

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

US to send more troops to Middle East

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will send about 1,000 new troops into the Middle East “for defensive purposes,” the Defense Department announced Monday in its third such deployment of forces in recent weeks as tensions with Iran have increased amid threats and attacks on civilian ships.

Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan announced the new deployment of unspecified military forces into the region as the Pentagon released newly declassified imagery it claims clearly shows Iranian forces as responsible for simultaneous attacks last week on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The new deployment, requested by U.S. Central Command chief Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, brings the troop surge into the Middle East to some 2,500 additional servicemembers since the White House abruptly announced May 5 that it was speeding the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a B-52 bomber task force into the region, citing unspecified threats from Iran and its proxy forces.

“The United States does not seek conflict with Iran,” Shanahan said in the Monday statement.

“The action today is being taken to ensure the safety and welfare of our military personnel working throughout the region and to protect our national interests.”

President Donald Trump, in an interview with Time magazine published Tuesday, said he would send U.S. troops into a war with Iran over nuclear weapons, but he was not so certain he would approve combat operations to protect the international oil shipping routes Iran has threatened to close.

Trump, like his Pentagon and State Department leaders, has blamed Iran for the attacks on tankers last Thursday and on May 12. However, the president told Time that “so far, it’s been very minor,” contrary to the harsher tones emanating from the defense and state departments.

Pentagon officials remained silent Tuesday about the types of troops they are sending to the Middle East or precisely where the troops would be located. Two Pentagon officials said the troops would not be front-line combat forces, such as infantrymen or special operators, describing them as primarily “force protection.”

One of the officials said the troops would bolster intelligence, surveillance and re-

connaissance capabilities in the region and include background support forces, including aircraft maintainers. The officials were not authorized to speak on the matter and requested anonymity.

The previous deployments of troops announced by the Pentagon included Army Patriot missile operators, who provide anti-aircraft and anti-missile capabilities, as well as engineers and an Air Force fighter jet squadron. The military also extended a deployment of a separate Patriot missile battalion in the region.

Officials at the Pentagon and State Department have said the increased force posture is necessary to protect Americans throughout the Middle East from threats that they have said include planned attacks by Iran-controlled militias.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed Iran this week for a series of recent incidents, including the tanker attacks and an unsuccessful rocket attack that caused an explosion near American troops in Baghdad last month.

Similar attacks occurred in Iraq on Monday and Saturday, according to the U.S. military and The Associated Press reporting from the region.

Shanahan ends his bid for defense secretary

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
AND COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump tweeted Tuesday that Pat Shanahan has decided to end his bid to become the next defense secretary, after reports emerged of domestic violence during Shanahan’s marriage.

“[Shanahan] has decided not to go forward with his confirmation process so that he can devote more time to his family,” Trump tweeted, adding he was naming Army Secretary Mark Esper to take over as the new acting defense secretary.

“I know Mark, and have no doubt he will do a fantastic job!,” Trump tweeted.

Shanahan has been the acting defense secretary since January, after Jim Mattis resigned in December 2018 because of differences that Mattis had with the president over decisions regarding foreign policy, including to withdraw American troops from Syria.

The White House announced in May that the president intended to nominate Shanahan, however the nomination never made it to the Senate for consideration. Trump reportedly has had second thoughts about Shanahan and asked others close to

him about other candidates for the job during his recent trip to France, according to an NBC News story.

The president’s tweet comes after several news outlets reported an incident of domestic violence in Shanahan’s previous marriage, where he and his then-wife claimed they had been punched by the other, according to a USA Today story. In a statement published by USA Today, Shanahan denied he had laid a hand on his wife and said he cooperated with law enforcement. He also said his wife was charged with assault against him, but he had the charges dropped “in the in-

terest of my family.”

“After having been confirmed for deputy secretary less than two years ago, it is unfortunate that such a painful and deeply personal family situation from long ago is being dredged up and painted in an incomplete and therefore misleading way as a result of this nomination process,” Shanahan said in the statement.

Esper has been Trump’s Army secretary since November 2017, joining the Pentagon after spending several years at Raytheon, a defense contractor for which he was most recently vice president of government relations.

Marine reportedly under investigation in Japan

BY JAMES BOLINGER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — A local Marine is under investigation by Iwakuni police on allegations he stole a car June 7 while drunk and crashed it in a parking lot, according to reports in Japanese media.

An Iwakuni police spokesman confirmed the department is investigating an accident involving a stolen car but has not identified the suspect.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force, in a statement emailed Monday to Stars and Stripes, said it's aware of the incident.

"We are working closely with local authorities and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time due to the

ongoing investigation," the statement said.

According to the Tokyo Reporter website, a gunnery sergeant stole the vehicle from a convenience store parking lot in the Asahimachi area of Iwakuni city after the driver, who works on base, left her keys in the ignition before stepping inside the store about 11 p.m.

