

STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, February 20, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Navy is searching for \$40B in savings

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy needs to find at least \$40 billion in savings by 2026 to pay for additional ships to keep up with the demand on their fleet, the service's acting secretary said.

The service is facing significant challenges to meet mandates set by Congress and the Defense Department to increase its number of ships and start paying for the new Columbia-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine program that will continue for 40 years, all while having to dig themselves out of readiness gaps caused by increased operations in recent

years and sequestration.

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly announced Tuesday in a memorandum that he had started a department-wide "Stem-to-Stern" review to find \$40 billion in savings — or about \$8 billion annually — in the fiscal years 2022 to 2026.

Though the Navy's fiscal year 2021 budget request increased slightly from 2020, budget amounts for the service are expected to stay roughly the same for several years, Modly wrote in the memo.

That means Navy leadership needs to make tough choices to meet the requirements under the National Defense Strategy to compete against military

powers Russia and China.

"We need to find savings within the department to re-invest in the kind of decisive naval force that will provide for our nation's future economic and political security," Modly wrote.

The savings will be reinvested in Modly's top three priorities: building 355 ships by 2030, digital modernization of the Navy, and "advancing our intellectual capacity and ethical excellence," though the memo does not detail what that is.

Modly pointed to the Army's own efforts during the last two years to find savings through their "Night Court" sessions in which the service uncovered

about \$13 billion.

The Navy review will look at the entire department to identify "low priority, redundant, or legacy capabilities, programs, processes, or headquarters functions that can be realigned, eliminated or reduced to meet the [service's] resource needs," he wrote. There will be more of an emphasis in certain areas, including streamlining naval logistics and consolidating or eliminating headquarters, commands and organizations.

The review will end April 15 so Navy officials can submit their findings as part of their fiscal year 2022 budget request in June.

New USPS policy likely to mean longer waits at military post offices

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Mailing packages from military post offices is about to become more of a hassle following a new U.S. Postal Service rule that is doing away with handwritten customs declaration forms.

Beginning March 6, clerks at military post offices overseas will require customers to use an electronic version of the PS Form 2976 that should be typed and printed, the Postal Service said in a recent announcement.

U.S. Army Europe in a statement Wednesday said it is working to delay the policy change, which is expected to cause longer waits for customers.

While the Army tries to negotiate a delay, the military community should anticipate the

change taking effect in March, USAREUR postal chief Bill Hilsher said.

For decades, filling out paper customs forms has been a fixture of military life for service members overseas, particularly during the holiday season when customers cram into postal offices.

USAREUR warned the new system could result in longer wait times, particularly if customers elect to have postal clerks individually type declarations into retail system software.

Another option is filling out forms and printing them at home in advance.

There also are plans to set up computer-equipped kiosks at military post offices, USAREUR said.

"We ask for customers' patience and understanding if the

policy change causes longer wait times," said Chuck Sharpe, program manager for Installation Management Command-Europe's postal operations.

The military currently has a limited exemption for mail destined for non-U.S. addresses.

"Only military mail items that originate at Military Post Offices destined to international, non-U.S. addresses are allowed as a temporary exception to this rule (pending software updates)," a recent U.S. Postal Service bulletin stated.

Otherwise, the changes apply to all U.S. post offices, military and nonmilitary, the postal service stated.

A fillable customs form can be found on the U.S. Postal Service website.

USAF Academy to commission officers for new Space Force

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Graduates from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado are expected to cross-commission into the Space Force this spring, military officials said.

About 60 cadets would be commissioned into the new armed service branch, which formed in December with the signing of the \$738 billion National Defense Authorization Act, the Gazette reported.

Academy leaders and members of Colorado's congressional delegation announced the cross-commission plan at an oversight Board of Visitors meeting Wednesday. The plan would be similar to how the U.S. Naval Academy commissions Marine officers.

CENTCOM: Weapons seized by Navy headed to Yemen

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A U.S. military spokesman said Wednesday that a large shipment of Iranian-made weapons seized last week by the Navy in the Arabian Sea was being transported illegally to Houthi rebels, who have been supported by Tehran in Yemen's five-year civil war.

The weapons seized Feb. 9 by sailors aboard the USS Normandy, a guided-missile destroyer, included Iranian copies of Russian weapons and others "uniquely designed by Iran and found nowhere else in the world," said Navy Capt. Bill Urban, U.S. Central Command chief spokesman. The supply included some 150 "Dehlavieh" anti-tank guided missiles, land-attack and anti-ship cruise missiles, and newly designed Iranian surface-to-air missiles known as "358s," he said. It also included drone parts, thermal weapons scopes and other advanced weapons parts.

The intercepted shipment was found aboard a small sailing vessel known as a dhow and discovered during a routine inspection of the boat, which was not flying a national flag. It was the sixth shipment of similar weapons believed to be on the way to Yemen from Iran seized by the U.S. military in the last five years, including a very similar cache seized in November by sailors aboard the

guided-missile destroyer USS Forrest Sherman.

