

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Obama to focus on foreign policy in '16

*The Washington Post*

HONOLULU — President Barack Obama will seek to consolidate his foreign policy legacy this year by traveling widely and working with allies to combat extremism and foster the rise of emerging democracies, deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said.

Speaking to reporters, Rhodes said Obama's final year in office will be defined less by new diplomatic initiatives than by "completing a lot of work that has been a priority throughout the administration."

That work still involves efforts on a long list of problem areas, including the campaign to degrade the Islamic State group, also known as ISIL; stabilizing Afghanistan and Iraq; forging a political resolution to Syria's civil war; prodding the

Cuban government to make more economic and political reforms; and implementing the nuclear deal with Iran.

Although Rhodes said Obama would devote significant time to fostering closer ties with several Asian nations and supporting the peace process in Colombia, he noted that fighting Islamist extremists would dominate his work overseas in 2016.

"And then, of course, the anti-ISIL campaign will be an overarching focus to everything we do around the world this year," he said. "You're not going to eradicate ISIL in the next year. What we would like to see is that we have substantially taken away their safe haven, so that they're not controlling these major swaths of territory and population centers ... that the Syrian civil war has some politi-

cal resolution around it so that Syrians can see what the pathway is toward a more peaceful and stable future, and that you essentially have a counterterrorism architecture built where the remnants of ISIL can be dealt with through direct action and through counterterrorism operations."

That Iraqi troops were able to wrest control of Ramadi from the Islamic State group with the aid of U.S. advisers demonstrates that the administration's approach has yielded dividends, Rhodes said.

But as the security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated, the president has come under pressure to sustain a higher troop level there than he outlined when he announced the plan to reduce the force to 5,500 troops by the end of 2016.

Rhodes said the president has worked to reduce the number of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan into "the low thousands" compared with the high levels when he first took office so the countries are in the position of "being responsible for their own security, with our support."

While some Americans, concerned about the threat of a terrorist strike on domestic soil, have advocated that U.S. citizens should arm themselves, Rhodes said, "It would be better for our security if it was harder for terrorists to purchase very powerful weapons."

In addition to defending the president's plan to expand the nation's firearms restrictions, Rhodes said the recent delay of U.S. sanctions on Iran should not be interpreted as a concession.

## Iran vows 'divine revenge' on Saudis for execution

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's top leader on Sunday warned Saudi Arabia of "divine revenge" over the execution of an opposition Shiite cleric while Riyadh accused Tehran of supporting terrorism, escalating a war of words hours after protesters stormed the Saudi Embassy in Tehran.

Saudi Arabia announced the execution of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr on Saturday along with 46 others, including three other Shiite dissidents and a number of al-Qaida militants. It was the largest mass execution carried out by the kingdom in 3½ decades.

Al-Nimr was a central figure in protests by Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority until his arrest in 2012. His execution drew condemnation from Shiites across the region.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei condemned the execution Sunday in a statement on his website, saying al-Nimr "neither invited people to take up arms nor hatched covert plots. The only thing he did was public criticism." Iran's Revolutionary Guard said Saudi Arabia's "medieval act of savagery" of executing the cleric would lead to the "downfall" of the country's monarchy.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry said that by condemning the execution, Iran had "revealed its true face represented in support for terrorism."

The statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, accused Tehran of "blind sectarianism" and said that "by its defense of terrorist acts" Iran is a "partner in their crimes in the entire region."

Al-Nimr was convicted of

terrorism charges but denied ever advocating violence.

Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran are locked in a bitter rivalry, and support opposite sides in the wars in Syria and Yemen. Iran accuses Saudi Arabia of supporting "terrorism" in part because it backs Syrian rebel groups, while Riyadh points to Iran's support for the Lebanese Hezbollah and other Shiite militant groups.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned the Saudi envoy in Tehran to protest, while the Saudi Foreign Ministry later said it had summoned Iran's envoy to the kingdom to protest Iran's criticism of the execution.

In Tehran, the crowd gathered outside the Saudi Embassy early Sunday and chanted anti-Saudi slogans. Some protesters threw stones and Molotov cock-

tails, setting off a fire in part of the building.

Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi said 40 people had been arrested on suspicion of taking part in the attack; investigators were pursuing other suspects.

