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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Vets angry interpreters are affected by order

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Military veterans were dumbfounded and furious when it became clear over the weekend that President Donald Trump's executive order barring the admission to the United States of people from seven majority-Muslim countries keeps out interpreters who risked their lives helping U.S. forces in Iraq.

"They better make a damn exception because we are here because of them," said Andrew Biggio, a former Marine sergeant who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Our lives, our families, we have everything to thank for our interpreters. We owe them, we owe them, we owe them."

Biggio, who voted for Trump, said he and other Marines he served with are waiting for a clarification from the White House. Many of them pushed for years to obtain visas for their interpreters and then raised money to help them settle in.

"They need to do something about this," he said. "You want to talk about saving American lives from terrorists — these interpreters did that; they

saved a lot of our lives."

Thousands of Iraqis who worked as interpreters and advisers to U.S. troops are barred from obtaining visas and entering the country and now risk retaliation against them and their families for collaborating with the U.S. government. Veterans say the interpreters provided them with invaluable translation, help and intelligence and served on the front lines with U.S. troops.

"We asked them to risk their lives for us, and they're being threatened because they worked alongside us," said Scott Cooper, a Marine veteran who served tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia. He now leads Human Rights First's Veterans for American Ideals project, which advocates for military interpreters and Syrian refugees.

"They didn't think this one through, and it's completely wrong," he said. "We all want America to be safe. This is why we put on the uniform."

As of June 2016, more than 800 applicants and their families were waiting for Iraqi special immigrant visas, according to the most recent State Department data.

Trump: Order didn't cause airport chaos

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday denied his immigration order was to blame for the chaos at the nation's airports during the weekend, instead pointing to computer glitches, protesters and even the "tears of Senator Schumer."

Later he shifted the focus away from the weekend's immigration turmoil, signing an executive action aimed at cutting regulations for small businesses. White House officials called the directive a "one in, two out" plan, requiring government agencies requesting a new regulation to identify two others they will cut.

Trump signed the order in the Oval Office surrounded by small-business leaders, saying it would "massively" cut regulations and calling it the "biggest such act that our country has ever seen."

Trump's business announcement came as protests continued around the country over his immigration order. Early Monday, he took to Twitter to defend the move, saying that

only 109 out of 325,000 people "were detained and held for questioning." Trump also said swift action was important, noting that there are a "lot of bad dudes out there."

Trump's order temporarily suspends all immigration for citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries for 90 days.

Democratic New York Sen. Schumer choked up over the weekend while talking about the repercussions from the ban, but that brought scorn from Trump.

"I noticed Chuck Schumer yesterday with fake tears — I'm going to ask him who was his acting coach, because I know him very well. I don't see him as a crier," Trump said at the White House on Monday.

Top Trump aides compared the order to a 2011 policy on Iraqi refugees, when President Barack Obama imposed additional checks on Iraqi refugees after two Iraqis were charged with terrorism offenses in Kentucky. Unlike Trump's order, the Obama policy applied only to Iraqi refugees and never specifically prohibited entry.

Iraqi lawmakers vote to retaliate against Trump's ban

Associated Press

Iraq's lawmakers on Monday backed a "reciprocity measure" that would bar Americans from entering Iraq in retaliation for President Donald Trump's banning of Iraqis and citizens of six other majority-Muslim countries from traveling to the U.S.

Though the deputy parliament speaker said the Iraqi vote is nonbinding for the government, it will likely strain Baghdad's relations with Washington amid joint efforts to quash the Islamic State group and retake Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city,

from the extremists.

Iraq has been a longtime U.S. ally, and Iraqi forces, aided by a U.S.-led coalition, are just over three months into the fight against the Islamic State group in Mosul, the largest military operation in Iraq since 2003.

Lawmakers Kamil al-Ghrai and Mohammed Saadoun told The Associated Press that the decision was passed by a majority vote in favor, but they could not offer specific numbers. No further details were available on the wording of the par-

liament decision.

Deputy Parliament Speaker Sheik Humam Hamoudi described the lawmakers' decision as a "recommendation" and called on the U.S. Congress to "pressure the American administration to reconsider" Trump's order — at least when it comes to Iraqis.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry also denounced Trump's order, releasing a statement on Monday saying it "regrets such a decision against ... an ally and a strategic partner of the United States."

DOD probes civilian deaths in Yemen raid

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is assessing reports out of Yemen that the special operations raid U.S. troops conducted over the weekend against an al-Qaida target killed more than a dozen civilians, a Defense Department spokesman said Monday.

The U.S. raid on a compound controlled by al-Qaida's Arabian Peninsula affiliate, which has expanded its territory in Yemen amid a two-year civil war between rival factions, led to the deaths of at least 14 of the group's fighters and the collection of a trove of intelligence information, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, the Pentagon spokesman. One U.S. special operator was killed during the raid and three others were injured by enemy fire. The Pentagon has not identified the servicemembers.

"The raid yielded valuable captured materials from the site that will help us gain a deeper insight into the group's planning, to help us prevent terrorist

attacks against innocent civilians in the U.S. and our partner nations," Davis said Monday.