"The United States assesses with high confidence that the weapons seized by the USS Forrest Sherman in November and the weapons seized by the USS Normandy in February were manufactured in Iran and were being illicitly smuggled to the Houthis in Yemen," Urban told reporters Wednesday at the Pentagon.

Urban cited markings on the weapons in English and Farsi that he said were unique to Iranian weaponry. Some of the parts of the cruise missiles matched weaponry used in attacks conducted by Iran and its proxy organizations, including the September attack on Saudi oil facilities by drones and cruise missiles, he said.

The United Nations announced last month that it agreed with the U.S. assessment that the weapons cache left Iran bound for the Houthis. Such shipments from Iran to Yemen are barred by a U.N. Security Council resolution, which restricts Iranian support for the Houthi rebels.

In Yemen, Shiite fighters triggered a devastating civil war when they overran the country's capital Sana'a in March 2015. The Houthis continue to fight against the U.N.-recognized Yemeni government, which is backed by a Saudi-led military coalition and supported by the United States.

Esper visits nuke base to highlight weapon spending

Associated Press

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — Defense Secretary Mark Esper used his first-ever visit to a nuclear missile field in frigid North Dakota to tout the Trump administration's multibillion-dollar plan for a top-to-bottom modernization of the nuclear arsenal. The costly project is necessary, he said, to keep up with Russia and outpace China.

"Russia and China are both modernizing and expanding their nuclear arsenals," Esper told reporters, speaking alongside a behemoth B-52 bomber, which, along with Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles and Navy ballistic missile submarines, represent the three "legs" of the U.S. nuclear triad.

"All three legs of the triad need to be modernized, and it's critical if we're going to maintain a strategic deterrent — that word is critical, we're trying to deter war ... we need to have the confidence that our triad and related systems are effective, safe, reliable and

credible," he said Wednesday.

The weapons are also expensive. President Donald Trump recently referred to the spending of billions of dollars on nuclear weaponry by the United States, Russia and China as "this craziness." His solution to controlling that expense is to get China and Russia to negotiate a new arms deal to replace a U.S.-Russia agreement, the New START treaty, that is due to expire one year from now unless extended.

Trump's skepticism about nuclear weapons spending may be based on the price tag. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the first 10 years of the modernization plan will cost nearly \$500 billion, and that the total would hit \$1.2 trillion over a 30-year span.

The key new weapons are a replacement for the current Minuteman 3 ICBM, a new-generation Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine fleet and a new long-range bomber, dubbed the B-21 Raider, to replace the B-2 stealth bomber that is to be retired even as the older B-52 bomber remains.

Iwo Jima ceremony likely to be Camp Pendleton's last

Stars and Stripes

A ceremony in California marking the 75th anniversary of the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima is expected to be the last formal West Coast gathering of veterans of the 36-day fight to take the volcanic Pacific island from the Japanese.

For three days last week, the Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee and Marine Corps

Installations-West hosted 28 Marines and sailors who were among the tens of thousands of Americans who fought to secure the rock as part of the campaign that was critical to Allied victory in the Pacific theater.

Some of the "old breed" donned Marine or Navy dress uniforms or simply displayed their medals during the annual reunion, which the service said has been hosted by Camp Pend-

leton for 30 years. But with the number of still-living veterans dwindling, this year's event is expected to be its final iteration, the Marine Corps said in a statement this week.

The battle, where the iconic photo of the Marine flag-raising on Mount Suribachi was taken, is deeply ingrained in the service's identity. Many Marines regard those who fought against dug-in and fortified Japanese

forces with awe.

Nearly 7,000 of the over 70,000 Marines who fought to take the island were killed, making it one of the war's bloodiest battles.

After coming ashore on Iwo Jima's black sand beaches, 22 Marines earned the country's highest valor award during the battle — more than one-quarter of the Corps' 82 Medal of Honor recipients from the entire war.

Dems take aim at Bloomberg in latest debate

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — From the opening bell, Democrats savaged New York billionaire Mike Bloomberg and raised pointed questions about Bernie Sanders' take-no-prisoners politics during a contentious debate Wednesday night that threatened to further muddy the party's urgent quest to defeat President Donald Trump.

Bloomberg, the former New York mayor who was once a Republican, was forced to defend his record and past comments related to race, gender and his personal wealth in an occasionally rocky debate stage debut. Sanders, meanwhile, tried to beat back pointed questions about his embrace of democratic socialism and his health following a heart attack last year.

The ninth debate of this cycle featured the most aggressive sustained period of in-fighting in the Democrats' yearlong search for a presidential nominee. The tension reflected growing anxiety among candidates and party leaders that the nomination fight could yield a candidate who will struggle to build a winning coalition in November to beat Trump.

The campaign is about to quickly intensify. Nevada votes Saturday and South Carolina follows Feb. 29. More than a dozen states host Super Tuesday contests in less than two weeks with about one-third of the delegates needed to win the nomination at stake.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren was in a fight for survival and stood out with repeated attacks on Bloomberg. She sought to undermine him with core Democratic voters who are uncomfortable with his vast wealth, his offensive remarks about policing of minorities and demeaning comments about women, including those who worked at his company.