Police in Bahrain, home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, have fired birdshot and used water cannons to push back demonstrators protesting Saudi Arabia over its execution of al-Nimr. The protest happened Sunday on Sitra Island, south of Bahrain's capital, Manama. The demonstrators numbered into the hundreds and chanted that al-Nimr is "our martyr." Hundreds also marched in al-Daih, west of Manama, chanting slogans against Saudi Arabia's ruling Al Saud family and the Sunni family ruling Bahrain.

## Bases in Hawaii hike to 21 the tobacco age limit

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Military installations throughout Hawaii have banned anyone younger than 21 from buying or using tobacco.

The new rules by the Navy, Marines, Army and Air Force coincide with a similar measure passed by the Hawaii legislature in June. All took effect New Year's Day.

Hawaii is the first state to institute an under-21 ban on tobacco sales and possession, which includes e-cigarettes, according to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. More than 100 U.S. municipalities have raised the minimum age for tobacco sales to 21, with California considering a statewide measure.

Military installations don't always follow state law on such matters. Even though Washington and Colorado have legalized recreational use of marijuana, servicemembers are not allowed to use the drug in those states.

The Navy's ban does not apply to personnel or transac-

tions while aboard U.S. naval vessels because they fall under federal laws. Tobacco is sold aboard some ships. The Navy banned smoking in submarines at the end of 2010, but talk last year of a fleetwide ban met resistance from some members of Congress.

The ban on Navy and Marines installations was issued by the Chief of Navy Naval Operations and is not a "punitive order," meaning active-duty servicemembers who violate it will not be subject to Article 92 discipline, Navy spokesman Bill Doughty said. But servicemembers cited by state or local police under Hawaii's new tobacco law are subject to fines and community service, he said.

The Navy is emphasizing resources to help sailors and their families quit tobacco, such as the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center website, which includes videos and other cessation tools. The Army is referring soldiers to a Tricare site: [www.tricare.mil/tobaccocessation](http://www.tricare.mil/tobaccocessation).

## China says it is building its second aircraft carrier

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — China is building its second aircraft carrier, this time entirely with domestic technology, its Defense Ministry said Thursday, in a leap in its naval development that is increasingly tipping the regional balance of power.

The 50,000-ton vessel is being built in the northern port of Dalian and will be powered conventionally, rather than by a nuclear reactor, ministry spokesman Col. Yang Yujun told reporters at a news conference.

The yet-to-be-named vessel will carry J-15 fighter-bombers and other aircraft and will use a ski jump mode for launching fixed-wing aircraft, Yang said.

The J-15 is a copy of Russia's Sukhoi Su-33.

China currently operates one aircraft carrier that was purchased as an incomplete hull from Ukraine more than a decade ago and then was armed and equipped in China before being commissioned in 2013. That carrier, christened the *Liaoning* after the port in which it was refitted, has yet to take on its full aviation complement and is currently undergoing testing and training.

The second carrier will be roughly the same size as the *Liaoning* but only about half the size of the U.S. *Nimitz* class nuclear-powered supercarriers, of which 10 are in operation.

## Court will consider suit tied to burn pits

BY TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A federal district court on Jan. 21 will consider the scope of a lawsuit alleging soldiers' exposure to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan led to serious respiratory illnesses and deaths and whether government contractor KBR Inc. is responsible for the way the pits were operated.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, the military relied heavily on the large, open-air pits to burn trash and waste daily, exposing the personnel working the pits and others living nearby to toxic smoke.

In 2010, the Government Accountability Office found the Department of Defense was not following its own regulations for safe burn-pit operations, and that pits were regularly used to dispose of prohibited plastics, paints, batteries, aerosols, aluminum and other items that could produce harmful emissions when burned.

KBR, under the military's logistical support contract, operated the pits.

For military families affected, there's no question in their minds that the burn pits caused the illnesses they now face.

"My husband was deployed to Iraq in 2007. He came back sick," said Rosie Torres, executive director of Burn Pits 360, a nonprofit group raising awareness of the long-term re-

spiratory illnesses and cancers servicemembers have experienced since returning from deployment.

Since his illness, retired Army Capt. Le Roy Torres has been diagnosed with constrictive bronchiolitis and had to leave his job as a Texas state trooper. He's had cysts in his spleen and regular headaches and is on oxygen. But what could still be unknown about the long-term effects of exposure to the pits is the worst part, Rosie Torres said.

