

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, January 19, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Lawmakers blast Pentagon's climate report

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — Dozens of military installations around the country already are experiencing the impacts of climate change, and rising seas, wildfires and other climate-fueled disasters are likely to cause increasing problems for the armed forces, the Defense Department said Thursday in a report to lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

The 22-page document comes in response to a request from Congress in an annual funding bill, which required defense officials to provide a list of the 10 most vulnerable sites that each military branch faces over the next two decades, and an analysis of what could be done to protect them.

The document affirms a longstanding sense that the U.S. military, with massive energy needs and bases flung around the globe — including some on low-lying islands — is well attuned to how the planet

is changing due to the burning of fossil fuels.

But while the report calls climate change “a national security issue” and highlights individual bases that face potential impacts, it did not include such a list of the most at-risk installations — an omission that drew quick criticism on Friday.

“It seems like they have not made it past anecdote to analysis,” said John Conger, director of the Center for Climate and Security and former acting assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and the environment. “It’s concerning to me because Congress was looking for the department’s best judgment on how to prioritize the risks.”

Department of Defense spokeswoman Heather Babb said Friday that the report “represents a high-level assessment” of the vulnerabilities that military installations face from floods, droughts, wildfires and

other climate- and weather-related threats, as well as an overview of efforts to increase resiliency.

“DoD will focus on ensuring it remains ready and able to adapt to a wide variety of threats — regardless of the source — to fulfill our mission to deter war and ensure our nation’s security,” Babb said.

Examining 79 military installations, the report finds that 53 already suffer from “recurrent flooding,” 43 have been exposed to drought, and 36 to risk from wildfires. And it finds that risks like these could extend to more installations in the coming years.

Rhode Island Democratic Sen. Jack Reed, ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, blasted the document, charging that the Defense Department failed to answer the key questions that lawmakers were seeking, and instead produced an “alphabetical” list of selected installa-

tions facing climate risks.

Congressman Jim Langevin, D-R.I., a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, sponsored the amendment to the defense spending bill in late 2017 that required the report. He said Friday he was deeply disappointed.

“While the Pentagon does rightly acknowledge that a changing climate will affect military readiness and installations, the report does not reflect the urgency of the challenge,” Langevin said in a statement, noting that recent hurricanes caused billions of dollars in damage to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida and Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

But the Pentagon’s Babb countered that “the report highlights the climate vulnerabilities of the top 79 mission assurance priority installations. By using this alternative approach, we are able to highlight where there are operational risks.”

## Senator says US withdrawal from Syria could cause ‘chaos’

*Associated Press*

ANKARA, Turkey — A U.S. withdrawal from Syria that has not been thought through would lead to “chaos” and “an Iraq on steroids,” Sen. Lindsey Graham warned Saturday, urging President Donald Trump not to get out without a plan.

Speaking to reporters in the Turkish capital Ankara a day after meeting with Turkish officials, the Republican senator from South Carolina said a plan to withdraw from Syria should ensure that the Islamic State group is defeated, that Iran is contained and that Turkey is protected from threats from Kurdish rebels.

Graham said the goal of destroying IS militants in Syria has not yet been accomplished.

“I am urging President Trump not to do what President Obama did, which is just to get out and not to understand what happens when you just get out,” he said.

Graham was referring to Obama’s decision to pull U.S. forces from Iraq in 2011, ending the occupation of the country since 2003. In 2014, Obama redeployed troops to Iraq at the invitation of the government to stop Islamic State militants from advancing on Baghdad. Some 5,200 troops remain in Iraq today and IS was defeated in its last urban stronghold only

a year ago.

A U.S. withdrawal from Syria without a plan would lead to an “Iraq on steroids,” he said.

The senator added that the Turkish and U.S. defense chiefs were working on a plan to move Syrian Kurdish militia away from the border with Turkey, but did not provide further details.

Trump has raised the possibility of creating a “safe zone” at the border with Turkey in an apparent bid to prevent a possible Turkish military operation against a Syrian Kurdish militia. The group was allied with the United States in the fight against IS but Turkey views the fighters as “terrorists” and a

major national security threat.

Graham said he also discussed the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in October and said the U.S. and Saudi Arabia cannot move forward in their relationship until Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — who has been accused by some of complicity in the killing — is “dealt with.” He did not elaborate.

A prominent voice on foreign affairs in the U.S., Graham met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and also held discussions with the foreign affairs and defense ministers and Turkey’s intelligence chief.

# Audit finds Naval Academy infrastructure woes

*The (Annapolis, Md.) Capital*

Leaking pipes. Moldering walls. Condemned offices and balconies. Plumbing that can't handle its load and a stormwater system dumping unfiltered rainwater into the Severn River.

These aren't the issues of a long-abandoned factory. They describe the current condition of the Naval Academy.

Infrastructure at the naval institution in Annapolis has degraded to the point of threatening the school's ability to train and educate midshipman, according to a report by the Naval Audit Service. The 2018 audit, obtained by The Capital through a Freedom of Information Act request, details failing buildings, classrooms and athletic facilities — which in some cases actively leak, overheat and threaten user safety.

