

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## China tests its 'Guam killer' ballistic missile

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

China has test-fired its so-called "Guam killer" ballistic missile, claiming the weapon could strike a moving aircraft carrier, according to a report by the state-run Global Times tabloid.

China Central Television on Thursday broadcast footage of the Chinese military launching a pair of DF-26 anti-ship missiles during a live-fire exercise in northwest China, according to a Sunday report by the newspaper.

The missile can carry conventional and nuclear warheads, and is capable of "both rapid nuclear counterstrikes and conventional medium- and long-range precision strikes," Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Senior Col. Wi Qian said at an April press conference, according to an official English translation of the transcript.

The missile has a "double-cone structure with four finlike flight control surfaces symmetrically built around the base" meant to help control the weapon's trajectory, the Global Times report said.

Chinese military experts say the missile's design allows "increased targeting capability, speed and stealth," according to the newspaper.

The report, which attributed its information to unnamed experts, said the demonstration disproved doubts raised by Western media about whether the DF-26 can hit a moving target.

However, the 40-second video did not show the missiles striking a target. It depicted only a crew from the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force launching the rockets, which lifted off from mobile launchers, billowing black smoke and scattering rocks and other debris as they rose into the sky.

Analysts gave the DF-26 its foreboding "Guam Killer" nickname for its ability to strike targets 3,400 miles away, which is within range of Andersen Air Force Base.

China mobilized the missile after the USS McCampbell destroyer sailed near the Paracel Islands in a freedom-of-navigation exercise on Jan. 7. The Paracels are claimed by China; however, that claim is not recognized by international law.

## Shanahan: 'Several thousand more' GIs needed on border

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

"Several thousand more" troops will be needed on the U.S. border with Mexico, acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan said Tuesday.

In a news conference, Shanahan said the troops would be needed to provide Homeland Security additional support that the department has recently requested. About 4,600 active-duty and National Guard troops are currently deployed along the border.

In addition, Defense Department officials told House lawmakers the Pentagon estimates it will spend more than \$680 million on the deployment of active-duty and National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border since April.

The cost estimate will likely rise as the active-duty troops remain on the southern border beyond January, they told members of the House Armed Services Committee.

Navy Vice Adm. Michael Gilday, director of operations for Pentagon's Joint Staff, said the cost of active-duty troops from their initial deployment in late October through the end of January was about \$132 million.

The National Guard first arrived at the border in April and that deployment cost about \$103 million through the end of fiscal year 2018. The cost of their mission through fiscal year 2019 is estimated to reach \$448 million.

About 2,350 active-duty personnel and about 2,270 National Guard members are stationed in four states along the border. Both are providing various resources to Customs and Border Protection agents through an agreement between the departments of Defense and Homeland Security and are expected to remain through the end of the fiscal year.

At the height of the deployment, about 5,900 servicemembers were stationed along the border in early November, and that number could rise again.

Troops have already laid 70 miles of concertina wire along the ports of entry but are now being asked to place an additional 150 miles on existing barriers between ports of

entry in Arizona and California.

Troops also will expand their mission into surveillance capabilities, and Gilday said a pilot program with Marines out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., is underway to determine the training required for troops to operate mobile surveillance equipment in border patrol vehicles and vans.

Troops will not intervene directly when illegal border crossings are detected on the new mission; instead, they will cue Border Patrol agents to intervene, he said. This mission will occur in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas.

But it's not just the financial costs that lawmakers were worried about — many of them expressed concerns that troop readiness is deteriorating because of the deployment along the southern border.

"If we're stressed anywhere, it's rotary wing, just because of the demand we have for helicopters in Syria and Iraq and Afghanistan," Gilday said. "We've been a bit pinched for helos, if I can be honest, but we're not at the point where we're having significant concerns."

Otherwise, Gilday said, many troops are getting valuable training, particularly military police. Alongside Border Patrol agents, they've conducted 10 different scenarios at night and during the day, he said.

Military police are also authorized to provide protection for Border Patrol should agents be overwhelmed at the border, Gilday said. To combat deterioration of readiness and impacts to training, troops are deploying in rotations of about six to eight weeks, he said.

"We try to make sure that we maintain that deploy-to-dwell ration in a manageable level because we may need to call on those same forces to deploy on another mission," Gilday said. "The border security mission is obviously a high priority for the administration, so we are balancing that requirement along with Syria, Afghanistan, ongoing commitments in Africa, the western Pacific. We're trying to balance all of that."

# Fatty liver disease way up among troops

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The military experienced a twelvefold increase in the number of troops diagnosed with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, according to a new health report that found the Air Force recording the highest rates.

The study marks the first time that the military's Medical Surveillance Monthly Report looked at occurrences of the disease, which is linked to obesity and can result in cirrhosis of the liver.

"Servicemembers with severe NAFLD resulting in impaired liver function are unable to perform their military duties and are disqualified from service," the Defense Health Agency's January report said.

The "relatively rare" disorder was diagnosed in 19,069

servicemembers between 2000 and 2017. However, incidence of the disease "increased rapidly," from 12.6 cases per 100,000 people in 2000 to 152.8 per 100,000 people in 2017, the study said.