Torres and her husband are party to the lawsuit, she said.

On Jan. 21, a federal district court in Greenbelt, Md. will hear arguments to determine the scope of the case, which was originally filed in 2010 and potentially could include more than 53 former or current bases in Iraq, including al Taqqadum Air Base and Taji, where some of the 3,550 U.S. soldiers sent back to Iraq are deployed to train Iraqi security forces.

Col. Steve Warren, a Baghdad-based spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve, did not know whether burn pits were still in use at Iraqi military training sites.

Nine locations in Afghanistan also are potentially within the lawsuit's scope, as are another eight bases supporting Iraq and Afghanistan operations, such as Camp Arijian in Kuwait.

### Protesters take over US building in Oregon

BURNS, Ore. — A family previously involved in a showdown with the federal government has occupied a building at a national wildlife refuge in Oregon and is asking militia members to join them.

Ammon Bundy — the son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a standoff

with the government over grazing rights — told *The Oregonian* on Saturday that he and two of his brothers were among a group of dozens of people occupying the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

The protest began as a rally in support of Oregon ranchers facing jail time for arson.

From The Associated Press



# TCU rallies to stun Oregon in triple-OT

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Thrust into the starting role in place of the suspended star quarterback, TCU's Bram Kohlhausen made the absolute most of his final chance with the Horned Frogs — in historic fashion.

Not just for his team, but for the family that could join him at the Alamo Bowl and those who couldn't.

Starting in place of Trevone Boykin, who was suspended after a bar fight two days earlier, Kohlhausen led the No. 11 Horned Frogs back from 31 points down for a 47-41, triple-overtime victory over No. 15 Oregon on Saturday night in the Alamo Bowl.

Kohlhausen passed for 351 yards and accounted for four touchdowns, running in for the winner in the third overtime. The comeback tied the record for the largest deficit overcome to win a bowl game, matching Texas Tech's win over Minnesota in the 2006 Insight Bowl, and set a TCU school record.

After it was over, Kohlhausen talked stadium security into letting his mother join the celebration on the field. The person not there was his father, Bill, who died Nov. 7 of cancer.

"I just gave her a hug and started crying with her. I'd love for him to be here and watch this happen but I know he's watch-

ing upstairs," Kohlhausen said.

"This will be one I'll tell my grandkids. This is a night I never thought would happen. I dedicate it to Trey. He showed me how to play like I did tonight."

Kohlhausen, who had played spot duty this season, was thrust into the spotlight on Thursday when Boykin was arrested and suspended after a bar fight in San Antonio's famed River Walk district.

Kohlhausen started his career at Houston, left for junior college and walked on at TCU (11-2). He had never started a major college game until his final one and did his best to mimic Boykin, especially in the second half with tough runs and pinpoint passing as TCU stormed back. He twice came back from hard hits that forced him out of the game.

"I told him, I said, 'Can you imagine — your dad passed away, he's watching, can you imagine if you come back? Can you come back, can you win this football game?'" TCU coach Gary Patterson said.

It didn't look possible when Oregon (9-4) was rolling to a 28-0 lead behind stand-out senior quarterback Vernon Adams Jr., and led 31-0 at halftime.

Adams passed for 197 yards and a touchdown and led the Ducks on four consecutive touchdown drives.

Oregon stopped in its tracks when Adams was hurt on a rare called run for

him. Adams knocked heads with TCU linebacker Derrick Kindred, left the game and never returned.

Jeff Lockie drove Oregon to a field goal that made it 31-0 at halftime, but the Ducks stalled there.

TCU scored on all of its possessions in the second half and overtime.

"Tough to end like this," Oregon coach March Helfrich said. "They made one more play that we did."

## Liberty Bowl

### West Virginia 43, Arizona State 42:

At Phoenix, Skyler Howard threw for a Cactus Bowl-record 532 yards and hit David Sills on a 15-yard pass for his fifth touchdown with 2:19 left, lifting West Virginia to a wild 43-42 win over Arizona State early Sunday.

The Cactus Bowl made up for its late start with an assault on the record books.

