

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Navy keeps foes on their toes with schedule changes

The Virginian-Pilot

As part of the Navy's plan to make aircraft carrier deployments less predictable, thousands of crew members on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and its strike group stayed at sea after they passed their final certification exercise rather than coming home before being deployed as is normally the case.

The Navy said Thursday the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group started its deployment in the Atlantic Ocean immediately after completing an exercise that began in January. The certification exercise usually lasts about a month and amounts to a final exam proving everyone is ready for various real-world combat scenarios.

The Navy did not specify exactly when the strike group's deployment officially began.

The unusual step is part of a Defense Department strategy known as "dynamic force deployment," which is meant to keep adversaries on their toes.

For decades, Norfolk, Va.-based aircraft carriers would predictably sail into the Mediterranean Sea on their way to the Persian Gulf and back. But as Russia's navy has become more active in the Atlantic and elsewhere, military leaders decided to change that up.

The Norfolk-based aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman was the first to do so in 2018 when it deployed for a few months to the Mediterranean, came home and then deployed again to the Arctic Circle.

The Navy has not said where the Eisenhower is headed. The Truman is already underway in the Middle East and it's unclear when it is coming home after it faced months of delays due to an electrical issue.

"The Sailors of IKE Strike Group are trained and ready to execute the full spectrum of maritime operations in any theater," Rear Adm. Paul Schlise, commander of the Eisenhower carrier strike group, said in a statement.

Other ships in the strike group include the Norfolk-based guided-missile cruisers USS San Jacinto and USS Vella Gulf, and the guided-missile destroyers USS Stout, USS James E. Williams and USS Truxton.

The strike group has about 6,000 people assigned to it, including its air wing.

US, Taliban reach weeklong 'reduction of violence' deal

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United States has reached an agreement with the Taliban to begin a seven-day "reduction of violence" across Afghanistan starting Saturday, officials said.

Intended to test whether the insurgents can live up to a promise to curtail bloodshed, it could lead to the U.S. and Taliban signing a peace deal by the end of the month, paving the way for a U.S. troop withdrawal and an eventual end to America's longest war. Once a peace deal has been signed, the insurgents, government and other Afghan stakeholders would start talks that would likely cover difficult issues such as how to integrate Taliban fighters into the government and military after more than 18 years of war.

"After decades of conflict, we have come to an understanding with the Taliban on a significant reduction in violence across Afghanistan," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Twitter. "This is an important step on a long road to peace, and I call on all Afghans to seize this opportunity."

The reduction in violence, which the Afghan military will also observe, would begin at midnight, President Ashraf Ghani confirmed in a televised speech Friday.

U.S. defense officials and Afghan military and government authorities declined to comment on the matter when reached by Stars and Stripes.

The "understanding ... on a significant and nationwide reduction in violence" was reached by U.S. and Taliban negotiators at talks in Doha, Qatar, in recent weeks, the State Department said in a statement Friday.

While neither side has explained what the reduction of violence will entail and how it would be monitored, Pentagon officials told reporters this week that Army Gen. Scott Miller, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, will be responsible for a "continual evaluative process" to determine compliance.

"The evaluations are going to be going on day to day, hour to hour and, frankly, minute to minute," said Rear Adm. William D. Byrne Jr., vice director of the Joint Staff.

U.S. and Afghan forces are expected to refrain from conducting offensive operations against the Taliban throughout the country during the period.

The Taliban have reserved the right to attack under certain circumstances, such as if they believe Afghan troops are using the lull in fighting to supply areas usually out of their reach, The New York Times reported earlier this month.

After more than a year of negotiations with the Taliban, U.S. officials said they wanted assurances that the insurgent group could control their fighters and show good faith before a deal is signed.

President Donald Trump, who has been vocal about his desire to end America's so-called forever wars, cited a Taliban attack that killed a U.S. soldier when he abruptly halted negotiations with the insurgents in September, just as they were said to be on the brink of producing an agreement.

The limited truce is important for optics, said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington, D.C.-based Wilson Center.

"For the U.S., a deal with no Taliban pledge to curb violence would look a lot like a surrender," Kugelman said.

If the weeklong reduction of violence is successful, a peace deal would likely be signed next week, followed by direct talks between the Taliban and Afghan leaders, including the Kabul government, which the Taliban considers illegitimate and has so far excluded from talks.

"We are preparing for the signing to take place on February 29," the State Department said.

A Taliban statement gave the same date, adding: "Both parties will now create a suitable security situation in advance of [the] agreement signing date."

Under a peace agreement, the U.S. is expected to carry out a phased withdrawal of troops in return for the Taliban upholding a promise to prevent terrorists from using Afghanistan to stage attacks against the U.S. and its allies. The pace of that withdrawal remains unclear, but it could see a drawdown from about 13,000 to 8,600 American troops, which U.S. officials have said is enough to carry out a counterterrorism mission and a NATO training mission.

Intel officials: Russia boosting Trump's presidential campaign

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Intelligence officials have warned lawmakers that Russia is interfering in the 2020 election campaign to help President Donald Trump get reelected, according to three officials familiar with the closed-door briefing.

