

## B-52 modernization plan moving ahead

**BY GARY WARNER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force said late Monday that it plans to move ahead with the B-52 Stratofortress modernization program despite the fatal crash of the first modified version of the bomber.

The June 16 crash at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., killed eight people.

“An Air Force Safety Investigation Board has begun work to determine the cause of the crash,” the Air Force said in a statement Monday. “The Radar Modernization Program office will support this critical process to assist investigators as needed.”

But the radar update effort will continue as the investigation moves forward.

“The RMP team will develop plans to continue testing with the second RMP test aircraft after its arrival at Edwards AFB, and test operations are deemed ready to commence by the 412th

Test Wing,” the statement said.

A second B-52H bomber will be modified with the advanced radar system and sent to Edwards Air Force Base for testing before the end of the year, the Air Force said.

The B-52 Stratofortress that crashed had completed a ferry flight from the Boeing Company’s San Antonio facility to Edwards Air Force Base, in California, following the installation of a new radar system as part of the B-52 Radar Modernization Program.

The new Active Electronically Scanned Array built by Raytheon Technologies replaces the aircraft’s older legacy radar system, providing improved all-weather navigation and targeting.

The AESA radar to be installed by Boeing follows successful radar upgrades for the U.S. Air Force’s F-15 Eagle and the U.S. Navy’s F/A-18 Hornet.

“This radar modernization

ensures that the B-52 will continue to serve as a cornerstone of American airpower well into the future,” Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink said at the time. “We are committed to extending the life of this vital platform, allowing it to operate alongside next-generation fighter and bomber aircraft.”

The test team planned to conduct ground and flight tests throughout 2026 to support a production decision later in the year.

The upgraded radar is the first major step in the modernization plan for the remaining B-52H Stratofortress bombers.

The Air Force has announced a long-range plan to cut its current bomber force to just two types: the new B-21 Raider stealth bomber and the upgraded B-52J Stratofortress. As new B-21s are delivered by Northrop Grumman, the Air Force will retire its B-1B Lancer and B-2 Spirit bombers.

The B-52 Radar Modernization Program is an element of the strategy to extend the life of the B-52 through 2050 and beyond.

B-52s are to “receive additional upgrades, including new engines, crew compartments, conventional and nuclear communication systems, avionics, weapons and other capabilities which will enhance the B-52’s ability to carry out the full spectrum of combatant command missions,” the Air Force said in December.

The Commercial Engine Replacement Program will switch out eight 1960s-era Pratt & Whitney TF33 engines on each plane with Rolls-Royce F130 engines.

The B-52 first flew in April 1952 from Boeing Field in Seattle. The Air Force bought 744 of the bombers between 1952 and when production ended with the H variant in 1962. Following the June 16 crash, it has about 75 B-52H models, built in the early 1960s.

## US Navy’s presence in Europe set to get boost

**BY ALISON BATH**  
*Stars and Stripes*

RIGA, Latvia — With Russian activity in the High North and war in the Middle East underscoring the Navy’s need for more forces in Europe and Africa, a destroyer slated for a fall arrival in Spain can’t get there soon enough, the commander of U.S. 6th Fleet said.

The vessel will be the sixth destroyer at Naval Station Rota and boost the capacity for missions in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and beyond, Vice Adm. Jeffrey Anderson said in an interview.

Anderson, who also com-

mands Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, spoke last week following a media briefing for a military exercise designed to hone NATO’s ability to deter Russia in and around the Baltic Sea. The annual drill is known as BALTOPS, short for Baltic Operations.

Navy officials on Tuesday declined to reveal the name of the destroyer, saying they will share specifics when they’re ready.

The destroyers at Rota, in coordination with ashore facilities, play an integral role in European ballistic missile defense, providing firepower that

U.S. commanders have said is needed to keep Russia in check.

The warship’s expected arrival comes as Navy vessels that would normally train with allies in Europe and Africa have spent months supporting operations related to the conflict with Iran.

Over the past two years, Rota-based destroyers have participated in U.S. military operations in the Middle East, including efforts to defend Israel from Iranian missile attacks.

Since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in late February, at least two and sometimes as many as four Rota-based de-

stroyers have been on station in the Eastern Mediterranean, according to a review of U.S. Naval Institute News fleet tracker data.

That pace of operations has left fewer Navy ships available for exercises with European and African allies and partners, which military leaders view as critical to readiness.

For example, the command-and-control ship USS Mount Whitney was the only Navy vessel to participate in this year’s BALTOPS. In previous years, Navy amphibious assault ships and destroyers have taken part as well.

# Gen. Donahue headed for early retirement

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Gen. Christopher Donahue, the head of U.S. Army Europe and Africa and commander of NATO ground forces, will step down next week, an Army official confirmed Wednesday.

Donahue will be replaced by his deputy, Maj. Gen. Christopher Norrie, who will serve as USAREUR-AF's acting commander, the official told Stars and Stripes.

The Atlantic first reported Tuesday that Donahue has already put in his retirement papers. He will leave his post July

2, the Army official said.

