

STARS AND STRIPES®

Thursday, June 20, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

CENTCOM: Iran attack on drone 'unprovoked'

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's Revolutionary Guard shot down a U.S. drone Thursday amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington over the collapsing nuclear deal with world powers, American and Iranian officials said, although they disputed the circumstances of the incident.

The Guard said it shot down the RQ-4 Global Hawk drone over Iranian airspace, while the U.S. said the downing happened over international airspace in the Strait of Hormuz. U.S. Central Command released a statement calling the downing an "unprovoked attack."

Lt. Gen. Joseph Guastella, commander of U.S. Air Forces Central Command, told reporters at the Pentagon that Iranian reports that the drone was shot down over Iran "are categorically false." He said the drone was flying in international airspace over the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman near the area of the recent tanker attacks when it was shot down. He claimed the Guard fired a surface-to-air missile at the drone from a location near Goruk, Iran.

"This was an unprovoked attack on a U.S. surveillance asset that had not violated Iranian airspace at any time during its mission," Guastella said by phone from Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. "This attack is an attempt to disrupt our ability to monitor the area following recent threats to international shipping and the free flow of commerce."

The drone was flying at a high altitude about 21 miles from the nearest point of land on the Iranian coast when it was hit, he said.

At the White House, President Donald Trump told reporters in the Oval Office that Iran "made a very bad mistake," because the drone was over inter-

1st known successful strike on Global Hawk

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Iran's attack on a U.S. Global Hawk unmanned reconnaissance aircraft Thursday marks the first known instance of an adversary shooting down the workhorse drone in its nearly 18-year operational history.

The RQ-4A Global Hawk maritime surveillance drone was flying in international airspace over the Strait of Hormuz when it was downed by an Iranian surface-to-air missile, U.S. Central Command said in a statement, though Tehran has claimed it was flying in Iranian airspace.

The aircraft is believed to be one of five the Air Force originally procured and then transferred to the Navy since 2006 to be used as a platform for that service's MQ-4C Triton variant, which has yet to be deployed.

The Global Hawk is the largest U.S. unmanned aerial system and can cost \$100 million, depending on con-

figuration. They are meant to fly high enough to make them less vulnerable to adversaries.

The attack is at least the third time this month that Iran or its proxies have taken a shot at unmanned military aircraft, according to U.S. officials.

The size and expense of the Global Hawk makes it a significant loss, said Ulrike Franke, a policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations specializing in drone research.

U.S. drones have typically flown over countries without the defensive capabilities to take out a high-flying surveillance aircraft, such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"They aren't made for peer-to-peer competition," Franke said of the Global Hawk.

With a 131-foot wingspan, bigger than a Boeing 737 passenger jet, they're capable of flying at altitudes of 60,000 feet for more than 34 hours with a range of nearly 15,000 miles, an Air Force fact sheet

says.

They've operated since shortly after 9/11, and at least seven have crashed due to equipment failures since 2001. The military has not said what caused the crash of an eighth Global Hawk aircraft off the coast of Spain last June.

Some Global Hawks are deployed to Al Dahfra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates, The Associated Press reported.

A maritime patrol version appears to have flown from Maryland to Al Dahfra last Friday, according to the Twitter account @aircraftspots, which tracks military air movements.

An Iranian road-mobile air defense system shot the drone down, Iran's state-run media reported. First unveiled in 2014, it can target up to four aircraft at a time at altitudes of about 16 to 19 miles and ranges out to 45 miles, the Iranian Defense Ministry's Tsensim News Agency said.

national waters. Asked how he would respond, Trump replied, "You'll find out."

Previously, the U.S. military alleged Iran had fired a missile at another drone last week that was responding to the attack on two oil tankers near the Gulf of Oman. The United States blames Iran for the attack on the ships, but Tehran denies it was involved.

The attacks come against the backdrop of heightened tensions between the United States and Iran following Trump's decision to withdraw from Tehran's nuclear deal a year ago.

Separately, Saudi Arabia said Thursday that Yemen's Iran-allied Houthi rebels launched a rocket targeting a desalination plant in the kingdom the previous night. The White House said Trump was briefed about that attack.

Iran has quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium and threatened to boost its enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels, trying to pressure Europe for new terms to the 2015 nuclear deal.

In recent weeks, the United States has sped an aircraft carrier to the Mideast and deployed

additional troops alongside the tens of thousands already in the region. From Yemen, the Houthis have launched bomb-laden drones into neighboring Saudi Arabia.

All that has raised fears that a miscalculation or further rise in tensions could push the United States and Iran into an open conflict, some 40 years after Tehran's Islamic Revolution. Thursday's drone incident marks the first direct Iranian-claimed attack on the United States amid the crisis.

Witness: SEAL called victim 'ISIS dirtbag'

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A decorated Navy SEAL suddenly plunged a knife into the neck of a wounded young Islamic State prisoner, killing him, and later scoffed that he was “just an ISIS dirtbag,” former comrades testified at a war crimes trial.