Warren labeled Bloomberg "a billionaire who calls people fat broads and horse-faced lesbians."

She wasn't alone.

Sanders lashed out at Bloomberg's policing policies as New York City mayor that he said targeted "African-American and Latinos in an outrageous way."

And former Vice President Joe Biden charged that Bloomberg's "stop-and-frisk" policy ended up "throwing 5 million black

men up against the wall."

Watching from afar, Trump joined the Bloomberg pile on.

"I hear he's getting pounded tonight, you know he's in a debate," Trump said at a rally in Phoenix.

After the debate, Warren told reporters: "I have no doubt that Michael Bloomberg is reaching in his pocket right now, and spending another hundred million dollars to try to erase every American's memory about what happened on the debate stage."

On a night that threatened to tarnish the shine of his carefully constructed TV-ad image, Bloomberg faltered when attacked on issues related to race and gender. But he was firm and unapologetic about his wealth and how he has used it to effect change important to Democrats. He took particular aim at Sanders and his self-description as a democratic socialist.

"I don't think there's any chance of the senator beating Donald Trump," Bloomberg declared before noting Sanders' rising wealth. "The best known socialist in the country happens to be a millionaire with three houses!"

Staunch Trump ally Stone gets 40 months in prison

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trump loyalist and ally Roger Stone was sentenced Thursday to 40 months in federal prison, following an extraordinary move by Attorney General William Barr to back off his Justice Department's original sentencing recommendation.

U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson said Stone's crimes demanded a significant time behind bars, but she said the seven to nine years originally recommended by the Justice Department were excessive.

Stone's lawyers had asked for a sentence of probation, citing his age of 67 years, his health and his lack of criminal history.

Stone was convicted in November on all seven counts of an indictment that accused him of lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election.

The sentence came amid Trump's unrelenting defense of his longtime confidant that has led to a mini-revolt inside the Justice Department and allegations the presi-

dent has interfered in the case.

Trump took to Twitter to denounce as a "miscarriage of justice" the initial recommendation by Justice Department prosecutors that Stone receive at least seven years in prison. Barr then backed off that recommendation, prompting four prosecutors to quit Stone's case.

Jackson angrily denied that Stone was being punished for his politics or his allies. "He was not prosecuted, as some have claimed, for standing up for the president. He was prosecuted for covering up for the president," she said.

Suspected far-right attack in Germany kills 9 people

Associated Press

HANAU, Germany — A 43-year-old German man who posted a manifesto calling for the "complete extermination" of many "races or cultures in our midst" shot and killed nine people of foreign background, most of them Turkish, in an attack on a hookah bar and other sites in a Frankfurt suburb, authorities said Thursday.

He was later found dead at his home along with his mother, and authorities said

they were treating the rampage as an act of domestic terrorism.

The gunman first attacked the hookah bar and a neighboring cafe in Hanau at about 10 p.m. Wednesday, killing several people, then traveled about 1.5 miles and opened fire again, first on a car and then a sports bar, claiming more victims.

The bloodshed came amid growing concerns about far-right violence in Germany and stepped-up efforts from authorities to crack down on it, including last week's

detention of a dozen men on suspicion they were planning attacks against politicians and minorities.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said the shootings exposed the "poison" of racism in Germany, and she pledged to stand up against those who seek to divide the country.

"There is much to indicate that the perpetrator acted out of far-right extremist, racist motives," she said. "Out of hatred for people with other origins, other faiths or a different appearance."

S. Korea reports 1st virus death

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea reported its first coronavirus-linked death Thursday, while the U.S. military tightened restrictions on travel to the southeastern city of Daegu due to an outbreak in infections in the area.

Daegu also urged residents to stay home as the city of 2.5 million people and surrounding areas struggled to contain an outbreak of the pneumonia-like disease.

The Army garrison in Daegu also restricted access and announced that schools and non-essential business would be closed for a second day Friday.

In an exception to policy, U.S. service members were authorized to wear face masks in uni-

form “regardless of air quality conditions,” according to the garrison’s Facebook page.

Fast-moving developments this week were a blow to South Korea’s hope that the crisis was easing.

Instead, dozens of new cases were confirmed in recent days, with the total number of infections soaring to 104 on Thursday, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

U.S. Forces Korea said, “there remains zero confirmed cases of USFK personnel with COVID-19.”

A South Korean man in his 60s died Wednesday at a hospital in the southeastern city of Cheongdo and posthumously tested positive for the virus, the KCDC said Thursday. It was South Korea’s first death from

the virus.

USFK raised the risk level for the military community to moderate on Wednesday and banned all nonessential travel to Daegu due to an outbreak linked to a church near the Army garrison in the city.

On Thursday, USFK added that all travel by American troops to, from and around Daegu requires authorization from leadership. The precaution was “highly encouraged” for all family members, civilians and contractors as well.

“All off-installation travel for all USFK populations should be minimized to reduce potential contamination,” USFK announced on its website.

