

US plan to combat domestic terrorism set

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration says it will enhance its analysis of threats from domestic terrorists, including the sharing of intelligence within law enforcement agencies, and will work with tech companies to eliminate terrorist content online as part of a nationwide strategy to combat domestic terrorism.

The National Security Council on Tuesday released the strategy, which comes more than six months after a mob of insurgents loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress was voting to certify Joe Biden's presidential win.

"Domestic terrorism — driven by hate, bigotry, and other forms of extremism — is

a stain on the soul of America," Biden, who's traveling in Europe, said in a statement. "It goes against everything our country strives for and it poses a direct challenge to our national security, democracy, and unity."

A report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence found that domestic violent extremists posed an increased threat in 2021, with white supremacist groups and anti-government militias posing the highest risk, officials said.

The new strategy includes enhancing the government's analysis of domestic terrorism and improving the information that is shared between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Administration officials said the Justice Department had also implemented a new system to "methodical-

ly track" domestic terrorism cases nationwide within the FBI.

"In the FBI's view, the top domestic violent extremist threat comes from racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists, specifically those who advocated for the superiority of the white race," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a speech Tuesday.

The Justice Department was also evaluating whether the administration should recommend Congress pass a specific domestic terrorism law, which does not currently exist. In the absence of domestic terrorism laws, the Justice Department relies on other statutes to prosecute ideologically motivated violence by people with no international ties.

Probe finds many military guns lost, stolen

Associated Press

In the first public accounting of its kind in decades, an Associated Press investigation has found that at least 1,900 U.S. military firearms were lost or stolen during the 2010s, with some resurfacing in violent crimes. And that's certainly an undercount.

Government records covering the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force show pistols, machine guns, shotguns and automatic assault rifles have vanished from armories, supply warehouses, Navy warships and elsewhere. These weapons of war disappeared because of security failures that, until now, have not been publicly reported, including sleeping troops and a surveillance system that didn't record.

In one case, authorities linked an Army pistol stolen from Fort Bragg, N.C., to four shootings in New York before it was recovered. Another stolen Army pistol was used in a Boston street robbery.

Weapon theft or loss spanned the military's global footprint. In Afghanistan, someone cut the padlock on an Army container and stole 65 Beretta M9s — the same type of gun recovered in New York. The war zone theft went undetected for weeks, when empty pistol boxes were discovered in the compound. The weapons

were not recovered.

The Pentagon used to share annual updates about stolen weapons with Congress, but that requirement ended years ago and public accountability has slipped. The Army and the Air Force couldn't readily tell AP how many weapons were lost or stolen from 2010 through 2019.

So the AP built its own database by reviewing records including hundreds of military criminal case files and data from registries of small arms, as well as internal military analysis. In its accounting, whenever possible AP eliminated cases in which firearms were lost in combat, during accidents such as aircraft crashes and similar incidents where a weapon's fate was known.

From the start of this reporting 10 years ago, armed services have been reluctant to share information. For years, the Army suppressed the release of information. Unlike the other branches, the Air Force has released no data at all.

Military weapons are especially vulnerable to corrupt insiders responsible for securing them. They know how to exploit weak points within armories or the military's enormous supply chains. Often from the lower ranks, they may see a

chance to make a buck from a military that can afford it.

Theft or loss happens more often than the Army has publicly acknowledged. During an initial interview, Brig. Gen. Duane Miller, the Army's No. 2 law enforcement official, significantly understated the extent to which weapons disappear, citing records that report only a few hundred missing rifles and handguns. An internal Army analysis that AP obtained tallied 1,303 firearms.

In a second interview, Miller said he hadn't been aware of the memos, which had been distributed throughout the Army, until AP pointed them out. Army officials later said the total is imperfect because it includes some recovered guns and may include some duplicates.

Stolen military guns have been sold to street gang members, recovered on felons and used in violent crimes.

The AP identified eight instances in which five different stolen military firearms were used in a civilian shooting or other violent crime, and others in which felons were caught possessing weapons. Federal restrictions on sharing firearms information publicly mean the case total is certainly an undercount.

Pandemic efforts lauded as Tremblay departs

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The U.S. military's largest overseas base has bid farewell to a leader whose swift and strict response in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic reverberated to installations worldwide.

Col. Michael Tremblay's two-year tenure as Camp Humphreys' commander came to a close Tuesday during an emotional ceremony at a base fitness center. His next assignment is at Fort Benning, Ga., where he'll serve as chief of staff.

Humphreys, 40 miles south of Seoul, is home to about 35,500 personnel and headquarters for U.S. Forces Korea, Eighth Army and the 2nd Infantry Division.

The garrison's new commander, Col. Seth Graves, comes to the peninsula from Brussels, where he served as deputy chief of staff, support, for

the U.S. military delegation to NATO.

