

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## New missile defense policy eyes Russia, China

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is working on an expanded U.S. missile defense policy that would address certain threats from Russia and China, departing from a previous strategy that focused nearly exclusively on rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran.

The new policy still will call for bolstered technology against rogue states, with a particular focus on weapons to intercept North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's missiles. But people familiar with the review say it also will mention the need to consider missile threats from Russia and China, a change from previous doctrine.

The document remains in a draft form and could change before its tentative release in late March.

Deliberations on the policy at the Pentagon come as Russian President Vladimir Putin threatens the U.S. with new weaponry, including a nuclear-powered cruise missile that he touted publicly for the first time during a presidential address on Thursday.

Russia's thousands of missiles easily could overwhelm existing U.S. missile defenses in the event of a full-scale war. Washington relies on the threat of its own vast nuclear arsenal to deter an attack from a global power.

As a result, the Pentagon isn't pursuing a shield against all missile threats from

Russia and China. American defense planners abandoned such lofty goals after the Soviet Union's collapse. Rather, according to one U.S. official, the policy will more discretely look at ways the U.S. can better deal with burgeoning missile threats from Russia and China in regional theaters such as Europe and Asia, where the two countries' systems have alarmed the American military.

The Pentagon so far sees "anything in the regional context as fair game," said the official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity because the policy hasn't been finalized. American generals have been calling for better sensors, for example, to track cruise missile threats.

U.S. officials recognize that the advanced missile technologies Russia and China are developing probably will end up in the arsenals of other countries in the future, meaning the policy must decide how to address them anyway. The Pentagon's chief spokeswoman, Dana White, emphasized in a briefing Thursday that U.S. missile defenses aren't trained on Russia and remain focused on rogue nations. The American military already knew about the weapons Putin referenced and stands ready to defend the U.S., she said.

White didn't say whether Russian and Chinese threats would be mentioned in the new policy.

The move to adjust the doctrine comes as the Trump administration reworks foreign and defense policies to fit a new national security strategy that has proclaimed the return of "great-power competition" with Russia and China.

Critics warn that these systems encourage competitors to develop more sophisticated arms, are expensive and have questionable effectiveness.

"Putin's announcement is a predictable reaction to the ongoing missile defense efforts of the United States," Lisbeth Gronlund, senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said in a statement. "Now, it appears that the Trump administration is going to ramp up these defenses, increasing Russia's concerns."

But administration officials and top lawmakers have said the U.S. must respond to the threats at hand, regardless of whether certain initiatives would rankle Moscow or Beijing.

"It is foolish to try and pick and choose what aggression we will stand against and which we will let go unanswered," House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said in a statement. "It is not enough to advocate for a more robust cyber response to Russia's attempts to meddle in our elections but waver on our response to their renewed nuclear and territorial ambitions."

## Girl dies in Kabul blast targeting Australian convoy

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A large explosion that appeared to target foreign troops killed one civilian and wounded more than a dozen others in an eastern district of Kabul early Friday, officials said. The Associated Press reported that the person killed was a young girl.

"A car bomb was detonated when a convoy of foreign forces was moving on the road," said Kabul police spokesman Basir Mujahid.

Australia's Foreign Affairs department later said in a statement that the convoy comprised vehicles from the Australian

Embassy in Kabul, and that no Australians were injured.

Most diplomats are provided with military protection when they travel in Afghanistan.

Health Ministry spokesman Wahid Majrouh said 14 civilians were brought to various hospitals after the blast, which occurred in the capital's Qabil Bay area, near a military training center and a gated community popular with ex-pats, known as Green Village.

Mohammad Mus Zahir, a doctor at a local hospital, told the AP that 15 people were wounded, including five children and two women.

NATO's Resolute Support mission con-

firmed a vehicle-borne explosive device had been detonated, and that no coalition servicemembers were among the casualties.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast; however, the Taliban and a local branch of Islamic State have carried out a string of deadly attacks in the capital in recent months.

Friday's explosion came two days after President Ashraf Ghani urged the Taliban to join peace talks at a conference in Kabul, offering a cease-fire and to recognize the insurgents as a legitimate political party.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.  
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# Officer accused of beating wife, adultery

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SAN DIEGO — A commissioned officer at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., is accused of terrorizing his wife, bedding mistresses across three states and then trying to cover it all up by blackmail and threats.

In a series of eight suspected assaults in late 2015 in or near San Diego, Capt. Jameson P. Hustek twice bent the wrist of his wife, twice lifted her off the ground and suspended her in the air, twice struck her head and once placed a knife near her neck and hit her arm, according to a charge sheet prepared by the Corps.

Between October 2012 and mid-September 2015, he also is suspected of engaging in a string of sexual relationships with individuals other than his wife, including a monthlong 2014 affair in Nashville, Tenn., with a woman in such a manner that was “unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman.”

An MV-22B Osprey pilot assigned to the “Lucky Red Lions” of Miramar’s Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, Hustek is accused of carrying on another adulterous romance in Florida in late 2015, plus San Diego liaisons beginning three years earlier.

Because members of the armed forces are held to a high ethical standard, adultery is a military crime. Prosecutors lodge charges against suspects when the suspect-

ed misconduct is prejudicial to good order and discipline or brings discredit upon the services.

