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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Reorganization of forces

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — A major U.S. Air Force base in the United Kingdom and 14 other installations scattered across Europe will close as part of a sweeping reorganization of U.S. forces on the Continent, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

Operations at RAF Mildenhall — home to Air Force special operations forces, air refueling tankers and 3,200 military personnel — will end, and missions carried out there will be moved to other locations, including Germany.

RAF Alconbury and Molesworth, two other facilities in the U.K., also will close as part of a consolidation effort. Most of the missions there will be moved to RAF Croughton.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon plans to station two squadrons of F-35s at RAF Lakenheath by 2020, which ensures the continuous presence of U.S. air power in the country.

"In the end, this transformation of our infrastructure will help maximize our military capabilities in Europe and help strengthen our important European partnerships, so that we can best support our NATO allies and partners in the region," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in a statement.

The changes will mean a slight reduction in overall force levels, but troop numbers in Europe are expected to hold near the current level of 67,000.

Germany and Italy will gain troops, though it is expected to take several years for all of the Pentagon's basing decisions to be implemented.

The Pentagon expects to save about \$500 million annually from the consolidations. The cost of implementing the closures and consolidations will be roughly

Realignment is forcing Mildenhall, 14 other bases in Europe to close

\$1.4 billion, according to DOD.

In part, the European Infrastructure Consolidation — under review for more than two years — grew out of the Pentagon's desire to overcome lawmakers' resistance to additional base closures in the U.S. through the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, or BRAC, process by showing a willingness to close facilities in Europe.

U.S. European Command boss Gen. Philip Breedlove, who likened the consolidation to a "European BRAC," emphasized that his command's operational capabilities remain intact.

He has been a strong opponent of further reducing forces in Europe given Russia's aggressive posture toward Ukraine and hostile stance toward NATO.

"Remember how big we were [in Europe] ... we still have infrastructure we can downsize that saves us money we can spend on readiness and capabilities," Breedlove said.

The EIC review and F-35 basing decisions will result in a decrease of about 2,000 U.S. military and civilian personnel in the U.K. over the next several years, according to the Pentagon. The removal of 3,200 people from Mildenhall will be partially offset by the addition of 1,200 personnel at Lakenheath, who will support new missions like the arrival of the F-35 fighters, according to the Pentagon.

Overall, 1,200 military and support positions will be eliminated and 6,000 personnel will be relocated in Europe. Up to 1,100 host-nation jobs could be eliminated, ac-

ording to the Pentagon.

The pending closure of Mildenhall is the first major Air Force base elimination in Europe in years.

Rumors forewarned some airmen at Mildenhall that changes were coming.

Senior Airman Jason Greenley with the 352nd Special Operations Group said he was sad the base was closing and has enjoyed working there.

However, he said, his job in maintenance management analysis means he could be reassigned to England in the future. "I can always go to Lakenheath."

In Germany, both Ramstein and Spangdahlem air bases will gain personnel and aircraft.

Ramstein, already host to one of the busiest airfields in the U.S. Air Force, will take on the air-to-air refueling mission, with plans to move 15 KC-135 Stratotankers and about 700 personnel from the 100th Air Refueling Wing at Mildenhall, said Maj. Mike Andrews, a spokesman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa.

The special operations mission will go to Spangdahlem, where about 10 CV-22 Ospreys and 10 MC-130J aircraft and associated personnel from the 352nd Special Operations Group at Mildenhall will relocate, USAFE officials said.

Relocating the 606th Air Control Squadron and about 300 personnel from Spangdahlem to Aviano Air Base in Italy will free up some space at Spangdahlem for the special operations move, saving the Air Force about \$50 million in military construction funding, USAFE officials

said. A similar air control squadron was inactivated at Aviano in 2013, creating space for the Spangdahlem unit.

Some relocation efforts are expected to start within a year, though an exact timeline for EIC-directed moves is still being considered, according to a USAFE-AFAFRICA news release. Major moves won't take place until facilities are ready to receive the mission relocations, with divestments expected to be complete within seven years.

As Lakenheath prepares to host F-35s beginning in 2020, the current plan is to keep the F-15s at the base through summer 2016, Andrews said. Plans for the interim are still being considered.

Officials at the Pentagon added that no decision has been made on whether to base F-35s in Aviano in the future, but such a move is being looked at.

