

Fuzzy rules of cyberwar create risks

Associated Press

BOSTON — President Joe Biden couldn't have been more blunt about the risks of cyberattacks spinning out of control.

"If we end up in a war, a real shooting war with a major power, it's going to be as a consequence of a cyber breach of great consequence," he told his intelligence brain trust in July.

Now tensions are soaring over Ukraine with Western officials warning about the danger of Russia launching damaging cyberattacks against Ukraine's NATO allies. While no one is suggesting that could lead to a full-blown war between nuclear-armed rivals, the risk of escalation is serious.

The danger is in the uncertainty about what crosses a digital red line. Cyberattacks, including those that cripple critical infrastructure with ransomware, have been on the rise for years and often go unpunished. It's unclear how grave a malicious cyber operation by a state actor would have to be to cross the threshold to an act of war.

"The rules are fuzzy," said Max Smeets, director of the European Cyber Conflict Re-

search Initiative. "It's not clear what is allowed, what isn't allowed."

The United States and other NATO members have threatened crippling sanctions against Russia if it sends troops into Ukraine. Less clear is whether such sanctions, whose secondary effects could also hurt Europe, would be imposed if Russia were to seriously damage Ukrainian critical infrastructure — power, telecommunications, finance, railways — with cyberattacks in lieu of invading.

And if the West were to respond harshly to Russian aggression, Moscow could retaliate against NATO nations in cyberspace with an intensity and on a scale previously unseen. A major cyberattack on U.S. targets would almost certainly unleash some sort of muscular response. But what of lesser cyberattacks? Or if Russian President Vladimir Putin restricted them to a NATO member in Europe?

Under Article 5 of the organization's treaty, an attack on any of its 30 members is considered an attack on all. But unclear is what it would take to unleash full-scale cyber re-

taliation. Or how bad an attack would have to be to trigger retaliation from NATO's most potent cyber military forces, led by the U.S. and Britain.

Cyberspace is exceptionally unruly. No arms control treaties exist to put guard rails on state-backed hacking, which is often shielded by plausible deniability as it's often difficult to quickly attribute cyberattacks and intelligence-gathering intrusions.

The technology is cheap and criminals can act as proxies, further muddying attribution. Freelancers and hacktivists compound the problem.

In 2015, the major powers and others agreed on a set of 11 voluntary norms of international cyber behavior at the United Nations. But they are routinely ignored. Russia helped craft them only to knock Ukraine's power grid offline that winter and set in motion its hack-and-leak operation to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Hacking is now a core component of great power conflict. In 2016, NATO formally designated cyberspace a "domain" of conflict, alongside land, sea and air.

Week ahead may decide Ukraine's fate, future relations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even if a Russian invasion of Ukraine doesn't happen in the next few days, the crisis is reaching a critical inflection point with European stability and the future of East-West relations hanging in the balance.

A convergence of events over the coming week could determine whether the stalemate is resolved peacefully or Europe is at war. At stake are Europe's post-Cold War security architecture and long-agreed limits on the deployment of conventional military and nuclear forces there.

"This next 10 days or so will be critical," said Ian Kelly, a retired

career diplomat and former U.S. ambassador to Georgia who now teaches international relations at Northwestern University.

The Biden administration on Friday said an invasion could happen at any moment, with a possible target date of Wednesday, according to intelligence picked up by the United States, and Washington was evacuating almost all of its embassy staff in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

A phone call between President Joe Biden and Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Saturday did nothing to ease tensions. Biden and Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, spoke on Sunday.

Even before the latest U.S.

warnings and diplomatic moves, analysts saw this as a critical week for the future of Ukraine.

"Russia and the United States are approaching a peak of the conflict of their interests regarding a future shape of the European order," said Timofei Bordachev, head of the Center for European Research at Moscow's Higher School of Economics. "The parties may take action against each other that will go much farther than what was considered admissible quite recently," he said in a recent analysis.

In the week ahead, Washington and NATO are expecting Moscow's formal response after

they rejected its main security demands, and major Russian military drills in Belarus, conducted as part of a deployment near Ukraine, are to end.

At the same time, the Winter Olympics in China, often cited as a potential deterrent to immediate Russian action, will conclude Feb. 20. Although U.S. officials have said they believe an invasion could take place before then, the date is still considered important.

And an important international security conference is taking place in Munich this weekend, with Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and top European officials planning to attend.

Navy removes LCS commanding officer

Stars and Stripes

The commanding officer of the littoral combat ship USS Sioux City's Gold crew has been relieved of duty, a Navy statement said.

The Navy took the action against Cmdr. Bradford Tonder because of a "loss of confidence in his ability to perform his duties," a statement issued Friday said.

Cmdr. Joseph Caldwell, the

commanding officer of the Blue crew of the littoral combat ship USS Detroit, will be assigned to replace Tonder for the time being.

The littoral combat ships are manned by two different crews, named Blue and Gold, to keep them operating at sea for longer periods.

Tonder will be temporarily reassigned to the staff of Naval

Surface Squadron 14, according to the Navy statement. Moves to staff assignments are typical for relieved commanders, often while the Navy begins proceedings that determine whether the officer will be allowed to remain in the service.

