

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## OPSEC style has some talking in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

When U.S. Army Europe recently completed its largest ammunition delivery to the Continent in a decade, the Russians took notice, broadcasting the news on Russia Today.

The Army's ammo stockpile also caught the attention of the Iranians, whose Press TV shared the information. From east to west, news that 5,000 tons of ammunition were delivered to a specific U.S. Army Europe depot in Germany in late February was an attention-grabber in a region where old Cold War-style tensions now flare.

And it all started with an Army news release — complete with photos — that was circulated widely across social media and republished by organizations large and small. The move is part of a USAREUR strategy to loudly declare its readiness to friend and foe alike, even if that means challenging old notions about operational security.

"The safety and security of

our soldiers is at the forefront of what we do, but we also have a mission to assure our allies and partners and deter further aggression," said Col. Martha Brooks, USAREUR spokeswoman.

But to some in the military community, such publicity can seem at odds with the Army's traditional fixation on operational security, amounting to a violation of OPSEC 101: Don't tell the enemy what you're doing.

"Wtf? Did you guys include the combo to the gate too! OPSEC," railed one Stars and Stripes reader on Facebook.

A flurry of commentary followed: "Ammo dumps should be kept secret."

"Way to go... Tell everyone where the munitions are stored!!!"

"Is nothing secret anymore? When we were stationed in Germany we were always warned about talking about anything related to our spouse's job, unit, training or anything else."

For USAREUR, the decision to trumpet things such

as ammo deliveries, dramatic tank movements and even mundane planning conferences is a fundamental part of a new mission that seeks to send a stronger signal of Army readiness. That sometimes raises the prospect of talking up day-to-day missions in ways less common during the Cold War, when a massive military presence of 300,000 troops spoke for itself.

The key is striking the balance between protecting what must be secret and publicizing what allies and adversaries need to hear, USAREUR leaders say.

The 5,000 tons of ammo being sent to Germany is the largest single shipment to Europe in a decade. It is intended to be used for the Army's coming Anokonda exercise in Poland, which will involve about 20,000 U.S. and European troops and will serve as a signature USAREUR event in 2016.

"Highlighting certain missions — in this case a delivery of ammunition — sends a message that we're able to coordinate with host nations and have

the freedom of movement to conduct missions throughout the theater," Brooks said.

The Army's heightened focus on communication has become apparent over the course of the past 18 months. This has been demonstrated through a series of well-publicized efforts, such as lengthy road marches through the Baltics, and it comes amid renewed security concerns in Europe. After two decades of steady U.S. military drawdown, Russia's seizure of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula upended the near-universal view that a generation of calm and order in Europe was here to stay.

For the U.S., concerns over Russia's more aggressive posture has sparked a surge of NATO activity across the Baltics and eastern Europe, with larger numbers of rotational forces circulating through the region.

A new funding request calls for \$3.4 billion to be spent on reassuring allies and deterring Russia.

## Officials: US captured top Islamic State operative

*Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — U.S. special forces captured the head of the Islamic State group's unit trying to develop chemical weapons in a raid last month in northern Iraq, Iraqi and U.S. officials told The Associated Press, the first known major success of Washington's more aggressive policy of pursuing Islamic State militants on the ground.

The Obama administration launched the new strategy in December, deploying a commando force to Iraq that it said would be dedicated to capturing and killing Islamic State leaders in clandestine operations, as

well as generating intelligence leading to more raids.

U.S. officials said last week that the expeditionary team had captured an Islamic State group leader but had refused to identify him, saying only that he had been held for two or three weeks and was being questioned.

Two Iraqi intelligence officials identified the man as Sleiman Daoud al-Afari, who worked for Saddam Hussein's now-dissolved Military Industrialization Authority where he specialized in chemical and biological weapons. They said al-Afari, who is about 50 years old, heads the Islamic State group's

recently established branch for the research and development of chemical weapons.

He was captured in a raid near the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar, the officials said. They would not give further details. In Washington, U.S. officials confirmed al-Afari's identity.

The officials, who both have first-hand knowledge of the individual and of the Islamic State chemical program, spoke on condition of anonymity as they are not authorized to talk to the media. No confirmation was available from U.S. officials.

