.

Mensah wrote at length about protecting people and saving lives in an essay submitted during his training, Command Sgt. Maj. Patricio Cardona Vega, of the 16th Ordnance Battalion, said in a statement last month.

The awards ceremony offered an occasion not to mourn his death but to celebrate "an unselfish soldier of incredible bravery," Kadavy said.

"The Soldier's Medal is an award that no one sets out to receive," he said. "If any of us could change the circumstances that bring us together this morning, we certainly would."

Mensah had emigrated from Ghana in 2012, and his father said he had dreamed of serving in the military. "He fulfilled his dream, what he wanted to do," said Kwabena Mensah. "He was

proud of being [in] the American military. He was so proud of that."

The New York Times reported that he had initially tried to join the Marines shortly after immigrating but his father wanted him to pursue an education instead.

Still, the younger Mensah persisted and eventually joined the Army National Guard.

After joining as a permanent legal resident in late 2016, he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen at a military base in Georgia last fall. He was slated to begin drilling with a Brooklyn-based military police unit in January.

The young immigrant represented the best of both his adopted country and his homeland, said Richard R. White, New York's deputy secretary for public safety, who presented the soldier's family with the state's valor medal on behalf of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. "When others would run from the inferno, our Pfc. Mensah ran into the blaze," he said.

The fire was started by a young boy playing with a gas stove. It spread rapidly through the five-story building after the boy's family fled the apartment,

leaving the door open behind them.

Mensah was asleep when it broke out. After escaping, he braved the fire several times to bring out a family that included four children.

Based on where firefighters discovered his body, officials believe he was trying to rescue more people.

Besides receiving the medals for valor, Mensah has received recognition from other quarters.

Late last month, officials said a street corner near the site of the fire would be named in his honor. At his Mass funeral Saturday, members of the city's fire department lined the street when his flag-draped coffin was brought into the church, where crowds of mourners packed the pews, local media reported.

Such recognition has given the family "some peace and some joy and hope" to know that his memory will live on after his death, his sister, Gloria Addo Nuamah, said in a military news release about the ceremony. "People will remember him for this bravery."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman is dragged, run over by van

**ID** TWIN FALLS — An Idaho man was accused of dragging a woman alongside his truck and then running her over.

The Idaho State Journal reported the man is charged with felony aggravated battery and violating a no-contact order after the incident last week in Twin Falls.

Court records prior to the incident show the woman filed a no-contact order Jan. 2 against the man. He was charged with misdemeanor assault two days later.

The man posted a \$5,000 bond and was released. He has a pretrial hearing on Feb. 21 for the misdemeanor assault. A preliminary hearing is set for Feb. 23 for the felony assault.

## Photos depict history of Chicago blues

**IL** CHICAGO — Two decades worth of photos depicting Chicago's lively blues scene will soon be available to the public.

The Chicago History Museum said it will release over 45,000 photos and papers related to the relatively unknown music photographer Raeburn Flerlage.

Flerlage captured some of Chicago's most instrumental blues players in their prime. They include Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and B.B. King.

The exhibit opens April 7 and uses the photographer's snapshots to showcase how Chicago's blues scene gained worldwide recognition.

## Stranger slashes man in NYC's Times Square

**NY** NEW YORK — Police said a 42-year-old man was slashed in the face by a

stranger in Times Square.

The victim was near 45th Street and 7th Avenue when he and another man began arguing late Sunday evening. According to the New York Post, the attacker pulled out a knife and slashed the man. He was arrested at the scene.

The victim was hospitalized with a facial injury but was expected to recover.

## Grenade, drugs turn up in home search

**WI** NEILLSVILLE — A Neillsville couple was expected in court after police and sheriff's deputies searched their residence and reported finding methamphetamine, marijuana and a hand grenade.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office said Monday the Marathon County Bomb Squad was called to the home Friday to handle the grenade. Authorities said that after it was removed, officers searched the residence and found the illegal drugs and paraphernalia.