The Air Force had the highest rate, with 99.4 per 100,000 people. The Marine Corps has the fewest incidences, with a rate of 32.9 per 100,000. The Army had a rate of 79.2 and the Navy 78.6, the report said.

Combat units also had the lowest number of cases, registering 52.3 per 100,000. Troops working in health care had the highest rate, with 101.3 per 100,000. The high number among medical workers could be a function of higher awareness and easier access to diagnostic health care, the report said.

Overall rates increased with

advancing age. Within the ranks, warrant officers and senior officers had markedly higher rates than junior enlisted servicemembers, the report found. Men were diagnosed at more than 1.5 times the rate of women. But annual rates increased among both sexes and all ethnic groups.

Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic servicemembers showed the greatest increases and non-Hispanic black servicemembers showed the smallest increase, the report said. Annual incidence rates also increased in each service during the surveillance period.

The increases in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease could be connected to more clinically overweight troops in the ranks, the report said.

However, the increased use of abdominal ultrasound test-

ing also could be a contributing factor in finding more cases, the study said. The study did not examine the roles of servicemembers' eating habits and lifestyles.

There is no cure for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and treatment is focused on preventing risk factors. Keeping a healthy body weight, plant-based diets and exercise are the main modes of prevention, according to the Mayo Clinic.

As obesity rates have increased in the general population, the military, too, has experienced higher rates of overweight troops in the ranks.

In 2015, 7.8 percent of active-duty servicemembers were considered overweight, which was a 73 percent increase from 2011, according to a 2016 report by the Defense Health Agency.

## 5 months after hurricane, NC base houses not ready

*The (Jacksonville, N.C.)  
Daily News*

Thousands of homes remain damaged more than five months after Hurricane Florence hit Marine Corps installations in eastern North Carolina, its housing authority says.

According to the Atlantic Marine Corps Communities website, the hurricane left nearly 65 percent of base homes with various levels of damage, a total of 3,807 homes between Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. Exterior repairs are being made on more than 20 homes, with 1,135 homes having been repaired.

In posts on social media, especially comments on Camp Lejeune's official Facebook page, base residents complained about waiting months for repairs to homes.

While many residents awaited repairs, however, others received repairs that seemed to them unwarranted.

"I had a little water spot in

the garage," Mike Sherburn, a Navy retiree who resides in a house on Berkley Manor, said. "The next thing I know people showed up ... and replaced my entire roof."

The man living across the street, Sherburn said, was in desperate need of repairs.

"Up until now they haven't done anything to that house," Sherburn said. "And they replaced my roof."

Approximately 450 Camp Lejeune and New River families in Atlantic Marine Corps Communities privatized housing needed to be relocated to other homes within the Camp Lejeune complex, according to Nat Fahy, director for Communications Strategy and Operations for Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. Some of these residents were moved to Lincoln privatized homes, which make up about 560 of the 5,200 homes at Camp Lejeune. About 100 families originally in AMCC housing chose to live off base instead.

AMCC officials would not an-

swer questions from The Daily News regarding the repair timeline for MCI East housing, what affected families should do for housing in the meantime and repair progress.

As the repairs continue, housing on base has become a rare commodity.

"While we are continuing to accept applications, AMCC is not offering homes to inbound families," Fahy wrote in a message to The Daily News. "We understand they are hoping to begin opening up select neighborhoods possibly this spring."

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Watson addressed Camp Lejeune families in a video press release on Wednesday, urging those with damaged homes to contact AMCC and schedule appointments to meet with AMCC personnel and the contractor to talk about the damage, when it will be fixed and if they will need to move.

He also said the families may be eligible for a \$250 monthly rebate from AMCC if the home was deemed a Category 2 or 3

with interior damage that makes part of the home unusable. If a family thinks they qualify but are not yet receiving the rebate, they should also contact AMCC.

As a result of a housing shortage in the area following Florence, servicemembers stationed at Camp Lejeune, New River and Cherry Point have received an increase in the Basic Allowance for Housing for 2019.

Camp Lejeune and New River received an 8.4 percent increase and Cherry Point a 9.9 percent increase. The increases took effect Jan. 1, according to information from Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

M&RA spokesman Maj. Craig Thomas said the Department of Defense sets the housing allowance after yearly assessments that may increase or decrease rates for different areas. The 2019 increase follows a special assessment and site visit commissioned by the Office of the Secretary of Defense following the hurricane.



# Pentagon won't rule out sending troops to Colombia

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan on Tuesday would not rule out sending U.S. military forces to Colombia or the region in connection with the ongoing political upheaval in Venezuela.

Shanahan told reporters that he hasn't spoken to national security adviser John Bolton about sending troops to Colombia.

But he said he wouldn't comment when asked if he had other conversations about such a deployment plan or if he could rule it out.

Bolton had "5,000 troops to Colombia" written on a notepad he held during a news conference Monday announcing new sanctions on Venezuela. The White House, when asked about the note, later said in an email that, "as the President has said, all options are on the table."