A U.S. official said Wednesday that one or more follow-up air-

strikes were conducted against suspected Islamic State chemical facilities in northern Iraq in recent days. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence-related operations, was unfamiliar with details of the airstrikes but indicated that they did not fully eliminate IS's suspected chemical threat.

The U.S.-led coalition began targeting Islamic State's chemical weapons infrastructure with airstrikes and special operations raids over the past two months, the Iraqi intelligence officials and a Western security official in Baghdad told the AP.

## With momentum, Trump tells GOP to back him

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Hours after claiming three more victories, Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump called on his party's mainstream wing to stop resisting his candidacy as his White House rivals embarked upon a weeklong march to block the billionaire businessman from building an insurmountable delegate lead.

"Instead of fighting it, they should embrace it," Trump said in a Wednesday interview with Fox News Channel. "If we embrace what's happening and if everybody came together ... nobody could beat the Republican Party."

Trump's easy victories the day before in Michigan, Mississippi and Hawaii left his opponents

with shrinking opportunities to slow his momentum in the Republican primaries and little indication that intense efforts to undermine his credibility are pushing voters away from the brash billionaire.

On the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders surprised front-runner Hillary Clinton on Tuesday in Michigan, a victory that breathed new life into his White House bid and forecast a long Democratic contest. But Clinton, who won Mississippi, padded her delegate lead and is now halfway to the number needed to clinch the nomination.

Clinton glossed over her contest with Sanders as she addressed supporters, choosing instead to focus her attention on Republicans and the general

election.

"We are better than what we are being offered by the Republicans," she declared.

The fight to stop Trump now shifts to five states that will vote Tuesday, none bigger than Florida and Ohio, winner-take-all contests that could destroy — or resurrect — the chances of home-state candidates Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

His closest rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, received a boost Wednesday with an endorsement from former GOP rival Carly Fiorina, who could be an asset with donors. Rubio, meanwhile, suffered another drubbing Tuesday, earning no delegates in Michigan and Mississippi and finishing a distant third in Hawaii and Idaho.

## Beatles' producer dies

George Martin, the Beatles' urbane producer who quietly guided the band's swift, historic transformation from rowdy club act to musical and cultural revolutionaries, has died, his management said Wednesday. He was 90.

Former Beatle Paul McCartney said Martin had been "a true gentleman and like a second father to me."

"If anyone earned the title of the fifth Beatle, it was George," McCartney said. "From the day that he gave the Beatles our first recording contract, to the last time I saw him, he was the most generous, intelligent and musical person I've ever had the pleasure to know."

Beatles drummer Ringo Starr tweeted earlier: "God bless George Martin peace and love to Judy and his family love Ringo and Barbara. George will be missed."

Too modest to claim the title of the fifth Beatle, the tall, elegant Londoner produced some of the most popular and influential albums of modern times — "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Revolver," "Rubber Soul," "Abbey Road" — elevating rock LPs to art forms — "concepts."

From The Associated Press

## Pentagon lacks detention plan in Islamic State fight

BY TARA COPP  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon does not have a plan for long-term detention of captured Islamic State fighters, despite more aggressive operations against the terrorist group in Iraq, Syria and now Libya, the top U.S. special forces commander told Congress on Tuesday.

Before President Barack Obama took office, militants captured in Iraq and Afghanistan were sent to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. But since Obama signed an executive order in 2009 to begin the process to close the facility, no new prisoners have been sent there.

At a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., pressed Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, about what the United States plans to do if longer-term detention is necessary.

"You would agree that long-

term interrogation was quite helpful, for example, in gathering the information we needed to get [Osama] Bin Laden?" Ayotte asked. "What do we do in a long-term setting? Do we know?"

Votel responded, "I would agree there is a requirement for long-term detention, senator."

In the last seven years, it has been a priority of Obama's administration to transfer all of the remaining detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Of the more than 800 people who were sent there at the height of the facility's operations, 91 remain. Thirty-five of those prisoners are cleared to be moved to other countries. The rest likely will remain in U.S. custody permanently because it is believed they pose a threat to national security.

