

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, March 4, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## S. Korea sends delegation to N. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea will send a high-level delegation led by its spy chief to North Korea on Monday in a bid to improve relations between the longtime adversaries and to push for a resumption of dialogue with the United States.

It's the latest step in President Moon Jae-in's efforts to extend the detente stemming from the recent Olympics into broader talks with Washington aimed at easing tensions over the North's nuclear weapons program.

Moon's office said Sunday that national security director Chung Eui-yong and national intelligence service chief Suh Hoon will fly with eight other officials and support staff to Pyongyang for two days of talks with senior North Korean officials.

It will be the first such group to travel to the communist state in more than a decade.

"The special envoys will have extensive discussions over issues, including ways to create conditions for North-U.S. talks to

denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and improving inter-Korean ties," spokesman Yoon Young-chan said.

The South Korean delegation will then visit Washington to brief U.S. officials about the talks, Yoon added.

North Korea's agreement to participate in the Feb. 9-25 Winter Games has led to a remarkable series of diplomatic breakthroughs, including a visit by leader Kim Jong Un's sister.

She was the first member of the ruling family to visit Seoul since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Kim Yo Jong delivered an invitation from her brother for an inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang. Moon has not accepted, saying the conditions must be right, and the North must actively engage with the United States first.

President Donald Trump, meanwhile, has indicated he would consider talks with the North but insisted denuclearization must be the end goal.

It's unclear how that would work since the

North has insisted its nuclear weapons program is not up for negotiation. Its foreign ministry reiterated Saturday that it would not accept talks with preconditions.

"The dialogue we desire is the one designed to discuss and resolve the issues of mutual concern on an equal footing between states," an unnamed spokesman was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"In decadeslong history of the (North Korean)-U.S. talks, there had been no case at all where we sat with the U.S. on any precondition, and this will be the case in future, too," it said.

Last week, Moon called on Washington to "lower the threshold for talks with North Korea" while adding that "North Korea should show it is willing to denuclearize."

Skeptics have pointed out that the North has agreed to talks in the past only to stall for time to develop its weapons programs and to wring concessions such as aid and eased sanctions from the West.

## Artillery soldiers testing lighter targeting system

*The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer*

Soldiers who eliminate enemy objectives with bombs, missiles and artillery can soon ditch their heavy targeting equipment for new, lighter technology that streamlines plotting and speeds up fire missions.

The Joint Effects Targeting System — a lightweight, all-weather location module — could be fielded to soldiers across the Army as soon as October. Over the summer, soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery's 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment tested the equipment's ability to be dropped from aircraft, then assembled on the battlefield.

"We didn't have a system that every forward observer could use that was man-portable — especially in Afghanistan in

the mountains," said Capt. Eric Munn, assistant product manager for the target equipment. "Let's give them something that weighs 5.5 pounds so they can carry it around and do their job a lot better."

Since soldiers in the 82nd Airborne Division hold the global response force mission that requires them to deploy across the globe within 18 hours, they will be among the first soldiers to receive the equipment.

In field artillery units, forward observers are specialized soldiers who detach from cannon crews to plot targets for elimination. Before a crew can fire on an enemy, the process of a fire mission begins with the forward observer. They use targeting equipment to plot grid coordinates of enemy objectives, which are passed to

a control center that verifies it and ensures it's not a friendly objective.

The data is then passed to the crews that can fire artillery, bombs or missiles.

The entire process can be lengthy, which can be frustrating for units whose core mission is to rapidly discharge munition in support of U.S. or ally forces.

Currently, forward observers use targeting equipment called Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinders, which weigh about 35 pounds. It requires more than one soldier to carry it.

The new, lightweight JETS can be carried by a soldier walking on a patrol. It uses three sources of data to plot enemies on a grid up to 2.5 kilometers away with a 10-meter accuracy radius.

This system also speeds up the process because it streamlines data to get to the control center faster, allowing crews to fire sooner.