Tremblay's term began seven months before South Korea reported its first COVID-19 patient on Jan. 20, 2020. A month later, the U.S. military confirmed its first positive case, a soldier assigned to Daegu Garrison, about 100 miles southeast of Humphreys.

"This might be a larger problem," Tremblay told Stars and Stripes on Friday, recounting conversations with other senior leaders at the pandemic's start. "When we first got a positive service member, which was the first in the world, we said, 'OK, it's really, really serious.'"

Tremblay oversaw Humphreys' lockdown as the garrison took unprecedented steps to mitigate the virus' spread.

In the early days of the pandemic, several quarantine facilities were built on base and thousands of soldiers' duties were

reassigned to support the response. For example, about 1,000 troops manned the front gates to provide testing and redirect traffic.

"Everybody's singular focus from then on was, 'How do we get this from getting inside,'" Tremblay said. "We quickly ramped up the things that we were doing. For those three months, we did nothing but 24-hour operations, continuously coming up with new processes."

Tremblay said he did not leave Camp Humphreys for the first 102 days of the pandemic.

"We were just trying to keep up," he said.

Excluding military personnel who tested positive soon after arriving in South Korea, only 43 local cases at Camp Humphreys have been recorded, U.S. Forces Korea spokesperson Col. Lee Peters told Stars and Stripes in an email Friday.

Tremblay's strict, early re-

sponse reverberated beyond the peninsula. USFK, with Tremblay's help, drafted "The Playbook," a 70-page guide on limiting COVID-19's spread, which was later submitted to the Pentagon and distributed throughout Army installations in the United States.

Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Lemon Jr., in an email Saturday, said Tremblay's approach was "exactly what Camp Humphreys needed to get our service members, civilians, and families through the toughest part of this global event."

Graves, during Tuesday's ceremony, told Tremblay he had "much to be proud of" and that he's leaving "extremely large boots to fill."

"I look forward to continuing the great work that you and this garrison team have done," he said. "And rest assured, as you take your foot off the gas ... I'll be right behind you to put mine on."

Ospreys draw crowd in Japan after precautionary landing

By SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — "An issue" forced a pair of Air Force CV-22 Ospreys to land Monday at a civilian airport in northern Japan, according to Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing.

The helicopter-plane hybrids from the Tokyo base's 21st Special Operations Squadron made the precautionary landing just after 5 p.m. at Yamagata Airport in Higashine city, wing spokeswoman Kaori Matsukasa said in an email Tuesday.

"Both aircraft were conducting routine training when an issue was detected, and the decision to land at Yamagata Airport was made as a standard precaution," she said, without providing details about the problem.

A crowd gathered at the airport when the aircraft landed, the Yamagata newspaper reported Monday.

One of the Ospreys left the airport Monday but the other was still there Tuesday morning, a Tohoku Defense Bureau spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Marine Corps has identified a problem that prompted a UH-1Y Venom helicopter to land in a private field on Tsuken Island in Okinawa prefecture June 2. The pilots chose to land because a mechanical issue on the aircraft — assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 out of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma — was causing speed fluctuations in the engines that they couldn't correct manually, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing spokesman Maj. Ken Kunze said in an email Tuesday.

Army research helps develop programmable uniform fiber

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A programmable fiber that can sense, store and analyze data could be stitched into soldiers' uniforms in the future and be used to monitor their movements, vital signs and exposure to toxins, Army researchers say.

"This groundbreaking research ... could revolutionize soldier uniforms," James Burgess, program manager of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, said in a statement released Monday. "We could outfit our soldiers with uniforms that could generate power ... all of this could be done with very little increase in weight carried by the soldier."

The fiber with digital capabilities was developed by researchers at the Army's Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies at the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, with Army funding. The thin, flexible material can pass through a needle, be sewn into fabrics, and washed multiple times before it breaks down, the Army said.

Sewing the fiber into clothing worn by soldiers could give Army commanders a better sense of the effects of the environment on their troops. Wearables containing the fiber could be used to indicate a soldier's exposure to toxins.

The fiber also has the potential to alert soldiers in real-time to health changes like a respiratory decline, an irregular heartbeat or changes to heart rate data during training exercises, the Army said.

The fiber is currently controlled by a small external device. The next step will be to design a chip to serve as a microcontroller that can be connected within the fiber itself.

No plan for airstrikes against Taliban after exit

The Washington Post

The Biden administration is not planning to carry out airstrikes against the Taliban after the U.S. military withdrawal in Afghanistan is complete, but the policy may need to be revisited if militants threaten security at key U.S. and allied diplomatic facilities in Kabul, U.S. officials said.

The Afghan defense minister, Asadullah Khalid, had said in a speech last month that it was possible air support could continue for Afghan forces battling the Taliban even after the U.S. military was gone.

Marine Gen. Kenneth “Frank” McKenzie, the chief of U.S. Central Command, said in an interview with Voice of America on Monday that U.S. plans call for airstrikes in Afghanistan after the withdrawal only in circumstances involving threats on the United States and its allies.

