

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Death toll from Afghan bombing rises

BY CHAD GARLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan—The casualty toll from Saturday's lunchtime suicide bombing rose to 103 dead and 235 wounded as Afghans attempt to recover from a Taliban attack that has terrorized an already beleaguered capital city.

The city was bustling again, with traffic police out in force on Sunday, stopping vehicles, demanding documents and threatening fines for drivers who did not comply.

The day before, the driver of a bomb-laden ambulance cleared at least one security checkpoint in a busy area near a hospital and government offices and detonated his deadly payload when police stopped him at a second checkpoint.

The blast damaged or destroyed dozens of shops and vehicles in the area, home to a busy shopping district known to foreigners as Chicken Street, as well as several foreign embassies.

The blast was felt across the city, including at the Defense Ministry more than a mile away, where Gen. Joseph Votel, head

of U.S. Central Command, was meeting with local officials on a tour of the region. The general and accompanying U.S. forces were unharmed and have since continued to other nations on their agenda.

Nusrat Rahimi, deputy spokesman for the Interior Ministry, told Stars and Stripes that the casualty toll had risen overnight. The numbers, which include many civilians, could rise further.

The Taliban claimed the attack almost immediately, even as the dead and wounded were rushed to local hospitals Saturday afternoon. The insurgent group, which seeks to overthrow the government and drive out its foreign backers, said it had targeted a building used by the Interior Ministry and the High Peace Council, a body set up in 2010 to negotiate with insurgents.

Condemnations of the attack streamed in from across the world, with Paris turning the Eiffel Tower's lights out late Saturday in solidarity with Afghanistan.

In a White House statement, President Donald Trump said the attack "renews our resolve and that of our Afghan partners" to secure the country from militants and terrorists. He called on the world to "take deci-

sive action" against the Taliban.

The president also tweeted, "We will not allow the Taliban to win!"

Officials have recently touted the president's new, more aggressive strategy for the region, which calls for more troops and more leeway for commanders to strike Taliban targets. Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said earlier this month it had brought the Taliban closer to peace talks than ever.

Insurgents confirmed that a delegation had met with Pakistani officials and representatives from China, Qatar and other nations in Islamabad for preliminary talks about ending the 16-year war.

For Afghans in the capital, however, things seem to be getting worse. The city has become one of the deadliest in the country for civilians, though in the past it has been a refuge for Afghans fleeing conflict elsewhere.

"Right now, when you leave your house for work every morning, you wonder whether you'll get home at night," Ahmed Rashid said. His uncle, a driver, had suffered a number of shrapnel wounds in Saturday's attack.

## S. Korea-US war games will go on after Olympics

BY KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. military exercises with South Korea will be held after the Olympics as planned despite a demand for a complete suspension from the North, the Pentagon said.

The planned war games cast a shadow over hopes that the recent détente between the two Koreas may lead to a broader dialogue with the United States after months of saber rattling over the North's nuclear weapons program.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis reiterated that military options remain at the ready to make sure diplomats have leverage in pressuring Pyongyang to

denuclearize.

"This is still in the diplomats' hands, as you know," he told reporters en route to Hawaii.

"We could fight tonight, shoulder to shoulder with the Koreans — or South Koreans, if they're attacked," Mattis added. "An attack on [South Korea] will be severely rebuffed if it's attempted."

The joint drills known as Key Resolve and Foal Eagle are held every year in the spring and always infuriate the North, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion.

Washington agreed to delay them until after the Olympics, which will be held Feb. 9-25 in the South Korean alpine town of Pyeongchang. Mattis has said the drills would resume after

the March 8-18 Paralympics.

But North Korea, which agreed to participate in the Winter Games as part of rare talks with the South, demanded a complete suspension.

"The South Korean authorities should stop the war games with the U.S. forever and refrain from introducing the U.S. nuclear strategic assets and aggression forces to South Korea," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Thursday as part of a call for unification.

The Pentagon rejected that idea, although it didn't give a new start date for the exercises. South Korean military officials also have said the drills would resume but it's too soon to disclose the exact date and size.

North Korea has frequently

responded to the exercises — and similar drills held by the allies in the fall — with missile tests and a stream of bellicose rhetoric.

U.S. and South Korean military officials insist the war games, which involve tens of thousands of troops, are defensive in nature and necessary to maintain a constant state of readiness.

"We're deconflicting during the period of the Olympics, and exercises will continue immediately after the Olympics," joint staff director Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie said Thursday during a press briefing in Washington. "There's no suspension contemplated."

# Mattis firm on N. Korea denuclearization

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — The United States welcomes the recent talks between the two Koreas but remains steadfast that Pyongyang must abandon its nuclear weapons program, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday.

He made the remarks before meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Defense Minister Song Young-moo, at U.S. Pacific Command headquarters to discuss ensuring security surrounding the upcoming Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

North Korea — formally called Democratic People's

Republic of Korea, or DPRK — initiated rare talks with the South earlier this month that quickly resulted in Pyongyang announcing it would send athletes to the games.

“As two peace-loving nations, [South Korea] and America welcome the Olympics Games talks between the [South] and the DPRK — at the same time remaining steadfast with the international economic pressure campaign to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula,” Mattis told reporters.