During the questioning Tuesday in the Senate, Votel said he did not know where long-term prisoners would be housed.

"That is a policy decision that I think is being debated," he said.

## Suspect in Idaho attack arrested at White House

Associated Press

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — A man wanted by Idaho authorities in an attack that left a church pastor seriously wounded has been arrested by U.S. Secret Service agents after allegedly throwing items over the fence at the White House, police said.

Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White said Kyle Odom was arrested about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in Washington without incident.

"I think everyone can breathe a good sigh of relief that at least this part of the case has come to a conclusion," White said.

Meanwhile, pastor Tim Remington, shot six times Sunday outside his church in Coeur d'Alene, has regained consciousness and is talking with his family.

White said he was told Odom threw computer flash drives and other unidentified items over the fence. Hazardous materials and bomb teams were working to identify the other items, he said.

Odom had been the subject of a search. White wasn't certain how the 30-year-old suspect got to Washington but said police were able to determine that he had boarded a flight at the Boise Airport sometime Monday.

A former Marine from Coeur d'Alene, Odom is suspected of shooting Remington a day after Remington led the prayer at a campaign rally for Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz. Authorities say there's no indication Remington's appearance with Cruz had anything to do with the shooting as they work to figure out what motivated the attack outside his church in broad daylight.

"However, it does appear that this was a pre-planned attack," White said Monday.

# Gonzaga earns 18th straight NCAA bid

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Gonzaga reached the NCAA Tournament the previous 17 times by building its résumé over the course of the season.

The Zags didn't have that luxury this year. Lose in the West Coast Conference title game and there was a chance one of the nation's longest NCAA streaks would come to an end.

Gonzaga took the guesswork out of its postseason fate with a dominating offensive performance, shooting its way past Saint Mary's 85-75 Tuesday night in the WCC championship game to earn its 18th straight NCAA Tournament berth.

"All is well in Zagville!" Gonzaga coach Mark Few told the crowd inside Orleans Arena after the game. "The streak is alive!"

It certainly was in jeopardy heading into the WCC tournament.

Despite sharing the WCC regular-season crown, Gonzaga (26-7) had a few smudges on its résumé and was not a lock to make the NCAA Tournament.

The Zags took the suspense out of Selection Sunday with a balanced attack and by shooting 61 percent in the latest installment of their rivalry with Saint Mary's.

Eric McClellan scored 20 points, Kyle Wiltjer 17 and Josh Perkins added 16 for Gonzaga, which helped seal its 15th WCC title by hitting 21 of 22 free throws.

Domantas Sabonis added 15 points and eight rebounds, helping the Zags establish an early inside-out game that set the stage for the rest of the hot-shooting night.

Gonzaga's guards, supposedly the weak link on this team, closed it out by scoring 19 of the Bulldogs' final 21 points.

"It was huge for us because nothing's guaranteed," said Wiltjer, who made 6 of

10 shots and all four of his free throws.

"We didn't want to be on the outside looking in on Selection Sunday and I'm proud of these guys for these past couple games, just having the will to win."

## Horizon League

**Green Bay 78, Wright State 69:** At Detroit, Jordan Fouse scored 16 points, and the Phoenix wrapped up a spot in the NCAAs for the first time since 1996 by beating Wright State in the conference tournament title game.

Linc Darner took over at Green Bay after leading Florida Southern to the Division II national championship last year, and his up-tempo style worked wonders as his team won four games in four days in the Horizon tournament.

"These guys have believed in our system all year," Darner said. "I think a lot of people probably thought, 'Well, you can't win the big ones playing the way you guys play.' I think they proved everybody wrong with that."

Charles Cooper added 15 points for the Phoenix, who jumped out to a double-digit lead in the first half. Green Bay (23-12) and Wright State (22-13) were in the championship game after beating top-seeded Valparaiso and second-seeded Oakland the previous night.

Michael Karena scored 14 points for Wright State. The Raiders were able to control the tempo against high-scoring Oakland in the semifinals, winning that game 59-55, but they were playing catch-up throughout against Green Bay.