In Italy, the Pentagon said it would add about 200 military positions once the 606th Air Control Squadron relocates from Spangdahlem.

In the case of the Army, most of the announced consolidations target small outposts and support infrastructure rather than key operational hubs.

For the past decade, the U.S. Army in Europe has been steadily drawing down and consolidating its network of garrisons around Europe. In 2012, USAREUR announced it would inactivate two brigades and close garrisons in Bamberg and Schweinfurt in Germany.

With the new consolidations, 95 military, 147 U.S. civilian and 65 local national positions will be cut from the Army by 2020, and another 405 military, 1,360 U.S. civilian and 1,207 local national positions will be relocated as sites are closed by 2023.

Stars and Stripes reporters Jennifer Svan, Carlo Munoz, Adam Mathis and Kent Harris contributed to this report.

France mourns amid hunt for terrorist suspects

The Associated Press

PARIS — Scattered gunfire and explosions shook France on Thursday as its frightened yet defiant citizens held a day of mourning for 12 people slain at a Paris newspaper. French police hunted two heavily armed brothers suspected in the massacre, fearing they might strike again.

The two suspects — one who had a prior terrorism conviction — should be considered "armed and dangerous," French police said in a bulletin.

France's president, Francois Hollande — joined by residents, tourists and Muslim leaders — called for tolerance after the country's worst terrorist attack in decades.

At noon, the Paris metro came to a standstill and a crowd fell silent near Notre Dame cathedral to honor Wednesday's victims.

"France has been struck directly in the heart of its capital, in a place where the spirit of liberty — and thus of resistance — breathed freely," Hollande said.

France's prime minister said the possibility of a new attack "is our main concern" and announced several over-

night arrests. Tensions ran high in Paris, where 800 extra police patrolled schools, places of worship and transit hubs. Britain increased its security checks at ports and borders.

The satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad and witnesses said the attackers claimed allegiance to al-Qaida in Yemen. Around the world, from Berlin to Bangkok, thousands filled squares and streets for a second day, holding up pens to protect the right to freedom of speech.

"The only thing we can do is to live fearlessly," wrote Kai Diekmann, editor in chief of Bild, Germany's biggest-selling daily. "Our colleagues in Paris have paid the ultimate price for freedom. We bow before them."

Eight journalists, two police officers, a maintenance worker and a visitor were killed in Wednesday's newspaper attack and 11 people were wounded, four of them critically. The publication had long drawn threats for its depictions of Islam, although it also satirized other religions and political figures.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said the two suspects still at large in the slayings — Cherif Kouachi, 32,

and Said Kouachi, 34 — were known to France's intelligence services. Cherif Kouachi was convicted of terrorism in 2008 for ties to a network that sends radical fighters to Iraq. His lawyer confirmed Thursday that police tracked down the identities of the brothers because one left his ID behind in a getaway car.

By Thursday afternoon, authorities focused their search around the towns Villers-Cotterets and Crepy-en-Valois, northeast of Paris, according to an official with the national gendarme service.

Two men resembling the suspects robbed a gas station in Villers-Cotterets early Thursday, and police swarmed the site while helicopters hovered above. Later, large numbers of special police units arrived in Crepy-en-Valois amid reports the suspects had holed up there. However, the gendarme official later said the men had not yet been located.

A third suspect, Mourad Hamyd, 18, surrendered at a police station after hearing his name linked to the attacks, a Paris prosecutor's spokeswoman said. His relationship to the Kouachi brothers was unclear.

AF may offer bonus pay to attract drone pilots

BY JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is considering bonus pay to address a major shortage of drone pilots, according to officials at Air Combat Command.

The demand for drones — which the Air Force calls “remotely piloted aircraft” — has skyrocketed over the past decade and continues to increase. Since the early 2000s, the number of combat air patrols has increased from just a handful to 65.

The Air Force is only at 85 percent of desired manning levels for drone pilots and that number is decreasing, according to Col. Ray “Raygun” Alves.

“We are maxing out our training pipeline right now,” but it’s not enough to match the number of drone operators who are leaving active duty, he told reporters during a conference call Thursday.

Alves, a division chief at Air Combat Command in Langley, Va., said the service is looking at ways to keep people in the field and to attract others. One possibility, he said, was to give them bonuses.