Last year, North Korea ramped up missile-testing and conducted its most powerful test of a nuclear weapon to date. Earlier this month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and

President Donald Trump escalated tensions when they traded boasts about their nation's nuclear arsenal.

Mattis criticized Kim on Friday for his “reckless rhetoric and dangerous provocations.”

“So we do not lose sight of the fact that the Olympics talks alone do not address overarching problems,” he said. “Accordingly, our combined militaries stand shoulder to shoulder to defend against any attacks on the [South] or USA.”

As a result of the talks, the U.S. will delay annual joint drills in South Korea until after the Olympics have wrapped up.

Song, a former South Korean navy admiral, became defense

minister in July. In a phone conversation earlier this year, he and Mattis agreed to meet regularly in person, according to a statement from the South's Ministry of National Defense.

Mattis' stop in Hawaii — made while returning home from visits to Indonesia and Vietnam — was the first opportunity to do that.

Mattis described the relationship between the U.S. and South Korea as an “ironclad and irreplaceable alliance.”

Song told reporters that the discussion with Mattis would underscore “the firm coordination between [South Korea] and [the] U.S. against North Korea in order to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.”

## Air Force One's new refrigerators to cost \$24M

*The Washington Post*

Air Force One is upgrading its refrigerators, and the cost to taxpayers will be a cool \$24 million.

Under a new government contract awarded to Boeing, the U.S. Air Force will pay the aeronautics behemoth \$23,657,671 to replace two of the five chiller units on the plane currently used by President Donald Trump.

Both of those units, which are used to store food, were installed on the plane when it was originally delivered in 1990, according to the Air Force. Increasingly, however, the plane has needed additional cold food storage space “to support onboard personnel for an extended period of time, without having to restock while abroad,” Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said in an email.

“The [old] units were based on the tech-

nology at the time and designed for short-term food storage,” Stefanek said. “Although serviced on a regular basis, reliability has decreased with failures increasing, especially in hot/humid environments. The units are unable to effectively support mission requirements for food storage.”

The new refrigerator units will have nearly 70 cubic feet of storage space, she said.

The nearly \$24 million price tag will also cover the cost of testing and certification by the Federal Aviation Administration, according to the contract.

Work related to the upgrade will be carried out in Oklahoma City, San Antonio and other cities, and the work is expected to be done by the end of October 2019, the contract stated.

The high-cost upgrade was first reported by Defense One, which detailed the unique needs of the presidential aircraft — the

plane reportedly needs refrigerated storage space for about 3,000 meals — as well as the White House's and Air Force's strict requirements for “bespoke equipment” when it comes to Air Force One.

The plane has two galleys where up to 100 meals can be prepared at a time, according to ABC News.

“During international trips, chillers in the belly of Air Force One keep food for daily meals fresh,” ABC News reported. “The crew never procures food overseas to serve on the plane as a safety precaution.”

It's unclear if the Air Force considered other, less expensive alternatives to replacing the two chiller units in question, or whether the replacement would take the plane out of commission for an extended period of time. Stefanek said the Air Force was not able to answer additional questions Saturday morning.

## Tougher new fitness tests planned for some airmen

BY WILLIAM HOWARD

*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force is rolling out a more rigorous fitness test for airmen in two job fields that require coordination with ground combat troops.

Air liaison officers and tactical

air control party operators will undergo a physical fitness assessment designed specifically for them sometime next year, officials announced Wednesday.

“There are certain career fields, ALO and TACP, for instance, that required much high-

er and broader levels of physical fitness to meet the demands of their operational mission sets,” said Dr. Neal Baumgartner, chief of the Air Force's Exercise Science Unit.

Both occupations embed with Army and Marine units to direct strikes from ground locations,

according to the Air Force website. The Tier 2 test will include the 1,000-meter row, pullups, trap bar dead lift, two-cone agility drill, medicine ball toss, grip strength test, 100-yard farmer's carry, extended cross-knee crunch, weighted lunges and a faster 1½-mile run.



# Navy issues guidance on posting deaths

*The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot*

NORFOLK, Va. — When someone in the Navy is killed, it often attracts international attention. Grieving family members and friends typically take to social media to post memories about their loved ones, express anguish and seek support on their personal pages.

Defense Department policy prohibits the Navy from releasing the identities of casualties until 24 hours after next of kin is informed. In cases of multiple deaths, the 24-hour clock doesn't start until the last family member is told.

"It is vitally important that all Sailors, DoN (Department of the Navy) civilians, family members and friends know that the identity of a casualty should not be discussed on social media until it has been released," according to a Navy handbook on social media, released on Jan. 11.

But while sailors' social media posts are

subject to Navy regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the Navy can't stop or punish civilians who don't work for the Defense Department from posting about a loved one's death or speaking to news media about it if they choose to.

This often causes confusion among victims' family members, who sometimes say the Navy won't let them speak to reporters and they fear their loved one could be punished for something they say.

"This instruction applies to members of the Department of the Navy and, by extension, members of the Department of Defense," Cmdr. Bill Speaks, a Navy spokesman, said in an email Friday to *The Virginian-Pilot*. "With respect to family members, it is only intended to serve as a guide, nothing more."