Tonder had been the executive officer of the Sioux City since June 2019 and the commanding officer since December 2020.

The Gold crew returned to the Sioux City's homeport in Mayport, Fla., in December after a deployment to the U.S. 4th Fleet in support of U.S. Southern Command and Joint Interagency Task Force South. During the deployment, the ship worked with the U.S. Coast Guard to disrupt transport of about 7,400 pounds of cocaine, an earlier Navy statement said.

Okinawa-based airman helps local man flee burning truck

BY FRANK ANDREWS

Stars and Stripes

YOMITAN, Okinawa — An Air Force staff sergeant on a grocery run with his wife helped a Japanese farmer escape a burning truck last month, an act that earned the airman his unit's recognition.

Staff Sgt. Garrett Bodie, 32, and Ashley Bodie were walking to a neighborhood store in Yomitan village at about 11:30 a.m. Jan. 22 when a Japanese mini-truck drove past trailing smoke and flames, Garrett Bodie told Stars and Stripes on Friday.

Bodie gave chase and caught up to the idling vehicle at a red light, flames and black smoke billowing from its undercarriage, he said. Standing in front of the truck, Bodie waved his arms and in his limited Japanese tried to explain to the driver that it was on fire.

Stopped by the "foreigner," the driver, Seiki Higa, 85, of Yomitan, exited the burning vehicle, a spokesman for the Yomitan Fire Department told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday. At the time, Higa was heading home from his vegetable farm, he told Stars and Stripes by phone Feb. 8.

"I was surprised when the American man came to me, saying something," Higa said.

"Everything happened so quickly," he said later. "When I realized, he was already gone, and I couldn't even say thank you."

Two Japanese passersby stopped to help, one with a fire extinguisher from a nearby convenience store; the other looked after Higa, Bodie said. No one was injured in the incident, the fire department spokesman said.

"[Bodie] was so kind. He even bought a bottle of water from the convenience store and gave it to the one who was extinguishing the fire. They coordinated really well. It was an impressive teamwork," the spokesman said.

On the next workday, Bodie, who serves as a support non-commissioned officer in charge with the 733rd Air Mobility Squadron at Kadena Air Base, was recognized at a staff meeting. Later in the week, he received a challenge coin from Chief Master Sgt. Ronnie Woods, the 18th Wing command chief.

"My advice is to trust your instincts," Bodie said Friday. "And try to do the absolute best thing in the moment and treat people the way you want to be treated. Don't pass a problem without attempting to fix it."

Eyes on China, US plans Solomon Islands embassy

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — The United States said it will open an embassy in the Solomon Islands, laying out in unusually blunt terms a plan to increase its influence in the South Pacific nation before China becomes "strongly embedded."

The reasoning was explained in a State Department notification to Congress that was obtained by The Associated Press.

The plan was confirmed by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a Saturday visit to Fiji, part on a Pacific tour that began in Australia.

Blinken later landed in Hawaii, where he hosted the foreign ministers from Japan and South Korea to discuss the threat posed by North Korea, amid rising concerns over its recent missile tests.

The State Department said Solomon Islanders cherished their history with Americans on the battlefields of World War II, but that the U.S. was also in danger of losing its preferential ties as China "aggressively seeks to engage" elite politicians and business people in the Solomon Islands.

The move comes after rioting rocked the nation of 700,000 in November. The riots grew from a peaceful protest and highlighted long-simmering regional rival-

ries, economic problems and concerns about the country's increasing links with China, after it switched allegiance from Taiwan to Beijing three years ago.

The embassy announcement fits with a new Biden administration strategy for the Indo-Pacific that was announced Friday and emphasizes building partnerships with allies in the region as a way to counter China's growing influence and ambitions.

In its notification to Congress, the State Department said China had been "utilizing a familiar pattern of extravagant promises, prospective costly infrastructure loans, and potentially dangerous debt levels," when engaging with political and business leaders from the Solomon Islands.

"The United States has a strategic interest in enhancing our political, economic, and commercial relationship with Solomon Islands, the largest Pacific Island nation without a U.S. Embassy," the State Department wrote.

The State Department said it didn't expect to build a new embassy immediately but would at first lease space at an initial set-up cost of \$12.4 million. The embassy would be located in the capital, Honiara, and would start small, with two U.S. employees and about five local staff.

Trump: N. Korea's Kim doesn't respect Biden

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

Former President Donald Trump, in a pre-recorded speech Sunday, encouraged North Korea to refrain from “any actions that could endanger the unique opportunity that we worked so hard to create together.”

Trump, in a nine-minute video to a religious gathering in Seoul, touted his “bold new diplomacy” with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and contrasted his tenure with President Joe Biden’s leadership at the White House.

“Over the past several months, we have seen a concerning return to escalation, including a number of missile tests,” Trump told World Summit 2022: Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula. “Chairman Kim does not respect or trust the leaders of the United States. Well, everyone knows that this would never have happened if I were president.”

North Korea has conducted seven rounds of missile tests so far this year. Those tests included an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam; it may be the longest-range missile test conducted by the communist regime since

2017, according to missile researchers.