The Marine crashed the car into two other vehicles in an apartment parking lot a half-mile away, the Mainichi Shimbun reported. The Marine was questioned by Iwakuni police, and a breath test measured his blood alcohol content at 0.12%, four times Japan's legal limit, according to the Tokyo Reporter.

The Marine has since apologized to the woman, according to the Mainichi report.

Japanese helo rescues US servicemember in water

BY CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

ONNA, Okinawa — A Japanese coast guard helicopter rescued a U.S. servicemember swept out to sea Saturday while swimming at Apogama, a popular but sometimes dangerous diving and swimming spot also known as Mermaid Grotto.

A caller told emergency responders at 2 p.m. that a group of four U.S. servicemembers were pulled away from shore, said Katsuyuki Miyazato, a spokesman for the 11th Regional Coast Guard in Naha.

"We immediately dispatched an AW-139 helicopter and one patrol boat to rescue [them]," he said, adding that three of the swimmers returned the 100 yards to shore on their own.

The helicopter airlifted the remaining 20-year-old from the water back to the coast guard's base station in Naha.

"The servicemember suffered minor scratches, and base security officers later took him back to the base," Miyazato said.

The swimmers' identities and service branches were not known on Tuesday.

A sign posted at Apogama's entrance, written in English and Japanese, warns visitors of the hazardous and unpredictable water conditions and recommends water-related activities be conducted at a safer location of the island.

"The views are the allure of the site," said Matt Lewis, a dive instructor at Marine Corps Community Services Tsunami Scuba since 2014. "Where it becomes dangerous is the way the coral is structured. When the tide is coming in or going out, it can cause significant riptides."

A high seas warning was in effect Saturday, with winds reaching 14 knots per second.

Spokesman: Manila may invoke US pact if China sunk boat

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Philippines may invoke its mutual defense treaty with the United States if it finds the sinking of a Philippine fishing boat this month was the result of an armed attack by the Chinese, a spokesman for Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte said at a press briefing Monday.

Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Philippines will invoke the treaty "if it is the right thing to do with that agreement," according to a translated transcript of the briefing.

The treaty calls for the U.S. to support the Philippines if it's attacked by another country, he said.

The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest last week after Filipino fishermen said a Chinese fishing vessel intentionally rammed their boat, the FB Gimver, anchored in Reed Bank on June 9 and left the 22 crew members for dead. A Vietnamese boat rescued the sailors, and the Philippine navy later brought them home.

Also Monday, Duterte himself downplayed the significance of the incident, referring to it as "just a collision of ships," according to a translated transcript of his speech at Naval Base Heracleo Alano in Cavite.

Duterte told his audience "not to believe stupid politicians" who want to activate the navy in response to unproven accusations.

"You do not send gray ships there. It's just a collision — do not make it worse," he said, according to the transcript.

Reed Bank, about 93 miles from the Philippine island of Palawan, is in the South China Sea and within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, ac-

ording to a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague.

Beijing disputes the allegations, saying the Chinese boat "was suddenly besieged by 7 or 8 Filipino fishing boats" and crashed accidentally into the Philippine vessel while trying to evacuate, the Chinese Embassy in Manila said in a Saturday statement.

"The Chinese captain tried to rescue the Filipino fishermen but was afraid of being besieged by other Filipino fishing boats," the statement said.

In a Friday interview with Philippine broadcaster One News, U.S. Ambassador to Manila Sung Kim said it would be "a very serious situation" if the Filipino fishermen's accusations are verified.

Kim also told One News that "any armed attack on Filipino vessels, Filipino aircraft will trigger our obligations under the Mutual Defense Treaty," and that the treaty covers attacks on Philippine forces and public vessels.

Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Locsin Jr. at a meeting Monday of parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea said that "while no sanction is available in international law," the alleged abandonment of the Philippine boat "should be a cause of some concern."

"The incident, to put it diplomatically, highlights the moral and possibly legal — though one wouldn't wager on it — imperative of coming to the rescue of persons in distress at sea," Locsin said, according to a transcript of the meeting.

Both the Philippines and China have launched investigations into the collision, Panelo said Monday, according to the transcript.

Harvard revokes offer to Parkland survivor

Associated Press

BOSTON — A survivor of the Parkland school shooting announced Monday that Harvard University withdrew his admission over racist comments he made in a shared Google Doc and text messages nearly two years ago.

In a series of posts on Twitter, Kyle Kashuv shared several letters he received from the Ivy League school first notifying him that his admission offer was being reconsidered in light of the comments and, later, that it was being revoked.

The decision stems from comments that have surfaced online recently and that Kashuv says were shared among friends when he was 16, months before the February 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Screenshots that have circulated on social media appear to show Kashuv using racial slurs on Google Docs, an online word processor, and in text messages. The comments include anti-Semitic barbs and repeated use of a slur referring to black people.