Four children, ages 2 to 13, were removed from the home and turned over to Clark County social workers. The 45-year-old man and his 32-year-old wife were in the Clark County Jail awaiting their initial court appearance.

## Crash kills dispatcher; husband hears call

**MN** BROOKLYN PARK — Authorities said a Minneapolis 911 dispatcher was killed while driving to work when she was hit by a drunken driver in Brooklyn Park — and her husband heard the call while monitoring emergency dispatch audio at home.

The State Patrol said Jenna Bixby, 30, died Saturday night in the head-on crash caused by a wrong-way driver on Highway 252. The Star Tribune said her

husband, Daniel Bixby, heard the emergency call at home and later learned his wife was the victim of the crash when troopers came to his door to deliver the news.

The patrol said the wrong-way driver, a retired minister, was in critical condition at North Memorial Medical Center.

## Buffalo gores camper on California island

**CA** AVALON — Authorities said a buffalo gores a man camping on Southern California's Catalina Island.

Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said the man was sitting on a log Saturday evening and the buffalo was grazing nearby.

Sgt. Ray Ward said that when the buffalo came closer, the man tried to move away and that's when the animal charged.

Ward said the buffalo gores the man's left arm. He didn't know the extent of the injuries.

Buffalo are common and roam freely on the back side of Catalina Island, where there are campgrounds. Ward said it's rare for them to attack humans.

## Woman burned as gas pumped into can in car

**WA** MOSES LAKE — Authorities said a Washington woman suffered severe burns after gasoline fumes ignited when gas was being pumped into a garbage can in a car's backseat.

KOMO-TV reported the Grant County Sheriff's Office said the woman, who was a passenger early Saturday morning at a Cascade Valley Grocery convenience store, was smoking a cigarette, which ignited the flames.

Deputies later found a large amount of marijuana in the

car's trunk.

A bystander took the woman to Samaritan Healthcare in Moses Lake. The male driver who was pumping the gas ran away.

## Rifle, 1,300 rounds of ammo found in car

**KS** LAWRENCE — Douglas County Sheriff's authorities said officers found an assault rifle and more than 1,300 rounds of ammunition in a car after a chase in Lawrence.

Sgt. Kirsten Channel said the chase began last week when a sheriff's deputy stopped a car in Lawrence for a traffic violation. He called for backup after seeing an AR-15 rifle in the car, and the suspect drove off. The car eventually was stopped. Officials say a search uncovered the rifle, ammunition and drugs.

State prison officials said the suspect, 26, from Kansas City, Kan., was on parole, with previous convictions including several felony burglaries in Leavenworth County.

## Boy accidentally stabs brother in chest

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Police said a 5-year-old boy was accidentally stabbed in the chest by his 10-year-old brother in southwest Philadelphia.

A police statement said the older brother was playing with a carving knife in a home in the Kingsessing neighborhood Friday evening.

Police said the younger boy was stabbed once in the chest accidentally.

He was taken to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and listed in stable condition.

From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# US men's hockey team whips Slovakia

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Tony Granato knew going into the Olympics that Ryan Zapolski would be his goaltender and that the college kids on the Team USA roster would be counted on to supply offense.

It's worked just like Granato and the late general manager Jim Johansson had hoped, and just in time: Zapolski stopped 21 shots in his best game of the tournament and NCAA players Ryan Donato and Troy Terry dominated offensively in a 5-1 win against Slovakia that put the United States into Wednesday's quarterfinals against the Czech Republic.

"Jimmy, like we said since Day One, this is his plan," Granato said Tuesday's win. "It's been a really nice mix."

Zapolski and Donato both took hits to the head against Slovakia, and both said they were fine afterward.

It looked worrisome at the time.

In a frightening play, Ladislav Nagy crashed into Zapolski's head and the goaltender was

down on the ice for several minutes. Needing to be on top of his game in the Americans' first elimination game, Zapolski was, even after jamming his neck.

"My hands and feet went numb a little bit, so it just kind of pinched my nerve, I guess," Zapolski said. "I think I just needed time for the feeling to come back. It took a little bit. It was a little bit of a scary thing for me kind of losing feeling in your body for a little bit, but it went away pretty quickly."