Speaks said there are no provisions in any regulation that would hold a servicemember or Navy employee accountable for actions

taken by anyone other than themselves.

The Navy released 40 pages of social media guidelines as part of its handbook that are designed to help sailors, public affairs staff, Navy leaders, family members and others in an era where information and disinformation quickly spread.

The handbook comes out as social media continue to grow. The service is active on hundreds of social media accounts. Its main Facebook account is followed by about 3 million people, while its primary Twitter account has at least 1 million followers.

The Navy usually identifies in news releases and on social media sailors who died in combat or in an accident.

But the official notification can sometimes come days after identities already are confirmed to news media from other sources, including other government officials, family members and friends.

## Neller: Marine aviation on rebound after 'horrible' 2017

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine Corps aviation had a "horrible" safety record last year but is on the rebound despite recent incidents on Okinawa, Japan, the service's top official told a bipartisan think tank Thursday.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller made the comments while discussing maritime security at a forum hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the U.S. Naval Institute in Washington.

Neller said there were 12 "Class A mishaps" in fiscal year 2017, up from nine the previous year and from a low of five in 2010. A Class A mishap is an aviation incident that results in the death or permanent disability of a servicemember or more than \$2 million in damage to an aircraft or government property.

Neller implied that human error was to blame for most of last year's incidents.

"We had a horrible year last year," he said. "We had 12 Class A's, and some of them are horrific. But the majority of them, they were not the result of the material condition of the airplane, and I'm just going to leave

it at that."

To address the problem, Neller said a multipronged approach of increased flight hours for air crews, the acquisition of new aircraft and a faster turnaround on aircraft maintenance are needed. He said that while the Marine Corps has funding, the military has been hampered by Congress' inability to pass a multiyear budget, which facilitates planning, multiyear contracts and uninterrupted relationships with vendors, especially those that make parts.

### 'More hours'

"The critical capability here is we need to get more hours; we need to get more time in the airplane," he said. "We've got to get more parts faster, which means we're going to get more ready airplanes, which means we're going to fly more, which means our readiness is going to go up, and we're working really hard. ... We're making progress."

Neller was quick to add that forward-deployed forces in Japan are an outlier. He said that while the Marine Corps is still trying to get other squadrons to 16 hours of flight time per month, forward-deployed forces are over that number.

Neller said 2018 is starting out

better than last year in regard to safety despite three emergency landings on Okinawa this month. There has been one Class A mishap this fiscal year, and no aviation fatalities.

Neller's comments came a day after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe responded to the Okinawa incidents by vowing to keep people there safe.

"Ensuring safety of the local residents is the basic premise of U.S. military operation, and there should not be any incidents or accidents," he said Wednesday.

Abe said he spoke with President Donald Trump and reaffirmed their dedication to easing the burden for residents of Okinawa.

"Japan and the U.S. will work together to ensure safety, making it a top priority," said Abe, who also urged the swift relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab in Okinawa's remote north.

"If the relocation to Henoko is realized, flight routes will be over the ocean, drastically improving safety," he said.

### Series of incidents

Marine aviation in Japan has come under the microscope after a series of mishaps in re-

cent months.

On Tuesday, an AH-1Z Viper helicopter made an emergency landing at a municipal helipad on Okinawa's Tonaki Island. Similar incidents happened on the southern island prefecture on Jan. 6 and Jan. 8.

On Dec. 13, a CH-53E Super Stallion's window inexplicably became separated from the aircraft and landed on an elementary school sports field adjacent to Futenma's fence line. More than 50 schoolchildren were playing at the time, and a boy was slightly injured from a pebble that flew up during impact.

Japanese officials asked the U.S. military not to fly over the school after the incident; however, they have since complained that the U.S. had in fact done so.

On Dec. 7, a plastic part thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawan day care facility. In October, a Super Stallion made an emergency landing in a farmer's field outside Okinawa's Northern Training Area after an in-flight fire. The aircraft was almost a total loss.

In August, an Okinawa-based MV-22 Osprey crashed off the coast of Australia during a training exercise, killing three Marines.

# Trump seeks reset with State of the Union

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Beset by poor poll numbers and the grind of the Russia investigation, President Donald Trump will look to reset his term with his first State of the Union address, arguing that his tax cut and economic policies will benefit all Americans.

The theme of his Tuesday night address is “Building a safe, strong and proud America,” and Trump is looking to showcase accomplishments of his first year while setting the tone for the second.

Aides say the president plans to set aside his more combative tone for one of compromise, and to make an appeal beyond his base.

Trump often engages in hyperpartisan politics, and his tax overhaul has been criticized for disproportionately favoring the wealthy. But he will try to make the case that all groups have benefited during his watch, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The annual address is a big set piece for any president, a prime-time window to address millions of voters. Every word

is reviewed, every presidential guest carefully chosen, every sentence rehearsed. The stakes are enormous for Trump, hoping to move past a turbulent first 12 months in office.

Trump is giving the speech “with the lowest approval ratings of any president in his first year in the history of presidential polling, and can point to the least number of legislative accomplishments,” said Wendy Schiller, political science professor at Brown University.