The warning raises questions about the integrity of the presidential campaign and whether Trump's administration is taking the proper steps to combat the kind of interference the U.S. saw in 2016.

The officials asked for anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence. They said Thursday that the briefing last week focused on Russia's efforts to influence the 2020 election and sow discord in the American electorate. The intelligence warning was first reported by The New York Times and The Washington Post.

A senior administration official told The Associated

Press that the news infuriated Trump, who complained that Democrats would use the information against him. Over the course of his presidency, Trump has dismissed the intelligence community's assessment of Russia's 2016 election interference as a conspiracy to undermine his victory. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private meeting.

Moscow denied any meddling. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday that the allegations are "paranoid reports that, unfortunately, there will be more and more of as we get closer to the elections (in the U.S.). Of course, they have nothing to do with the truth."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tweeted that, "American voters should decide American elections — not Vladimir Putin." She added that all members of Congress "should condemn the

President's reported efforts to dismiss threats to the integrity of our democracy & to politicize our intel community."

A day after the Feb. 13 briefing to the House Intelligence Committee, Trump berated the then-director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, and he announced this week that Maguire would be replaced by Richard Grenell.

Republican lawmakers who were in last week's briefing by the DNI's chief election official, Shelby Pierson, pushed back by noting that Trump has been tough on Russia, one of the officials said.

Pierson told NPR in an interview that aired last month that the Russians "are already engaging in influence operations relative to candidates going into 2020. But we do not have evidence at this time that our adversaries are directly looking at interfering with vote counts or the vote tallies."

Soldiers on deployment to Mideast return home

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Some 800 soldiers from an 82nd Airborne Division brigade that rapidly deployed into the Middle East early this year amid heightening tensions with Iran returned to Fort Bragg, N.C., on Thursday, Army officials said.

The soldiers were the first group of some 3,000 paratroopers with the 82nd's 1st Brigade Combat Team rushed to Kuwait during the first week of January to bolster security for U.S. troops in the region after an American airstrike killed Iran's most powerful general. Army officials described the deployment that required soldiers to leave within hours as the "most significant no notice deployment of combat forces" in three decades.

Fort Bragg officials said the 800 paratroopers welcomed home Thursday were greeted by family and friends at the Army post. Most of the returning soldiers were from the brigade's 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which was the first element to deploy.

That battalion deployed within 18 hours of receiving orders to the Middle East, Pentagon officials have said. The 82nd Airborne's 1st Brigade Combat Team is now assigned as the U.S. military's Immediate Response Force Brigade, a designation that makes the unit responsible for responding to any emergencies across the globe. Army officials have long stressed the rapid deployment capability is important to maintain, though rarely used. The last time was in 2010 when soldiers quickly deployed to Haiti following a devastating earthquake.

Trump to pick new US intelligence chief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell is the new acting national intelligence director, but he's expected to be a short-timer overseeing the nation's 17 spy agencies.

President Donald Trump named Grenell the acting director, but says he'll nominate a permanent director soon. The president told reporters on Air Force One Thursday evening that he's considering Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga. But Collins said Friday that he's not interested.

The appointment of Grenell, an outspoken Trump loyalist with little to no intelligence experience, did nothing to heal the president's fraught relations with an intelligence community he has derided as part of a "deep state" of entrenched bureaucrats seeking to undermine him. His administration has feuded with the intelligence community, most notably over Russian interference in the 2016 election and the events surrounding Trump's impeachment.

But Grenell's selection follows the logic of a Trump White House that prizes loyalty and has a penchant for "acting" Cabinet secretaries who don't require a potentially bruising Senate confirmation.

The background of Grenell, the U.S. ambassador to Germany since April 2018, is primarily in politics and media affairs. He lacks the extensive national security and military experience of the acting director he replaces, Joseph Maguire, as well as previous holders of the position. Such experience appears to be required under the 2004 law that created the post to coordinate the work of the nation's intelligence agencies.

"He is probably the most unqualified individual ever appointed to this position," said Larry Pfeiffer, a former longtime intelligence agency official who helped establish the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Grenell is expected to be in the post for 90 days and a permanent replacement will be announced by March 11, said a U.S. official.

Dems do 180, solicit super PAC money

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many Democratic presidential candidates launched their campaigns last year with bold pledges to reject help from super PACs and dark money groups. But as the realities of a tough primary fight sink in, those promises are fading away.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, one of the fiercest critics of money in politics, was the latest White House hopeful this week to accept help from a big money organization that can raise and spend unlimited amounts on behalf of political candidates. Former Vice President Joe Biden, Minnesota Sen.

Amy Klobuchar and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders have done much the same.

The Democratic battle to take on President Donald Trump is entering a critical new phase as more than a dozen states vote within the next couple of weeks with about one third of the delegates needed to win the nomination at stake. Campaign finance disclosures made to the Federal Election Commission on Thursday offered the clearest look yet at who will have the resources to forge on deep into the calendar and who will be forced to soon reckon with the sustainability of their candidacy.

The disclosures include cam-

paign spending and fundraising details for the month of January and laid bare the stark financial choices ahead for those other than former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Sanders.