The teams combined for 1,196 yards of offense and the 950 yards passing was the most in the Cactus Bowl's 27-year history.

Typically a run-oriented team, West Virginia (8-5) went to the air, and Howard broke the Cactus Bowl record of 476 yards set by Washington State's Drew Bledsoe in 1992.

Mike Bercovici threw for 418 yards and hit Gary Chambers on a 58-yard pass in

the fourth quarter for his fourth touchdown of the game, but Arizona State (6-7) kicked an extra point instead of going for 2 to lead 42-36. After Sills' TD, the Sun Devils turned the ball over on downs on their last possession.

## Liberty Bowl

**Arkansas 45, Kansas State 23:** At Memphis, Tenn., Alex Collins ran for 185 yards and three touchdowns and Arkansas capped its late-season surge with a victory over Kansas State in the Liberty Bowl.

Ranked 18th to open the season, Arkansas stumbled through a 1-3 start that knocked the Razorbacks out of the Top 25. The Razorbacks (8-5) turned things around and won six of their last seven games.

## TaxSlayer Bowl

**Georgia 24, Penn State 17:** At Jacksonville, Fla., Terry Godwin threw a touchdown pass on a trick play and caught one later, helping Georgia beat Penn State in the TaxSlayer Bowl.

The Bulldogs (10-3) won their fifth consecutive game to close the season, this one under interim coach Bryan McClendon and with incoming coach Kirby Smart watching from the stands.

# Kansas opens Big 12 play with rout of Baylor

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas coach Bill Self has a theory about why Wayne Selden Jr. has been so good this season.

"Mentorship," he said with a wry smile. "Coaching, that's what it's got to be, right?"

Right. Along with hours in the gym, a tweak to his shooting mechanics and the realization that the junior guard could be the biggest reason the second-ranked Jayhawks make another Final Four run.

Selden hit five three-pointers and scored 24 points on Saturday, leading Kansas on a big early run that swamped No. 23 Baylor in a 102-74 victory to start Big 12 play.

"We don't have anything to do with it. It's him," Self said, dropping the charade. "He's driving the ball to set up shots, instead of hoping to make shots. He's playing smarter. He's just playing at a very high level."

He isn't the only one. Perry Ellis added 17 points, Devonte Graham had 15 and Frank Mason III had 11 for the Jayhawks (12-1, 1-0), who charged out to a 24-4 lead and kept it the rest of the game.

Taurean Prince had 13 of his 17 points in the second half for Baylor.

"They came out hot," Prince said. "We didn't."

**No. 1 Michigan St. 69, Minnesota 61:** At Minneapolis, Bryn Forbes scored 20 points, making three three-pointers in the second half to help the Spartans stave off Minnesota in response to a loss at Iowa

earlier in the week.

Matt Costello contributed 17 points and 15 rebounds, both career highs, for the Spartans (14-1, 1-1) four days after they fell 78-63 to the Hawkeyes in their Big Ten opener.

**No. 3 Oklahoma 87, No. 11 Iowa State 83:** Buddy Hield scored 22 points and the host Sooners beat the Cyclones to match the second-best start in school history at 12-0.

Ryan Spangler had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Isaiah Cousins scored all 15 of his points in the second half for the Sooners in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

Oklahoma plays at No. 2 Kansas on Monday in what could be a No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown after No. 1 Michigan State lost to Iowa on Tuesday night.

**No. 4 Maryland 72, Northwestern 59:** Melo Trimble scored 24 points, Rasheed Sulaimon added 16 points and visiting Maryland won its seventh straight.

**No. 5 Virginia 77, Notre Dame 66:** Anthony Gill scored seven of his 14 first-half points during a 21-4 run and Virginia cruised to its 11th consecutive victory.

The Cavaliers' 12th straight victory at home came as Virginia launched its bid to become the first team since Duke from 1997-2000 to win three consecutive outright ACC championships.

**No. 6 Xavier 88, No. 9 Butler 69:** At Cincinnati, Remy Abell scored a career-high 21 points, and Xavier recovered from its first loss of the season.

The Musketeers (13-1, 1-1 Big East) were coming off a 95-64 defeat at No. 16

Villanova on Thursday that ended the best start in school history.

**No. 7 North Carolina 86, Georgia Tech 78:** Joel Berry II scored a career-high 19 points and hit the go-ahead three-pointer with 5:07 left for host North Carolina.

