

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Saturday, June 2, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Mattis slams China on island militarization

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — China's placement of weapons systems on man-made islands in the South China Sea is designed to intimidate and coerce others in the region, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Saturday, laying out a sharp criticism of Beijing at an international security forum and threatening larger consequences if militarization continues.

He warned that America's recent move to disinvite China from a multinational naval exercise this summer was an "initial response" to the militarization of the islands. It was, he said, a "relatively small consequence. I believe there are much larger consequences in the future."

China relying on muscle to use weapons to pursue goals not favored by international tribunals "is not a way to make long-term collaboration the rule of the road in a region that's important to China's future," Mattis said when asked to elaborate more on the consequences. "There are consequences that will continue to come home to roost, so to speak, with China if they don't find a way to work more collaboratively with all of the nations who have interests."

The U.S., he said, remains committed to ensuring free and open transit in the region. And he said he doesn't believe that China's actions will pay off. Militarizing the islands, Mattis said, will not enhance China's standing in the world.

"Despite China's claims to the contrary, the placement of these weapons systems is tied directly to military use for the purposes of intimidation and coercion," Mattis said, referring to the recent deployment of anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles, electronic jammers and other equipment on the Spratly Islands, and the landing of bomber aircraft at Woody Island.

Mattis also struck at one of the key, long-standing disputes between the U.S. and China, telling the conference that America will continue to provide defense equipment and services to Taiwan and oppose any effort to alter the status quo.

China claims the self-governing island as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

But in a quick pivot, Mattis said the U.S. welcomes cooperation with China "wherever possible" and announced that he has accepted Beijing's invitation to visit there soon. It remains to be seen if that invitation

will stand after this conference.

As expected, the Pentagon chief gave only a brief mention of the ongoing negotiations for an historic summit later this month between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump announced Friday that the nuclear weapons summit he had canceled with North Korea's Kim Jong Un is back on. The summit is expected to be here in Singapore.

The Pentagon leader's comments at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue came in the wake of a tumultuous few weeks between the U.S. and China.

Last week, the U.S. withdrew an invitation for Beijing to participate in the exercise known as Rim of the Pacific. China had participated in the exercise in 2014 and 2016.

The Pentagon said the decision to disinvite the Chinese navy was triggered by what it called strong evidence that China has deployed weapons systems on the islands and called on China to remove them. China says it is within its rights to build up defenses on islands in the South China Sea that it believes are its sovereign territory.

Pentagon study: US military killed 500 civilians in 2017

The Washington Post

U.S. military operations killed approximately 500 civilians in 2017, as President Donald Trump took command of the Pentagon and U.S. troops pursued Islamic State and other militants overseas, a report made public Friday found.

In a new study mandated by Congress, the Defense Department said it considered allegations about those incidents, which took place in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, to be credible after an internal review. Another 169 civilians were reported injured.

But watchdog groups and legal experts said the Pentagon may be grossly undercounting

the number of noncombatants killed in airstrikes and other military activities due to a faulty system for investigating and counting possible deaths.

"The Defense Department has deemed that the vast majority of claims of civilian casualties are not credible without ever investigating them," Daphne Eviatar, an official at Amnesty International USA, said in a statement. "Its numbers, therefore, likely severely undercount the actual civilian death toll."

Airwars, which tracks and examines casualty allegations using social media and other information, reported earlier this year that the U.S. and its allies may have killed as many

as 6,000 civilians in strikes in Iraq and Syria alone in 2017.

In its study, required by the fiscal 2018 defense authorization law, the Pentagon said it had abided by laws of war, including those designed to protect civilians.

The period covered by the report included intense U.S. air operations to expel ISIS from the Iraqi city of Mosul and the Syrian city of Raqqa, both of which occurred in a crowded urban context.

The Pentagon said it and its allies conducted more than 10,000 strikes against ISIS in 2017, a massive air operation that presented a challenge to U.S. surveillance and intelli-

gence capabilities.

The report also included an increasingly intense air war in Afghanistan, where U.S. commanders have been granted new authorities to target the Taliban and provide air support to Afghan troops.

Also in 2017, U.S. forces continued their counterterrorism campaign in Yemen, where a deadly raid in January 2017 left a Navy SEAL dead and, according to Yemeni villagers, killed dozens of civilians.

The Pentagon study, which was first reported by CNN, found no credible civilian casualty allegations in separate U.S. operations in Somalia and Libya.

Trump: N. Korea summit 'start of process'

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — In reviving plans for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, President Donald Trump acknowledged Friday that the historic meeting will be just the start of a “process” to rid the North of its nuclear weapons.

Trump said he believes Kim is committed to the goal of denuclearization, but the president signaled a shift from his previous all-or-nothing stance.

Instead, he backed away from references to his “maximum pressure” campaign and said he was unilaterally suspending plans to impose new punitive sanctions.

“It will be a beginning. I don’t say and I’ve never said it happens in one meeting,” Trump told reporters on the South Lawn of the White House. “But I think you’re going to have a very positive result in the end.”

Trump spoke after meeting with a senior North Korean official who delivered a letter from Kim.

The president gave mixed signals about whether he had read the letter but was clearly pleased with what he heard from Kim Yong Chol, who traveled to Washington after two days of meetings with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in New York.