The Defense Department did not immediately respond to questions about his retirement.

The exit of Donahue, who has been in command for less than two years at his Wiesbaden headquarters, marks the latest shakeup in the military's upper ranks.

Concerns that Donahue's career could be headed for a premature end recently attracted attention in Washington.

Last month, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., issued a statement concerning "rumors" that Pentagon leadership was trying to si-

deline Donahue and downgrade his headquarters to a three-star command.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth "would do well to surround himself with more patriots like General Donahue and to get his henchmen, who are not qualified to carry Donahue's bag, out of the Pentagon," Tillis said.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, in a separate statement in May, raised concerns that the earlier firing of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George and an early end to Donahue's career would set back the Army as it moves to adapt to a modern bat-

tlefield where drones and artificial intelligence are expected to profoundly change ground warfare tactics.

"Regrettably, General George was recently fired and I understand both of these innovating, reform-minded combat veterans are set to retire," McConnell said, referring to Donahue and V Corps' Lt. Gen. Curtis Buzzard.

While there is no indication that Donahue was fired, his looming retirement is the latest in a string of changes that have reshaped the military's senior ranks.

## Influenza outbreak hits Lackland Air Force Base

By MATTHEW ADAMS  
*Stars and Stripes*

More than 200 trainees at Lackland Air Force Base have been struck with influenza, less than two months after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth lifted the annual flu vaccine requirement.

Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, whose district includes Lackland, said the Air Force informed him last week that the number had increased to 222, up from 160 previously reported cases.

The Air Force confirmed an influenza outbreak has affected the 37th Training Wing at Lackland over the past three weeks. Each year, more than 36,000 recruits come through the unit.

"Medical professionals and public health officials have implemented mitigation measures to isolate and treat symptomatic trainees to reduce further exposure and continue to monitor the situation," an Air Force spokesperson said in a statement. "Symptomatic trainees are receiving the appropriate care

with antiviral medications such as Tamiflu. Once they are cleared by medical professionals, they will return to training."

The spokesman did not provide a response to the most recent number of trainees who contracted the flu.

A trainee in his sixth week of basic training died last week after experiencing a medical emergency June 12 and was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center. The cause of the medical emergency involving the trainee, identified as Keon McDaniel, remains under investigation, and a comprehensive medical review is underway, the Air Force said in a statement.

Hegseth in April issued new guidance that the annual influenza vaccine is voluntary for all active and reserve component service members and DOD civilian personnel.

"We're seizing this moment to discard any absurd, overreaching mandates that only weaken our warfighting capabilities," Hegseth said in a video posted on X.

## Chinese carrier passes through Taiwan Strait

By ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

China's newest aircraft carrier steamed through the Taiwan Strait this week for the first time since December, a transit that coincided with ongoing Taiwanese exercises and U.S.-led drills elsewhere in the Pacific.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported the transit Tuesday in a news release alongside a black-and-white aerial photo of the carrier.

"[Taiwan's] military is closely monitoring the situation using joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance methods," according to a translation of the news release.

The Fujian passed through the 110-mile-wide waterway, which separates Taiwan from mainland China, a day after Taiwan began five days of military drills on the island.

Beijing views Taiwan, a self-governing democracy, as a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland.

The drills concealed Taiwan's "sinister intention to seek inde-

pendence through force," according to remarks Wednesday by China's Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson Zhang Han in a report by the state-sponsored Global Times.

The "Immediate Combat Readiness Exercise" is part of Taiwan's annual training regimen and includes command-and-control, logistics, battlefield maneuvering and live-fire drills, according to a Sunday news release from the ministry. The exercise is set to conclude Saturday.

The U.S. and its allies are also hosting exercises in the region. Rim of the Pacific, which features about 25,000 personnel from a record 31 nations, began Wednesday around Hawaii and is slated to conclude July 31.

The U.S.-led Valiant Shield in the western Pacific, with forces from Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand, began Monday and runs through Wednesday; Resolute Dragon, a joint drill between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, began Saturday and concludes Tuesday.

# 100 years for ex-Marine in ICE shooting

*The Dallas Morning News*

Federal judges handed down decadeslong prison terms Tuesday for eight defendants convicted in what prosecutors cast as an “antifa” terrorist attack last summer on a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Alvarado, Texas.

Benjamin Song, a former U.S. Marine Corps reservist described by prosecutors as the group’s ringleader, received the longest sentence: 100 years in federal prison.

The other seven codefendants received sentences ranging from 30 to 70 years.

Seven more are set for sentencing next month.

Song was convicted in March of attempted murder after authorities said he opened fire outside the Prairieland Detention

Center, wounding an Alvarado police officer.

The mixed verdict also convicted eight others on charges including rioting and using explosives — in this case, fireworks.

The prosecution, described by federal officials as the first of its kind against an “antifa cell,” has become a test case in the Trump administration’s effort to treat far-left political violence as domestic terrorism.

Last week, federal prosecutors charged 15 people in Minnesota with trying to obstruct the administration’s immigration crackdown there, alleging they were antifa members who conspired to block federal arrests and deportations.