In 2013, the Air Force offered fighter pilots retention bonuses of up to \$25,000 per year to address projected shortfalls. Alves said the service is considering something similar for drone operators.

Alves, who previously piloted MQ-1 Predator drones, said he could not provide a dollar figure for the potential extra pay or say when it might go into effect.

Pentagon leaders and combatant commanders continue to clamor for more sorties at a time when the drone force is stretched thin. Drones are ideal for certain intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions as well as strike missions because they can loiter over a target area for long periods of time without putting airmen at risk.

FBI says shooter at Texas VA clinic was a former employee

The Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — An Army veteran who fatally shot a psychologist at a West Texas veterans’ hospital before killing himself was a former clerk at the clinic and had threatened the doctor in 2013, the FBI said Wednesday.

The FBI identified the gunman in Tuesday’s shooting as Jerry Serrato, 48, who was medically discharged from the Army in 2009 after serving in Iraq two years earlier. Douglas Lindquist, who heads the FBI’s El Paso office, said Serrato used a .380-caliber handgun to shoot Dr. Timothy Fjordbak, 63, and himself at the El Paso

Veterans Affairs Health Care System at Fort Bliss.

Fjordbak was a psychologist who left private practice after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks because he wanted to work with military veterans, officials said. Serrato had served in the Ohio Army National Guard from 1985 to 1993, then enlisted in the Army in July 2006, military records show. He served in Iraq for five months in 2007.

Officials did not provide a motive for the shooting. However, Fjordbak had reported Serrato made an unspecified verbal threat against him at an El Paso supermarket in 2013. Serrato had some sort of perceived or real grievance

against Fjordbak and had said something to the effect of, “I know what you did and I will take care of it,” Lindquist said.

“It was something in public at a grocery store where Mr. Serrato approached Dr. Fjordbak, who did not recognize him, and he made a verbal threat, and that was the extent of the report. As far as we can tell, that was the only connection that they had,” Lindquist said.

Both men worked at the VA at the same time in 2013, but authorities do not believe they had a working relationship, Lindquist said. There also was no immediate indication the gunman was a patient, the FBI said.

AF medical technician gets 30 months in prison for sexual assault on patient

From wire reports

An Air Force medical technician was given 2½ years in prison and a dishonorable discharge Wednesday after being convicted of sexually assaulting a patient as she was coming out of anesthesia.

The sentence Airman 1st Class Michael Lightsey received was close to the maximum three years and dishonorable discharge sought by prosecutors, and will require him to register as a sex offender.

Lightsey was found guilty earlier in the day on two counts of improperly touching the woman after a June 20, 2013, operation at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Joint Base San Antonio.

It may have been a first. The Air Force wasn’t aware of another incident like it at Wilford Hall.

Taking the stand as the punishment phase of the trial began, the victim, a captain, recounted

wrestling with post-traumatic stress disorder before and after follow-up operations in the months following the attack.

That anxiety erupted into outright panic after she arrived home from a surgical procedure that winter and found blood in her underwear, prompting her to fear that she had been raped while unconscious.

“I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t know if I should tell someone, if they would believe me,” a prosecutor, Capt. Zachary West, quoted her as saying. “This has reached out into all (her) life like a virus, and it’s not fair.”

Sitting with her husband directly behind Lightsey, she showed little emotion as the judge, Lt. Col. Marvin Tubbs II, handed down the sentence. She declined comment. Lightsey’s wife, Marissa, placed one hand over her mouth.

Just months into the job, his first assignment in the Air Force, Lightsey was convicted

of reaching under the captain’s hospital gown to fondle her breasts and penetrate her. He was found not guilty of another specification in her case, and also was cleared in attacks on two other patients who also had been wheeled out of surgery.

All three women were operated on at Wilford Hall during a three-week span in June 2013. They gave similar accounts, saying that he touched them sexually while they rested on gurneys after surgical procedures that lasted hours. Two women testified that they wanted to scream but were physically unable to do anything.

A prosecutor, Capt. Christopher Porter, likened the scene to a horror film, with Lightsey pretending to remove EKG leads and adjust blankets or IV lines before assaulting the captain. He said all three incidents occurred toward the end of the day, when fewer people were at the facility.

Cook helps lift young Duke over Wake

The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Leave it to No. 2 Duke's lone scholarship senior to lead his freshman-dominated team out of its only second-half deficit of the season.