Kashuv, now 18, has apologized for the comments and said he didn't remember them until they spread online. In a May 22 statement on Twitter, as the comments began to spread, he said they were made by a "petty, flippant kid" and not the person he has become. He later said he made poor choices but bears no real racial hatred.

"We were 16-year-olds making idiotic comments, using callous and inflammatory language in an effort to be as extreme and shocking as possible," he wrote in his May 22 apology. "I'm embarrassed by it."

Harvard sparked debate in 2017 when it pulled offers from 10 incoming freshmen after they reportedly made racist and sexually offensive comments on Facebook.

President says ICE to deport millions beginning next week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is threatening on the eve of formally announcing his reelection bid to remove millions of people living in the country illegally.

In a pair of tweets Monday night, Trump said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would next week "begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States."

"They will be removed as fast as they come in," he wrote.

An administration official said the effort would focus on the more than 1 million people who have been issued final deportation orders by federal

judges but remain at large in the country. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to explain the president's tweets.

It is unusual for law enforcement agencies to announce raids before they take place. Some in Trump's administration believe that decisive shows of force — like mass arrests — can serve as effective deterrents, sending a message to those considering making the journey to the U.S. that it's not worth coming.

Trump has threatened a series of increasingly drastic actions as he has tried to stem the flow of Central American migrants crossing the southern border, which has risen dramatically on his watch. He recently dropped a threat to slap tariffs

on Mexico after the country agreed to dispatch its national guard and step up coordination and enforcement efforts.

A senior Mexican official said Monday that three weeks ago, about 4,200 migrants were arriving at the U.S. border daily. Now, that number has dropped to about 2,600.

Immigration was a central theme of Trump's 2016 campaign and he is expected to hammer it as he tries to fire up his base heading into the 2020 campaign.

Trump was to formally launch his reelection bid Tuesday night at a rally in Orlando, Fla. Florida is a state that is crucial to his path back to the White House.

Trump sells self as rebel for 2020

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump captured the Republican Party and then the presidency in 2016 as an insurgent intent on disrupting the status quo. As he mounts his bid for reelection, Trump is offering himself as the outsider once again — but it's a much more awkward pitch to make from inside the Oval Office.

Trump is set to formally announce his 2020 bid on Tuesday at a rally in Orlando, Fla., where advisers said he aims to connect the dots between the promise of his disruptive first-time candidacy and his goals for another term in the White House. His promises to rock the ship of state are now more than an abstract pledge, though, complicated by his tumultuous 29 months at its helm.

Any president is inherently an insider. Trump has worked in the Oval Office for two years, travels the skies in Air Force

One and changes the course of history with the stroke of a pen or the post of a tweet.

"We're taking on the failed political establishment and restoring government of, by and for the people," Trump said in a video released by his campaign Monday to mark his relaunch. "It's the people, you're the people, you won the election."

That populist clarion was a central theme of his maiden political adventure, as the businessman-turned-candidate successfully appealed to disaffected voters who felt left behind by economic dislocation and demographic shifts. He has no intention of abandoning it, even if he is the face of the institutions he looks to disrupt.

Those involved in the president's reelection effort believe that his brash version of populism, combined with his mantra to "drain the swamp," still resonates, despite his ad-

ministration's cozy ties with lobbyists and corporations and the Trump family's apparent efforts to profit off the presidency.

"He's still not viewed as a politician," said Jason Miller, Trump's 2016 senior communications adviser. "Voters don't define him by the party label; they define him by his policies and his message of shaking up the status quo in Washington. That's the biggest reason he was able to win blue states in 2016."

Democrats, though, predict Trump won't be able to get away with the outsider branding.

"How can you say: Forget about the last two years, he is an outsider, he is bashing down doors," said Karine Jean-Pierre, a former senior Barack Obama campaign official now at MoveOn.org. "People's lives are harder because of what he has done as president. Voters are paying their attention and are not going to buy it."

Study: Childhood poverty plagues Southwest

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — The number of children living in poverty has swelled over the past three decades in fast-growing, ethnically diverse states such as Texas, Arizona and Nevada as the nation's population center shifts south and west, a report Monday on childhood well-being shows.

The annual Kids Count report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that 18% of the nation's children live in poverty, down from the Great Recession.

But the same advances weren't seen in the Southwest, where many children are Native Americans, Latinos and immigrants who have long faced disadvantages.

"The nation's racial inequities remain deep, systemic and stubbornly persistent,"

the report said.

"Thirteen million children continue to live in poverty in spite of the economic growth that we have seen recently, and low unemployment," said Leslie Boissiere, a vice president at the foundation. "In those border states, it's as many as one in five. So you're seeing a higher rate of poverty among children in those states."

The share of children without health insurance increased slightly in 2017, the most recent year studied, but remains near an all-time low at 5%. That was attributed in large part to state Medicaid programs and provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Since 1990, however, the national rate of childhood poverty has remained unchanged.