Defense attorneys in the Texas case said their clients had planned to stage a peaceful pro-

test outside the detention center.

Some of the defendants, including Song, denied being part of antifa.

Family members and supporters gathered outside the Eldon B. Mahon U.S. Courthouse in downtown Fort Worth denounced the sentences, vowed to appeal and called the punishments the product of a politically motivated Justice Department.

Song’s mother, Hope Song, disputed prosecutors’ telling, claiming the Alvarado officer’s body-worn camera video showed he was struck by shrapnel sent flying by his own gunfire.

“He’s accepted full responsibility for what actually happened, but he will never accept responsibility for a lie,” she said of her son, “a government lie made to prosecute innocent people.”

Defense attorneys sought to frame the case as one rooted in First Amendment activity, not terrorism. Some argued what happened outside the detention facility on July 4, 2025, was a demonstration aimed at delivering a “message of hope” to detainees in the center that spiraled out of control.

But Chief U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor, one of two judges who handled sentencing hearings Tuesday, said the attack went beyond protest.

“The defendants’ violence and terrorism is an assault on democracy,” O’Connor said. “The defendants’ planning, staging and execution of the attack led to the attempted murder of an officer who ironically is not even involved in enforcing immigration law.”

## Lawmakers push back on acting DNI Pulte’s moves

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — With Bill Pulte just days into his job acting director of national intelligence, senators on both sides of the aisle are already expressing concern about his performance.

Pulte began Friday, after weeks of criticism over his appointment. On Monday, he reportedly began firing intelligence officials and staff at the DNI en masse, causing issues with some lawmakers who say it’s not appropriate for an acting official, not confirmed by the Senate for that particular role, to do so.

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, introduced legislation Tuesday that would lay out the hierarchy of the agency and bar presidents from installing acting directors.

The bill would require the principal deputy DNI — a Senate-confirmed position — to

step in as acting head in future cases of vacancy.

Warner and Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, wrote to Pulte on Monday “to express our expectation that you will not take actions while temporarily serving as the Acting Director of National Intelligence that are more appropriately left to a Senate-confirmed Director.”

Pulte has been the center of controversy on Capitol Hill since Trump earlier this month tapped him to replace the now-former DNI Tulsi Gabbard. Democrats have raised concerns about his lack of intelligence experience as well as his past referrals of some of Trump’s perceived foes to the Department of Justice for mortgage fraud allegations in his role as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency and chairman of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

## Agents raid homes of NYPD chiefs in wide bribery probe

*New York Daily News*

NEW YORK — The NYPD and the FBI raided the homes of several former and current high-ranking NYPD officers as part of an ongoing bribery probe, the Daily News has learned.

Those raided by a joint FBI and NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau task force include former NYPD Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey and former NYPD Deputy Commissioner Tarik Sheppard.

Investigators also raided the home of NYPD Assistant Chief Jimmy McCarthy, the head of Patrol Borough Manhattan South.

The NYPD confirmed that McCarthy has been modified and transferred as the probe into the bribery allegations continues. Assistant Chief Melissa Eger, the head of Patrol Borough Staten Island, was transferred to Manhattan to replace McCarthy, the department confirmed Wednesday.

NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said Wednesday that the bribery investigation “is ongoing and concerns conduct by former and current members of the NYPD.”

“When I became Police Commissioner, I promised New Yorkers that under my leadership the NYPD would conduct itself with integrity and that there would be a thorough investigation of any claim that members of service failed to meet that standard,” she said in a statement Wednesday. “This investigation and our actions this morning are part of the ongoing effort to fulfill that commitment and hold the department to its highest ideals.”

This is the second time Maddrey’s home has been raided by federal investigators. In January 2025, the feds executed search warrants in his Queens home and other locations as the NYPD officially suspended him for a sex-for-overtime scandal.



# Troops seek relief from Europe heat wave

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

Temperatures in Europe hovered around 100 degrees this week, turning everyday tasks for service members into a sweaty ordeal in a region where air conditioning is still relatively rare.

The mercury hit 97 degrees Wednesday afternoon in Wiesbaden, Germany, home of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, halfway through the second week of a record European heat wave.

Scorching conditions caused service members to seek shelter with fans, cold water and portable air conditioning units, and some commands adjusted work

schedules.

At least 20 people have died in swimming accidents throughout Germany since the end of last week, mostly in unguarded lakes and rivers, as residents try to beat the heat, said Martin Holzhaue, spokesman for the German lifesaving association DLRG.

"It's hot," Army Spc. Tyler Jones said as he hustled into the Tower Barracks exchange in Grafenwoehr on Wednesday afternoon. "I don't even think we should be outside. (But) there's no AC."

Germany is known for its lack of air conditioning. People in the country have historically been

less likely to install AC units in homes and offices because they are costly to run and hot weather generally lasts only a few weeks.

U.S. military buildings in Germany do not qualify for air conditioning unless they are medical clinics, child care facilities, physical fitness centers, exchange stores or commissaries, U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria spokeswoman Susanne Bartsch said, citing Army installation energy policy.