Prosecutors contend that Hustek, 34, tried to cover up his liaisons and the abuse of his 29-year-old wife.

On Dec. 5, 2015, he communicated to an unnamed witness that he had forwarded a message to himself “to keep as leverage in case I need it” in case he or she tried to “do something crazy,” according to charge sheet documents.

The next day, he suspected of threatening to harm a witness — the name was redacted by Marine officials — if his actions were reported to commanders.

And then on Christmas Eve of 2015, he is suspected of trying to get an unnamed witness to cooperate with him, promising “tons of money from me.”

“Also no going around telling people I am a slime bag. If you do either, it’s not going to go well for you,” he is accused of saying, according to records released to The San Diego Union-Tribune under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Formerly from Connecticut, Hustek was informed of the charges against him Oct. 2, the records show.

On Nov. 20, Maj. Gen. Mark “Notso” Wise — commander of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing — convened a court-martial for him but officials have not indicated when the trial will begin.

Hustek did not return telephone or email messages seeking comment. His attorney, John Shelburne, strongly defended him.

“We’re contesting the charges and will continue to vigorously contest them going forward,” he said.

Pointing to the ongoing litigation, Miramar officials declined comment.

Hustek remains free on his own recognition, according to his criminal records. He remains on active duty.

Allegations of spousal abuse have long dogged the military.

Released in May, the Pentagon’s annual study on domestic abuse showed that the number of incidents and victims reported to the military’s Family Advocacy Program ticked up in 2016 — the most recent year available — highlighting a pattern of incremental growth since 2009.

Called the “unduplicated rate” of spousal abuse because it weeds out multiple reports of domestic violence linked to the same partners, the program reported 9.3 victims per 1,000 couples in 2016, up from 9.1 per 1,000 couples in 2015.

The Pentagon counted nine spouse or intimate partner fatalities in 2016. Three of the victims and an equal number of offenders already had been reported to the program.

The typical victim is a female spouse. Slightly more than half also serve in the military.

## Airman disciplined for racially charged online rant

BY DIANNA CAHN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Air Force says it has disciplined the technical sergeant at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada whose profane and racially charged diatribe about subordinates went viral in January.

In a video posted on a private Facebook forum, Tech. Sgt. Geraldine Lovely ranted about black female subordinates, whom she said were disrespectful. A portion of the video then was reposted on a public Facebook community page dedicated to Air Force airmen, as well as junior and senior noncommissioned officers.

Without releasing details, 99th Air Base Wing public af-

fairs chief Maj. Christina Sukach said that Lovely had been “held accountable for her actions” and that the air base wing leadership was “satisfied with the outcome.” She said the administrative record of a servicemember is private under military code.

“Nellis Air Force Base leadership emphasizes that any activity which disparages anyone because of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation will not be tolerated,” Sukach said. “Servicemembers are responsible for their own actions, to include social media. Our airmen are too valuable, and our mission is too complex and perilous, to accept anything less than the tenets of our core values: integrity, service be-

fore self and excellence in all we do.”

Lovely, who was a noncommissioned officer in the 99th Force Support Squadron, used excessive profanity in the video while stating she was doing her best to remain professional and not “start a fight club.”

“Why is it that every time I encounter my subordinates that are black females they have a giant (expletive) attitude?” Lovely said. “And it’s not like I am coming to them with a (expletive) attitude. I don’t.”

“I am trying my best to hold my professionalism with them, but good God, they have no (expletive) respect whatsoever,” she said. Within hours, Sukach followed with a response calling the video “inappropriate

and unacceptable behavior in today’s society and especially for anyone in uniform.”

The post drew millions of views and sparked a public debate over race and leadership in the service.

Within days, the air wing removed Lovely from her supervisory role and launched an investigation. A statement said the incident was an opportunity to “see if this is a broader issue on base” and to talk with airmen about good order and discipline and the Air Force core values.

It’s unclear what actions the Air Force took to address the issue.

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## Veterans sue Navy, claim bias against PTSD

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — By age 21, Marine Corps Cpl. Tyson Manker led infantrymen into battle in the 2003 invasion of Iraq. His actions as a Marine garnered him the Presidential Unit Citation and other awards, yet the military doesn't consider his service honorable.

Manker endured intense combat, saw civilians killed and witnessed the death of a close friend — experiences that caused nightmares and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder that only worsened when he returned home.

Later that year while on leave, Manker was caught with marijuana, which he used to self-medicate. He was kicked out of the Marine Corps for misconduct with an other-than-honorable discharge.

"It's a national disgrace for the federal government to say someone doesn't have honor because they didn't handle the stresses of war the way some bureaucrat back stateside thinks they should've," said Manker, now 36 and a lawyer in Illinois.

It's estimated that tens of thousands of servicemembers suffering from PTSD or other mental health conditions caused by their wartime experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan have been kicked out of the military with other-than-honorable discharges, known as "bad paper." The status precludes them from receiving medical care and other benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Worse still, Manker said, is the stigma associated with the discharge status.

"We're in a system of punishing those who serve on the front lines," said the veteran, who has been haunted by his other-than-honorable status for years.