The report measured 16 indicators of

childhood well-being, from the rate of low birthweights and teen pregnancy to third-grade reading abilities and the prevalence of single-parent families.

Texas' childhood population swelled by an additional 2.5 million since 1990. The number of children in poverty there increased from about 1.1 million to 1.5 million, according to the foundation.

In Arizona, it rose by 60% to 332,000 children. In Nevada, the number of impoverished children more than tripled to 125,000 since 1990.

In Texas, about 26% of children live in households where at least one parent struggles to find secure employment.

In New Mexico, which ranked last in the survey, more than 1 in 3 children were in that situation.

San Francisco mulls e-cigarette sales ban

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco supervisors are considering Tuesday whether to move the city toward becoming the first in the United States to ban all sales of electronic cigarettes as part of an effort to crack down on youth vaping.

Supervisors will weigh a ban on the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes in San Francisco, as well as ban manufacturing e-cigarettes on city property, until the U.S. Food and Drug Administration completes a review of the effects of e-cigarettes on public health.

If supervisors approve the ban Tuesday, the measures will require a subsequent vote before they become law.

"Young people have almost indiscrimi-

nate access to a product that shouldn't even be on the market," said city attorney Dennis Herrera. Because the FDA hasn't acted, he said, "it's unfortunately falling to states and localities to step into the breach."

Since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among young people in the country. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the number of middle and high school students who use tobacco products increased by 36% from 2017 to 2018, a rise attributed to the use of e-cigarettes.

FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said in a statement that the agency will continue to "tackle the troubling epidemic of e-cigarette use among kids."

"This includes preventing youth access to, and appeal of, flavored tobacco products like e-cigarettes and cigars, taking action against manufacturers and retailers who illegally market or sell these products to minors, and educating youth about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products," he said.

Leading San Francisco-based e-cigarette company Juul frames vaping as a healthier alternative to smoking tobacco. Juul says it has taken steps to deter kids from using its products. The company said in a statement that it has made its online age verification process more robust and shut down its Instagram and Facebook accounts to try to discourage vaping by those under 21 years old.

Scientists take look at what's behind puppy dog eyes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — What's behind those hard-to-resist puppy dog eyes?

New research suggests that over thousands of years of dog domestication, people preferred pups that could pull off that appealing, sad look. And that encouraged the development of the facial muscle that creates it.

Today, pooches use the muscle to raise their eyebrows and make the babylike expression. That muscle is virtually absent in their ancestors, the wolves.

"You don't typically see such muscle differences in species that are that closely

related," said Anne Burrows, of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, an author of the study released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dogs differ from wolves in many ways, including having shorter snouts, smaller sizes and more expressive faces. Unlike wolves, dogs heavily rely on human eye contact, whether to know when someone's talking to them or when they can't solve a problem, like hopping a fence or getting out the door.

Burrows and her colleagues examined the eye muscles in the cadavers of six dogs and two wolves. They found dogs have a

meaty eye muscle to lift their eyebrows and make puppy dog eyes. In wolves, the same muscle was stringy or missing.

The scientists also recorded 27 dogs and nine wolves as each stared at a person. Pet pooches frequently and intensely pulled back their eyebrows to make sad expressions, while the wolves rarely made those faces, and never with great intensity.

The researchers believe dogs, over their relatively short 33,000 years of domestication, used this eye muscle to communicate, possibly goading people to feed or care for them — or at least take them out to play. People, perhaps unwittingly, obliged.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Wildlife officials kill bear that people fed

OR SALEM — Oregon wildlife officials have killed a young black bear that people have been feeding and taking photos with.

The Statesman Journal reported state wildlife biologists determined last week that the 100-pound male bear could not be relocated because it had grown accustomed to people.

Wildlife biologists found the bear eating trail mix and other snacks left for him near Henry Hagg Lake west of Portland.

Unicyclist completes 180-mile trek

ME BRUNSWICK — Thousands have ridden their bicycles in the three-day Trek Across Maine. But only one participant has accomplished the feat on a single wheel.

Hugh Sharp, from Cape Elizabeth, Maine, rode 180 miles on a unicycle in the annual fundraiser for the American Lung Association, which ended Sunday. His pace was slower than the other cyclists' so he had to pedal longer.

The nurse anesthetist at Maine Medical Center was pedaling in honor of his father, who died from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

College wants school's debt to disappear

VA WILLIAMSBURG — The College of William & Mary says the masters of a wizardry school need to make a \$70,000 debt disappear.

The Virginian-Pilot reported the college says Learn Larp LLC hasn't fully paid its \$110,000 bill for hosting an adult role-playing event known

as "New World Magischola."

A \$695 ticket for the four-weekend camp in 2017 included meals, housing and witch or wizard robes.

Scientists turn Murderkill River red

DE FREDERICA — Delaware's Murderkill River ran red last week, but it wasn't with blood.

For a few days, a portion of the Murderkill River near the Kent County Waste Water facility was spotted with a deep red hue, living up to its grim name. But news outlets reported the unusual color was actually a dye released into the water by scientists.