The announcement came a week after Trump abruptly canceled the summit, citing “tremendous anger and open hostility”

from the North.

Trump quickly welcomed a conciliatory response from the North, and a series of negotiations on several fronts yielded results.

“I think we’re over that — totally over that,” he said of the cancellation. “And now we’re going to deal, and we’re going to really start a process.”

The stakes are high as all sides seek to maintain the momentum for peace after months of saber-rattling and missile tests that raised fears of a nuclear war.

South Korea’s presidential office welcomed the news, saying it “will excitedly but calmly look forward to the historic meeting.”

Trump’s administration has claimed its policy known as “maximum pressure” was responsible for bringing the North Koreans to the table by imposing tough economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation.

The president said Friday that he wasn’t lifting any punitive measures, but he signaled a shift toward North Korea’s call for a phased approach to denuclearization.

That’s a change from previous demands for the North to abandon its nukes quickly based on the promise of benefits afterward, including security assurances, sanctions relief and economic incentives. “I don’t even want to use the term ‘maximum pressure’ anymore,” he said.

Trump also said he unilaterally suspend-

ed plans to slap the North with hundreds of new sanctions that had been readied.

Gone was the tough talk in which Trump mocked Kim Jong Un as “little rocket man” and threatened to “totally destroy” North Korea if necessary as the North demonstrated rapid progress in its weapons development.

Trump acknowledged Friday that it likely would take more than one meeting to achieve his goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

“We’re not going to go in and sign something on June 12th, and we never were. We’re going to start a process,” he said, adding that he had told the North Koreans it could go fast or slow. “But I think they’d like to see something happen. And if we can work that out, that will be good.”

Analysts cautioned that the two sides likely remain far apart in their definitions of denuclearization.

Washington seeks the dismantling of the North’s nuclear weapons apparatus, while Pyongyang has included political demands such as suggesting the U.S. should end its alliance with South Korea.

The North also has a track record of renegeing on agreements.

When asked if troop levels were discussed during his meeting with Kim Yong Chol, Trump said only that “we talked about almost everything.”

Awkward logistical issues bedevil summit prep

The Washington Post

SINGAPORE — At an island resort off the coast of Singapore, U.S. event planners are working day and night with their North Korean counterparts to set up a summit designed to bring an end to Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons program.

But a particularly awkward logistical issue remains unresolved, according to two people familiar with the talks. Who’s going to pay for Kim Jong Un’s hotel stay?

The prideful but cash-poor pariah state requires that a foreign country foot the bill at its preferred lodging: the Fullerton, a magnificent, neoclassical hotel near the mouth of the Singapore River where just one presidential suite costs more than \$6,000 per night.

The mundane but diplomatically fraught billing issue is just one of numerous logistical concerns being hammered out between two teams led by White House deputy chief of staff Joe Hagin and Kim’s de facto chief of staff, Kim Chang Son, as they strive to-

ward a June 12 meeting.

After weeks of uncertainty, President Donald Trump called off the summit last week, blaming “open hostility” from North Korea. But a flurry of diplomacy across two continents got the meeting back on track, and Trump announced Friday that he would attend as initially planned.

When it comes to paying for lodging at North Korea’s preferred five-star luxury hotel, the U.S. is open to covering the costs, the two people said, but it’s mindful that Pyongyang may view a U.S. payment as insulting. As a result, U.S. planners are considering asking the host country of Singapore to pay for the North Korean delegation’s bill.

“It is an ironic and telling deviation from North Korea’s insistence on being treated on an ‘equal footing,’” said Scott Snyder, a Korea expert at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Still, the heavily sanctioned and isolated regime has a long history of making bold monetary demands. During the 2018

Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea set aside \$2.6 million to cover travel accommodations for a North Korean cheering squad, an art troupe and other members of the visiting delegation. At the same games, the International Olympic Committee paid for 22 North Korean athletes to travel to the event.

In 2014, when former U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper Jr. visited North Korea to retrieve two prisoners, his North Korean hosts served him an “elaborate, 12-course Korean meal,” the veteran intelligence official said, but then insisted that he pay for it.

“These norms were laid in the early 2000s, when Seoul’s so-called ‘sunshine policy’ took off,” said Sung-Yoon Lee, an expert on Korea at Tufts University, referring to a policy of rapprochement associated with former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. “North Korea can build nukes and ICBMs but claim they are too poor to pay for foreign travel costs.”

Google won't extend AI contract with DOD

The Washington Post

Google will not seek to extend its contract next year with the Department of Defense for artificial intelligence used to analyze drone video, squashing a controversial alliance that had raised alarms over the technological buildup between Silicon Valley and the military.

The tech giant will stop working on its piece of the military's AI project known as Project Maven when its 18-month contract expires in March, a source familiar with Google's thinking told *The Washington Post*.

Diane Greene, the chief executive of Google's influential cloud-computing business, told employees of the decision at an internal meeting Friday first reported by *Gizmodo*.

Google, which declined to comment, has faced widespread public backlash and

employee resignations for helping develop technological tools that could aid in warfighting. The source said Google would soon release new company principles related to the ethical uses of AI.

The move is a setback for the Pentagon's push to supercharge the military's capabilities with powerful AI that could help process battlefield data or pinpoint military targets. Audricia Harris, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said it "would not be appropriate for us to comment on the relationship between a prime and subprime contractor holder."