President Donald Trump is backing Venezuelan congress leader Juan Guaido, who has proclaimed himself interim

president in the opposition's confrontation with President Nicolas Maduro. Colombia, which shares a 1,370-mile border with Venezuela, is also backing Guaido.

Shanahan noted the steps that the State Department and Treasury have taken, which includes new sanctions on Venezuela's state-owned oil company.

"We're monitoring the situation very carefully and we're watching and we're working very much in real time," Shanahan said.

"The interagency led by the National Security Council and Ambassador Bolton created a number of options. We support them with their policy development and, as the situation in Venezuela evolves, we're there to give them advice and counsel and support."

Colombia Foreign Minister Carlos Holmes said Monday that his government does not know the "importance and reason" for Bolton's note.

# Marines use 3D printers for fighter jet repairs

By JAMES BOLINGER  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Using 3D printers, Marines based in southern Japan created two products that reduce the time it takes to repair F/A-18 Hornets and may save the Defense Department money.

Called an engine ship kit, the first innovation is a set of plastic clips and plugs to prevent oil and hydraulic fluid leaking from aircraft engines removed for repairs. The other is a tool that helps maintainers grease the bearings on the F/A-18's high-speed Gatling gun.

The engine ship kit, designed by Marines from MCAS Iwakuni's Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, will have an immediate impact on operations, squadron commander Lt. Col. Javier Garcia recently told Stars and Stripes.

The kit eliminates the need for maintainers to travel to austere locations to drain oil and hydraulic fluids so an engine can be taken safely back to Iwakuni for repair.

The plastic drain plugs prevent the fluid from leaking, and the clips ensure the plugs are not dislodged as the engine is readied for transport.

The kit is the brainchild of

1st Lt. Simon Miller and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Willem, who needed to get a broken F/A-18 engine from Wake Island to MCAS Iwakuni late last year.

The engine began to leak while a C-130 crew tried to load it, Garcia said.

To solve the problem, Willem had the idea of creating plugs that would stop the leaks. Miller created the pieces using 3D drafting software and MALS 12's new 3D printers.

The team behind the engine ship kit also created a tool that makes it easier for maintenance Marines to grease the bearing on the F-18's M61A Vulcan, a Gatling-style rotary cannon that can fire 6,000 rounds a minute.

The bearing on the cannon must be packed with grease every 30,000 rounds, a job that used to take two Marines more than 30 minutes, said Cpl. Christian Smellie, an aviation life-support systems technician who works at Iwakuni's 3D printing lab.

Smellie worked with ordnance Marines to design a plastic ring that is used to smash thick grease into the tightly packed bearing, cutting the maintenance time down to less than 10 minutes.

# Website's vet charity ideas poke fun at niche nonprofits

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

Just in case it seemed that every conceivable military charity niche was filled, a new website offers ideas that will likely raise eyebrows, if not funds.

There's Water Aerobics for Hipster Veterans, Toothpaste for Rangers and Cheez-wiz for American Soldiers, all suggested by a random name generator at everythingforwarriors.org.

The site's a joke but with a serious point, said creator Brian Wilson. It's a satire on the tendency of well-meaning people to fill a need in the veteran or military community by creating an extremely niche nonprofit, the former Army combat medic said.

The years after 9/11 saw a boom in non-

profit businesses for servicemembers, veterans and their families. Some grew rapidly, helping thousands; others have shuttered due to poor management. Still others have been plagued by scandals or found to be scams.

Wilson, who has benefited from charities including Wounded Warrior Project and The Mission Continues, has seen more than his share of both good and bad veterans charity ideas in real life, he said. He's a bit jaded.

"I've worked at nonprofits, helped start a nonprofit ... but I'm also judgmental," he said.

The nonprofit-naming site is about 8 months old, but it languished in relative obscurity until he posted the link on social media Sunday, partly to poke fun at for-

profit businesses that also seem to think slapping a military-related brand on something will lead to guaranteed success.

A six-year National Guard veteran who served in Iraq from 2006 to 2007, Wilson now works at Houston-based Combined Arms, a nonprofit that refers former servicemembers to vetted charities or government agencies for assistance.

As veterans have been tweeting out screenshots of nonprofit names the site suggests, traffic has spiked by 230 percent, Wilson said.

The name generator draws from a list of about 300 nouns or phrases and pairs them with various military terms, with a sprinkling of modifiers like a state name or adjective, Wilson said.

# State of the Union speech set for Feb. 5

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday accepted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's invitation to deliver his State of the Union speech on Feb. 5, a week later than originally scheduled because of the partial government shutdown.

"It is my great honor to accept," Trump said in a letter to Pelosi. "We have a great story to tell and yet, great goals to achieve!"

The speech had initially been scheduled for Tuesday, but Pelosi postponed it amid what turned into a 35-day partial government shutdown over Trump's demand for border wall funding. It was the first known time that a speaker had rescinded an invitation to deliver the State of the Union.

"When I wrote to you on January 23rd, I stated that we should work together to find a mutually agreeable date when government has reopened to schedule this year's State of the Union address," Pelosi wrote. "In our conversation today, we agreed on February 5th.