Bloomberg, a billionaire, has plunged over \$400 million into his campaign, while Sanders is propelled by an army of contributors whose renewable stream of small online contributions helped him amass \$25 million in January alone.

Party leaders have long worried that Sanders, a democratic socialist, would lose to Trump because of his embrace of left wing politics. Now, after a neck-and-neck showing against Pete

Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., in Iowa, followed by a win in New Hampshire, he's the one best poised to capture nomination.

Bloomberg, with his limitless resources, has emerged as a centrist candidate who has the money to compete with Sanders. But after a widely-panned debate performance on Wednesday where he was eviscerated by Warren, some are doubting that possibility too.

Many now rue that early days of the primary were dominated by pledges of the sources of money that campaigns would reject rather than building a fundraising network to compete with Trump.

Trump mocks Bloomberg debate debut

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Relishing in Democrats' jumbled primary in the wake of a fractious debate, President Donald Trump offered stinging criticism of his rivals as he sought to take advantage of the moment.

Making a rare four-day swing through the West, Trump was exuding reelection confidence Thursday at a campaign rally in Colorado, after taking in the prior night's prize fight of a debate in Las Vegas. He reveled in the intra-party squabbling and the weak debut debate per-

formance turned in by former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, according to aides and allies.

"I don't know if anyone watched last night's debate," Trump told an arena of raucous supporters. "It got very big ratings, and you know what, Mini Mike didn't do well last night. I was going to send him a note, saying it's not easy doing what I do is it?"

He offered other biting assessments of the Democratic contenders, contrasting them to his own performance in debates four years ago.

"I became president because of the debates because unlike Mini Mike I could answer questions," Trump said.

Feeling reelection odds rising after his acquittal in the Senate impeachment trial and his campaign's record fundraising, Trump seized on the deep divisions and personal tiffs on display in the Democratic field.

Bloomberg has been the most disconcerting force in the 2020 race for Trump since the ultra-billionaire entered the fray and spent more than \$400 million, which rocketed him in the polls in just three months.

Bloomberg's willingness to spend near-unlimited sums to defeat Trump, and the mocking tone of many of his ads, have deeply rankled the president.

Trump's campaign had organized itself around the strategy that it would be able to paint any rival as an extreme liberal, a "socialist" or worse, and concerns mounted that he might need a different plan should Bloomberg win the nomination.

Trump told confidants that the debate proved money alone did not lead to his own electoral success.

Bloomberg turns to Utah after unsteady debate

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — New York billionaire Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign strategy is unprecedented, and his choice of rally location on Thursday to bounce back from an unsteady debate performance was unusual: Salt Lake City.

This the first year Utah will

vote on Super Tuesday, the March 3 contests that Bloomberg is basing his strategy on.

And Utah's Democrats are fired up about new attention from candidates courting their votes.

Winning Utah on Super Tuesday won't be a slam dunk in a state where Bernie Sanders remains popular with left-leaning voters. But Bloomberg

is hoping his well-funded campaign can sway moderate independent voters, disaffected Republicans and undecided Democrats.

Bloomberg has visited the state's liberal-leaning, mountain-ringed capital city before and told the rally that every delegate counts.

"No voter is too liberal, too moderate or too conservative

to help us make Donald Trump a one-term president!" Bloomberg said to cheers from the crowd.

While conservative Utah is unlikely to flip for a Democratic presidential candidate in a general election, many of the state's voters have never warmed to Trump's brash style or positions on immigrants and refugees.

Virus cases balloon across South Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Schools were shuttered, churches told worshippers to stay away and some mass gatherings were banned as cases of a new virus swelled Friday in South Korea, the newest front in a widening global outbreak.

The country said a total of 204 people were infected with the virus, quadruple the number it had two days earlier, as a crisis centered in China has begun strongly reverberating elsewhere.

The multiplying caseload in South Korea showed the ease with which the illness can spread. Though initial infections were linked to China, new ones have not involved international travel.

“We have entered an emergency phase,” Prime Minister Chung Se-kyun said in televised comments at the start of a government meeting on the health emergency. “Our efforts until now had been focused on blocking the illness from entering the country. But we will now shift the focus on preventing the illness from spreading further in local communities.”

Daegu, a southeastern city of 2.5 million that is the country’s fourth largest, emerged as the focus of government efforts to contain the disease known as COVID-19, and Chung promised support to ease a shortage in hospital beds, medical personnel and equipment. Daegu Mayor Kwon Young-jin has urged residents to stay in-

side, even wearing masks at home, to stem further infection.

The first case in Daegu was reported on Tuesday. By Friday, the area had 153.

Nationwide, the numbers told of a ballooning problem. There were 20 new cases reported Wednesday, 53 on Thursday and 100 on Friday.

The central government declared a “special management zone” around Daegu on Friday, which didn’t restrict movement of residents or supersede local officials’ power but served as official recognition of the problem. A total of 110 infections have been confirmed in Daegu and surrounding areas, including South Korea’s first fatality from COVID-19.

Iran votes for new parliament despite sanctions

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranians voted for a new parliament Friday, with turnout seen as a key measure of support for Iran’s leadership as sanctions weigh on the economy and U.S. pressure isolates the country diplomatically.