Trump and Kim “got along” and “we liked each other a lot,” the former president said in his speech.

“He pledged to me that he would cease all long-range missile and nuclear testing,” Trump said.

Trump met with Kim in 2018 in Singapore, the first sitting president to meet with a North Korean leader. The two followed that up in 2019 with meetings in Vietnam and in the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. Although the Trump White House heralded the summits as a success, foreign policy experts remain skeptical, citing broad statements by both leaders and a lack of specific steps toward North Korea denuclearization.

“Both sides failed, however, in the eight months following Singapore to make progress on the summit declaration due to disagreements over the definition of denuclearization and the sequencing of the steps that would be taken to fulfill the promises made in the joint statement,” Sue Mi Terry, a former CIA senior analyst, and Lisa Collins, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, wrote

in an analysis published by the Washington, D.C.-based think-tank in 2019.

North Korea on Jan. 19 signaled it may resume long-range ballistic missile and nuclear weapons tests after calling for the immediate “bolstering” of “more powerful physical means.”

The regime defended its weapons tests as a response to the “hostile moves” posed by the U.S. North Korea opposes the decadeslong stationing of the 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea and denounces joint military exercises between the U.S. and Seoul.

Soo Kim, a policy analyst for Rand Corp. and an adjunct instructor at American University, scrutinized Trump’s latest speech and said his “comments seem par for the course.”

“We should question the basis of his comments,” Soo told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday. “I would also add that Kim’s resolve to develop and keep his nuclear weapons program is not contingent upon changes in U.S. leadership. His commitment to nuclearization cannot be swayed, so long as he remains convinced that it’s the only way to guarantee his survival.”

Soldier to face a murder charge in Germany crash that killed sergeant

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A 21st Theater Sustainment Command soldier is facing charges of murder, involuntary manslaughter and assault for his role in a car crash last spring that killed one Kaiserslautern-based U.S. soldier and seriously injured another.

Pvt. Trevon K. Coley is also charged with obstructing justice for claiming he was not the driver of the other vehicle; leaving the scene of the March 5, 2021, wreck without assisting the victims; and driving without a valid U.S. Army in Europe driver’s license, according to a court-martial charge sheet.

Coley’s military trial is scheduled to begin in May in Kaiserslautern. He is assigned to the 39th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

Prosecutors allege Coley was speeding when he crashed into a vehicle driven by Sgt. Monesha L. Burton at a four-way intersection near Kleber Kaserne and Daenner Kaserne.

Burton, 22, died from her injuries. Burton’s passenger, a 26-year-old soldier who was not named, suffered serious injuries, including

multiple skull and rib fractures and disk herniations, according to the charge sheet.

The murder charge stems from the allegation that Coley drove “his vehicle in a way that was inherently dangerous,” according to the charge sheet.

Burton, of Hammond, La., was a veterinary food inspection specialist at the Veterinary Branch Kaiserslautern, Public Health Activity-Rheinland Pfalz. She planned on making the Army her career and came from a long line of soldiers, she said in a 2020 Army-produced video where she discussed her career.

In April 2021, Coley acknowledged his involvement in the car accident on his Facebook page.

“In March two weeks before my birthday I was involved in a car accident where I lost a friend and one in critical condition,” Coley wrote. “Never in my life have I felt so depressed and heartbroken.

“All I can do is think and question my self never in a million years would I think something like this would ever happen and think why it happened. Still till this day I don’t know how I was able to walk out of the car with only a ankle sprain.”

Fire at Iran military base; no casualties

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A fire erupted at a military base in western Iran, state-linked media reported on Monday, the latest in a series of blazes and other mishaps affecting the country’s infrastructure in recent months.

The fire broke out at a warehouse full of engine oil and flammable materials at a base belonging to Iran’s powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard in the western province of Kermanshah, the Iranian website Nournews reported. The blaze damaged a shed but did not cause any casualties. Investigators were looking into the cause, the report added.

The day before, unconfirmed reports proliferated online about several explosions heard in northern Kermanshah, a strategic location in Iran with various missile and military sites.

Sensitive military and nuclear sites have been the target of attacks in the past years, which Iran has blamed on Israel.

The fire broke out as Iran remains on edge about negotiations over its nuclear program continuing in Vienna this week. The 2015 deal that granted Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program collapsed nearly four years ago.

Ontario to end vaccine proof, rallies persist

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Ontario's premier announced Monday that Canada's most populous province will lift its COVID-19 proof-of-vaccination requirements in two weeks — not because of the protests that have blocked the border and paralyzed Ottawa, he said, but because “it is safe to do so.”

The busiest U.S.-Canada border crossing, meanwhile, was open again Monday after police removed the last of the protesters who had bottled up the Am-

bassador Bridge for nearly a week in a demonstration against Canada's coronavirus restrictions. But the larger truck-borne protest in the capital, Ottawa, persisted as city residents seethed over authorities' inability to reclaim the streets.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said that on March 1, the province will drop its requirement that people show proof of vaccination to get into restaurants, restaurants, gyms and sporting events. A surge of cases caused

by the omicron variant has crested in Canada.