"Therefore," she continued, "I invite you to deliver your State of the Union address before a Joint Session of Congress on February 5, 2019, in the House Chamber."

Pelosi's office and the White House told The Associated Press that the House speaker and president had spoken by phone Monday afternoon. A Pelosi spokesman said she placed the call at 3:55 p.m. and it lasted about 12 minutes.

The House and Senate still must pass a resolution officially inviting Trump to speak to a joint session of Congress.

Pelosi had postponed the speech, first as a "suggestion" and later, after Trump declared his intent to appear anyway, as a formal rescission. The president then refused to allow her to lead a delegation overseas on the military jets he commands. The president said he was considering an "alternative" plan.

Finally, last Friday, Trump capitulated. All sides agreed to fund the government through Feb. 15 to give negotiators time to discuss border security. And on Monday, Pelosi confirmed the State of the Union was back on — on her schedule.

# Whitaker: Russia probe 'close' to completion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The special counsel's Russia probe is "close to being completed," the acting attorney general said in the first official sign that the investigation may be wrapping up.

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker's comments Monday were a departure for the Justice Department, which rarely comments on the state of the investigation into whether President Donald Trump's campaign coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential election.

"The investigation is, I think, close to being completed," Whitaker said Monday at the end of an unrelated news conference in Washington. He said he had been "fully briefed" on the probe.

Whitaker did not elaborate or give any timetable for the end of a nearly two-year investigation that has shadowed Trump's presidency.

So far, special counsel Robert Mueller has charged 34 people, including several close to the president. But he has yet to accuse anyone close to the Trump campaign of conspiring with the Kremlin to hurt Democrat Hillary Clinton and help Trump win the election.

Whitaker, who is seen as a Trump ally, took over the Justice Department — and oversight of the Mueller probe — after Jeff Sessions resigned as attorney general in November at Trump's request.

Whitaker has drawn criticism for not recusing himself from the Russia investigation, even though he has publicly criticized it in the past. A top Justice Department ethics official advised him to step aside out of an "abundance of caution" but Whitaker declined to do so.

According to Justice Department regulations, Mueller has to provide a report to the attorney general at the conclusion of his investigation laying out his prosecution

decisions.

But it's unclear what form the report will take or whether it will be released publicly.

Depending on when Mueller wraps up, the report may not go to Whitaker. Trump has nominated William Barr to serve as the next attorney general. His confirmation hearing was held this month and he's awaiting a vote in the Senate.

Barr told the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this month that he wants to release as much information as possible about Mueller's findings but he has hedged on specifics.

Trump has slammed the Russia investigation as a "witch hunt" and says there was no collusion.

The evidence so far shows that a broad range of Trump associates had Russia-related contacts during the 2016 presidential campaign and transition period, and several lied about the communication.

# Midwest braces for record-breaking low temperatures

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Extreme cold and record-breaking temperatures are crawling into parts of the Midwest after a powerful snowstorm pounded the region, and forecasters warn that the frigid weather could be life-threatening.

Minneapolis Public Schools officials have canceled classes through Wednesday, when the region is expected to experience frigidly low temperatures not seen in a quarter-century. Hundreds of Michigan schools were closed Tuesday, including in

Detroit, while Chicago Public Schools canceled Wednesday classes because of the anticipated cold snap.

"You're talking about frostbite and hypothermia issues very quickly, like in a matter of minutes, maybe seconds," said Brian Hurley, a meteorologist with the Weather Prediction Center.

Subzero temperatures began Tuesday, but Wednesday is expected to be the worst. Wind chills in northern Illinois could fall to negative 55 degrees Fahrenheit, which the National Weather Service called "possibly life-threatening." Minnesota temperatures

could hit minus 30 degrees, with a wind chill of negative 60.

The potentially record-breaking low temperature forecast in Milwaukee is negative 28 degrees, with a wind chill as low as negative 50. The current record of minus 26 degrees was set in 1996. "That's 40 degrees below normal," Hurley said.

The unusually frigid weather is attributed to a sudden warming far above the North Pole. A blast of warm air from misplaced Moroccan heat last month made the normally superchilly air temperatures above the North Pole rapidly increase.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Hospital being sued for life support error

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City woman said she mistakenly consented to having a stranger taken off life support because he'd been misidentified as her brother.

The woman, Shirell Powell, is suing a Bronx hospital that contacted her in July about a dying patient. The man, who had the same name as her brother, had a tube in his mouth and a swollen appearance.

The medical examiner determined the man's correct identity.

Frederick Williams was actually in jail. He told the New York Post that he's upset about his family's ordeal.

### Geese chase leads to fall through thin ice

**DE** WILMINGTON — A dog on a wild geese chase led his owners onto thin ice in Delaware, and authorities say it isn't the first time this has happened.

Mill Creek Fire Company Chief Joseph Stewart said a man tried to rescue his Rottweiler who fell through the ice at a dog park Sunday but then went in himself. His son pulled him out and onto some nearby rocks, and they were rescued by a bystander who called 911.