Quinn Cook scored nine of his 12 points after the Blue Devils fell behind late, helping them beat Wake Forest 73-65 on Wednesday night.

Justise Winslow scored a season-high 20 points and fellow freshman Jahlil Okafor added 12 points and 11 rebounds in their first Atlantic Coast Conference road game.

But Cook came through in the final 5 minutes for the Blue Devils (14-0, 2-0), who kept pace with No. 1 Kentucky and No. 3 Virginia as the last unbeaten teams in Division I.

"This team's tough," Cook said. "Together. We don't want to lose."

Duke shot 44 percent and pulled away by scoring on eight straight possessions down the stretch to win its closest game all year. The Blue Devils had won each of their first 13 by double figures.

Rasheed Sulaimon added 10 points for the Blue Devils, who dropped four of their previous five ACC road openers and lost in their last visit to Winston-Salem in March.

"There's a sense of urgency with every ACC game that you can't manufacture," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "You have to experience it."

Devin Thomas scored 24 points and Codi Miller-McIntyre added 13 for the Demon Deacons (8-8, 0-3).

They shot nearly 56 percent in the second half and gave a top-five opponent fits for the second straight game before fading.

"We lost. You compete to win. That's the bottom line," first-year coach Danny Manning said. "We've got to find ways to get the desired result that we want, and that's a win."

Miller-McIntyre gave Wake Forest its first lead since the opening minutes when his three-point play with 6:04 remaining

made it 56-55. He added a free throw on the next possession to push the lead to two.

Cook countered with a three-point play two possessions later to make it 58-57 and put Duke back on top to stay.

Matt Jones converted a pretty layup, then two possessions later swished what Krzyzewski called "the biggest bucket" — a three-pointer that stretched the lead to 64-59 with 2½ minutes to play.

Cook added a jumper with 51.9 seconds left before going 4-for-4 from the free throw line in the final 41 seconds — the first two of those pushing Duke's lead to double figures for the first time, 71-61.

No. 4 Wisconsin 62, Purdue 55:

Fourth-ranked Wisconsin was outshot and outrebounded, but used an overwhelming advantage from the free throw line to grind out a home victory over Purdue, the Badgers' toughest nemesis since coach Bo Ryan took over in Madison.

Frank Kaminsky scored 21 points and the Badgers (15-1, 3-0 Big Ten) pulled away from a 45-all tie with a 9-2 run to open a 54-47 lead on Josh Gasser's free throw with 3:19 left.

Wisconsin, which has won eight straight since an 80-70 loss at home to Duke in early December, maintained a two-possession lead the rest of the way to prevent the Boilermakers from becoming the first Big Ten opponent to win four games at the Kohl Center.

The Badgers, coming off their first consecutive games of scoring 80 or more points in Big Ten play since 1992, offset a 43.6 percent shooting night by making 25 of 31 free throws, including 15 in the final 9:11.

No. 3 Virginia 61, NC State 51:

Justin Anderson scored 16 points and Malcolm Brogdon added 14 as host Virginia weathered a sloppy effort and beat North Carolina State for its 19th straight home victory.

Mike Tobey added 11 points for Virginia

(14-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

No. 5 Louisville 58, Clemson 52:

Chris Jones had his second straight 20-point second half to help fifth-ranked Louisville rally past visiting Clemson.

Louisville trailed 22-18 at halftime after shooting 22 percent, but Jones and fellow guard Terry Rozier helped the Cardinals (14-1, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) snap out of their funk with a 17-0 run to open the second half.

No. 9 Utah 74, Colorado 49:

Brandon Taylor scored 14 points and Delon Wright added 13 points, six assists and four steals to help host Utah.

Illinois 64, No. 11 Maryland 57:

Illinois wondered who would score with Rayvonte Rice injured. Malcolm Hill provided the answer with a career-high 28 points against Maryland.

Hill turned it on in the second half with 18 points. The sophomore fueled a 20-3 run that the host Illini (11-5, 1-2 Big Ten) used to take over the game.

No. 12 Kansas 56, No. 21 Baylor 55:

Wayne Selden made three consecutive baskets when Kansas needed them most, and the visiting Jayhawks held off Baylor to win their 24th consecutive conference opener.

Selden was only 1-for-6 shooting before scoring seven points in a row, including a tiebreaking three-pointer with 2:17 left that put the Jayhawks (12-2, 1-0 Big 12) ahead to stay.