Having tried and failed to get an upgrade, Manker is now the lead plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit filed Friday against the Navy in the U.S. District Court in Connecticut. The suit claims the Navy has an institutional bias against veterans with PTSD.

The Navy Discharge Review Board, responsible for discharges of sailors and Marines, has granted upgrades in only 15 percent of cases since 2016 in which PTSD was a contributing factor, according to the suit. In comparison, the Army granted upgrades in 45 percent of the same kinds of cases and the Air Force granted 37 percent.

"My hope with this is that the discharge review board will start following the law, plain and simple," Manker said. "It's about principle. It's about restoring honor."

## Officials press for military access to food assistance

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of senators is pursuing a legislative effort that would give low-income military servicemembers and their families access to federal food assistance programs, a concern that has impacted more than 20,000 people in recent years.

Because of a quirk in the law, some servicemembers can be disqualified from programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which might be more widely known as "food stamps." Servicemembers can be considered ineligible because of certain military pay, such as housing benefits.

A new legislative proposal introduced by Sens. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Tom Udall, D-N.M., would help such military families struggling to pay for food, they said Friday in an announcement.

"Our military is weakened when servicemembers go hungry and are unable to feed their families," said Duckworth, a combat pilot veteran who lost both legs in the Iraq War.

"As someone whose family depended on food stamps after my father lost his job, and who served in uniform for most of my adult life, this is personal for me. We are the wealthiest nation in the world. Our servicemembers shouldn't be forced to rely on food stamps to feed themselves — but at the very least, we must ensure that those who need food stamps have access to them."

A 2013 Census Bureau survey found about 23,000 active-duty servicemembers depend on food stamps, the senators said. A Government Accountability Office report found servicemembers spent roughly \$21 million in SNAP benefits between September 2014 and August 2015, "indicating that many servicemembers are having difficulty making ends meet," they said.

The military has not collected data on how many military families struggle with hunger, making it difficult to determine the overall scope of the food insecurity problem in the services. However, the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which directs policy for the military, will require the Pentagon to finally collect the data to determine how many servicemembers rely on federal hunger assistance programs.

Udall called the effort to provide members with the resources that they need a "solemn obligation."

"Military families across the country

are struggling with food insecurity — and at the same time facing down unacceptable and unnecessary barriers to accessing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," he said. "Our troops should not have to worry that their families are well fed. Congress should live up to its promise to servicemembers and pass this common-sense legislation to remove needless roadblocks preventing military families from being able to put food on the table."

The Military Hunger Prevention Act fixes language in federal law and eliminates inconsistencies that prevent servicemembers in need from accessing the federal food assistance programs, the senators said.

A flaw in federal law often forces such military families to instead rely on food pantries and food banks for emergency assistance "when the nation they are serving owes them much more," they said.

Servicemembers who are disqualified from federal food assistance programs include ones receiving basic allowance for housing or pay to live off-base or private military residences. Because of calculations in qualifying for federal food assistance programs such as SNAP, low-income servicemembers who receive the housing allowances can be excluded from food assistance benefits.

"Our military families have enough to worry about as they defend our nation's security," Murkowski said.

The legislative proposal has been endorsed by several advocacy groups, including MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the St. Louis Area Foodbank, the National Military Families Association, Blue Star Families and the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

"Food insecurity among currently serving military families is a real but preventable reality," MAZON President and CEO Abby Leibman said. The legislation "will remove a major barrier that prevents tens of thousands of military families from putting nutritious food on the table."

The senators' bipartisan legislation is co-sponsored by nine Democratic senators, including Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., Kamala Harris, D-Calif., Doug Jones, D-Ala., Patty Murray, D-Wash., Tina Smith, D-Minn., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.

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# President's gun stance a struggle for Congress, NRA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Action on gun legislation has skidded to a halt in Congress — not for a lack of bipartisan proposals, but because President Donald Trump's stunning shift on gun policy left some in his party confused, irritated and scrambling to figure out what to do next.

Republicans squirmed over Trump's call for stricter gun laws after the assault on a Florida high school, while Democrats seized on the opening to reach beyond a modest measure gaining traction in Congress. They unveiled a more ambitious priority list, with expanded background checks and even a politically risky ban on assault weapons.

The tug of war over the appropriate response on the school shooting remains far from settled.

Late Thursday, Trump tweeted that he'd had a "Good (Great) meeting in the Oval Office tonight with the NRA!"

The executive director of the National Rifle Association, Chris Cox, also tweeted about the meeting, saying Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and the NRA "want safe schools, mental health reform and to keep guns away from dangerous people." Cox added that Trump and Pence "support the Second Amendment, support strong due process and don't want gun control."

The NRA has called the bulk of the proposals discussed at the White House this week "bad policy" that would not keep people safe. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Friday that she believed Trump had arranged the NRA meeting. She said Trump's position on guns had not changed since Wednesday.

Asked if Trump had made any specific promises, Sanders said "only that he'll continue to support the Second Amendment."