News outlets cited a New Castle County police news release saying the humans showed signs of hypothermia and were hospitalized. The dog was taken to an animal hospital.

### Police: Man attacked woman over TV talk

**FL** PALM BAY — Police in Florida said a man shoved a handgun into a woman's mouth after she

complained he was talking too much during a TV show.

Florida Today reported Calvin Lindsey, 55, was arrested at a home in Palm Bay on battery and assault charges.

Palm Bay police did not specify the show they were watching. After the woman complained he talked too much, police said, Lindsey went into the master bedroom and shut the door. When the woman went in to get a blanket, she heard the sound of a shotgun being racked.

Police allege the man pushed her down and placed the barrel of a handgun in her mouth. Police said the woman broke her tooth.

### Woman accidentally donates mug of cash

**GA** CONYERS — A Georgia woman gave away much more than intended when she donated a souvenir mug to charity.

Lindsay Preiss told WSB-TV that when she donated the yellow travel mug with a Mickey Mouse sticker on it to a Goodwill store in Conyers, she didn't realize it had \$6,500 inside. Now she's hoping whoever scooped up the unexpected treasure will return it.

Preiss' son, Devon Silvey, 27, recently sold his car for cash on a Sunday, when banks were closed. He was in the process of moving and stopped by his parents' house for boxes.

He said he didn't want to leave the cash in his car so he stashed it in the mug in a cabinet.

### Superman Building is most endangered

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Preservationists say Providence's iconic Superman Building is still facing the kryptonite of neglect.

The landmark formally known as the Industrial Trust Building tops the Providence Preservation Society's list of most endangered properties for 2019.

The 91-year-old skyscraper, Rhode Island's tallest building, got its nickname because of its resemblance to the Daily Planet headquarters in the old "Superman" TV show. It's been vacant for more than five years.

Among the oldest buildings on the list is the Richard Brown House on the east side, built in 1731.

### Rescue owl has home thanks to volunteers

**WV** MORGANTOWN — A rescue owl in West Virginia named Jeff now has a home of his own thanks to volunteers with The Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia and AmeriCorps.

ACCA board member Katie Fallon told The Dominion Post that Jeff's home will allow him to take part in the organization's education program, during which he'll travel to area schools.

Fallon said a person found Jeff and two other barred owls as babies and raised them, so they're too accustomed to people to be released into the wild.

Fallon said Jeff and the two other owls were later surrendered to the state.

### Boll weevil replicas planned for art show

**AL** ENTERPRISE — Giant replicas of boll weevils will soon invade a southeast Alabama town that celebrates the insect.

The Dothan Eagle reported that colorfully decorated replicas of the bugs are part of a planned art exhibit in the southeast Alabama community

of Enterprise.

The project kicks off Thursday, when the first four boll weevils will be unveiled.

The boll weevils will be custom-decorated similar to the "Dothan Peanuts Around Town" project in Dothan and the "Pelicans in Paradise" in Pensacola, Fla.

### Owner with unwanted flag to sell restaurant

**SC** ORANGEBURG — A South Carolina restaurant owner said he is selling his business because of a Confederate flag he can't remove.

Edisto River Creamery owner Tommy Daras said the dispute over the flag has hurt business.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans were given a small piece of land in front of Edisto River Creamery in Orangeburg by the building's previous owner and continue to fly a rebel flag by a Confederate monument.

Daras tried to get the flag removed through a zoning complaint but couldn't.

### Firefighters learn how to rescue livestock

**IL** CHAMPAIGN — Firefighters are trained to rescue residents of burning buildings but what if those residents are cows, horses or pigs?

The Illinois Fire Service Institute based at the University of Illinois is teaching firefighters called to barn fires how to lead the animals from the burning structures as well as round up livestock after semi wrecks on interstates in its first hands-on training session.

The (Champaign) News-Gazette reported that 17 firefighters from around the state attended the session.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News



## Media Night now more like a mosh pit and Mardi Gras

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Super Bowl Media Night is the NFL's version of a rock concert, with player interviews rather than music.

It's a Mardi Gras party, complete with the costumes.

It's a slow-motion stampede conducted mostly by quasi-media members or outright impostors.

Some Los Angeles Rams players and coach Sean McVay sat at podiums Monday night, answering questions ranging from serious to outrageous. Other Rams were spread across the mosh pit of a floor at the State Farm Arena, dealing with the microphones and TV cameras and the noise bouncing through the building.

This is the start of the biggest week in American football?

Nowadays, it is.

"Very cool to be here," said Rams star defensive tackle Aaron Donald, the only unanimous All-Pro this season.

He was, of course, sitting in the safety of a podium.

As he looked out, he might spot a woman in a blue gown strutting for TV cameras that didn't seem to be searching for anything football related.

Or several people in full Mexican regalia — nice sombreros, for sure — giving their own interviews rather than asking anything about jet sweeps or corner blitzes.

There even was a man dressed in a clown suit from head to toe, wearing the make-up to complement the outfit. How fitting.