Buildings including Nimitz Library and Macdonough Hall were built decades ago but never fully updated, causing critical systems to outlive their usefulness. Auditors fear the conditions jeopardize academy accreditation, endanger midshipmen and visitors and violate several federal laws.

The report took stock of 13 unfunded maintenance or renovation projects spread among 15 facilities between March 6, 2017 and April 26. Ten of these facilities are highly important to the academy mission, according to its internal rating system. But of those 10, four rated "poor to fair" and five

rated "failing to poor" at supporting the academy's ultimate goal — to ready midshipmen for Naval service. The auditors found a maintenance backlog exacerbated by steep funding cuts after the Naval Academy lost its Flagship Institution designation to the 2013 federal budget sequester. The designation promised the academy funding for both regular repairs and major renovations.

To dam the deluge of problems, the Navy restored the Flagship Institution designation for the academy, Naval Postgraduate School, and Naval War College. The academy will get \$15 million every other year, beginning in fiscal 2020. The Navy will also support the maintenance budget at a higher level.

"USNA concurs with the findings of the audit," Cmdr. David McKinney, a Naval Academy spokesman, said in a prepared statement. "We look forward to addressing the discrepancies in the report and with additional funding look forward to ensuring the Naval Academy remains a modern Flagship Institution for the Navy."

The Naval Academy continues to do emergency maintenance — including recent repairs to the Bancroft Hall roof and the Leahy Hall roof that was blown off during a wind storm last year, said Ed Zeigler, a spokesman for Naval District Washington. But to fund large-scale infrastructure projects, the school competes for money against other projects in the Washington,

D.C., Naval District.

The academy submits projects to the district, which prioritizes and passes them on to Shore Mission Integration Group, a Navy body responsible for balancing priorities at sea and on the shore.

Even with the new money, it would take years to address all of the problems listed in the audit.

A project to repair the HVAC system in Rickover received \$44.5 million in funding in August 2017. The Chapel will undergo renovation for \$8.9 million.

The Navy did not release the costs of all unfunded projects.

"We have a list of things that we would love to do, but it all is dependent on money," McKinney said. "We communicate with them regularly — they know our needs."

After being stripped during the mandatory cutbacks, the academy's renovation budget plummeted from about \$35 million in fiscal 2012 to less than \$5 million in fiscal 2015. The maintenance budget has fluctuated year to year but declined from \$35 million in fiscal 2012 to under \$25 million in fiscal 2015.

The auditors also pointed to 2015 Navy guidelines that prioritize funding "warfighting" and make Naval Academy requests difficult to justify. Of seven projects submitted to Shore Mission Integration Group, none was funded.

## Navy said to dump hazardous material into Puget Sound

*The Seattle Times*

The U.S. Navy dumped the equivalent of 50 dump truck loads of solid material, including copper and zinc, into Puget Sound and must be stopped before it does so again, according to Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

The Navy provides dock space at Naval Base Kitsap for decommissioned, nonoperational vessels to be dismantled, recycled and disposed of. While cleaning the ship Independence at the yard in January 2017 before shipment to Texas for disposal, the Navy dumped the scraped-off paint into Sinclair Inlet, in violation of state and federal laws, according to a news release issued by Ferguson.

"You would think we would be at the stage where everybody, but especially the federal government, understands you can't just scrape a vessel into Puget Sound. ... It's insane," Ferguson said in an interview Thursday.

Ferguson's office notified the Navy on

Thursday of the state's intent to join a suit in federal court to ask the Navy to clean up the mess and to require the Navy to stop scraping ships at Navy Base Kitsap and dumping the material in Sinclair Inlet.

"People have this idea that we are past the days that there isn't just open dumping into our waters, but this demonstrates all too clearly that is not true," Ferguson said. Marine life, including salmon, is at risk because of the Navy's illegal practice of releasing highly toxic pollutants including copper and zinc, Ferguson said.

The Navy was scraping antifouling paint to remove possible invasive species before moving the ship. The Navy still has not contained the paint chips, which continue to leach pollutants into Puget Sound, according to Ferguson's office.

"What we are doing is making sure the Navy follows environmental laws," Ferguson said. "What they have done has resulted in significant damage to Puget Sound and we need to solve that problem and keep

them from doing it again."

No one at the naval base returned a call and email for comment Thursday.

The problem first came to light in a suit filed in June 2017 in federal court by Puget Soundkeeper, the Washington Environmental Council and the Suquamish Tribe.

In their suit the tribe and nonprofits allege multiple violations of the state Clean Water Act by the Navy by releasing toxic substances into the inlet without a permit while cleaning a decommissioned aircraft carrier, the Independence.

Ferguson said his office decided to advise the Navy the state intends to join the suit after the Navy produced a report last October about what was in the materials scraped off the ship into the Sound. Another ship is also due for similar treatment, Ferguson said.

"There's more trouble ahead," Ferguson said.

The Navy has several months to reply to his letter.



# Trump looking to make a deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seeking a way to end the shutdown standoff, President Donald Trump is expected to announce Saturday that in exchange for money for his long-promised border wall he is open to trading protections for young people brought to the country illegally as children. But it was not clear such an offer would budge Democrats, who have previously rejected such a deal.