Donato took a shoulder to the jaw from 6-foot-4 Slovakia defenseman Michal Cajovsky, who was ejected, and didn't miss a shift despite a bloody nose he thought might be broken. On the next play, he set the screen on James Wisniewski's 5-on-3 power-play goal in a game that helped the U.S. get its offensive groove back.

"He's a really tough kid, and you see how much just of a natural goal-scorer he is," Terry said of Donato. "He's fun to play with, and if I get the puck to him I know it's got a pretty good chance of going in."

Donato and Terry have had fun and made some magic playing on a line with former NHL forward Mark Arcobello, who Granato joked was the happiest person at the Olympics because of his skilled linemates. Arcobello, who scored his first Olympic goal against Slovakia, knew at the first practice how good Donato and Terry would be.

"You could just see the talent they've got," Arcobello said. "They look like pros. They don't look like college players. They're poised and they do the right things. They're smart players. So I knew right away they were going to be pretty good."

Johansson and Granato wanted to bring three to seven college players and hoped they'd be this good. But their first conversation about a player was about Zapolski, a 31-year-old journeyman with no North American professional experience above the ECHL.

Zapolski is among the best goaltenders in the Kontinental Hockey League but conceded "maybe things weren't going

the way I had hoped the first few games" when he allowed a few soft goals. There were none of those against Slovakia.

"In a tournament like this, you only win if you have a good goalie," Wisniewski said. "You're going to have to have a good power play and a good penalty kill, but your best penalty killer is going to be your goalie. With his numbers he's had in the KHL, he's come in ready to play every game, which has been huge for us."

Elsewhere in the qualification round:

■ Norway eliminated Slovenia 2-1 in overtime for its first Olympic win since 1994. Norway will face the Russians on Wednesday in its first Olympic quarterfinal appearance, while Slovenia played without Ziga Jeglic, who was suspended for doping.

■ Finland eliminated South Korea with a 5-2 win, advancing to play Canada on Wednesday night.

■ Germany eliminated Switzerland 2-1 in overtime, advancing to play top-seeded Sweden on Wednesday night.

## American women currently second, fourth in bobsled

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Elana Meyers Taylor went to sleep four years ago after the first night of her Olympic competition holding the lead, and her mind couldn't stop racing.

She plans on sleeping better this time.

Germany's Mariama Jamanka and Lisa Buckwitz are the leaders at the midway point of the women's bobsled competition at the Pyeongchang Games, their two-run time of 1 minute, 41.26 seconds on Tuesday night putting them 0.07 seconds ahead of Meyers Taylor and Lauren Gibbs.

Not holding the lead at half-time didn't seem to bother Meyers Taylor whatsoever going into Wednesday night's

final two runs.

"I'm going to go attack the track and it's going to be what it's going to be," Meyers Taylor said. "Either I'm going to win a medal or I'm going to go down swinging."

After the first two sleds, it's chaos.

Germany's Stephanie Schneider and Annika Drazek are third, Jamie Greubel Poser and Aja Evans are fourth for the U.S. and two-time defending gold medalist Kaillie Humphries and Phylcia George are fifth for Canada — those three sleds separated by 0.04 seconds, and none of them more than 0.34 seconds off the lead.

As was the case in men's two-man bobsled, a final-night shootout for gold awaits.

"We're going to fight like

hell," said Humphries, who rallied for gold in Sochi four years ago. "Experience is always nice. It's comforting."

For as much attention as there is on the leaders, there seemed to be even more on the team that is last in the 20-sled field.

Nigeria made its women's bobsled Olympic debut, the team of Seun Adigun and Akuoma Omeoga posting the slowest time in both heats and ending the night 3.50 seconds behind the leaders.

In their case, time and placing is irrelevant. Being Africa's first bobsled team to qualify for this stage meant they won long ago.

"We're setting the groundwork for what to build on for the country of Nigeria and the continent of Africa," Adigun

said. "With a little time, we can be just as competitive."

