

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, June 1, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Has politics changed the military culture?

BY DAN LAMOTHE,  
MISSY RYAN  
AND PAUL SONNE  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — A dust-up over who directed and knew about White House efforts to obscure the USS John S. McCain ahead of President Donald Trump's visit to Japan has raised new questions about whether the military's culture is changing under a president who has challenged institutional norms.

White House and Pentagon officials suggested Thursday that lower-level staffers had been trying to satisfy

the political predilections of the president without high-level orders. Navy officials Wednesday confirmed that a member of the White House staff sent a message to military officials in the Pacific asking them to keep the destroyer out of photos when Trump made a troop visit to the Japanese port of Yokosuka over Memorial Day weekend.

The situation has highlighted a debate about whether Defense Department leaders have permitted the politicization of the military under Trump, who has frequently used military events to deliver campaign-rally-style speeches.

Remaining out of the fray of partisan politics has long been a central tenet of U.S. military leaders' philosophy, seen as key to retaining the trust and backing of the American public and maintaining support of politicians who fund them. But since Trump took office, the military has found itself thrust into the political crosshairs, risking an

erosion of the traditional civil-military divide.

The Navy's top officer, Adm. John Richardson, said he was still gathering facts about what happened and promised to cooperate with Shanahan's investigation.

"It goes without saying" that servicemembers are expected to remain apolitical, Richardson said.

"Part of this trust and confidence that we have — not only up and down the chain of command but also just as importantly with the American people — is that we do support and defend the Constitution of the United States," he said in his office at the Pentagon. "We are apolitical by nature, and so that needs to be maintained."

If there was direction from the White House on the issue, "it would not be a surprise," Richardson said.

While many presidents have used military service members and assets as a backdrop for political remarks, Trump has gone a step further, making overtly political comments to servicemembers and signing "Make America Great Again" campaign hats for troops during a trip to Iraq and Germany last year.

The messages sent by the commander in chief appear to have made some servicemembers, even if acting on their own, feel emboldened to take certain actions they might have eschewed otherwise. In another moment that drew scrutiny during Trump's recent trip to Asia, naval aviators were photographed wearing arm patches that appeared to be a riff on his "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan.

## Navy reviews handling of misconduct cases

*The Washington Post*

The year was just beginning when a Trump administration official contacted the Navy with a question about former Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who had resigned from office amid a sex scandal and criminal investigation.

Joseph D. Kernan, a retired admiral and Navy SEAL, knew Greitens from their time in the military. Now the Pentagon's undersecretary of defense for intelligence, Kernan wanted to know if there was a way in which Greitens could return to military life, according to documents and emails obtained by *The Washington Post*.

It was not a simple question for the service.

Greitens, 45, admitted to having an extramarital affair, but denied accusations that he coerced the woman involved into a sexual act and threatened to publicize a photo of her partially nude if she ever went public with their relationship.

The charges were dismissed amid allegations of prosecutorial misconduct, and Greitens had a decorated past that included hunting al-Qaida in combat, founding the well-regarded veterans nonprofit *The Mission Continues* and publishing a best-selling book that discussed his service.

Four months later, the Navy is still weighing what to do with Greitens and how it should handle other cases involving alleged misconduct in the future.

While the door has been opened to Greitens continuing to serve, the Navy has not yet decided whether it will allow him to take a position outside of his home state that he might desire, three Navy officials said, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity be-

cause of the sensitivity of the situation.

Greitens' potential reemergence in the military, first reported by the *Kansas City Star*, has left the Navy facing questions about its judgment in an era in which sexual assault statistics in the military have drawn outrage. But in a move that has not previously been reported, the case also has prompted the chief of naval operations, Adm. John Richardson, to call for a new 30-day review of how the service handles personnel cases involving personal misconduct allegations, including Greitens'.

Richardson, writing May 26 in an email to other admirals, said the "recent events involving the transition of Mr. Greitens" has "excited a persistent frustration of mine that I want to address more comprehensively." The Navy's policies and practices for addressing personal misconduct are "too cumbersome and slow," creating situations where officials end up retaining people "we'd rather see dismissed from our ranks."

Such decisions, Richardson concluded, weaken "the ethical fiber of our Navy" and put the service "in a situation that is hard to explain to ourselves, and even more difficult to explain to the American people."

The former governor, once seen as a rising star in the Republican Party and as potential presidential timber, resigned last June after he was charged with two felonies: invasion of privacy and tampering with computers.

Both charges were dropped, but Greitens resigned under threat of impeachment after a Missouri state investigative committee found the woman credible, according to a report the panel issued.

# Shanahan: China is destabilizing Asia

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SINGAPORE — In a slap at China, acting U.S. Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan warned on Saturday that efforts to militarize the South China Sea and to steal technology from other countries threaten to destabilize the region.

His comments came amid concerns about the growing rivalry between the U.S. and China, which face a number of issues, including trade as well as aggression in the disputed South China Sea.

Shanahan didn't mention China specifically in his strongest criticism, but the reference was clear.

"No one nation can — or should — dominate the Indo-Pacific," he said in a wide-ranging speech at the annual Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore, which brings together defense chiefs and other dignitaries from 38 countries.