However, brutal heat waves in recent years have tested the Germans' assumption.

Temperatures in Wiesbaden were sitting at a comfortable 73

degrees on June 15 but rose to a sweltering 99 just four days later.

The heat wave has stretched far beyond Germany. France recorded its hottest June day on record this week.

Temperatures in parts of Spain are set to climb above 104 degrees.

The furnace-like weather is being caused by a heat dome that has trapped hot air over large parts of Europe, according to forecasters.

The heat wave is expected to ease by the beginning of next week in some parts of Europe, including Germany, the United Kingdom and France.

## Rubio announces new set of Cuban sanctions

*Miami Herald*

Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced new sanctions on two Cuban mining companies and three key enterprises in Cuba's military conglomerate, GAESA, as the Trump administration continues putting pressure on Cuban leaders to enact significant changes in the country.

Rubio also sanctioned Annalie Lilliam Rueda, the wife of Gen. Alejandro Castro Espín, Raúl Castro's son, who was the

head of Cuban intelligence services and was previously sanctioned earlier this month.

The list of GAESA-sanctioned companies includes Banco Financiero Internacional, which handles the vast majority of transactions involving foreign companies doing business in Cuba; Rafin, another obscure financial institution within the military conglomerate; and Almacenes Universales, a logistics company that controls container traffic at the Port of Ma-

riel Special Development Zone.

Secret GAESA internal documents obtained by the Miami Herald revealed that the conglomerate reported about \$18 billion in assets, of which \$14 billion were deposited in banks and in Rafin, as of March 2024.

The administration also sanctioned two companies in Cuba's metals and mining industry: GEOMINERA, S.A., a state-owned enterprise that manages a joint venture, Minera La Victoria SA, with the Australian-

based Antilles Gold.

Antillana de Acero, Cuba's largest raw steel producer, which recently underwent a modernization.

The companies and Castro Espín's wife were designated under new authorities laid out in an executive order signed by President Donald Trump in May that allows sanctions on Cuban companies and individuals linked to government repression and those operating in key sectors.

## Rubio meets Gulf leaders amid rocky US-Iran talks

*Bloomberg News*

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, as he looks to assure Gulf allies of the strength of an interim peace agreement with Iran.

After that meeting, he departed for Kuwait.

He was to end the day in Bahrain, as part of a tour that follows the start of U.S.-Iran negotiations to secure a more formal

resolution to their near four-month war.

An initial round of discussions has been completed and further talks are set to take place sometime next week, according to a foreign ministry spokesperson in Pakistan, a key mediator.

Rubio's meetings are taking place after a day of claims and counter-claims about the progress of the negotiations.

President Donald Trump said Tehran will only be able to use

billions of dollars of funds released from frozen accounts to buy food and medical supplies from the U.S. and that the Islamic Republic had agreed to allow International Atomic Energy Association inspections of its nuclear sites.

Iran contradicted both statements, the latest example of the two sides making conflicting claims about key issues at the start of what's slated to be a 60-day negotiation period.

The back-and-forth runs

alongside growing criticism in the U.S. of the war, which triggered a surge in global energy prices as a result of Iran closing the critical Strait of Hormuz waterway.

Iran and Oman, meanwhile, said they'll begin work on finding an agreement over the future administration of the Strait of Hormuz, including the cost of managing transit.

That's heightened concerns among traders and shipowners over the prospect of tolling.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man with rifle, backpack full of drugs gets 9 years

**SC** COLUMBIA — A South Carolina man with a previous criminal record is going to federal prison after being convicted on gun-related charges, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

De'Marionne Zaquann Miller, 22, a Lexington resident, was sentenced to more than 9 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and possessing the firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Monday in a news release.

The charges stem from June 14, 2025, when Lexington County Sheriff's Department deputies responded to an apartment after receiving reports of a domestic violence incident, according to the release.

As law enforcement arrived, Miller ran out of the apartment with an AK-style rifle and a backpack that was carrying cash, numerous bags of marijuana and two cellphones, according to the release.

U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie sentenced Miller to 111 months in prison, to be followed by a 3-year term of court-ordered supervision, according to the release. There is no parole in the federal system.

### Dali engineer's federal charges could be dropped

**MD** BALTIMORE — The criminal case against the chief engineer of the cargo ship that destroyed the Francis Scott Key Bridge could be dismissed three years from now under an agreement with

the government, entered into federal record last week.

Federal prosecutors allege that Karthikeyan Deenadayalan, chief engineer aboard the Dali, failed to immediately notify the U.S. Coast Guard about a hazardous condition on the vessel three days before the ship lost power and slammed into the bridge, triggering a catastrophic collapse that killed six construction workers.

The prosecution says the Indian national should have notified the Coast Guard that a "non-redundant" flushing pump was being used to provide fuel for generators instead of the redundant supply and booster pumps designed to do it.

The ship suffered two blackouts before slamming into the bridge on March 26, 2024.

Deenadayalan, who was present in court with his attorneys on June 18, was charged this month.