The province will also remove its 50% capacity limit on restaurants on Thursday, four days earlier than planned. Ford gave no timetable for dropping the requirement that people wear masks in public places.

“Let me be very clear: We are moving in this direction because it is safe to do so. Today's announcement is not because of what's happening in Ottawa or Windsor but despite it,” Ford said.

Ford said he would support Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government if it proposed further measures to quell the protests.

“We need law and order. Our country is at risk now. It's not just not happening here in Ottawa, but it's happening in Alberta and British Columbia,” Ford said. “We won't accept it”

Trudeau planned to meet virtually with the leaders of Canada's provinces on Monday morning, as well as with lawmakers.

Gun control groups press White House to do more

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four years after 17 people were gunned down at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., families and gun control advocates are pressing President Joe Biden to do more to address gun violence.

One father of a victim killed in the shooting sent an early morning tweet Monday, the anniversary of the Parkland shooting, saying that he'd climbed a 150-foot-tall crane near the White House.

“The whole world will listen to Joaquin today. He has a very important message,” the father, Manuel Oliver, said in a video tweeted at about 6:50 a.m., referring to his son, Joaquin Oliver.

Oliver unfurled a sign that showed a photo of his son and criticized Biden for gun deaths on his watch. Police were called to the scene, where at least two people were on the crane. They said later that three people were taken into custody but didn't identify them.

Meanwhile, dozens of advocates were set to rally outside the White House and unveil a website chronicling the 47,000 gun deaths and 42,000 gun in-

juries in the country since Biden was inaugurated. The tracker also lists the number of young people killed and injured as well as the number of mass shootings in the same time frame, and it includes a feature allowing users to publicly call on Biden and other administration officials to act against gun violence.

In his first year in office, Biden's efforts to pass legislation to tighten gun laws haven't left the drawing board. He also was forced to pull his nominee to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The group is calling on Biden to stand up a national office to address gun violence and to make a new nomination to head the ATF.

Biden said in a statement before the planned protest that the movement to end gun violence is “extraordinary.”

“We can never bring back those we've lost. But we can come together to fulfill the first responsibility of our government and our democracy: to keep each other safe,” he said. “For Parkland, for all those we've lost, and for all those left behind, it is time to uphold that solemn obligation.”

Super Bowl ads heavy on star power, nostalgia

Associated Press

NEW YORK — On the field, the Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals played a nail-biter during Super Bowl 56, with the Rams emerging victorious.

Off the field, Super Bowl advertisers were in a tough competition of their own. Advertisers shelled out up to \$7 million for 30 seconds of airtime during the Super Bowl, so they pulled out all the stops to win over the estimated 100 million people that tune into the game. Big stars, humor and a heavy dose of nostalgia were prevalent throughout the night.

“The Super Bowl featured positive, up-beat advertising,” said Northwestern University marketing professor Tim Calkins. “For the most part, there was no mention of the pandemic, COVID or masks.”

Chevrolet re-created the opening sequence to “The Sopranos” to tout its all-electric Chevy Silverado — one of several auto ads promoting electric vehicles. This time, however, Jamie-Lynn Sigler, who played Meadow Soprano on the show that ran from 1999 to 2007, is in the driver's seat instead of the Sopranos patriarch played by the late James Gandolfini.

“As soon as they started playing the music from ‘The Sopranos’ they had me riveted,” said Kelly O’Keefe, managing partner of Brand Federation. “Great link to a well-loved favorite with music that can silence a crowd. When it played you could hear a pin drop.”

FTX, a cryptocurrency exchange, enlisted Larry David of “Curb Your Enthusiasm” to convey that cryptocurrency is ready for the mainstream. Toyota enlisted three famous “Joneses” — Leslie Jones, Tommy Lee Jones and Rashida Jones — in its ad for the 2022 Tundra. And Verizon's ad had Jim Carrey revisit his 1996 role as “The Cable Guy” to promote its ultrafast 5G wireless network.

“This is one of the most engaging set of ads I've seen in several years,” said Kimberly Whitler, professor of marketing at the University of Virginia. “Almost all focus on lighthearted entertainment.”

Cryptocurrency exchanges made a splash during the game, with FTX, Crypto.com, eToro and Coinbase all airing ads, leading some to dub the game the “Crypto Bowl.” They're all aiming to make cryptocurrency more mainstream.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Catholic college gets its own locally brewed beer

AL MOBILE — A small Roman Catholic college on the Alabama coast now has its own beer.

Spring Hill College in Mobile said it is joining with Braided River Brewing Co. to launch Portier Pale Ale, a low-alcohol craft brew made for the school. It was developed by a 2019 graduate of the college, Hannah Shankman.

The beer was released Thursday at a restaurant in the student center called McKinney's. The first 50 people got custom glasses decorated with the name of the beer, which Shankman said has a taste that includes hints of orange and pineapple.

Founded in 1830, Spring Hill describes itself as the oldest Catholic college in the Southeast. Located in Mobile, Braided River Brewing says it produces beer inspired by the Gulf Coast.

