

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, June 9, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Trump says he feels ‘total vindication’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Claiming “total and complete vindication,” President Donald Trump broke his Twitter silence Friday morning to weigh in on fired FBI Director James Comey’s closely watched testimony.

Trump, who had refrained from tweeting all day Thursday — even as Comey accused his administration of spreading “lies” and suggested Trump had attempted to influence the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election — struck back in an early morning tweet.

“Despite so many false statements and lies, total and complete vindication,” Trump wrote, suggesting that Comey, who was under oath at the hearing, had committed perjury.

Trump also seized on Comey’s revelation that he had directed a friend to release memos he’d written documenting his conversations with the president to a reporter.

“... and WOW, Comey is a leaker!” Trump wrote at 6:10 a.m.

Trump also retweeted a comment from attorney Alan Dershowitz, who had written:

“We should stop talking about obstruction of justice. No plausible case. We must distinguish crimes from” political “sins.”

Trump was expected to face journalists at the White House later Friday in a joint news conference with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis. He also planned to deliver remarks at the Department of Transportation on his plans for improving the country’s roads and bridges before traveling to New Jersey for the weekend.

Trump had stayed unusually quiet on Thursday, refraining from weighing in on the testimony gripping the country both on Twitter and at several public appearances. Instead, Trump let his lawyer do the talking for him. But the self-imposed silence didn’t last. The White House announced late Thursday that Trump would be holding a press conference with Iohannis.

In his first congressional appearance since being abruptly fired by Trump last month, Comey detailed months of distrust of the president and bluntly asserted Trump had fired him to interfere with the probe of Russia’s ties to the Trump campaign.

He said he’d carefully documented his in-

teractions with Trump because he worried the president would misrepresent them and accused the administration of spreading “lies, plain and simple” about the reasons for his firing.

Comey’s testimony underscored the discord that had soured their relationship. He painted Trump as a chief executive dismissive of the FBI’s independence and made clear that he interpreted Trump’s request to end an investigation into the former national security adviser as an order coming from the president.

Comey also revealed he’d orchestrated the public release of information about his private conversations with the president in an effort to further the investigation.

Trump’s private attorney, Marc Kasowitz, seized on the admission, casting the former FBI director as one of the “leakers” set on undermining the Trump administration.

The attorney is expected to file a complaint with the Justice Department inspector general about the revelation next week, according to a person close to the legal team who agreed to speak on condition that the person’s name is not used.

## S. Korea says it will abide by missile pact with US

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Saying North Korea poses a “very serious and urgent threat,” South Korea’s national security adviser said the new government will abide by the agreement with the U.S. on deploying a controversial missile-defense system.

The reassurance came as the North claimed it has tested a new type of cruise missile that could strike U.S. and South Korean warships “at will” if it’s attacked. The report on the state-run Korean Central News Agency didn’t give a date, but it was clearly referring to a missile test conducted Thursday.

Chung Eui-yong, head of South Korea’s national secu-

rity office, said four missiles were fired Thursday. Military officials said the missiles traveled about 125 miles before splashing into the sea off North Korea’s east coast.

The launch followed the departure of the U.S. aircraft carriers USS Carl Vinson and USS Ronald Reagan from the region after conducting joint exercises with allies South Korea and Japan.

The growing threat from the North — which insists it will continue with its nuclear weapons program despite international pressure and economic sanctions — was cited as the reason for last year’s agreement by Washington and Seoul to station a Terminal High Altitude Area defense system on the divided peninsula.

But the decision was made by former President Park Geun-hye, who has been ousted and jailed over a scandal involving influence-peddling and corruption.

Her successor, Moon Jae-in, took office on May 10 promising to review THAAD’s deployment and has since ordered it suspended pending a full environmental impact assessment.

Two launchers and other equipment have been installed on a former golf course in the remote southeastern area of Seongju. But four other launchers have yet to be delivered to the site.

An investigation ordered by Moon’s office concluded that the country’s defense ministry, which is still led by a Park-appointed, failed to disclose the

arrival of the four launchers in the country.

The ministry also is accused of trying to divide the land being used for THAAD to avoid a full environmental study, which officials have said could take more than a year.

Chung told reporters Friday that the decision to postpone the full deployment was a domestic measure to ensure a “transparent and democratic process.” He didn’t give a timeframe.

“Our government plans to deal with the THAAD deployment with a few principles while being fully aware of North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats,” Chung said. “The government has no intention to fundamentally change what it has promised under the Korea-U.S. alliance.”

## USS George H.W. Bush returns to fight ISIS

The USS George H.W. Bush has moved to the eastern Mediterranean and is launching air attacks against the Islamic State, the Navy said.

The strike group had departed from the U.S. Central Command area of operations, where it had spent more than two months.

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier deployed from Norfolk on Jan. 21 as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. military's effort to nullify ISIS militants in Iraq and Syria. This is its second deployment to fight ISIS and third overall since it was commissioned in 2009.

## Navy sailor who went overboard still missing

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A U.S. Navy sailor from Rhode Island remains missing after being reported overboard from a guided-missile cruiser off the coast of North Carolina.

Petty Officer Christopher Clavin, 23, of Lincoln, went overboard Tuesday afternoon from the USS Normandy, which is based in Norfolk, Va.