The disqualification of more than 7,000 potential candidates, most of them reformists and moderates, raised the possibility of lower-than-usual turnout. Among those disqualified were 90 sitting members of parliament who had wanted to run for re-election.

The election comes at a time of growing economic hardship for many in Iran. U.S. sanctions

have strangled Iran’s ability to sell its oil abroad, forcing its economy into recession.

Also looming over the election is the threat of the new coronavirus. Many voters headed to the polls with face masks.

Iranian health authorities on Friday confirmed two new deaths from the virus, which first emerged in China in December, bringing the total death toll in Iran to four, from among 18 confirmed cases. Authorities say all the cases have links with the city of Qom, where the first two elderly patients died on Wednesday. Concerns over the spread of the virus prompted authorities in Iran to close all schools, universities and

Shiite seminaries in Qom.

Iran’s leadership and state media have urged people to show up and vote, with some framing it as a religious duty. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei cast his ballot at a mosque near his Tehran office shortly after polls opened at 8 a.m.

“Anyone who cares about Iran’s national interests should participate in the election,” he said. Earlier in the week, Khamenei said high voter turnout will thwart “plots and plans” by the U.S. and supporters of Israel against Iran.

After the disqualifications, around 7,000 candidates were left vying for a place in the 290-seat chamber across 208

constituencies.

Tensions with the U.S. could strengthen hard-liners by reinforcing long-held distrust of the West. A parliament stacked with hard-liners could favor expanding the budget for the Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has been sanctioned by the U.S. It could also tilt public policy debates toward hard-liners who are opposed to engagement with the U.S.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who had initially criticized the disqualification of so many moderate would-be candidates, cast his ballot on Friday and urged the public to stage another “victory” by voting in large numbers.

Airstrike in northwest Syria kills 2 Turkish soldiers

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Two Turkish soldiers were killed Thursday in an airstrike in northwestern Syria, Turkey said, after an attack by Ankara-backed opposition forces that targeted Syrian government troops. The deaths came after the Turkish president threatened to expand his nation’s involvement in Syria if another one of his troops were hurt.

At least 15 Turkish soldiers have been killed in Syria this month amid a crushing offensive by Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces aimed at recapturing re-

maining opposition-held areas in the region.

Intent on halting the advance, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had vowed Feb. 12 to take military action “everywhere in Syria” if another Turkish soldier was killed or wounded.

The multiple front offensive has triggered the biggest single wave of fleeing civilians in Syria’s nine-year war, displacing nearly 1 million people who have rushed toward the Turkish border and are sheltering in tents or sleeping rough in harsh winter weather.

It has also risked completely shattering a fragile cooperation between Ankara and Moscow, which back opposing sides of the Syria war. Ankara has sent thousands of soldiers to northwestern Syria to try to stem the Syrian government advance on the province near the Turkish border, leading to the repeated flare-ups.

Thursday’s exchange marked a serious escalation that risks growing into a full-blown conflict between Turkey and Syria. Erdogan has also called on Assad’s forces to retreat from Idlib or face an “imminent” Turkish attack.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Cops: Farmer holds goat thief at gunpoint

VA FREDERICKSBURG — A Virginia man held a suspect who was trying to steal goats from his farm at gunpoint until authorities could arrive to make an arrest, authorities said.

Stafford County deputies responded to a call Friday night from the property owner, who said he was holding a thief in the middle of a field on his land, Stafford County Sheriff's spokeswoman Amanda Vicinanza said. The farmer told deputies his wife had gone outside to check on their goats and discovered they'd been let out of their pen.

The farmer tracked the suspect to the field, where he found the man apparently intoxicated and slurring his words, the department said. Three goats were tied up next to the suspect's truck. A deputy later determined through a breathalyzer test that the man was pretending to be intoxicated, Vicinanza said.

Paraglider trapped for 3 hours in power lines

CA OLIVEHURST — A paraglider trapped in power lines for three hours in northern California was rescued by emergency crews near the Yuba County Airport.

The pilot was facing the ground with the wires as his only support when first responders arrived, Olivehurst Fire Department officials said.

"The difficulty was making sure that the lines were de-energized to make sure that our firefighters were safe before we could make patient contact," said Randy York, with the Olivehurst Fire Department.

Power was cut to the surrounding area in Yuba County for a few hours while crews

worked to save the man, authorities said.

The pilot got stuck while trying to land at the airport from a training exercise with an instructor, first responders said. No major injuries were reported.

Plymouth Rock covered in graffiti by vandals

MA PLYMOUTH — The iconic Plymouth Rock and other sites were covered in red graffiti Monday during a vandalism spree discovered at the site marking the landing of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts 400 years ago.

Officials in Plymouth discovered the vandalism early in the morning. Workers had removed the red spray paint, which included the letters MOF and the numbers 508, from the rock before noon.

Authorities say no arrests have been made and the site was open to tourists.

Tavern manager said to have stolen nearly \$70K

KY BERA — The general manager of a historic tavern in Kentucky has been accused of stealing nearly \$70,000 from the business and then gambling it away.