Dylan Dille and Craig Miller took the stand Wednesday at the San Diego court-martial of Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher, who has pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder stemming from his 2017 tour of duty in Iraq.

More former SEALs were expected to testify on Thursday in a case that has drawn the attention of President Donald Trump and revealed a rare rift in the typically tight-knit elite special forces.

Testifying on the second day of trial, Dille said when a radio

call announced the prisoner was wounded on May 3, 2017, Gallagher replied, “Don’t touch him; he’s all mine.”

The captive was on the hood of a Humvee fading in and out of consciousness with only a minor leg wound visible when Iraqi forces delivered him to a SEAL compound in Mosul.

Dille said he was not the grizzled warrior he expected to find.

“He looked about 12 years old,” Dille said. “He had a wristwatch around his bicep. He was rail thin.”

Gallagher, a trained medic, began treating the boy’s injuries. When he applied pressure to his leg wound, the boy shot up in pain.

Miller, then a special warfare operator first class who has since been promoted to chief, said he put his foot on the boy’s chest to keep him down.

Miller briefly stepped away and said when he returned he saw Gallagher unexpectedly plunge a knife twice into the boy’s neck “right here on the right side in the jugular vein,” he said tapping the spot above the collar of his dress whites.

Blood spurted out and another SEAL jumped back and grabbed his medical bag, Miller said.

Defense lawyers say Gallagher treated the prisoner for a collapsed lung suffered in a blast from an airstrike. He made an incision in his throat to insert a tube to clear the airway.

They claim that disgruntled sailors fabricated the murder accusations because he was a demanding platoon leader and they didn’t want him promoted.

Miller said he immediately reported the stabbing to an

officer but didn’t pursue a more formal complaint until months after returning from deployment.

He acknowledged he never took photos of the enemy’s wounds or tried to document the incident.

No corpse was ever recovered, no autopsy was performed and no forensic evidence was gathered.

Miller struggled with recalling details from that day. He didn’t remember the platoon flying a drone over the dead body — not even after seeing video in court that showed him smiling nearby.

Later that day, Dille said Gallagher confronted him and other senior enlisted men and said he knew they were upset with what happened.

“This was just an ISIS dirtbag,” Dille said Gallagher told the group.

Border Patrol chief praises military for assistance

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Border Patrol chief told lawmakers Thursday that support from National Guard and active-duty troops has been invaluable for her short-handed organization, crediting servicemembers for contributing to the apprehension of more than 100,000 migrants since October.

Chief Carla Provost, who has led Border Patrol since August, said National Guard forces deployed mostly in Texas and Arizona have aided in some 94,000 apprehensions in fiscal year 2019 and active-duty troops operating mobile surveillance cameras have contributed to another 15,600 apprehensions in that time. Provost, who was testifying alongside senior defense officials before a House subcommittee on border security, pledged she would continue to request the Pentagon’s help

at the border as long as Border Patrol remained short-handed.

“I have been forced to divert 40% to 60% of Border Patrol’s manpower away from the border as we process and care for nearly 435,000 families and children that have flooded across our southern border so far this year,” Provost said. “I know every agent I am forced to pull away from border security directly harms our ability to achieve [control of the border]. ... I wish I could tell you when our operations will return to normal, but as long as we face this crisis I will continue to ask for [the Defense Department] support.”

Provost stressed the military’s role in those apprehensions was primarily through surveillance, as law enforcement duties are solely conducted by Border Patrol agents.

Enforcement actions along the southern border increased 99% from last year, according to Customs and Border Protec-

tion data released June 5. Since October, agents have apprehended 593,507 people, including 132,887 in May.

A combination of active-duty troops — primarily soldiers and Marines — have been operating along the U.S. southern border since President Donald Trump ordered them there last year, calling the influx of migrants attempting to cross the border to request asylum a crisis.

National Guard deployments began in April 2018 and Trump sent active-duty forces in October.

The number of troops has fluctuated during the mission, reaching at times nearly 10,000 Guard and active forces.

Currently, about 2,600 active-duty servicemembers are deployed for the border mission in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, said Robert Salesses, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense integration. Just more than 2,000 National

Guard troops are deployed primarily in Texas and Arizona with a “small number” in New Mexico and California, he said.

To date, those deployments have cost the Pentagon about \$400 million, Salesses said.

Trump’s use of military troops to help in border operations has faced criticism, and Democrats on the subcommittee questioned officials Thursday about potential impacts to combat readiness for the troops who deploy.

The Pentagon officials expressed little concern about readiness, saying most of the troops deployed to the mission are performing duties akin to their normal military job.

Those deployed troops include engineers — who have strung razor wire and, more recently, painted border barriers with so-called “anti-climb” paint — mechanics, truck drivers, pilots and helicopter crewmembers, and military police.

Future acting DOD chief Esper set to press NATO on spending

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Incoming acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper will head to Europe next week where he is expected to press allies to increase spending while meeting with NATO defense ministers.

On Tuesday, Pat Shanahan resigned as acting defense chief amid reports that disclosed episodes of domestic violence within his family during his time as a Boeing executive. President Donald Trump soon after named Esper, who was Army secretary, to the acting defense secretary role that he will formally assume Monday.