Brice Johnson added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Tar Heels (13-2, 2-0 ACC).

**No. 10 Kentucky 83, Mississippi 61:** Tyler Ullis had 20 points and 10 assists to help the host Wildcats win the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams and end the Rebels' seven-game winning streak.

**No. 12 Providence 83, St. John's 65:** Kris Dunn had 26 points, nine rebounds and six assists to lead host Providence to its eighth straight win.

**No. 13 Miami 64, Syracuse 51:** Sheldon McClellan scored 22 points and Ja'Quan Newton made two big three-pointers in the second half for host Miami.

Newton finished with 14 points for Miami (12-1, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which blew it open with a 12-0 run in the final minutes to win its seventh straight.

**Iowa 70, No. 14 Purdue 63:** Jarrod Uthoff scored 25 points, Peter Jok had 11 points and nine rebounds and visiting Iowa erased a 17-point halftime deficit to beat Purdue.

The Hawkeyes (11-3, 2-0 Big Ten) have won four straight and eight of nine, including two upsets of Top 15 teams this week.

**No. 15 Duke 81, Boston College 64:** At Boston, Brandon Ingram had 25 points and nine rebounds to lead Duke in the

ACC opener for both teams.

**No. 16 Villanova 85, Creighton 71:** Josh Hart scored 25 points and Daniel Ochefu led visiting Villanova's powerful inside game with 19 points in a victory over Creighton.

**No. 17 SMU, South Florida 58:** At Dallas, Nic Moore, Sterling Brown and Markus Kennedy each scored 13 points and SMU improved to 13-0 — the best start in school history — and 2-0 in the American Athletic Conference.

**No. 19 West Virginia 87, Kansas State 83 (2OT):** Jaysean Paige scored 18 of his 25 points after halftime and Tarik Phillip connected on a floater with 4.5 seconds left in the second overtime for visiting West Virginia in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

**No. 20 Texas A&M 92, Arkansas 69:** Senior guard Jalen Jones scored a career-high 28 points for the host Aggies in the SEC opener for both teams.

**No. 22 Cincinnati 76, Tulsa 57:** Farad Cobb had five three-pointers and finished with 21 points as the host Bearcats snapped a two-game losing streak.

The Golden Hurricane scored 2:02 into the game on a layup and then missed their next 12 shots in the next 10:49.

**No. 24 South Carolina 86, Memphis 76:** Sindarius Thornwell scored 18 points, Michael Carrera had 16 points and 11 rebounds and host South Carolina outlasted physical Memphis to improve to 13-0 and continue its best start in 82 years.



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# Warriors stop Nuggets in OT

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Klay Thompson made a driving finger roll with 15.6 seconds left in overtime and short-handed Golden State stayed undefeated at home by holding off Denver after Stephen Curry bruised his left leg again.

Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried was in a neck brace and strapped to a stretcher as he was wheeled off the court about 10 minutes after the game ended. Faried, who took an elbow to the back of the neck while jostling for a rebound late in overtime, raised his arm for a thumbs-up to fans who stuck around.

The Nuggets said Faried was taken to the hospital for precautionary reasons while the team flew home to prepare for a game Sunday against Portland. Faried had 15 points and 12 rebounds in nearly 29 minutes for the Nuggets, who lost their fifth straight.

Curry came back following a two-game absence because of a bruised lower left leg, but sustained a contusion on his left shin and didn't play the entire second half. The reigning MVP finished with five points and four assists in 14-plus minutes.

Will Barton, whose two shots late in regulation forced the extra period, missed an off-balance attempt following Thompson's go-ahead basket. Thompson then made one of two free throws before Barton's desperation three-pointer at the buzzer hit the rim.

Draymond Green knocked down his first four three-point tries in the opening 3½ minutes on the way to 29 points, 17 rebounds and 14 assists for his NBA-leading sixth triple-double.

Thompson scored 26 points on 11-for-27 shooting.

The Warriors (31-2) had just seven players available for overtime. They blew a 26-point lead before hanging on for their 34th straight regular-season win at Oracle Arena, including a franchise-best start of 16-0 this season.

**Spurs 121, Rockets 103:** LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points, Kawhi Leonard added 22 and the host San Antonio made a season-high 13 three-pointers in avenging an earlier loss to the Houston.