James Smock, 57, was charged with theft by taking from Boone Tavern, a historic hotel and restaurant, Berea police spokesperson Amanda Chitwood said in a news release Tuesday.

Detectives determined Smock stole almost \$64,000 from daily deposits and nearly \$4,000 from the house bank where money was stored, Chitwood said.

Smock has refused to speak with detectives, Chitwood said, but police obtained a warrant and arrested him Feb. 9.

Police chief stripped of duties disrobes

NH CROYDON — The police chief in a New Hampshire town took it literally when he was stripped of his duties at a local board meeting, disrobing to his underwear and walking out into a snowstorm.

Richard Lee has been chief in the small town of Croydon for 20 years. Recently, the three-member selectboard voted to eliminate the one-man department and move to 100% coverage by the New Hampshire State Police.

Lee, who was at the meeting, was told to turn in the key to his cruiser, his guns and his uniform — immediately. He went into an office he shared with town officials and took off his clothes before the board chairman.

"I gave them my uniform shirt. I gave them my turtle-neck, I gave them my ballistic vest. ... I sat down in the chair, took off my boots, took off my pants, put those in the chair, and put my boots back on, and walked out the door," Lee said. He didn't have spare clothes or a ride home. He walked nearly a mile before his wife picked him up.

Lee said that if he had left with his gear, he didn't want to face the possibility of being arrested. As he took off his clothes, he said, the chairman said he didn't have to do that, but Lee said those were the orders.

Police: Man steals patrol car, wrecks it

SC EASLEY — A man broke into a South Carolina police officer's home, took his patrol car and then wrecked it, authorities said.

Roy Wood McDonald also

took a gun and Narcan, a drug used to try to reverse symptoms of an opioid overdose, when he broke into the Greenville County deputy's home, investigators said.

Pickens County deputies discovered the theft when someone called 911 to report the overturned patrol car on state Highway 183 near Easley on Sunday morning, Pickens County Chief Deputy Chad Brooks said.

McDonald, 32, was arrested by the Highway Patrol and charged with driving under the influence. Pickens County deputies added a charge of grand larceny and simple larceny, Brooks said in a statement.

Store yanks souvenir Washington dentures

VA MOUNT VERNON — George Washington's Mount Vernon estate says it will no longer sell a souvenir depicting the founding father's false teeth amid criticism that Washington's dentures were made with teeth pulled from the mouths of his slaves.

Critics said selling a souvenir magnet depicting Washington's famous false teeth trivialized the fact that Washington's slaves had to give up their own teeth.

Mount Vernon said on Twitter that it would remove the magnet from its online store. The webpage on which the magnet had been offered for sale was disabled as of Wednesday afternoon.

The old story that Washington's dentures were made of wood has long been known to be false. It has been known for years that Washington paid about six pounds for nine teeth that were pulled from slaves' mouths. The payment is recorded in a 1784 ledger.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Miracle on Ice resonates 40 years later

Associated Press

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — The woman had been waiting for her opportunity for more than an hour, which was no big deal because, technically, she had been waiting 40 years. She went to the Lake Placid Center for the Arts on a frigid night earlier this week with a folder containing a stack of perfectly preserved photographs and news clippings.

And finally, she was going to get Buzz Schneider — who scored the first U.S. goal of the hockey game that would become forever known as the Miracle on Ice — to sign them. He obliged, happily signing everything the overjoyed woman needed.

“Personally, I can’t believe it’s resonated this long,” Schneider said.

Oh, but it has.

Saturday marks exactly four decades since perhaps the greatest sports result in the history of this country, and

possibly the greatest upset in the history of sports anywhere — USA 4, USSR 3. A bunch of kids beat the best hockey team in the world — at the height of the Cold War, David vs. Goliath, Us vs. Them, a moment when the nation’s collective mood seemed as cold as that sheet of ice that became a canvas for a miracle in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Lake Placid has never forgotten, and in turn, the world hasn’t forgotten Lake Placid, either. The village in the heart of the Adirondacks still bustles, even in the summer months. The arena is still there, the rink where the Americans played that game now named for the late Herb Brooks, the U.S. coach, and a sporting goods shop across the street from the Olympic Center is called “Locker Room 5” — a tribute to the room the team used on that fateful night.

“The stories I hear, 40 years later, depending on their age: ‘I remember where I was when

Kennedy was assassinated, I remember where I was on 9/11, I remember where I was when the Challenger blew up, and I remember where I was when we won,’” said Mike Eruzione, the team captain who scored what became the game-winning goal with exactly 10 minutes left in the third period. “And I always say, ‘We? I didn’t know you were on the team.’ But people felt a part of it, and it’s nice to know 40 years later ... that people remember and share some great stories about what we did so long ago.”

The game details remain largely unforgotten: The U.S. trailed 1-0, 2-1 and 3-2, spending more than half the night behind on the scoreboard. Schneider scored to tie the game 1-1, Mark Johnson scored at the very end of the first period to make it 2-2 and Johnson struck again on the power play with 11:21 left to tie the game 3-3.