Five themes are expected to dominate: the economy and the tax overhaul, infrastructure, immigration, trade, and terrorism and global threats.

Selling the GOP’s tax plan is an election-year project as Republicans look to retain their majorities in Congress. The tax changes are billed as essential to powering the ambitious projections of economic growth, and Trump is expected to cite the benefits to the public that proponents envision.

Trump also plans to outline a nearly \$2 trillion plan that his administration contends will trigger \$1 trillion or more in public and private spending on roads, bridges and other public

works projects.

On immigration, he will promote his new proposal for \$25 billion for a wall along the Mexican border and a path to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people brought to the U.S. as children and now here illegally.

Trump’s trade talk will reflect what he discussed at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland on Friday: a preference for one-on-one deals instead of multilateral agreements.

The public should get an update on the fight against terrorism and an assessment of international threats, including North Korea. The senior administration official said Trump probably would avoid the taunts of “Little Rocket Man” for Kim Jong Un and “fire and fury” that he used before.

The White House says one of Trump’s guests for the speech will be someone who has been touched by the opioid crisis.

The address comes at a critical point for the president. He wants to move past the government shutdown that coincided with the anniversary of his inauguration and prepare for a grueling election season that is shaping up as a referendum on

his leadership.

Trump and members of his Cabinet are expected to travel in the days after the speech to drive home its themes.

Critics wonder if the president will show the resolve to stay on message.

“The most capable White Houses use the State of the Union as an organizing moment to set agenda for the whole year, from both a messaging and legislative perspective,” said Jennifer Palmieri, former communications director for President Barack Obama. “I don’t think this White House is capable of that kind of discipline. So even if he gives a good speech, it is unlikely to have any staying power and transcend his broader problems of not being able to drive a coherent agenda or generate support for himself beyond his core supporters.”

The White House, led by policy adviser Stephen Miller and staff secretary Rob Porter, has spent weeks on the speech, seeking input from Cabinet secretaries and agency leaders.

Several drafts have circulated throughout the West Wing, and the president has weighed in with handwritten notes.

## Wynn resigns as finance chair of the RNC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Casino mogul Steve Wynn resigned Saturday as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee amid allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

Wynn has been a prolific Republican donor and led the RNC’s fundraising efforts during President Donald Trump’s first year, helping the committee rake in more than \$130 million.

“Today, I accepted Steve Wynn’s resignation as Republican National Committee finance chair,” said RNC chairwoman Ronna McDaniel.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that a number of women said they were harassed or assaulted by Wynn, the chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts. Wynn has denied the allegations. One case led to a \$7.5 million settlement with a manicurist, the

newspaper reported.

Wynn confirmed his resignation in a statement released Saturday. “The unbelievable success we have achieved must continue. The work we are doing to make America a better place is too important to be impaired by this distraction,” Wynn said.

Wynn was chosen by Trump to lead the RNC’s fundraising effort, and he contributed more than \$600,000 to GOP causes last year, according to the Federal Election Commission.

A person with direct knowledge of the situation said Trump had signed off on the decision for Wynn to resign. The person was not authorized to share private discussions and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Since 2013, Wynn has contributed nearly \$2.4 million to GOP candidates and party

organizations around the country, including 2017 special election winners and dozens of state Republican Party committees.

The allegations against Wynn have come during a wave of sexual misconduct claims against prominent media, entertainment and political figures that gained momentum last fall after the emergence of detailed allegations of rape and harassment involving movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

During the fall, RNC officials, including McDaniel, noted that Weinstein had been a top donor for Democrats, including 2016 presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

In early October, McDaniel tweeted that if the Democratic National Committee “truly stands up for women like they say they do, then returning Weinstein’s dirty money should be a no-brainer.”

The RNC has not yet said whether it will return any money donated by Wynn.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Drone factory to be built near air base

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — A defense contractor plans to open offices in Oklahoma where it will design and build drones and employ more than 350 workers over the next several years.

Gov. Mary Fallin announced Friday that California-based Kratos Defense & Security Solutions will open administrative, engineering and production facilities in Oklahoma City.

The company will initially operate out of a facility near Tinker Air Force Base and focus on engineering and production planning. In six months, the company wants to move into a 75,000 square-foot facility. Kratos announced earlier this month that it had secured a \$93 million contract to supply target drones to the Army.

## Ankle monitor trips up suspect in murder

**NC** CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte man was convicted of murder last week after investigators pointed out his electronic ankle monitor placed him at the scene of the shooting.

Carico Rodriguez Hayward, 29, was sentenced Thursday to spend the rest of his life in prison after a jury found him guilty of murdering Ellis Bradham, 27, in 2016. Hayward was out on probation at the time of the killing.

“District Attorney Spencer Merriweather said Hayward confessed to the murder.”

Hayward was already in police custody on an unrelated warrant when he was charged with the killing. He also was charged with a probation violation.

## Pineapple cited in school assault case

**PA** BUTLER — Three teenagers face criminal charges after intentionally exposing a school classmate with a severe pineapple allergy to the fruit, authorities said.

Police in Butler Township said a 14-year-old high-fived another 14-year-old girl to expose her to the fruit during lunch period Dec. 13 at Butler Intermediate High School. The victim was taken by ambulance to Butler Memorial Hospital where she was treated and released.