Esper will then travel to Brussels, where NATO leaders are gathering Wednesday for two days of security talks.

“The focus of his meetings will be reinforcing the U.S. commitment to strengthening the NATO alliance, ensuring more equitable burden sharing, bolstering NATO readiness and addressing regional security issues,” the Pentagon said in a statement Wednesday.

Esper, who served as an executive at Raytheon before serving as Army secretary, also graduated from West Point and served more than 10 years on active duty. He fought in the Gulf War and later served in the Army Reserve.

When he arrives in Brussels, he will face a NATO alliance that has been under strain during the past two years amid frequent criticisms from the White House. Trump has pressured NATO members to ramp up their spending and the

defense secretary’s task has been to bring that message to Brussels.

Former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, in his first NATO meeting in 2017, put allies on notice when he said Washington could “moderate its commitment” if members didn’t begin carrying a larger share of the security burden in Europe.

He continued to pressure allies during his tenure, but his emphasis on the value of NATO and alliances more broadly made Mattis a reassuring figure during his stops in Brussels.

How long Esper will remain in his present role is uncertain. Trump has said he is leaning toward nominating Esper for the permanent defense secretary role, but nothing has been finalized.

Warship to be named for Inouye

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Navy on Saturday will christen its newest Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, a warship named for a Hawaiian hero of World War II who was awarded the Medal of Honor.

The future USS Daniel Inouye will be christened during a ceremony in Bath, Maine, where the ship was constructed, the Navy said.

Once it joins the fleet, the Daniel Inouye will be homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, marking the 10th destroyer of its class to call Hawaii home.

Daniel Inouye served as a U.S. senator for Hawaii from 1963 until he died in 2012 at age 87. His personal interest in America’s military and his seniority on key Senate committees helped maintain a steady flow of Defense Department spending to Hawaii.

His widow, Irene Hirano Inouye, is the ship’s sponsor and will christen it by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across its bow.

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, will deliver the ceremony’s keynote address.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus chose Inouye as the ship’s namesake in 2013. Its formal designation will be DDG-118.

Inouye joined the Army in 1943, serving with the legendary 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, composed primarily of Nisei, second-generation Japanese immigrants to America.

He first fought in Italy, after which the regiment was shipped out to France. There he was part of the effort to relieve the so-called “Lost Battalion” of the 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Division, made up mostly of Texas Army National Guardsmen, which was surrounded by German troops, according to a biography published by the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Canadian warships transit Taiwan Strait

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — In a rare move Tuesday, the Canadian navy sent two warships through the Taiwan Strait, becoming the latest western country to transit the contentious waterway, according to a Thursday report by Taiwan’s state-run Central News Agency.

The Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, Canada’s de facto embassy in Taiwan, said Canada’s HMCS Regina and naval supply ship Asterix made the trip through the strait because it was the “most practical route” between Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam — where the two vessels made a port call — and North-east Asia, according to CNA. The 100-mile-wide strait separates Taiwan from mainland China.

“Transit through the Taiwan Strait is not related to making

any statement,” the trade office said, according to CNA.

The U.S. Navy has sailed the strait eight times since July, each time stating the trips are made to demonstrate “the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

China, which claims Taiwan as its own, asserts that ships must ask permission to transit the strait, but international law declares it an open waterway.

Canada’s transit was also likely meant as a message to Beijing, which regularly protests foreign transits through the strait, according to Stephen Nagy, a senior associate professor of politics and international studies at International Christian University in Tokyo and a distinguished fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation, Canada.

Nagy said strait transits are “very indirect signals” of disapproval of China’s assertion of dominance in the South China Sea. Beijing has been growing

its power there, claiming and militarizing 27 islets and land features since 2012, despite international law denying the claims.

“Middle powers are about bolstering international institutions and international law so they can restrain the power of very big countries,” Nagy said.

He said Canada’s actions represent a “dramatic shift” from three years ago, when the Canadian navy “was really not a presence within the region.”

“They view that China is going to present a bigger risk going forward and they have to demonstrate some resolve through ships in the region,” Nagy said. “I think sailing through the Taiwanese strait is part of a broader expansion of Canadian naval activities in the Indo-Pacific.”

While the U.S. is a regular visitor to the strait, other nations rarely make the trip.

Biden's remarks draw fire from Dem rivals

Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is dismissing calls to apologize for saying that the Senate “got things done” with “civility” even when the body included segregationists with whom he disagreed.

His rivals for the 2020 nomination, including the two major black candidates in the race, roundly criticized Biden's comments. But Biden didn't back down Wednesday and was particularly defiant in the face of criticism from New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who said the former vice president should apologize.

Biden said Booker should apologize because the senator “should know better” than to question Biden's commitment to civil rights.

“There's not a racist bone in my body,” Biden said. “I've been involved in civil

rights my whole career.”

Booker's response: “I was raised to speak truth to power and that I shall never apologize for doing that. And Vice President Biden shouldn't need this lesson,” he told CNN.