It was unclear how many civilians might have been killed in the pre-dawn raid in the rural Bayda province of southwestern Yemen. A report cited on the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' website indicated up to 16 civilians were killed. According to the Reuters news agency, Yemeni officials claimed 30 civilians were killed, including 10 women and three children.

Davis confirmed women were among the dead in the incident, but he said they were clearly trained combatants who opened fire on the U.S. troops.

"There were a lot of female combatants that were part of this," he said. "We saw during this operation as it was taking place that female fighters ran to pre-established positions as though they had trained to be ready. ... Take reports of female casualties with a grain of salt. Not all female casualties are civilian casualties."

The Pentagon is aware of the

allegations that children were among the casualties, Davis said.

The U.S. military typically conducts an initial investigation into any reports of civilian casualties. If it finds there is evidence for supporting the claims that civilians were killed or injured, it will launch an official command investigation.

The raid followed at least three airstrikes conducted in Bayda province since President Donald Trump was sworn into office Jan. 20. Davis said the operation had been planned for several months, and did not indicate any shift in strategy against al-Qaida in Yemen from the Barack Obama administration, which typically favored drone strikes over boots-on-the-ground operations.

"The previous president was aware of it, and there were operational reasons for why it happened when it did and not, say, two weeks ago," Davis said. "It's a reflection of the maturation of our enemy more than anything else. They have moved into positions [in Yemen] that are more

comfortable and — seemingly to them — hospitable, where they can continue to move forward with [terrorism] plans."

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula has conducted attacks against western targets in the past, most notably the January 2015 attack on the Charlie Hebdo publication in Paris that left 12 people dead and 11 more injured.

Three additional U.S. troops were injured in Yemen in a related incident. The servicemembers were hurt when an MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft made a "hard landing" at a nearby staging area where they were preparing to evacuate troops involved in the raid. Initially, the Pentagon reported only one servicemember had been injured in the landing that left the aircraft inoperable. Davis did not provide specific information about the injuries.

The Osprey was intentionally destroyed on the ground by a U.S. airstrike after troops determined it was unable to be flown out of the area, Davis said.

Poll: Japanese don't want to pay more for US bases

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japanese citizens do not want to pay more for hosting U.S. military personnel and are now more likely to predict a downturn in bilateral relations, according to a Nikkei poll released Monday.

The survey taken this past weekend found that 57 percent of Japanese favored maintaining spending on U.S. bases at current levels, while 30 percent said Japan is spending too much. Five percent said Japan should spend more, the poll said.

Japan pays an average of 189.3 billion yen — or between \$1.65 billion and \$1.95 billion, depending on currency exchange rates — per year to support U.S. bases in the country as part of a five-year deal signed in 2015.

Japan spent an additional 176 billion yen last year for realignment of U.S. forces in the region, which includes transferring Marines to Guam in the 2020s.

U.S. bases in Japan cost \$5.5 billion in

2016, a figure that doesn't include an additional \$1 billion in Japan-provided labor, according to the Pentagon's 2017 operation and maintenance overview. Half of the \$5.5 billion went toward U.S. personnel paychecks, health care and other costs.

While campaigning, President Donald Trump criticized Japan and South Korea for not paying enough. As president-elect, Trump met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and he spoke with him over the phone shortly after taking office. The two are scheduled to meet in Washington on Feb. 10, according to Japanese media reports.

Lawmakers from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have generally rejected any significant increase in base spending.

"It would be very strange for Japan to say, 'Oh, we're very sorry, we'll pay more,'" Shigeru Ishiba, a Diet member and former defense minister, told reporters in November.

However, Ishiba and some Japan Self-Defense Forces senior officials have said there may be room for Japan to take on ad-

ditional security duties.

The U.S.-Japan security alliance requires the United States to come to Japan's defense if attacked. Meanwhile, land provided by Japan gives the U.S. military a staging point for its operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Nikkei-poll respondents also expressed pessimism for the future of relations with Washington, a view that came shortly after Trump rejected the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, which was strongly backed by Abe. The survey reported that 53 percent of respondents said the bilateral relationship would worsen during the Trump presidency, which is 19 percent higher than in November. Another 31 percent said relations would remain unchanged, a 15 percent drop from November. Only 6 percent of respondents said the relationship would improve.

The Nikkei survey included 945 adult respondents via random-digit dialing. The Nikkei Asian Review report on the survey did not list the margin of error.

USS Cole helps Iranian vessel that ran out of fuel

Stars and Stripes

The USS Cole assisted an Iranian-flagged vessel after it ran out of fuel late last week in the Gulf of Oman.

The Norfolk, Va.-based guided-missile destroyer supplied 17 gallons of diesel fuel on Friday to the distressed 75-foot dhow, a Navy statement said.

"We have an important role and responsibility to aid our fellow mariners in distress," Cmdr. David Wroe, the Cole's commander, said in the statement. "It was a pleasure to use our training to support the sailors with something even as little as a few cans of fuel."

The Cole, which is supporting the 5th Fleet in the region, was bombed by al-Qaida in October 2000 off Yemen. Seventeen crewmembers were killed and 39 were injured in the incident.

news@stripes.com

Japanese F-15 on Okinawa loses wheel, causes flight delays

Stars and Stripes

Dozens of flights experienced delays after a wheel came off a Japanese F-15 fighter jet at Okinawa's Naha International Airport on Monday.