It was his first major speech on the international stage since he took over after

former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigned last year.

The White House has said President Donald Trump plans to nominate the former Boeing Co. executive as permanent secretary, but the nomination has not yet been sent to Capitol Hill.

"Perhaps the greatest long-term threat to the vital interests of states across this region comes from actors who seek to undermine, rather than uphold, the rules-based international order," Shanahan told the forum.

Shanahan outlined what he called "a toolkit of coercion," including the deployment of "advanced weapons systems to militarize disputed areas, destabilizing the peaceful status quo by threatening the use of force to compel rivals into conceding claims."

He also singled out the promotion of "state-sponsored theft of other nations' military and civilian technology."

"If the trends in these behaviors continue, artificial features in the global com-

mons could become tollbooths. Sovereignty could become the purview of the powerful," he added.

China claims much of the South China Sea as its own and has engaged in a massive building program in the strategic waterway despite protests from other countries in the region.

In turn the U.S. military has conducted so-called freedom of navigation missions as it seeks to maintain open sea lanes.

Washington also has sparred with Beijing over trade and the U.S. blacklisting of Chinese tech giant Huawei for alleged misdeeds.

Shanahan insisted that the United States is willing to cooperate with China and stressed that would be in the best economic interest of all sides.

"China can and should have a cooperative relationship with the rest of the region, too," he said. "But behavior that erodes other nations' sovereignty and sows distrust of China's intentions must end."

## North Korea has ability to strike US and allies, acting defense chief says

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SINGAPORE — North Korea remains "an extraordinary threat" with the potential to strike U.S. forces and other targets in the region, the United States' acting defense secretary said Saturday.

Pat Shanahan warned that the North "requires continued vigilance" even as diplomats are focused on negotiations to achieve the "final, fully verified denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

He also stressed the need to enforce international economic sanctions aimed at punishing North Korea for its efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

"We acknowledge that North Korea has neared a point where it could credibly strike regional allies, U.S. territory, and our forward-deployed forces," Shanahan said. "North Korea remains an extraordinary threat and requires continued vigilance."

The remarks came during a wide-ranging speech at the annual Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore, which brings together military officials and other dignitaries from 38 countries.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, meanwhile, inspected several machinery factories and other defense facilities near the border with China, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported Saturday without giving a date for the visits.

The North has shown increasing frustration since Kim's second summit with President Donald Trump ended without agreement in late February in Vietnam.

The communist state fired three short-range missiles last month, breaking a lull in such activity while stopping short of violating Kim's pledge to suspend long-range missile and nuclear tests.

On Friday, Shanahan held "constructive and productive"

talks about North Korea and other issues with Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe.

The two men discussed how the two militaries could better cooperate on enforcing sanctions against the North, spokesman Lt. Col. Joe Buccino said.

The U.S. special envoy on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, also held a meeting Friday with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts on the sidelines of the conference.

No details were released about the closed-door meeting.

But Biegun expressed confidence about getting the negotiation process back on track during unscheduled remarks to delegates on Saturday.

He also praised China and Russia for supporting efforts to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons despite disagreements on other issues.

"It's a work in progress. There is much more we could be doing," he said, adding the United States has made un-

specified commitments to the North "directly and indirectly, privately and publicly."

He said the U.S. remained committed to fulfilling a commitment to denuclearization reached at its first summit with the North on June 12 in Singapore.

Trump and Kim agreed to the vague goal but talks have deadlocked over the details of how to achieve it. The North wants eased sanctions and other rewards for disarmament steps, while Washington insists it will maintain pressure until denuclearization is achieved.

"The United States is convinced that ... we can continue to close the gaps that separate our two countries and make further progress on all the points that we committed to in Singapore," Biegun said.

Many observers are skeptical that the North will ever give up its hard-won nuclear weapons, which it sees as necessary to regime survival.

# City employee kills 12 in Virginia Beach

Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A long-time city employee shot and killed 12 people Friday in a Virginia Beach municipal building.

Virginia Beach Police Chief James Cervera identified the gunman as DeWayne Craddock, who was employed as an engineer with the city's public utilities department. Craddock was a 15-year city employee who had been in the National Guard and was described by neighbors as quiet and rarely smiling.

Cervera declined to comment on a motive for Friday's rampage that ended with Craddock dying in a gun battle with police.

Authorities used a Saturday morning news conference to focus on the victims,

saying 11 of them worked for the city. Another victim was a contractor trying to get a permit. They projected photos on a screen and gave each victim's name along with biographical details.

"They leave a void that we will never be able to fill," said City Manager Dave Hansen.

Hansen said that chaplains and family assistance workers worked overnight to notify family members of the dead, which he described as "the most difficult task anyone will ever have to do."