"You play all your career to get here," Donald added. Presumably he meant to face the AFC champion Patriots on Sunday in the game, not the opening night that increasingly seems to be about anything but his profession. "It's a blessing to be here."

Melissa Whitworth, the wife of Donald's teammate, tackle Andrew Whitworth, didn't mind the mayhem at all. On hand with her four children — twins Sarah and Drew, both 7; Michael, who is 6; and Katherine, 4 — she has been a fan of Media Night for a while, and

was thrilled her husband had gotten there at least.

"After 13 years," she said with a wide smile, her kids nearby dressed in Rams jerseys with the number 77 and Whitworth on the back. "I love this night. I love everything about this night."

So did daughter Sarah, who said she didn't like football — she might have had quite a bit of company among the throngs paying more attention to each other than to the players. Asked if she watched her dad play, she shook her head 'no,' noting she preferred ballet.

Many Rams were able to break away from the throngs of onlookers and pretend media on the floor to return to their childhoods. Marcus Peters and Dante Fowler Jr., walked onto a makeshift stage Monday night and played a tossing game for the Nickelodeon show "Double Dare."

It was a quick respite for the Los Angeles Rams defensive duo, and cornerback Peters appeared to beat linebacker Fowler in the game. Then they were back into the scrum of microphones and TV cameras.

As for the Patriots, well, the lineup was short.

"We're having them do physical challenges," said Marc Summers, the long-time host of the program. "But we're not getting the Patriots to come over. New England has been here many times and they are confident and are a little over this (scene). The Rams are having the time of their lives and enjoying participating in everything."

A few minutes later, Patriots placekicker Stephen Gostkowski might have invited the wrath of his coach by actually taking part in one of Summers' activities, a mini-basketball challenge. Talk about being unafraid of a double dare.

Back to the chaos elsewhere, one front-row fan sported a Patriots jersey while wearing a Rams head mask. An ugly one, too.

Confusing, but certainly fitting.

# Goff, Brady don't see advantage in experience, youth

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Jared Goff was 7 years old when Tom Brady beat the Rams to win his first Super Bowl in early 2002. The kid has been a fan of the superstar ever since.

Goff is now 24, the same age as Brady was then. When Brady plays in his ninth Super Bowl this weekend in Atlanta for the New England Patriots, Goff will be on the other sideline for Los Angeles, neither star-struck nor cocky.

Their 17-year age gap is the biggest between starting quarterbacks in Super Bowl history. Yet the passing years apparently mean little to Brady, and they're just as unimportant to Goff, who sees no advantage in his youth and no disadvantage in his inexperience.

"It's a guy that you've looked up to for so long," Goff said Thursday. "Now I get a chance to play in one with him. We do respect him, but I'm going to go out there and do my best and be the best I can be, and hopefully come out with a win."

Both quarterbacks will be under a relentless spotlight this week. Brady lives his life under that glare, while Goff is still getting used to it after just three years of being a No. 1 overall pick who stumbled early, but grew quickly into a successful quarterback.

Goff doesn't admit to seeing this Super Bowl as a chance to step into Brady's echelon as one of the league's elite passers, even if that's what much of the football world is telling him. But after Goff led the Rams to 24 wins and two playoff victories over the past two years, the Rams already think he's there.

"We're very confident in his ability to lead us, knowing that it's a big game," Rams coach

Sean McVay said. "I think Jared will be himself, which is exactly what we want him to be."

Goff and Brady are from different generations, but the quarterbacks have a few things in common.

They're both from the Bay Area, with Brady growing up on the Peninsula and Goff in Marin County. Neither was a can't-miss NFL prospect heading into college, but neither let it stop him.

Already the winningest quarterback in NFL history, Brady will play in his 40th playoff game in Atlanta. Goff is playing in his fourth, but he is riding the momentum of his first two career postseason victories in the past two games.

Goff didn't have many plays on his shoulders two weeks ago when the Rams' ground game ran over the Dallas Cowboys. He played a larger role in the Rams' wild victory over the Saints, and he emerged with the renewed respect of his coaches and teammates.

It wasn't his best performance of the season, but it was probably the most satisfying.

Goff and Brady have only faced each other once before. In December 2016, Brady became the NFL's career victories leader in a 26-10 victory at New England, while Goff threw two interceptions in his third career start.

Goff met Brady for the first time at that game. They're friendly, but not yet close.

When asked if it feels surreal to be heading toward a Super Bowl showdown with the mighty Patriots and a quarterback who has been winning championships for his entire life, Goff stifled a grin.

"No," he replied. "I've played these guys before."

# Toronto bolsters blue line with Muzzin

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Toronto Maple Leafs acquired defenseman Jake Muzzin from the Los Angeles Kings on Monday night for a first-round pick and two prospects, bolstering their blue line with a Stanley Cup-winning veteran.

Los Angeles gets forward Carl Grundstrom and the rights to unsigned defenseman Sean Durzi in the deal, along with a first-round pick in 2019.

Muzzin is a steady veteran defenseman signed through next season at a salary cap hit of \$4 million. The blue line has been Toronto's biggest weakness this season, and Muzzin could be a top-four defenseman for the Leafs, perhaps fitting in their top pairing with Morgan Rielly.