The Japan Self-Defense Forces jet lost a front wheel about 1:20 p.m., shortly before a planned takeoff, Naha airport officials told the Asahi newspaper.

No injuries were reported.

Officials closed the runway for about two hours, according to Asahi. That led to several commercial flights being delayed, diverted or canceled throughout the afternoon and evening.)

The Monday print edition of Stars and Stripes could not be delivered on Okinawa because of the shutdown. Subscribers will receive Monday's newspaper along with their Tuesday delivery.

news@stripes.com

Marines test new water purifier

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps is experimenting with a portable water purifier that will make it easier for troops to hydrate safely.

The service will invest in the Individual Water Purification System Block II — successor to a system introduced in 2004 — that's been used during combat and in disaster-relief operations, a recent Marine Corps statement said.

The current system filters out bacteria but requires purification tablets to remove viruses. The IWPS II — expected to be fielded sometime between October and fall 2018 — uses an internal cartridge to remove viruses.

"The small filter connects directly with the existing Marine Corps Hydration System/

Pouch or can be used like a straw directly from the source water," Capt. Jeremy Walker, project officer for water systems, said in the statement. "The system has a means to backflush and clean the filter membrane, extending the service life. The system does not require power, just suction."

The new water-purification systems could be especially useful for troops assigned to remote locations, Walker said.

In 2011, at the peak deployment of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Marines averaged 15 liters of bottled water per day for tasks such as cooking, cleaning or hydration, a Marine Corps statement said. A team tasked with calculating the cost of delivering essential supplies to Afghanistan found that hauling water took up 51 percent of the logistical burden, costing the military \$4.78 per gallon.

Poland to be Army's 'center of gravity'

By MARTIN EGNASH

Stars and Stripes

ZAGAN, Poland — U.S. tanks alongside Polish armored vehicles blasted a flurry of rounds in a show of firepower Monday before a group of political and military leaders assembled to mark the arrival of a U.S. force in a region seeking a larger American military presence.

U.S. Army Europe's Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, who has led the Army's expansion into Poland, said troops from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, were on a mission to deter any potential aggression from Russia.

"Poland will become the center of gravity for U.S. (Army) operations in Europe," Hodges told reporters. "We believe an attack from the east is unlikely, but it's having troops on the ground here that makes it even more unlikely."

U.S. soldiers took part in a combined live-fire demonstration with Poland's 11th Armored Cavalry Division at Karliki range near Zagan, a small town in western Poland.

Polish President Andrzej Duda welcomed the soldiers Monday at a base occupied by Soviet forces during the Cold War.

"I believe this is a historic moment," Duda said. "Thirty years ago, we were forced to accept the Soviet army here. We felt in bondage. We welcome our allies here today with open arms."

The U.S.-based infantrymen arrived in January for a mission that will send units along NATO's eastern flank on training missions with allies from the Baltic states to Bulgaria and Romania. The deployment of the Fort Carson, Colo.-based unit marks the

beginning of a year-round presence of a tank brigade in Europe.

The plan calls for the 3,500-soldier-strong unit to conduct a nine-month deployment and then to be immediately replaced by another U.S. brigade. This is intended to ensure a constant presence of a third unit in Europe, where the Army now has only two permanently forward-stationed brigades.

Lt. Gen. Timothy Ray, deputy commander of U.S. European Command, said the military is operating under the assumption that the American commitment will not be short-lived.

"Security in the United States begins with security in Europe," he said. "We intend to be here for quite some time."

There is a sense of uncertainty across capitals in Europe about the U.S. commitment to NATO and the likely U.S. military posture under President Donald Trump, who had tough words for the U.S.-led alliance. Trump has been critical of allies that he says underinvest in defense, describing NATO as "obsolete."

His expressed priority of mending relations with Russia has caused consternation in Poland and elsewhere.

At Monday's demonstration, political leaders refrained from commenting on Trump's stated positions.

Monday's live-fire display involved tanks and other armored vehicles traveling 50 mph across the expansive Polish range, hitting distant targets in a series of earth-shaking blasts.

"Strong team. Proud to be a part of it," said brigade commander Col. Christopher Norrie, touting his unit's firepower. "We are the most capable team on the planet."

6 die in Canadian mosque shooting

Associated Press

QUEBEC CITY — A shooting at a Quebec City mosque during evening prayers left six people dead in an attack that Canada's prime minister called an act of terrorism.

Quebec police arrested two men, including one who called 911 to say he was armed but ready to give himself up. Police later said only one is considered a suspect; the other man is considered a witness.

Quebec City court clerk Isabelle Ferland identified the men as Alexandre Bissonnette and Mohamed el Khadir, but police didn't say which one is the suspect. They also didn't give a possible motive. The men being held are in their late 20s or early 30s, according to police, and had no prior criminal records.