U.S. Army Garrison Daegu, about 200 miles southeast of Seoul, also said that visitors not performing mission essential

or official business would be denied access as it implemented health checks at the gates.

Nonessential personnel were not required to go to work Friday and most activities would be suspended, including the schools, it said.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Daegu urged people to stay inside and pleaded for help from the central government amid fears that the city’s health infrastructure would be overwhelmed.

“National quarantine efforts that are currently focused on blocking the inflow of the virus (from China) and stemming its spread are inadequate for preventing the illness from circulating in local communities,” Mayor Kwon Young-jin was quoted as saying by The Associated Press.

Virus claims 2 Japan passengers

Associated Press

TOKYO — Two elderly passengers taken off the quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess because they were infected with the new virus have died, Japan’s Health Ministry said Thursday, becoming the first fatalities from the virus-stricken vessel.

Japan now has three deaths linked to the COVID-19 illness.

The two victims, a man and woman in their 80s who are both Japanese, were believed to have been infected before health checks and a Feb. 5 quarantine began on the ship, Health Ministry official Masami Sakoi said. It was not immediately known if they had any roommates on the ship.

They had been hospitalized on Feb. 11 and 12 and each tested positive a day later. It was not immediately known why they were not tested ear-

lier when they developed initial symptoms and consulted with the ship’s clinic, Sakoi said.

The ministry also announced Thursday that two more government officials became infected while providing clerical work on the ship to help in the quarantine effort.

Four other officials — a quarantine official, a paramedic who carried an infected passenger, a Health Ministry worker and an emergency relief medical expert — have also been sickened.

The Diamond Princess, docked in Yokohama port near Tokyo, started letting passengers who tested negative for the virus off the ship Wednesday, when the government-set 14-day quarantine ended. On Thursday, hundreds of other passengers were expected to leave in a disembarkation process expected to last through Friday.

Judge orders release of Thresher documents

Portsmouth (N.H.) Herald

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has ordered the U.S. Navy to begin releasing unclassified documents in relation to the USS Thresher, the nuclear submarine that imploded 57 years ago, taking the lives of 129 and forever changing submarine safety.

It was the country’s worst nuclear submarine disaster in history when Thresher (SSN-593) did not surface while conducting deep dive exercises 220 miles off Cape Cod on April 10, 1963. The vessel imploded, and its shattered hull remains more than 8,000 feet underwater today.

Last July, retired Navy Capt. James Bryant, a former Thresher-class submarine commander who served 23 years on active duty, sued the Navy for release of the investigative documents. On Feb. 10, U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden ordered the Navy to begin reviewing 300 pages of

documents per month starting in April, with rolling productions of the documents to begin before May 15, every 60 days.

Bryant wrote in his initial complaint that he sought the nonexempt portions of certain U.S. government records relating to the loss of the nuclear submarine. He filed the federal lawsuit after the Navy denied expedited proceedings for his April 2019 Freedom of Information Act request, and then “improperly withheld agency records,” he alleged.

In a previously filed joint status report, the Navy said that its team would require approximately 240 hours to review for line-by-line declassification purposes, with an additional 120 hours of FOIA exemption review and redaction, over the course of 12 months.

But at the Feb. 10 hearing, McFadden was not convinced by the Navy’s plans, and ordered the first set of documents to be released by May 15.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Jail returns funds after getting counterfeit bills

WY GILLETTE — A Wyoming jail unwittingly helped an inmate earn a profit from counterfeit money when it returned unused funds from a commissary account where he's accused of depositing fake bills, authorities said.

The Campbell County Sheriff's Office returned \$261.69 to Eduardo Vlahos, 43, when he was released in October, The Gillette News Record reported Monday. Vlahos was arrested earlier that month on suspicion of felony shoplifting. As part of the booking process, he turned over money in his possession to be used to buy food and other items in jail.

The funds added to the commissary account included \$120 in counterfeit bills, according to a probable cause affidavit filed in the case. The funds were returned on a debit card when Vlahos was released on a \$1,500 cash or surety bond, officials said.

Man is charged after snowball throwers shot

WI MILWAUKEE — A Milwaukee man is charged with firing shots at children who threw snowballs at his car, injuring two of them.

William Carson, 24, was charged Sunday with two counts of first-degree reckless injury and five counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety, all felonies.

Prosecutors allege Carson fired nine shots at seven children in early January. A 13-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl were injured, suffering gunshot wounds to the thigh and forearm, while a bullet also grazed a third child, according to the criminal complaint.

Carson is jailed with bond

set at \$35,000, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. He is due back in court Tuesday.

Christian theme park laying off most workers

FL ORLANDO — A Christian-oriented theme park in central Florida that describes itself as "bringing the Bible to life" is laying off most of its workers.

The Holy Land Experience last week filed notice with the city of Orlando and state officials that it would be eliminating 118 positions. That represents most of the jobs at the theme park in Orlando's tourist corridor.

Holy Land Experience officials said in a letter that they were shifting focus from entertainment and theatrical productions to the park's Biblical Museum.