Without a clear path forward for any legislation, Senate Ma-

jority Leader Mitch McConnell shelved the gun debate for now, saying the Senate would turn next week to other measures. McConnell had been preparing to push ahead with an incremental proposal from Sens. John Cornyn and Chris Murphy, but even that measure faced some GOP opposition.

"I'm hoping there's a way forward," he told reporters.

Congress is under pressure to act after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting last month that left 17 dead. Lawmakers had been making incremental progress on a bill to boost participation in the existing federal background check bill.

But after Trump's pronouncements this week, that legislation hardly mattered. Trump panned the bipartisan bill as little more than a building block for the "beautiful" and "comprehensive" legislation he envisioned would protect Americans from mass shootings.

## Gun control stalls amid immigration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's taken just two weeks for Washington's immigration battle to fade from blistering to back-burner. Lawmakers now seem likely to do little or nothing this election year on an effort that's been eclipsed by Congress' new focus on guns, bloodied by Senate defeats and relegated to B-level urgency by a Supreme Court ruling.

Talks have gone dormant that sought a broad bipartisan package offering a chance for citizenship to young immigrants brought to the country illegally, as part of a package handing President Donald Trump \$25 billion to erect his treasured wall with Mexico. Even a proposal dangling modest wins for both sides, a three-year renewal of a program protecting hundreds of thousands of those young immigrants from deportation in exchange for a \$7.6 billion down payment for the wall, seems a long shot.

"The prospects for immigration legislation, big or small, are very, very bleak," concedes Frank Sharry, executive director of America's Voice, an immigrants' rights group.

Distrust between the two parties has intensified, with each suspecting the other of weaponizing the impasse to rouse loyal voters for November's contest for congressional control. There are tactical rifts between Democrats and the coalition of liberal and immigrants' rights organizations over how aggressively to force the issue, and differences between conservative organizations and some Republicans over the wisdom of even a narrow accord.

Looking to furnish political cover to rank-and-file Republicans, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., only want to consider immigration bills that have Trump's support.

## Turkish air force kills pro-government gunmen

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkey's air force hit two positions of pro-government Syrian fighters deployed last week in the Kurdish enclave of Afrin, killing and wounding a number of fighters in an escalation of violence in a region where Turkey has been on the offensive for more than a month, Syrian activists said Friday.

Turkish troops and Turkey-backed opposition fighters have been on the offensive in Afrin since Jan. 20 against Syrian Kurdish fighters. Ankara has also warned Damascus not to send fighters to the area, saying it would target them.

Turkey considers Syrian Kurdish fighters to be "terrorists" linked to a Kurdish insurgency within its own borders.

The pro-government Syrian

force began deploying in Afrin on Feb. 20, despite Turkey's threats. Syrian state media said the aim is to defend Afrin.

The airstrikes mark a major escalation between Turkey, the main backer of Syrian opposition fighters trying to remove President Bashar Assad from power, and Syria's pro-government forces, backed by Iran.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the airstrikes took place late Thursday in the village of Jamaa and killed 17 members of the force known as the Popular Forces.

Syrian state news agency said Turkish forces killed 20 people in Afrin, without providing details. The Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV, which has reporters throughout Syria,

including in Afrin, said Turkish warplanes killed 18 pro-government gunmen while 19 more were missing.

Al-Mayadeen said the airstrike occurred after the Popular Forces hit a Turkish helicopter gunship.

The main Kurdish militia in Syria, the People's Protection Units, or YPG, confirmed the attack, saying the airstrikes killed and wounded several fighters without giving further details.

Turkey's military said Turkish-made ATAK helicopters struck a region in western Afrin, killing nine "terrorists." It did not provide further details and it was not clear if the airstrikes were in retaliation for the deaths of eight Turkish soldiers who were reported killed there on Thursday.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Elvis Presley is running for congressional seat

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — Elvis Presley is officially running for a congressional seat in Arkansas. But don't confuse him with the rock 'n' roll icon, unless he's performing.

Elvis D. Presley performs shows as the late superstar Elvis A. Presley, but he's also now filed to run as the Libertarian nominee challenging Arkansas Republican Rep. Rick Crawford.

Both men filed paperwork Monday to run for the 1st Congressional District in eastern Arkansas. Crawford has represented the area for four terms.

Presley previously has run for Arkansas governor, land commissioner and the state Legislature. The Libertarian Party selected its nominees at a convention during the weekend.

## Scooters join test of dockless bike share

**DC** WASHINGTON — Several electric scooters have been rolled out as part of Washington's pilot program that tests the viability of dockless bike-sharing systems.

News outlets reported Thursday that Waybots has "soft-launched" in the city with scooters.

Waybots is governed by the same terms and conditions as the dockless bike companies, meaning 50 to 400 of them are allowed, and there's an agreement to share usage data with the city.

Washington is the first city for Waybots, though it plans to partner with other cities.

Waybots uses an app to locate and rent the scooters. Users end trips by parking the scooters on a sidewalk and completing the

rides with the app. No docks or locking are required.

## Boy held on suspicion of threat with Lego gun

**CA** SANTEE — Authorities arrested a 14-year-old boy they say posted an online threat against a San Diego County school that included a photo of an AR-15 rifle made of Legos.

The boy was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of making terrorist threats.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department said the boy is a freshman at West Hills High School in Santee.