It's becoming one of the most intense disputes of the primary, showing the hazards for Biden as he tries to turn his decades of Washington experience into an advantage. Instead, he's infuriating Democrats who say he's out of step with the diverse party of the 21st century and potentially undermining his argument that he's the most electable candidate to take on President Donald Trump.

At a New York fundraiser Tuesday, Biden pointed to two long-dead segregationist senators — Democrats James Eastland, of Mississippi, and Herman Talmadge, of Georgia — to argue that

Washington functioned more smoothly a generation ago than under today's “broken” hyperpartisanship.

“We didn't agree on much of anything,” Biden said of the two men, who were prominent lawmakers when Biden was elected in 1972.

Biden described Talmadge as “one of the meanest guys I ever knew” and said Eastland called him “son,” though not “boy,” a reference to the racist way many whites addressed black men at the time.

Yet even in that Senate, Biden said, “At least there was some civility. We got things done.”

Biden's rivals quickly pounced.

“I have to tell Vice President Biden, as someone I respect, that he is wrong for using his relationships with Eastland and Talmadge as examples of how to bring our country together,” said Booker.

Supreme Court rules Peace Cross can stand

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a 40-foot memorial cross can remain on a public intersection in Bladensburg, Md., reversing a lower court decision that it violated the First Amendment.

The 7-2 ruling marks a victory for the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, which warned that if the cross was ordered to be taken down, that decision could threaten “countless” war memorials across the country.

The “Peace Cross” has towered over Bladensburg for 94 years, since it was dedicated as a memorial to 49 local men killed during World War I.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote the majority opinion, noting the cross is “undoubtedly a Christian symbol” but has also come to represent a historical landmark and a gathering place for veterans.

“For many of these people, destroying or defacing the cross that has stood undisturbed for nearly a century would not be neutral and would not further the ideals of respect and tolerance embodied in the First Amendment,” Alito wrote.

Justice Neil Gorsuch went further in his concurring opinion, writing that the court should've dismissed the case, rather than remanding it back to the lower court.

In 2014, three local residents and the American Humanist Association, which promotes ethics and the well-being of humanity without religion, filed suit against

the planning commission to move or alter the monument, arguing that it violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.”

A federal district court determined in 2015 that the monument served a secular purpose — to honor veterans, rather than promote Christianity. However, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit thought differently, ruling later the cross was unconstitutional.

While the cross's supporters venerate the Peace Cross as a historical tribute to the war fallen, its opponents argue it promotes Christianity and excludes non-Christians.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissented with the judgment Thursday.

Study found horn growth in teens from cell phones

The Washington Post

Mobile technology has transformed the way we live — how we read, work, communicate, shop and date. But we already know that.

What we have not yet grasped is the way the tiny machines in front of us are remolding our skeletons, possibly altering not just the behaviors we exhibit but the bodies we inhabit.

New research in biomechanics suggests that young people are developing hornlike spikes at the back of their skulls — bone spurs caused by the forward tilt of the head, which shifts weight from the spine to the muscles at the back of the head, causing bone growth in the connecting tendons and ligaments. The weight transfer that causes the buildup can be compared to the way the skin

thickens into a callus as a response to pressure or abrasion.

The result is a hook or hornlike feature jutting out from the skull, just above the neck.

In academic papers, a pair of researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia, argues that the prevalence of the bone growth in younger adults points to shifting body posture brought about by the use of

modern technology. They say smartphones and other handheld devices are contorting the human form, requiring users to bend their heads forward to make sense of what's happening on the miniature screens.

The researchers said their discovery marks the first documentation of a physiological or skeletal adaptation to the penetration of advanced technology into everyday life.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police apologize for Father's Day tweet

KS TOPEKA — Topeka police apologized for a Father's Day tweet that encouraged people to turn in fathers who have outstanding warrants.

The Kansas City (Mo.) Star reported a screenshot of the tweet sent Sunday shows it says, in part, "Want to give him a Father's Day he'll never forget? Call TPD and we'll help your family make a memory that will last a lifetime."

The tweet apparently was deleted shortly after it was posted.

In a statement Monday, the department said the tweet was sent by someone on its social media team and was meant to be lighthearted. Instead, the statement said, it upset some people.

Family says dog was mistakenly euthanized

NC LEXINGTON — Members of a family said they are hurt after a North Carolina animal shelter mistakenly euthanized their dog in a paperwork mix-up.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported the dog was a 16-month-old Australian cattle dog named Blaze. The dog's owner, Joey Varker, posted on social media that Blaze had been sent to the shelter to be quarantined after biting a child in the family. Varker said his wife went to pick Blaze up but was shown a different dog.

Assistant County Manager Casey Smith said the error was due to a mistake in the intake paperwork. Smith said 10 dogs entered the shelter Saturday for bites, and Blaze was mistaken for a different dog to be put down.

Man charged with branding sharks

SC AWENDAW — A man has been charged with branding sharks like cattle off the South Carolina coast.

News outlets cite South Carolina Natural Resources officials who say a 56-year-old Awendaw man was charged with illegal tagging of a saltwater fish last week. The misdemeanor can net a fine of up to \$200.