“That would be the reason for any strikes that we do in Afghanistan after we leave,” McKenzie said, adding that it “would have to be that we’ve uncovered someone who wants to attack the homeland of the United States, one of our allies and partners.”

Such a policy would effectively rule out airstrikes against the Taliban. For years, the United States has drawn a distinction between the militants and terrorist groups such as al-Qaida and Islamic State, finding that the Taliban do not pose a direct threat in the United States.

But the reality could become more complicated if the Taliban mass troops to take over parts of Kabul, a capital city of about 6 million people. It includes the U.S. Embassy and other diplomatic facilities in a Green Zone, and Hamid Karzai International Airport, which is a few miles away.

One U.S. official said Monday that U.S. officials are likely to need to revisit the policy to protect the embassy in Kabul and facilities required to keep it running, including the airport. Doing so, the official said, would require protecting not only the Green Zone and airport but much of the city.

“Bombs in Kabul are different than bombs in other districts and provinces,” the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. “Even if it’s not in the Green Zone, it has an impact across the diplomatic community.”

The United States plans to leave behind a force of about 600 service members at the embassy in Kabul after the withdrawal is complete, to provide security, the official said. It is likely to be led by a one- or two-star general who will serve as a military attache and report to the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan.

Air Force approves coveralls for maintainers

BY KYLE ALVAREZ

Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — Airmen working in maintenance and other labor-intensive jobs will soon be able to wear gray-green, service-issued coveralls on the job, the Air Force said this week.

The new maintenance duty uniform is expected to be available by August, the Air Force said in a statement published Monday.

It’s hoped it will “instill a sense of culture and inclusivity for our maintainers who work to keep the mission going 24/7,” Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass said.

Christian Santiago, a maintainer with the

493rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit out of RAF Lakenheath, said the new uniform is “going to make life a lot easier for us maintenance folk who wear coveralls the majority of the time.”

“We won’t have to change our uniform two, three, four times a day and we can just focus on what we are doing,” he said.

Airmen can wear the new uniform item between their home and work and at all installation locations, but not in an office or non-industrial setting, the statement said.

Local overall variants will continue to be allowed, but only in the workplace and on the flight line.

Tactical caps with an operational camou-

flage pattern, or OCP, can be worn starting immediately, although the Army & Air Force Exchange Service does not yet have them in stock, the statement said.

The caps must be made entirely of camouflage material or of camo fabric with a coyote brown mesh back. A Velcro or sewn-on name tape will be centered on the back of the caps and the only item authorized for wear on the front of the caps is the rank of officers. Only a name tape on the back of the cap is authorized for enlisted members — they will not wear rank insignia or a subdued flag on the caps.

Women are authorized to pull their bun or ponytail through the back of the cap.

Biden eases trade with EU and eyes Putin summit

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — President Joe Biden on Tuesday moved to end a long-running dispute with the European Union over subsidies for aircraft manufacturers, a major breakthrough in the U.S.-EU trade relationship that comes on the eve of his highly anticipated meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The announcement that the two sides reached resolution in a 17-year dispute over how much of a government subsidy each can provide for its aircraft manufacturing giant — Boeing in the United States and Airbus in the

EU — came as Biden met with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

With the move, Biden eases a major point of tension in the trans-Atlantic relationship at a moment he’s seeking to marshal widespread European support for his efforts to counter Russia prior to his Wednesday meeting in Geneva with Putin.

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai told reporters that the agreement calls for a five-year suspension of the aircraft tariffs, and stressed that it was time to put aside the

fight and focus on China’s economic assertiveness.

“Today’s announcement resolves a long-standing trade irritant in the U.S.-Europe relationship. Instead of fighting with one of our closest allies, we are finally coming together against a common threat,” Tai said. “We agreed to work together to challenge and counter China’s non-market practices in this sector in specific ways that reflect our standards for fair competition.”

She added that the tariffs could be reimplemented if the U.S. determines U.S. companies are not able to “compete fairly” with the EU’s.

COVID may have been in US by end of '19

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A new analysis of blood samples from 24,000 Americans taken early last year is the latest and largest study to suggest that the new coronavirus popped up in the U.S. in December 2019 — weeks before cases were first recognized by health officials.

The analysis is not definitive, and some experts remain skeptical, but federal health officials are increasingly accepting a timeline in which small numbers of COVID-19 infections may have occurred in the U.S. before the world ever became aware of a dangerous new virus erupting in China.

“The studies are pretty consistent,” said Natalie Thornburg of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“There was probably very rare and sporadic cases here earlier than we were aware of. But it was not widespread and didn’t become widespread until late February,” said Thornburg, principal investiga-

tor of the CDC’s respiratory virus immunology team.

The pandemic coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. Officially, the first U.S. infection to be identified was a traveler — a Washington state man who returned from Wuhan on Jan. 15 and sought help at a clinic on Jan. 19.