The 11 city employees who died were identified as Laquita C. Brown of Chesapeake, Tara Welch Gallagher of Virginia Beach, Mary Louise Gayle of Virginia Beach, Alexander Mikhail Gusev of Virginia Beach, Katherine A. Nixon of Virgin-

ia Beach, Richard H. Nettleton of Norfolk, Christopher Kelly Rapp of Powhatan, Ryan Keith Cox of Virginia Beach, Joshua A. Hardy of Virginia Beach, Michelle "Missy" Langer of Virginia Beach and Robert "Bobby" Williams of Chesapeake. The 12th victim, Herbert "Bert" Snelling of Virginia Beach, was a contractor filling a permit.

Authorities have said the gunman opened fire with a handgun in the municipal building Friday afternoon, killing 12 people on three floors and sending terrified co-workers scrambling for cover before police shot and killed him following a "long gun battle." Four other people were wounded in Friday's shooting, including a police officer whose bulletproof vest saved his life, police have said.

## Judge keeps lone Mo. abortion clinic open

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A judge issued an order Friday to keep Missouri's only abortion clinic operating over the objections of state health officials, delivering abortion-rights advocates a courtroom victory after a string of setbacks in legislatures around the U.S.

St. Louis Circuit Judge Michael Stelzer said Planned Parenthood's St. Louis clinic can continue providing abortions despite the Missouri health department's refusal to renew its license over a variety of patient safety concerns. He said the tempo-

rary restraining order was necessary to "prevent irreparable injury" to Planned Parenthood.

With the abortion license set to expire at midnight Friday, Planned Parenthood preemptively sued this week and argued that the state was "weaponizing" the licensing process. Planned Parenthood said that absent court intervention, Missouri would become the first state without an abortion clinic since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that legalized the procedure nationwide.

The clinic's license will remain in effect until a ruling is issued on Planned Parent-

hood's request for a permanent injunction, Stelzer's ruling says. A hearing is set for Tuesday morning.

"Today is a victory for women across Missouri, but this fight is far from over," Planned Parenthood Federation of America CEO Dr. Leana Wen said in a statement. "We have seen just how vulnerable access to abortion care is here — and in the rest of the country."

Republican Gov. Mike Parson said in a written statement that state regulators still have "serious health and safety concerns regarding Planned Parenthood's abortion facility in St. Louis."

## Prosecutor: Email tracking in SEAL case harmless

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Navy's tracking of emails to lawyers defending a SEAL accused of murder may have intruded on attorney-client privilege but wasn't severe enough to throw out the case, a military prosecutor argued in court Friday.

Lt. Scott McDonald said the effort only gathered data, such as internet protocol addresses, and did not snoop on the content of emails.

"Even if there was some intrusion" in violation of attorney client-privilege, it didn't rise to the level to dismiss the case, McDonald said.

Lawyers for Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher called the effort spy-

ing and said it amounted to prosecutorial misconduct.

They have asked a judge to throw out the case or remove the prosecutors.

The judge did not rule on the motions at the close of the two-day hearing. Capt. Aaron Rugh recessed the case until June 10, when Gallagher faces trial on murder and attempted murder charges.

Gallagher has pleaded not guilty to murder in the death of an injured teenage militant in Iraq in 2017 and attempted murder for allegedly picking off civilians from a sniper's perch.

On Thursday, Rugh unexpectedly released Gallagher from custody as a remedy to what he called interference by

prosecutors.

Rugh chided investigators Friday for refusing to testify about who authorized the scheme to track emails sent to the defense team and a journalist with the Navy Times. Three witnesses from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service declined to take the stand.

The "lack of candor or cooperation in this process I think could be huge as a sign of culpability," Rugh said.

Defense lawyer Tim Parlatore said there had been misconduct from the start of the investigation into Gallagher and it continued throughout the case. He said that even if a new prosecution team is named, Gallagher can't get a fair trial.

# Levees damaged, breached by Midwest floods

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Relentless flooding in the central U.S. on Friday inundated communities and damaged or spilled over levees on three major rivers in two states, and authorities discovered the body of a drowning victim at a Missouri lake.

The fast-flowing Arkansas River smashed a 40-foot hole in a levee in rural western Arkansas, causing water to spill into a nearby community. In northeast Missouri, a levee was overtopped on the Mississippi River, and another levee was topped on the Missouri River in the central part of the state.

The flooding has been building for days because of heavy rainfall upstream. In Arkansas, officials were warning of more potential problems on an already strained levee system.

“These levees were not built to sustain

this high a flow for this long, and we are seeing problems and there more than likely will be more,” said Laurie Driver, spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District.

In eastern Missouri, the state Highway Patrol’s Water Division reported that the body of 57-year-old Lane Panasuk, of Butte, Mont., was recovered Thursday evening from Harry S. Truman Lake in Henry County, but the patrol said it did not know why he was in the water. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had warned visitors about high water levels that had closed most of the campgrounds around the lake and a road over its dam.

In Arkansas, the levee breached at Dardanelle, about 60 miles northwest of Little Rock. Yell County officials had anticipated the breach and urged residents in the nearby Holla Bend area to evacuate Thursday.

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management said crews went door to door to recommend evacuation for about 160 homes.

Yell County Emergency Manager Jeff Gilkey told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that rapid currents from the river ripped a 40-foot section from the levee. Aerial video posted by the sheriff’s office Friday showed water pouring through the hole.

“There was nothing we could do to stop it,” Gilkey said.