Trump's plans were confirmed by three people familiar with his thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss them by name. Vice President Mike Pence, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney have been working "non-stop" on the proposal, according to one of the people.

The president is also expected to include extending protections for those with Temporary Protected Status after fleeing countries affected by natural disasters or violence. Trump, though, is known to change his mind and could still decide on another course. His refusal to sign spending bills that lack the \$5.7 billion he wants to start constructing that wall prompt-

ed the shutdown

Democrats, meanwhile, are making their own move, pledging hundreds of millions of dollars more for border security.

It was unclear whether the developments, following days of clashes between Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, represent serious steps toward resolving the partisan fight or instead are simply political posturing as the partial government shutdown reached a record 29th day. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers have gone without paychecks, with many enduring financial hardship. Many public services are unavailable to Americans during the closure.

Trump was not expected to declare a national emergency, which he has said was an option to circumvent Congress, according to two people familiar with the planning.

"I think it'll be an important statement," Trump told reporters Saturday before traveling to an air base in Delaware to honor four Americans killed in a suicide bomb attack in Syria this week.

Whatever the White House proposes will be the first major overture by the president since Jan. 8, when he gave an Oval Office address trying to make

the public case for the border wall. Democrats have said they will not negotiate until the government reopens, raising questions about how Trump might move the ball forward.

Pelosi has also previously said that funding for the wall and legal protections for those immigrants known as "Dreamers," a key Democratic goal, should not be linked, calling them "two different subjects" in December.

Democrats were now proposing \$563 million to hire 75 more immigration judges, who currently face large backlogs processing cases and \$524 million to improve ports of entry in Calexico, California, and San Luis, Arizona, a Democratic House aide said Friday. The money would be added to spending bills, largely negotiated between the House and Senate, which the House plans to vote on next week.

In a video posted on his Twitter feed late Friday, Trump said both sides should "take the politics out of it" and "get to work" to "make a deal." But he also repeated his warnings, saying: "We have to secure our southern border. If we don't do that, we're a very, very sad and foolish lot."

# Trump, Kim to hold 2nd summit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to try to broker a deal to coax the North to give up its nuclear weapons, the White House announced.

News of a second meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader came after Trump's 90-minute meeting in the Oval Office with a North Korean envoy, Kim Yong Chol, who traveled to Washington to discuss denuclearization talks. Trump and Kim Jong Un are to meet near the end of February at a place to be announced later, said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The second summit signals stepped-up efforts by both countries to continue talks. Trump has exchanged letters with the North Korean leader amid little tangible progress on the vague denuclearization agreement reached at their first meeting last June in Singapore.

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit early this year. Vietnam has been considered as a possible summit venue, along with Thailand, Hawaii and Singapore.

# Trump hits back after Mueller disputes BuzzFeed report

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller's office issued a rare public statement disputing the accuracy of BuzzFeed News' report that said President Donald Trump's former attorney told Mueller that the president directed him to lie to Congress.

BuzzFeed, citing two unidentified law enforcement officials, reported that Trump directed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about a Moscow real estate project and that Cohen told Mueller the president personally instructed him to lie about the timing of the deal. The report said Mueller's investiga-

tors learned about Trump's directive "through interviews with multiple witnesses from the Trump Organization and internal company emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents."

The report said Cohen acknowledged Trump's instructions when he was interviewed by the Mueller team.

The statement by Mueller's office on Friday night doesn't cite any specific errors. In it, the special counsel's spokesman, Peter Carr, said, "BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the special counsel's office, and characterization of documents and testimony ob-

tained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's congressional testimony are not accurate."

BuzzFeed spokesman Matt Mittenthal said the publication stands by its reporting and urged readers to "stay tuned" as they worked to determine what Mueller was denying. Ben Smith, editor-in-chief of BuzzFeed News, also said the publication stands by its reporting and the sources who informed it.

"We urge the special counsel to make clear what he's disputing," Smith said.

Immediately after the special counsel's statement was issued, Trump retweeted several posts

that called the story fake news. He later tweeted: "A very sad day for journalism, but a great day for our Country!"

The extraordinary statement from Mueller's office came after Democrats had vowed to investigate whether the report was true, calling that possibility a "concern of the greatest magnitude." House intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., both said they would probe BuzzFeed's account. Some Democrats even said that if the report were true, then Trump should be impeached.

# Storm inches east after pummeling Plains

Associated Press

CHICAGO — After leaving slick roads and runways in the Midwest, a winter storm inched its way toward New England, where it was forecast to dump up to 2 feet of snow.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings for the weekend from the Dakotas, across the Great Lakes states and into New England. The weather service at one point warned that conditions in the Northeast “could approach blizzard criteria.” Ice was also a possibility in some areas in the storm’s path.

In Nebraska, where freez-

ing drizzle was falling Friday afternoon, authorities closed Omaha’s Eppley Airfield after a Southwest Airlines plane slid off an ice-slicked runway. No one was injured.

In Iowa, the Department of Transportation warned that visibility was less than a half mile in many locations due to snow and wind. And in South Dakota, where snow was starting to pile up, authorities warned drivers to give plows extra room.