The suspect was charged in juvenile court with felony aggravated assault, criminal conspiracy, and other offenses. Two other girls, ages 13 and 14, face charges including criminal conspiracy.

## Restaurant condiment spat lands man in jail

**GA** MACON — Lack of a condiment at a Georgia restaurant led to the arrest of a customer.

The Telegraph reported that Willie Drake, 43, of Columbus, sat at the counter of a Waffle House in Macon and placed an order. Three employees told police Drake asked for barbecue sauce but was told they didn't have any.

A Bibb County sheriff's report says the man then “began screaming obscenities and insulting” the workers. Drake was charged with disorderly conduct and freed on \$390 bond.

## Family fights for right to keep pigs in home

**MI** YPSILANTI — A family is fighting for the right to keep their four pot-

bellied pigs in their southeast Michigan rental home.

Ypsilanti resident Stephanie Rowland, 38, went to court earlier this month to fight a citation that called for her to remove the pigs from her home, The Ann Arbor News reported. The pigs provide emotional support and medical assistance, Rowland said.

Rowland and her husband Jeffery, 42, moved into the rental residence in September 2016. They live in the home with their 6-month-old child and a friend, Benny Danovi, 47. Three of Danovi's children also live in the home part-time.

A neighbor filed a complaint about the animals in August. A city ordinance prohibits livestock.

## Firing squads are urged for executions

**SC** CHARLESTON — A South Carolina prosecutor is suggesting that a firing squad be considered as an execution method since the state has run out of the drugs needed for lethal injections.

The Post and Courier of Charleston reported 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe suggested the firing squad Friday after a former death row inmate became the latest killer to get a reprieve.

Pascoe agreed to a life sentence for 50-year-old John Edward Weik, who originally was sentenced to death for the 1998 murder of his girlfriend.

Lawmakers are considering a bill to make electrocution the primary means of execution if the lack of the drug for lethal injections continues.

## 'Tide Pod challenge' inspires bakers

**NC** CAROLINA BEACH — Bakers are re-

sponding to the dangerous “Tide Pod challenge” with sweet and savory irreverence.

Wake N Bake Donuts in Carolina Beach and Kansas-based Hurts Donut have both made pastries decorated to look like the laundry detergent pods, which are at the center of a dangerous social media trend.

The “Tide Pod challenge” has gained attention in recent weeks as a social media-fueled trend in which teenagers eat single-load laundry detergent packets and post videos.

The North Carolina doughnut shop said on its Facebook page that an employee came up with the idea to show “youth the difference between what to eat and what not to eat.”

Commenters on social media had a mixed response. Some think the businesses are being irresponsible, while others think the pastries are funny.

## 5 charged in theft of hundreds of guns

**MO** SPRINGFIELD — Five Texas men are charged with stealing 650 guns from a Springfield UPS lot.

Federal prosecutors said the men were each indicted Wednesday on two federal guns charges. They are being held in Texas awaiting extradition to Missouri.

An affidavit from the case says the guns were to be delivered to Bass Pro Shops when they were stolen in October. The thieves were able to move trailers around the lot, providing access to 600 Beretta .380-caliber handguns and 54 Beretta 12-gauge shotguns, as well as other merchandise.

Those indicted were Frank McChriston, 33; Keith Lowe, 28; Quinton Haywood, 26; Eric White, 26; and Derrick White, 32.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Federer captures 20th Grand Slam title

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Back where his career resurgence began with a drought-breaking triumph last year, Roger Federer cried as he lifted and kissed the Australian Open trophy for a sixth time and celebrated his 20th Grand Slam title.

Federer started Sunday's final with an intensity that stunned sixth-seeded Marin Cilic, then held his nerve in a tense, momentum-shifting match before winning 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

After going more than four years without winning a major title leading into last year's Australian Open, Federer has now won three of the last five.

"I'm so happy. It's unbelievable," Federer said, taking deep breaths and choking back tears. "Of course, winning is an absolute dream come true — the fairytale continues for us, for me, after the great year I had last year, it's incredible."

The great Rod Laver, who lends his name to the center court at Melbourne Park, was in the crowd taking photos to mark the occasion of Federer becoming the first man to win 20 majors.

Federer started to tear up at the end of the trophy ceremony as he thanked his team in the stands. "I love you guys. Thank you," he said. He then received a standing ovation as tears streamed down his face.

At the age of 36 years, 173 days, Federer became the second-oldest man to win a Grand Slam title in the Open era after Ken Rosewall, who won the 1972 Australian Open at 37.

"Big congratulations to Roger and his team — it's amazing what you guys do," Cilic said. "It was an amazing journey for me to come here to the final. I had a slight chance at the beginning of the fifth, but Roger played a great fifth set."

It was clear early on that the crowd would be heavily pro-Federer. The arena was filled with the red and white colors of the Swiss flag, with Federer supporters wearing Swiss flags on their shirts, hats, signs and faces. Looking ahead to a possible Federer victory, one fan held a sign reading, "The Big Two-Oh. Go Roger!"