National Weather Service data showed a dip in the water level at Dardanelle, likely due to the breach. A flash flood warning was issued early Friday for the area, and forecasters said residents should be prepared for rapidly rising water. Local officials said they were uncertain where the water would end up.

## Despite backlash, Trump threatens Mexican tariffs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite pushback from U.S. business, Mexico and Capitol Hill, President Donald Trump is doubling down on his threat to slap a 5% tariff on Mexican imports unless America’s southern neighbor cracks down on Central American migrants trying to cross the U.S. border.

U.S. manufacturers said the tariff, set to take effect June 10, would have devastating consequences on them and American consumers. U.S. stocks tumbled on Wall Street in response to Trump’s planned action.

“Imposing tariffs on goods from Mexico is exactly the wrong move,” said Neil Bradley, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is exploring legal action in response to the tariffs. “These tariffs will be paid by American families and businesses without doing a thing to solve the very real problems at the border. Instead, Congress and the president need to work together to address the serious problems at the border.”

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador dispatched his foreign secretary

to Washington to try to negotiate a solution. He said social problems are not solved with coercive measures, but also seemed convinced that Trump just needed to be informed about all the steps Mexico has taken to slow illegal migration.

Mexico has stepped up raids on migrant caravans traveling through the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca this year. It has deported thousands of migrants and frustrated thousands more who wait endlessly for permits that would allow them to travel legally through Mexico.

Administration officials told reporters in a briefing call Thursday evening that Mexico could prevent the tariffs from kicking in by securing its southern border with Guatemala, cracking down on criminal smuggling organizations, and entering into a “safe third country agreement” that would make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S.

Trump said the percentage will gradually increase — up to 25% — until the migration problem is remedied.

## Trump backs Boris, dings duchess ahead of UK visit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is wading into the United Kingdom’s political maelstrom days before he is set to embark on his first state visit there, saying Boris Johnson would make an “excellent” prime minister and calling Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, “nasty.”

In an interview Friday with the British tabloid *The Sun*, Trump expressed support for the controversial ex-foreign secretary in his bid to replace Theresa May, saying, “I think Boris would do a very good job. I think he would be excellent.”

May is to step down amid an impasse over Brexit on June 7, just days after Trump is set to be feted by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace and after official observances of the 75th anniversary of D-Day are concluded.

Trump referred to the American-born Duchess of Sussex as “nasty” over comments she made in 2016 threatening to move to Canada if Trump won the White House.

“I didn’t know that she was nasty,” he said of Meghan when read her prior criticism. The

former Meghan Markle married Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, in 2018 and gave birth to their first child, Archie, in May.

During the state visit, the president, his wife, Melania, and his four adult children are expected to meet with Harry as well as his brother, Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and his wife, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. Meghan is expected to stay home with Archie.

Trump told the newspaper he didn’t know that he wouldn’t be meeting Markle but predicted that she will make “a very good” American princess.

As for May, Trump criticized her handling of Brexit negotiations with the European Union, saying she “didn’t give the European Union anything to lose.”

Trump’s first visit to the UK as president was marred by similar critical comments he made to the same tabloid last year about May’s handling of Brexit.

Trump is scheduled to arrive in London on Monday for a three-day visit.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Otter dies after eating food from visitors

**TN** KINGSPORT — An otter named Otto has died after park visitors gave him food that his body couldn't tolerate.

News outlets reported Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium announced Otto's death Thursday, saying an autopsy will be conducted to determine his official cause of death. The park said Otto's sickness and death is exactly why it prohibits people from feeding park animals.

### School closes after nude man enters

**PA** SCRANTON — An elementary school closed for the day after educators realized that a man had entered the building overnight, got naked and spilled Murphy Oil Soap on the gym floor.

Neil Armstrong Elementary School staff originally thought the spilled soap was a prank, but the principal reviewed security footage and saw that a man had been on the premises.

Scranton Police Chief Carl Graziano said that once inside the school, the man took off his clothes and walked through parts of the school.

### Eatery workers paid \$92K in back wages

**SC** SIMPSONVILLE — A Mexican restaurant had to pay nine employees \$92,670 in back wages following an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

WSPA-TV reported the investigation found that LCV Jalisco Inc., operating as El Jalisco Mexican Restaurant in Simpsonville, violated the minimum wage, overtime and re-

cord-keeping requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Authorities said the company failed to pay two servers any wages and employed them to work only for tips. The division also found that the company failed to pay employees time-and-a-half for any hours worked over 40 hours in a workweek.

### Man lies to teens, takes trip money

**MS** GREENWOOD — A man whom authorities said took \$8,000 and made false promises to high school seniors about a graduation trip has been charged with fraud.

Humphreys County High School students were stranded in a parking lot waiting for 31-year-old Ladarrius Donte West, who said he had a company called Big Fella Bus Tours.

He was supposed to drive them to Miami to board a cruise to the Bahamas, but didn't show up, the Greenwood Commonwealth reported. Greenwood police arrested West on Tuesday and charged him with defrauding under false pretenses.