Meyers Taylor and Gibbs set start records in both heats — especially impressive since Meyers Taylor, who won bronze as a push athlete in 2010 and silver as a driver in 2014, is dealing with a left Achilles strain. But Jamanka found plenty of speed toward the bottom of the track, and took the lead after topping Meyers Taylor by 0.09 seconds in her second run.

"This is what I've been preparing for," Gibbs said. "This is what it's supposed to feel like."

Greubel Poser and Evans were four-tenths of a second slower in their second run than the first. But confidence, much like was the case with Meyers Taylor and Gibbs, wasn't lacking as they left the track Tuesday night.

# Canadian ice dancers win their 3rd gold

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir were the last couple to leave the ice after their warmup early Tuesday, the Canadian ice dancers soaking in every second before their final Olympic performance.

They sure made it a memorable one.

After training partners Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron broke the world record with a flawless free skate, Virtue and Moir took the ice one last time with a dazzling, dramatic interpretation of “Moulin Rouge.” Every movement was synchronized, every element raw and emotional, the only question left inside Gangneung Ice Arena was whether it would be enough.

The score: a personal-best 122.40 points, and a record 206.07 total, pushing them past their French rivals’ score of 205.28 and making them the most decorated figure skaters in Olympic history.

“We didn’t know we had won, that’s for sure,” Moir said with a laugh. “We really committed to our training because we knew we’d have to be better than we’ve ever been.”

They were better than any body has ever been.

It was the second gold medal of the Pyeongchang Games for Virtue and Moir, who were instrumental in helping Canada win the team event. It was also their third gold overall after winning their home Olympics in Vancouver in 2010, and their fifth total medal after two silvers at the 2014 Sochi Games.

They briefly retired after that disappointment, seemingly content with their place in history, only to decide a couple years ago to make one more run at Olympic glory.

Now, they’re being called the greatest ice dancers ever.

“I mean, it’s incredibly flattering,” Virtue said, “but it’s hard to wrap our heads around so close to the event. We’re grateful for the legends that came before us and really

paved the way.”

Virtue and Moir’s medal total broke a tie with Russia’s Evgeni Plushenko and Sweden’s Gillis Grafstrom for the most in Olympic figure skating, and their golden haul matched the record shared by Grafstrom, Sonja Henie of Norway and Irina Rodnina of the Soviet Union.

“They’re a once-in-a-generation talent,” said Patrice Lauzon, who along with his wife, Marie-France Dubreuil, coaches the Canadians and French at their school in Montreal.

American siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani won the bronze medal with a near-flawless free skate to “Paradise” by Coldplay.

Their total of 192.59 points made up the two-hundredths of a point they trailed teammates Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, leaving them fourth.

“It was amazing to finally have that Olympic moment,” Alex Shibutani said. “We didn’t really think about results. If we did the best we could, we were

going to be satisfied.”

The third American team, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, also was within sight of the podium after the short dance. But a rare and stunning fall entering their combination spin was enough to damage an otherwise beautiful performance to “Imagine” that still drew an emotional applause.

Meanwhile, the race for the gold medal came down to two teams a cut above the rest.

Papadakis and Cizeron, whose wardrobe malfunction in the short dance made them a trending topic worldwide, drew the penultimate starting number for Tuesday’s free dance. Their score of 123.35 points was exactly what they needed to make a case for gold.

The unflappable Virtue and Moir answered the challenge.

The throaty, gritty portion of “El Tango de Roxanne” had the crowd roaring, and the finishing lift was a fitting conclusion to an exemplary performance.

## Norwegian curler feels ‘robbed’ by Russian

Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — A Norwegian curler who lost out on the Olympic bronze medal to a Russian rival charged with doping said Tuesday he feels robbed of his moment of glory.

Magnus Nedregotten and his partner finished fourth in mixed doubles last week after losing 8-4 to Alexander Krushelnitsky and his wife, Anastasia Bryzgalova. The Court of Arbitration for Sport said Monday that Krushelnitsky failed a doping test. Russian officials said he tested positive for meldonium, which was banned in 2016, and that his “B” sample confirmed the result.