The storm was expected to bring between up to 10 inches of snow to the Midwest before walloping the Northeast on Sunday. The National Weather Service in Albany, New York,

said snow could fall at a rate of 1 to 3 inches an hour, creating “difficult to impossible travel conditions” in areas.

In New York City, the worst of the storm is expected from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, with snow accumulations of 3-6 inches, followed by rain that could turn to ice as temperatures drop later Sunday.

Single-digit temperatures could last into Monday. Strong wind gusts beginning Sunday afternoon could bring down snow- or ice-burdened tree limbs and power lines.

Officials warn of flight disruptions at airports, as well

as possible changes in train schedules.

The Chicago Department of Aviation reported more than 300 flights at O’Hare and Midway international airports had been canceled as of Friday evening. Amtrak canceled some trains Saturday from Chicago to Washington and New York and between New York and Boston and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

Chicago is forecast to receive as much as 8 inches by Saturday and wind gusts in the Chicago area are expected to reach 35 mph.

Bitterly cold air was expected in the storm’s aftermath.

## Mexico fuel raid causes deadly pipeline blast

Associated Press

TLAHUELILPAN, Mexico — Forensic experts attempted to separate and count charred heaps of corpses in central Mexico on Saturday after a massive fireball erupted at an illegal pipeline tap, killing at least 66 people.

More than 85 other people on Saturday were listed as missing as relatives of the deceased and onlookers gathered around the scene of carnage.

Just a few feet from where the pipeline passed through an alfalfa field, the dead seem to have fallen in heaps, perhaps as they stumbled over each other or tried to help one another in the moments after a geyser of gasoline shot into the air Friday.

The leak was caused by an illegal pipeline tap in the small town of Tlahuelilpan, about 62 miles north of Mexico City, ac-

ording to state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex.

Video footage showed dozens of people in an almost festive atmosphere gathered in a field where a duct had been breached by fuel thieves. Footage then showed flames shooting high into the air against a night sky and the pipeline ablaze. Screaming people ran from the explosion, some themselves burning and waving their arms.

On Saturday, several of the dead lay on their backs, their arms stretched out in agony. Some seemed to have covered their chests in a last attempt to protect themselves from the flames; another few black-charred corpses seemed to embrace each other in death.

Lost shoes were scattered around the scorched field, as were plastic jugs and jerry cans that the victims had carried to gather spilling fuel.

“Ay, no, where is my son?” wailed Hugo Olvera Estrada, whose 13-year-old son, Hugo Olvera Bautista, was at the spot where the fire erupted. Wrapped in a blanket outside a clinic, the man had already gone to six local hospitals looking for his child.

After returning home from middle school yesterday, his father recounted, the boy went to join the crowd scooping up gasoline. Olvera Estrada believed he was influenced by older and supposedly wise men from the town of about 20,000. “The older men brought him,” he said.

The tragedy came just three weeks after new President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an offensive against fuel theft gangs that have drilled dangerous, illegal taps into pipelines an astounding 12,581 times in the first 10 months of 2018, an average of about 42 per day.

## Researchers study link between opioids, birth defect

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Health officials are looking into a possible link between prescription opioids and a horrific birth defect.

When a baby is born with its intestines hanging outside the stomach, due to a hole in the abdominal wall, it’s called gastroschisis. Most are repaired through surgery.

Roughly 1,800 such cases are seen in the U.S. each year, but the number has been rising and officials don’t know why.

The condition seems to occur more often when the mom is a teenager or was smoking or drinking alcohol early in pregnancy, researchers have noted.

But a study released Thursday noted cases were 60 percent more common in counties that had the highest overall opioid prescription rates.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study focused on 20 states.

The study did not see if each mother had

been taking opioids, and it does not say opioids caused the birth defects. But it echoes earlier research that found a higher risk of birth defects when moms took opioid painkillers such as oxycodone just before or early in pregnancy.

Also Thursday, the CDC’s director and two other agency officials wrote a commentary in the journal *Pediatrics* urging more study of the possible connection between opioids and birth defects.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Cat rescued after slipping down dam

**IN** HUNTINGTON — A wayward cat is safe after it was rescued from a dam in Indiana.

The Huntington County Sheriff's Department wrote on Facebook that a fisherman spotted the feline stranded on the spillway at the J. Edward Roush Lake dam. Officers could not reach the animal, so Army Corps of Engineers workers decided to help.

The workers got permission to shut down the flow of water and they launched a boat. Video shows when the boat reached the spillway, the cat slid all the way down into the arms of the rescuers before it hit the water.

### Murder conviction in crawl-space body case

**WY** RIVERTON — A Wyoming jury convicted a man of first-degree murder for beating another man unconscious and putting him in a crawl space, where he died.

Prosecutors said James Oldman unplugged a freezer to cause meat to spoil and try to disguise the scent of the decomposing body.

The Riverton Ranger reported Oldman faces up to life in prison when sentenced in March in federal court in Casper.

Oldman and another man, Matthew Whiteplume, had argued over alcohol with Chuck Dodge III, 36, at a home in Arapahoe in November.

The two men beat and kicked Dodge. Prosecutors believe Dodge had been dead at least 36 hours before his body was found.

Whiteplume pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

### Drugs seized at party bus rental company

**MA** BROCKTON — Police said they arrested three people and seized cocaine and fentanyl during a raid on a Massachusetts party bus rental company.