No. 15 Wichita State 63, Bradley 43:

Darius Carter scored 19 points in host Wichita State's victory over Bradley.

Xavier 69, No. 19 Seton Hall 58:

Dee Davis scored 14 points and Trevon Bluiett led a late run as Xavier pulled away from Seton Hall for the Musketeers' second straight home win over a ranked team.

No. 20 VCU 71, Davidson 65:

Treveen Graham had 15 points and 10 rebounds for host Virginia Commonwealth, which held Davidson's long-range shooters in check.

DePaul 70, Creighton 60:

Forrest Robinson made his first five three-pointers, all in the first six minutes of the game, and scored a career-high 20 points as visiting DePaul took sole possession of first place in the Big East.

Creighton (9-7, 0-3) has lost its first three conference games for the first time since 1993-94.

Air Force 78, San Jose State 56:

Marek Olesinski scored 16 points as host Air Force coasted in its first Mountain West Conference win of the season.

Air Force (8-6, 1-2) closed out the opening half with 12 straight points to lead 37-26 at the break.

Northern Iowa 55, Southern Illinois 39:

Seth Tuttle tied a career-high with 24 points, on 9-for-12 shooting, and Nate Buss scored a season-high 15 to lead host Northern Iowa.

Boston University 70, Navy 64:

Cedric Hankerson hit 5 of 8 three-pointers and finished with 21 points to lead visiting Boston University to its fourth straight win.

Worth Smith, the reigning conference player of the week, scored 25 points for Navy (6-9, 2-1).

Lehigh 71, Army 60: Tim Kempton had 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead visiting Lehigh.

Army led 50-48 at the 10:32 mark before Lehigh answered with an 11-1 surge. Army (10-4, 1-2) shot just 21-for-61 for 34.4 percent from the field and finished with its lowest point total of the season.

Syracuse 46, Georgia Tech 45:

Rakeem Christmas scored 18 points and hit the go-ahead free throw with 12 seconds remaining to help visiting Syracuse.

Rangers start West Coast swing with win

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The New York Rangers see their three-game California road trip as a chance to learn how they measure up against the NHL's best teams.

The defending Eastern Conference champions got off to a soaring start on the West Coast.

Rick Nash scored his 25th goal, Henrik Lundqvist made 24 saves and the Rangers beat the Anaheim Ducks 4-1 on Wednesday night for their 11th victory in 12 games.

Derick Brassard, Mats Zuccarello and Dominic Moore also scored for the Rangers, who produced a dominant effort against the overall NHL leaders.

"It's huge. We talked about it for the last couple of days," Nash said. "We had three days off, so we talked about challenging

ourselves and using this game as a measuring stick of where we're at. So it's a huge win for us. We're playing our style and we're not hurting ourselves."

New York prepared for its Thursday night Stanley Cup finals rematch with the Los Angeles Kings by controlling its matchup with the Ducks, who had won four of the clubs' last five meetings.

The Rangers have been the NHL's best defensive team over the past month, and Lundqvist combined with his defense to limit Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry to one power-play assist apiece.

Bruins 3, Penguins 2 (OT):

Patrice Bergeron scored twice, including a deflection past Pittsburgh's Marc-Andre Fleury 2:43 into overtime to lift visiting Boston to a victory over Pittsburgh.

Bergeron got just enough of Milan Lucic's blast from the point to put it past

Fleury as the Bruins ended a three-game skid.

Capitals 6, Maple Leafs 2:

Marcus Johansson and Eric Fehr scored two goals apiece, and visiting Washington spoiled the debut of Toronto interim coach Peter Horachek.

Brooks Laich and Alex Ovechkin, with an empty-net goal, also scored for Washington, which is 12-6-3 on the road. It was Ovechkin's 20th goal of the season and 50th career point against Toronto.

Red Wings 3, Flames 2:

Justin Abdelkader and Henrik Zetterberg both had a goal and an assist to lead visiting Detroit over Calgary.

Riley Sheahan also scored for Detroit (22-10-9), which has won five of seven. The Red Wings have won two of the first three games on a six-game trip.