"The key is his ability to play at the top end of our defense, play in all situations, play against the other team's top players," Toronto general manager Kyle Dubas said. "He's proven himself over a good career now to be able to move the puck, to excel at playing against high-quality competition and to contribute offensively."

The 29-year-old Muzzin has four goals

and 17 assists in 50 games this season, struggling at times along with his teammates in the last-place Kings' miserable year.

"I was a little shocked to get the phone call," Muzzin said. "You hear rumblings and rumors and stuff like that and you just continue on with your ways until it actually happens and everything sinks in. Very excited to join Toronto."

His departure is the biggest sign yet that general manager Rob Blake is willing to reboot the roster of a club with just one playoff victory in the past four seasons since its second Stanley Cup title.

The Kings (20-26-4) sit last in the Western Conference with 44 points from 50 games.

"I think we're in a position where we're looking up every day at the standings," Blake said. "We're not happy about where we are. We're not comfortable with where we are, and now we have to make decisions for the best of the organization going forward."

After going undrafted in 2009 and signing with Los Angeles as a free agent, Muzz-

in played his way into a steady NHL career with the Kings. He was a key contributor during their run to the 2014 title, scoring 12 points in 26 playoff games.

Muzzin struggled through the 2016-17 season with 28 points and a minus-21 rating, but he bounced back last season with a career-high 42 points.

Blake thinks Muzzin will handle the transition to the Eastern Conference easily after a career in the West.

"I think he's an elite defenseman," Blake said. "He's going to bring the physical aspect, but he has poise and patience to make plays. I think the adjustment will come naturally for him because he is a top defenseman."

Grundstrom, 21, was a second-round pick in 2016 and has 29 points in 42 games with Toronto's AHL affiliate this season. The 20-year-old Durzi, a second-round pick last year, has 28 points in 26 games this season in the Ontario Hockey League. Blake said the Kings like Durzi's offensive abilities.

## Top 25 roundup

# Williamson helps No. 2 Duke roll past Irish

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Zion Williamson flew unimpeded again.

For Notre Dame, there was no chance at grounding him. For Mike Krzyzewski, there's no need to even think about grounding him.

"What do you mean 'grounded'? So he doesn't jump, or what?" the Duke coach said Monday night, repeating a reporter's word used during a question about keeping the Blue Devils' freshman sensation level-headed.

"The kid's like one of the best kids in the whole world," Krzyzewski said. "No way (his head is going to get too big). I mean, he is so good, is such a great kid."

Williamson scored 26 points, grabbed nine rebounds and blocked four shots, and fellow freshmen RJ Barrett and Cam

Reddish combined for another 30 points as No. 2 Duke rolled to an 83-61 victory over the Fighting Irish.

Williamson made 10 of 12 shots from the field for the Blue Devils, who were in control all the way.

Duke (18-2, 7-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) won its fourth straight game while sending Notre Dame (11-10, 1-7) to its sixth straight loss.

Barrett tallied 17 points for the Blue Devils to go with nine rebounds. Reddish had 13 points.

"Our guys, the two games in three days (with) travel, you never know what's going to happen," said Krzyzewski, whose club was coming off a 13-point home win Saturday over Georgia Tech, "but our guys really handled tonight well. Proud of them."

John Mooney scored 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds

for the Irish. It was his seventh consecutive double-double, but he finished just 4 of 15 from the field.

Prentiss Hubb added 13 points, while T.J. Gibbs had 12 points and four steals, but they, too, struggled with their shots, going a combined 9 of 28.

"I told our guys I think we had the two best teams in the country roll through our building in the last (three) days," said Notre Dame coach Mike Brey, whose club lost 82-55 to No. 3 Virginia on Saturday.

"I like how we competed against this one tonight," said Brey, who had expressed disappointment in the effort against the Cavaliers. "Let's see if that can be a better habit for us. It's kind of been a habit for us — it was just disappointing Saturday."

**No. 16 Texas Tech 84, TCU 65:** Jarrett Culver scored 12 of his 18 points after halftime, in-

cluding two punctuating dunks in the closing minutes, and the host Red Raiders snapped a three-game Big 12 losing streak with a win over the Horned Frogs.

Texas Tech (17-4, 5-3 Big 12) had its biggest lead after Tariq Owens blocked a shot that was rebounded by Davide Moretti, who worked the ball up the court before a lob pass to Culver for an emphatic slam that made it 80-60 with 3:16 left. Culver had another dunk after that.

Matt Mooney also had 18 points for Texas Tech, which lost three Big 12 games in a row before a win over Arkansas in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge on Saturday night. Owens had 17 points while Moretti finished with 11 points and seven assists.

Kouat Noi had 16 points for TCU (15-5, 3-4).



## NBA roundup

## Curry, streaking Warriors rip Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Stephen Curry's first-half shooting clinic was virtually flawless.

His championship teammates pitched in, too.