More than 50 people were at the Quebec Islamic Cultural

Centre when the shooting erupted Sunday night. In addition to the six who died, five were in critical condition and 12 others suffered minor injuries, University of Quebec Hospital Centre spokeswoman Genevieve Dupuis said Monday. The dead ranged in age from 35 to 65.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard both characterized the attack as a terrorist act, which came amid heightened tensions worldwide over President Donald Trump's travel ban on several Muslim countries. Neither leader specified who carried out the attack or what the motive might be.

Trump called Trudeau to express condolences to the Canadian people and to offer any assistance that might be needed, Trudeau's office said.

"We condemn this terrorist attack on Muslims in a center of

worship and refuge," Trudeau said in an earlier statement. "It is heart-wrenching to see such senseless violence. Diversity is our strength, and religious tolerance is a value that we, as Canadians, hold dear.

"Muslim-Canadians are an important part of our national fabric, and these senseless acts have no place in our communities, cities and country," he said.

Canada is generally very welcoming toward immigrants and all religions, but the French-speaking province of Quebec has had a long-simmering debate about race and religious accommodation. The previous, separatist government of the province called for a ban on ostentatious religious symbols such as the hijab in public institutions.

Cultural center President Mohamed Yangui said the shooting

occurred in the men's section of the mosque. He said he wasn't at the center when the attack occurred, but he got some details from people on the scene. Leaders of the mosque said security had been "a major, major concern" prior to the attack.

Ali Hamadi said he left the mosque a few minutes before the shooting and that a friend, Abdelkrim Hassen, was killed. He said Hassen, who worked in information technology for the government, had three daughters and a wife, whom Hamadi had to notify of the death.

Trudeau had earlier reacted to Trump's visa ban for people from some Muslim-majority countries by tweeting Saturday: "To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength #WelcomeToCanada."

Duterte asks US not to store weapons in camps

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte asked the United States on Sunday not to store weapons in local camps under a defense pact, saying his country may get entangled if fighting erupts between China and the U.S.

Duterte said in a news conference that he would consider abrogating a 2014 defense pact that allows U.S. forces to temporarily station in designated Philippine camps if the Americans build weapon depots in those encampments.

"They're unloading arms in the Philippines now," Duterte said, identifying three areas where U.S. forces were supposedly bringing in their armaments, including the western Philippine province of Palawan, which faces the disputed South China Sea.

"I'm serving notice to the armed forces of the United States, do not do it; I will not

allow it," Duterte said in the televised news conference after meeting top military and police officials.

U.S. officials did not immediately comment on the remarks.

The Philippine leader, who has moved to rebuild once-frosty relations with China, has repeatedly threatened to scale back military exercises with American troops and stop agreements that allow U.S. forces to visit.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Thursday that the Pentagon plans to start constructing facilities inside designated Philippine military camps as early as this year.

The U.S. military construction plans were delayed due to petitions to the Supreme Court that questioned the EDCA's legality. The court declared last year that the defense pact conforms with the Philippine Constitution.

Trump affirms commitment to US alliance with S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump reaffirmed Washington's "ironclad commitment" to the alliance with South Korea during a phone call Monday with the country's acting president.

The leaders also agreed to strengthen joint defense capabilities as they face a growing nuclear and missile threat from North Korea, the White House said in a statement.

The call — the first time Trump and acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn have spoken — offered much-sought reassurance to South Koreans nervous that the new U.S. administration might change longstanding policies toward the divided peninsula.

"President Trump reiterated our ironclad commitment to defend [South Korea], including through the provision of extended deterrence, using the

full range of military capabilities," the White House said.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, a retired Marine general, will visit South Korea and Japan this week on his first overseas trip in his new role.

Tensions have been high as North Korea has made alarming progress in its nuclear weapons program, conducting two underground atomic explosions and some two dozen ballistic missile tests last year.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a New Year's address that his country was in the "final stages" of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile, which would be a major step toward its stated goal of targeting the U.S. mainland.

However, South Korean military officials said Monday that the communist state is more likely to launch a Musudan intermediate-range missile instead of an ICBM in the near future, the Yonhap news agency reported.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Painter of animals on tunnel a mystery

TX KELLER — Leaders of a North Texas city would like to meet the anonymous artist who's been painting colorful animal figures on a tunnel.

The city of Keller's Facebook page on Friday included images of a deer, an armadillo, a bird and a turtle that have shown up this month. The paintings are in the Bear Creek Parkway tunnel near Keller Town Hall.

City parks workers on Jan. 11 noticed the first painting — the doe. A Facebook statement urged the artist to contact city officials to perhaps work on a mural for the tunnel. A later message encouraged the artist to come forward to discuss options for prepping the wall better for potential future works.

Police: False 911 calls aimed at evading debt

NJ MOUNT LAUREL — Authorities say a New Jersey couple made several 911 calls about false incidents at their home as part of a plan to evade credit card debt.

Mount Laurel police said calls purportedly targeting Kevin Clark, 41, and Michelle Wolf, 40, came from a cellphone that didn't have any subscriber information associated with it. The calls had become more serious in recent days, with a caller reporting fires, pipe bombs and burglaries. Authorities said Wolf has an "extreme" amount of credit card debt, and the pair allegedly sought to convince authorities that her identity had been stolen so the debt would be eliminated.

Clark faces several counts, including of making terroristic threats and creating false public alarm. Wolf was charged with conspiracy to commit the same crimes.