Project Maven was launched last April as a pathfinder project for ways the military could use AI to update its national security and defense capabilities "over increasingly capable adversaries and competitors," a DOD memo stated. In a pilot effort, AI was deployed to analyze hours of footage from

Predator drones and other unmanned aircraft, pinpointing buildings and vehicles and processing video now tagged by human analysts.

But the request of private-sector help from companies such as Google, which develops some of the world's most sophisticated image-recognition software and employs some of the top minds in AI, quickly sparked a firestorm over the potential that the technology could be used to help kill or serve as a stepping stone toward AI-coordinated lethal warfare.

Bob Work, the former deputy secretary of defense who launched Project Maven last year, called Google's decision not to renew the contract "troubling" and worried it could discourage others in Silicon Valley from working with the military on autonomous technologies that could assist in foreign conflicts and national defense.

Distillers, farmers likely casualties in trade war

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If a trade war is coming, the cheesemakers of Wisconsin are standing in the line of fire. So are the farmers of the Great Plains, the distillers of Kentucky, and the employees of iconic American brands such as Harley-Davidson and Levi Strauss.

The likelihood of a trade conflagration leapt closer to reality this week after the U.S. imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and the European Union. Infuriated, the jilted U.S. allies vowed to retaliate with tariffs of their own. And in a separate dispute, China is poised to penalize \$50 billion in U.S. goods — many of them produced by supporters of President Donald Trump in the America's agricultural heartland.

"They're going to hit the farmers," said Bryan Klabunde, a farmer in northwestern Minnesota. "We want things fair for all industries, but we're going to take the brunt of the punishment if other countries retaliate."

President Donald Trump, who entered office promising to rip up trade deals and to crack

down on unfair trading practices, is clashing with trading partners on all sides. To the north, he's battling Canada; to the south, Mexico; to the east, Europe; across the Pacific Ocean to the west, China and Japan.

"The president seems to be creating trade (and other) disputes with everyone — allies and adversaries alike — and it's difficult to discern any coherent strategy," said Rod Hunter, a former National Security Council staffer under President George W. Bush. "The impacts of the disputes have been limited so far, but the economic and political costs will go up as retaliation by trading partners begins in earnest."

Mexico, for instance, plans to retaliate against the steel and aluminum tariffs by targeting U.S. cheese, among other products.

"It's our second-largest market," Jeff Schwager, president of Sartori, a cheese company in Plymouth, Wis., said of Mexico.

The EU is threatening to penalize Kentucky bourbon and the motorcycles of Wisconsin-based Harley-Davidson.

Officials: Signs of phone spying found near White House

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A federal study found signs that surveillance devices for intercepting cellphone calls and texts were operating near the White House and other sensitive locations in the Washington area last year.

A Department of Homeland Security program discovered evidence of the surveillance devices, called IMSI catchers, as part of federal testing last year, according to a letter from DHS to Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., on May 22. The letter didn't specify what entity operated the devices and left open the possibility that there could be alternative explanations for the suspicious cellular signals collected by the federal testing program last year.

The discovery bolsters years of independent research suggesting that foreign intelligence agencies use sophisticated interception technology to spy on officials working within the hub of federal power in

the nation's capital. Experts in surveillance technology say that IMSI catchers — sometimes known by one popular brand name, Stingrays — are a standard part of the toolkit for many foreign intelligence services, including for such geopolitical rivals as Russia and China.

A DHS spokesman confirmed the contents of the letter to Wyden but declined further comment.

The DHS letter came in response to a meeting last month in which Wyden pushed for more aggressive federal response to cellular system insecurity. IMSI catchers are widely used by local, state and federal police, as well as foreign intelligence agencies.

The devices work by simulating cell towers to trick nearby phones into connecting, allowing the IMSI catchers to collect calls, texts and data streams. Unlike some other forms of cell-phone interception, IMSI catchers must be near targeted devices in order to work.

Some Flight 93 wreckage to be buried at memorial

Associated Press

The remaining wreckage of United Flight 93 will be returned this year to the Pennsylvania memorial marking where it crashed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, officials said Friday.

The wreckage — stored in shipping containers — will be buried in a restricted area of the park that's accessible only to loved ones of the victims, said Flight 93 National Memorial Superintendent Stephen Clark.

"Now that we are nearing the completion of the major design components of the memorial, we are ready to return the remaining wreckage to this hallowed ground," Clark said.

The final phase of the memorial, the Tower of Voices, is a 93-foot-tall musical instrument that holds 40 wind chimes, representing the 40 passengers and crew. It will be completed in time for the 17th anniversary of the attacks.

United Flight 93 was en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco on Sept. 11, 2001, when hijackers seized control with the likely goal of crashing it into the U.S. Capitol.

Mo. governor signs 'revenge porn' law before leaving office

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Just hours before he left office Friday, Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens signed scores of new laws, including a measure that makes it a crime to try to threaten a person using a private sexual image — the same allegation that led to his downfall.

In the flurry of last-minute activity, the scandal-plagued governor approved 77 new laws, granted several pardons and commutations and won at least a temporary reprieve in a court battle over campaign records. He posted a long Facebook message touting his accomplishments — without any mention of why he was quitting — and quietly left the Capitol about an hour before his resignation took effect.