The Delaware News Journal said the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration led the study in which dye was pumped through the county's treatment facility.

The dye was then tracked and observed as it dispersed as a way for scientists to gauge and prepare for potential sewage spills that could endanger the state's oyster population.

Social media did in lion poachers in park

WY JACKSON — Social media posts helped authorities find and prosecute several Montana mountain lion hunters for illegally killing a lion in Yellowstone National Park.

The Jackson Hole News & Guide reported that photos they shared via Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, including publicly accessible images, were deleted, but not before other hunters recognized the landscape and alerted game wardens.

Austin Peterson, Trey Junhke and Corbin Simmons, all

from Livingston, Mont, pleaded guilty to illegally killing the lion.

On May 3 a federal judge ordered the three to pay restitution, sentenced them to three years of unsupervised probation and stripped them of their hunting and fishing privileges for three years.

Rescuers airlift dog, owner from tide pools

HI HONOLULU — A hiker and his injured dog were airlifted to safety by a Honolulu Fire Department helicopter, officials said.

The man and a woman were hiking Saturday with his labrador/golden retriever mix at the Makapuu tide pools on Oahu, The Honolulu Star Advertiser reported.

The dog's feet were cut while hiking down a cliff to the tide pools and the animal could not return to the top.

Woman in transplant scheme is jailed

IA GRUNDY CENTER — A woman accused of faking a kidney transplant has been imprisoned for an unrelated theft in eastern Iowa.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported that Shawn Marie Tomkins, 46, was sentenced to five years in prison. She must also pay restitution.

Prosecutors say Tomkins, also known as Shawn Marie Eastman Adams, took people to a farm in 2017, selling them items that she falsely said were hers.

She's also awaiting trial in Black Hawk County on theft and other charges. Prosecutors say she got nearly \$58,000 in aid from a Waterloo couple after telling them she had a kidney transplant, tumors and other medical problems.

Prosecutors say she accused one of one of them of sexually abusing her son when the couple discovered her scam.

Woman crashes, says she's Hello Kitty

RI PAWTUCKET — Police in Rhode Island said a Massachusetts woman who flipped her car onto its roof after striking a home identified herself to investigating officers as Hello Kitty.

Police said Karina Dominguez Martinez, 25, struck the concrete stairs of a vacant Pawtucket home about 1 a.m. Saturday before rolling. A witness told WPRI-TV she was driving erratically with her lights off just before the crash.

Dominguez Martinez, of Worcester, Mass., gave her name as Hello Kitty and was treated at the scene for scrapes and bruises. Police said she had open bottles of sangria in her car.

She was charged with driving under the influence and resisting arrest. She was released on her own recognizance pending arraignment.

Museum to highlight Lincolns' romance

IL SPRINGFIELD — Abraham Lincoln history buffs will have the chance to learn more about the courtship and marriage of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is hosting tours over the summer that will let visitors learn about their unexpected romance. It's called "Abe and Mary: Quite Contrary."

The free tours will be offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays until Aug. 7.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

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

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Who will Pelicans take fourth overall?

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Now that six-time All-Star Anthony Davis' trade request has been honored, it's time for the New Orleans Pelicans to start a new era by drafting the next face of the franchise.

Duke star Zion Williamson is widely seen as the top pro prospect to enter any NBA Draft since Davis in 2012, and the Pelicans — thanks to an unlikely NBA Draft lottery victory last month — have the right to select him first overall on Thursday night.

While new Pelicans executive vice president of basketball operations David Griffin and coach Alvin Gentry have declined to announce their draft intentions, Gentry chuckled when describing the pressure to get the decision right as “Really very little. Minimal, OK? I think we'll make the right decision.”

The ability to make that first pick this year “gives a boost to our franchise right away,” Gentry said. “We're going to end up

with a really good basketball player.”

The Pelicans even posted a compilation of Williamson's Duke highlights on their official website.

The 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson was just the second freshman to be a consensus national player of the year, along with Kevin Durant with Texas in 2007. While Williamson has yet to exhibit consistent outside shooting, he has displayed a dominant mix of power, quickness and skill that has convinced scouts of his extraordinary promise as a pro.

He averaged 22.6 points per game at Duke and also was voted to the ACC's All-Defensive Team after averaging 8.9 rebounds, 2.12 steals and 1.8 blocked shots per game. He leaves Duke as the holder of several freshman records, including single-game scoring after his 35-point outburst against Syracuse in January.

And this draft could have enormous, long-term implications for New Orleans even beyond the addition of Wil-

liamson because of the bounty of first-round draft choices the Pelicans are to receive from the Los Angeles Lakers as part of the Davis deal.