A mere 81 seconds later, Eruzione happened. The Americans

clogged the defensive end of the ice the rest of the way, doing all they could to help goaltender Jim Craig. The Russians never pulled their goalie for an extra attacker, presumably because they were so used to winning that they didn’t know what to do in such a situation.

A miracle. Two days later, the U.S. rallied past Finland for the gold medal on the final day in Lake Placid.

“Lake Placid also had the Olympics in 1932 and, to me, that meant it was the birthplace of the Winter Olympics in the United States,” said Schneider, who appeared alongside Olympic luge legends Erin Hamlin and Gordy Sheer, four-time biathlon Olympian Tim Burke and a pair of rising athletes from the Lake Placid area on a panel Monday night. “It’s a small town, the people here always want to make things work, they’re very humble and they’re hard-working. I’ll tell you, it’s a special little spot.”

More DODEA Pacific cancellations due to coronavirus

BY DAVE ORNAUER
AND JAMES BOLINGER

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Pacific area Defense Department schools canceled more events Friday, a day after pulling the plug on Far East winter sports tournaments due to concerns over potential exposure to the coronavirus.

Two school-sponsored events in Japan in the coming week are canceled, according to a statement Friday from Department of Defense Education Activity-Pacific.

The first, the Far East Drama and Performing Arts Festival, was scheduled Monday and Tuesday at Matthew C. Perry High School at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. It’s now off.

The second, the Far East Culinary Arts Festival, was scheduled Wednesday and Thursday at Yokota High School at Yokota

Air Base. It, too, is canceled.

A third, unofficial event called the Tomodachi Bowl — a friendship football game slated for March 8 at Naval Air Facility Atsugi — was also canceled, Yokota athletics director Tim Pujol said in an email Friday.

Spring sports expected to start Feb. 29 and season-ending tournaments in May are still on schedule, including soccer, baseball, track and field and softball. However, that schedule could change.

“This is an evolving situation and the well-being of our students and families is our top priority,” the statement from DODEA Pacific said.

The arts and culinary festivals were canceled a day after the Far East boys and girls basketball and cheerleading tournaments in Japan and South Korea were halted due to coronavirus concerns.

The virus, first detected in December in Wuhan, China, has spread to at least 30 coun-

tries since then. More than 2,100 people, mostly in China, have died and more than 75,000 people have tested positive worldwide, according to The Associated Press.

The South Korean city of Daegu, 200 miles southeast of Seoul, reported its first virus-linked death Thursday and the military tightened travel restrictions there.

No cases of coronavirus were reported among DODEA Pacific student-athletes, according to the statement from DODEA Pacific area director Lois Rapp. Cheerleaders and basketball players from Daegu Middle School and Daegu High School were present at the basketball and cheerleading tournaments, but none were reported to have fallen ill with the virus.

“We will continue to work closely with the military commands to ensure we are taking all proper measures to mitigate the risks to our students and employees,” the statement

said.

Far East cheer and basketball tournaments began Thursday but were called off hours later due to coronavirus concerns. Many involved with the events expressed disappointment. Many family members traveled with their players to see them compete in the Far East girls basketball tournament at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, the boys tourney at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, and the cheer competition at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

Harvey Inouye, 78, a retired master sergeant from San Antonio, saw his grandson Dylan Tomas hit the game-winning shot to lift Misawa Air Base’s Robert D. Edgren High School over Yokota 47-45 in an opening match.

“I would like to have seen the team play a lot more, but I guess for the safety of everyone, it’s a good decision,” he said.

NHL roundup

Knights halt Bolts' 11-game win streak

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Hours before making his Vegas debut, Alec Martinez sat on the team bench, gazing onto a clean sheet of ice while collecting his thoughts inside an empty T-Mobile Arena, a place he called the loudest venue in the NHL.

The crowd of 18,376 roared when he was announced in the starting lineup.

"It's obvious I was pretty emotional at the beginning there, feeding off the fans," the defenseman said. "I had to tell myself to settle down a little bit."

Martinez settled in nicely with a goal and an assist, and the Golden Knights stopped Tampa Bay's 11-game win streak with a 5-3 victory over the Lightning on Thursday.

It marked the first time in 23 games Tampa Bay allowed more than three goals and the fourth time in seven games Vegas scored five or more.

Flyers 4, Blue Jackets 3 (OT): Kevin Hayes scored 3:51 into overtime, and visiting Philadelphia beat Columbus to sweep the home-and-home series between Metropolitan Division contenders.

Philadelphia trailed 3-1 before Nicolas Aube-Kubel and Claude Giroux scored 1:26 apart in the second period. After a scoreless third, Hayes snapped a shot from the slot past Elvis Merzlikins for his 19th of the season.

Canadiens 4, Capitals 3 (OT): Ben Chiarot scored his second goal of the game 58 seconds into 3-on-3 OT to win it for visiting Montreal as Washington's Alex Ovechkin scored his 699th career goal and closed in on another milestone.

Ovechkin fired up the crowd by scoring seven minutes in and came close to reaching 700 goals on a bang-bang play in the third period. Instead, he'll have to wait to become the eighth player in NHL history to get to 700 as Washington lost its third straight.

The Capitals have lost five of their past six games and seven of 10, falling out of first place in the Metropolitan Division. The Capitals are also 1-4-1 at home since the All-Star break.