Police executing a search warrant raided Tex Era Rental LLC in Brockton on Tuesday and said they found 270 grams of cocaine and 64 grams of fentanyl. Most of the drugs were found inside an air vent in an office trailer at the site.

Authorities also arrested Anilson Teixeira, 26; Filipe Miranda, 20; and Giovanni Pedro Fonseca, 25, on drug charges.

### Dog killing endangered bird leads to arrest

**HI** LIHUE — A woman walking with her dog on northern Kauai was assaulted after her heeler-mix killed an endangered Hawaii bird, authorities said.

Paulina Ann Ka'aumoana was walking near the Princeville Golf Course when her unleashed 19-year-old dog killed a baby nene, The Garden Island reported.

Ka'aumoana said she was pulling her dog away from the Hawaiian goose when a man ran from across the street and started kicking her dog. When she intervened, he kicked and punched her, she said.

The 37-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of third-degree assault, said Kim Tamaoka, a spokeswoman for Kauai police.

### Zoo announces rare birds on display

**TX** BROWNSVILLE — Two rare endangered tropical birds named Petey and

Millie have a new home at a South Texas zoo.

Officials with the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville announced the rhinoceros hornbills are now on display. Officials said it's been 45 years since the zoo had any rainforest-dwelling rhinoceros hornbills, known for the hollow horn-like feature above their beaks.

### City bans electric scooters for a year

**SC** COLUMBIA — South Carolina's capitol city banned electric scooters for a year while the city studies the operation of companies providing the service.

News outlets reported Columbia City Council voted Tuesday to prohibit the use of electric scooters to protect the public.

The ordinance prevents two-wheeled, electric scooters from being ridden or placed on public property. It also allows the city to impound any scooter left unattended on a public street, sidewalk or right of way.

### Landlord rents \$1,500 apartment to 2 cats

**CA** SAN JOSE — Two cats are living large at a \$1,500-a-month studio apartment their owner rents for them in Silicon Valley, where a housing shortage has sent rents skyrocketing.

The Mercury News reported the 20-pound cats named Tina and Louise moved to the studio in San Jose after their owner moved away to college.

The student's father, Troy Good, was unable to keep them and asked friend David Callich to rent him the kitchenless studio so he could keep his daughter's beloved cats.

### Restaurant sign was declared not offensive

**NH** KEENE — Officials in a New Hampshire city approved a restaurant sign that initially was removed over concerns that it sounded like profanity.

The name of the Vietnamese restaurant in a public building next to City Hall in Keene is a play on words. It calls itself by the name of a soup, which is spelled P-H-O, but is pronounced "fuh," followed by the words "Keene Great." It's scheduled to open March 1.

City Manager Elizabeth Dragon said in an email the sign was approved Friday and is in compliance.

### 101-year-old woman kills 2 deer with 1 shot

**MS** MORGANTOWN — A 101-year-old hunter in Mississippi is still at it, and even dropped two deer with one shot.

Veteran hunter Bertha Vickers made the twofer during her first successful hunt at age 101, the Clarion Ledger reported. Getting two in one a few days after her Jan. 9 birthday was a complete accident, and the first time she'd ever done it, Vickers said.

After missing four this season, the Morgantown resident said she was determined to bag a deer.

Vickers spotted one deer from her hideout, but she remained patient and was rewarded.

"I decided to wait for a bigger one," Vickers said. "Before long, a bigger doe came out and I shot. Then I saw two deer on the ground. It shot plum through both of them."

Vickers said she helped clean the animals and shared the meat with her family.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news  
updated 24/7 from bases  
around the world.  
Now online at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

STARS AND STRIPES®

# Highest-scoring teams left in playoffs

Associated Press

Offense wins championships in the new NFL.

For the first time since the league expanded to 32 teams in 2002, none of the teams playing in the conference title game have a defense ranked in the top 10 in total yards. Only New England is among the top 10 in fewest points allowed.

But, the Chiefs, Patriots, Saints and Rams do possess the four most prolific offenses in the league. That's the first time the four highest-scoring teams play for the conference championship during the Super Bowl era.

It's fitting one of those teams will win the Vince Lombardi Trophy because offense dominated in 2018. The 1,371 touchdowns scored were the most in a season in league history and the 11,952 points scored were the second-most ever.

The two teams with the stingiest defenses reached the

playoffs — Chicago and Baltimore — but lost at home in the wild-card round.

“You have explosive players in the postseason, guys who are extremely talented, guys who are represented in the Pro Bowl, the All-Pro team,” Saints coach Sean Payton said Wednesday.

The success starts at quarterback with Tom Brady, Drew Brees, Patrick Mahomes and Jared Goff leading the way. Brady's Patriots are the only team of the four that didn't average at least 30 points, scoring 27.3. Kansas City led the way at 35.3 with Mahomes throwing 50 touchdown passes. Los Angeles was next at 32.9 and New Orleans averaged 31.5.

Elite QBs aren't the only thing these teams have in common. The Rams, Patriots and Saints were among the top six in rushing.

C.J. Anderson (123) and Todd Gurley (115) had big games as Los Angeles ran for 273 yards

in a 30-22 win against Dallas in the divisional round.