Organizers in Humphreys County decided not to let the students become victims. Allen-Rush said the community came together again and sent 39 students and nine adults to an abbreviated visit to Miami and the beach on the weekend of May 10-12.

### Disney World guest injured by bird

**FL** ORLANDO — A woman from Celebration was attacked by a bird and suffered severe brain injuries as she walked on a dock at Walt Disney World Resort, according to a lawsuit that claims Disney knew seasonal nesting birds are a threat to guests.

Lisa Dixon was injured when the bird struck her in the head in May 2017, according to the suit filed in Orange Circuit Court last week that's seeking unspecified damages in excess of \$15,000.

Dixon suffered a traumatic brain injury and had herniated discs in her neck after the bird had "dive-bombed" and struck Dixon, said her lawyer, Thomas Schmitt. She will need surgery.

### Man bitten by illegally captured rattlesnakes

**PA** WILLIAMSPORT — A man charged with illegally catching and trying to sell eastern timber rattlesnakes is in critical condition after being bitten by snakes hours after his scheduled court hearing was delayed.

A spokesman with the state Fish and Boat Commission said Cody Short was bitten by eastern timber rattlesnakes Friday night. PennLive.com said that was hours after the delay of his scheduled guilty plea to charges related to the illegal capture and sale of rattlesnakes.

Short was arrested last summer after he agreed to sell 11 snakes to an undercover agent for \$900.

In February, Short told PennLive he's ashamed, and said he caught the snakes to eat them at his 40th birthday party.

### Bear tranquilized after visit to school

**MO** EUREKA — A bear is back in the woods after a visit to a Catholic school in suburban St. Louis.

School is out for the summer at Most Sacred Heart Parish in Eureka, so the kids missed all of the excitement Tuesday when the bear arrived and got trapped inside.

The Rev. Joe Kempf told

KTVI-TV that he had propped open a door during cleaning and the bear wandered in.

The Missouri Department of Conservation said the bear was tranquilized and removed. The 90-pound bear, estimated to be about 18 months old, was taken to a wooded area and released.

### Man sold fertilizer as diet pill, sentenced

**CA** SACRAMENTO — A man who sold a toxic fertilizer as a diet pill has been sentenced to three years in federal prison.

Scott Edward Cavell of Sacramento was sentenced Tuesday for interstate commerce of misbranded drugs.

Prosecutors said that between 2015 and 2017, Cavell and others marketed a drug called DNP for weight loss and fat-burning while officially selling it as a fertilizer.

DNP is used as a fertilizer, a pesticide and for manufacturing but it's not approved for human consumption because the Food and Drug Administration said it's too toxic.

### Bezos ex-wife pledges half fortune to charity

**NY** NEW YORK — MacKenzie Bezos, who finalized her divorce from Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos earlier this year, is pledging to give away half her fortune to charity.

The novelist said Tuesday that she signed The Giving Pledge, a campaign to get the ultra-wealthy to pledge at least half their fortune to charitable causes. MacKenzie Bezos did not say how she plans to give her money away. The divorce leaves her with a 4% stake in the online shopping giant.

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# For first time, Warriors trail 1-0 in finals

Associated Press

TORONTO — Steve Kerr has seen a little of almost everything during his wildly successful five-year run as coach of the Golden State Warriors.

This, however, is something new.

For the first time, Kerr and the Warriors are staring at a 1-0 deficit in the NBA Finals. They've trailed in series before, faced plenty of adverse moments along the way, but this is the newest challenge for a franchise trying to join the short list of clubs that have won three consecutive championships.

"The experience helps," Kerr said Friday, a day after the Toronto Raptors struck first. "Winning multiple championships helps because you have seen it all. There's also just the knowledge that you've been here before. You've been down. We have been up 3-1 and lost a series. We have been down 3-1 and won a series. Everything in between. So nothing is going to

catch these guys off-guard."

That's his hope, anyway.

There was a clear air of confidence from the Warriors even in the very first moments after the loss Thursday night. They knew they didn't play particularly well, and lost by only nine. They trailed most of the way, yet still were within striking distance plenty of times. They seemed far from rattled.

"No matter what, our sights were coming in that it's a long series," Warriors star Stephen Curry said. "And Game 2 is an opportunity for us to right the wrongs and get a big win and go back home."

No one needs to explain to the Warriors that a win on Sunday completely shifts the narrative.

And even though the axiom has always been that Game 1 winners usually go on to win the series — and that is still the case — it seems that a 1-0 deficit isn't as daunting to teams as it once might have been.

Since the league went to the 16-team format for the 1984

postseason, Game 1 winners have never been as vulnerable as they have seemed to be this year. In the 14 series this year that preceded the NBA Finals, six Game 1 winners wound up losing their series. That's never happened before in this format.

In the 2010s, Game 1 winners have gone on to lose a series 31% of the time. In the 2000s, it was 25%; in the 1990s, 15%.

"As soon as you lose a game, it will be on the crawl that now we only have a 19.7% chance of winning the series. Then if we win (Sunday) we'll have a 42.7% chance of not losing the series," said Kerr, tongue firmly planted in cheek. "This stuff is what it is. You lose a game, you come back and you try to win."