### Police disperse crowd of 1,000 teens in Fells Point

**MD** BALTIMORE — Baltimore Police dispersed an estimated crowd of more than 1,000 teenagers in the Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore late Saturday night who had gathered in the waterfront area despite the city's summer youth curfew. No arrests were made.

Police said the crowd was in the area of Thames Street and South Broadway, near Broadway Square.

"I can confirm that a dispersal order was issued in Fells Point last night for an unlawful assembly," police spokeswoman Lindsey Eldridge said Sunday. "It is estimated that more

than 1,000 young people were in the area. The crowd dispersed following the order."

The gathering tested Baltimore's summer curfew enforcement efforts at a time when city officials are emphasizing both policing and youth outreach as tools to prevent violence during the summer months.

Under Baltimore's summer curfew, children younger than 14 must be off the streets by 9 p.m., while teens 14 to 16 must be indoors by 11 p.m. The curfew is in effect nightly through the end of August.

### Boat driver found not guilty in fatal crash in 2022

**FL** MIAMI — A jury on Monday night found Doral real estate broker George Pino not guilty of felony charges stemming from a boat crash that killed a teen girl.

Pino, 54, cried when the verdict was read. The jury, made up of five men and one woman, found Pino not guilty of manslaughter and vessel homicide charges in the Sept. 4, 2022, boat crash in Biscayne Bay. Luciana "Lucy" Fernandez, 17, was killed, and Katerina "Katy" Puig, now 21, another passenger, was left with physical and neurological disabilities.

The jury deliberated for more than an hour.

In a statement after the verdict, defense attorney Howard Srebnick said he was grateful that jurors carefully considered the evidence to reach a just verdict.

After the verdict, Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said in a statement that her office decid-

ed to charge Pino with a felony after determining that there was sufficient evidence that Pino's actions were reckless, although the jury ultimately disagreed.

### Base opens recreational shooting range

**KS** FORT RILEY — The ribbon is cut on a brand-new Victory Shooting Complex in Fort Riley.

Operated through Fort Riley's Morale, Welfare and Recreation program, the range officially opened June 13. MWR officials said it is designed as a modern shooting sports venue for military personnel, their families and eligible civilians.

According to the MWR's announcement, the complex offers skeet shooting, trap shooting, archery programs, special competitions, group shooting activities and private events.

The facility also includes a renovated clubhouse.

The complex uses a tiered fee structure for Department of Defense ID cardholders and non-card holders, as well as for junior enlisted personnel, E-4 and below. Officials said daily passes, punch cards and annual memberships are available. Annual memberships include guest privileges.

The complex is separate from Fort Riley's military training ranges, which are managed by Fort Riley Range Operations. Those ranges support military live-fire training, maneuver exercises and weapons qualification. The Victory Complex is focused on recreational and sporting use rather than unit training.

— From wire reports

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# Wizards take Dybantsa with No. 1 selection

Associated Press

NEW YORK — AJ Dybantsa was on his way to Washington and ready to start working as soon as he got there.

That was Wednesday. Tuesday was a night for the NBA's No. 1 draft pick to party.

"Obviously this night is just a celebration of all the hard work I've done in the past, and so now I'm going to celebrate," Dybantsa said.

So were a record number of one-and-done college stars who followed him, a trio of national champions from Michigan and fans of both New York teams on what sounded like an even more festive NBA draft than usual.

The Wizards started it by selecting Dybantsa, a forward who led the nation in scoring in his one season at BYU. He averaged 25.5 points, highlighted by a 43-point effort that broke the Cougars' freshman scoring record, and was the first of a record-tying eight straight college freshman taken to begin the draft.

That matched the record set last year. Morez Johnson Jr. at

No. 9 was the first non-freshman.

"I think down the road we can continue to do this," Dybantsa said. "They are comparing us to a certain amount of draft classes. Obviously we have to see how that plays out and how we do in the league, but if we talk it into existence, I think that would be pretty special."

Dybantsa beat out fellow freshman Darryn Peterson of Kansas, who was taken at the No. 2 pick by Utah. While some thought Peterson had the most talent in the class, the guard missed 11 games during the season because of injuries and illness, potentially creating some questions that Dybantsa didn't have.

Cameron Boozer, the college player of the year in his one season at Duke, was taken at No. 3 by Memphis. Caleb Wilson, another freshman forward from rival North Carolina, went to Chicago with the next pick.

Those players were the expected top four throughout the pre-draft process, though there was certainly a case for Peterson to go first with his promise.

Or for Boozer, with his body of work after he put up 22.5 points, 10.2 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game for the Blue Devils, who his father, Carlos, also played for before becoming a two-time NBA All-Star.

The uncertainty was expected to begin at No. 5. The Los Angeles Clippers acquired the rights to it after a trade with Indiana and used it on Illinois guard Keaton Wagler. Host Brooklyn then went with Louisville guard Mikel Brown Jr.