The trade — which also sent a total of three first-round picks to the Pelicans — won't become official until after the new NBA league year begins July 6. But when the Lakers pick fourth overall, they will effectively select for the Pelicans and eventually will send that player to New Orleans — unless that pick is moved in a subsequent trade on behalf of the Pelicans by draft night. And while deciding whether to select Williamson isn't bound to cause any mental anguish or second guesses, deciding who to pick fourth overall could be a much tougher call.

Gentry noted that while most drafts have just a few elite prospects, there often are future stars mined from mid- to late-first-round picks — never mind a second top-five choice like New Orleans has acquired.

“There is the high end, front end of the draft, but there's

going to be a guy that's drafted 14 to 25 that's going to be a game changer also,” Gentry said. “It's happened almost every year and that's where Steve Nash and Kobe Bryant and Giannis (Antetokounmpo) and those guys were all drafted — in that area right there. So, somewhere along the line, there's going to be some surprise guys that'll step up that's going to become really good basketball players.”

A handful of prospects stand out as possible fourth overall picks, and the position they play could be a factor.

Texas' Jaxson Hayes (6-11, 220) is widely seen as the top center in the draft, but not necessarily a top-five talent, so free agency might be the more practical route for the Pelicans to pursue an upgrade there.

Three players widely projected among picks Nos. 4-6 are Vanderbilt point guard Darius Garland (6-2, 175), Texas Tech shooting guard Jarrett Culver (6-7, 194), and Virginia wing player De'Andre Hunter (6-7, 225).

Four shot, three arrested at rally for NBA champions

Associated Press

TORONTO — Gunfire broke out and a stampede ensued as fans celebrated at a rally Monday for the NBA champion Raptors, leaving four people shot and thousands fleeing less than a block from where the players and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sat on stage.

Three people were arrested and two guns were recovered, Toronto police said, and investigators did not discuss a possible motive for the attack.

Droves of Raptors fans ran from the shooting in a stampede from the City Hall square, which was packed with tens of thousands of people. Earlier Monday, well over a million fans packed downtown Toronto for a parade for the Raptors, raising concerns about safety and overcrowding as the city celebrated its first major sports title in

more than a quarter-century.

Police Chief Mark Saunders said four people suffered gunshot wounds but said none of the injuries were life-threatening. Others suffered minor injuries as they tried to get away from the shooting, said Saunders, who asked for witnesses and people who might have video to come forward and help investigators.

Andrew Singh said he heard what appeared to be gunshots and that a woman was wounded before people started scrambling.

“We just saw the girl drop to the floor and the guy running off,” the 29-year-old said. “All I heard was, ‘bop bop bop.’”

Asked if it was a targeted shooting or terrorism-related, police spokeswoman Allison Sparkes said the investigation was ongoing.

During a speech from one of the team owners, the host of the rally interrupted the proceedings to alert the crowd to an emergency and asked for calm. Trudeau, Toronto Mayor John Tory, NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and other players were among those on stage at the time.

“I want to make sure everyone stays calm,” said the host, sportscaster Matt Devlin. “This is serious. Everyone stay calm. ... There is an emergency being dealt with.”

Those on stage remained in place and speeches resumed shortly after.

Mike Mudidi said he was enjoying the celebration when he heard screams behind him that someone had pulled out a gun. He said he froze as people started running in all directions.

“I just grabbed my buddies'

hands and ran,” he said.

Raptors fan Phil D'Souza said the violence left a bad taste in his mouth, and he questioned whether he would attend a similar event in the future.

“You couldn't see the shooter but it was that kind of chaos where you're just expecting to see somebody coming around the corner. It was that kind of vibe,” D'Souza said.

Another fan said the stampede was scary.

“When you see a bunch of people coming at you, you don't know what to do, whether to run or not. You don't want to get stampeded over,” Sam Sunday said.

There were at least four abandoned strollers in the square, indicating parents may have grabbed their children and run.

College World Series roundup

Henry, Michigan shut out Florida State

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Jesse Franklin hit the second pitch of the game out of TD Ameritrade Park. With the performance Tommy Henry was about to give, that was all the offense Michigan needed.

Henry limited Florida State to three hits and Franklin's homer stood up in a 2-0 win Monday night that put the Wolverines in control of Bracket 1 in their first appearance at the College World Series since 1984. The Wolverines (48-20) are 2-0 for the first time in six appearances since 1962 and need one more win Friday to reach the best-of-three finals next week.

"In the biggest game in Michigan baseball history in a long, long time, we got the best pitching performance in

Tommy Henry's career," Michigan coach Erik Bakich said. "He was the entire story line tonight. He gave us something magical. I don't know if there is an adjective to describe how good Tommy was, but he was better than that."

Henry (11-5) was efficient in his second shutout of the season and Michigan's ninth. The junior left-hander mixed a slider and changeup with his fastball and threw 100 pitches, including 24 first-pitch strikes against the 32 batters he faced. He struck out 10, walked none and went to three-ball counts just twice, both times in the first inning.