Man announces baby's gender, gets ticketed

NE OMAHA — A western Nebraska man is in trouble after using an explosive rifle target to announce the gender of his baby.

The Omaha World-Herald reported that Jon Sterkel and his wife, Ashley, thought the target would be a fun way to announce they are expecting a boy in June. When Sterkel shot the target Saturday on rural land outside Scottsbluff, blue chalk powder packed around the rifle target erupted. Several people called police with concerns about the explosion.

Sterkel called the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office to explain after he heard a news report on the explosion. In return, he received a misdemeanor ticket for using the exploding target without a permit.

Family sues dentist over daughter's death

MN MINNEAPOLIS — The family of an Eden Prairie teen is suing a dentist after the girl died during a procedure to remove her wisdom teeth.

The family of Sydney Galleger has filed a medical malpractice and wrongful death suit against Dr. Paul Tompach. The lawsuit alleges that several missteps caused the girl's death in June 2015, and seeks more than \$50,000.

The 17-year-old student had her wisdom teeth removed at Tompach's Edina office. Her mother, Diane Galleger, has said her daughter's blood pressure shot up, her pulse dropped and she went into cardiac arrest. She later died at a hospital.

The state Board of Dentistry put Tompach under indefinite restrictions starting in March 2016. He continues to practice.

Police: Marijuana sold at fast-food drive-thru

NH EPPING — Police said two employees at a New Hampshire Burger King were arrested on drug charges after authorities were tipped off that drive-thru customers who asked for extra crispy fries got marijuana with their meal.

NH1 reported that Epping Police Chief Mike Wallace said Garrett Norris, 20, was arrested Saturday after police conducted a sting operation. Also arrested was Meagan Dearborn, 19, the shift manager.

Wallace said drive-thru buyers would ask for "Nasty Boy," then for extra crispy fries.

Wallace said the drugs weren't put into the food; they were sold in a separate container. He said the operation didn't involve the franchise owners.

Man holding hatchet, gun shot by deputies

FL KISSIMMEE — A man staying at a central Florida hotel got into a shootout with sheriff's deputies.

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office said its deputies responded to reports of gunshots coming from a Kissimmee hotel on Saturday. When deputies got there, authorities say Timothy Wohlfelder, 36, came out of the room and fired at them.

He then came back out of the room armed with a hatchet and pistol and refused to drop his weapons, police allege.

Deputies shot Wohlfelder three times. He's in stable condition at a hospital and is being charged with three counts of attempted murder on a law enforcement officer.

A hotel guest staying in a room located in the direction Wohlfelder was firing also sustained a gunshot wound and was being treated at a local hospital.

Man fighting ticket cites deer's speed

MA NEWBURYPORT — A Massachusetts man fighting a speeding ticket in court had a unique explanation — the officer's radar gun may have picked up a deer.

The Newburyport Daily News reported that Dennis Sayers, of Haverhill, was clocked going 40 mph in a 30 mph zone in West Newbury in November.

He got a \$105 ticket.

He appealed in court on Thursday, asking Officer Royster Johnson if he was 100 percent sure his radar captured Sayers' speed or the speed of a deer that could have been in the vicinity.

When confronted by the skeptical judge, Sayers replied that anything was possible.

The fine was upheld.

Deer, by the way, can run approximately 30 mph.

Police: Burglar breaks in, makes self at home

OH YOUNGSTOWN — Police said an Ohio burglar made himself at home in houses he broke into by cooking and showering before leaving.

Authorities in Youngstown said the 33-year-old homeless man brought his own food to cook during break-ins.

The Vindicator reported Saturday that the man was charged with three counts of burglary and two counts of breaking and entering.

Police said the man was arrested after a woman arrived home from work at about 12:15 a.m. Wednesday and found her kitchen ransacked, with food all over and her stove used.

Police reports said the woman heard running water upstairs and found a man in her shower.

From wire reports

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Falcons' Quinn has faced Patriots' challenge before

Colts hire Ballard from KC

Associated Press

Seattle's defense had taken charge, and the Seahawks led the 2015 Super Bowl by 10 points.

Then Tom Brady torched that unit in the fourth quarter — a unit coordinated by Dan Quinn.

Yes, the most memorable play in that game was Malcolm Butler's goal-line interception when the Seahawks appeared ready to successfully defend their title.

Now, though, with the matchup of the Falcons against the Patriots in this Super Bowl, the memory of Quinn's defense struggling in the clutch is vivid.

And Quinn doesn't exactly have the "Legion of Boom" on his side, although Atlanta's defense has shown staying power. It shut down his former team and then the potent Packers to get to the title match with New England.

Before Quinn begins figuring out how to figure out Brady, Bill Belichick and the rest of the Patriots, his first task is simply guiding the Falcons down a path they aren't familiar with.

Regardless of how that Super Bowl turned out two years back, at least Quinn has traveled this way twice before, including a romp over Denver in February 2014, when his D was too much for Peyton Manning and the Broncos.

"For a lot of guys, playing in their first divisional game a couple weeks ago, and playing in their first NFC championship game, and all those experiences are new," Quinn said. "You have to have awareness for those. And this experience is different, also. I want to fully recognize that.