## Michigan stands out

Darius Acuff Jr. to Sacramento at No. 7 and Kingston Flemings to Atlanta at No. 8 continued the run of scoring guards before Dallas went back to the bigs by taking Morez Johnson Jr. from the Wolverines. Johnson was congratulated by national champion Michigan teammates Yaxel Lendeborg and Aday Mara, who were also in the green room, and then hugged his old and new coach. Dusty May left the Wolverines to coach the Mavericks on the eve of the draft.

Golden State took Lenden-

borg with the No. 11 pick and Oklahoma City followed by going for the 7-3 Mara.

"We got our ultimate goal of winning the national championship and we just got drafted together, all lottery picks," Johnson said. "I'm proud of my brothers, and I'm very excited to see what our future has for us."

## Milwaukee to Mexico

The Bucks, who are losing two-time NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, picked up two with the No. 10 pick and are acquiring the rights to Tennessee forward Nate Ament, who was taken at No. 13 by Miami but is part of the package the Heat are sending to Milwaukee in the trade for Antetokounmpo that was agreed to Monday.

Karim López became the first Mexican-born player drafted in the first round. The 6-8 forward, who spent the last two seasons playing with the New Zealand Breakers, was taken by Detroit and his rights were acquired by the Grizzlies.

The second round was held Wednesday night.

# Sabres get No. 4 pick from Blackhawks for D Byram

Associated Press

The Buffalo Sabres dealt defenseman Bowen Byram to Chicago, and Washington acquired right winger Jordan Kyrou in a trade with St. Louis on Thursday, keeping the player movement around the NHL spinning ahead of the draft later this week and with free agency on the horizon.

Buffalo's trade was the most notable as it also acquired the No. 4 pick in the draft it's hosting this weekend. The Sabres also acquired third-year defenseman Louis Crevier, who had a career-best 25 points in his first full NHL season, and a second-round draft pick, 46th overall. The Blackhawks also acquired hard-hitting forward Jordan Greenway.

Byram is the key player in a trade made after Buffalo sought to sign him to long-term contract. He had completed the first season of a two-year \$12.5 million deal.

The 25-year-old had a career-high 42 points and matched a career-high with 11 goals in 82 games in spending much of the season playing alongside captain Rasmus Dahlin as the Sabres' top defensive pairing.

He was part of a deep and talented blue line that contributed to Buffalo winning its first Atlantic Division title and snapping an NHL-record 14-season playoff drought.

With the fourth pick, the Sabres are positioned to land a top prospect in a draft class

that's loaded with highly regarded defenseman. Among the defensive candidates expected to be available at No. 4 are Carson Carels (WHL Prince George), North Dakota's Keaton Verhoeff and Latvia's Alberts Smits.

## Capitals-Blues trade

Washington sent veteran forward Connor McMichael, prospect Milton Gastrin and the 16th pick to St. Louis for the 28-year-old Kyrou, who is under contract for the next five seasons at a salary cap hit of \$8.125 million.

Capitals general manager Chris Patrick foreshadowed making a move like this after doing more selling than buying at the deadline in March.

Kyrou gives the team another player in his prime to join a core around Tom Wilson, Jakob Chychny, Dylan Strome, Pierre-Luc Dubois, Aliaksei and Ilya Protas, Ryan Leonard and Logan Thompson — whether or not Alex Ovechkin returns.

Kyrou had 18 goals and 28 assists in 72 games with the Blues last season, producing below expectations for someone signed to be a key contributor. He is a three-time 30-goal scorer, reaching that mark consecutively from 2022-23 through 2024-25.

Washington still has the 18th pick Friday night as part of the deal that sent longtime defenseman John Carlson to Anaheim in March.



# Ronaldo becomes 1st to score in six Cups

*Associated Press*

HOUSTON — Cristiano Ronaldo had a simple but strong message as the final whistle sounded after Portugal's big win at the World Cup on Tuesday.

"I'm back," he said directly into the television camera. "I'm back."

Ronaldo became the first player to score in six different World Cup tournaments by getting two goals in Portugal's 5-0 win over Uzbekistan, quieting critics after his forgettable performance in the team's 1-1 draw with Congo in the opener.

Even though criticism isn't anything new to the 41-year-old superstar, he admitted that the intense negativity directed toward him this week was difficult.

"But it's always like that," he said in Portuguese. "It doesn't matter, because it's been 23 years on the job and when things go well, 'Cristiano is good,' when things go bad, 'Cristiano is a retired player, is old.' It will always be like that. But we responded

well today, me and my teammates, which is what we wanted."

Ronaldo made history in the sixth minute when João Cancelo crossed the ball to him and he shot with his right foot to make it 1-0. He ran toward the bench and celebrated with his teammates.

He added another in the 39th minute when he got a pass from Bruno Fernandes and scored with his right foot just inside the near post to make it 3-0.

"As a defender you need to be ready and you need to be close to him in the box," said Uzbekistan coach Fabio Cannavaro, a stand-out defender in his playing days who led Italy to the 2006 World Cup title.

"If you give him one centimeter in the box you are dead."

Ronaldo was named man of the match for his performance, the latest of many in his incredible career.

Portugal coach Roberto Martinez raved about the professionalism and poise Ronaldo showed

this week amid calls from outsiders to bench him.