Military officials said the search has covered 2,500 square miles and will continue.

## Marine barred from graduation over uniform

CROWN POINT, Ind. — A Marine was turned away from his high school graduation ceremony in Indiana this week when he showed up in his dress blues instead of the standard cap and gown.

The Times of Northwest Indiana reports Jacob Stanley graduated from Crown Point High School in December and joined the Marines. He completed boot camp last week and flew home for Tuesday's ceremony.

School principal Chip Petit told the newspaper tradition calls for all students to wear caps and gowns to graduation. He said individual students can recognize achievements such as military service by wearing stoles or cords over their gowns.

From staff and wire reports

# Manning talks leaks, transition

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chelsea Manning believed she had a “responsibility to the public” and didn’t think she was risking national security when she leaked a trove of classified documents, the soldier said in her first interview since being released from a military prison last month.

The 29-year-old formerly known as Bradley Manning said in a pretaped interview broadcast Friday on ABC’s “Good Morning America” that she was prompted to give the 700,000 military and State Department documents to WikiLeaks because of the human toll of the “death, destruction and mayhem” she saw as an Army intelligence analyst in Iraq. She told ABC that she has

“accepted responsibility” for her actions.

“No one told me to do this. No one directed me to do this. This is me. It’s on me,” she said.

Manning was released from a military prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., on May 18 after serving seven years of a 35-year sentence, which was commuted by former President Barack Obama in his final days in office.

Manning also touched on her struggles dealing with her gender transition while in prison. She said she tried to kill herself twice behind bars and fought for the hormone treatments she said keep her alive.

Manning remains in the Army, but is off duty while she appeals her court-martial conviction.

# Pentagon credits Russia with easing US-Iran tensions in Syria

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Friday that tensions have dropped near a U.S. training base in southern Syria just one day after U.S.-led coalition troops attacked Iran-backed militiamen supporting the Syrian government for the third time in a month. U.S. defense officials credited an unlikely source — Russia.

“I think the calm we see today is largely due to their efforts,” Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said of the Russians. “They are trying to get the other parties — the pro-[Syrian government], the Iranian-backed militias — to do the right thing and to prevent them from taking actions that are destabilizing like we saw yesterday.”

On Thursday, U.S.-led forces attacked the militiamen as they attempted to reinforce an encampment close to a coalition training base in Tanf, which is near the Jordanian border. The United States and other anti-Islamic State coalition nations use the base to train Syrian rebels to fight the terrorist group.

Thursday’s strike was the

third time the U.S. military attacked the group since May 18. Later Thursday, an American F-15E Strike Eagle shot down an armed drone apparently supporting the militia after it dropped a bomb near a patrol of U.S.-backed anti-ISIS fighters just outside the noncombat zone that surrounds Tanf.

The Pentagon has maintained all four of its attacks were conducted in self-defense to stop a direct threat. The United States does not want a fight with any group other than ISIS, Davis told reporters.

“We are in Syria to defeat ISIS. Full stop,” he said. “Anything else we do is in self-defense only. We do not seek conflict with the Syrian regime or with these pro-regime or Iranian proxy forces.”

The U.S. maintains communications channels with Russia to ensure flight safety over Syria. American forces have repeatedly asked the Russian military, which supports Syrian President Bashar Assad, to relay the message to pro-Syrian government forces to stay outside a 35-mile perimeter established around the Tanf base. U.S.-led forces have dropped some 90,000 leaflets warning the group to move.

Davis said the Russians have relayed the American messages to the militia through the Assad government. He said tensions have eased, though the Iran-backed forces had not moved from the area near Tanf.

Davis declined to discuss the details of those communications with the Russians, which he said also included talks between top military officials. “It literally is in our agreement with the Russians about this (flight safety) line that we don’t talk about what is discussed on it,” he said.

The Pentagon has been largely critical of Russia’s involvement in the Syrian civil war. Russia and Iran are among Assad’s key allies, backing him in a war that has raged on since 2011.

The drone used by the militia was similar to an American MQ-1 Predator and was armed when it was shot down. The bomb dropped was “a dud” and did not injure or kill any U.S.-backed fighters, Davis said.

He declined to reveal the drone’s origin. But there are few groups operating in Syria with such “high-end unmanned fighting systems,” Davis said.

# Military wants time to develop transgender recruitment policy

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Army and Marine Corps are requesting delays as long as two years in implementing a policy to accept transgender applicants into their ranks, according to government officials.

The requests for delays have been made to Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work in advance of a July 1 deadline for the services to develop policies to recruit and commission transgender troops. Under a policy enacted last year during the Obama administration, the Pentagon has allowed transgender troops in the ranks to continue serving; they previously had been banned from the military based on health reasons.

The Army and Marine Corps, in seeking the delays, have raised concerns about having enough data about transgender troops to make a proper assess-

ment about accepting them for service, one source said.

Another concern has been the availability of transgender troops to deploy to war zones while under treatment for gender transitions, according to three government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Navy is ready to implement a policy, the sources said.

The directive required the services to develop guidelines for accepting new transgender troops by July 1. Work, in a memo, had directed the service chiefs to file their plans on May 31 to meet the deadline.

Headvisedtopofficialsthathe did not intend to revisit the issue unless it could “cause readiness problems that could lessen our ability to fight, survive and win on the battlefield.”