CDC officials initially said the spark that started the U.S. outbreak arrived during a three-week window from mid-January to early February. But research since then — including some done by the CDC — has suggested a small number of infections occurred earlier.

A CDC-led study published in December 2020 that analyzed 7,000 samples from American Red Cross blood donations suggested the virus infected some Americans as early as the middle of December 2019.

The latest study, published Tuesday online by the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, is by a team including researchers at

the National Institutes of Health. They analyzed blood samples from more than 24,000 people across the country, collected in the first three months of 2020 as part of a long-term study called “All Of Us” that seeks to track 1 million Americans over years to study health.

Like the CDC study, these researchers looked for antibodies in the blood that are taken as evidence of coronavirus infection, and can be detected as early as two weeks after a person is first infected.

The researchers say nine study participants — five from Illinois, and one each from Massachusetts, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — were infected earlier than any COVID-19 case was ever reported in those states.

One of the Illinois cases was infected as early as Christmas Eve, said Keri Althoff, an associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the study’s lead author.

Critical entities targeted in suspected Chinese cyber spying

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A cyberespionage campaign blamed on China was more sweeping than previously known, with suspected state-backed hackers exploiting a device meant to boost internet security to penetrate the computers of critical U.S. entities.

The hack of Pulse Connect Secure networking devices came to light in April, but its scope is only now starting to become clear. The Associated Press has learned that the hackers targeted telecommunications giant Verizon and the country’s largest water agency. News broke earlier this month that the New York City subway system, the country’s largest, was also breached.

Security researchers say dozens of other high-value entities that have not yet been named

were also targeted as part of the breach of Pulse Secure, which is used by many companies and governments for secure remote access to their networks.

It’s unclear what sensitive information, if any, was accessed. Some of the targets said they did not see any evidence of data being stolen. That uncertainty is common in cyberespionage and it can take months to determine data loss, if it is ever discovered. Ivanti, the Utah-based owner of Pulse Connect Secure, declined to comment on which customers were affected.

But even if sensitive information wasn’t compromised, experts say it is worrisome that hackers gained footholds in networks of critical organizations whose secrets could be of interest to China for commercial and national security reasons.

NSA contractor in leak case is out of prison

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former government contractor who was given the longest federal prison sentence imposed for leaks to the news media was released from prison to home confinement, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Monday.

Reality Winner, 29, was moved to home confinement and remains in the custody of the federal Bureau of Prisons, the person said. The person could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

She pleaded guilty in 2018 to a single count of transmitting national security information. Winner was sentenced to five years and three months in prison, which prosecutors said at the time was the longest imposed for leaking government information to the news media.

Her release was hailed as a

cause for celebration after advocates had spent years fighting for her release or a pardon. Her lawyer, Alison Grinter Allen, said in a statement that Winner and her family are working to “heal the trauma of incarceration and build back the years lost.”

She said they are “relieved and hopeful” after her release from prison.

The former Air Force translator worked as a contractor at a National Security Agency office in Augusta, Ga., when she printed a classified report and left the building with it tucked into her pantyhose. Winner told the FBI she mailed the document to an online news outlet.

Authorities never identified the news organization. But the Justice Department announced Winner’s June 2017 arrest the same day The Intercept reported on a secret NSA document.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lobster diver caught in humpback whale's mouth

MA BARNSTABLE — A commercial lobster diver who got caught in the mouth of a humpback whale off the coast of Cape Cod said he thought he was going to die.

Michael Packard, 56, of Wellfleet, told WBZ-TV after he was released from Cape Cod Hospital that he was about 45 feet deep in the waters off Provincetown when “all of a sudden I felt this huge bump, and everything went dark.”

He thought he had been attacked by a shark, common in area waters, but then realized he could not feel any teeth and he wasn't in any pain.

He estimates he was in the whale's mouth for about 30 seconds, but continued to breathe because he still had his breathing apparatus in.

Then the whale surfaced, shook its head, and spit him out. He was rescued by his crewmate in the surface boat.

Researchers: Invasive parakeet population dips

HI KEKAHA — Researchers have documented a decrease in Kauai's population of rose-ringed parakeets, an invasive species plaguing local farms.

The island had a minimum of 7,300 of the parakeets this year, down from 10,500 last year, said Jane Anderson, assistant professor of research at Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute of Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Tiffani Keanini, manager of Kauai Invasive Species Committee, said her organization launched a campaign to get people to report parakeets roosts, or sites where large numbers of the birds gather to sleep at night.

Anderson said Kauai's parakeets are believed to have descended from pets that were released in the 1960s. They damage crops because they flock in groups of 50 to 100. They've been known to eat corn, lychee, citrus, mango, longan and papaya.

Police recover 9 stolen vintage guitars

CA SANTA CRUZ — Authorities have recovered nine vintage guitars that were stolen nearly a year ago in a \$2 million heist in Southern California.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Santa Cruz police found the guitars after serving search warrants at three different locations in the city following a tip from Los Angeles police.