A short time later, fellow Republican Lt. Gov. Mike Parson was sworn in as Greitens' successor and immediately pledged "to bring honor, integrity (and) transparency to the governor's office."

"We have an opportunity beginning today to have a fresh start in state government," Parson said.

The "revenge porn" law signed by Greitens creates a felony that will apply to cases when someone threatens the nonconsensual dissemination of a private sexual image by coercing another person to refrain from an action.

The governor has been accused of taking a nonconsensual photo of a partially nude woman with whom he had an affair in 2015 and warning her he would distribute it if she ever spoke of their encounter. He has acknowledged having the affair but denied criminal wrongdoing and refused to directly answer questions about whether he took the photo.

Greitens cannot be charged under the new law because it was not in effect at the time. But a special prosecutor is still weighing whether to refile an invasion-of-privacy charge against Greitens under a different law.

In a news release announcing the bill signings, he touted other measures such as a corporate income tax cut and changes to the state foster care system. Later, he announced he had pardoned five people and commuted the sentences of four others, including several whom he said had been wrongfully convicted of murder.

Greitens similarly has insisted that he has done nothing worthy of being forced out of office.

His resignation is part of a deal with a St. Louis prosecutor to drop a felony charge alleging misuse of a charity donor list to raise money for his 2016 gubernatorial campaign. His voluntary departure also avoids the potentially dubious distinction of becoming the first Missouri governor to be impeached by the House. Instead, Greitens became the first governor in Missouri's 197-year history to resign amid scandal.

The Missouri Ethics Commission continues to investigate a complaint that Greitens' campaign filed false documents about the charity donor list. The FBI also has received information about Greitens from the chairman of a House investigatory panel and a private attorney representing the ex-husband of the woman with whom he had an affair.

Greitens, 44, is a former Navy SEAL officer who won election in 2016 as a political outsider pledging to take on "career politicians" and to crack down on perceived corruption in Jefferson City.

Uber driver says rider was shot during attack attempt

Associated Press

DENVER — An Uber driver arrested in the fatal shooting of a passenger told a witness that he opened fire after his customer tried to attack him, Denver police said Friday.

However, a partially redacted police report says driver Michael Andre Hancock, 29, declined to talk to investigators without a lawyer present about the shooting on Interstate 25 just before 3 a.m.

Police said the man killed, Hyun Kim, 45, was found lying on the floorboard of the car's front passenger seat. The witness called 911 and passed the

phone to Hancock, who identified himself to the dispatcher, the report said.

Police said Hancock had trouble breathing after officers arrived, placed him in handcuffs and removed a semiautomatic pistol from his waistband. He was taken to a hospital for treatment and later was arrested under investigation of first-degree murder.

Uber said in a statement that it has removed Hancock's access to its app and will work closely with police. "We are deeply troubled by the events in Denver today. Our thoughts are with the families of those

involved," the company said.

Uber policy bars riders and drivers from carrying firearms except in states that expressly prohibit companies from banning guns.

Colorado allows drivers to carry firearms to protect themselves and their property. However, Uber spokesman Andrew Hasbun said the company's policy applies in the state.

Police said Kim was shot numerous times, and 10 spent cartridges were found on the shoulder of the interstate, across the lanes of traffic from the wall of an on ramp where Hancock's silver sedan

crashed head on.

Hancock's father, also named Michael Hancock, told KDVR-TV that his son has a wife and two children, is a counselor at a troubled boys' home and attends college. "He's a Christian kid, and he's all about making the world a better place," the elder Hancock said.

Kim's family declined to comment, according to the television station.

Hancock is being held in a Denver jail. It will be up to prosecutors to decide whether to charge him with murder or any other crime.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Impersonators fool police, public for years

MI FLINT — Authorities say police impersonators have been fooling police, firefighters and the public since 2015 in the Flint area.

The Flint Journal reported members of the group calling itself the “Genesee County Fire and EMS Media-Genesee County Task Force Blight Agency” were acting as police at parks, house fires, vehicle crashes and crime scenes.

Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton authorized charges against three people last week that include unlawful imprisonment. In one case, the impersonators allegedly handcuffed two people. Court records say there are at least five other potential co-defendants.

Teen gets 5 years in prison for shoe robbery

GA COLUMBUS — A Georgia teen is being sentenced to five years in prison for stealing a pair of Nike sneakers.

The Ledger-Enquirer reported that Dayonn Davis was sentenced last week for a robbery that took place when he was 15.

Prosecutor Sadhana Dailey said Davis and another male met the victim in January 2016 at a Columbus park. After Davis realized the shoes fit, the other male pulled out a pistol and everyone ran.

When police caught Davis, he named the gunman, but the victim couldn't identify the gunman from photos.

Defense attorney Susan Henderson said Davis was charged as an adult despite lacking a juvenile record and that her client is “extremely remorseful.” Superior Court Judge Bobby Peters, though, said Davis took the shoes and thus is due to be punished.

Man gets 40 years for killing 2 soldiers

SC LEXINGTON — A man has been sentenced to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to killing two soldiers who were trying to help a woman being attacked in a South Carolina bar.

News outlets reported that Joseph Elijah Mills, 27, of Newberry County, was sentenced Thursday in Lexington.