Hearing for theater bar that served tainted drinks

NE LA VISTA — Nebraska's liquor control agency has called a movie theater bar in suburban Omaha to account for accidentally serving two customers cocktails that contained cleaning solution.

The Alamo Drafthouse in La Vista could have its liquor license suspended, canceled or revoked at the March 10 hearing before the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

The women, ages 45 and 51, took sips on Jan. 28 and soon began to feel burning sensations in their throats and stomachs, authorities said. The women also had trouble breathing. They were taken to a hospital and then released. A server experienced similar symptoms after tasting the drinks and was treated as well.

A bottle that had contained a

liqueur was being used to store cleaning solution for lines that connect beer kegs to taps. The bottle had been placed near the bar, police said.

Adult punches mountain lion to save girl on trail

CA CUPERTINO — A state park in Northern California remained closed Tuesday after a mountain lion attacked a 6-year-old girl while she walked on a trail, officials said.

The girl was at the Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve in Cupertino when a mountain lion attacked her Sunday, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said in a statement. Rangers treated the girl for minor injuries.

The 6-year-old was with her parents in a group of six adults and four children. An adult who was with them rescued her by punching the animal in the ribs.

School probed for racial 'Duck, Duck, Goose'

NV LAS VEGAS — School district officials in Las Vegas are investigating allegations that a class was playing a game of "Duck, Duck, Goose" that invoked slavery.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported Monday that the principal at Rowe Elementary School issued a message to parents about the reported incident.

Principal Jeffrey Schaber said no behavior that contradicts having "an inclusive community" would be tolerated.

A parent posted on Facebook that her kindergarten-age daughter last week was taught to play "Duck, Duck, Goose," but as "Hunter Chase the Slave."

Vintage WWII fighter plane to fly sightseers

HI HONOLULU — Sightseers will soon have an opportunity to experience history while viewing Hawaii when a vintage World War II fighter plane begins passenger flights.

A private company has modified a P-51D Mustang to allow space for the pilot and a back-seat passenger beginning in March, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Monday.

Wings Over Pearl is expected to take passengers up in a 1944 Mustang owned by the Erickson Aircraft Collection. A 15-minute tour of Pearl Harbor, Wheeler Army Airfield and the Haleiwa Fighter Strip is expected to cost \$2,900.

Police: Man forced woman to watch 'Roots'

IA CEDAR RAPIDS — An Iowa man is accused of forcing a woman to watch the nine-hour miniseries "Roots," threatening her and telling her the episodic drama would make her better understand her racism.

Robert Noye, 52, is charged in Cedar Rapids with harassment and false imprisonment.

The Gazette reported that the woman told police that Noye made her sit with him to watch the miniseries. It was based on author Alex Haley's family history, from the capture and enslavement of his ancestor Kunta Kinte in Africa to the liberation of Kinte's descendants.

When she tried to move, the woman said, Noye told her to remain seated or he would "kill her and spread her body parts" across the interstate.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Wilder-Fury fight needs no promoting

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The water was warming up, and so was the sun. On the kind of day that made it easy to forget about dreary weather back home, Tyson Fury was sitting poolside in the backyard of his home in the shadow of the Las Vegas Strip, watching as some of his housemates frolicked in the shallow end.

The Gypsy King resisted the impulse to join them. He didn't have a swimsuit on and, besides, he had more serious things to attend to.

Like promoting a fight that, on paper, needs no promotion. Fury and Deontay Wilder for the title Saturday night in the biggest heavyweight showdown in years.

"If this fight doesn't sell, no fight in history will sell," Fury said. "You've got a Brit versus an American, a talker versus a talker, personality versus personality. Both unbeaten, and we fought to a draw last time.

"What's not to like?"

Frankly, not much. Fourteen

months after they were both disappointed in a draw in a hugely entertaining fight, Fury and Wilder meet in a rematch so big that it took two major TV networks to combine for the pay-per-view show.

It's a fight with a bit of everything, the kind of fight boxing fans usually only dream about. There's little not to like about the bout at the MGM Grand arena, except maybe what it costs to watch at home on Fox Sports or ESPN pay-per-view (\$79.99).

Still, this fight might be the rare one worth calling up a few buddies and ordering pizzas. If it even comes close to the drama of the first fight, the entertainment value will be priceless.

And it's taking place only because the two best heavyweights in the world are willing to put their unbeaten records and everything else on the line to make it happen.

"It takes a certain type of man to risk his life and not just his life," Fury said as a camp member splashed nearby. "I

mean risk everything he's ever achieved in his life. To put it all on the line, draw a mark and say, right, let's have the two best men fight each other for the ultimate glory. That's what me and Wilder are doing."

How Fury got to this point isn't exactly how the path to heavyweight greatness is usually mapped out. He won a piece of the title against Wladimir Klitschko in 2015, only to descend into the darkness of depression and drug and alcohol addiction that threatened to end not only his career but his life.