Shanahan, Browns agree to part ways

CLEVELAND — The Browns' revolving door has spun again. They're looking for an offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Coordinator Kyle Shanahan and coach Dowell Loggains will not be returning to the team, a person familiar with the decisions told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Shanahan and Loggains spent one year on Mike Pettine's staff in Cleveland. It's not immediately clear if the 35-year-old Shanahan asked to be released from his contract or was fired.

Shanahan, who previously worked in Washington, is expected to interview for Buffalo's head coaching vacancy on Thursday. His father, Mike Shanahan, also interviewed with the Bills and has drawn interest from several NFL teams.

From The Associated Press



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Hawks defeat Grizzlies, extend streak to 6

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jeff Teague and the Atlanta Hawks continue to use their newly discovered mastery of the Western Conference as their path to the top of the East.

Teague scored 25 points and the Hawks beat the Memphis Grizzlies 96-86 on Wednesday night.

The Hawks, who have won six straight overall, have a nine-game winning streak against Western Conference teams. Atlanta (27-8) has won 20 of 22 and has the best record in the Eastern Conference.

"It shows that we're a good team," said Atlanta's Al Horford, who had 12 points.

The Hawks grabbed control with a 10-0 run breaking an 84-all tie. Horford, who had 12 points, started the run with a jumper. Teague and Kyle Korver followed with three-pointers and Teague added another basket for a 94-84 lead.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 17 points. Marc Gasol had 16.

Warriors 117, Pacers 102: Klay Thompson scored 40 points, and host Golden State shook off a slow start on the way to its fifth straight win.

Thompson made 14 of 25 shots, including six of 11 from three-point range, and Stephen Curry added 21 points and a season-high-tying 15 assists to help the NBA-leading Warriors (28-5) stretch their home winning streak to 13 games.

Rockets 105, Cavaliers 93: James

Harden scored 21 points, Dwight Howard had 17 points and 19 rebounds, and visiting Houston roared past Cleveland in the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers played their sixth straight game without LeBron James. The four-time NBA MVP said he's on target to return in a week from a strained back and knee.

Kyrie Irving scored a season-high 38 points for the Cavs, who lost their fourth straight at home. J.R. Smith didn't score in 19 minutes in his Cleveland debut.

During the game, the Cavs acquired 7-foot-1 center Timofey Mozgov from Denver for two first-round draft picks.

Hornets 98, Pelicans 94: Kemba Walker scored 31 points, including a tie-breaking three-point play with 1.4 seconds left, and host Charlotte earned its third consecutive win.

Anthony Davis had 32 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks for New Orleans.

Wizards 101, Knicks 91: At Washington, New York set a record for longest in-season slide in the franchise's 69-year history.

The Wizards handed the Knicks their 13th loss in a row, surpassing the mark set at the end of the 1984-85 season, and their 23rd in 24 games.

John Wall had 18 points and eight assists for the Wizards.

Clippers 114, Lakers 89: Blake Griffin scored 27 points, Chris Paul had 24 and

the Clippers routed the Lakers for their ninth win in 10 games against the 16-time NBA champions.

Griffin also had nine rebounds and eight assists. Paul added 11 assists.

Kings 104, Thunder 83: Rudy Gay scored 28 points and Darren Collison added 24 to help host Sacramento snap a 12-game losing streak to Oklahoma City.

Suns 113, Timberwolves 111: Gerald Green scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, and visiting Phoenix handed Minnesota its 13th straight loss.

Green hit three three-pointers in the fourth, helping the Suns quickly wipe away a seven-point deficit to start the period.

Andrew Wiggins scored 25 points, but missed a three-pointer at the buzzer that would have won the game for the Timberwolves, who haven't won since Dec. 10.

Jazz 97, Bulls 77: Derrick Favors had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Utah used a strong defensive effort to beat host Chicago.

The Jazz held the Bulls to a season-low point total on just 28-for-84 shooting (33.3 percent). The Bulls were averaging 103.1 points.

Chicago point guard Derrick Rose had just seven points on 3-for-15 shooting. The 2011 NBA MVP is shooting 25.5 percent (28-for-110) in his past six games.

Pistons 108, Mavericks 95: At Dallas,

D.J. Augustin scored 17 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, and Detroit earned its seventh consecutive victory, the NBA's longest current winning streak.

Greg Monroe had 27 points and 18 rebounds for Detroit.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points for the Mavericks, who had won six in a row.

Nuggets 93, Magic 90: Ty Lawson scored 23 points in host Denver's third consecutive win, and Arron Afflalo had 17 against his former team.