"All year we kept hearing, 'They aren't going to be able to win. That style isn't going to be able to win in a tournament setting,'" Fouse said. "That's just not right. Coach said it from the beginning — nobody wants to see us when we have

to play four games in four days — and he was right."

## Summit League

**South Dakota State 67, North Dakota State 59:** At Sioux Falls, S.D., freshman forward Mike Daum scored 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Jackrabbits past the Bison to capture the conference tournament championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Deondre Parks added 14 points for the Jackrabbits (26-7), who advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in the past five years.

Carlin Dupree led North Dakota State (20-13) with 19 points, and Khy Kabellis added 17 for the Bison.

"They made some good shots," Dupree said. "We contested some of them, and some of them we left them open."

Much of the early matchups inside the paint centered on a couple of freshman forwards — the 6-foot-9, 230-pound Daum for the Jackrabbits and the Bison's big guy, 6-foot-6, 240-pound Dexter Werner. Werner scored nine points for the Bison.

Daum, who was the tournament MVP, said the Jackrabbits were able to play a fast-paced game.

"We had a lot better ball movement than we had during the past two games," Daum said.

South Dakota State coach Scott Nagy called Daum one of the most efficient players in college basketball, making good use of every minute he's on the court.

## Northeast Conference

**Fairleigh Dickinson 87, Wagner 79:** At New York, Dayton and the First Four is

where the Knights are most likely headed after beating the Seahawks to win the Northeast Conference Tournament.

Darian Anderson scored 28 points and Earl Potts Jr. had 27 to lead FDU to its fifth NCAA Tournament bid and first since 2005.

Anderson had 18 points in the second half and Potts had 16 when the Knights took control on the way to their first NCAA bid under coach Greg Herenda, who is in his third season.

Potts scored FDU's first nine points of the second half as it took the lead for good on his three-pointer that gave the second-seeded Knights (18-14) the lead at 51-47.

They were ahead by as many as 10 points, the first time on a three by Marques Townes with 4:15 to play.

Anderson was 8 of 16 from the field, including 2 of 4 from three-point range, while Potts was 11 of 19, including 4 of 8 from long range. The Knights were 9 of 19 from three-point range.

"We didn't play good defense in the first half but we got it right in the second half," Potts said.

Corey Henson led the top-seeded Seahawks (23-9) with 24 points, while Michael Carey had 18 points and 11 rebounds. Wagner finished 4 of 24 from three-point range and 21 of 33 from the free throw line.

"We just didn't make shots and their effort kicked up a notch and ours didn't," Carey said. "I think it was effort."

The win was the fifth straight for the Knights and it ended Wagner's seven-game winning streak. The teams split the season series with Potts hitting a three at the buzzer to give the Knights an overtime win at Wagner.

Both teams struggled from three-point range in the first half, Wagner making 3 of 11 and the Knights just better at 3-for-10.

# Despite record, UAB knows it has to win to get in

Associated Press

UAB teams are used to fighting uphill battles for reasons beyond wins and losses.

While the athletic department is in the midst of rebuilding the football program, the Blazers basketball team has one of the best records in major college basketball and a 25-game home winning streak. Still, they'll likely have to win the Conference USA tournament to get into the NCAA Tournament via the automatic bid for a second straight season.

The Blazers aren't really grumbling about the win-or-else situation going into this week's tournament at the Legacy Arena in downtown Birmingham, Ala., a few minutes from campus. They're not shying from the challenge either.

"I think that's the reality of the situation," UAB coach Jerod Haase said. "We're under the assumption that we're going to have to win the conference tournament to get into the NCAA Tournament. That's

just our approach going in."

The Blazers (26-5, 16-2) won nine of their final 10 regular season games and clinched the C-USA regular season title even before winning two games on the road last week. They face the winner of the Western Kentucky-North Texas game on Thursday.

But UAB still was 76th in the NCAA's power ratings entering this week, indicating that Haase's team has plenty of work to do. They made a splash by upsetting third-seeded Iowa State in the first round of last year's NCAA Tournament.

The Blazers would still like to earn some more credit nationally.