County offering wireless hot spot devices for free

MS LAUREL — A Mississippi county is working to bridge the digital divide by making access to the internet more available.

The Laurel-Jones County Library received 2,000 hot spot devices that will be available for checkout to residents beginning next week through the use of their library card. For those who don't have a card, one can be obtained by providing proof of residency, either by ID, utility bill or a current piece of mail.

The hot spots were purchased through a \$1 million grant from the American Rescue Plan Act's Emergency Connectivity Fund program, WDAM-TV reported.

A hundred community hot spots were also purchased and will go into county community centers along with participating churches and businesses.

Man killed after crash of ambulance, snowmobile

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Authorities said a man died after crash involving a snowmobile and an ambulance in St. Louis County in northern Minnesota.

The Star Tribune reported that around 3:30 p.m. Saturday, St. Louis County sheriff's deputies responded to a crash on Ash River Trail, about a half-mile east of U.S. Highway 53. An ambulance from the Kabetogama Fire Department was en route to a medical call and traveling east on Ash River Trail when it struck a snowmobile on the road, authorities said.

The snowmobile driver, a 61-year-old man, was declared dead at the scene. His name has not been released.

Bank teller foils robbery by not giving over money

MO ST. LOUIS — A bank teller foiled a robbery in St. Louis on Friday by simply telling the would-be robber no when he demanded money.

St. Louis police said a man entered the U.S. Bank branch at 5375 Southwest Ave. shortly before 5 p.m. Friday and handed a teller a note demanding money, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Police said that when the teller told the man no, the suspect just walked out of the business. The man never showed a weapon, and no money was taken.

Investigators are searching for a white man who is 6-feet-tall and weighs about 280 pounds. The suspect was wearing a black jacket, gray shirt, black pants, white shoes, a St. Louis Blues knit hat and a chain necklace with a cross.

2 suspects arrested in state trooper's shooting

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Authorities said they arrested and charged two suspects Saturday in the shooting of a New Mexico State Police officer.

The suspects, a 24-year-old man and a 22-year-old woman, were arrested Saturday morning in McIntosh, the New Mexico State Police said in a statement.

Police said the man has a long criminal history and multiple arrest warrants. The statement said he has been charged with a number of crimes, including assault with intent to commit a violent felony on a peace officer and possession of a firearm or destructive device by a felon. The woman has been charged with harboring or aiding a felon, police said.

The agency said the the New Mexico State Police supervisor was shot Friday morning along a highway east of Albuquerque after pursuing a vehicle that had rammed his patrol car and later was rammed by his. The supervisor was taken to a hospital in Albuquerque and treated for non-life-threatening injuries, state police said.

Over 5K come to honor firefighter killed in blast

OR ST. PAUL — An estimated 5,000 people attended the memorial service

for a St. Paul, Ore., firefighter on Saturday afternoon.

Austin Smith, 30, died after an explosion occurred while he was battling a large barn fire.

KOIN-TV reported hundreds of emergency vehicles from Oregon, Washington and neighboring states participated in a procession from Woodburn to the St. Paul Rodeo grounds before the memorial service.

The blast happened on Feb. 3 soon after firefighters arrived at Champoeg Farm, critically injuring Smith, a volunteer firefighter. Paramedics provided first aid and Smith was flown by a medical evacuation helicopter to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland, but he died of his injuries.

Beach town considers seasonal transit system

DE LEWES — A Delaware beach town is weighing whether to launch its own transit system to try to address chronic parking woes.

The city of Lewes will consider a plan at this week's council meeting to operate a "Lewes Line" of paratransit buses as soon as late May, in time for the upcoming tourist season.

Under the plan, passengers would pay \$1 to ride with stops connecting the downtown area, the beaches and the Cape May-Lewes ferry terminal, among others.

The plan calls for leasing five buses with capacity of roughly a dozen passengers from the Delaware Transit Corp. for \$1 a year.

Estimates prepared for the council project that it would cost more than \$150,000 a year to run a transit line. Fares would bring in about \$20,000 annually.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Rams hold off Bengals in Super Bowl

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Their defense laying siege to the Bengals, the Rams needed something — anything — from their slumbering offense.

How about a precise 79-yard drive to the Lombardi Trophy?

It wasn't a classic march, aided by three successive Bengals penalties and mired by some bad throws. No matter: When Cooper Kupp caught a 1-yard pass from Matthew Stafford with 1:25 remaining, LA's offense indeed had awakened just in time for a 23-20 Super Bowl victory Sunday.

"That's hard work, that's hours together," Stafford said. "I just thank coach (Sean McVay) for putting it ... 'Hey, Matthew, you and Coop go get this thing done.' He kept calling plays for him, kept finding ways to get him the ball. He made unbelievable plays; that's what he does."

What Los Angeles did on that drive finally measured up to what its defense was doing most of the night: overwhelming Cincinnati's blockers, sacking Joe Burrow a Super Bowl record-tying seven times. The pressure, led by Aaron Donald and Von Miller, was non-stop.

"You got to be relentless," said Donald, who added a crowning achievement to his certain Hall of Fame career. "You want something bad enough you've got to go get it. You know it was right in front of us ... all off-season you work, you train, you got camp, you got a long season just for this one game. You know we the last team standing."