The defense also was outstanding, with Christan Bullcock making big plays in left field and second baseman Ako Thomas diving to rob Robby Martin of a hit in the ninth

inning.

"Pure joy," Henry said, describing his feeling after the last out. "I'm sure everyone was feeling the exact same way. And so whether you were in the bunker all game or you hit a home run the second at-bat of the game, everyone is feeling that pure joy just because it's a special team. We're playing for each other, and we're playing for the block 'M' on our hat."

The Seminoles (42-22), trying to win retiring coach Mike Martin's first national championship in his 17th trip to Omaha, have scored only two runs in their last 26 innings, although they managed a 1-0 victory over Arkansas on Saturday. They failed to win their first two games at a CWS for a 13th straight time since opening 2-0 in 1989.

Texas Tech 5, Arkansas 4:

At Omaha, Neb., Cody Masters' first triple of the season drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, Taylor Floyd held off the Razorbacks in the ninth and the Red Raiders stayed alive.

No. 8 national seed Texas Tech (45-19) bounced back from a 5-3 loss to Michigan and face Florida State in an elimination game.

No. 5 Arkansas (46-20) was eliminated in two games a year after making it to the CWS finals.

Masters' winning hit came after Cody Scroggins (3-2) struck out Tech star Josh Jung but walked Cameron Warren with two outs. Masters then launched Scroggins' low fastball into right-center. The ball bounced off the wall, allowing Warren to score and Masters to reach third.

Women's World Cup roundup

France completes group play with unbeaten record

The Associated Press

France completed World Cup group play with a 3-0 record for the first time, beating Nigeria 1-0 Monday night at Rennes when Wendie Renard converted a penalty kick in the 79th minute after missing her first attempt but getting a second chance.

France will play a third-place team on Sunday at Le Havre in the round of 16, and the winner will advance to a quarterfinal against the United States, Sweden or Spain.

Referee Melissa Borjas of Honduras awarded the penalty kick when Viviane Asseyi was knocked over by Ngozi Eberle, a call upheld in a video review and one that drew vehement protests from the Super Falcons. Eberle was given her second yellow card of the match for the foul, causing Nigeria to

finish a player short.

Renard's initial attempt was wide to the right of goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie, but Borjas ordered the kick retaken because Nnadozie came off the line before the ball was kicked. Renard's second try went in to Nnadozie's right for her third goal of the tournament.

A crowd of 28,267 watched host nation Les Bleues outshoot Nigeria 22-2 and hold 69 percent possession. France advance to the knockout stage for the third straight World Cup.

Nigeria finished third in Group A with three points and a minus-two goal difference, and the Super Falcons will have to wait to find out whether they can advance as one of the four top third-place teams.

Spain 0, China 0: At Le Havre, France, Spain and China played to a scoreless draw that advanced both squads to the

round of 16 at the Women's World Cup.

Spain finished second in Group B behind Germany. La Roja advanced to the knockout stage for the first time and will face the winner of Group F on Monday at Reims — likely the United States if the Americans win or draw in their final group match against Sweden.

Defender Celia Jimenez said it doesn't matter which team Spain will face because they are all good.

"The U.S. has a really powerful team, they play a direct game, they like to be dangerous, but at the same time I think Sweden is as well a really good team," she said. "They also tend to play direct, so they kind of are similar teams. I think Spain is ready, I think we know what we play, our style of play, it's good, and I don't think it matters who we take on next."

China has advanced to the knockout stage at each of its seven World Cup appearances. It finished third in the group at 1-1-1.

Spain also finished 1-1-1.

Norway 2, South Korea 1: Norway knocked South Korea out of the Women's World Cup by scoring on two penalties in a 2-1 victory Monday at Reims, France.

Caroline Graham Hansen scored after five minutes and Isabell Herlovsen beat goalkeeper Kim Min-jung from the spot six minutes into the second half.

Yeo Min-ji converted in the 78th minute but couldn't spark a South Korean comeback.

South Korea went 0-3 in France with one goal while allowing eight. Norway advanced to the round of 16 as runners up in Group A, which was won by host nation France.

Soroka wins again, Braves pound Mets

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Mike Soroka knows he doesn't have to pitch perfectly when the Atlanta Braves keep scoring runs so often.

"Everything's just hard-hit baseball after hard-hit baseball," Soroka said. "It's contagious. It carries out to the mound for all of us."

Soroka won his eighth straight decision, Ozzie Albies homered and drove in four runs, and the surging Braves beat the New York Mets 12-3 on Monday night.

Nick Markakis hit a tie-breaking, two-run single in the fifth inning and Brian McCann reached five times and homered as the NL East-leading Braves improved to 13-3 in June, best in the majors this month.

Atlanta, which scored 15 runs a day earlier against Philadelphia, has plated 90 runs in

winning 10 of its last 11 — the best run of offense Atlanta has had over 11 games since 2006.