Sony Michel ran for 129 yards and three TDs in New England's 41-28 victory over the Chargers last week. Brady also threw for 343 yards.

Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram combined for 124 yards rushing as New Orleans held on to beat Philadelphia 20-14. Brees had 301 yards passing and two scores.

“They can beat you in both ways, they can run it or they can throw it,” Rams coach Sean McVay said of the Saints. “That's what really presents such a great challenge because they've got a Hall of Fame quarterback and they got an elite running back, and they've got a great system.”

The Chiefs were in the middle of the pack on the ground during the season but Damien Williams had 129 yards in a 31-13 rout over the Colts.

“Andy's an offensive coach so the offensive plays they get on

special teams and the offensive plays they get on offense, when you combine all of that together, it's a lot of firepower and a lot of explosive plays,” Patriots coach Bill Belichick said of the Chiefs. “Andy's teams are always tough, well-disciplined. They don't make a lot of mistakes. They make you beat them and that's hard to do because they're sound and he gets good players and he coaches them well and they're tough.”

Other than Belichick, each team has offensive-minded coaches. Payton, Reid and McVay earned their way on that side of the ball. The 32-year-old McVay is the youngest coach to win a playoff game.

Both games are rematches from thrilling, high-scoring contests in the regular season.

The Patriots (12-5) beat the Chiefs (14-3) 43-40 at home in October. The Saints (14-3) defeated the Rams (14-3) 45-35 at home in November.

## Pats' Brady, KC's Mahomes succeed in different ways

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — One of them is a sixth-round pick who married a supermodel, became one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history and is still going strong well past his 41st birthday.

The other is a first-round pick who is still dating his high school sweetheart, has exactly one season as an NFL starter on his résumé and just turned 23 earlier this season.

Indeed, few similarities exist when it comes to Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and Chiefs counterpart Patrick Mahomes, whose teams will meet for the AFC title at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday.

Brady is the suave star with the polished skillset and more postseason experience than any QB in history, while Mahomes is the sling-it-anywhere standout who just one day may take over the mantle as best in the game.

Both get the job done, even if they do it in very different ways.

“I don't know about comparisons,” Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. “Look, Mahomes is an outstanding player in every facet of the game. He's got a strong arm. He can throw the ball the length of the field. He has great touch. He has the ability to read coverages and extend plays, make good decisions and make explosive plays without taking too much of a risk or putting his team in jeopardy.”

“He does all of those things well,” Belichick said, “and that's a credit to him.”

Brady has a strong arm, too, even if it's not what it once was. He still has great touch and his ability to read coverages may be the best in the game, helping him lead the Patriots to their eighth consecutive AFC title game.

But that is just about where

the similarities end.

Brady prefers to stand in the pocket and deliver the ball the same way a blackjack dealer stands behind his table and distributes cards. He moves around when he's under pressure but rarely takes off running, and he's as likely to chuck the ball into the third row on a broken play as take a risk downfield.

Unlike Brady, Mahomes thrives when everything collapses around him. He'll throw caution to the wind and run for a first down — or a touchdown as he did last week against Indianapolis — but is just as dangerous in the passing game, where his knack for keeping his eyes downfield makes him a constant threat.

He also has one of the fastest releases in the NFL, and Chiefs linebacker Justin Houston said Wednesday that getting Brady in third-and-long is perhaps the most crucial point in stop-

ping him.

“Because if it's third-and-short,” Houston said, “the ball's coming out fast.”

More valuable than Brady's physical ability, though, may be his mental acuity. He has an uncanny gift for dissecting a defense, finding the right matchup and exploiting it to the Patriots' benefit.

“I haven't seen any decline,” Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. “He sees things even better than when he was younger. I'm wearing glasses and he isn't. The age hasn't hit him. He's just an amazing guy.”

Then again, so is the kid with the mopyy Mohawk standing across from him Sunday.

Mahomes matched Brady's best season by throwing 50 touchdown passes as the Chiefs' first-year starter, and he eclipsed 5,000 yards though the air, something his counterpart has accomplished just once.



# Serena makes quick work of Yastremska

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — It was all a bit overwhelming for the latest opponent who could do nothing to slow Serena Williams at the Australian Open. So Dayana Yastremska, an 18-year-old from Ukraine, found herself wiping away tears as she walked to the net.

Williams knows what it's like to be the one weeping after a loss. She put her right hand on Yastremska's shoulder and consoled her by saying, "You're so young. You did amazing. Don't cry." Then they embraced, and Williams patted Yastremska on the back.

"I could tell she was quite upset. I kind of liked that. It shows she wasn't just there to play a good match — she was there to win. She wanted to win. That really broke my heart," Williams said. "I think she's a good talent. It's good to see that attitude."

Maybe she will be tested in the fourth round, because no one has come close to making her work too hard so far, including the 6-2, 6-1 victory on Saturday.

Next up, though, is a far more accomplished player, No. 1-ranked Simona Halep, who took control by reeling off six consecutive games in one stretch and advanced by beating Williams' sister, Venus, 6-2, 6-3.

After two tough three-set tussles, Halep had a much easier time of things, making only 12 unforced errors while Venus had 33. Halep played with her left thigh taped, but moved around the court well.