"However, when we do get to the game, it's still going to be the game. There's a lot of hype that leads up to it. There's more media exposure that goes along with it. But our process of getting ready doesn't change.

"Our intent of how we're going to play doesn't

change. The attitude and identity that we want to play with doesn't change. So those things are going to stay really consistent and really the same."

Really consistent and really the same is what can be expected from the other side. No team or coaching staff is better at planning for a specific opponent than the Patriots. Belichick, defensive coordinator Matt Patricia offensive coordinator and Josh McDaniels will devise strategies that can rob Atlanta of its most dangerous options.

If that means shutting down All-Pro receiver Julio Jones, that's where New England will focus. If it means neutralizing NFL sacks leader Vic Beasley Jr., that's also where the Patriots will concentrate efforts.

This is old hat for Belichick, in his record seventh Super Bowl as head coach (he's 4-2). The spotlight in this matchup will glare on Quinn, raising the question of how will he handle the biggest challenge of his career.

Technically, he's already into it. Speaking of Brady's prolific offense — yes, Atlanta's was even more prolific in 2016, but the season's final game is a different scenario — Quinn was spot-on.

"Number one, they're difficult to defend," he said. "They use a variety of different formations, personnel groups. (...) I would say it's offense that's well-versed. They have different ways to attack you."

Quinn knows his defense must be doing just as much attacking. He need look no further back than the Patriots' rout of Pittsburgh last Sunday to see what happens when a team takes the conservative route.

Fortunately for the Falcons, Quinn is often a turn-it-loose coach. Those units that helped carry Seattle to the top of the NFC and to a Lombardi Trophy were assertive, relentless and, well, downright nasty. He needs for those traits to spill over into this Super Bowl.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay is turning to another first-time general manager to get his franchise back on track.

Eight days after firing Ryan Grigson and conducting a week of interviews, Irsay hired former Kansas City Chiefs executive Chris Ballard.

The announcement came Sunday on the team's website.

"Chris has a solid reputation throughout the National Football League as a heavyweight executive and our extensive discussions with him confirmed that reputation," Irsay said in a statement released by the team. "He's a savvy, organized, and thorough talent evaluator, but beyond that, he's a terrific person our community will be proud of."

Ballard has never previously served as a team's top decision-maker, but he comes with a long history as a scout and front-office experience.

He was hired by the Chiefs in 2013 as the director of player personnel and was promoted to director of football operations under current GM John Dorsey in 2015.

Last season, the Chiefs earned the No. 2 seed in the AFC and they've been a consistent play-off contender despite not having a Pro Bowl quarterback.

49ers surprise by hiring Lynch for GM

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers made a surprise hire to fill their general manager void Sunday, hiring former NFL safety and Fox television analyst John Lynch to replace Trent Baalke.

Lynch comes into the job with no front-office experience, having gone straight from the playing field to the broadcast

booth.

ESPN first reported the deal, saying Lynch had gotten a six-year contract.

After playing for former Niners coach Bill Walsh in college at Stanford, Lynch went on to have a stellar 15-year career with Tampa Bay and Denver that included three All-Pro selections and one Super Bowl title with the Buccaneers. He's

a finalist this year for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Since retiring in 2008, Lynch has been an analyst at Fox.

Now he will be tasked to rebuild a once-proud franchise that has fallen from NFC champions in 2012 to a 2-14 record that matched the worst in franchise history. That led to the firing of Baalke and coach Chip Kelly as team CEO Jed York set to

overhaul the operation after the struggles the past few years.

The 49ers made three straight trips to the NFC title game in 2011-13 under coach Jim Harbaugh, but got rid of him after an 8-8 season in 2014, in part because of a rift with Baalke. Jim Tomsula lasted one year as coach and then Kelly was also fired after one season, leading to this current search.

AFC holds off NFC for Pro Bowl win

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Pro Bowl has long been more about showmanship than competition. Clearly, that memo missed Lorenzo Alexander.

The Buffalo Bills linebacker could have just sat on a late interception for the win, but instead opted to return the ball 20 yards and then lateralled it to Aqib Talib, who came within 13 yards of the end zone in the AFC's 20-13 win over the NFC in the NFL's all-star game Sunday night.

"I was serious about that last drive," Alexander said. "You're playing fast, playing hard, having a good time, but we wanted to win. We took it very serious."

That much was obvious on the final drive when Alexander, named the game's defensive MVP, got tight end Jimmy Graham on a hard hit over the middle as the NFC drove the ball downfield for what could have been the rallying game-winning drive. A couple of plays later, the ball went off Graham's hands and right to

Alexander, sealing the game.

But even on that play, the increased competitive spirit was obvious when quarterback Kirk Cousins stuck with the play after throwing the interception and knocked the ball out of Talib's hands on a jarring hit to save the touchdown.

While many of the 60,834 had already left Camping World Stadium, those who stuck around saw a thrilling end.

"It was fun and it was competitive," Alexander said. "It got a little chippy there late in the game, but that's part of it when you have competitive people."

In the recent past, the Pro Bowl hadn't produced a competitive environment. But perhaps the return of the traditional AFC vs. NFC matchup combined with playing in front a larger crowd than when the game was played in Hawaii, amped up the intensity just a bit.