Tim Duncan was held scoreless for the first time in his 19-year career, but San Antonio extended its franchise-record home start with its 20th straight victory.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and James Harden had 17 points on 6-for-10 shooting for Houston.

Spurs guard Danny Green finished with 18 points on a season-high six three-pointers.

**Kings 142, Suns 119:** Kings coach George Karl moved into a tie for fifth on the NBA wins list with 1,155 when DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and nine rebounds to lead host Sacramento over Phoenix, which lost its eighth in a row.

Karl matched Phil Jackson with the milestone victory. The 63-year-old Karl is 1,155-795 in 27 seasons.

**Cavaliers 104, Magic 79:** LeBron James scored 29 points as the host Cavaliers beat the Magic for a 13th straight game.

The Cavaliers' lead reached 31 points in the third quarter of their third win over the Magic this season — and it wasn't even the most lopsided matchup. On Dec. 11, Cleveland led by as many as 40 in a 111-76 rout.

**Thunder 109, Hornets 90:** Kevin Durant had 29 points and 11 rebounds, and visiting Oklahoma City pulled away in the second half to beat Charlotte.

Russell Westbrook added 16 points for the Thunder, who put four other players in double figures while winning their fourth straight game. Oklahoma City has won 10 in a row against Charlotte dating to the 2010-11 season.

**Clippers 130, 76ers 99:** DeAndre Jordan led six players in double figures with 22 points and 13 rebounds, and host Los Angeles handed Philadelphia its season-high sixth straight victory.

Chris Paul added 15 points and 14 assists while setting up Jordan for some highlight-reel dunks that excited the sell-out crowd against an opponent with the NBA's worst record. In all, Jordan had a season-high nine dunks.

**Nets 100, Celtics 97:** Brook Lopez scored a season-high 30 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead Brooklyn over Boston.

Joe Johnson added 20 points, Thaddeus

Young scored 16 with 10 rebounds, and Bojan Bogdanovic had 13 points for the Nets, who won for the third time in 11 games.

**Bucks 95, Timberwolves 85:** Greg Monroe had 19 points and 10 rebounds to help Milwaukee overcome O.J. Mayo's wild ejection in a victory over host Minnesota.

John Henson scored 15 points for the Bucks, and Khris Middleton added 13. An enraged Mayo was forcibly removed from the court by coaches and security staff after he picked up two technical fouls in the first quarter.

**Pelicans 105, Mavericks 98:** Anthony Davis had 31 points and 14 rebounds, and New Orleans ended a six-game losing streak in Dallas.

Ryan Anderson hit a tiebreaking three-pointer in the fourth quarter and the Pelicans went on to their fourth road win this season. They won at Dallas for just the third time in 25 games in franchise history.

**Pacers 94, Pistons 82:** Paul George scored 21 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Pacers to over the Pistons.

At the final buzzer, Marcus Morris shoved George twice, sparking a minor scuffle.

George Hill had 18 points and Monta Ellis added 14 for the Pacers (19-14), who snapped a two game skid.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Ersan Ilyasova and Reggie Jackson each scored 12 points for the Pistons (18-16), who have lost four of five games.

**Jazz 92, Grizzlies 87 (OT):** Rodney Hood scored a career-high 32 points and Utah fought off a stingy Memphis team to win in overtime.

The host Jazz won consecutive games for the sixth time this season, but have yet to win three straight.

Hood knocked down a pair of free throws to put Utah ahead 89-87 with 29.1 seconds left in overtime. He scored 10 points in the first quarter and then carried the Jazz offense late with 17 in the fourth period and overtime combined.

# Lawler defends UFC title vs. Condit

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Only the fifth-round bell could stop Robbie Lawler and Carlos Condit from punishing each other. When it finally rang, the champion and challenger stood side-by-side with their arms leaned up on the cage, wearing exhaustion and respect on their bruised, bloodied faces.

Although Lawler kept his title by a narrow margin, he can't wait to do it all again.

Lawler defended his UFC welterweight belt with a split-decision victory over Condit at UFC 195 on Saturday night, getting the promotion's new year off to a thrilling start.

"That's just two competitors with a lot of heart and a lot of skill just trying to get the job done," Lawler said.