"She played pretty flawless," said Venus, who exits before the fourth round at a fifth consecutive Grand Slam tournament.

Looking ahead, Halep said: "It's going to be a bigger challenge. I am ready to face it."

She's lost eight of her past

nine matches against Serena.

Might Venus offer her sibling any tips?

"I don't know if Serena needs my help or not," Venus said. "If she does, I'll be there."

Not only has Serena won every set she played this week — and 20 in a row at Melbourne Park, dating to the start of her 2017 run to the title (she sat out last year's tournament after having a baby) — but Williams has ceded a total of only nine games through three victories.

Unlike any of Serena's foes until now, Halep has won a major title, last year's French Open. She's been to three other Grand Slam finals, including a year ago at the Australian Open.

That résumé pales in comparison to Serena's, of course.

Whose doesn't?

She is bidding for an eighth trophy at the Australian Open and record-tying 24th Grand Slam title in all.

Other women's fourth-rounders set up for Monday: Naomi Osaka, the woman who beat Serena in last year's chaotic U.S. Open final, against No. 13 Anastasija Sevastova; 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys against No. 6 Elina Svitolina; and two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza against 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova, who beat No. 27 seed Camila Giorgi 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 on Saturday night.

Men's matchups Monday with a quarterfinal berth at stake will be: No. 1 Novak Djokovic against No. 15 Daniil Medvedev; No. 4 Alexander Zverev against 2016 Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic; 2014 U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori against No. 23 Pablo Carreno-Busta; and No. 11 Borna Coric against No. 28 Lucas Pouille, who eliminated 19-year-old Australian wild-card entry Alexei Popyrin 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-7 (10), 4-6, 6-3.

## College basketball roundup

### Massinburg leads No. 16 Buffalo past Eastern Michigan

Associated Press

AMHERST, N.Y. — Buffalo has so many scoring threats, senior guard CJ Massinburg wondered aloud which players their opponents concentrate on stopping.

"You," coach Nate Oats said, interrupting his leading scorer.

Not on Friday night, when Massinburg shook off a four-game slump to lead the 16th-ranked Bulls to a 77-65 win over Eastern Michigan.

"I would say for me, it was just relaxing, taking a little bit of pressure off myself," said Massinburg, who had combined for 52 points in his past four games.

"I would say it was pressure I put on myself internally, like, 'I've got to do this. I've got to play great,'" he added. "Good thing I have great teammates and other guys capable of car-

rying the team."

Buffalo entered the game having six players who have led the team in scoring, including Jeremy Harris six times — one more than Massinburg now has.

Nick Perkins scored 21 while Harris scored just five after combining for 73 in his past three games. And the Bulls (17-1, 5-0 Mid-American Conference) again showed their depth as they extended what's become their best start in school history.

Buffalo also won its 20th straight home game, which ranks as the third-longest streak in the country.

Paul Jackson led Eastern Michigan with 12 points, but finished hitting just 5 of 17 attempts. James Thompson scored 11 points and added 12 rebounds for the Eagles (8-10, 2-3), who lost their fifth straight

game to Buffalo, including an 81-69 loss at Ypsilanti two weeks ago.

Eagles coach Rob Murphy said his team was eventually overwhelmed by the Bulls' depth and relentless tempo.

"The only team that can beat Buffalo will be the team that can outlast them for 40 minutes," Murphy said. "Tonight, we played a good 28 minutes. But those 12 minutes we didn't play, we didn't execute, and they capitalized off of it. And that's what good basketball teams do."

**No. 19 Maryland 75, Ohio State 61:** Anthony Cowan Jr. scored 20 points, and the visiting Terrapins won their seventh straight.

Bruno Fernando added 13 points on 5-for-6 shooting and had 15 rebounds for Maryland (16-3, 7-1 Big Ten), which shot 58.1 percent from the field.

Aaron Wiggins and Darryl Morsell each scored 11, and Jalen Smith had 10. Maryland went 11-for-17 (64.7 percent) from three-point range.

C.J. Jackson scored 15 points for the Buckeyes (12-5, 2-4), who lost their fourth straight. Duane Washington Jr. scored 14 and Kaleb Wesson had 11.

**No. 22 Villanova 85, Xavier 75:** Phil Booth scored 22 points, Collin Gillespie added 18 and the host Wildcats beat the Musketeers for their sixth straight win.

Eric Paschall added 17 points and eight rebounds for Villanova (14-4, 5-0 Big East), which shot 50 percent from the field and made 15 three-pointers to remain the only unbeaten team in the conference.

Tyrique Jones led Xavier (11-8, 3-3) with 21 points and 12 rebounds while Naji Marshall scored 15.

## NBA roundup

# Cousins finally plays as Warriors win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — DeMarcus Cousins was nervous. His stomach felt tight and filled with butterflies. He grabbed his phone and fired off texts to family and friends. He talked to his brother and sister.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr and the rest of the Warriors reassured Cousins it wasn't just about Friday night's game against the Los Angeles Clippers.

It's about the rest of his career.

Making his Warriors debut after being sidelined for nearly a year, the big man called Boogie scored 14 points before foul-

ing out of a 112-94 victory.