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis hasn’t made a decision on

accepting new transgender troops.

An architect of the plan that repealed the transgender troop ban has said Work’s memo was an invitation to the services to seek a delay. Brad Carson, the former top Pentagon personnel official, said allowing the services to raise concerns about readiness would allow them to seek delays for a policy some viewed as controversial.

The estimated 6,000 transgender troops among the 1.3 million men and women on active duty would have a “minimal impact on readiness and health-care costs,” according to a 2016 report commissioned by the Pentagon by the RAND Corp. About 130 transgender troops per year would have “reduced deployability” because of treatment for gender transition. That compared with 50,000 nondeployable soldiers in 2015.

## Justice won’t prosecute VA execs accused of deception

Associated Press

DENVER — The Justice Department has declined to prosecute two Veterans Affairs Department executives after lawmakers accused them of misleading Congress about massive cost overruns at a Denver-area VA hospital.

The House Veterans’ Affairs Committee asked for a perjury investigation last fall, claiming the executives gave false testimony that masked serious problems with the hospital construction project.

The Justice Department told lawmakers in a May 19 letter there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., released the letter to The Associated Press Thursday.

The decision means no one has yet been fired or charged since the cost of the hospital ballooned to nearly \$1.7 billion, almost triple earlier estimates.

The VA has said everyone involved in the problems has retired or was transferred or demoted.

The hospital is still under construction in the Denver suburb of Aurora and is expected to be finished next year.

The VA executives targeted by lawmakers were Glenn Haggstrom, then the top official in charge of construction projects, and Stella Fiotes, director of the VA’s Office of Construction and Facilities Management.

Investigations concluded the VA bungled the project, providing insufficient oversight, approving lavish design elements, failing to get the designers and builders to agree, and trying to use a complicated form of construction contract executives didn’t fully understand.

The VA’s inspector general, an internal watchdog, said last year that Haggstrom knew the project was veering toward huge cost overruns but didn’t tell lawmakers when he testified before Congress in 2013 and 2014. That prompted lawmakers to call for the perjury investigation of Haggstrom and Fiotes.

## No bond for USAF vet accused of leaking

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — A federal judge ordered a young woman charged with leaking classified U.S. documents to remain jailed until her trial after prosecutors argued she might possess more stolen government secrets.

Prosecutors also said Thursday that Reality Winner, 25, might try to flee the U.S. if released on bond. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Solari told the judge Winner had written in a notebook: “I want to burn the White House Down ... find somewhere in Kurdistan to live. Ha-ha!”

Winner pleaded not guilty in U.S. District Court to charges she illegally retained and transmitted national defense information. The federal crime carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison if she’s convicted.

The former Air Force linguist, who speaks Arabic and Farsi and had a top-secret security clearance, was working as a government contractor in Augusta when she copied and mailed a classified report containing top-secret material to an online news organization, prosecutors say.

Authorities haven’t described the report nor named the news outlet. But the Justice Department announced Winner’s arrest Monday as The Intercept reported it had obtained a classified National Security Agency report suggesting

Russian hackers attacked a U.S. voting software supplier before last year’s presidential election. The NSA report was dated May 5, the same as the document Winner is charged with leaking.

Prosecutors warned U.S. Magistrate Judge Brian Epps that Winner might have more stolen secrets. Solari said investigators have learned Winner inserted a portable hard drive into a top-secret Air Force computer before she left the military last year. She said authorities don’t know what happened to the drive nor what was on it.

Solari said Winner’s laptop also contained software that could enable her to access online black markets to buy items — such as a fake ID or passport — without revealing her identity or location.

“We don’t know how much more she knows and how much more she remembers,” Solari said. “But we do know she’s very intelligent. So she’s got a lot of valuable information in her head.”

Winner’s mother and stepfather told the judge she had no criminal history, and they would use their 20-acre home in Kingsville, Texas, to finance her bond with confidence she wouldn’t run.

The judge said he was worried about what happened to the portable hard drive prosecutors mentioned, as well as references Winner had made in her notebook about the Middle East. He also mentioned her written comment about burning the White House.

## Jury hears Cosby in '05 deposition

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby says he apologized to the family of the woman he is accused of drugging and assaulting only because her mother thought he was “a dirty old man,” according to testimony read to the jury Friday at the comedian’s trial.

Cosby’s explanation was contained in a deposition he gave over a decade ago as part of a lawsuit filed by Andrea Constand, the woman whose allegations resulted in the only criminal charges brought against the TV star.

Portions of the deposition became public nearly two years ago. For the jury at his sexual assault trial, this is likely to be the closest it comes to hearing from Cosby himself, since he has said he does not intend to take the stand.

In the deposition, he recounted a telephone conversation he had with Constand’s mother.

“I apologized to this woman. But my apology was, my God, I’m in trouble with these people because this is an old man and their young daughter and the mother sees this,” he said in the 2005 deposition.

Constand, 44, testified this week that Cosby penetrated her with his fingers against her will in 2004 after giving her pills that left her paralyzed, unable to tell him to stop. Cosby maintains the encounter at his suburban Philadelphia home was consensual. The 79-year-old TV star could spend the rest of his life in prison if convicted.