Curry scored 23 of his 26 points in the first half Monday and Golden State ran away with a 132-100 rout at Indiana for its league-leading 11th consecutive victory. The two-time defending champions still aren't satisfied.

"I feel like we can," Curry said when asked if the Warriors can get even better. "We're not playing perfect basketball, by any stretch, but we're playing consistent, focused basketball and we're still working out some kinks with rotations and stuff like that."

It's a scary thought for the rest of the league, especially after the two-time MVP turned in another head-turning performance.

Curry made his first eight shots and his first six three-pointers, including a demoralizing 27-foot buzzer-beater that gave the Warriors a 69-48 halftime lead. He finished 10-for-13 from the field with six rebounds, three assists and two steals in just 27 minutes.

DeMarcus Cousins had a sea-

son-high 22 points on a night five players scored in double figures and the Warriors had 39 assists.

And all that came on the final leg of a five-game road trip without Draymond Green, who rested, and against the league's No. 1 scoring defense.

"I was a little worried about this game. Everybody's anxious to get home," coach Steve Kerr said. "But we finished off the trip the right way. We've been more dialed in the last month than we have all season."

Golden State has won a league-high 10 consecutive road games and swept a five-game trip for the first time since November 2014.

The Pacers played without All-Star guard Victor Oladipo, who had season-ending surgery on his right knee Monday, and Tyreke Evans, Oladipo's replacement, because of a sore back. But even at full strength, they may have struggled to weather the Warriors' flurry.

Indiana gave up a season-high 40 points in the first quarter, and never got closer than 16 after Curry broke a 16-16 tie by scoring eight points to start a decisive 24-6 quarter-closing run en route to its most lopsided loss this season.

"There's no doubt in my mind

that this team is going on the up track," Pacers guard Darren Collison said. "I think we saw tonight, playing against a team like that, how to execute and we can take something from that."

**Nuggets 95, Grizzlies 92:** Nikola Jokic scored 24 points and made a go-ahead basket with 28.9 seconds left, and visiting Denver overcame a 25-point, second-half deficit to beat Memphis.

Will Barton's three-pointer with 43 seconds remaining gave the Nuggets their first lead of the game at 91-89. After a three-pointer from Memphis' Justin Holiday, Jokic scored inside to put Denver ahead to stay.

Malik Beasley had 18 points, 13 in the fourth quarter to key Denver's rally. Barton had 20 points, and the Nuggets moved to 34-15, the best start in franchise history.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 28 points and nine rebounds.

**Celtics 112, Nets 104:** Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart each scored 21 points, and host Boston beat Brooklyn to snap the injury-riddled Nets' six-game winning streak.

Aron Baynes had 16 points, Marcus Morris 15, and Al Horford and Terry Rozier each had 14 for Boston, which tied a franchise record with 16 blocked

shots and won for the sixth time in seven games. Horford had 11 rebounds.

The Celtics played without star guard Kyrie Irving, who was sidelined with a sore left hip.

D'Angelo Russell led the Nets with 25 points and Shabazz Napier had 20.

**Hornets 101, Knicks 92:** Kemba Walker and Tony Parker each had 15 points, Malik Monk had four clutch 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and host Charlotte handed New York its 10th straight loss.

Monk scored 12 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter to help ignite a 17-1 run as Charlotte improved to 17-8 at home.

Kevin Knox had 19 points and Tim Hardaway Jr. 17 for the struggling Knicks, who have won one game since beating the Hornets on Dec. 14.

**Hawks 123, Clippers 118:** Trae Young scored 26 points, John Collins added 22 and Atlanta beat host Los Angeles for the first time in nearly three years.

Atlanta had lost five in a row to the Clippers dating to March 5, 2016. The Hawks earned their first win against a Pacific Division opponent this season after dropping their first five.

## NHL roundup

## Rookie goalie Hart boosts Flyers over Jets

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carter Hart has earned the nickname Starter Hart in Philly.

Why sit him?

The most popular Flyers rookie this side of Gritty the mascot has certainly turned into their most productive one — and Hart has sparked a franchise on the brink of a breakup with a gleam of hope for the future.

Phil Varone, Travis Konecny and James van Riemsdyk scored to lead Philadelphia

to its season-high fourth straight win, 3-1 over the Winnipeg Jets on Monday night.

Hart has won all four of those games in goal for the Flyers, a needed highlight for one of the worst teams in the NHL. He stopped 31 shots against the Jets and won his seventh game since his late-December call-up.

"I feel comfortable at this level," Hart said. "The boards are the same, the ice is the same, just got to go out and play. That's the approach that I have to have."

Varone knocked in his second goal of the season midway through the second period

for a 1-0 lead. Jack Roslovic tied it on a deflection.

Konecny snapped the tie on a redirection past Laurent Brossoit with 1:14 left in the second for his 13th goal of the season. Hart made the lead stand up and van Riemsdyk scored late to help the Flyers build a modest winning streak against four teams with winning records.

**Devils 6, Penguins 3:** Travis Zajac had a goal and three assists, Keith Kinkaid made 37 saves and visiting New Jersey had little trouble over sluggish Pittsburgh.