Fury ballooned to 385 pounds and seemingly would never fight again. But he discovered that working out would help him beat his demons and he hasn't stopped since returning to the ring in June 2018 after a 2½-year absence.

He's still big — 6-foot-9 and probably about 270 pounds at fight time — but sober now and right in the mix at the top of a heavyweight division that is suddenly hot once again. Two

months after Anthony Joshua got a piece of the title back by beating Andy Ruiz Jr. in Saudi Arabia, Fury and Wilder will meet with the winner considered by most in boxing to be the legitimate heavyweight champion.

"The sleeping giant has now awoken," Fury said. "We've brought it back to the glory days. I believe the heavyweight division now is thriving like it was in the '70s and '80s."

While the fight has a lot of intriguing sidelights — as well as two showmen with contrasting styles not afraid to mix it up — the real selling point is the first fight. Fury outboxed Wilder throughout that fight only to get knocked down in ninth round and then completely flattened in the 12th.

Wilder was walking around the ring celebrating what was surely another knockout victory. But somehow Fury got up and actually took the fight to Wilder in the closing seconds and when the scorecards were tallied it was a draw.

Corona virus concerns halt all Far East tournaments

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Casey Cox said he couldn't believe it when his coach told him that the Far East boys basketball tournaments were canceled.

"I thought he was joking. I was hoping he was joking," the Kadena senior guard said Thursday, hours after DODEA Pacific made the announcement. "We've been working for this since my freshman year. I thought this year was our best chance [to win the Division I title]."

The D-I and D-II tournaments at Camp Humphreys were canceled Thursday afternoon after 13 of the 19 scheduled games had already been played at Humphreys High School.

DODEA announced several

hours later that all Far East winter sports tournaments were being canceled.

That includes the girls D-I and D-II tournaments, being held at Kadena, and the Far East cheerleading camp and competition at Matthew C. Perry.

The entire 16-game first-day slate of girls games were completed, but the tournament was halted at 8 p.m.

"This was a very difficult decision and we did not take it lightly, but this was a hard right decision based on guidance we got from U.S. Forces Korea," DODEA Pacific region chief of staff Todd Schlitz said by phone from Okinawa.

In a statement released by Schlitz making the announcement, DODEA said the decision was made "based on a new U.S. Forces Korea COVID-19 (coronavirus) guidance and out of an

abundance of caution to ensure the safety of all students."

There are currently no reported cases of the virus among student-athletes at DODEA Pacific schools, the statement said.

"We are currently coordinating return flights for all students," the statement said, adding that more guidance would be released by DODEA Pacific on Friday.

As to whether spring Far East tournaments, to include baseball, softball, soccer and track and field, might also be canceled, Schlitz said: "We will continue to look at each of the events and make a determination based on how this situation evolves."

The coronavirus started in China and has spread around the world. More than 2,100 people have died after being infected with the virus, accord-

ing to Associated Press, with more than 75,000 people testing positive.

U.S. bases in Daegu on Wednesday restricted access and imposed a self-quarantine after a church was linked to novel coronavirus. South Korea reported its first death from the virus on Thursday, according to the AP.

Daegu Mayor Kwon Young-jin urged its 2.5 million people on Thursday to refrain from going outside as cases of the virus spiked and he pleaded for help from the central government, AP reported.

It's the first time the boys tournaments, held annually since 1949, and the girls tournaments held since 1976, have been canceled since 1981, when budget cuts forced DODEA Pacific to call off all Far East tournaments except girls volleyball for the 1980-81 school year.

Unranked Wolfpack rock No. 6 Blue Devils

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State overwhelmed sixth-ranked Duke so thoroughly that the Blue Devils' Hall of Fame coach could only describe his team as "never there" after a historically lopsided loss.

Markell Johnson scored a career-high 28 points, including his third halfcourt shot this season, to help the Wolfpack beat Duke 88-66 on Wednesday night. It was the largest margin of defeat in four decades under coach Mike Krzyzewski to an unranked opponent.

"They were just at a different level of competitiveness," Krzyzewski said, adding: "We were never there. That's on all of us."

North Carolina State (17-9, 8-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) jumped to a 10-1 lead and led by 15 at halftime. That lead grew to 23 points early in the

second half, then the Wolfpack responded to a push by the ACC-leading Blue Devils (22-4, 12-3) by stretching the margin right back out and to as many as 27 points.

"We didn't have the same level of intensity coming out tonight, before the game and everything," Duke point guard Tre Jones said, "and it showed."

When the horn finally sounded, North Carolina State fans stormed the court to celebrate a rout that extended the Blue Devils' past-decade frustrations in Raleigh while also bolstering the team's NCAA Tournament résumé.

"We talked about the last couple of days what a great opportunity this would be and we stepped up to the challenge," Wolfpack coach Kevin Keatts said.

Devon Daniels added a career-high 25 points for North Carolina State, which shot 45%

and played as the aggressor nearly all night. It never trailed and never let Duke closer than 11 points in the second half.

"We knew this was a big game as a team," Daniels said. "We really locked in on the (scouting report), really looked at their tendencies and we knew we were going to have to bring it from the very jump."