"It's been a long journey," Cousins said. "This was probably one of the best days of my life being back on the floor playing the game that I love."

Cousins joined the lineup at a time when Golden State has won seven in a row and an NBA-leading six straight on the road. Friday was the start of a five-game trip that will take the team back East, giving players time to bond.

"It's good for him to come in at a time we're playing well and things are calm," Kerr said. "It allows for an easier re-entry."

As if the Warriors weren't potent enough with Curry and Durant, Cousins' return made

them the first team in 42 years to start five All-Stars from the previous season.

**Nets 117, Magic 115:** D'Angelo Russell matched his career high with 40 points and Brooklyn overcame a 21-point deficit to beat host Orlando.

**Spurs 116, Timberwolves 113:** LaMarcus Aldridge scored 25 points, Rudy Gay added 22 and San Antonio held on to beat Minnesota to give coach Gregg Popovich the 520th road win of his career, tying him with Pat Riley for the most in NBA history.

**Celtics 122, Grizzlies 116:** Kyrie Irving scored 20 of his 38 points in the third quarter

and Boston held off visiting Memphis.

**Trail Blazers 128, Pelicans 112:** Damian Lillard had 22 points and eight assists to lead host Portland over New Orleans.

**Jazz 115, Cavaliers 99:** Donovan Mitchell scored 24 points, Rudy Gobert had 19 points and 15 rebounds and Utah routed visiting Cleveland for its sixth straight victory and eighth in nine games.

**Pistons 98, Heat 93:** Blake Griffin had 32 points and 11 rebounds and host Detroit overcame an early exit by injured Andre Drummond to beat Miami.

## NHL roundup

# Trotz returns to Washington as Islanders blank Caps

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barry Trotz returned to his old home arena to face the team he coached to the Stanley Cup. He left with his new team in first place.

Trotz's New York Islanders beat the defending champion Washington Capitals 2-0 on Friday night to win their fourth in a row and leapfrog his former team into first place in the Metropolitan Division. In true Trotz fashion, the Islanders suffocated the Capitals to win for the 14th time in their past 17 games.

"We just talked about climbing," Trotz said. "It just happened that the Caps were the next team in front of us. Two weeks ago we were talking about Buffalo and other teams like Montreal and just said, 'Let's keep climbing and don't look up and just keep going,' and the guys have been really good."

Josh Bailey and Cal Clutterbuck scored third-period goals, and Thomas Greiss made 19

saves for his second shutout of the season. New York held Washington under 20 shots and improved to 7-0-0 in the second half of back-to-back sets this season.

**Penguins 3, Coyotes 2 (OT):** Phil Kessel scored on a power play at 4:09 of overtime, Matt Murray stopped 30 shots and visiting Pittsburgh beat Arizona.

Pittsburgh had a 4-on-3 in overtime when Richard Panik was called for slashing and Kessel cashed in, redirecting Sidney Crosby's shot from the point past Darcy Kuemper.

Outscored 10-4 in consecutive losses, Pittsburgh fell behind on Clayton Keller's first-period goal. The Penguins rallied in the second when Jusso Riikola and Jake Guentzel scored 40 seconds apart, but Derek Stepan scored with 5½ minutes left in the third to tie it.

**Panthers 3, Maple Leafs 1:** Mike Matheson scored the winning goal and host Florida beat Toronto to snap a seven-game

losing streak.

Mike Hoffman and Frank Vatrano also scored for Florida. Roberto Luongo made 20 saves and moved within four wins of tying Ed Belfour (484) for third place on the NHL's career list.

Vincent Trocheck, who returned to the Panthers' lineup after missing 27 games with a broken ankle, had an assist on Matheson's goal. Ron Hainsey scored for the Maple Leafs.

**Flames 6, Red Wings 4:** Sam Bennett scored twice, including the go-ahead goal late in the third period, to lead host Calgary past Detroit.

Sean Monahan, James Neal, Mark Giordano and TJ Brodie — into an empty net — also scored for Calgary. The Pacific Division-leading Flames extended their points streak to seven games (6-0-1).

Calgary was 3-for-3 with the man advantage, with every goal coming from the second power-play unit.

**Canadiens 4, Blue Jackets 1:** Tomas Tatar and Joel Armia each scored twice, Carey Price

stopped 34 shots and visiting Montreal beat Columbus.

The Canadiens have won four in a row and five of the last six.

Oliver Bjorkstrand scored for Columbus.

**Senators 4, Hurricanes 1:** Bobby Ryan and Mark Stone scored 13 seconds apart in the second period and visiting Ottawa beat Carolina.

Magnus Paajarvi and Christian Wolanin also scored, and Anders Nilsson made 33 saves. Ottawa has won four of five after an eight-game losing streak.

Warren Foegele scored for Carolina.

**Canucks 4, Sabres 3:** Thatcher Demko made 36 saves in his second NHL game, leading host Vancouver past Buffalo.

Alex Edler, Sven Baertschi, Brock Boeser and Loui Eriksson scored for Vancouver.

Buffalo got goals from Evan Rodrigues, Kyle Okposo and Sam Reinhart. Linus Ullmark stopped 19 shots.