Officials said they were alerted about the brandings last month, as anglers off the South Carolina coast began catching sharks with a symbol that looked like a cursive letter burned just below their dorsal fins.

The newspaper reported the suspect was "cooperative" with authorities.

Park launches new parking lot website

MT MISSOULA — Glacier National Park rolled out a new online tool that aims to help visitors find places to park.

The Missoulian reported that the Montana park's Recreation Access Display gives live updates on campgrounds, parking lots, car access restrictions and weather.

The website has a chart indicating whether each campground is open, closed or full. It also gives the times when the campgrounds filled the previous day.

Slave history medallions unveiled

RI NEWPORT — Rhode Island is identifying and marking sites around the state that have historical ties to slavery.

The Newport Daily News

reported that the medallions to be used in the Rhode Island Slave History Medallions Project were unveiled Wednesday at a lecture by associate professor of history at the University of Kentucky Joanne Pope Melish at the Colony House in Newport.

The first medallion installation is scheduled for Aug. 25 at Patriots Park in Portsmouth.

Explosion levels home; no injuries reported

NJ RIDGEFIELD — A home in northern New Jersey was leveled by an explosion, but the lone person inside the residence escaped unharmed.

Neighbors reported hearing a blast shortly before the fire broke out, but it wasn't immediately clear what caused the explosion.

Authorities said the person inside the home was rescued by an off-duty police officer who happened to be nearby.

A car was seen buried under the flaming debris at the residence, with the charred remains of what appeared to be the roof crushing the vehicle's front end.

New owner sought for hospital museum

IN WOLF LAKE — The owner of a small northern Indiana town's former hospital that's become a medical museum is looking for someone to take it over.

The Luckey Hospital Museum building in the Noble County community of Wolf Lake dates to 1931 when it was opened as a hospital by Dr. James Luckey.

After closing in the 1950s the building was used as a nursing home and apartments before two great-nieces bought

it in 2000 and started displaying their collection of medical memorabilia.

Shirley Hile, 83, hopes a buyer will keep the museum intact.

Woman becomes US citizen at age 103

FL MIAMI — A Florida woman has become a U.S. citizen at the age of 103.

Miami-Dade Commissioner Jean Monestime said Andrea Joseph took the oath of citizenship last Friday, just a few months shy of her 104th birthday.

Monestime says Joseph migrated from Haiti 15 years ago and became a permanent resident.

Man with machete wound is caught

NC RALEIGH — Police said a burglary suspect with a machete wound from a run-in with an 11-year-old boy was caught, days after he slipped out of a hospital where he was being treated.

Sgt. Shane Brown of the Burlington Police Department said Jataveon Dashawn Hall, 19, was arrested in Burlington after a two-day manhunt.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office said Hall faces charges of breaking into a home to burglarize it.

Authorities said Hall was chased away from the home by the 11-year-old, who struck him with a machete. The boy was home alone.

Hall later sought hospital treatment for head wounds but slipped away, prompting questions about how closely he was guarded.

From wire reports

On a mission to provide objective reporting
to America's military, wherever they serve.
Read us online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

NHL offseason could see flurry of deals

Associated Press

Erik Karlsson had no wanderlust to test the free-agent market before re-signing in San Jose.

"I never thought outside that box," Karlsson said. "I'm happy that it didn't get to that."

A handful of other teams aren't so happy because the two-time Norris Trophy-winning defenseman would have been the best unrestricted free agent available. Karlsson signing a \$92 million, eight-year contract with the Sharks is the first big off-ice development since St. Louis won the Stanley Cup because of all the ramifications it could have on the NHL offseason.

With Karlsson off the board, any team looking for a No. 1 defenseman has to either hope veteran Alexander Edler doesn't re-sign with the Canucks and win that bidding war or go the trade route. Salary-cap concerns for San Jose, Washington and a handful of other Cup contenders could open the door to

some significant player movement even before free agency starts July 1.

"I think there's been more conversation, more communication between the GMs in the last month than maybe ever since I've been a GM," San Jose's Doug Wilson said Monday. "There's so much competition, especially for the high-end player. ... There's a lot of things going on."

Less than 24 hours after Karlsson signed, the dominoes began to fall.

Karlsson was linked to the New York Rangers and Tampa Bay Lightning, and it took less than 24 hours for the first direct responses to him re-signing with the Sharks. New York on Monday night acquired defenseman Jacob Trouba from the Jets, and Tampa Bay on Tuesday re-signed veteran Braydon Coburn to a \$3.4 million, two-year deal — cap space it likely would have needed for Karlsson if he was available.

San Jose needed to clear room and did some of that by

trading defenseman Justin Braun and his \$3.8 million cap hit to Philadelphia for a 2019 second- and 2020 third-round draft pick.

The trade talk is just heating up ahead of the draft Friday and Saturday in Vancouver. Pittsburgh's Phil Kessel, Evgeni Malkin or Kris Letang and Nashville's P.K. Subban are among the high-profile players who could be on the move.