The Nuggets also got a key contribution from Jusuf Nurkic, who had eight points in his first career start in place of Timofey Mozgov, who was traded to Cleveland earlier in the day for two first-round draft picks.

Celtics 89, Nets 81: At New York, Avery Bradley scored 21 points, and Boston snapped a three-game losing streak.

Tyler Zeller added 18 points for the Celtics, who won for just the second time in nine games.

Bucks 97, 76ers 77: At Philadelphia, Brandon Knight and Khris Middleton scored 18 points apiece, leading Milwaukee to the victory.

The Bucks (19-18) shot 53.9 percent from the field in their fifth consecutive road win.

Top LBs help Seahawks, Panthers succeed

The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The last time Tom Brady faced the Baltimore Ravens in the playoffs, he threw interceptions on the New England Patriots' final two drives.

In their three playoff matchups, he lost twice.

All those games were at Gillette Stadium, where the postseason rivals meet Saturday for the fourth time in six years.

Brady says none of that history will matter when he takes his first snap in the divisional playoff on the path to what he hopes will be his fourth straight AFC title game.

"I don't think that's really useful," the quarterback said Tuesday. "We can't change what has happened. You just have to move forward and you have to think about the things that we've done really well this year."

That would be:

Going 12-4 and earning the top seed in the AFC. Scoring the fourth most points in the NFL. Having a strong defense with outstanding cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Brandon Browner. Leadership from a quarterback with the fifth best passer rating. And production from a tight end, Rob Gronkowski, with the most receptions for anyone at his position and excellent blocking ability.

"We've put ourselves in a good position," Brady said after returning to practice following a first-round bye. "We've just got to take advantage of it."

They didn't do that in two of their three playoff games against the Ravens.

Their postseason rivalry began with Baltimore's 33-14 wild-card win in the 2009 season. Two years later, New England won 23-20 to advance to the Super Bowl, where it lost to the New York Giants.

In Brady's second consecutive AFC championship matchup with the Ravens

on Jan. 20, 2013, the Patriots lost 28-13 after leading 13-7 at halftime.

Those three games were hardly Brady's best: a total of three touchdown passes, seven interceptions and a 56.1 completion percentage.

The Patriots did rout the Ravens in Baltimore last season 41-7, but Brady didn't have to do much. They led 17-0 early in the second quarter, LeGarrette Blount ran for two touchdowns and the defense produced four turnovers and four sacks.

Those three playoff games might make for some pretty ugly viewing, but watching film of them might provide useful tips.

"It's the same (defensive) coordinator so a lot of the scheme stuff you see how he (Dean Pees) tried to defend us back then," Brady said. "We're a different team now, too, so I think the more information, the better."

"They're a different team."

Broncos to bring balance against Colts

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The longer Peyton Manning talked about his former team, the hotter he became.

He wasn't mad. Just cold.

The Denver Broncos quarterback rarely took his reddened hands out of the pouch around his waist Wednesday following a two-hour practice in 16-degree, windy weather.

After nine minutes of chatting about a showdown with Indianapolis in an AFC divisional playoff game Sunday, he went inside to get warm, softly muttering, "It's cold out here, huh?"

Manning's numbers tend to dip when the thermometer does. He's 12-13 in his

career when the temperature is 40 degrees or below, according to STATS.

This should warm up Manning and Broncos fans, however. Forecasters are calling for a warm-up this week and balmy conditions are expected on game day, with the high in the 40s, maybe a cool breeze and no precipitation.

"Peyton is going to go out there and play well," declared running back C.J. Anderson. "But it takes a team and we have to help him."

Even if a cold front were to suddenly descend upon the city, the Broncos are built for harsher conditions these days. They no longer rely so heavily on Manning's right arm but on a revamped running game and a dominant defense that fea-

tures five Pro Bowlers and a couple of notable snubs.

Although Manning's record is sub-.500 in chilly conditions, his overall numbers really aren't that ghastly. He's thrown 43 touchdown passes and 27 interceptions while completing 62.6 percent of his passes, according to STATS. His completion percentage since joining the Broncos in 2012 is 67.7.

Since a Nov. 16 loss in St. Louis when Manning threw the ball 54 times, the Broncos have worked on being more balanced. They've run the ball 186 times over the last six games and attempted 194 passes.