During the deposition, Cosby told lawyers that he knew his finances could suffer if the public was told he had drugged and assaulted someone.

According to the deposition, Constand’s mother repeatedly asked Cosby over the phone about the pills he had given her daughter, but Cosby refused to tell her what they were and said he would send them in the mail, which he never did.

Cosby also described calling Constand’s family and offering her money for graduate school.

# UK election gamble backfires as May’s party loses majority

Associated Press

LONDON — Spectacularly punished by voters who took away her majority in Parliament, a politically wounded Theresa May sought to soldier on Friday as Britain’s prime minister, resisting pressure to resign after the failure of her high-stakes election gamble made the massive challenge of untangling Britain from the European Union only more complex and uncertain.

Having called an early election in hopes of getting an increased majority that could have strengthened her hand in Britain’s exit talks with the EU, May instead saw her majority evaporate completely — leaving her fortunes hanging by a thread and dark clouds over the Brexit negotiations just 10 days before they are due to start.

Rather than resign, May clung to the hope that her Conservatives still might be able to govern by making deals with another party or a group of parties. In a largely symbolic step, she went to see Queen Elizabeth II just after midday Friday to seek her approval to form a government.

Unexpectedly faced with the prospect of dealing with now-shaky British leadership, perplexed EU leaders sought to make sense of the drama but also made clear that while Britain might be accorded time to regroup, it should not expect an extension of the two-year deadline for the Brexit talks to end.

Chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier tweeted that “negotiations should start when U.K. is ready.” But EU Council President Donald Tusk said: “We know when they must end.” Mostly, the EU mood was one of frustration that the already tough Brexit talks were likely to become only more difficult.

The election shock is “yet another own goal” that will make “already complex negotiations even more complicated,” said the European Parliament’s top Brexit official, Guy Verhofstadt.

With 649 of 650 seats in the House of Commons declared, May’s bruised Conservatives had 318 — short of the 326 they needed for an outright majority and well down from the 330 seats they had before May’s roll of the electoral dice.

May’s best lifeline appeared

to be a possible — but also uncertain — deal with a Northern Ireland party that won 10 seats. Democratic Unionist Party leader Arlene Foster told British media that contacts will be made over the weekend. But she added that it would be “difficult for (May) to survive” and that “it is too soon to talk about what we’re going to do.”

In May’s camp, recriminations were immediate and stinging.

“This is a very bad moment for the Conservative Party, and we need to take stock,” Conservative lawmaker Anna Soubry said. “Our leader needs to take stock as well.”

The biggest winner was Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. Labour’s increase in seats from 229 to 261 — with one seat still undecided — confounded expectations that his left-wing views made him electorally toxic.

In a buoyant mood, Corbyn piled on pressure for May to resign, saying Friday morning that people have had enough of austerity politics and cuts in public spending.

## Iran accuses US, Saudis of backing attackers

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian leaders on Friday accused the U.S. and Saudi Arabia of supporting the Islamic State-claimed dual attacks that killed 17 people in Tehran this week, as thousands of Iranians attended a funeral ceremony for the victims.

The country’s Supreme Leader said the attacks will add to the hatred that Iranians harbor toward the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

In a condolence message ahead of a funeral for the victims, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the attack: “will not dam-

age the Iranian nation’s determination and the obvious result is nothing except an increase in hate for the governments of the United States and their stooges in the region like Saudi (Arabia),” state media reported.

On Thursday, Iran’s Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavai said investigators were working to determine whether Saudi Arabia had a role in Wednesday’s attacks but said it was too soon to say if that was the case.

During the funeral, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani called the U.S. the “international” version of ISIS and said

Washington had exchanged democracy for money, a reference to a recent huge arms deal between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. State TV broadcast the ceremony live.

He said anti-Iranian remarks by Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister and U.S. President Donald Trump are a “matter of disgrace” for them.

Also on Friday, police said two more suspects were detained in the western part of the country, bringing the number to up eight. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry in a statement increased the number of wounded to 52, up from 40.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Customer upset about onions at eatery jailed

**PA** PITTSBURGH — A Michigan man, apparently upset because his food included onions, was jailed on charges he made drunken threats to shoot the owner of a Pittsburgh restaurant before exposing himself.

Yuba Sharma, 43, of Rochester, remained in the Allegheny County Jail on Thursday on charges of terroristic threats, indecent exposure, public drunkenness and resisting arrest.

Police said Sharma ate at All Indiana restaurant on Monday night then returned Tuesday to rant and complain about the onions.

The owner told police Sharma threatened to shoot him, so he called police. That's when Sharma — confronted by the restaurant owner and another employee — pulled down his pants and exposed himself.

### Graduate delayed by subway gets diploma

**NY** NEW YORK — A nursing student who celebrated a makeshift graduation on a New York City subway train after a train breakdown made him miss the actual ceremony has finally received his diploma.

Hunter College President Jennifer Raab and nursing school Dean Gail McCain presented Jerich Alcantara with his diploma on Thursday. He said he is enjoying his brief moment in the spotlight and he was happy to see things end on a positive note.

Alcantara was on his way to commencement May 30 when his train stalled. Passengers waited an hour and a half for a rescue train.

Friends, family members and strangers threw him an

impromptu ceremony while they waited.