He is accused of posting an Instagram photo of the toy weapon with the warning, "Don't come to school tomorrow."

Authorities said the student had access to hunting rifles in his home.

A surge in threats against schools has prompted numerous arrests in the wake of the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

## Hearts locked against bridge romantic tokens

**VA** NORFOLK — After years of resisting the efforts of neighbors who deemed a bridge's love locks eyesores, a Virginia city has sliced through those no-longer-enduring gestures.

The Virginian-Pilot reported Norfolk public works crews removed more than 100 love locks from the Hague Bridge with power tools and bolt cutters on Wednesday, a day after city officials announced they would remove them to end a grand jury process for a public nuisance lawsuit.

City spokeswoman Lori Crouch said the public works department won't specifically

monitor for a rekindling of the tokens. She said people can pick up removed locks.

Love locks have been placed on bridges worldwide and are no strangers to controversy. In 2015, Paris officials removed 700,000 locks from the Pont des Arts over damage concerns.

## Lawmakers approve bill banning eyeball tattoos

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Legislature has approved a bill to effectively ban the practice of eyeball tattooing.

The measure comes after a flurry of news reports last fall about a Canadian model who had major complications from getting her eyes tattooed purple.

Under the Indiana proposal, tattooists would be prohibited from coloring the whites of an individual's eyes. An exception would be made for procedures done by licensed health care professionals. The bill imposes a fine of up to \$10,000 per violation.

The bill is sponsored by Republican Sen. John Ruckelshaus, of Indianapolis. He said he's not aware of any problems in Indiana. Oklahoma is the only other state with a similar law.

The legislation was sent to Gov. Eric Holcomb's desk Thursday following an 82-11 House vote. It previously was approved by the Senate.

## Man accused of fleeing police in U-Haul, again

**ME** STANDISH — A Maine man has been arrested for the second time in a year on charges he led police on a chase in a stolen U-Haul truck.

The Portland Press Herald reports a Cumberland County

Sheriff's deputy tried to stop a U-Haul driven at high speeds by William Wyman, 41, in Standish on Sunday night. Police said Wyman and the stolen truck were found later.

According to authorities, the Portland man had minor injuries and the vehicle sustained minor damage.

Wyman faces multiple charges including theft of a motor vehicle and failure to stop for a police officer. He is being held on bail.

He previously was charged with eluding officers and reckless conduct after police said he crashed into two vehicles last Halloween while driving a stolen U-Haul truck before he was apprehended.

## Man accused of stealing officer's car

**CT** WATERBURY — Connecticut police said a man who stole an officer's car and used his credit cards for a fast food run has been arrested.

The Republican-American reported Derrick Johnson, 21, of Waterbury, was charged Tuesday with multiple offenses including burglary, second-degree larceny and three counts of identity theft.

Police said Johnson stole the rookie officer's car from a Waterbury parking garage on Jan. 23, the night of his police academy graduation. According to investigators, Johnson bought items from Walmart and Taco Bell with the stolen credit cards before leaving the car in a private lot.

Police later recovered the car from a tow lot. Investigators said they identified Johnson using surveillance footage.

Johnson is being held on a \$25,000 bond. A hearing is scheduled in Waterbury Superior Court next month.

From wire reports

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# Arizona clinches share of Pac-12 title

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Sean Miller was back on the job, Allonzo Trier was back on the court and Arizona earned at least a share of another Pac-12 championship.

All accomplished in an emotionally charged end to a highly unusual day in Tucson.

Dusan Ristic scored 15 of his 21 points in the first half and No. 19 Arizona beat Stanford 75-67 on Thursday night.

Ristic, a senior, set a school record by participating in his 111th victory. Trier, reinstated by the NCAA after a two-game suspension, added 18 points for the Wildcats (23-7, 13-4 Pac-12) and Deandre Ayton, the freshman who leads the Pac-12 in scoring and rebounding, had 12 points and 10 boards.

"I think everybody did a great job," Ristic said, "because obviously it's not easy to come back after everything that has gone

on these past few days."

Arizona has won or shared the conference regular-season title five times since 2010-11 and beat Stanford for the 17th straight time. The Wildcats can clinch the title outright by beating California on Saturday night or if USC loses to UCLA.

Arizona clinched the No. 1 seed in next week's conference tournament because the Wildcats beat USC in their only meeting this season.

Reid Travis scored 23 points for the Cardinal (16-14, 10-7). The loss was a blow to the Cardinal's hopes for a top-four finish in the conference and a first-round bye next week.

Miller returned after a one-game absence, getting a loud welcome from the McKale Center throng as he entered the arena, waving to the fans as his players smiled and clapped.

"Tucson and our fans, they've always been the very, very best to my family and myself, have

supported our basketball program like no other," Miller said. "To see them do that is very emotional and something I'll never forget."

Ristic called the crowd reaction "amazing."

"It was really special not only for the fans but also the players," he said.

Earlier in the day, Miller read a statement to reporters vehemently denying he had approved payment to Ayton, or any player, in his time at Arizona. The university's president said an examination of the facts found no evidence of wrongdoing by Miller and the school was standing by its coach.