The instruments are worth a combined \$225,000. They were part of some \$2 million in music equipment stolen from a Los Angeles County storage unit in July.

Man charged with DWI after woman in cart dies

NC HOLLY SPRINGS. — A North Carolina man has been charged with driving while impaired after a woman was killed while riding in a golf cart.

WRAL-TV reported that Jeremy Rollins Martin, 43, was driving in the 12 Oaks community in Holly Springs where he lives.

The woman who died was in critical condition when emergency crews arrived. She was taken to a local hospital where she died from her injuries.

Carjacker goes back to return toddler to mom

IL CHICAGO — A man who carjacked a woman's SUV on Chicago's West Side returned to the scene of the crime moments later after realizing the woman's 3-year-old daughter was in the

backseat.

The woman was delivering food when a man pulled her out of her Nissan SUV and drove off, Chicago police said.

The suspect drove around the block and returned the toddler to her mother unharmed before driving off again in the SUV, police said.

The vehicle later was found abandoned, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Bear attacks, injures sleeping campers

AK ANCHORAGE — Wildlife officials in Alaska have said two campers were attacked by a bear while they were sleeping in a tent in Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist Jeff Selinger said the campers were sleeping when the bear attacked, Anchorage Daily News reported. The campers had bear deterrents but did not have enough time to use them.

“There's no indication that they did anything to prompt the attack or did anything wrong,” he said. “It's one of those where you happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

Cafe apologizes after officer gets hateful note

NV RENO — A Reno restaurant has fired an employee after a police officer found a hateful message with her order.

KTVN-TV reported Cafe Capello posted on its Facebook page that a worker had written the message in the officer's order without their knowledge.

In a since-deleted Facebook post, the officer said she went to Cafe Capello to buy some breakfast while in uniform. When she opened her to-go box, she found “Not welcome” written on the in-

side.

The officer said she went to speak to the manager and instead was confronted by a cook.

The cafe's owners also apologized in their Facebook post and said they reached out to the officer privately.

Man arrested after smashing cars with ax

SD SIOUX FALLS — Police in Sioux Falls have arrested a man after he allegedly smashed out the windows of two cars with an ax and threatened a teenager.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported that police got a call about a man outside an apartment complex with an ax.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens said the 34-year-old man used the three-foot ax to smash the window of a 1994 Ford Mustang and a 2018 Honda Civic. The man also threatened a 15-year-old boy who saw the incident.

Officers found the man and arrested him on suspicion of aggravated assault.

No injuries were reported.

Man skips niece's wedding, wins \$367,000

ND MANDAN — A North Dakota man skipped his niece's wedding for a Las Vegas poker tournament and came home \$367,800 richer.

The Bismarck Tribune reported that 63-year-old Harlan Miller's niece, Macie, was set to get married in Montana. But Miller skipped the nuptials to participate in the Mid-Stakes Poker Tour Venetian \$1,100 Main Event. The tournament featured 2,790 players. He defeated pro poker player Ryan Dodd with a straight to win the money.

“I can get (Macie) a better wedding present now,” Miller said.

— From wire reports

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Time running for Lefty to win US Open

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Phil Mickelson accepted a special exemption from the USGA with reason to believe this might be his last shot to finally win a U.S. Open.

Now he gets five more years, courtesy of his stunning victory last month at the PGA Championship that made him the oldest winner in 161 years of the majors.

The clock is still ticking, though.

Mickelson turns 51 on the eve of the U.S. Open, and Lefty is leaving nothing to chance. He took a few days to celebrate his sixth major title, and then it was time to get to work.

“It’s a unique opportunity because I’ve never won a U.S. Open,” Mickelson said Monday. “It’s in my backyard. I have a chance to prepare properly, and I wanted to put in the right work. So I’ve kind of shut off all the noise. I’ve shut off my phone. I’ve shut off a lot of the other stuff to where I can focus in on this week and really give it

my best chance to try to play my best.”

If his victory at Kiawah Island was a surprise, this would be sheer fantasy.

Mickelson holds the wrong kind of U.S. Open record with his six runner-up finishes, most recently in 2013 at Merion, and it stands out even more considering it is the only major keeping him from joining the most elite group in golf with a career Grand Slam.

He is a three-time winner of the PGA Tour event at Torrey Pines, though to call it a home-field advantage can be misleading. It has been 20 years since Mickelson last hoisted a trophy at Torrey Pines, right before Rees Jones — known as the “Open Doctor” — overhauled the South Course with hopes the municipal course could host a U.S. Open.

Since then, Mickelson has missed the cut as often as he finished in the top 10 — five each — and he has rarely contended.

How much of that was the re-

design? How much was attitude? Hard to tell. Mickelson has never lacked for enthusiasm — how else to explain how he has gone a record 30 years between PGA Tour victories? — though even he has questioned his effort at Torrey.