In a telephone interview from Norway, Nedregotten said that if Krushelnitsky is found guilty, then “they’ve robbed us of our moment of glory, receiv-

ing our medal in the stadium.”

“That’s not cool,” Nedregotten said. “That’s hard to accept, feeling that you’ve been kept out of the light.”

Nedregotten and his partner, Kristin Skaslien, were visibly distressed when they lost out on the bronze to the Russian pair. In an interview with The Associated Press after the match, Skaslien said she and Nedregotten had struggled to keep up with the Russians, who led from the start. True to curling’s strict adherence to good sportsmanship, Skaslien also made a point to compliment the Russians on their performance after the game, saying they had played a very good match.

The Norwegians’ feelings toward the Russians have clearly soured since then, with Nedregotten saying Tuesday that he and Skaslien were angry when they first heard

that Krushelnitsky had tested positive.

“That we’ve been struggling through the Olympics, and trying hard to reach our goal which was a medal, and then we ended up in fourth — and now knowing that they may have had an advantage against us in our games through cheating — feels horrible,” Nedregotten said.

Russians are participating at the Pyeongchang Games as “Olympic Athletes from Russia.” The International Olympic Committee suspended the Russian Olympic Committee last year in connection with a massive doping scheme at the 2014 Sochi Games but allowed 168 athletes to compete in neutral uniforms and without the national flag.

Krushelnitsky is likely to lose his medal because of the positive test, Russian Curling Fed-

eration senior vice president Andrei Sozin told the AP.

“I think that the sanctions will be that the medals will be taken away,” Sozin said.

“Curling players don’t need meldonium, we don’t need to be faster, higher, stronger, this isn’t what we do,” Sozin added. “But how to explain what they have found in Alexander’s blood — he’s an absolutely honest athlete and a great guy — no one, including the athlete himself, understands.”

Sozin said he believed U.S. security services had somehow “put something” into Krushelnitsky’s water or tampered with his drug test sample. He didn’t speculate on how that could have happened.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said no date has yet been set for the curler’s hearing.

## NHL roundup

## Marchand's overtime goal lifts Bruins

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — Brad Marchand scored his 22nd goal 3:36 into overtime to give the Boston Bruins a 2-1 victory over the Calgary Flames on Monday.

After a turnover by defenseman TJ Brodie deep in the Flames end, Riley Nash sprung Marchand on a breakaway and he slipped the puck through the pads of rookie goaltender David Rittich.

David Pastrnak also scored for Boston (36-13-8), which moved within one point of Tampa Bay for first place in the Atlantic Division and Eastern Conference. The Bruins, who are 12-1-2 in their last 15 road games, have two games in hand on the Lightning.

Boston has lost only three times in regulation in the last 28 games (21-3-4). Tuukka Rask made 28 saves.

Matthew Tkachuk scored for the Flames (30-21-9), who fell to 1-3-4 in their last eight home games. They began the day one point out of third place in the Pacific Division.

**Ducks 2, Golden Knights 0:** Jakob Silfverberg and Ryan

Getzlaf scored to lead visiting Anaheim over Vegas in their Pacific Division showdown.

The Ducks regained sole possession of third place in the division, two points ahead of Los Angeles and Calgary. They are a point behind second-place San Jose.

Starting goalie John Gibson (22-15-6) stopped all 13 shots he saw for Anaheim, but was inadvertently clipped by Vegas' Reilly Smith behind the net with three seconds left in the second period and didn't return due to a lower-body injury.

Backup goalie Ryan Miller played cleanup in the third, stopping 20 shots to preserve the win.

**Capitals 3, Sabres 2:** Alex Ovechkin scored his league-leading 35th goal and visiting Washington reclaimed the top spot in the Metropolitan Division with a win over Buffalo.

John Carlson had a goal and assist and Philipp Grubauer stopped 32 shots in a game the Capitals led 2-0 after two periods.