"Everyone's having just really good, solid at-bats," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "The takes are good. They're not missing on pitches and getting good decisions on them. Everybody is just geared up and focused on their at-bats."

New York continued to struggle on the road, losing for the 12th time in 16 games away from Citi Field and dropping 8½ games behind the Braves.

Soroka (8-1) gave up three runs, six hits and allowed just his third homer in 12 starts this year, a solo shot by Robinson Cano in the sixth. He walked one and struck out two in six innings.

Soroka's winning streak is the longest in the majors by a pitcher under 22 since Dontrelle Willis won the same number for the 2003 Florida

Marlins, but the right-hander has given up eight earned runs over his last two starts, the same total he allowed over his previous eight outings from April 29-June 7. His ERA rose 20 points to 2.12.

"The last couple of times I haven't had the best feel for my slider, and a lot of times that's the pitch we need for some strikeouts," Soroka said. "But you keep attacking. It was good with the sinker and the changeup today. You're still going to keep them off balance and you're going to get outs."

Atlanta went up 5-2 in the fifth on Markakis' opposite-field bloop single to left and Albies' RBI single.

The Braves led 2-0 in the first. Ronald Acuna Jr., the 2018 NL Rookie of the Year, hit his 17th homer, the 11th of his career to begin a game and the 22nd to begin an inning. Freddie Freeman singled and scored from

second on first baseman Pete Alonso's fielding error.

New York cut the margin in the third when Alonso lined an RBI single to left. The Mets tied it at 2-all in the fifth on pitcher Zack Wheeler's RBI single to left and made it 5-3 on Cano's fourth homer.

Wheeler (5-5) allowed five runs — four earned — and 10 hits in six innings.

Reliever Jeurys Familia, whose ERA stands at 16.50 over his last six innings, was charged with three of the four runs that crossed in the seventh, turning a 5-3 deficit into a blowout. Albies lined a two-run single to right to begin the scoring.

"We just stunk," New York manager Mickey Callaway said. "Again, we weren't good. We've got to recalibrate what we're doing and we have to do the job better. That's just plain and simple."

MLB roundup

Tanaka strikes out 10 as Yankees shut out Rays

Associated Press

NEW YORK — At the start of a tough week for his team, Masahiro Tanaka made things look easy on the mound against the Tampa Bay Rays again.

Tanaka pitched a career-best two-hitter with 10 strikeouts for his fourth major league shut-out, and the New York Yankees beat Tampa Bay 3-0 on Monday night to increase their slim lead in the AL East.

"You could tell he could smell the finish line," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "Big-time performance to kick off this series for us."

DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer off Yonny Chirinos, and Cameron Maybin went deep in his career-high third consecutive game. That was all a dominant Tanaka (5-5) needed while throwing 111 pitches in New York's first complete game since last July.

Edwin Encarnacion received an enthusiastic ovation from fans in his Yankees debut after being acquired from Seattle in a trade late Saturday night. Batting fifth as the designated hitter, the veteran slugger went 0-for-4.

"It's very exciting to wear the uniform," he said through a translator.

New York won the opener of a three-game series and moved 1½ games ahead of second-place Tampa Bay. Once the Rays leave town, AL West-leading Houston arrives for four games.

Tanaka retired his first nine batters before Austin Meadows singled sharply off the right-field wall to start the fourth. A two-out single in the fifth by Willy Adames was Tampa Bay's only other hit.

Padres 2, Brewers 0: Manny Machado homered and doubled a few hours after ap-

pealing a one-game suspension handed down by MLB, and left-hander Joey Lucchesi threw seven solid innings in a combined four-hitter as host San Diego beat Milwaukee.

Giants 3, Dodgers 2: Tyler Beede allowed one run in six innings to earn his first big league victory and visiting San Francisco defeated first-place Los Angeles in the opener of a four-game set between the NL West rivals.

Angels 10, Blue Jays 5: Justin Upton homered on the first pitch he saw in his return from the injured list, Mike Trout had a solo homer among his four hits and visiting Los Angeles used a seven-run second inning to beat Toronto.

Reds 3, Astros 2: Nick Senzel returned from an eye injury and drove in a pair of runs and Luis Castillo pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning, leading host Cincinnati over

Houston.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 0: Dexter Fowler and Matt Carpenter homered to back a strong outing by Miles Mikolas and lead host St. Louis over Miami.

Rangers 7, Indians 2: Lance Lynn had another quality start, Danny Santana homered and host Texas spoiled Mike Clevinger's return from the injured list.

Red Sox 2, Twins 0: Rick Porcello pitched seven shut-out innings for visiting Boston to outduel Minnesota ace Jose Berrios.

Athletics 3, Orioles 2: Mike Fiers pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and host Oakland took advantage of Baltimore's shoddy defense.

Royals 6, Mariners 4: Jorge Soler hit a two-out, two-run homer in the eighth inning off Anthony Bass, and visiting Kansas City snapped a nine-game losing streak to Seattle.