Standing in a venue built for champions,

with the Rams (16-5) earning their first NFL title since the 1999 season — and their first representing Los Angeles since 1951.

They did so in their home, the \$5 billion SoFi Stadium, making the Rams the second consecutive host to win the championship after Tampa Bay became the first a year ago.

"As far as building this stadium," said Rams owner Stan Kroenke, the man who moved them back from St. Louis in 2016, "I think it turned out all right."

The winning series, during which game MVP Kupp's 4-yard touchdown reception was negated by offsetting penalties, ended soon after with the NFL Offensive Player of the Year easily beating Eli Apple in the right corner of the end zone for the winning score.

Kupp had four receptions for 39 yards, and a 7-yard run on fourth-and-1 from the Rams 30 on the championship drive.

Cincinnati (13-8) was penalized the second-fewest times (72) for the fewest yards (620) in the regular season but flags hurt badly — including pass interference on Kupp in the end zone.

"I've said it all year, whatever is asked of me whatever my job is gonna be, I just want to execute to the best of my abilities," said Kupp, who won the triple crown of receiving in 2021, leading in catches, yards and touchdowns. "I trust as the game goes on I'll have opportunities as well, and I just want to stay ready for those things, stay locked in."

As locked in as that pass rush.

Fittingly, Burrow was under pressure on fourth-and-1 and threw incomplete, setting off a football fiesta this city has not seen since

the LA Raiders won the 1983 championship.

A tearful Donald said after the game, "I wanted it so bad. I dreamed this."

Added McVay, at 36 the youngest Super Bowl-winning head coach: "For the offense to be able to find a way, and then Aaron to be able to finish it off, it's poetic, man."

Ten points because of two plays in a span of 22 seconds at the outset of the third quarter put Cincinnati ahead for the first time.

Tee Higgins' 75-yard score made it 17-13 and was followed one play later by Chidobe Awuzie's pick. Evan McPherson tied Adam Vinatieri's postseason record with his 14th field goal, a 38-yarder. The rookie didn't miss in the postseason.

Higgins beat cornerback Jalen Ramsey on the first play of the second half — the receiver clearly tugged Ramsey's face mask on the play. After Stafford was intercepted on the next play, the Bengals got McPherson's field goal.

They tried to hold on as all of southwest Ohio held its breath.

"I was disappointed in my performance overall," said Burrow, the NFL Comeback Player of the Year who was 22 of 33 for 263 yards and a touchdown. That's going to propel us into next year ... we're not satisfied with what we did this year."

Not after the 15-play march in which Kupp also converted a fourth down with his run.

"We wanted to be in attack mode and pressure them as much as possible," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. "Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't."

Kupp adds Super Bowl MVP to cap triple-crown season

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — When Cooper Kupp walked off the Super Bowl field three years ago with an injured knee that kept him from playing, he said he had a vision of coming back and winning the MVP.

"It was as clear as day," Kupp said. "I turned around before walking back through the tunnel and it just hit me. It was as clear as I can see right now. Pretty incredible."

Incredible describes Kupp's play all season as he capped his triple-crown season in fitting fashion with a Super Bowl MVP

award after carrying the Los Angeles Rams to victory on the final drive.

Kupp beat Eli Apple for the back-shoulder 1-yard touchdown catch with 1:25 remaining to give the Rams their first Super Bowl title in Los Angeles with a 23-20 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday night.

"I just don't feel deserving of this," Kupp said. "I'm just so thankful for the guys I get to be around, for the coaches, for my family. I just don't have words, I'm just so thankful for everyone, everyone that's been in my life and has encouraged me, has

pushed me, has been there for me every step of the way."

The Rams put together the winning drive after barely being able to move the ball in their first seven possessions after Kupp's running mate Odell Beckham Jr. went down with a knee injury. That allowed the Bengals to focus their coverage on Kupp and slow him down, but the Rams didn't care when the game was on the line.

Kupp caught four passes for 39 yards on the final drive, converted a fourth-and-1 with a 7-yard run and drew three penalties near the goal line to set the

stage for his game-winning catch. It was a fitting end to one of the greatest seasons and postseason runs ever for a wide receiver.

Kupp joined Jerry Rice (1990), Sterling Sharpe (1992) and Steve Smith (2005) as the only players since the merger to lead the NFL in receptions, yards receiving and receiving touchdowns in the same season when he had 145 catches for 1,947 yards and 16 TDs.

Kupp and Joe Montana (1989) are the only players to win Super Bowl MVP and AP Offensive Player of the Year in one season.

Humphries wins monobob gold for US

Associated Press

BEIJING — Kaillie Humphries crossed the finish line, jumped from her sled and hoisted an American flag that someone had just handed her into the frosty air.

“U-S-A! U-S-A!” she chanted.

Four years ago, nobody would have seen that coming. The former Canadian bobsled heroine is an Olympic gold medalist for the third time — and for the first time, as a U.S. citizen.