ESPN said it is standing by its report that a wiretap shows Miller talking about a \$100,000 payoff to Ayton. Ayton has denied that anything was given to him to attend Arizona.

Ristic said the players hadn't seen Miller all week. The coach said his assistants developed

the game plan.

And from the moment that Miller arrived, the McKale Center crowd was even louder than usual.

"It was a beehive," Stanford coach Jerod Haase said. "I think we did take, in some ways, a step forward tonight in being able to battle arguably the most talented team in the country, playing for a conference championship with a lot of emotion, a lot of passion out there, so I was proud that we played hard."

Ristic scored nine in a 16-3 run that put the Wildcats up 35-23 on Trier's 12-footer in the lane with 2:02 to play in the half. Arizona led 37-28 at the half behind Ristic's 7-of-8 shooting.

The Cardinal kept the deficit to single digits most of the second half and were down 69-64 after Daejon Davis' dunk with 1:04 to play. Trier made four from the line and Ayton two to finally put away the game.

## College basketball roundup

### No. 1 Virginia escapes Louisville with buzzer beater

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — De'Andre Hunter's three-pointer as time expired gave No. 1 Virginia a 67-66 victory over Louisville on Thursday night in a wild finish that made the Cavaliers the first Atlantic Coast Conference team to go 9-0 on the road in league play.

The Cavaliers (27-2, 16-1) tied the game at 58 with 2 minutes left and overcame another five-point deficit in the final minute. Louisville led 66-64 and tried to inbound with .9 seconds left, but Virginia got the ball after Deng Adel was called for traveling on the baseline.

After a timeout, Hunter got the ball and sank a long three that banked in at the horn.

Ty Jerome scored 21 points for Virginia.

Adel had 18 points for Louisville (19-11, 9-8).

**No. 10 Cincinnati 78, Tu-**

**lane 49:** At New Orleans, Kyle Washington had 16 points, seven rebounds and two blocks, and the Bearcats clinched a share of the American Athletic Conference title.

Cane Broome scored 13 for Cincinnati (26-4, 15-2), whose stifling defensive play helped it build leads as large as 19 in the first half and 33 in the second.

**No. 11 Wichita State 75, UCF 71 (OT):** Shaquille Morris scored 19 points and Conner Frankamp added 16 for the visiting Shockers.

Landry Shamet scored 14 points and had six assists for Wichita State (24-5, 14-3 American Athletic Conference), which has won seven straight.

**No. 15 Michigan 77, Iowa 71 (OT):** At New York, Duncan Robinson made his team's only field goal in overtime, a go-ahead three-pointer with 2:15 left, and the Wolverines

advanced to the Big Ten Tournament quarterfinals.

Fifth-seeded Michigan (25-7) faced fourth-seeded Nebraska on Friday at Madison Square Garden.

**No. 24 Middle Tennessee 82, Western Kentucky 64:** Brandon Walters scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as the host Blue Raiders clinched their second straight Conference USA title.

Nick King scored 18 points and had nine rebounds for Memphis (24-5, 16-1), which cracked the national rankings for the first time in school history last week.

Middle Tennessee shot 55 percent from the field, extending its winning streak to 11.

**Holy Cross 81, Navy 65:** At Annapolis, Md., Jehyve Floyd scored 20 points and the No. 6-seeded Crusaders shot 74 percent in the second half

to beat the third-seeded Midshipmen in a Patriot League quarterfinal.

Holy Cross (12-18) will play No. 2 seed Colgate in a semifinal.

Floyd was 8-for-9 from the floor and had three assists, two blocks and a steal. Austin Butler added 18 points for the Crusaders, who shot 25-for-57 (68 percent) overall and made 25 of their 32 free throws. Floyd and Butler combined for 21 second-half points.

Holy Cross opened the second half on a 23-8 run for a 55-39 lead with 8:32 to play and cruised from there. Floyd scored 10 points and capped the surge with a dunk. The Crusaders were 14-for-19 shooting and made 19 of 23 free throws in the half.

George Kiernan scored 16 points on 6-for-13 shooting for Navy (20-12).

# QB hopefuls get to shine at combine

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — This year's deep class of quarterbacks features as many as a half dozen first-round NFL prospects full of hope, hype and hazard.

There's Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield and questions about the Heisman winner's size and stature. A lot of teams would love UCLA's Josh Rosen for his skills and strength but wonder if he's a good fit in the locker room and their organization.

Wyoming's Josh Allen has enviable size but faces questions about his regression last season. USC's Sam Darnold has to answer queries about his ball security and why he's not throwing at the NFL combine this weekend like the other prospects.

Louisville's Lamar Jackson, the 2016 Heisman winner, needs to prove he's a better pro prospect throwing the ball than catching it. And teams wonder if Oklahoma State's Mason Ru-

dolph can transition to the pro offense after operating exclusively out of the shotgun.

Will these guys be the next Carson Wentz, who ignited the Philadelphia Eagles' Super Bowl run in just his second season before getting hurt and rooting on Nick Foles from the sideline?

Or will they be the next Paxton Lynch, the 2016 first-round flop whose inability to grasp the complexities of the pro game has Broncos GM John Elway once again searching for answers at quarterback?