Evgeny Kuznetsov sealed the victory by scoring into an open net with 26 seconds remaining. Washington completed a 2-1-

1 road trip and bounced back from a 7-1 loss at Chicago on Saturday.

Washington improved to 34-18-7 for 75 points, one ahead of idle Pittsburgh.

Kyle Okposo and Evander Kane scored late for the Sabres, who dropped to 2-7-1 in their past 10 home games.

**Wild 5, Islanders 3:** Matt Cullen and Tyler Ennis scored in visiting Minnesota's three-goal second period against New York.

Jason Zucker added two goals and Joel Eriksson Ek also scored for the Wild, who have earned at least one point in six of their past seven games (4-1-2). Devan Dubnyk stopped 32 shots.

Ross Johnston, Anders Lee and Tanner Fritz scored for the Islanders. Jaroslav Halak, coming off a 50-save shutout against the Rangers on Thursday night, finished with 27 stops.

**Kings 3, Blackhawks 1:** Torey Mitchell and Andy Andreoff scored during visiting Los Angeles' dominant first period against Chicago.

Dion Phaneuf added his second goal in three games since

joining Los Angeles in a trade with Ottawa, and Jonathan Quick made 27 saves in the Kings' second straight win since a three-game slide. Los Angeles (32-22-5) also improved to 3-3 on its seven-game trip as it fights for playoff positioning in the Western Conference.

Last-place Chicago looked awful for most of the night during its ninth loss in 10 games, and Quick turned away a possible comeback early in the third. Anton Forsberg made 29 stops for the Blackhawks (25-27-8), and Patrick Sharp snapped an 11-game scoring drought with his seventh goal of the season.

**Predators 5, Senators 2:** Viktor Arvidsson scored twice to reach 20 goals this season, and host Nashville beat Ottawa.

Roman Josi, Ryan Ellis and Craig Smith also scored for Nashville, which ended a two-game skid and tied Winnipeg for first place in the Central Division.

The Predators recorded two power-play goals and scored on the man advantage in their second straight game after going six games without converting on the power play.

## Graham, No. 8 Kansas blow out reeling Oklahoma

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Two of the Big 12's most powerful offenses collided when No. 8 Kansas hosted Oklahoma. Only one lived up to the hype, though.

Devonte Graham had 23 points and seven assists, Malik Newman added 20 points and No. 8 Kansas beat Oklahoma 104-74 on Monday night in its first true blowout of the Big 12 season.

"It was a fun night, a good win," coach Bill Self said. "Certainly we needed a game where we could not sweat until the very, very end."

The Jayhawks (22-6, 11-4

Big 12) controlled things early, jumping out to a 10-0 lead less than four minutes into the game and forcing Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger to burn a timeout before the first media break. The Sooners (16-11, 6-9 Big 12) never recovered.

"From the start, seemed like we were fighting uphill all night," Kruger said. "Just hanging on to stay within range. Guys fought it pretty good for a while, obviously didn't finish it like we want to or need to."

Kameron McGusty led the way for Oklahoma with 22 points while Jamuni McNeace added 18 in his first career

start.

It was a cold shooting night for Trae Young, who missed 10 of his 13 shots and had a career-low 11 points. He led the game with nine assists.

Six Jayhawks scored in double figures, and the team broke the 100-point threshold for the first time since December. It was an offensive performance unlike any other during their Big 12 season, fueled partially by the memory of their loss to the Sooners in Norman back in January.

"The only the thing that was on our mind was just getting payback," Newman said. "We went down there, and they stole

one from us."

**Big picture:** Kansas now sits a half-game ahead of Texas Tech atop the Big 12 standings after gaining a game on the Red Raiders when they fell to Baylor Saturday.

Oklahoma has now dropped its last six games, and has fallen to No. 8 in the Big 12. The skid has led some to speculate that the Sooners could miss the NCAA Tournament.

**Up next:** Kansas has a road clash with Texas Tech Saturday, serving as a battle for the outright Big 12 lead.

Oklahoma will look to rebound at home against Kansas State on Saturday.