Staff Sgt. Charles Allen Judge Jr., 40, and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Michael Prins died July 24, 2016, after they were shot while trying to help the woman.

Prosecutors said Mills went to the bar looking for his girlfriend and tackled the woman and hit and kicked her. Mills said the woman had stolen drugs.

Bystanders pulled Mills off of the woman and he fired a gun in the air. Judge and Prins were trying to disarm him when they were shot.

Drugs, guns seized from private security firm

MO SPRINGFIELD — Officials said a drug enforcement team seized drugs and guns during a raid on a privately run security firm in Springfield.

Authorities said the Combined Ozarks Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Team raided the Southern Missouri Judicial Services, which is across the street from the Greene County courthouse.

The business provides such services as security and surveillance in several counties in the Ozark. The city of Springfield has used the business to transport prisoners.

The business' owner, Tim Brenner, said Thursday that he has a state permit to use narcotics to train K9 units. Brenner said he was shocked by the raid.

Prosecutors: Family poisoned by AC installer

NY NEW YORK — New York state officials said the owner of an air conditioning company poisoned a family with potentially deadly mercury because he was tired of their complaints.

The Queens District Attorney's Office said A+HVAC and Kitchen Corporation owner Yuriy Kruk was hired by Roman Pinkhasov to perform air conditioning work in a Queens home. The victim told officials he complained on various occasions about a malfunctioning cooling unit, which Kruk replaced in 2015.

Pinkhasov's wife told authorities she later found drops of what was identified as liquid mercury in the areas where Kruk performed work. The couple and their son all later tested positive for mercury poisoning.

Kruk was indicted Thursday morning on multiple charges.

Sheriff asks deputy to ticket him for violation

IA FORT DODGE — A central Iowa sheriff who asked one of his deputies to ticket him has pleaded guilty to a traffic violation.

The Messenger reported that Webster County Sheriff Jim Stubbs entered the plea in court Thursday to illegally driving an all-terrain vehicle on a highway.

Stubbs said he was heading for some family property a couple of weeks ago when he turned onto U.S. Highway 169 for a brief stretch. He soon remembered that he could legally drive the ATV on county roads but not along highways.

He came upon the deputy who had pulled off the highway, and Stubbs requested a ticket.

Stubbs said he wants to ensure “everyone's equal as far as the sheriff's department is concerned, and that includes me.”

Magistrate William Thatcher commended Stubbs' honesty and fined him \$132.50.

Couple leaves 2 boys in car at courthouse

LA SHREVEPORT — Authorities in Louisiana said a couple was arrested on child desertion charges for leaving young children in a car while they got their marriage license at a courthouse.

A statement from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office said a courthouse worker alerted deputies Thursday to the untended children.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Chadwick said deputies were looking for the owners when Courtney Carroll, 23, of Ball, and Garrett Poole, 22, of Pollock, returned to the car with their license.

Lt. Mark Gay said the car's air conditioner was running. The doors were unlocked.

The children's relationship to the couple was unclear.

100 pounds of pot seized in traffic stop

ND WEST FARGO — A routine traffic stop on Interstate 94 in southeastern North Dakota led to the seizure of 100 pounds of marijuana.

The Highway Patrol said a trooper stopped a vehicle near West Fargo on Wednesday, and a police dog indicated the presence of drugs. The resulting search turned up the large marijuana stash.

Driver Steven Shipe, 33, of Eureka, Calif., faces a felony drug charge that carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Russia cracking down on hooliganism

Associated Press

MOSCOW — At their peak, Russian hooligans felt like gods.

“We’re on Mount Olympus right now and it had to be done,” is how one veteran hooligan from Moscow recounts his part in brawls with English fans at the 2016 European Championships. “We went for the English, who were kings, to knock them off their throne.”

But ahead of the World Cup, Russian authorities are cracking down on the hooligan culture in football. Groups which wreaked havoc two years ago report surveillance and threats from law enforcement.

Leading hooligans from each club face lengthy prison sentences on old or trumped-up charges if there’s trouble at the World Cup, even if they aren’t personally involved, the Moscow hooligan — a large, muscular man with scars on his knuckles — told The Associated Press. He likened their situation to that of “hostages” and said the hooligan scene in Russia “is finished.”

“All the leaders get called in for chats,” he said, imitating an officer: “‘On behalf of our state security service, I’ll explain that if there are problems, then those guys are in prison and you’ll be joining them. We need everything to go quietly.’ It’s been done precisely so that everyone understands that even if there’s no case against you, your guys will get it in your place.”

Speaking on condition of anonymity to describe numerous illegal acts, he said he traveled to Marseille in 2016 specifically to take part in fights with the English at the European Championships. England’s hooligans of the 1980s and 1990s inspired many Russian groups — most still bear English names — but in Marseille the Russians wanted to snuff out that reputation.

“For a long time the English were considered the strongest,” he said, but they were no match for Russians with martial-arts training. “There were guys sitting there with a Birmingham banner and we went up to them. ‘Either we’re taking your ban-

ner or you stand up and fight for it.’ The Birmingham guys decided they didn’t need the banner that much.”

The violence on Marseille’s streets and in the stadium was greeted with jokes and even praise from some Russian lawmakers and officials. President Vladimir Putin called the fighting “sad,” then questioned “how 200 Russian fans could beat up several thousand English,” to laughter from his audience.