Humphries is monobob’s first Olympic champion, finishing off a surprisingly easy win at the Beijing Games on Monday. She completed four runs in 4 minutes, 19.27 seconds to lead a gold-silver finish for the U.S. women’s program, with teammate Elana Meyers Taylor placing second.

“As I age, I’ve learned life is very unpredictable and we don’t always know our path forward and what the future holds,” Humphries said. “We do the best we can with each and every obstacle or path change that gets thrown at us. What’s important is to fight for ourselves.”

Meyers Taylor was second in 4:20.81 — 1.54 seconds back — for her fourth Olympic medal. Christine de Bruin of Canada was third in 4:21.03.

Humphries gave the medal a big kiss as she put it around her neck, then put her hand over her heart and sang along with “The Star-Spangled Banner” as it blared in

her honor.

Humphries became the first woman to win Olympic gold for two countries, and the first Olympian to win gold for the U.S. and Canada. She also is the first woman to win three golds in bobsledding, with a chance for a fourth this week in the two-person event.

It was the biggest winning margin by far in any of the six Olympic bobsled races that have been contested by women, smashing the 0.85-second victory that Humphries enjoyed at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

The last time any Olympic bobsled race saw such a margin between first and second place was 42 years ago, when Erich Schärer of Switzerland won the two-man event at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics by 1.57 seconds.

Humphries won three women’s bobsled medals — two gold, one bronze — for Canada, then joined the U.S. team in 2019 after saying she had suffered mental and emotional trauma and no longer felt safe being a part of that program.

She made the switch knowing the Beijing Games were not guaranteed: A passport is required in almost all circumstances to compete at the Olympics, and Humphries was told it could be a four-year process. She had 2½ years to get it done.

Humphries became a citizen in December after acing her final interview in San Diego, then flew halfway across the world

the next day to rejoin the World Cup circuit. More challenges awaited: A hamstring injury slowed her at the end of the World Cup season, and then she tested positive for COVID-19 — a hurdle she didn’t fully clear until this month.

Meyers Taylor is a four-time medalist, giving her the most in USA Bobsled history — breaking a tie with three others, the great Steven Holcomb among them — and tying her for sixth most in U.S. Winter Olympic history.

Apolo Ohno (eight), Bonnie Blair (six), Bode Miller (six), Eric Heiden (five) and Chad Hedrick (five) are the only U.S. winter athletes with more medals. Meyers Taylor will vie for a fifth in the two-person event.

“It’s bittersweet because I would have loved to see Holcomb win another one in 2018 and I know he would have, another two probably,” Meyers Taylor said. “I think Holcomb’s records are precious.” (Holcomb died in 2017.)

Meyers Taylor also went through struggles to get here. Concussions nearly derailed her career, then she took a year off to have her first child, a boy born with Down syndrome and significant hearing loss. And in Beijing, she did a stint in isolation — spending more time away from her son than she ever had since his birth two years ago — after testing positive for COVID-19.

CAS clears Russian figure skater Valieva to compete

Associated Press

BEIJING — Russian teenager Kamila Valieva has been cleared to compete in the women’s figure skating competition at the Winter Olympics despite failing a pre-Games drug test, setting her up for an attempt at a second gold medal.

Whatever happens on the ice, Valieva will not get a medal ceremony moment in Beijing. Nor will any skater who finishes in the top three with her.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport cleared Valieva to skate less than 12 hours after a hastily arranged hearing that lasted into early Monday morning. A panel of judges ruled that the 15-year-old Valieva, the favorite for the women’s individual gold, does not need to be provisionally suspended ahead of a full investigation.

The court gave her a favorable decision in

part because she is a minor, known in Olympic jargon as a “protected person,” and is subject to different rules than an adult.

“The panel considered that preventing the athlete to compete at the Olympic Games would cause her irreparable harm in the circumstances,” CAS Director General Matthieu Reeb said.

Now, Valieva and her fellow Russian skaters can aim for the first podium sweep of women’s figure skating in Olympic history. The event starts with the short program Tuesday and concludes Thursday with the free skate.

The International Olympic Committee said Monday afternoon that if Valieva finishes in the top three, there will be no medal ceremony during the Games. There will also be no ceremony for the team event won by Valieva and the Russian team a week

ago.

“It would not be appropriate to hold the medal ceremony,” the IOC said.

Valieva landed the first quadruple jumps by a woman at the Olympics as the Russian team won gold in a dominant performance.

The decision not to award medals also affects Nathan Chen and the rest of the second-place American team, who will leave Beijing unsure if they won silver or gold. It would be Chen’s second gold of the Games. If Valieva and Russia are disqualified, Japan moves up to silver and Canada wins bronze.

“We are devastated that they will leave Beijing without their medals in hand, but we appreciate the intention of the IOC to ensure the right medals are awarded to the right individuals,” the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee said in a statement.

Avs blank Stars, push streak to 19

Associated Press

DALLAS — Darcy Kuemper made 23 saves for his second shutout this season, Gabriel Landeskog scored two goals and the streaking Colorado Avalanche beat the Dallas Stars 4-0 on Sunday.

The Avalanche increased their franchise-record point streak to 19 games (17-0-2) and their NHL-leading total to 72 points in 46 games, three points ahead of the Florida Panthers with a game in hand.