Federer was quick off the mark, getting service breaks in the first and third games and forcing Cilic to go to his equipment bag for a new racket after just 12 points. Federer only conceded two points on his serve in the opening set, which lasted just 24 minutes and was played under a closed roof because of the heat outside.

But Cilic rallied in the second, getting his big forehand working and, after missing a set point on Federer's serve in the 10th game, leveled the match in the tiebreaker.

Federer won the third set in 29 minutes and was up a break in the fourth but

momentum swung fully again, with Cilic going on a roll to level the match. Federer's first-serve percentage plummeted from above 80 in the third set to 36 in the fourth as Cilic attacked.

Cilic had two chances to break Federer's serve in the first game of the fifth set, but wasted them both with two unforced errors. He then double-faulted twice in the second game to drop his own serve, giving Federer the decisive lead in the set.

Federer had won eight of their previous nine matches, including last year's Wimbledon final. His only defeat was in the semifinals of the U.S. Open in 2014, where Cilic claimed his first major title.

The Swiss great wasn't about to lose this one. Federer increased his level again, breaking Cilic again in the sixth game and then closing out at love — his celebrations delayed slightly by an unsuccessful challenge from Cilic on match point. It was a similar end to his five-set win over Rafael Nadal here last year and, just like 12 months ago, the tears flowed.

The win wasn't entirely without some controversy with organizers deciding early to close the roof for the final, just as they had for the afternoon mixed doubles final when Mate Pavic and Gabriela Dabrowski beat Rohan Bopanna and Timea Babos for the title.

## Capitals' Ovechkin wins hardest shot

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Ovechkin had already clinched the hardest shot title at the NHL All-Star Game skills competition before taking his final shot.

All that was left was to try to top 100 mph, and Ovechkin did it.

The Washington star was the only player to break the century mark Saturday night, coming on his second try. Ovechkin's first attempt went 98.8 mph.

"Why not?" Ovechkin said, smiling. "And, I did. Of course it's special to get that type of win."

Others in the hardest shot event were P.K. Subban (Nashville), who was second at 98.7 mph, Steven Stamkos (Tampa Bay), Brent Burns (San Jose)

and John Klingberg (Dallas).

Connor McDavid (Edmonton) became the first player to be the fastest skater winner in back-to-back years. Alex Pietrangolo (St. Louis) claimed the passing challenge, Johnny Gaudreau (Calgary) topped the puck control relay and Brock Boeser (Vancouver) took the accuracy shooting competition.

In a new event, Marc-Andre Fleury put together 14 consecutive stops on breakaways to capture the save streak.

Subban threw his glove just wide of the post as he skated toward Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist but failed to score on his breakaway. Philadelphia's Claude Giroux broke his stick on a slap shot that ended Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne's second-place run of 13 in a row.

The NHL revamped the skills

competition this year, placing the emphasis on the individual players instead of a team competition. The winner of each event receives \$25,000.

"Some of those things don't look very hard until you try to do it," Detroit's Mike Green said.

One of the noticeable changes came in accuracy shooting where the Styrofoam targets were replaced with LED targets located in the net.

The targets lit up randomly and the shooter, standing 25 feet from the goal line, had three seconds to hit the target that was lit.

Boeser shattered one of the lights, which briefly delayed the competition as the light was replaced.

"There are definitely nerves out there, but it's all in fun,"

Stamkos said.

In other NHL news:

■ Two people with direct knowledge of the move say the Calgary Flames have placed Jaromir Jagr on waivers.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday because the team had not announced the transaction. Jagr is on regular waivers, though one person tells the AP that if the 45-year-old clears, he'll be placed on unconditional waivers Monday for the purpose of terminating his NHL contract so he can return to Europe to finish the season.

Jagr had a goal and six assists in 22 games this season for the Flames and hasn't played since Dec. 31 because of what the team called a lower-body injury. Calgary put him on injured reserve Jan. 14.



## Top 25 roundup

## Cavs gets rare win at Duke

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Kyle Guy scored 17 points and hit two free throws with 6.1 seconds left, and No. 2 Virginia beat No. 4 Duke 65-63 on Saturday.

Ty Jerome had 13 points and a critical three-pointer with 37.6 seconds to play, and Devon Hall finished with 14 points to help the Cavaliers (20-1, 9-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) win their 12th straight and their first at Cameron Indoor Stadium since 1995.

The nation's stingiest defense held the top offense in Division I to more than 28 points below its average of 91.7 points.

Marvin Bagley III had 30 points and 14 rebounds, and Wendell Carter Jr. had 14 points and 15 rebounds for the Blue Devils (18-3, 6-3).

**No. 5 Kansas 79, Texas A&M 68:** Svi Mykhailiuk poured in 24 points, Malik Newman added 15 and the host Jayhawks built a big first-half lead before sustaining it most of the way.

**Kentucky 83, No. 7 West Virginia 76:** Freshman forward Kevin Knox scored 19 of his season-high 34 points in the second half and the visiting Wildcats overcame a 17-point deficit to beat the Mountaineers in the Big 12/SEC Challenge.

Hamidou Diallo added 13 points for Kentucky (16-5), which made all 18 of its free throw attempts after halftime.

**No. 9 Cincinnati 62, Memphis 48:** Gary Clark had 18 points and nine rebounds, Jacob Evans added 14 points and the Bearcats beat the host Tigers for their 12th straight victory.