Other sources with knowledge of the fan scene described the Russian crackdown since Marseille.

Alexander Shprygin ran a fan group which worked with the government on World Cup planning, and had been photographed with Putin. He has rapidly fallen from grace.

Twice deported

Shprygin was twice deported from France during the 2016 tournament and two of his organization’s board members were imprisoned in Marseille over the disorder. He denies any role. Three months later, Russian police arrested him in a toilet at the national football federation’s conference, seeking to question him over an earlier brawl in Russia, and dragged him out past waiting media. His organization has been dormant since then.

Shprygin told the AP his friends in the hardcore fan scene have been summoned by Russia’s Federal Security Service, the heir to the Soviet-era KGB, for “preventative conversations” and many want to go abroad during the World Cup.

“Many of them think like that because, God forbid, if anything happens, they won’t face questions,” he said. “They can just show their passport, that they weren’t in Russia.”

Russia has an official blacklist of fans banned from games by court orders for violent and non-violent offenses, but at 451 names it’s much smaller than equivalents in other large European countries.

Many more fans are barred from games using processes

which aren’t publicly recorded and have little oversight.

World Cup tickets are worthless without a Russian government-issued “Fan ID”. Applicants are vetted by the Russian security services, who have denied several thousand Russian fans ID to see games at the World Cup and last year’s Confederations Cup, according to Oleg Semyonov, formerly a leader of the Spartak Moscow fan scene, who now runs a legal advice hotline for supporters.

Semyonov says authorities are using “a big database” to exclude people accused of taking part in football-related disorder — including Shprygin, whose ID was canceled two hours before a Confederations Cup game — but also some with convictions dating back 20 years for minor offenses like jaywalking or public drunkenness.

Most top Russian clubs have so-called “curators” from the security services “who work with the fan organizations” and have warned them off disorder, Semyonov added.

Russian police and the Federal Security Service did not respond to requests for comment.

Tipoff

Semyonov also suspects that Russian authorities tipped off German police about two Spartak fans who were arrested in February when traveling to a Europa League game. They are being detained in Marseille, reportedly in connection with the 2016 violence.

If there’s trouble at the World Cup, people with knowledge of the Russian fan scene said, it could involve visiting hooligans from Poland, Sweden or Croatia, or locals angered by what they see as foreigners’ obnoxious behavior.

“My prognosis is that if there are brawls, because football is all about emotions, they will be local and quickly defused. They won’t be on the same scale as Marseille,” Shprygin said, adding the Russian police can deal with violent resistance. “Foot-

ball fans obviously aren’t opposition protests. Football fans are a bit more active. But the police have been training very hard for this for two years.”

Amid the crackdown, the Russian fan scene is increasingly split.

So-called “ultras” focus on coordinated chants, lighting flares and staging elaborate displays at games, but can defend themselves if needed. The hardcore fighters mostly stick to pre-arranged brawls in forests because of tight stadium surveillance. Some fighters are drifting away from football to mixed martial arts events to make money from their hobby.

“The respected guy in the movement” is now an athlete, not a street-fighter, Semyonov said. “Most of (the forest fighters) can’t even name five players from the club they’ve been fighting for,” Shprygin said.

The Moscow hooligan lamented the end of hooliganism’s golden era, when battles between rival clubs in Moscow came down to tactics as much as strength.

“You have to place young girls around by the entrances to buildings so they sit and wait for your enemies to leave the house and follow them to where they’re meeting,” he said. “You have to put people at different subway stations to find where they’re going to be, where the enemy is gathering, get there first and beat them up. It’s not just a matter of numbers. It’s always a game and back then it was the best.”

Hooliganism offers a brotherhood, even for those like the Moscow hooligan, who has a university education and a traditionally middle-class job. A world dominated by football’s brawlers would have a simple, honorable way to solve disputes, he argued.

“It always goes by the rule of the fist. If you’re stronger, you’re right,” he said. “If there were more people like that, maybe people wouldn’t be building missiles.”

Naira Davlashyan in Moscow and Samuel Petrequin in Paris contributed to this report.

Cavs' Love, Thompson avoid suspension

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — J.R. Smith's blunder, a disputed replay overturn and a key missed free throw dealt the Cleveland Cavaliers an emotionally crushing loss in an opener of the NBA Finals that was ripe to be taken away from the defending champion Golden State Warriors.

They finally got a bit of good news during a day off Friday when the NBA determined that Cleveland big men Tristan Thompson and Kevin Love wouldn't be suspended for Game 2 on Sunday night for their roles in a late-game brawl.

The incident started in the closing seconds of Cleveland's 124-114 overtime loss Thursday night when Thompson was called for a flagrant 2 foul against Shaun Livingston. Thompson was ejected and then shoved the ball into Draymond Green's face before leaving the court.

The NBA fined Thompson \$25,000 for failing to leave the

court in a timely fashion and for his interaction with Green but downgraded the foul to a flagrant 1.

Love left the bench to argue the flagrant call and was on the court when the altercation started. But the league determined he didn't warrant a suspension because he returned to the bench immediately.

"I just think, especially when a game has been as hard-fought as that one, you don't like to see emotions spilling over at the end," commissioner Adam Silver said before executive vice president of basketball operations Kiki VanDeWeghe announced the penalties.