"There's lots of things on the go," Winnipeg GM Kevin Cheveldayoff said. "It's probably an unprecedented time of conversation."

Many of the moves that come from those conversations will set the table for free agency, where Columbus winger Artemi Panarin, center Matt Duchene and goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky are the top three players available.

Toronto defenseman Jake Gardiner, Dallas winger Mats Zuccarello, Islanders winger Anders Lee, Sharks forward Joe Pavelski, Bruins winger Marcus Johansson and Hurri-

canes winger Micheal Ferland are among the other possibilities. The salary cap is expected to increase by \$3.5 million to roughly \$83 million, and money will be spent.

"It's a pretty good class this year," Colorado GM Joe Sakic said. "(We) already have targeted players in mind if they become available that we'll want to talk to about joining our club. We see positions of need, of what we're looking to do. There's a few guys we're going to want to talk to if they become available. We'll be more aggressive this year with that, but if it doesn't work out with the players we want to talk to, we're not just going to go spend on anybody."

Sakic's Avalanche have the most projected cap space in the league with \$36 million, according to PuckPedia. The Flyers and rival New Jersey Devils, New York Rangers and Islanders will also have cap space to burn and a need for an elite defenseman or two.

Lightning's Kucherov wins 2 trophies at NHL Awards

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Nikita Kucherov gratefully accepted the Hart Trophy and the Ted Lindsay Award on Wednesday night in recognition of his spectacular 128-point regular season in Tampa Bay.

He might even be able to enjoy the trophies someday, whenever the sting of the Lightning's first-round postseason loss has faded.

Kucherov won the NHL's highest honors Wednesday night, receiving the Hart as the league MVP and the Lindsay Award as the best player according to a vote of his fellow pros.

The Russian right wing also formally picked up the Art Ross Trophy as the NHL's top scorer at the hockey world's annual Vegas ceremony at the Mandalay Bay Events Center.

"It's a huge night for me and

my family," said Kucherov, who turned 26 on Monday. "But the main thing is Stanley Cup. We want to make sure we work harder than we thought we did (last season). All these individual [awards], it's obviously nice, but the main thing is Stanley Cup for me."

Andrei Vasilevskiy, Kucherov's Russian teammate, won his first Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goalie in another bittersweet recognition for the Lightning, who won 62 regular-season games before getting swept by Columbus in the opening round.

Kucherov received 164 of 171 first-place votes in a runaway Hart victory over two-time MVP Sidney Crosby of Pittsburgh, who finished second, and 2017 Hart winner Connor McDavid of Edmonton. The voting was no surprise after Kucherov posted the NHL's

highest-scoring individual season since 1996.

"When the team plays good, the numbers will obviously be good," Kucherov said. "You just try not to think too much about it. If you think too much, your game can just go away, and bad things can happen. All my thoughts were about winning games for my team, and help the team get more points."

A year after scoring 100 points, Kucherov emerged as perhaps the most impressive scorer in hockey, putting up a career-best 41 goals and 87 assists. Kucherov tied Jaromir Jagr's NHL record for assists by a wing, and he surpassed Alexander Mogilny's single-season record for points by a Russian-born player.

Tampa Bay also posted 128 standings points, the most by any team since 1996 — but Kucherov regrets that he had

little impact during the Lightning's stunning sweep by the Blue Jackets. Kucherov served a one-game suspension for a dangerous hit during the series, and he scored his only two playoff points in the Game 4 defeat.

"When I came [to the U.S.], the main thing was just try and make the team," Kucherov said. "Now all my thoughts are just to win the Cup, and bring the Cup back to Tampa, because people deserve that."

Calgary's Mark Giordano won the Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenseman, earning the award for the first time at 35 years old. Vancouver forward Elias Pettersson won the Calder Trophy given to the league's top rookie, and Ryan O'Reilly added his first Selke Trophy as the NHL's top defensive forward to the Blues' Stanley Cup victory.

Texas Tech ends Martin's run with FSU

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — When Texas Tech's Taylor Floyd struck out Reese Albert to end the game — and Mike Martin's career — the Florida State coach walked up the dugout steps, took off his glasses and strode across the field to shake hands with the opposing coach one more time.

While the fans at TD Ameritrade Park showered Martin in applause, his wife of 55 years, Carol, greeted well-wishers in the stands. Martin then waved to and thanked fans who gathered above the dugout.

After the 4-1 loss in the elimination game, Martin heads into retirement with 2,029 career wins — most by any coach in any college sport. Each of his 40 teams won at least 40 games and played in the NCAA Tournament.

But he never won a national championship.

"I can fake a smile with the best of them and I'll get through the rest of this night with a smile because I got to watch young men grow up," Martin said. "I got to work for Florida State for 45 years and

I'll never forget the times I've had out here in Omaha."

Brian Klein broke a 1-1 tie in the sixth with his second homer in three games, and third of the season, and Texas Tech (46-19) won a second game at a CWS for the first time in its four appearances.

"In the back of your mind, obviously, you're thinking about '11' a little bit," Tech coach Tim Tadlock said, referring to Martin by his nickname. "All the respect in the world for him. Love him, and just appreciate everything he's done for college baseball."