**N.C. State 95, No. 10 North Carolina 91 (OT):** Allerik Freeman scored a career-high 29 points and hit seven of the visiting Wolfpack's 15 three-pointers in the overtime victory over the Tar Heels.

**No. 11 Arizona 74, Utah 73:** Dusan Ristic scored 23 points and made all three of his three-point attempts, including a key one in the final two minutes, to help the host Wildcats.

**Alabama 80, No. 12 Oklahoma 73:** Freshman Collin Sexton scored 18 points, Herbert Jones added 14 and the host Crimson Tide upset the Sooners in the Big 12/SEC Challenge.

**No. 14 Texas Tech 70, South Carolina 63:** Keenan Evans scored 31 points, including the go-ahead three-pointer with 2:12 left, to lift the visiting Red Raiders over the Gamecocks in the Big 12/SEC Challenge.

**No. 15 Gonzaga 82, San Francisco 73:** Killian Tillie and Johnathan Williams each

scored 16 points as the host Bulldogs held off the Dons.

**No. 16 Saint Mary's 72, Portland 55:** At Moraga, Calif., Jordan Ford tied his career high with 20 points, including 16 in the first half, and the Gaels set a school record with its 16th straight victory.

**No. 19 Auburn 95, LSU 70:** Mustapha Heron had 21 points on 8-for-10 shooting and the host Tigers maintained sole possession of first place in the Southeastern Conference.

**No. 20 Florida 81, Baylor 60:** Chris Chiozza scored 20 points, including 13 straight late in the first half, and the host Gators beat the Bears in the Big 12/SEC Challenge.

**No. 21 Arizona St. 80, Colorado 66:** Tra Holder and Shannon Evans each sank four three-pointers in the second half as the host Sun Devils pulled away to beat the Buffaloes.

**No. 22 Tennessee 68, Iowa State 45:** Reserve Lamonte Turner scored 20 points, James Daniel III had 16 and the visiting Volunteers rolled in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge.

**No. 24 Rhode Island 61, Duquesne 58:** Stanford Robinson hit a three-point shot as time expired to give the host Rams their 12th straight victory.

## Service academies

## Navy tops Lehigh

Associated Press

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Shawn Anderson finished with 16 points, seven rebounds, five assists and three steals to help Navy hold off Lehigh 77-75 on Saturday.

Anderson scored five straight points to give the Midshipmen (14-9, 5-5 Patriot League) a 72-63 lead with 4:55 left in the game. Navy missed its next four shots and turned the ball over three times, while the Mountain Hawks used a three-pointer from Pat Andree and 6-for-7 shooting at the free-throw line to take a 75-72 lead with 1:13 remaining. Anderson ended the drought when he grabbed an offensive rebound and scored with 45 seconds left and his layup with 12 seconds to go put Navy back on top. After Andree missed a three, Tom Lacey grabbed the carom, was fouled and hit 1 of 2 free throws to seal the win.

Navy led 58-46 with 12:24 left to play before Tejada and Kyle Leufroy combined for 15 points in a 17-2 run to rally Lehigh.

Evan Wieck had 13 points for the Midshipmen, while Lacey and Bryce Dulin scored 12 apiece.

**Loyola (Md) 79, Army 68:** Andre Walker scored 20 points and a go-ahead layup late and the Greyhounds overcame a slow start to beat the Black Knights.

Matthew Wilson scored 20 points and Jordan Fox added 17 with four three-pointers for Army (12-9, 5-5).

**Boise State 70, Air Force 64:** Chandler Hutchison and Lexus Williams scored 16 points apiece and the Broncos held on Saturday night for a win over the Falcons.

Air Force (8-12, 2-6) got as close as 64-62 on a three-pointer from CJ Siples with 1:37 left but couldn't overcome Boise State's defense.

## QB Lauletta shines in Senior Bowl

Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — Kyle Lauletta more than held his own in elite quarterback company.

A standout at FCS Richmond, Lauletta threw three second-half touchdown passes and Texas-San Antonio's Marcus Davenport scored on a 19-yard fumble recovery to lead the South team to a 45-16 victory over the North in the Senior Bowl on Saturday.

Lauletta capped the weeklong audition for NFL teams in strong fashion, thriving amid more heralded passers from the North team. That group included Oklahoma Heisman Trophy winner Baker Mayfield and Wyoming's Josh Allen, a potential No. 1 overall draft pick who also had a huge third quarter.

"We knew that we were underdogs coming

into the game for whatever reason," said Lauletta, chosen as the game's Most Valuable Player. "I guess that kind of motivated us."

Lauletta completed eight of 12 passes for 198 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown strike to LSU's DJ Chark and some other nice downfield throws. Davenport, projected as a likely first-rounder and potential Top 10 pick, scooped up a fumble forced by Mississippi's Marquis Haynes to punctuate a big third quarter.

Allen finished 9-for-13 passing for 158 yards, all but 14 coming in the third quarter, along with a pair of touchdowns.

Mayfield played only the North's first two drives, going 3-for-7 for 9 yards. He left before the second half to fly to Austin, Texas, to be with his ailing mother.