Blues 1, Coyotes 0: Ryan O'Reilly scored and Jordan Binnington made 14 saves to lead host St. Louis past Arizona.

Binnington recorded his second consecutive shutout and the eighth of his career.

Maple Leafs 4, Penguins 0: Jake Muzzin had a goal and two assists, Frederik Andersen made 24 saves and host Toronto dealt Pittsburgh its most lopsided loss of the season.

It was Andersen's second shutout of the season and No. 18 for his career.

Jets 5, Senators 1: Mark Scheifele snapped a 12-game scoring drought with three power-play goals, helping visiting Winnipeg beat Ottawa.

Kyle Connor and Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for the Jets, who improved to 7-2-1 over their last 10 and moved into the first wild-card spot in the Western Conference. Laurent Brossoit made 29 saves for his sixth win of the season.

Devils 2, Sharks 1: Mackenzie Blackwood made 36 saves in winning his fifth straight start and host New Jersey beat San Jose in a matchup of struggling franchises.

Defenseman P.K. Subban scored the winner on a power play early in the third period. Jesper Bratt had the other New Jersey goal. Nikita Gusev had assists on both.

Kings 5, Panthers 4: Gabriel Vilardi had a goal and an assist in his NHL debut and host Los Angeles opened a five-game homestand with a win over Florida.

Vilardi, who was the 11th overall pick in the 2017 draft, scored the fastest rookie debut goal in Kings history when he fired a wrist shot past Florida's Sergei Bobrovsky 86 seconds into the game.

Top 25 roundup

Arizona State upends 14th-ranked Oregon

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Alonzo Verge Jr. scored 26 points, Rob Edwards added 24 and Arizona State beat No. 14 Oregon 77-72 on Thursday night for its sixth straight victory.

The Sun Devils (18-8, 9-4 Pac-12) continued their unexpected charge up the conference standings following a mediocre January. Every team in the Pac-12 has lost at least four league games.

Oregon (20-7, 9-5) bumbled its way through a big chunk of the game, clanking errant three-pointers and giving up turnovers. But the Ducks used an 11-0 run to tie it at 54 with 7:17 left.

Arizona State responded with the next six points, which included a three-pointer from Edwards, and never trailed again.

Payton Pritchard had 18 points for Oregon but fouled out with about two minutes left, badly hurting the Ducks' chances of a last-minute rally. Will Richardson also had 18 points and Chris Duarte added 10.

No. 2 Gonzaga 71, San Francisco 54: Killian Tillie scored 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds as the host Bulldogs rallied to beat the Dons for their 19th consecutive victory.

Filip Petrushev scored 16 points and Ryan Woolridge 12 for Gonzaga (27-1, 13-0 West Coast), which trailed at halftime.

Gonzaga outscored San Francisco 49-23 in the second half for the win. Charles Minlend scored 22 points and Khalil Shabazz 13 for San Francisco (17-11, 6-7), which lost 83-79 at home to Gonzaga on Feb. 1. The Dons have lost 18 straight to Gonzaga, dating to their last win in 2012.

With the win, Gonzaga clinched at least a share of an eighth consecutive regular-season WCC title.

No. 20 Iowa 85, No. 25 Ohio State 76: Luka Garza scored 24 points and the host Hawkeyes beat the Buckeyes.

Garza has scored 20 points or more in 12 consecutive games in Big Ten play, the longest streak for an Iowa player in 49 seasons and the most by any conference player in the last 20 years.

Bakari Evelyn came off the bench to score 15 points for Iowa (19-8, 10-6). Joe Wieskamp had 13 points, and Ryan Kriener added 12.

No. 18 Colorado 70, Southern California 66: McKinley Wright IV had 15 points, including a floater in the lane in the final minutes, to help the host Buffaloes hold off the Trojans.

Wright added six rebounds and seven assists, and Tyler Bey had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Colorado (21-6, 10-4 Pac-12 Conference). The Buffaloes lead the conference by a game after Oregon fell at Arizona State.

Colorado has never won the Pac-12 regular-season title but took the 2012 conference tournament in coach Tad Boyle's second season.

No. 23 BYU 85, Santa Clara 75: T.J. Haws had 28 points and nine assists in the host Cougars' victory over the Broncos.

Yoeli Childs added 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Jake Toolson had 20 points and 10 rebounds for BYU (22-7, 11-3 WCC). The Cougars won their seventh straight.

Josip Vrankic had 28 points and 11 rebounds for Santa Clara (18-10, 5-8).

No. 24 Arizona 89, Oregon State 63: Josh Green scored 18 points and Nico Mannion had 12 of his 16 in the second half to help the host Wildcats beat the Beavers.

Max Hazzard scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half and Zeke Nnaji added 13 points and seven rebounds for Arizona (19-7, 9-4 Pac-12).

NBA roundup

Young scores 50 in Hawks' win over Heat

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Trae Young didn't attribute his first 50-point game to confidence gained from his first All-Star start.

Belief in himself has never been a problem for the high-scoring guard with a fondness for 30-foot jumpers.