Kerr's stance is clear: A simpler approach — study film, find ways to get better, apply them Sunday — is best.

On the other hand, Golden State hadn't lost a Game 1 this season. Or the season before that. Or the season before that.

The last time the Warriors woke up and were down 1-0 in a series was the Western Conference finals in 2016 — against Kevin Durant and Oklahoma City. The Warriors responded with a blowout win in Game 2 and went on to prevail in seven games.

"You never lose that experience," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "You can always look back on it and it's more about how you felt, what was your mindset then. But it's impossible to be the same because it's completely different teams. And although some of us may have that experience, others on our team have not had that experience."

It bears noting that the Raptors know a 1-0 series lead doesn't mean much.

Orlando had one of those against Toronto in the first round, and lost in five games.

Milwaukee had one of those against Toronto in the Eastern Conference finals — 2-0, actually — and lost in six games.

## Long journey takes Raptors' Siakam to biggest stage

Associated Press

TORONTO — The path to the best NBA Finals debut in seven years began in Cameroon and has stretched from New Mexico to the suburbs of Toronto.

Pascal Siakam had to emerge from some small settings before he could reach the big time.

That made Siakam's 32-point performance in Game 1 even more impressive. The players who often stand out this time of year are the can't-miss prospects who seemed destined for greatness from the time they were kids.

Siakam hadn't even started playing basketball by then.

But there he was Thursday night, shooting 14-for-17 from the field to spark Toronto's 118-109 victory over Golden State.

"I've never seen anything like that before," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "That's a pretty big stage for a guy to put that kind of performance on, almost with any background."

It was the most points in an NBA Finals debut since Kevin Durant had 36 for Oklahoma City in 2012, and it made Siakam the first player to score 30 or more on at least 80 percent shooting in a finals game since Shaquille O'Neal did it in 2004.

Those players were top-two picks, as were Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon and Tim Duncan, the other players since 1970 with 30 points in an NBA Finals Game 1 within their first three pro seasons.

Siakam was way down at No. 27 in the 2016 draft. Golden State's Draymond Green — a second-round pick — said there's a different level of admiration for players who have played themselves into starring roles from what are considered supporting spots.

"You come into this league and there's really no space for you," Green said. "You're essentially someone who kind of

comes in — I mean, you can be out in a year, you can be out in two years, you can be out in four years. And to gain that respect and to, as I said before, become one of those guys, I think it's special. Siakam has done that."

The 6-foot-9 Siakam was already a good athlete, having played soccer as a boy in Cameroon. But it was his desire to become a good basketball player that's kept him in the gym long hours to make up for his late start in the game.

He took part in a Basketball without Borders camp in South Africa in 2012 at 18 and was soon on the way to the U.S. to embark on a basketball career. He ended up at New Mexico State for two seasons, winning Western Athletic Conference player of the year in his second one, before the Raptors drafted him.

Siakam was MVP of the 2017 NBA G League Finals after

helping Raptors 905 win the title, but success with the big club had to wait. He didn't have a reliable shot yet, certainly not reliable enough to be a regular contributor on a 50-win team. But he's developed one over the summers and unleashed it on opponents during this season, when he averaged 16.9 points and played well enough to be a finalist for Most Improved Player.

"He works, works, works," Nurse said. "He takes care of himself. He's really got a burning desire to be a very, very good player in this league."

Green, a former Defensive Player of the Year, blamed himself for the poor defense on Siakam and vowed to be better Sunday in Game 2. Siakam knows there will be adjustments, but he might make some, too.

"I think I always say, I learned a lot and I know I have a lot to learn," Siakam said.

# French Open loses top women's seed

Associated Press

PARIS—This was one deficit too big to overcome for Naomi Osaka, whose Grand Slam winning streak is over.

The No. 1-ranked Osaka couldn't muster a comeback after falling way behind yet again at the French Open, losing 6-4, 6-2 in the third round to No. 42 Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic on Saturday.

"I just feel like there has been a weight on me, kind of," said Osaka, who was seeded No. 1 at a major tournament for the first time.

She had won her past 16 matches at majors, allowing her to lift the trophies at the U.S. Open last September and Australian Open in January. That run also included two victories at Roland Garros after trailing by a set and a break each time.

"I could see," Siniakova said, "that she's not so confident like she was."

But Osaka said Saturday that she felt tired and was dealing with a headache.

Her mounting mistakes just kept accumulating against Siniakova, who never had reached

the fourth round in singles in 18 previous Slam appearances. She is better known for her doubles success, winning championships at the French Open and Wimbledon last year and topping the rankings.

She is the first woman ranked No. 1 in doubles to defeat the singles No. 1 in more than 30 years, according to the WTA: The last occasion was when Martina Navratilova beat Steffi Graf at the 1987 U.S. Open.

"I mean, it's incredible. It's amazing. It's the thing I couldn't believe," said Siniakova, who will face 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys next. "It was my best tennis."

It decidedly was not Osaka's, who quickly gathered her things and headed to the Court Suzanne Lenglen locker room when the lopsided match was finished.