## NBA roundup

## Curry gets best of Irving and Celtics

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The “M-V-P!” chants reigned down, and Stephen Curry played every bit like one yet again. Mouthpiece dangling and shots dropping.

He has had so many brilliant back-and-forths with Kyrie Irving in recent years, and this one will surely be added to that list among the best.

Curry scored 49 points, with 13 of those over the final 1:42, and hit eight three-pointers, lifting the Golden State Warriors past the Boston Celtics 109-105 on Saturday night in what is already being hyped as a potential NBA Finals match-up come June.

Irving scored 37 points on 13-for-18 shooting with five threes, but Boston failed to build momentum from a win at the Clippers on Wednesday night and lost for the fifth time in six games.

“The way he started the game tonight was pretty crazy,” Curry said. “We try to bring the best out of each other. Tonight

was one of those nights, just a fun way to play.”

The NBA’s top teams from their respective conferences put on quite an entertaining show.

Curry made a go-ahead three with 1:42 to play, scored on a driving layup the next time down before eight late free throws. He also made three of his threes over the final 4:20 of the third quarter for the Warriors, who had lost the last two matchups to the Celtics and two in a row at home. The Warriors fell 92-88 at Boston on Nov. 16 in which they squandered a 17-point lead.

Kevin Durant had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Warriors, who haven’t lost to the same Eastern Conference opponent twice in the same season during fourth-year coach Steve Kerr’s tenure. Draymond Green had 15 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

The two-time NBA MVP scored 18 points in the third, shot 16-for-24 and 8-for-13 from long range while notching his second 40-point game of the

season and 29th of his career in the regular season.

**Thunder 121, Pistons 108:** Carmelo Anthony surpassed the 25,000-point milestone and Russell Westbrook added 31 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds to lift surging Oklahoma City past host Detroit.

Thunder guard Andre Roberson was taken off on a stretcher in the third quarter after landing hard on the court after trying to jump for an alley-oop. The scary injury put a damper on Oklahoma City’s seventh straight victory. It’s the NBA’s longest current winning streak.

**Timberwolves 111, Nets 97:** Jimmy Butler scored 21 points in his return to Minnesota, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 16 points and 19 rebounds for his NBA-leading 43rd double-double.

Butler had six rebounds and five assists after missing four games with knee soreness. Andrew Wiggins scored 21 points, and Jamal Crawford added 16 to help Minnesota snap a two-game skid.

**Wizards 129, Hawks 104:**

Markieff Morris matched his season high with 23 points and visiting Washington used balanced scoring and strong three-point shooting to overcome the absence of John Wall.

Wall, selected to his fifth All-Star team as a reserve Tuesday, did not play due to a recurrence of soreness and swelling in his left knee.

**Heat 95, Hornets 91:** Josh Richardson scored 19 points, Wayne Ellington added 17, including a three-pointer with 4 seconds left to seal the outcome, and Miami snapped a two-game slide.

**Nuggets 91, Mavericks 89:** Nikola Jokic completed his second triple-double with a late jumper to put host Denver ahead, and the Nuggets held on to beat Dallas.

**Pacers 114, Magic 112:** Victor Oladipo scored 24 points, Lance Stephenson added a season-high 21 and host Indiana overcame a late 10-point deficit to beat Orlando.

## Woods in middle of pack for final round

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods’ first tee shot Saturday was so off the mark that a course marshal immediately started waving frantically to the left with his paddle.

That’s how it went for seven straight holes for Woods in the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines.

Left rough. Left of the green on a par 3. Right rough. Right rough. Right rough again. Left rough. Greenside bunker on a par-3.

Woods, who started on No. 10 on the South Course, finally found the fairway with a 3-wood on his eighth hole, the par-4, 442-yard 17th.

Remarkably, despite so many erratic shots, Woods still managed a 2-under 70 in his first weekend round on the PGA Tour in 29 months. He was in the middle of the

pack going into the final round.

The 42-year-old Woods described his round as “gross,” although his short game and putting bailed him out for a decent score.

This is only his second PGA Tour event since he tied for 10th in the Wyndham Championship in August 2015. He had two back surgeries that fall, and fusion surgery on his lower back last April.

“I don’t know about coming together, but it was a struggle out there,” he said. “I didn’t hit it worth a darn all day. I was really struggling out there trying to find anything that was resemblance of a golf swing. But I was scoring, I was chipping, putting, I was grinding. I was trying to miss the ball on the correct sides because I know I didn’t have it, trying to give myself the correct angles and I did that most of the day. Then I had to rely on my touch, my feel, my put-

ting and it’s been good all week.”

If he didn’t have such a good short game, “It would have been snowing on me,” Woods said, using a euphemism for shooting in the 80s. “It would have been snowing.”

And if he’d have hit more fairways?

“It would be in the 60s. I don’t think I would be contending right now, but it would be in the 60s.”

In other golf news:

■ Haotong Li held off Rory McIlroy to win the Omega Dubai Desert Classic at Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Sunday by a single stroke, denying the Northern Irishman’s bid to win his first title in 17 months.

Haotong finished on a tournament record 23-under-par 265 after a final-round three under 69 to win by one shot over McIlroy, who also shot a 69.