Elway has found it difficult to land a franchise quarterback from the college ranks like he did in free agency with Peyton Manning six years ago.

Last year, the Broncos cycled through his draft picks Brock Osweiler, Trevor Siemian and Lynch during the team's worst season in decades.

"Believe me, I'm not done swinging and missing," said Elway, who owns the fifth pick in this year's draft. "Misses

don't bother me. We just have to figure out a way to get it right."

Elway could go after a veteran again in free agency such as Kirk Cousins. But the Broncos staff coached Mayfield and Allen at the Senior Bowl and this week and they plan to bring in several of the other top prospects for visits leading up to the draft on April 26.

"There is a possibility of some really good quarterbacks coming out of this draft," Elway said.

Among them:

**Tall order:** Is Mayfield too short? He measured in just over 6 feet tall with a hand size of 9¼ inches, under the standard targets of 6-2 and 9½ inches.

Elway, for one, isn't concerned, about Mayfield's measurements.

"I think that (stigma) has been broken," Elway said. "You've got Drew Brees — they've proven that you can do it. He's obviously very much a competitor. He's had a great college career and won the

Heisman Trophy. He's proved he can play."

Nor is Elway turned off by Mayfield's crossing the line at times.

"A lot of times you get tied up in the emotions of the situation and where he is. I like to see a guy with that kind of passion," Elway said.

**Catch and throw:** Some teams want to see the dual-threat Jackson working out the wide receivers this week and not just slinging it around with the quarterbacks. But Jackson never caught a single pass at Louisville, where he threw for 9,043 yards and 69 touchdowns and ran for 4,132 yards and 50 TDs in 38 games.

"Is there a quarterback that's gone and been a wide receiver successfully?" Elway asked.

Not many. Bert Emmanuel, Kordell Stewart, Antwaan Randle El, Terrelle Pryor.

"I think if he's going to make it," Elway said, "he's making it as a quarterback in the right situation. He's explosive."

## 76ers make sales pitch to LeBron, turn back Cavaliers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — First, the billboards. Now, the scoreboard.

The Philadelphia 76ers are giving LeBron James an eyeful and even more to think about.

J.J. Redick scored 22 points, Joel Embiid had 17 points and 14 rebounds, and the 76ers delivered an in-person sales pitch to James by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 108-97 on Thursday night to end an 11-game losing streak against the Eastern Conference champions.

Rookie Ben Simmons scored 18 and Dario Saric 16, including a critical three-pointer in the closing minutes, for the rising Sixers, who are 8-2 since Feb. 6.

James finished with 30 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, but the superstar couldn't rally the Cavs in the final minutes.

Earlier this week, three billboards urging the three-time champion to sign as a free agent this summer with Philadelphia were unveiled on a busy highway outside Cleveland. The large signs, which were paid for by a Pennsylvania company, are intended to entice James to leave home and join a Sixers team brimming with young talent and potential.

Simmons is sure James knows what's going on in Philly.

"He knows," Simmons said. "He knows. He's a very smart guy. His IQ on the court is amazing."

And if the rumors weren't enough, Embiid posted a photo on Twitter of him and James with the comment: "Trust The Process??? Always a great time playing against one of the best to ever play the game #summer2018goals."

Philadelphia nearly blew

a 13-point lead in the fourth quarter as the Cavs, who never led, got within 95-94 on Kyle Korver's three-pointer with 2:25 left. However, the Sixers showed poise down the stretch by scoring the next eight points to seal an impressive win.

"We're proud of the win," coach Brett Brown said. "Any time you can beat a team LeBron James plays on you must have done something fairly decent. Saric's three really was the back-breaker."

**Lakers 131, Heat 113:** Isaiah Thomas scored a season-high 29 points, Julius Randle added 25 and visiting Los Angeles continued its surge by topping Miami.

Brandon Ingram added 19, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 18 and Kyle Kuzma finished with 16 for the Lakers, who won in Miami for the first time since Feb. 10, 2008. The Lakers shot

59 percent and were 16-for-29 from three-point range.

**Trail Blazers 109, Timberwolves 99:** Damian Lillard scored 35 points after a slow start and host Portland rallied to beat Minnesota for its season-high fifth straight win.

CJ McCollum had 19 points and Jusuf Nurkic added 16 for Portland, which improved to 36-26. It was the first time Portland was 10 games over .500 since the end of the 2014-15 season.

**Kings 116, Nets 111 (OT):** Bogdan Bogdanovic made a go-ahead short runner from the baseline with 1:06 left in overtime, then added a pair of free throws and host Sacramento beat Brooklyn.

Bogdanovic finished with 23 points, De'Aaron Fox added 21 and Willie Cauley-Stein scored 17 to pace five Sacramento players in double figures.



# NASCAR veterans push aside rookies

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kevin Harvick put the brakes on the “New NASCAR!” movement with a dominating victory on a weathered old racetrack.

Away from Daytona, the veterans showed the young new drivers how to race on the dogged surface at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Harvick put on a clinic, and the top eight finishers were the familiar faces that seem to compete for wins every week.