She wound up with a hard-to-believe 38 unforced errors; Siniakova made only 13.

And Osaka, so good lately at the biggest moments on her sport's biggest stages, wasn't able to come up with the goods on the hottest day of the tournament so far, with the temperature topping 80 degrees.

One key statistic: Osaka compiled seven break points in the first set but failed to convert a single one. She was 0-for-4 on break chances when Siniakova served out that set, then never managed to earn one in the second.

Clay has never been Osaka's best surface. Her power game is served better by the speed of hard courts, in particular. That's why she still has not made it to the round of 16 at the French Open.

The first tennis player from Japan to be ranked No. 1 thought she was better suited to contend this time and spoke about eyeing a third consecutive major title — and moving halfway to a true Grand Slam.

"It's weird, but I think me losing is probably the best thing that could have happened. I think I was overthinking this calendar Slam. For me, this is something that I have wanted to do forever," Osaka said. "But I think I have to think about it like: If it was that easy, everyone would have done it. I just have to keep training hard and put myself in a position again to do it, hopefully."

After going just 9-11 on clay

over her career until this season, she was 9-1 in 2019 until Saturday's setback.

The loss ends Osaka's run of 16 straight wins in Grand Slam tournaments, which included titles at the U.S. Open and Australian Open.

Osaka's exit, a day after No. 2 Karolina Pliskova lost, leaves defending champion Simona Halep, at No. 3, as the highest-seeded woman remaining. Halep needed only 55 minutes to get to the fourth round with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over No. 27 Lesia Tsurenko.

Keys, a semifinalist in Paris a year ago, advanced by beating qualifier Anna Blinkova 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-4.

In men's action, No. 1 Novak Djokovic stretched his Slam winning streak to 24 matches as he seeks his fourth title in a row, eliminating 147th-ranked qualifier Salvatore Caruso of Italy 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

Also advancing were No. 5 Alexander Zverev, No. 6 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 9 Fabio Fognini and No. 24 Stan Wawrinka, the 2015 champion and 2017 runner-up at Roland Garros.

## Bearcats surprise Beavers in NCAA baseball regional

Associated Press

A Cincinnati team that entered the NCAA Tournament with barely a winning record pulled the biggest upset Friday, knocking off defending national champion Oregon State 7-6 on the Beavers' home field.

The Bearcats, who made the tourney by winning the American Athletic Conference Tournament and were just 30-29, were the only No. 4 regional seed to win on the first day of the tournament.

No. 1 national seed UCLA got a strong 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings from Pac-12 pitcher of the year Ryan Garcia and beat tournament first-timer Omaha 5-2.

Besides the one big upset, No. 3 regional seeds provided

the biggest highlights.

The lower seed won 12 of 15 matchups of second and third seeds, the best first round for No. 3s since the tournament went to its current format in 1999.

One 2-3 matchup was suspended because of lightning in Greenville, N.C., with No. 3 Campbell leading North Carolina State 5-4 in the ninth inning. That game was to be completed Saturday.

Among the winning 3 seeds were the last four teams awarded at-large bids — Florida State, Michigan, Duke and TCU.

FSU hit six homers in a 13-7 win over Florida Atlantic, Michigan beat Creighton 6-0 after Karl Kauffmann scat-

tered six hits over 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, and Duke beat Texas A&M 8-5 after Ben Gross turned in seven strong innings.

TCU raised eyebrows with its 13-2 win over California after getting panned for its résumé, which included a No. 59 RPI and a sub-.500 record in the Big 12. Hunter Wolfe and Johnny Rizer combined for six hits and seven RBIs for the Horned Frogs.

Southern Mississippi had another notable win by a 3 seed, exploding for a 12-run fifth inning while defeating Arizona State 15-3. The 12-run loss was ASU's most lopsided in the program's 248 NCAA Tournament games and only the third by double digits.

Last year, No. 3 regional seeds went 7-9 in the first round.

**Conference call:** ACC teams went 7-1 to lead the power conferences. The others: SEC, 7-3; Big 12, 4-1; Pac-12, 2-3; Big Ten, 2-3.

**Who is this guy?:** Florida State got a jolt from an unlikely source.

Tim Becker, a graduate student who played three seasons on FSU's club team before earning a spot on the varsity at an open tryout last fall, hit two of the Seminoles' six homers and drove in four runs to match his previous season total. He entered the game 8-for-32 for the season with no homers. He drew his fifth start in left field.

# LeMahieu, surging Yanks top Red Sox

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Don't let DJ LeMahieu's professional demeanor fool you.

"He's out there to rip your heart out," New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said, "and he plays with an edge."

A pumped-up LeMahieu homered and hit an RBI double off the wall against Chris Sale, sending the surging Yankees to a 4-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Friday night.

Aaron Hicks broke a third-inning tie with a two-run single, and J.A. Happ (5-3) pitched well against Boston again to win his fourth consecutive decision overall. New York got four shutout innings from its deep and dominant bullpen, handing the defending World Series champions their third loss in a row.

"A really good, clean game and probably a game you need to play when you're up against Sale and the Red Sox," Boone said.