"You don't like to see the chippiness. It didn't from my standpoint necessarily get out of hand in that game, but I've been around this game long enough to know that even guys with best intentions, when provoked, they can easily cross a line that you don't want them to cross."

Everyone is still trying to figure out what went on in the final minute of regulation in Game 1.

It started after LeBron James converted a three-point play to give Cleveland a 104-102 lead with 50 seconds left.

James appeared to draw a charge on Durant. But officials went to the replay to see if James was in the restricted area, which would make it a block. While James was clearly outside the restricted area, officials also had the chance to review whether James was in legal guarding position and changed the call to a block because they determined he turned his body and moved into Durant.

Then the game really went off the rails when George Hill got fouled with 4.6 seconds left and the Cavs trailing by one. He made the first free throw to tie it, missed the second.

Smith grabbed the offensive rebound, but instead of putting it back up or passing to an open James up top, he dribbled toward half court and threw a pass, running out the clock.

Lue expects a big bounce-back performance in Game 2.

"J.R. can shake off anything,

and when everybody tends to count J.R. out, that's when he comes through," Lue said. "So he's definitely going to start again. He's a big part of what we do. That last play is over, it's behind us, and now we've got to move on."

The Warriors had some questions of their own in terms of availability for Game 2. Klay Thompson, who briefly left the series opener after Smith slid into his left leg, said he is still sore but feeling much better, and doesn't expect any issues for Sunday.

Andre Iguodala remains doubtful as he tries to recover from a bone bruise in his left knee that has sidelined him for the past five games. Coach Steve Kerr said Iguodala is improving each day but still not expected to be healthy enough for Game 2.

Kerr's bigger concern is figuring out a way to make things tougher on James after he scored 51 points on 19-for-32 shooting in the opener, when he was able to repeatedly drive to the basket.

Nadal rolls past Gasquet, makes French Open 4th round

Associated Press

PARIS — Defending champion Rafael Nadal easily beat Richard Gasquet once again, reaching the fourth round of the French Open with a crushing 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 win on Saturday.

Nadal is gaining momentum in his bid for a record-extending 11th title at Roland Garros, and Gasquet never looked remotely like stopping him.

He rarely has.

The top-ranked Spaniard inflicted a 16th defeat on Gasquet, who has lost every encounter dating back to 2004.

In fact, the 27th-seeded Frenchman has not even taken a set off him in 11 straight matches, including this latest one-sided affair. It makes gloomy reading for Gasquet, who quickly trailed 5-0 in sunny conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier.

With clubbing forehands, Nadal streaked ahead 4-0 in the second set and did the same in the third, before Gasquet finally held serve after a long fifth game. A rare highlight for Gasquet was when he earned applause from Nadal following a superb cushioned volley at the net.

A brilliant shot which also summed Gasquet's career: exquisite talent, including one of the best backhands in tennis, but little end product.

Nadal clinched victory on his first match point when Gasquet chopped an errant backhand long. Moments after hugging Gasquet sympathetically, Nadal was all smiles as he exchanged a couple of rallies with a ball boy to warm applause from the crowd.

Nadal is chasing a men's singles 17th Grand Slam title — only Roger Federer has more

with 20 — and next faces the unseeded German Maximilian Marterer in their first career meeting.

While Nadal is favorite to defend his title, Maria Sharapova is trying to win it again. She clinched the last of her five majors at the French Open in 2014, having also won here in 2012.

Earlier, she reached the fourth round with a dominant 6-2, 6-1 win against Karolina Pliskova.

The 31-year-old Russian, seeded 28th after missing this tournament the last two years, needed 59 minutes to win on Chatrier. She broke serve five times against the sixth-seeded Czech.

Sharapova could next face Serena Williams in what would be their 22nd career meeting.

Williams was in action later Saturday against 11th-seeded Julia Goerges, her toughest test

yet since returning to Grand Slam tennis after giving birth. They were scheduled to play in the afternoon on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Third-seeded Garbine Murguruza, the 2016 French Open champion, also impressed on the main court, needing just over one hour to beat Samantha Stosur of Australia 6-0, 6-2.

Sloane Stephens also advanced, but the 10th-seeded American had a much more difficult time beating Italy's Camila Giorgi 4-6, 6-1, 8-6. Stephens next faces Anett Kontaveit of Estonia, who won 7-6 (8), 7-6 (4) against No. 8-seeded Petra Kvitova.

There was another third-round upset as unseeded Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko defeated 19th-seeded Slovak Magdalena Rybarikova 6-2, 6-4.

Foltynewicz, Braves shut out Nationals

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Mike Foltynewicz had everything working so well that he was ready to keep pitching after the game ended.

Foltynewicz pitched a two-hitter for his first career complete game, Dansby Swanson broke the game open with a three-run homer in the seventh and the Atlanta Braves beat the Washington Nationals 4-0 on Friday night.

"I'm just very energized still," Foltynewicz said with a big smile. "I feel I can go back and at least get one more. Great crowd. Great energy."

Foltynewicz (5-3) retired 20 straight batters before issuing a leadoff walk in the eighth to outpitch Stephen Strasburg, who left the game cramping in his left wrist after 6²/₃ innings. Strasburg said he was not seri-

ously injured.