He grew up in San Diego and still lives here, but Torrey wasn’t his primary course as a junior and he never comes to Torrey except for the week of the PGA Tour event in January.

That changed last week. Mickelson typically likes to play the week before a major. This time, he took two weeks off for a crash course.

“I put a lot of time in on the greens, because even though they’re not at tournament speed, I needed to relearn and see the breaks and know what the ball does on these greens,” Mickelson said. “Because when you see the way the ball rolls, you know where you have to be for your approach, and you know what kind of shot if the best shot to hit into certain approaches.

“Granted, I’ve played out here a bunch since the redo, but I really haven’t spent a lot of time to learn the nuances,” he said. “And I did that early last week.”

He spent Monday playing 18 holes with the defending champion, Bryson DeChambeau, and teenager Akshay Bhatia. Mickelson placed cup-sized placards on four quadrants of the green and putted from different angles.

Mickelson is trying to keep this simple. He put in the work. He has a plan.

“There’s a proper way to play here to each pin, and I just have tried to do too much in the past,” he said. “I felt like if I could learn the greens and know what a lot of the 30- and 40-foot putts do, then I don’t have to try to get it into these tiny little shelves, and I can make easy pars and make a few of the longer putts. That was kind of my thought process.

“That will hopefully allow me to play a little bit more stress-free.”

Ledecky wins 400 freestyle, but slower than expected

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Katie Ledecky touched the wall far ahead of everyone else at the U.S. swimming trials.

No surprise there.

But she was taken aback by the time. It wasn’t as fast as expected, raising the stakes for an expected showdown in Tokyo with the Aussie Terminator.

Ledecky earned a trip to her third Olympics with a never-in-doubt victory in the women’s 400-meter freestyle Monday night.

She was a good five body lengths ahead of runner-up Paige Madden, touching the wall in 4 minutes, 1.27 seconds.

But the winning time was far off Ledecky’s world record of 3:56.46, which she set almost five years ago at the Rio Olympics.

Another time on everyone’s mind: Ariarne Titmus won the 400 free at the Australian trials on Sunday with the second-fastest performance in history —

3:56.90.

Ledecky wasn’t close to Titmus’ performance, either.

“Very much a blur,” Ledecky said. “I thought I could go a little faster than that, so I’m a little surprised. But I’ll take it for now.”

Titmus, a 20-year-old known as “The Terminator,” has made it clear that she’s not intimidated by Ledecky’s longtime dominance in the distance events.

Titmus told reporters Down Under that the 24-year-old from the nation’s capital is “not going to have it all her own way. I can’t control what she does, (but) if I do the best I can and put myself in the position to win a gold medal, it’s going to be a tough race.”

While Ledecky is a familiar face on the American team — she’s won five gold medals and one silver at the last two Summer Games — the second night of the trials also signaled a changing of the guard.

Two Olympic rookies locked up their

spots for Tokyo. Teenager Torri Huske captured the women’s 100 butterfly, while Michael Andrew held on to win the men’s 100 breaststroke.

Huske was under world-record pace at the turn but faded just a bit on the return leg. Still, she touched first in 55.66 seconds, breaking the national mark of 55.78 that she set the previous night in the semifinals.

The 18-year-old from Arlington, Va., came up short of the world record (55.48) set by Sweden’s Sarah Sjöström in Rio.

An even younger swimmer, 16-year-old Claire Curzan of Cary, N.C., took the expected second spot on the Olympic team at 56.43.

Andrew has taken an unorthodox path to the Olympic team. He turned pro at age 14 and was trained by his father in a backyard pool, using methods that stressed short bursts of sprint swimming over weight training and the grueling routine of endless laps.

Red Sox walk off after Jays' tying HR

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Toronto Blue Jays hit 15 homers in a four-game series at Fenway Park, with 11 of them sailing over the Green Monster.

The Boston Red Sox only needed to bang two off it to earn a split.

Rafael Devers hit a line drive off the left-field wall in the bottom of the ninth inning on Monday night after Vladimir Guerrero Jr. cleared it for a tying drive in the top half, and the Red Sox bounced back from their worst loss of the season to beat Toronto 2-1.

It was Boston's second walk-off win of the series, with Alex Verdugo delivering a game-winning single in a similar spot on Friday night. In between, the Blue Jays won 7-2 and 18-4, hitting 13 homers in the two wins — a record eight on Sunday alone.

"Yesterday was just a game," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "Like I said: 18-4, 1-0, 2-1, if you lose you lose, if you win it,

you win it. We just earned a split against them. They didn't gain ground on us. We didn't lose ground on them. And now we go to Atlanta."

Matt Barnes was two strikes away from finishing off a combined three-hit shutout when Guerrero homered 451 feet onto Lansdowne Street to tie the game 1-all. It was his major league-leading 22nd home run of the season, and his fourth in as many games.