"He's a human being," Martinez said. "He's allowed to have emotions. He's allowed to have feelings. What is impressive with him is the answer. Whatever he feels, the answer is to get back on the training ground and practice and work and demand from himself. That professionalism is what's (led) to the longevity."

The goals on Tuesday make him the second-oldest player to score at a World Cup behind Cameroon forward Roger Milla, who was 42 when he scored at the 1994 tournament in the United States.

Ronaldo and Argentina captain Lionel Messi became the only men in history to play in six World Cup tournaments this year. Ronaldo's scoring streak started in his debut in 2006 and he also netted goals in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022.

While he shares the record for most tournaments with Messi, he stands alone in scoring a goal in

each edition after Messi failed to score at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Ronaldo's two strikes against Uzbekistan gave him 10 career goals in the tournament. Messi has 18 after a hat trick in Argentina's opener against Algeria and two more goals Monday against Austria that made him the all-time leading scorer in tournament history.

Ronaldo's latest performance extended his record by giving him 145 international goals, and his 10 career goals in the World Cup moved him past Eusébio's nine to make him Portugal's all-time scoring leader at the tournament.

Tuesday's game was the 230th of Ronaldo's international career, which is the most in history.

This is likely to be the final World Cup for Ronaldo, who won the European Championship with Portugal in 2016 and the Champions League five times with Manchester United and Real Madrid.

## US allowing Iran to travel two days before next match

*Associated Press*

The United States is easing its restrictions on Iran's World Cup team, allowing the squad to travel into the country two days before its next match, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday.

The team will still be required to leave after Friday's match in Seattle, a department spokesperson said. A spokesperson for the Iran Football Federation confirmed the team planned to leave its base camp in Tijuana, Mexico, on Wednesday for Seattle.

"This was planned on our end," Andrew Giuliani, the executive director of the White House FIFA Task Force, told The Associated Press. "We were going to look at how the first two movements went, and if they went smoothly, we would extend the extra day in light of the longer

travel time."

Iran's squad has complained about the travel restrictions levied on the team, and the challenges it has faced since the outbreak of war. Iran in March sought to move its group-stage matches to Mexico, with which it has diplomatic ties. Its request to move its base camp from Tucson, Ariz., to Tijuana was granted two weeks before the team's arrival. Several team officials and members of the support staff have been barred from traveling into the U.S. with the team.

For the first two matches, near Los Angeles, the team was not permitted to travel until the day before. Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei repeatedly said that restriction disadvantaged the team, especially when it had less than 24 hours on the ground before its noon match Sunday.

"Right now we need recovery more than anything," Ghalenoei said through an interpreter after the 0-0 draw against Belgium. "The conditions have been extremely hard for us."

It's not uncommon for teams to travel a day before the match, and it's in line with FIFA regulations, which state that "each team shall travel from its team base camp to the match venue one day before matchday (MD-1) and in exceptional cases on MD-2, and shall return to their team base camp after the match (on MD/MD+1)."

But Iran had asked for more time to acclimate to host cities and recover after matches, especially for the 1,200-mile trip to Seattle. The team is scheduled to train Thursday at the University of Washington.

"We don't ask for much. We

just ask for the same procedure as for all the other 47 teams," Iran captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh said Sunday.

The Iran team has also said it experienced difficulties entering and exiting the U.S. each time it made the 127-mile flight between Tijuana and Los Angeles.

It's unclear whether Iran's upcoming opponent, Egypt, will also be allowed to arrive in Seattle two days early. After its 3-1 victory against New Zealand in Vancouver on Sunday, Egypt asked to fly directly to Seattle. FIFA denied that request, citing a lack of security resources to accommodate the last-minute demand. Egypt returned to its base camp in Spokane, Wash., a 45-minute flight from Seattle.

Egypt's national team did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

# All runs score in 9th as D-backs top Cards

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Nolan Arenado and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had run-scoring hits and Arizona's eventual winning run scored on a passed ball — all in the ninth inning — as the Diamondbacks beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-3 Tuesday night.

All the runs in the game were scored in the ninth inning.

Arizona managed just three hits in the first eight innings. In the ninth, Gabriel Moreno singled and Pavin Smith walked before Arenado hit an RBI double to left-center field. Gurriel followed with a two-run single to center for a 3-0 lead before Jorge Barrosa scored on a passed ball by St. Louis catcher Jimmy Crooks.

Alec Burleson got the Cardinals on the board with an RBI double down the first base line. Blaze Jordan hit a sacrifice fly that scored Fermín, and Crooks hit an RBI single to right field to cut the deficit to a run. But JJ Wetherholt struck out swinging to end the game.

**Phillies 14, Nationals 9:** Bryson Stott's three-run homer highlighted visiting Philadelphia's eight-run outburst in the ninth inning and the Phillies rallied to beat Washington.

Trailing 8-6 heading into the top of the ninth, Brandon Marsh hit a tying two-run homer off

Brad Lord (5-1). After Bryce Harper and pinch-hitter Derek Hill singled, Stott hit a towering 403-foot homer to right. Edmundo Sosa added a two-run double and Trea Turner had an RBI single to complete the comeback, done entirely with two outs.