FSU (42-23) had no trouble scoring while sweeping through a regional in Athens, Ga., and a super regional at Baton Rouge, La., to earn Martin his 17th trip to the CWS. The Seminoles beat Arkansas 1-0 here Saturday, but lost 2-0 to Michigan before the Red Raiders eliminated them.

Martin's last team was one of the final four squads awarded at-large bids to the 64-team national tournament after struggling for stretches of the regular season.

"To have the success we've

had the last three years, the ACC championships, two trips to Omaha, 40 wins every year," third baseman Drew Mendoza said. "To experience that with him and be part of his legacy is a dream come true."

The Seminoles batted .124 in Omaha (11-for-89) and their two runs in three games tied a CWS record low. Their 0-for-17 batting with runners in scoring position was the lowest by a team in at least 20 years, according to ESPN. Florida State also struck out 15 times against Texas Tech.

"Who would have ever thought six weeks ago that we would even get to Omaha?" Martin said. "The young men are disappointed now. What they accomplished will not go unnoticed — to get to Omaha and have an opportunity."

Cameron Warren put Tech up 1-0 in the fourth when he chopped a grounder past a diving Mendoza at third, allowing Dylan Neuse to score from second.

The Seminoles' only run came in the bottom half of the inning, thanks to Tech mistakes. Bryce Bonnin (7-1)

walked Robby Martin on four pitches and hit Matheu Nelson in the bill of his batting helmet. The runners moved over on a bunt, and Martin came home when catcher Braxton Fulford threw into center field trying to pick off Nelson at second.

Vanderbilt 6, Mississippi St. 3: Kumar Rocker followed up his no-hitter in the super regionals with another strong start in his College World Series debut, and Stephen Scott homered twice and drove in four runs for Vanderbilt.

No. 2 national seed Commodores (56-11) gained the inside track to the best-of-three finals next week. They need a victory Friday or Saturday to advance.

Louisville, 5 Auburn 3: Two Louisville relievers survived anxious moments to hold Auburn to two runs over five innings and the Cardinals eliminated the Tigers, completing a game suspended by rain one day earlier.

The No. 7 national seed Cardinals (50-17) improved to 32-1 all-time when scoring five or more runs in an NCAA Tournament game. Auburn (38-28) went 0-2 in its first CWS appearance since 1997.

Women's World Cup roundup

Netherlands overcome Sinclair, Canada

Associated Press

The Netherlands overcame Christine Sinclair's 182nd international goal to beat Canada 2-1 on Thursday at Reims and earn a round-of-16 matchup against Japan at the Women's World Cup.

Lineth Beerensteyn scored the tiebreaking goal in the 75th minute. The European champions won Group E with a 3-0 record while Canada finished second at 2-1 and will play a second-round match against Sweden or the United States, whichever winds up second in Group F.

Anouk Dekker put the Dutch ahead in the 54th minute and Sinclair tied the score in the 60th with her 10th World Cup goal. She needs just two goals to tie the world record of 184 international goals set by American Abby Wambach.

Stephanie Frappart, who in April became the first woman to referee a men's Ligue 1 match, signaled for a penalty kick in the first minute after the Netherlands' Desiree van Lunteren fouled Janine Beckie. But a video review determined the foul was outside the penalty area.

England 2, Japan 0: England remained undefeated at the Women's World Cup and clinched the top spot in its group with a victory on Wednesday in Nice, France.

Ellen White scored both goals against Japan and has three so far at the tournament. The Birmingham City forward broke the deadlock in the 14th minute when she chipped the ball past Japan goalkeeper Saki Kumagai.

White's second score came in the 84th minute following a through-ball by Karen

Carney.

It was the first time since 1982 that an England team, men or women, won all three group stage games. The Lionesses advanced to the knockout stage to face a third-place team in Valenciennes on Sunday.

Argentina 3, Scotland 3: Florencia Bonsegundo converted a penalty kick in the fourth minute of second-half stoppage time on her second attempt, and Argentina overcame a three-goal deficit in the final 30 minutes to eliminate the Scots.

Scotland built a 3-0 lead on goals by Kim Little in the 19th minute, Jenny Beattie in the 49th and Erin Cuthbert in the 69th, but Argentina became the first team at a Women's World Cup to get a point after trailing by three goals.

MLB roundup

Torres' slam paces Yanks' rout of Rays

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gary Sanchez hit a three-run homer to help chase Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell in the first inning, CC Sabathia got his 250th career win and the New York Yankees thumped the Tampa Bay Rays 12-1 Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Gleyber Torres added a grand slam during a six-run seventh inning, and New York three-hit Tampa Bay to win its fifth in a row and extend its lead in the AL East over the second-place Rays to 3½ games. Tampa Bay was swept for the second time this season — the other came against Boston in April.

Cubs 7, White Sox 3: Willson Contreras homered twice and drove in five runs, and the host Chicago Cubs handed Lucas Giolito his first loss since April by downing the crosstown White Sox.