All the new kids who sparkled in the Daytona 500 had their hands full at Atlanta, a track that requires an entirely different skill-set. In the season-opening showcase, the idea is to go as fast as you can while avoiding the mishaps of others.

But the style of racing at Daytona, as well as Talladega, comes just four times a year. The rest of the NASCAR schedule is where the true talent rises. So at Atlanta, where experience matters, the finishing order showed five former series champions — four Daytona 500 winners — cross the finish line in order.

“This is a racetrack that takes a lot of experience, and there’s a lot of things that you have to know about your car and know about the racetrack to get the car around,” Harvick said. “This is where experience pays off.”

That doesn’t fit the fresh narrative that came out of Daytona, where the new crop of NASCAR drivers ruled. Alex Bow-

man won the pole, Chase Elliott and Ryan Blaney won qualifying races, Blaney led the most laps in the Daytona 500, Austin Dillon won the race and Bubba Wallace finished second in his debut. At 27, Dillon is the oldest driver in that bunch.

Harvick, meanwhile, is 42.

The shift in focus to the new generation is not lost on anyone who follows NASCAR, particularly the veteran drivers. Some have nitpicked about the marketing push behind this “New NASCAR!” and they had to have felt the change in dynamic at Daytona.

Denny Hamlin, a former Daytona 500 winner who finished third in the 500 and fourth at Atlanta, shared his thoughts on Twitter on Monday

night by posting a video of pro bowler Pete Weber screaming “Who do you think you are? I am!” after winning his fifth U.S. Open title in 2012. Hamlin added his own message: “All the old drivers after Sunday.”

A reply chided Hamlin that Elliott is the future, and “In a couple years you will be watching him win from your recliner,” the fan wrote. Hamlin didn’t back down. “Agree. But I won’t be on that recliner for some time,” he posted.

This isn’t about jealousy, rather reality. The older drivers know their laps are limited, but they aren’t going to simply go away. Experience matters and it’s going to take seat time for the newcomers to figure out how to contend on a weekly basis.

## NHL roundup

# Staal returns, helps Hurricanes end six-game slide

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Tinged with sadness, the Hurricanes welcomed their captain back to the lineup.

Jordan Staal helped give them the boost they needed toward a playoff push.

Justin Williams scored two goals, Cam Ward stopped 21 shots and the Carolina Hurricanes snapped a six-game losing streak with a 4-1 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday night.

The Flyers had been the hottest team in hockey, winners of six straight overall and riding a 10-0-2 streak for their longest span without a regulation loss since 2003.

They were even 4-0-1 against the Hurricanes in their last five against them at home.

Carolina had an emotional lift in this one to make those numbers trivial.

Staal played for the first time since he and his wife said their infant daughter died of a terminal birth defect. Staal had

missed three games and he re-joined the team Wednesday.

“He’s a lift, spiritually and physically on the ice,” Williams said. “You know he’s going to make the right play. You know he’s going to win a battle. As his linemate, playing tonight, you know he’s going to get the puck to you when it’s a 1-on-1 battle. He’s a very important piece for us, clearly.”

Hurricanes coach Bill Peters said Staal means more to the franchise than just his numbers.

“You need your best players to be your best players and we miss him when he’s not here,” he said. “It’s good to have him back.”

**Bruins 8, Penguins 4:** David Krejci had his fourth career hat trick, David Pastrnak had two goals and an assist, and host Boston had its highest-scoring game since 2012, beating Pittsburgh.

One night after the Boston Celtics posted a season-high 134 points in the same building, the Bruins had their biggest of-

fensive output of the year.

**Panthers 3, Devils 2:** Aleksander Barkov scored two goals to lift host Florida over New Jersey.

Maxim Mamin scored his second NHL goal and Robert Luongo made 29 saves as the Panthers recorded their fourth straight win.

**Lightning 5, Stars 4 (OT):** Cory Conacher scored with 41 seconds left in overtime, and visiting Tampa Bay beat Dallas.

Conacher broke away from Dallas’ Jamie Benn and took a low shot that bounced off goalie Ben Bishop and went in.

**Coyotes 5, Wild 3:** Richard Panik broke a tie midway through the third period and host Arizona rallied for another victory over Minnesota.

Christian Dvorak, Jakob Chychrun, Kevin Connauton and Jordan Martinook also scored, Max Domi had three assists, and Antti Raanta made 31 saves to help the NHL-worst Coyotes end Minnesota’s winning streak at five games.

**Predators 4, Oilers 2:** Viktor Arvidsson scored a pair of goals as visiting Nashville rallied for a victory over Edmonton.

Scott Hartnell and Austin Watson also scored for the Predators, who have won six straight.

**Sharks 7, Blackhawks 2:** Joe Pavelski scored twice and host San Jose reached a season high in goals in a victory over Chicago.

Logan Couture, Timo Meier, Kevin LaBanc, Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Barclay Goodrow also scored for the Sharks, who won their second straight at home after dropping three in a row on the road.

**Kings 5, Blue Jackets 2:** Alex Iafallo scored two goals to lead host Los Angeles back from an early two-goal deficit and beat Columbus.

Nate Thompson, Tanner Pearson and Jeff Carter also scored for the Kings, who won their third straight game. Jonathan Quick stopped 30 shots.