Vernon Carey Jr. scored 27 points to lead the Blue Devils, who shot 38% and struggled both at the line and from the arc. Duke made just 4 of 17 three-pointers and 10 of 22 free throws, part of an all-around shaky showing that included a complete inability to slow Johnson and Daniels in the first half.

Big picture

Duke: The Blue Devils hadn't lost since falling to Clemson and current No. 11 Louisville in mid-January, moving past

the Cardinals and into the ACC lead as Louisville stumbled twice last week. Yet they didn't come out with anything approaching the same edge as the Wolfpack, getting down quickly and watching that margin push well past 20 after halftime.

"Tonight we were not competitive," Krzyzewski said. "That happens to a team. I like my team a lot. That's our worst game but they made us look bad, too. They played great."

N.C. State: The Wolfpack entered Monday ranked No. 60 in the NCAA's NET rankings with a 4-3 record against Quadrant 1 opponents to top the résumé. Their best win had come in December against a 10-loss Wisconsin team sitting at 30th in the NET. Now Keatts' club has something much stronger, thanks in large part to dominating first-half performances from Johnson and Daniels on a night to put North Carolina State in control from the jump.

College basketball roundup

Georgia thwarts No. 13 Auburn's comeback

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Anthony Edwards scored 18 points for Georgia, including a late three-pointer to slow Auburn's comeback attempt, and the Bulldogs beat the No. 13 Tigers 65-55 on Wednesday.

Auburn (22-4, 9-4 Southeastern Conference) suffered its second straight loss to a team with a losing record following seven straight wins. The winning streak ended Saturday with an 85-73 loss at Missouri.

Edwards' three-pointer with 2:15 remaining stretched the advantage to eight points.

J'Von McCormick led the Tigers with 22 points. Samir Doughty, who had 15 points, cut Georgia's lead to 58-53 with a three-point play with 1:02 remaining. Toumani Camara sank seven of eight free throws in the final 1:01 to help protect the Bulldogs' lead.

It was a much-needed win for Georgia (13-13, 3-10), which had lost eight of nine.

No. 11 Louisville 90, Syracuse 66: Jordan Nwora scored 17 points, Dwayne Sutton added 16 and the host Cardinals routed the Orange to end a two-game losing streak.

ing streak.

Louisville (22-5, 13-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) never trailed after losses at Georgia Tech and Clemson dropped it six spots in the rankings and out of the conference lead.

No. 12 Villanova 91, DePaul 71: Sadiq Bey and Collin Gillespie each made five of the Wildcats' 18 three-pointers and they used their long-range shooting to top the host Blue Demons.

Villanova went 18-for-26 from deep in its 20th straight victory against DePaul. The Wildcats (20-6, 9-4 Big East) have made at least nine threes in their last five games, including 17 during Sunday's 76-56 victory at Temple.

No. 16 Seton Hall 74, No. 21 Butler 72: Sandro Mamukelashvili hit an off-balance shot in the lane at the buzzer to give the host Pirates a stunning victory.

The winning shot came on an inbounds play after the officials reviewed a missed shot by Quincy McKnight and added two tenths of a second, putting 0.6 on the clock.

No. 22 Houston 76, Tulsa 43: Caleb Mills scored 22 of his 27 points in the sec-

ond half to help the host Cougars rout the Golden Hurricane.

Mills shot 9-for-16, making 5 of 9 three-pointers. Nate Hinton added 15 points for Houston (21-6, 11-3 American).

Martins Igbanu had 15 points for Tulsa (17-9, 9-4).

Loyola (Md.) 81, Army 77: Cam Spencer hit the go-ahead three-pointer with 40 seconds left for the host Greyhounds.

Andrew Kosticka scored 17 points to lead five Loyola players in double figures.

Fresno State 71, Air Force 62: Noah Blackwell tied his career high with a season-high 25 points to lead the host Bulldogs past the Falcons.

Lavelle Scottie had 16 points for Air Force (10-17, 4-11).

American 71, Navy 62: Sa'eed Nelson had 26 points as the host Eagles defeated the Midshipmen.

Stacy Beckton Jr. had 15 points for American (14-12, 10-5 Patriot League).

Greg Summers had 18 points and eight rebounds for Navy (13-13, 7-8). Evan Wieck added 12 points and nine rebounds.

Oleksiak, Stars hold off Coyotes

Associated Press

DALLAS — Jamie Oleksiak broke a third-period tie with his first goal in 26 games and the Dallas Stars held on to beat the Arizona Coyotes 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Oleksiak stepped up into the top of the slot, took a pass from Alexander Radulov and sent a low snap shot past goalie Adin Hill with 8:22 remaining.

“The puck kind of had eyes on its own,” Oleksiak said.

He has only 17 goals in 304 NHL games but three have been game-winners.

“I kind of condition myself not to expect that to happen too much,” Oleksiak said. “I’m a big act-like-you’ve-been-there-before kind of guy. I don’t score enough to have a cool celebration.”