### Sheriff: Burglar falls asleep at high school

**CA** NORTH AUBURN — Authorities said two burglars broke into a Northern California high school, stole items, but then hung around.

Placer County sheriff's officials said a school employee discovered one of the men on Monday morning asleep in a classroom at Chana High School in North Auburn. The other man was in a bathroom.

The sheriff's office said the men — Kevin Thomas, 27, of Fresno, and Travis Alexander, 25, a Sacramento-area transient — broke windows to get into classrooms and filled two school-owned vehicles with computers, televisions and other stolen items.

But then, according to authorities, they prepared frozen meals that they ate inside a classroom. They were arrested on suspicion of burglary and vehicle theft.

### Dispensary creates pot pizza delight

**MA** QUINCY — A Massachusetts medical marijuana dispensary has created a culinary delight for patients who don't want to smoke their pot or eat it in the form of sweets.

Quincy-based Ermont Inc. has been selling cannabis-infused pizza to rave reviews.

Director of Operations Seth Yaffe said the company has a range of marijuana edibles but he wanted to offer meals patients could eat without a lot of sugar.

The six-inch cheese pizzas sell for \$38 apiece. The tomato sauce contains 125 milligrams of THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana. The

company has sold about 200 already. Yaffe said if patients want toppings, they can add their own.

Only people with state-issued medical marijuana ID cards are eligible to buy the pies.

### Clamshell-paved road covered in maggots

**RI** TIVERTON — Residents of a New England community say their neighborhood has been beset by a terrible stench after one of their neighbors paved a road with unwashed clamshells.

WJAR-TV reported a property owner in Tiverton put down the shells on a road last week.

But the uncleaned shells had meat still attached, leading to a putrid smell as it decomposes. Video shows maggots crawling all over the road.

Neighbors put up signs including: "Honk if it stinks." Blair Moore, whose family owns the house next door, says the smell is making her ill.

### Lightning strikes man sitting at office desk

**NY** ROCHESTER — A New York business owner said he's "happy to be alive" after being struck by lightning while sitting at his office desk.

Nick Gemayel told WHEC-TV in Rochester he was inside his auto repair shop Monday when severe thunderstorms rolled across the area. He said he saw a bright flash of light from the office's light switch, heard a loud crack and then the lights went out.

Gemayel said it was a few minutes before he realized his left hand was blistering from getting hit by the bolt that arced through the light switch.

Gemayel was treated at a hospital and released.

### Stolen pickup truck impaled on guardrail

**ID** ABERDEEN — Authorities said a stolen pickup truck was found impaled on 30 feet of guardrail in Idaho, but the driver was nowhere to be found.

Steve Howser, general manager of The Aberdeen-Springfield Canal Co. near Pocatello, said one of his workers was driving along the canal Sunday when he saw the pickup that was run completely through by a steel guard rail and left partially dangling in the water.

The sheriff's office said the vehicle was reported stolen.

The steel rail pierced the engine compartment and passed through the passenger side of the cab before exiting the rear window, with several yards of the rail left jutting out from the back of the vehicle.

Workers searched the canal several times but found no sign of the driver. There was no indication of serious injury inside the vehicle either, Howser said.

### 911 call for ride to Hooters ended in jail

**FL** MERRITT ISLAND — A Florida man wanted to go to Hooters so badly that, according to authorities, he told 911 dispatchers he needed a ride to the restaurant because his grandmother had just suffered a stroke in the parking lot.

Instead, Jonathan Hinkle, 28, got a ride to the Brevard County Jail on Tuesday night after deputies searched for three hours for his grandmother. When they finally found her at another location, she said she hasn't had a stroke or asked anyone for help. Hinkle was arrested on charges of misusing 911. He was released on bond Wednesday night.

From wire reports

On a mission to provide objective reporting to America's military, wherever they serve.  
Read us online at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

STARS AND STRIPES®

# Penguins serve up shutout of Predators

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The night started with a catfish throw.

It ended with haymaker after haymaker — both literal and proverbial — from Sidney Crosby and the rest of the resilient Pittsburgh Penguins.

The defending champions provided an emphatic reminder of why they're on the cusp of history with a 6-0 demolition of the Nashville Predators in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final to take a 3-2 lead. Pittsburgh will have a chance to become the first franchise to win back-to-back championships since Detroit in 1998 when the series shifts back to Nashville for Game 6 on Sunday night.

"Still a lot of work to be done," Crosby said after collecting three assists. "We know we're going to be facing a desperate team."

One that can't get back to the creature comforts of Smashville fast enough. The Penguins chased Pekka Rinne with a three-goal barrage in the first period and kept it going against backup Juuse Saros to push the Predators to the brink of elimination for the first time during their run to the final.

"I don't know if anybody shakes off a

game like that that quickly," Nashville coach Peter Laviolette said. "Nobody feels good leaving the building playing the way we did."

All the good mojo Rinne generated while helping Nashville rally to tie the series at 2 vanished in a span of 20 minutes. Justin Schultz beat Rinne just 91 seconds in, Bryan Rust and Evgeni Malkin followed before the first period horn sounded, continuing Rinne's baffling inability to play effectively in Pittsburgh during the series. Rinne has stopped just 34 of the 45 pucks that have come his way during seven forgettable periods at PPG Paints Arena.