"I don't know if disrespected is the word," said guard Robert Brown, the team's only senior. "Definitely overlooked. But I think it's something that we'll be able to rectify once we get to the conference tournament and hopefully the NCAA Tournament."

Auburn coach Bruce Pearl has taken notice. Auburn beat UAB 75-74 in the season opener, and Pearl thinks the Blazers are

part of an upswing in basketball within the state, including Alabama under Avery Johnson.

"Gosh, they're good," Pearl said. "They're not a team that you're going to want to match up with. They proved it last year."

But they haven't proven it against top competition, even though only seven major college teams have more wins. The most impressive feat might have been a regular season sweep of Middle Tennessee (No. 95), the only other C-USA team rated in the top 100. The light national regard for the league hurts UAB's case for an at-large bid. Stephen F. Austin, rated 78th, is the only other Top 100 team UAB has beaten.

Nevertheless the stat sheet demonstrates the Blazers are deep, versatile and unselfish. They rank among the top four in C-USA in 16 statistical categories as a team but don't have a scorer ranked among the top 20. Brown and Chris Cokley both average 13.2 points a game. Cokley is also the team's top rebounder, but

his 6.5 boards per game are 16th in the conference.

UAB also is ranked third nationally in assists and second in blocked shots. William Lee's 94 blocks ranked fourth.

But Haase uses a deep rotation, playing nine players double digit minutes per game. The former Kansas guard said his team has handled the stress of big games well, and he doesn't downplay the importance of the league tournament.

His team's postseason run last season came a few months after UAB disbanded the football, rifle and bowling programs for financial reasons — temporarily, it turns out. Football is on its way back but UAB is still thriving on the hardwood. Something else for the community to cheer about.

"I think UAB and Birmingham are taking notice that it's a fun team to watch and the program has done well," Haase said.

Now, he's hoping the NCAA Tournament selection committee is similarly impressed.



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# Lillard lifts Blazers in OT

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Though it took a little longer than they'd hoped, the Trail Blazers found relief at home from their recent road woes.

Damian Lillard had 41 points and 11 assists, and Portland snapped a three-game losing streak with a 116-109 overtime victory over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

It was Lillard's 15th straight game with 20-plus points, the second-longest streak in the NBA behind Kevin Durant's 48. CJ McCollum added 18 points for Portland, which moved into sixth place in the Western Conference.

"Coming off three losses in a row, this was a must-have," Lillard said. "We had to have this one."

John Wall had 20 points and 11 assists for the Wizards, who have lost three straight. Ramon Sessions added 21 points off the bench, while Marcin Gortat had 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Wall hit a three-pointer with 15 seconds left in regulation to give Washington a 104-102 lead, but McCollum hit a pull-up jumper with 5.4 seconds to go to tie it at 104. The game went to overtime when Gerald Henderson swatted away Gortat's attempted layup.

"Gerald Henderson made a heck of a play in protecting the rim," Wall said.

Blazers coach Terry Stotts described the block as "fantastic."

Lillard hit a three-pointer that gave the Blazers a 111-106 lead in the extra period. Wall answered with a three for the Wizards, but Lillard's layup with 23.5 seconds left made it 113-109 and Portland hung on for the win.

The Wizards led by as many as 13 points in the third quarter, but Portland wrestled back to lead 85-81 going into the fourth.

"That was a really important win for us, especially fighting back in the second

half after getting down early," Stotts said. "After losing three in a row and to gut out an overtime win, it was really important for us."

The Blazers were back home after a six-game road trip that started with three wins but ended with three losses, capped by a 123-103 loss at Detroit on Sunday.

Henderson was key off the bench for Portland, finishing with 12 points and seven rebounds, as well as the monster block.

"This was huge," Lillard said. "Especially with Utah losing. It was a chance to separate ourselves a little bit more. With another tough trip coming up, this was a huge opportunity to protect our home court."

**Spurs 116, Timberwolves 91:** LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and seven rebounds to help visiting San Antonio bounce back from a rare loss.

The Spurs (54-10) led by as many as 26 points in a game they played without Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and coach Gregg Popovich. David West scored 18 points as the Spurs shot 55.3 percent and only turned the ball over nine times.