Lawler (27-10) was awarded the decision after a 25-minute brawl that had the MGM Grand Garden Arena crowd on its collective feet in the fantastic fifth round. Condit (30-9) landed 120 more strikes and wobbled the champion multiple times, but Lawler's power did enough damage to win three rounds on two judges' scorecards.

They ended the night with their arms mutually raised in victory. While Condit said he would consider retirement, Lawler had a better idea.

"There was two winners tonight, and let's do it again," Lawler said.

Earlier, Stipe Miocic stopped Andrei Arlovski with punches 54 seconds into the first round.

The 6-foot-4 firefighter from the Cleveland suburbs has won five of six fights despite enduring winter travel delays on his way to Vegas this week.

The 33-year-old Miocic is likely to be the next contender for the heavyweight belt after champion Fabricio Werdum's rematch with former champ Cain Velasquez next month at UFC 196 in the same Las Vegas cage.

# Luongo, Panthers shut down Rangers

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Roberto Luongo stopped 39 shots for his third shutout of the season as the Florida Panthers beat the new York Rangers 3-0 Saturday night for their franchise-record eighth straight win.

Brandon Pirri, Vincent Trocheck and Logan Shaw each scored to help Florida regain first place in the Atlantic Division. The Panthers also set a franchise record with their sixth consecutive home win and snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Rangers, beating them for the first time since April 23, 2013.

Luongo got his seventh straight win, breaking his own Panthers franchise consecutive wins record, and 71st career shutout.

Henrik Lundqvist made 15 saves for the Rangers, who have lost eight of their past nine on the road and 10 of their past 14 overall (4-8-2).

**Penguins 5, Islanders 2:** Resurgent

Sidney Crosby scored two power-play goals, Marc-Andre Fleury returned from a concussion and made 38 saves and host Pittsburgh beat New York.

Crosby scored his 10th and 11th goals of the season and has 10 points in his last seven games. After scoring just six goals in his first 32 games, Crosby has five scores in his last five contests.

**Blue Jackets 5, Capitals 4 (SO):** Jack Johnson and Brandon Saad each had two goals, Ryan Johansen scored in the third round of the shootout and last-place host Columbus gave Eastern Conference-leading Washington its first losing streak this season.

**Devils 3, Stars 2 (OT):** John Moore scored a power-play goal 1:47 into overtime to give host New Jersey a victory over NHL-leading Dallas.

With Jamie Benn in the penalty box for hooking, Moore intercepted a Stars clearing attempt and fired the puck past Antti Niemi.

**Kings 2, Flyers 1:** Dwight King and Drew Doughty scored first-period goals, Jonathan Quick made 29 saves and Los Angeles beat visiting Philadelphia for its fifth straight victory.

**Maple Leafs 4, Blues 1:** Peter Holland scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period, Jonathan Bernier stopped 39 shots and host Toronto beat St. Louis.

**Oilers 4, Coyotes 3 (SO):** Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored in the third round of the shootout, Jordan Eberle had two goals in regulation and Edmonton beat visiting Arizona to end a four-game losing streak.

**Red Wings 4, Sabres 3:** Tomas Tatar scored with 2:50 left in the third period to lift visiting Detroit over Buffalo.

**Lightning 3, Wild 2 (SO):** Ryan Callahan scored the lone shootout goal and host Tampa Bay beat Minnesota.

**Predators 2, Hurricanes 1 (OT):** Mattias Ekholm scored with 1:51 left in

overtime to lift visiting Nashville over Carolina.

Paul Gaustad tied the game for Nashville with a short-handed goal in the second period.

Nashville's Pekka Rinne had 27 saves and Carolina's Eddie Lack stopped 19.

**Jets 4, Sharks 1:** Connor Hellebuyck made 27 saves, Drew Stafford scored a short-handed goal and Winnipeg beat San Jose to end a six-game road losing streak.

**Flames 4, Avalanche 0:** Karri Ramo made 26 saves for his first shutout of the season, Josh Jooris had a goal and an assist and Calgary beat host Colorado.

Colorado's Jarome Iginla, vying to become the 19th player in NHL history to score 600 goals, was shut down by his former team. After getting No. 599 last Sunday against the Coyotes, he has not scored in three straight games since then.