The first-place Braves, winners of five of their last seven, moved 1½ games ahead of the Nationals in the NL East. Atlanta has scored an NL-best 106 runs in the seventh inning or later this season.

A night after Sean Newcomb pitched seven strong innings to snap Washington's six-game winning streak, Foltynewicz was even better as he improved to 3-1 with a 0.56 ERA in his last five starts. He struck out 11 and walked one, throwing 73 of his 106 pitches for strikes.

"They were really aggressive tonight," Foltynewicz said. "After the first pitch or two, they either popped up or grounded out, which helped me go deep in the game."

Foltynewicz allowed a second-inning single to Bryce Harper, then set down 20

straight Nationals before Juan Soto walked in the eighth. He closed it out in the ninth by striking out pinch-hitter Michael Taylor, getting Wilmer Difo to ground out, allowing a single to Trea Turner and striking out Harper to end it.

The Braves got all the runs they needed with four in the seventh off Strasburg (6-5).

Nick Markakis singled, advanced to third on Kurt Suzuki's single and scored when first baseman Matt Adams booted Johan Camargo's grounder. Adams was trying to field the ball and throw out Markakis at the plate when the ball bounced off his glove and Adams inadvertently kicked it.

With runners on first and second and no out, Strasburg struck out Preston Tucker before Swanson hit his fourth homer into the left-field seats.

He struck out Foltynewicz, then stepped back, placed his glove on the mound and called for a trainer. Strasburg left the game with cramps in his left wrist.

"It's happened before," Strasburg said. "It's obviously humid out there. I think it's probably something related to dehydration. It was just spasming up on me."

Strasburg allowed seven hits and four runs — three earned. He struck out 10, the third time this year he's racked up double-digit strikeouts and the 39th time in his career. He made one mistake, hanging a curveball to Swanson.

"The inning's not possible without Kakes leading off and then Kurt," Swanson said. "Hitting is contagious. It just came down the line, and I was just the person who happened to get the hit."

MLB roundup

Haniger's opposite-field HR in 13th lifts M's over Rays

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Mitch Haniger swung for the fences with the count 3-1, but to no avail.

He eased up on 3-2 — and still hit a long home run to a most impressive spot at Safeco Field.

Haniger hit an impressive opposite-field homer leading off the 13th inning and the Seattle Mariners beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 on Friday night to improve to 6-0 in extra innings.

Haniger's drive went out to right-center field, capping a game that lasted 4 hours, 16 minutes. Haniger jumped into a crowd of teammates at home plate and was doused with a bucket of blue Gatorade.

The home run was his 12th this season and his eighth game-winning RBI. He also drew three walks.

Athletics 16, Royals 0: Matt Olson hit two homers and drove in a career-high five runs, while Frankie Montas pitched a ca-

reer-best eight innings to help visiting Oakland rout Kansas City.

Dustin Fowler also homered twice and had four RBIs for Oakland.

Astros 7, Red Sox 3: George Springer dashed home from second base on a wild pitch by Chris Sale, then homered off the Boston ace to send host Houston to the victory in a matchup of AL division leaders.

Carlos Correa and Evan Gattis homered late to boost the Astros.

Yankees 4, Orioles 1: Sonny Gray pitched six sharp innings, Aaron Judge homered and the Yankees breezed past punchless host Baltimore.

Gleyber Torres had two hits and an RBI for the Yankees, who have won three straight to move a season-high 19 games over .500.

Tigers 5, Blue Jays 2: Nicholas Castellanos homered and had three hits, and Miguel Cabrera got a hit in his return

from the disabled list for host Detroit.

Toronto starter Jamie Garcia (2-4) allowed four runs on seven hits in 1²/₃ innings. The Blue Jays have lost four straight.

Cubs 7, Mets 4: Kyle Schwarber entered as a defensive replacement in the sixth inning and wound up homering and driving in four runs as visiting Chicago rallied against New York's beleaguered bullpen.

Twins 7, Indians 4: Eduardo Escobar hit two homers and drove in four runs, and Jose Berrios pitched six effective innings to help host Minnesota pull away from Cleveland.

Pirates 4, Cardinals 0: Jameson Taillon pitched three-hit ball over eight innings to help visiting Pittsburgh get its second win in seven games.

White Sox 8, Brewers 3: Tim Anderson's go-ahead triple drove in two runs as host Chicago scored three times in the sixth inning to snap a four-

game losing streak.

Dodgers 11, Rockies 8: Chris Taylor hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the sixth, Dennis Santana earned the win in his major league debut and visiting Los Angeles beat NL West-leading Colorado.

Diamondbacks 9, Marlins 1: Ketel Marte hit two of a franchise record-tying six homers, Clay Buchholz (1-1) struck out nine in seven innings and Arizona rolled over visiting Miami.

Angels 6, Rangers 0: Albert Pujols hit his 622nd career home run, rookie Jaime Barria (5-1) threw six sharp innings and host Los Angeles defeated Texas.

Reds 7, Padres 2: Scooter Gennett homered and Jose Peraza had three hits and three RBIs for visiting Cincinnati in a matchup of last-place teams.

Giants 4, Phillies 0: Chris Stratton and three relievers combined on a six-hitter for host San Francisco.