The winners took home \$61,000, while the NFC team members settled for \$30,000.

"This game was definitely

more competitive than last time I played in it. I can say that," Talib said. "Guys played a lot harder this year."

The Pro Bowl had been played the last three years with a format in which teams were drafted among the players by designated captains.

In a first half defined by big plays and key interceptions, the AFC was able to come up with one more play to take a 14-7 lead into halftime and a 20-7 edge early in the fourth quarter.

The NFC should have had 17 points in the first half, but a decision to not a kick a chip-shot field goal and an interception in the end zone denied the squad of points during the first two quarters.

Andy Dalton's 23-yard touchdown pass to Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce, named the game's offensive MVP with three catches for 36 yards, put the AFC ahead 14-7 with 1:40 remaining in the second quarter. The touchdown was set up by a 36-yard punt return by the Chiefs' Tyreek Hill to the NFC 38.

"I thought the level of play was really good. It was really competitive," said Dalton, the Cincinnati quarterback who completed 10 of 12 passes for 100 yards and one touchdown. "It came down right to the end."

It was a relatively low-scoring game defined by big defensive stops, including a goal-line stand when Zach Brown stuffed Dallas rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott at the 1-yard line in the first quarter.

The play seemed to set the tone as both defenses gave up little against the run and put pressure on all of the quarterbacks, which has not always been the case in the Pro Bowl.

New Orleans' Drew Brees completed 10 of 19 passes for 112 yards and one touchdown to Seattle's Doug Baldwin to lead the NFC. Kansas City's Alex Smith, the starter for the AFC, completed six of eight passes for 74 yards, including a 26-yard TD toss to Tennessee's Delanie Walker early in the second quarter.

Tip-in lifts No. 1 Villanova over Virginia

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Josh Hart was on his back, saw the basketball rest on the rim and wondered how it got there as 20,000 frenzied fans held their breath.

"I was like, 'Wait a minute, I thought I missed it,'" Hart said.

He did miss the potential winner.

But in an engrossing game stuffed with a March Madness feel, it seemed fitting that Villanova again won at the buzzer.

Donte DiVincenzo beat the horn on a timely tip-in for his only basket of the game to lead No. 1 Villanova to a 61-59 win over No. 12 Virginia on Sunday.

"I wasn't worried about that," DiVincenzo said. "If it didn't go

in, we had overtime. If it did go in, great."

The Wildcats (20-2) stumbled through their worst half of the season before they found their three-point groove that fueled a second-half rally. Down 12 points with 10 minutes left, the Wildcats had the ball with 11.5 seconds left and the game tied. Hart drove the lane and missed his layup. DiVincenzo zipped down the baseline and tipped the ball in with his outstretched right hand just as the horn sounded.

After a brief review, the basket stood and the Wildcats mobbed each other at center court.

Hart realized then who made the winner.

"I saw everyone running to 'Te, I just started running to

'Te, too,'" Hart said.

Virginia coach Tony Bennett watched stone faced, arms folded and in stunned disbelief.

DiVincenzo was left unguarded, the Cavaliers seemingly sure Hart's miss would send the game to OT.

"I wish we would have checked him off and we would have been playing right now," Bennett said.

No. 7 Arizona 77, Washington 66: Kadeem Allen scored 14 points to lead five Arizona players in double figures and the Wildcats wore down Washington to stay alone atop the Pac-12 standings.

The Wildcats (20-2, 9-0) won their 14th straight overall and 18th in a row at home.

No. 13 Louisville 85, North Carolina State 60: Donovan Mitchell scored the first 14

points for host Louisville and finished with 28 as the Cardinals routed North Carolina State.

No. 19 Cincinnati 94, South Florida 53: Freshman Jarron Cumberland scored 18 of his career-high 26 points in the second half and host Cincinnati rolled to its 12th straight victory.

Nebraska 83, No. 20 Purdue 80: Michael Jacobson's putback with 42 seconds left gave Nebraska the lead, and the host Cornhuskers made 4 of 6 free throws the rest of the way to hold off Purdue.

No. 24 Xavier 82, St. John's 77: Trevon Bluiett had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Xavier held off a big rally from St. John's at Madison Square Garden.

Metropolitan wins All-Star Game

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wayne Simmonds' first All-Star weekend after a nine-year NHL career was strange enough. Having Wayne Gretzky for a coach made it even more surreal.

And after he scored the tiebreaking goal to become the All-Star Game MVP in his former home city, the Philadelphia forward could only think of one word for his West Coast trip.

"Weird," Simmonds said with a grin.

Indeed, the 3-on-3 format of this revamped midseason showcase can lead to weird hockey. It also allows the game's biggest stars to create moments of offensive beauty, and Simmonds' winner with Taylor Hall certainly qualified.

Simmonds completed his hat trick with 4:58 to play, and fill-in coach Gretzky led the Metropolitan Division to a 4-3 victory over the Pacific Division on Sunday in the final match of the 62nd NHL All-Star Game.