"It was just one of those games where they were going and we were trying to find it and didn't really get it going at any point," Rinne said.

Not that the Penguins gave them much of a chance.

Conor Sheary, Phil Kessel — just as linemate Malkin predicted — and 35-year-old playoff newbie Ron Hainsey also scored for Pittsburgh. It was Crosby who sent the message — with his vision, his creativity and, oddly, his fists.

The two-time MVP's eventful night included becoming the franchise's all-time

leading scorer in the Stanley Cup Final, a two-minute roughing penalty for trying to dribble Nashville defenseman P.K. Subban's head on the ice near the end of the first period and what he said was an inadvertent flip of a water bottle onto the ice during play.

"I think Sid really understands the opportunity that this team has and he's not taking anything for granted," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said.

And apparently not taking any more stuff from Subban either. The two stars became tangled up behind the Nashville goal late in the first with Crosby on top. He attempted to extract himself but couldn't, then unleashed a torrent of punches at Subban's head.

"He was doing some sort of UFC move on my foot," Crosby said. "I don't know what he was trying to do. ... I don't know what he was trying to do to my ankle. I was in some kind of lock there."

Subban, who claimed Crosby was complaining about Subban's breath during a Game 3 run-in, just kind of sat there and took it.

## Nashville on brink as GK Rinne struggles again

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pekka Rinne's struggles in Pittsburgh have his Nashville Predators on the brink of elimination.

The Predators are hardly blaming Rinne for their predicament.

The Penguins overwhelmed Rinne again, sending Nashville's star goaltender to the bench in Pittsburgh for a second straight game in the Stanley Cup Final. He was pulled after the first period by coach Peter Laviolette after surrendering half the goals in a 6-0 rout by the Penguins in Game 5 on Thursday night.

"We've got to be better in front of him," Laviolette said. "I don't think that they were necessarily bad goals. Our guys have a tremendous amount of confidence in him. We just have to do a better job in front of him."

The Predators are in a 3-2 hole with Game 6 coming up

Sunday night in Nashville.

"We know we can be a lot better," Predators' captain Mike Fisher said. "We're going home and we're going to be re-energized. Our focus has to be on that game and getting one win."

Nashville rallied from a 2-0 deficit to tie the best-of-seven series and the home team has won all five games. Nashville is also a comfortable 9-1 in the playoffs at home, and teams that lost Game 5 of a tied Final have won the Stanley Cup four of the last eight times, including Pittsburgh in 2009.

But the Predators had little to enjoy from this one.

Phil Kessel scored his eighth of the playoffs and added two assists, while Sidney Crosby tallied three assists. Evgeni Malkin scored his 10th and had an assist, while Ron Hainsey also had a goal and an assist. Justin Schultz, Bryan Rust and Conor Sheary also scored for the

Penguins, who have outscored Nashville 15-4 in Pittsburgh.

Rinne made six saves on nine shots, while Juuse Saros, making his second career playoff appearance, stopped 12 shots.

"It's disappointing, for sure," Rinne said. "It's a big game. We came here with the mission to win the game and we didn't have the start or the game we wanted."

It was a familiar showing for Rinne. The three-time Vezina Trophy finalist allowed eight goals on just 36 shots during the first two games in Pittsburgh.

Rinne, the playoff leader in wins and goals-against average, rebounded in a big way for Games 3 and 4 in Nashville, limiting Pittsburgh to a just two goals on 52 shots as the Predators evened the series.

But Rinne struggled again Thursday in Pittsburgh, a place where he's never started and won in six career games. He gave up two goals in the

first 6:43 of the game and it never improved from there as he started the second period on the bench.

"Obviously not the start you want to have," Rinne said. "It seemed hard for us to get anything going. Right now we've just got to focus on Game 6 at home and put all our energy in that one."

Rinne is now 1-8-2 lifetime against the Penguins — his lone win came in relief at Nashville — and he owns a career 5.15 goals-against average and .822 save percentage in Pittsburgh. Rinne has allowed 11 goals on 45 shots in seven periods of play during the Stanley Cup Final in Pittsburgh.

Rinne insisted his confidence isn't shaken though he was disappointed with Thursday's result.

"That was a huge game," Rinne said. "I came here well-prepared and we just didn't have it tonight."

## Giants hold on in wild one against Milwaukee

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — A big 10th inning for the San Francisco Giants got off to a running start by distracting Milwaukee Brewers shortstop Orlando Arcia.

Gorkys Hernandez took off from first at right about the same time that pinch-hitter Kelby Tomlinson lined a bouncer to short. It probably would have turned into a double play if Arcia wasn't covering the bag at second.

Instead, Tomlinson had an infield single, and Hunter Pence followed with an RBI single that opened the scoring in a four-run inning that gave the Giants a 9-5 victory Thursday.

The Giants overcame a rough outing by closer Mark Melancon, who blew a two-run lead in the ninth.

"They kept fighting. That's all you can do," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

His offense roughed up Brewers reliever Jacob Barnes (1-1) for five hits and four runs. Barnes didn't record an out in the 10th.

The Brewers could have had two easy outs on a double play if Arcia wasn't moving to cover Hernandez at second.

"They put runners in motion," manager Craig Counsell said. "They got rewarded for contact."

Until that point, the Brewers had the momentum after getting to Melancon.