Dallas is 5-0-1 in its last six games to pull even with Central Division leader St. Louis.

Ben Bishop made 21 of his season-high 39 saves in the first period.

Corey Perry and Radek Faksa scored power-play goals for the Stars.

Taylor Hall had a power-play goal for Arizona, Christian Fischer also scored in the second period and Hill stopped 30 shots. The Coyotes remained in position for the second wild card from the Western

Conference.

Perry had a goal and an assist and Denis Gurianov had two assists for Dallas.

Jordan Oesterle assisted on both Arizona goals.

Rangers 6, Blackhawks 3: Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad each had a goal and two assists as visiting New York scored five times in the third period and beat Chicago.

Pavel Buchnevich had a goal and assist, and Filip Chytil, Ryan Strome and Artemi Panarin scored as the Rangers rebounded from a 3-1 loss to Boston on Sunday to win for the fifth time in six games.

Dominik Kubalik scored twice, giving him 25 goals to lead NHL rookies. Drake Caggiula also connected for the Blackhawks, who have just one win in their last eight games (1-5-2).

Bruins 2, Oilers 1 (OT): David Pastrnak scored the winner 1:14 into overtime to give visiting Boston a victory over Edmonton.

Pastrnak was set up for the goal on a pass from David Krejci. He tucked the puck between Oilers goalie Mike Smith’s legs for his 43rd of the season.

Patrice Bergeron scored his 27th goal for the Bruins, who have won four straight and are 10-1-0 in their last 11 games. Sam Gagner had a goal for the short-handed Oil-

ers, who are expected to be without Connor McDavid for much of the month because of a leg injury.

Panthers 4, Ducks 1: Vincent Trocheck and Aleks Saarela each scored second-period goals off fortuitous rebounds and visiting Florida rallied from an early deficit to beat Anaheim.

Aleksander Barkov and MacKenzie Weegar also scored a goal for the Panthers, while Sergei Bobrovsky made 35 saves as Florida improved to 2-0 on a key five-game West Coast trip.

The Panthers won consecutive games in California with another at Los Angeles on Thursday. They earned a 5-3 victory at San Jose on Monday. Max Jones scored and John Gibson had 28 saves for the Ducks, who dropped the opener of a six-game homestand.

Wild 4, Canucks 3 (SO): Alex Galchenyuk scored the tying goal and the shootout winner as visiting Minnesota beat Vancouver.

Kevin Fiala and Luke Kunin also scored in regulation for the Wild, and Mats Zuccarello had two assists. Devan Dubnyk stopped 31 shots.

J.T. Miller scored twice in the third period and Jay Beagle added a goal for the Canucks.

NHL roundup

Avs hand Islanders fourth straight loss

Associated Press

DENVER — Pavel Francouz made 27 saves and lost his first NHL shutout with just over two minutes remaining as the Colorado Avalanche beat the New York Islanders 3-1 on Wednesday night.

“I was telling my father (Wednesday) I’m going to get him a shutout, so I’m really sad that it didn’t work out,” Francouz said. “I’m really happy we won. That’s the most important thing.”

Gabriel Landeskog, Andre Burakovsky and Joonas Donskoi scored to help Colorado end a three-game skid against a scuffling New York team.

“We needed to get back on the winning side of things. The homestand has been a little bit

up and down, and we found ways to lose games,” Landeskog said. “This was well-needed and big to finish up the homestand this way.”

The Islanders continued their offensive struggles in losing their fourth straight despite another strong performance by Semyon Varlamov. The goaltender, who spent eight seasons with the Avalanche before signing with New York last summer, had 26 saves in his first game in Denver since leaving Colorado.

The Islanders had just two goals on their four-game road trip. Brock Nelson scored his 22nd of the season with Varlamov off for an extra skater and New York trailing by three.

“We’re fighting until the end,” captain Anders Lee said.

“This has been a brutal four-game stretch and we’re having a tough time with it.”

The Islanders lost forward Derick Brassard after he was hit in the head on teammate Ryan Pullock’s wrist shot late in the first period. Brassard went to the locker room and played just one shift the rest of the game.

“Pucks are hard, and the wrist shots are hard,” coach Barry Trotz said. “If you get hit in the right spot, trust me, it hurts.”

The Avalanche got the early lead when Donskoi tipped in a shot by Makar at 9:07 of the first period, his 15th of the season to set a career high in goals. Burakovsky made it 2-0 just eight seconds after New York killed off a penalty. Bura-

kovsky’s shot from between the circles beat Varlamov high on the glove side at 45 seconds of the second period.

Landeskog made it 3-0 at 7:43 of the third when he deflected Nathan MacKinnon’s shot from the point. MacKinnon had two assists, giving him 51 for the season. He is just the third Colorado player to have at least 50 assists in three straight seasons, joining current general manager Joe Sakic (1998-2002) and Peter Forsberg (1995-99).

Avalanche forward Martin Kaut made his NHL debut and nearly scored in the second period but his tip shot went wide.

“I had a couple chances so I think it was a great game for me,” he said.