But Verdugo, who also drove in Boston's first run, and J.D. Martinez singled off Rafael Dolis (1-3) to lead off the bottom of the ninth. One out later, Devers banged one off the wall in left-center; he stopped before reaching second to receive the congratulations of his teammates pouring out of the dugout, and was credited with a single.

Indians 4, Orioles 3: José Ramírez picked up a pair of RBIs — made possible by Baltimore blunders in the field — and Cleveland extended Baltimore's road losing streak to 16 games.

Rays 5, White Sox 2: Austin Meadows, Brandon Lowe and Randy Arozarena homered and visiting Tampa Bay beat Chicago for its fourth straight win.

Rockies 3, Padres 2: Austin Gomber continued his dominance at hitter-friendly Coors Field with eight shutout innings, and Colorado held on to beat scuffling San Diego.

Mets 5, Cubs 2: David Peterson pitched one-hit ball for six innings for his first win in two months, and New York beat Chicago at home for the first time in exactly four years.

Nationals 3, Pirates 2: Kyle Schwarber homered again to snap a seventh-inning tie and drove in two runs as host Washington beat Pittsburgh.

Reds 10, Brewers 2: Vladimir Gutiérrez and three relievers combined on a four-hitter with 12 strikeouts, and visiting Cincinnati beat Milwaukee for its fourth straight win.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 2: Tyler O'Neill doubled home the tie-breaking run in the eighth in-

ning and scuffling St. Louis beat visiting Miami to halt a three-game slide.

Tigers 10, Royals 3: Detroit starter Matthew Boyd and reliever Alex Lange both exited with injuries and their team still ended a three-game losing streak, beating host Kansas City.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 2: Brandon Crawford homered and drove in three runs as San Francisco sent Arizona to its 20th straight road loss.

Dodgers 3, Phillies 1: Will Smith hit a two-run homer, Chris Taylor added a solo shot and host Los Angeles beat Philadelphia despite getting just three hits and four baserunners.

Athletics 8, Angels 5: Sean Murphy hit a two-run homer, Mitch Moreland had a two-run single and host Oakland held off Los Angeles.

Mariners 4, Twins 3: Jake Bauers barely cleared the wall with his first home run since being traded, lifting host Seattle over Minnesota.

Virginia, Mississippi State earn final CWS berths

Associated Press

Virginia and Mississippi State won Game 3s in their super regionals Monday and became the last two teams to clinch spots in the College World Series.

The Cavaliers staved off elimination for the sixth time in eight NCAA Tournament games, beating Dallas Baptist 5-2 in Columbia, S.C. The Bulldogs won 11-7 over Notre Dame, breaking the game open with a six-run second inning in Starkville, Miss.

Virginia's fifth trip to the CWS in Omaha, Neb., was hard-earned. The Cavs lost their opening games in regionals and super regionals, and they bounced back each time with a team that had no players with previous experience in the national tournament.

"I'll tell you what this team has accomplished and the opportunity they have now is just incredibly special," Virginia coach Brian O'Connor said. "This is our fifth trip, and I've got to tell you, they're all joyous. They're all wonderful. They're all unique in

their own way. But this one, I tell you, the route that this team has taken speaks to the character and the resiliency and the type of young men we have in this program."

The CWS starts Saturday with No. 9 national seed Stanford (38-15) playing North Carolina State (35-18), followed by No. 4 Vanderbilt (45-15) against No. 5 Arizona (45-16).

Sunday games match No. 3 Tennessee (50-16) against Virginia (35-25) and No. 2 Texas (47-15) against No. 7 Mississippi State (45-16).

Virginia played from behind until the seventh inning Monday. That's when freshman Kyle Teel hit a two-out grand slam to center field off Patriots closer Peyton Sherlin.

"When I hit the ball, I didn't think it was out. I thought I hit a deep flyout," Teel said. "So very grateful for it to go over the fence."

Sherlin had fooled Teel with a breaking pitch earlier in the at-bat, with Teel going almost to his knees as he swung. He didn't fool

him when he threw the same pitch on 2-2 count. Teel's helmet nearly flew off as he turned on the ball.

Virginia, like fellow ACC member and CWS entry North Carolina State, is playing its best baseball after struggling early. The Cavs were 11-14 and 4-12 in ACC play on April 1. They are 24-11 since and have won 13 of their last 17.

They went into the NCAA Tournament as a No. 3 regional seed in Columbia, S.C. They lost to South Carolina in their opener before winning four straight, including two in a row over Old Dominion for the regional title.

Mississippi State faced four pitchers in the decisive second inning of its game, scoring on a fielder's choice, sacrifice fly and single before Logan Tanner hit a three-run homer for a 7-1 lead. The Bulldogs added four runs over the next three innings before the Irish's Niko Kavadas homered for the sixth time in six tournament games to make it 11-7 in the seventh.

Vegas shrugs off Montreal in opener

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Montreal Canadiens' rich history didn't mean much when it came to facing the upstart Vegas Golden Knights on Monday night.