Eric Sogard led off the ninth with a homer, and Travis Shaw's RBI single three batters later tied the game at 5 with no outs before Melancon got the next three hitters.

Melancon (1-1) ended up with the win in spite of giving up three runs and two hits.

"We've had some tough times and you know, we give up a two-run lead there in the ninth and find a way to win the ball game," Bochy said. "You keep doing that and we'll get this turned around."

# Colorado wins fifth straight

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Colorado Rockies didn't need much with the way Tyler Chatwood was dominating. One big home run from DJ LeMahieu was plenty.

Chatwood pitched four-hit ball over six innings, LeMahieu hit a three-run homer and the Rockies beat the Chicago Cubs 4-1 for their season-high fifth straight win Thursday night.

"I just feel like we expect to win, which has really been different," LeMahieu said. "We expect to win road, home, whatever."

The Rockies lead the National League with 39 wins following six straight losing seasons. They've been particularly good on the road at 22-10.

Colorado is doing it with solid all-around play, and the pitching, defense and offense were all there against the Cubs on Thursday.

The NL West leaders only managed six hits, but one flurry in the second inning was all they needed.

The Rockies got their runs after Jon Lester (3-

4) struck out the first two batters. Charlie Blackmon blooped an RBI double to left just beyond diving shortstop Javier Baez. LeMahieu, who played for the Cubs in 2011, followed with an opposite-field drive to the basket in right.

In a flash, it was 4-1. And the way Chatwood was pitching, that was more than enough.

Lester lost at Wrigley Field for the first time in nearly 13 months, while the Cubs dropped their second straight after winning a season-high five in a row. They did that hours after Major League Baseball said it is looking into a domestic violence accusation against shortstop Addison Russell.

Chatwood (6-7) shut down Chicago after giving up a solo homer to Kris Bryant in the first. He also singled and scored.

Greg Holland picked up his major league-leading 22nd save in as many chances with a scoreless ninth.

Lester went five innings, allowing four runs and six hits, in his first loss at Wrigley Field since Pittsburgh beat him on May 15, 2016. Counting the playoffs, he was 14-0 in his previous 20 starts at home.

## Roundup

# Five-run 9th lifts Houston to win

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Lance McCullers took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Jose Altuve hit a two-run homer in a five-run ninth as the Houston Astros beat the Kansas City Royals 6-1 on Thursday.

Altuve's ninth home run came off Kelvin Herrera (1-2) with Josh Reddick aboard after walking on four pitches to lead off the inning. Herrera has yielded seven home runs in 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings after giving up only six in 72 innings last season.

Herrera retired only one of the five batters he faced and was charged with four runs, three hits and a walk. The inning also included a two-run single by Jake Marisnick.

Lorenzo Cain's one-out triple in the seventh ended McCullers' no-hit bid. Cain drilled a 3-0 pitch to center. He scored on Mike Moustakas' two-out single to tie the score.

**Yankees 9, Red Sox 1:** Gary Sanchez homered twice to drive in five runs and host New York

pounded David Price again a night after the Boston ace had an angry exchange with a reporter.

New York took two of three from its rival in their first series at Yankee Stadium this season. On the strength of stingy starts by CC Sabathia and Pineda, the Yankees outscored Boston 17-1 in the final two games and increased their AL East lead to three games over the second-place Red Sox.

**Braves 3, Phillies 1:** R.A. Dickey allowed only three hits in seven innings to earn his first win in five weeks and lead host Atlanta over rookie Ben Lively (1-1) and Philadelphia.

**Marlins 7, Pirates 1:** Edinson Volquez followed his no-hitter by pitching seven scoreless innings and Miami beat host Pittsburgh.

**Nationals 6, Orioles 1:** Joe Ross had a career-high 12 strikeouts in a sparkling performance, and Washington breezed past visiting Baltimore.

**Reds 5, Cardinals 2:** Joey

Votto had a two-run homer among his four hits, Adam Duvall had three hits off Mike Leake and host Cincinnati completed a four-game sweep.

**Twins 2, Mariners 1:** Kyle Gibson (3-4) pitched one-run ball into the seventh inning and visiting Minnesota took advantage of two errors on one play by Robinson Cano in a win over Seattle.

**Rays 7, White Sox 5:** Derek Norris homered in consecutive innings and Jake Odorizzi (4-3) pitched into the seventh, leading host Tampa Bay over Chicago.

**Angels 11, Tigers 4:** Albert Pujols hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly to cap a four-run fifth inning and visiting Los Angeles added six runs in the seventh to rout Detroit.

**Diamondbacks 15, Padres 3:** Chris Iannetta drove in a career-high seven runs with a home run and a pair of doubles, and Arizona routed visiting San Diego to finish a three-game sweep.

# US men blank Trinidad in WC qualifying

Associated Press

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. — After sliding to score a goal with his left foot, Christian Pulisic got back up, raced for a corner and glided across the grass on both knees.

Just a teenager showing exuberance.

Pulisic rescued the United States with a pair of second-half goals, and the Americans beat Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 on Thursday night to move into third place at the halfway point in the final round of World Cup qualifying.

Pulisic, an 18-year-old phenom from Hershey, Pa., ended a frustrating start for the U.S. offense with a goal in the 52nd minute, then added another in the 62nd.