Despite a rash of injuries, the Yankees hold a 1½-game lead in the AL East over

Tampa Bay — and a widening gap on the Red Sox. New York has won all three meetings between the longtime rivals this season, beating Sale (1-7) twice and outscoring Boston 17-4.

Rafael Devers homered early for the third-place Red Sox (29-28), who fell 8½ games back in the division. That's the furthest they've been behind the Yankees since finishing the 2015 season nine games in the dust.

"As much as you can point a finger at anybody in this clubhouse, you can point them at me, too," Sale said. "We've got to find a way to start winning games, get some zip back in us and rolling some wins out."

"We just have to find that something. Whatever it is, where it is — change of socks, frozen pizza, I don't know."

New York has won 14 of 17 and is 31-10 since a 6-9 start.

After the teams were rained out Thursday night, the Yankees tagged Sale for four runs and seven hits in six innings. The

left-hander struck out 10 for a sixth double-digit strikeout game in his past eight starts, but pounded his fist into his glove in frustration after LeMahieu's opposite-field homer in the fifth.

Batting leadoff, LeMahieu also doubled off the right-center wall in the third and clapped at second base after driving in New York's first run following singles by Gio Urshela and Brett Gardner.

"The way the fans are in it, it feels pretty close to the playoffs and you don't get that in too many places," said LeMahieu, who made a sprawling defensive play at second base as well. "It's a big game. Just the atmosphere out there, the rivalry. Just excited."

A two-time All-Star, 2016 NL batting champion and winner of three Gold Gloves, LeMahieu left Colorado to sign a \$24 million, two-year contract with the Yankees last winter.

"I think he does love playing in this environment," Boone said. "Good to see him go out there and kind of set the tone for us."

## MLB roundup

# Bell caps record-setting May with two more hits

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Josh Bell finished off his historic May with two more hits, Starling Marte added three hits and scored three times and the Pirates pounced on struggling Milwaukee starter Jhoulys Chacin in a 9-4 victory.

Bell went 2-for-5 and drove in a run in front of a crowd that included fans in the right-field seats wearing "Believe" T-shirts as part of a promotion that doubled as an All-Star Game push for the 26-year-old first baseman. Bell's two singles gave him 94 total bases in May, the most by any player in any month in the franchise's 138-year history. Bell hit .389 in May with 12 home runs, 12 doubles and 31 RBIs.

**Reds 9, Nationals 3:** Curt Casali hit a three-run homer off Patrick Corbin, who had one of the worst starts of his career, and host Cincinnati ended Washington's streak of eight

straight wins at Great American Ball Park.

Corbin (5-3) gave up eight runs — one shy of his career high — in 2⅔ innings. The Reds piled up 11 hits, matching the most the left-hander had allowed in a game. He retired only eight of his 20 batters.

**Twins 5, Rays 3:** Eddie Rosario hit a tiebreaking, two-run single off Adam Kolarek in the ninth inning after a pair of batters were hit by pitches, and Minnesota beat host Tampa Bay in a matchup of two of the major leagues' hottest teams.

**Rockies 13, Blue Jays 6:** Trevor Story hit a pair of two-run homers as part of a career-high seven-RBI night and host Colorado beat slumping Toronto for its sixth straight win.

It was the 13th career multi-homer game for Story, who also had a three-run double, walked and scored four times.

**Orioles 9, Giants 5:** Dwight Smith's first career grand slam capped a six-run outburst in the

first inning and Baltimore outslugged visiting San Francisco.

**White Sox 2, Indians 1:** Dylan Covey pitched six effective innings for his first win since August, and host Chicago beat sloppy Cleveland for its season-high fifth straight win.

**Tigers 8, Braves 2:** Niko Goodrum homered twice and had a career-high five hits, Nicholas Castellanos and Grayson Greiner also went deep, and visiting Detroit romped past Atlanta.

**Rangers 6, Royals 2:** Joey Gallo's first career grand slam capped a six-run, sixth-inning outburst as host Texas rallied past Kansas City.

**Cardinals 2, Cubs 1 (10):** Matt Carpenter hit a game-ending single against an unusual defensive alignment in the 10th to lead St. Louis past visiting Chicago.

**Mariners 4, Angels 3:** Jay Bruce hit his 300th career home run, Tom Murphy had a two-run shot, and host Seattle

beat Los Angeles.

**Padres 5, Marlins 2:** Frammil Reyes, Hunter Renfroe and Ian Kinsler homered, and left-hander Joey Lucchesi combined with two relievers on a four-hitter for his first victory in six starts to lead host San Diego past Miami.

**Dodgers 6, Phillies 3:** Max Muncy, Joc Pederson, Corey Seager and Enrique Hernandez homered, powering Los Angeles past visiting Philadelphia in the opener of a series matching the National League's best teams.

**Astros 3, Athletics 2:** Derek Fisher hit a tiebreaking homer to lead off the eighth inning for his first long ball of the season and short-handed Houston rallied to beat host Oakland.

**Mets 5, Diamondbacks 4:** At Phoenix, Carlos Gomez snapped a tie with a pinch-hit double during his team's bizarre two-run eighth inning, sending New York past Arizona.