Landeskog and Nazem Kadri scored in the first period, with Cole Makar assisting both times.

Nicolas Aube-Kubel added a goal at 13:50 of the third period, and Landeskog backhanded an unassisted empty-net goal with 1:50 remaining.

Dallas goalie Braden Holtby stopped 26 shots. Both first-period goals against Holtby came when the Stars allowed Colorado skaters in front of the net.

Sabres 5, Canadiens 3: Jeff Skinner scored four goals in a game for the first time in his career, and visiting Buffalo beat Montreal to snap a three-game winless streak.

Tage Thompson also scored for Buffalo, his fourth goal of the season against the Habs.

Mike Hoffman, Jeff Petry and Joel Armia scored for NHL-worst Montreal. The Canadiens' overall winless streak extended to 10 games, their worst skid since 1926.

Skinner's third goal put the Sabres ahead for good, 4-3, with 11:44 remaining, and his fourth with 1:46 left ended the Canadiens' chances.

Craig Anderson made 28 saves to collect his 297th NHL win, passing Ron Hextall for 40th on the league's all-time list.

Penguins 4, Devils 2: Brian Boyle scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period, Tristan Jarry made 28 saves and visiting Pittsburgh kept rolling with a win over New Jersey.

Mike Matheson, Bryan Rust and Jake Guentzel also scored for the Penguins, who won their third straight overall and sixth straight on the road.

Pittsburgh improved to 7-1-3 in its last 11 games.

Senators 4, Capitals 1: Brady Tkachuk scored his team-leading 15th goal and added an assist, Connor Brown also had a goal and an assist as visiting Ottawa beat Washington.

Alex Formenton and Adam Gaudette added early goals as the Senators jumped to a 2-0 lead after the first period.

US women beat Finland, to face Canada in final

Associated Press

BEIJING — Hilary Knight had a goal and assist, Alex Cavallini stopped 25 shots, and the defending Olympic champion United States defeated Finland 4-1 in the women's hockey semifinals at the Beijing Games on Monday to set up the sixth gold-medal showdown between the Americans and Canada.

The cross-border rivals will play Thursday after Canada erupted for five first-period goals in an Olympic record span of 3:24 in a 10-3 win over Switzerland earlier in the day. The two world powers have played for the championship in every Olympic tournament but the 2006 Turin Games, when Canada defeated Sweden after the Swedes eliminated the Americans in the semifinals.

This time, the U.S. is attempting to defend its title following a 3-2 shootout win at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games, which ended Canada's Olympic run of four championships.

Cayla Barnes had a goal and assist, while Hayley Scamurra and Abby Roque, with an empty-netter, also scored for the Americans.

Barnes opened the scoring 3:39 into the second period by pinching in from the right point to convert Hannah Brandt's pass through the crease for a power-play goal. The tripping called against Finland's Tanja Niskanen was questionable after it appeared the U.S. player fell on her own.

Knight, playing in her U.S. women's team record-tying 21st Olympic game, scored with 1:07 remaining in the second period. Savannah Harmon's initial shot was blocked and Knight got to the loose puck to

the left of the net and snapped it in for her 11th career Olympic goal to tie Jenny Potter for third on the USA list.

Cavallini was sharp in her third start of the tournament, and lost her shutout bid on Susanna Tapani's goal with 26 seconds remaining. Her best saves came in the final minute of the opening period when she got her left pad out to stop Michelle Karvinen and then got her glove up to bat away Karvinen attempting to convert the rebound on a two-on-one rush.

Anni Keisala stopped 38 shots for Finland.

Finland will face Switzerland in the bronze-medal game Wednesday.

Canada is considered the favorite in Beijing with a 6-0 record, including a 4-2 win over the U.S. in the preliminary round last week.

Canada captain Marie-Philip Poulin, who scored two goals against the Swiss, said it made no difference who her team faces in the final.

"We worked for these moments. We've been working for four years," Poulin said. "I think we deserve it."

Canadian player Sarah Nurse, however, was looking forward to renewing the rivalry one more time.

"Obviously, playing the U.S. it's always an exciting game, always an exciting rivalry," said Nurse, who had four assists. "Our biggest focus is we get to play another game at the Olympics. We came here to play seven games. We wanted the last one to be the gold-medal game."

Claire Thompson had a goal and two assists as Canada improved to 6-0.

Edwards, T-wolves hold off Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Anthony Edwards celebrated a milestone Sunday by scoring 37 points and leading the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 129-120 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Edwards became the fourth-youngest player in NBA history to reach the 2,500-point mark when he made his first basket of the game. The second-year forward is 20 years, 192 days old. LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Devin Booker are the only

younger players to achieve the feat.

The Timberwolves snapped a two-game losing streak.

Edwards made seven three-pointers and had five rebounds, four assists and four steals on a day Karl Anthony-Towns was in foul trouble.

Celtics 105, Hawks 95: Jayson Tatum scored 38 points and led a third-quarter surge that sent host Boston past Atlanta for its eighth straight win.

Tatum also had 10 rebounds.