**Padres 7, Braves 6 (10):** Manny Machado hit an RBI single in the 10th inning to lead San Diego to a walk-off win over Atlanta.

With Jackson Merrill at second, Machado sent a pitch from Raisel Iglesias (0-2) into center field to give the Padres their sixth walk-off victory of the season.

**Astros 9, Blue Jays 7 (11):** Joey Loperfido hit a tiebreaking home run in the 11th inning and visiting Houston beat Toronto.

Yainer Diaz, Cam Smith and Taylor Trammell hit consecutive home runs for the Astros in the fourth. All three homers came off Blue Jays starter Shane Bieber.

**Mariners 3, Pirates 2:** Cole Young hit a two-run home run in the seventh inning in his first major league game in his hometown to lift visiting Seattle over Pittsburgh.

The 22-year-old second baseman's drive into the right-field bleachers kept the Mariners in first place in the AL West with a 41-39 record. Young grew up in Pirates territory as a product of Pittsburgh's northern suburbs

and starred at North Allegheny High School.

**Marlins 6, Rangers 4:** Sandy Alcantara set the franchise career record for strikeouts and won his fifth consecutive start in June, leading host Miami over Texas.

Alcantara (8-4), who allowed one run in 6⅓ innings, struck out Kyle Higashioka in the seventh inning to surpass Ricky Nolasco for the most strikeouts in club history with 1,002.

**Cubs 9, Mets 6:** Pete Crow-Armstrong hit a three-run homer, Dansby Swanson also went deep and drove in four and visiting Chicago beat New York despite an injury to starting pitcher Edward Cabrera.

The right-hander hurt his left leg stretching to catch a throw at first base for the final out of the fifth inning. In obvious pain, he was carted off the field with a left hamstring/adductor strain.

**Dodgers 12, Twins 3:** Freddie Freeman and Andy Pages each had three of the Dodgers' season high-tying 17 hits, Justin Wroblewski (9-2) worked seven innings of two-run ball and visiting Los Angeles beat Minnesota.

Mookie Betts, Alex Freeland, Alex Call and Chuckie Robinson had two hits apiece for the Dodgers.

**Yankees 4, Tigers 3:** Jazz Chisholm Jr. homered, drove in

two runs and scored twice as visiting New York beat Detroit.

**Brewers 2, Reds 0:** Brandon Sproat pitched one-hit ball for six shutout innings and had a career-high 10 strikeouts, Hank Bauers and Andrew Vaughn drove in runs and visiting Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

**White Sox 2, Guardians 1:** Miguel Vargas hit a go-ahead home run in the sixth inning, Sean Burke (5-4) struck out six in 6⅓ innings, and host Chicago claimed sole possession of first place in the AL Central with a win over Cleveland.

**Royals 12, Rays 5:** Tampa Bay native Jac Caglianone continued his hot June by homering twice and driving in three runs in visiting Kansas City's victory over the reeling Rays.

**Red Sox 5, Rockies 2:** Wilner Abreu and Nate Eaton drove in two runs each to back an 11-strikeout performance from Sonny Gray (9-1) and visiting Boston beat Colorado.

**Angels 5, Orioles 1:** Rookie right-hander Ryan Johnson (1-2) gave up one hit over six scoreless innings, Nolan Schanuel hit an early two-run home run and host Los Angeles beat Baltimore.

**Giants 3, Athletics 1:** Robbie Ray (6-6) held the Athletics to an unearned run in eight innings to lead host San Francisco to a victory.

## NFL won't hold supplemental draft, leaving Sorsby on hold

Associated Press

Brendan Sorsby will have to wait until 2027 to have a chance at starting his NFL career.

The NFL informed the 22-year-old quarterback Tuesday that it will not hold a supplemental draft this year, and encouraged him to focus on preparing for possible entry into the league through the regular draft next year.

The league told Sorsby of its decision in a letter that was obtained by The Associated Press.

Sorsby had applied for the supplemental draft after a legal battle with the NCAA,

which had declared him ineligible for making thousands of bets on sporting events worth at least \$90,000 during his college career. Those included at least 40 bets on Indiana while he was a freshman there in 2022, though none on the games in which he played for the Hoosiers that season.

The NFL hasn't held a supplemental draft since 2023 and had no plans to do so this year before Sorsby's petition. No player has been selected in the supplemental draft since 2019.

"Your Petition—filed three business days before the deadline, without any supporting information or documentation, and only after abandoning your recent litigation efforts to

avoid NCAA sanctions — does not provide a basis for the League to alter those plans," NFL attorney Lawrence P. Ferazani Jr. said in his letter to Sorsby and the 32 NFL teams. "The issues presented by your Petition are too significant, and too closely tied to the League's core integrity interests, to permit meaningful review within the timeline presented."

Eligibility for either the regular draft or supplemental draft is required for entry into the NFL, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the league and its union. A player who is not selected in the draft could then enter the league as a free agent.