David Bote also connected to help the Cubs bounce back from a tough loss to their rivals in their first meeting of the season. Jon Lester (6-5) allowed two more homers, but worked into the sixth inning to improve to 3-1 in June.

Padres 8, Brewers 7: Framil Reyes hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh and Eric Hosmer added a two-run shot for host San Diego, which overcame three homers by Milwaukee to sweep the Brewers.

Reyes' shot to right-center, his 20th, came off Jeremy Jef-

fress (1-1) after Manny Machado hit a leadoff single and Hunter Renfroe walked.

Nationals 6-2, Phillies 2-0: Patrick Corbin struck out eight over seven strong innings and Max Scherzer threw seven shutout innings as host Washington swept Philadelphia in a day-night doubleheader.

This was the belated series opener after the teams were rained out Monday and Tuesday.

Corbin (6-5) scattered four hits and three walks while ending a personal three-game losing streak in the opener.

Scherzer shrugged off a broken nose and black eye to lead the Nationals in the nightcap and Brian Dozier and Victor Robles hit solo homers.

The Nationals have won 16 of their last 23, while Philadelphia has dropped seven of its last nine and 12 of 18.

Red Sox 9, Twins 4: Eduardo Rodriguez picked up Boston's bullpen a night after a 17-inning loss, and Brock Holt drove in three runs in a win at Minnesota.

Rodriguez (8-4) allowed four runs on eight hits, but more important, he lasted seven innings after the Red Sox used eight relievers in Tuesday's marathon.

Reds 3, Astros 2: Nick Senzel singled home the tying run with two outs in the ninth inning, and Jesse Winker followed with an RBI single as host Cincinnati rallied for a rare sweep of Houston.

The Reds matched their sea-

son high with a fourth straight win. They also swept the Marlins in April.

Pirates 8, Tigers 7: Bryan Reynolds hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning to complete host Pittsburgh's rally from a six-run deficit against Detroit.

With the Pirates trailing 7-5, Reynolds sent a knuckle curve from Nick Ramirez 421 feet to left-center for his sixth homer of the season, driving in Kevin Newman and Adam Frazier.

Indians 10, Rangers 4: Jason Kipnis hit two home runs, going back-to-back with Roberto Perez during a five-run first inning, and Cleveland won at Texas.

The Indians have won 10 of their last 14 games. They have hit nine home runs in winning two of the first three games of a four-game series.

Braves 7, Mets 2: Josh Donaldson hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the sixth inning, Freddie Freeman launched an early two-run shot and host Atlanta beat New York.

The NL East-leading Braves are 14-4 in June, best in the majors.

Athletics 8, Orioles 3: Chris Bassitt took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and won for the first time in more than three weeks as host Oakland handed Baltimore its eighth straight loss.

Josh Phegley had a three-run homer, Marcus Semien extended his hitting streak to 16 games and Stephen Piscotty doubled twice to help the A's

complete a three-game sweep.

Mariners 8, Royals 2: Domingo Santana hit two home runs in a game for the third time this season, Marco Gonzales won his third straight start and host Seattle avoided an embarrassing series sweep against Kansas City.

Dodgers 9, Giants 2: Chris Taylor homered twice, Cody Bellinger added a solo shot and host Los Angeles' spotty bullpen was solid after starter Rich Hill left with an injury against San Francisco.

The NL West leaders (50-25) became the first 50-win team in the majors and improved to a big league-best 30-9 at home.

Cardinals 2, Marlins 1 (11): Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo home run with two outs in the 11th inning to lift host St. Louis over Miami. Dexter Fowler had an RBI single in the sixth for the Cardinals, who won for the seventh time in 11 games. Miguel Rojas tied it with a single in the eighth off reliever Carlos Martinez.

Goldschmidt entered at first base in the ninth. Two innings later, he launched a 453-foot drive off Adam Conley (1-7) for his fifth career walk-off home run.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 4: Ryan McMahon hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in the seventh inning to make up for a costly error, and Colorado added on to win at Arizona. Jon Gray (7-5) held the Diamondbacks to one earned run over six innings.

Trout's 7 RBIs carry Angels past Blue Jays

Associated Press

TORONTO — Getting back to basics at the plate has been paying off for Los Angeles Angels slugger Mike Trout.

Trout hit two home runs, including his sixth career grand slam, and had a career-best seven RBIs as the Angels beat the Toronto Blue Jays 11-6 on Wednesday night.

"This is the best I've felt all season, just

getting a pitch to hit and not missing it, just barreling the ball," Trout said.

Justin Upton also homered for the Angels, who have won all six meetings with the Blue Jays this season and 18 of the last 24 in Toronto.

Trout, who finished 3-for-6, flied out in the sixth, struck out looking at a full count pitch in the eighth, and had an RBI single with the bases loaded in the ninth.

Trout now has 22 homers, tying him with New York's Edwin Encarnacion for the American League lead. Trout has hit 10 home runs in his past 19 games. A seven-time All-Star and two-time AL MVP, Trout hit .275 in May but has rebounded to go 22-for-65 (.338) with eight homers and 22 RBIs so far in June, boosting his season average to .299.