"They were tough in the first half, definitely," Pulisic explained. "They had a lot of guys behind the ball and we couldn't work our way through them. Once we got the first one, it kind of opened up."

Pulisic made his international debut 15 months ago and has seven goals and five assists

in 15 appearances, including four goals and three assists in his last four contests. He has scored or assisted on seven of the last eight American goals.

"He's having fun," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said. "He's a natural for the game. He sees the game very well."

After crashing to an 0-2 start in the hexagonal of the North and Central American and Caribbean region, the U.S. is back among the top three, which earn berths at next year's tournament in Russia. Mexico leads with 13 points, followed by Costa Rica (eight), the U.S. (seven), Panama (six), Honduras (four) and Trinidad (three).

The fourth-place team advances to a playoff against Asia's No. 5 nation.

The Americans have three wins and three draws since Arena replaced Jurgen Klinsmann as coach in November. The team's biggest test in Arena's second stint comes Sunday at Mexico.

"This was a big game. We needed the three points," said Jozy Altidore, who had the assist on Pulisic's second goal.

"Now, we can go into Mexico and play with our minds clear."

Kenwyne Jones nearly put the Soca Warriors on top in the 33rd minute, beating goalkeeper Tim Howard to a cross but putting a header off the crossbar. Clint Dempsey, John Brooks and Altidore all had good chances, but T&T keeper Jan-Michael Williams made several sprawling saves.

"There was hardly any difference between both teams," Trinidad coach Dennis Lawrence said. "I think the altitude affected the tempo in the game. Both teams struggled with it. What cost us were errors in our end."

After helping Borussia Dortmund win last month's German Cup final, becoming the youngest American to earn a medal for a European club, Pulisic had another breakthrough moment with his second two-goal game for the U.S.

Darlington Nagbe went around a defender, dribbled upfield and passed to the top of the arc, where Dempsey flicked the ball ahead to the sprinting Nagbe. The midfielder put the

ball back to right back DeAndre Yedlin, who sent a diagonal pass toward the far post. The onrushing Pulisic slid and scored from 4 yards.

Trinidad's Nathan Lewis beat Howard off the ensuing kickoff, but Yedlin had stepped up, causing an offside call that disallowed the goal.

Altidore was about 35 yards out when he split the defense with a bouncing pass that led to the second goal. Pulisic burst past Kevan George and slotted in a right-footed shot from about 10 yards to Williams' short side.

"He's a fantastic player," Lawrence said of Pulisic.

Dempsey remained one from tying Landon Donovan's American record of 57 international goals. He was subbed out in the 61st minute for Kellyn Acosta and had an angry look.

"He wants to be on the field," Arena said. "However, my job is to do what I think is right for the team, to position us to win a game. I understand that. He's a very competitive guy. We talked about it. He's OK. He's got a real competitive edge to him."

## Wawrinka edges Murray, moves into French Open final

Associated Press

PARIS — Battering the ball as if each shot would determine the match's outcome, 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka came back to beat No. 1-ranked Andy Murray 6-7 (6), 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-1 on Friday and become the oldest French Open finalist in 44 years.

The No. 3-seeded Wawrinka, a 32-year-old from Switzerland, reached the fourth Grand Slam final of his career. He's won the previous three: at Roland Garros two years ago, the U.S. Open last September and the Australian Open in 2014.

"It's incredible for me to reach another final here," said Wawrinka, who extended his winning streak to a career-best 10 matches. "I have to make the most of this."

A year ago at the French Open, Wawrinka lost to Murray in the semifinals. This time, Wawrinka managed to wear down the seemingly tireless Murray, himself a three-time major champion. It was a triumph of offense over defense, as Wawrinka used his sublime one-handed backhand and hammer of a forehand to send Murray scrambling and sliding all over the red clay at Court Philippe Chatrier for a tad more than 4½ hours of compelling action.

Over and over again, Murray would lean, or even lunge, and somehow manage to put his racket strings on seemingly unreachable shots. Murray used plenty of drop shots and lobs, often to great effect. He deflected overheads. In sum, Murray generally made

Wawrinka work so hard to get any shot past him.

But make no mistake: Wawrinka does not discourage easily. Called "a very powerful guy" by Murray, Wawrinka kept walloping his strokes, resolute in his intention to attack and attack and attack.

By the anticlimactic close of what Murray termed "a very high-intensity match," he was complaining aloud about having "no legs."

That let Wawrinka run away with the fifth set, taking 16 of the first 21 points and going up 5-0. He capped it, appropriately, with a backhand down the line, his 87th winner of the day, 51 more than Murray accumulated.

"He obviously hit some great shots in the fifth," Murray said, "but I didn't keep the score

close enough to sort of put him under pressure."

When he faces nine-time champion Rafael Nadal of Spain on Sunday, Wawrinka will be the oldest man in a French Open title match since Niki Pilic was 33 when he was the runner-up to Ilie Nastase in 1973.

Nadal beat Thiem in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

"I'll have to play my best tennis if I want to have a chance to win," Wawrinka said. "But in any case, I'll give my all, do everything I can."

He certainly did that against Murray, through their many lengthy and delightful exchanges and various ebbs and flows in which one player, then the other, appeared to be in control, only to cede it soon thereafter.