Andrew Wiggins had 23 points and eight rebounds for Minnesota. Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points and nine boards, and Zach LaVine scored 15 points.

**Hawks 91, Jazz 84:** Jeff Teague scored 24 points to lead Atlanta to the road win.

The Hawks moved within 1½ games of idle Miami for the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Jazz fell two games behind Houston for the eighth and final spot in the West.

Teague added six assists, while Paul Millsap finished with 18 points and nine rebounds.

Gordon Hayward led Utah with 22 points, and Derrick Favors scored 16.

**Raptors 104, Nets 99:** DeMar DeRozan had 25 points for host Toronto, and Kyle Lowry added 23 points and nine

assists.

Brook Lopez had 35 points, one shy of his season high, for Brooklyn, which lost the season series to the Raptors for the first time since 2009-10.

The Raptors rallied from a 16-point half-time deficit to get back on track at home after their franchise-record, 12-game home win streak ended Sunday against Houston.

**Lakers 107, Magic 98:** D'Angelo Russell scored 27 points, Jordan Clarkson added 24 and host Los Angeles won consecutive games for the second time since Jan. 3.

Julius Randle matched his career high with 23 points and had 11 rebounds in the Lakers' first game since their jaw-dropping victory over defending champion Golden State on Sunday.

Los Angeles followed up that shocker with an outstanding group effort from the three key members of the club's young core. Russell, Randle and Clarkson scored 20 points apiece in the same game for the first time.

**Nuggets 110, Knicks 94:** Kenneth Faried had 24 points and 10 rebounds to help Denver to its eighth straight win over the Knicks at the Pepsi Center.

Nikola Jokic scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter as Denver had six players in double figures.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 30 points against his former team. He is now 0-3 when playing at his old stomping grounds since being traded to New York in February 2011.

New York rookie Kristaps Porzingis was limited to six points in his return after missing a game with a bruised left leg. The Knicks were dealt a blow before the game when forward Lance Thomas hurt his left knee in warmups.

# NFL free agents make big deals

Associated Press

Defensive end Malik Jackson, a key performer in Denver's championship season, is heading to Jacksonville as the opening move in the NFL's free-agent period.

A person familiar with the negotiations said the Jaguars have agreed to terms with Jackson on a six-year deal worth up to \$90 million and including \$42 million guaranteed. Free-agent deals couldn't be finalized until Wednesday.

Denver also released three players who helped it win the title: tight end Owen Daniels, guard Louis Vasquez and long snapper Aaron Brewer.

"These decisions are never easy, but we appreciate the contributions Louis, Owen and Aaron made to our team, especially during our Super Bowl run," general manager John Elway said.

Detroit's star receiver Calvin Johnson retired after nine superb seasons. The second overall draft pick in 2007 made a league-record 86.1 yards receiving per game. He reached 10,000 yards (115 games) and 11,000 yards (127 games) quicker than anyone in NFL history. Including playoffs, he has another league mark with six 200-yard receiving games.

Johnson broke one of Hall of Famer Jerry Rice's records with 1,964 yards receiving in 2012. He ranked among league leaders last season with 88 receptions for 1,214 yards and nine TDs, playing through lingering injuries.

Indianapolis cut Bjoern Werner, its first-round draft pick in 2013. The outside linebacker started 15 games in 2014, but barely played last season.

Also, defensive end Mario Williams signed a \$16 million, two-year contract with the Miami Dolphins.

Williams reached the agreement a week after being released by Buffalo. The Dolphins sought reinforcement at end because they may lose Olivier Vernon in free agency, and the status of four-time Pro Bowler Cameron Wake is in question, too.

Minnesota released receiver Mike Wallace after one season in Minnesota to clear \$11.5 million from the salary cap. Wallace, 29, had career lows in receptions, yards and touchdowns.

Chicago receiver Alshon Jeffery signed his franchise tag tender for \$14.6 million. The Bears and Jeffery have until July 15 to agree to a multiyear contract. Injuries limited Jeffery to nine games last season but he still led the team in receiving.