Young had a career-high 50 points and the Atlanta Hawks scored the last 10 points of the game to beat the Miami Heat 129-124 on Thursday night.

Young made 18 of 19 free throws and 8 of 15 three-pointers to set his scoring high in his first game after starting in the NBA All-Star Game.

"I've always had confidence in myself," Young said when asked if he was boosted by the All-Star Game experience.

Young scored 20 points in the final period.

"A big game from our leader," said Atlanta's John Collins. "...We got some big plays from our big-time guy."

The Heat had no answer for Young's barrage of three-pointers, many from well beyond the line.

"He just got into such an incredible rhythm," said Miami coach Erik Spoelstra. "He's pulling up from six feet behind the line. ... There's not a lot of things you can

do about that."

Bam Adebayo had 28 points and a season-high 19 rebounds for Miami. Adebayo, the NBA All-Star skills champion, added seven assists.

76ers 112, Nets 104 (OT): Joel Embiid had 39 points and 16 rebounds, Alec Burks and Shake Milton added big baskets in overtime and Philadelphia beat visiting Brooklyn.

Playing without All-Star point guard Ben Simmons because of lower back tightness, Philadelphia improved its record at the Wells Fargo Center to 26-2 on the season. The 76ers are 9-19 on the road.

Tobias Harris added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers. Burks had 19 points, including a pair of layups in overtime that gave Philadelphia the lead for good.

Bucks 126, Pistons 106: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 16 rebounds to help Milwaukee rout host Detroit.

Former Piston Khris Middleton added 28 points for the Bucks, who won for the 15th time in 17 games. Eric Bledsoe had 19 points and Brook Lopez 18.

Detroit has lost five straight since trading Andre Drummond to Cleveland on Feb. 6 and were playing for the first time since buying out Reggie Jackson's contract.

Rockets 135, Warriors 105: James

Harden had 29 points and 10 assists, leading visiting Houston past cold-shooting Golden State in the teams' first game back from the All-Star break.

Russell Westbrook had 21 points and 10 assists before being ejected, while P.J. Tucker scored 15 points. He made all five of his three-pointers as the Rockets knocked down 25 total — a franchise record allowed by the Warriors against any opponent. Houston set an NBA record with 27 threes in a win against the Suns last April.

Hornets 103, Bulls 93: Malik Monk scored 25 points, Miles Bridges added 22 and Charlotte hung on to beat host Chicago.

The Hornets let a 21-point lead in the third quarter shrink to two. But they regrouped to win their third in a row after losing five straight and 13 of 14.

The Bulls missed their first 17 three-pointers before Zach LaVine made one in the third quarter and 7 of 31 from deep in losing their seventh straight game.

Kings 129, Grizzlies 125: Harrison Barnes scored a season-high 32 points and matched his career high with seven three-pointers, De'Aaron Fox added 26 and host Sacramento beat Memphis.

De'Anthony Melton scored 24 and Ja Morant had 19 for the Grizzlies.

Nets' Irving to have season-ending surgery

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kyrie Irving tried to keep playing through pain, a cortisone shot no longer providing enough relief.

Eventually, he and the Brooklyn Nets decided it's best to get his right shoulder taken care of now and get healthy for next season — when Irving and Kevin Durant can finally play together.

Irving will have arthroscopic surgery and miss the rest of the season, Nets general manager Sean Marks said Thursday.

"Kyrie mentioned he was playing through pain and you have to give him a lot of credit for that. He wants to be out there and playing with his guys," Marks said. "But there comes a point where you say

enough is enough and again, it goes to long-term health. And the best thing that (we) could do is to shut it down and get this taken care of once and for all."

Coach Kenny Atkinson said the point guard was still having trouble with the shoulder that began troubling him in October and sidelined him for 26 games earlier this season.

"Some days it was OK and other days it bothered him," Atkinson said before the Nets faced the Philadelphia 76ers. "Obviously, it is difficult to perform under those circumstances."

Irving said pain in the shoulder initially worsened after a game on Nov. 4. The Nets then went on a five-game road trip, where Irving continued to play until the pain got so bad he was

having trouble lifting his arm.

He got a cortisone shot on Dec. 24 and was able to return on Jan. 12, but he acknowledged that surgery might still be necessary. Irving met with a specialist this week and by deciding to have a procedure now, his first season in Brooklyn ends after just 20 games.

Irving averaged 27.4 points, with a 50-point game on opening night and a 54-point performance against Chicago on Jan. 31. He played only one more game after that.

Marks said the Nets would have more information about Irving's recovery process after the surgery, but expects that he will be back for summer workouts.

Irving missed the last five games before the break with a sprained right knee. He now

joins Durant on the sideline; the superstars signed with the Nets together in July. Durant has been out all season while recovering from surgery to repair his Achilles tendon.

Assuming both are healthy to start the 2020-21 season, the Nets could become one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference.

"We're right on schedule and on target to put a contender out there," Marks said. "That's been the goal all along."

Brooklyn is still in good position to make the playoffs, coming out of the break in seventh place in the East and five games ahead of ninth-place Washington. The Nets have received strong guard play from Spencer Dinwiddie and Caris LeVert.