Columbus' Cam Atkinson scored the tying goal five seconds earlier for the Metropolitan in the four-team divisional tournament format of wide-open hockey introduced to this talent-laden exhibition last season. Washington goalie Braden Holtby blanked the Pacific over the final 10 minutes to secure the win for his 11-man bunch, which will split a \$1 million prize.

Simmonds won the truck awarded to the game's MVP after he put the Metropolitan ahead with a clever goal. Right off the faceoff following Atkinson's goal, Simmonds playfully flicked the helmet of Drew Doughty, his former Los Angeles teammate, to distract the Norris Trophy-winning defenseman. Simmonds then skat-

ed around him and converted a pass from New Jersey's Hall.

"I just took off," Simmonds said. "I said to Hallsy before the game, 'I'm going to drive back-door on one of these plays, probably about a foot from the net. Just hit me with the puck. Hopefully, I can put it in.' It's exactly what we spoke about."

Simmonds is still well-liked in L.A. nearly six years after he was traded to Philadelphia in a deal for Mike Richards. He's also in the middle of a potential career year with the Flyers after scoring 38 points in their first 50 games.

"You leave a place, you don't expect to come back and get all the cheers as I did today," Simmonds said. "But I must have did something right when I was here. I know I had a lot of die-hard fans here, and I really appreciate those people. They made me feel really good today."

Simmonds and Atkinson, a late addition to the team, scored three goals apiece.

But the game was secondary when the NHL's best gathered on a 72-degree day in Hollywood. A sellout crowd at Staples Center cheered the first All-Star Game for Connor McDavid, Auston Matthews, Patrik Laine and a host of young talent.

The All-Stars got an additional thrill before the game when roughly half of the 100 greatest players in NHL history lined up on the ice and shook hands with the current players during introductions. The greats then dropped a ceremonial first puck for each of the 44 All-Stars.

It was also just the second All-Star appearance by Sidney Crosby, who hadn't been healthy for the game since 2007.

"It felt more like a real game toward the end, blocking shots and things like that," the Pittsburgh captain said. "[To] see that

transpire and see how it elevated as it went on, that was fun. Hopefully the fans enjoyed it, because as players we started to get into it, especially in the second half of that game."

Crosby and Alex Ovechkin were played together by Gretzky, who stepped in to coach the Metropolitan team when Columbus' John Tortorella couldn't attend the weekend festivities due to an ailing dog.

Shortly before Atkinson and Simmonds scored, an apparent deflection goal by the Pacific was taken off the board when McDavid was ruled offside. Gretzky's players thought he had successfully challenged it, although the goal review apparently originated in the league offices in Toronto.

Either way, Gretzky reacted with roaring laughter when the goal was disallowed. He didn't stick around Staples Center afterward to talk about his tactical genius, but Simmonds thought Gretzky deserved the credit for leading the Metropolitan to victory.

"Helped us win, right? That was the point," Simmonds said. "That was the game-changer. That was the decision. Obviously he's got a great hockey mind. He pulls that card. It's offside. Come back, score two goals and we win the game, so obviously it was a great decision."

The Pacific beat the Blackhawk-dominated Central Division team 10-3 in the first 20-minute semifinal, and the Metropolitan team beat the Atlantic 10-6 in the second. Minnesota coach Bruce Boudreau didn't love the laid-back vibe on his Central team, which had four Chicago Blackhawks.

"The guys are here on their break having fun," Boudreau said. "You aren't going to get the intensity of a Stanley Cup Final, but the intensity of a preseason game would be good every now and again."

Millsap leads Hawks past Knicks in 4OT

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Paul Millsap had a season-high 37 points, including the go-ahead layup with 27 seconds remaining in the fourth overtime, and the Atlanta Hawks overcame Carmelo Anthony's season-high 45 points to outlast the short-handed New York Knicks 142-139 on Sunday.

The Knicks' first four-overtime game in 66 years lasted almost four hours. Millsap logged 60 minutes. Five players, including Anthony and Atlanta's

Dwight Howard, fouled out.

"There was no chance I was coming out," Millsap said.

Millsap had 19 rebounds, setting another season high, and seven assists.

Cavaliers 107, Thunder 91: Kyrie Irving scored 29 points, LeBron James had 25 and 14 rebounds and host Cleveland played one of its better all-around games in weeks, beating Russell Westbrook and Oklahoma City.

Warriors 113, Trail Blazers 111: Kevin Durant had 33

points and 10 rebounds as visiting Golden State overcame Stephen Curry's absence to hold off Portland.

Bulls 121, 76ers 108: Jimmy Butler scored 28 points while Robin Lopez added a season-high 21 points and had 10 rebounds to help host Chicago beat Philadelphia.

Mavericks 105, Spurs 101: Seth Curry scored 24 points as Dallas snapped a 12-game losing streak in San Antonio.

Pacers 120, Rockets 101: Paul George had 33 points and

nine rebounds while hounding James Harden on defense most of the night, leading Indiana past visiting Houston for its third straight victory.

Magic 114, Raptors 113: Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and 10 rebounds, D.J. Augustin added 21 points off the bench to help Orlando beat host Toronto.

Wizards 107, Pelicans 94: John Wall had 18 points and 19 assists and Bradley Beal scored 27 points as visiting Washington beat New Orleans to extend its winning streak to four.