Buffalo is bringing back guard Richie Incognito, who accepted a pay cut and agreed to a three-year, \$15 million contract with the Bills on Tuesday.

His future had been uncertain before he signed a one-year contract with Buffalo in January 2015. It came after Incognito spent 15 months out of football for being a central figure in the Miami Dolphins' bullying scandal in 2013.

While Incognito returns to Buffalo, former Bills cornerback Leodis McKelvin agreed to a two-year contract with Philadelphia.

Pittsburgh signed cornerback William Gay to a three-year deal. Gay, 31, has played in 144 straight games since the Steelers took him in the fifth round of the 2007 draft. He holds the NFL record for most consecutive interceptions returned for touchdowns, doing it in five straight across 2013-2015.

# Bruins edge Lightning in overtime

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — After 60 scoreless minutes, Brad Marchand needed just seconds to lift Boston to the win.

Marchand scored 10 seconds into overtime, Jonas Gustavsson made 42 saves and the Bruins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 1-0 on Tuesday night in a match-up of Atlantic Division leaders.

Patrice Bergeron sent a pass from the right wing through the slot that Marchand redirected past Ben Bishop for his 34th goal.

"It was big," Marchand said. "We're battling for position. We're definitely happy with the outcome. It's showing we're learning how to win these games."

Boston and Tampa Bay both have 83 points but the Bruins have played one more game.

Bishop stopped 32 shots. Gustavsson, subbing for starter Tuukka Rask, improved to 11-5-1 this season with his seventh career shutout.

"That was a good hockey game," Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. "It was up and down, bodies flying all over the place. Both goalies played extremely well."

The Lightning had the first nine shots during the opening seven minutes of the third period, including Nikita Kucherov's that required a nice glove save by Gustavsson.

"He was outstanding," Bruins coach

Claude Julien said. "That's a huge boost for our team when you can put a goaltender in a big game like that and play the way he did."

Tampa Bay outshot Boston 27-22 through two periods and 42-32 through 60 minutes.

The Lightning had all four of the power plays.

**Canadiens 4, Stars 3 (OT):** Canadiens coach Michel Therrien believes Alex Galchenyuk is on more than just a hot streak.

Galchenyuk scored twice, including in overtime, and Montreal edged Dallas.

The 22-year-old has nine goals in his last seven games, the most in the NHL in that two-week span.

"He's playing with a lot more confidence. In the past, he had nice two- or three-game stretches. This last month, he's been able to maintain a high standard of play," said Therrien.

Galchenyuk's fifth multigoal game of the season helped Montreal snap a four-game skid.

**Islanders 2, Penguins 1:** Anders Lee scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period, Jaroslav Halak stopped 31 shots before leaving late in the third period and got his 200th career victory as surging New York beat visiting Pittsburgh.

**Rangers 4, Sabres 2:** Mats Zuccarello had a goal and two assists and New York edged host Buffalo after nearly blowing a

three-goal lead.

J.T. Miller sealed the victory with a backhand into an empty net with a minute left after he lost a glove on the rush up the right wing.

**Sharks 3, Oilers 0:** James Reimer made 31 saves in his first shutout of the season, Logan Couture scored twice and San Jose beat host Edmonton.

Joe Pavelski also scored for the Sharks, who won their second in a row.

**Predators 4, Jets 2:** Craig Smith scored twice and visiting Nashville hung on to beat Winnipeg.

Colton Sissons and Ryan Johansen also scored for the Predators and Pekka Rinne turned aside 21 shots.

**Blue Jackets 5, Red Wings 3:** Cam Atkinson scored twice in the third period and Boone Jenner had a goal and an assist while Columbus held off visiting Detroit.

David Clarkson and David Savard also scored for the Jackets, and Joonas Korpisalo made 32 saves.

**Hurricanes 4, Senators 3 (SO):** Rookie Jacob Slavin scored in the fourth round of the shootout, and host Carolina beat Ottawa.

Jeff Skinner scored twice for Carolina, including one with 0.2 seconds remaining to force overtime.

Cam Ward made 21 saves for the Hurricanes, who won a shootout for the first time this season.