Shea Theodore had a goal and an assist, Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves and the Golden Knights beat the Montreal Canadiens 4-1 in the first game of the Stanley Cup semifinals.

Vegas' fifth-straight victory in the playoffs ended Montreal's postseason winning streak at seven. Game 2 is Wednesday night.

Theodore's first-period goal gave Vegas a 1-0 lead and marked the first time the Canadiens trailed in a span of 437

minutes and 53 seconds, the NHL's second-longest playoff run.

"The first goal was huge, and at the right time, too, in the first period for us with how we were playing," Vegas coach Peter DeBoer said. "Gave us a little bit of an opportunity to take a deep breath and kind of gather ourselves and find our game. Thankfully (Fleury) was our best player, gave us a chance to get our legs, and then I really liked our game in the second and third."

Fleury, whose 90th career playoff win leaves him two shy of tying Grant Fuhr for third place all-time, has now allowed two or fewer goals in nine of his 13 playoff appearances this season.

Alec Martinez, Mattias Janmark and Nick Holden also scored for the Golden Knights, who were vividly fueled by an announced crowd of 17,884 glow-stick waving fans.

The goals from Theodore, Martinez and Holden marked the first time this postseason a team got three goals from defensemen in a single game.

"We talked about making sure the (defensemen) were getting up in the play to make sure we had good gaps if pucks were turned over, but ended up being that we were able to jump and get some pucks and obviously score some goals and make some plays," Holden said. "That's always big when you can get contributions from different places."

Rookie Cole Caufield scored his first career playoff goal for Montreal, while goaltender Carey Price made 26 saves.

It marked Montreal's first game in the United States since March 7, 2020, when it visited the Florida Panthers. It was also the Canadiens' first game with more than 2,500 fans in attendance since March 10, 2020, when they hosted the Nashville Predators in front of 21,021 fans inside Bell Centre.

"Obviously we were very excited to play," Canadiens defenseman Joel Edmundson said. "I thought we came out firing in the first period, and then we kind of just sat back and let them come at us. But we were excited to play in front of a sold-out barn again."

Leonard, George help Clippers even series

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kawhi Leonard and Paul George know it takes the two of them to make things go right if the Los Angeles Clippers are going to advance beyond the second round of the NBA playoffs for the first time. Both responded again on Monday night.

Leonard and George each scored 31 points Monday night to propel the Clippers to a 118-104 victory over the Utah Jazz and even their Western Conference second-round series at two games apiece.

"Myself and Kawhi got full trust in each other," said George, who was playing in his 100th career postseason game. "It's opportunities for us to score when we get switches, but then there's opportunities to allow our teammates to be aggressive and make plays for them when we can attack our

mismatches. I think it's just a healthy mix."

Leonard and George also became fifth duo since the merger with 30 points each in back-to-back playoff games.

"These guys understand that we need them to be the head of the snake and be super aggressive," said Marcus Morris Sr., who had 24 points and was 5-for-6 on three-pointers. "Those guys are our leaders. We go as they go and they understand that. Guys have just been picking up the slack behind them."

In a game that Los Angeles dominated all night, Leonard provided the highlight with his dunk late in the first half. He got the ball just beyond the three-point line, drove past Royce O'Neale in the lane and then slammed it over Derrick Favors to give the Clippers a 62-38 lead with 1:24 remaining in the second quarter.

Young leads Hawks' rally with Sixers' Embiid ailing

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Trae Young tried to reassure Atlanta coach Nate McMillan after it became clear the Hawks point guard was hiding a sore shoulder.

McMillan had no complaints after Young lifted the Hawks to a crucial win over top-seeded Philadelphia.

Young overcame a cold start to score 25 points, including a floater that gave Atlanta the lead with 1:17 remaining, and the Hawks rallied to beat the 76ers 103-100 on Monday night, tying the Eastern Conference semifinal at 2-2.

Young's right shoulder was taped, which McMillan saw for the first time when the point guard took off his warmups before the game.

"He kind of gave me a look like he didn't know about it," Young said. "I told him 'We're fine, we're good, let's go win.'"

Philly blew an 18-point lead and may have bigger concerns:

Big man Joel Embiid spent time in the locker room in the second quarter and was 0-for-12 from the field in the second half.

"Even before I went back to the locker room I felt like I didn't have it," Embiid said.

Embiid is playing with torn cartilage in his right knee.

"I guess it's already known," Embiid said, confirming the knee was what caused him to leave the bench. "There's no need to explain myself anymore. I'm just trying to do the best I can."

Embiid finished with 17 points and 21 rebounds.

"I've coached a lot of games where guys haven't had it all night but they're still your guys," coach Doc Rivers said, adding he would take Embiid "whether you've got it going or not."

Philadelphia guard Seth Curry said Embiid "was pressing maybe a little bit."

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 22 points for the Hawks.