During testing at Fort Bragg, airborne soldiers had to ensure the equipment would still be functional after it was dropped from an aircraft. The soldiers pushed the equipment out of aircraft in bundles and also jumped with it, lowering it a few feet from their bodies as they parachuted to the ground.

Once they hit the ground, soldiers are capable of setting up the equipment within minutes.

"There's no other system that does what it does," Munn said. "Soldiers are more lethal — especially dismounted soldiers. They can target faster and more accurately than they used to be able to."

# German view of US much less rosy than during Obama years

BY WILL MORRIS  
*Stars and Stripes*

Since the election of President Donald Trump, Germans have soured on their relationship with the United States, while Americans views of their ally have remained largely positive, according to a new poll.

Only 35 percent of Germans had a favorable view of the United States in 2017, a sharp drop from 57 percent in 2016, according to the Pew Research Center on Global Attitudes and Trends.

At the same time the poll reported that 68 percent of the Americans surveyed said relations between the two nations are good, while 56 percent of Germans think they are bad.

The survey also reported that the share of Germans who have confidence in Trump is 11 percent, a big drop from the 86 percent for Barack Obama during the last year he was in office.

During Obama's eight-year term, the lowest the confidence rate reported was 71 percent in 2014.

Part of the drop could be due to Trump's criticism of issues such as German Chancellor Ange-

la Merkel's refugee policy, or it could be because of the different issues the Americans and Germans tend to focus on.

Forty five percent of Germans surveyed said economic and trade ties were the most important aspect of relationship. A third of the Americans surveyed said economic and trade ties were most important facet, and another third said it was security and defense. Only 16 percent of German respondents thought security and defense ties were the most important issue in U.S.-German relations.

Although the German media are replete with stories of the German armed forces being poorly prepared to meet their obligations to NATO allies, 64 percent of the Germans surveyed said defense spending should stay the same or decrease.

Thirty-two percent said it should increase.

Washington has been urging Berlin for years to boost its defense spending to the level recommended by NATO.

Last year, Germany spent 1.13 percent of its gross domestic product on defense falling, well below the 2 percent goal.

## Marine who hit Iraqi eatery employee avoids prison

*The (Portland) Oregonian*

A man who was a Marine sergeant major when he slammed a chair into the shoulder of an employee at an Iraqi restaurant was sentenced Friday to five years of probation and \$21,000 in fines.

Damien Rodriguez was charged with a hate crime and assault in the incident in Northeast Portland, Ore.

Rodriguez's defense attorney, Sean Riddell, presented evidence that Rodriguez is suffering from post traumatic stress disorder from witnessing fellow soldiers die while in combat in Iraq.

Rodriguez also had been drinking too much and delirious when he hurled insults at staff and customers at the DarSalam restaurant on Northeast Alberta Street last April 21, his attorney said.

Video shows Rodriguez, 41, picking up a chair and swinging it at a male employee, striking him in the neck and shoulders. Rodriguez has said he doesn't remember any of it — the slurs or assaulting the employee with the chair. But he does remember police putting handcuffs on him.

After his arrest, Rodriguez was forced to retire after 20 years of service in the military. His most recent rank was sergeant major, and he'd been awarded the Bronze Star for killing 10 enemy combatants during an ambush in Ramadi in 2004. Ten Marines in his battalion also died that day.

Prosecutor Amity Girt said her office became convinced that Rodriguez's actions were a byproduct of trauma from his military service after delving into the facts of the case and Rodriguez's medical history.

Girt said the two victims in the case — the employee who was struck and a food server who got caught up in the melee — both support Rodriguez's sentence, which allows him to avoid prison.

## Divers locate remains amid WWII wreckage

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A joint underwater recovery team of soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians recently completed an intense two-month excavation of sunken World War II airplanes in Palau, retrieving remains that could belong to long-lost American air crews, the Navy said.

Headed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the team worked from aboard the USNS Salvor near Ngerekebesang Island, completing work on Feb. 25.

Divers worked seven days a week, often 12 hours a day, in search of remains belonging to servicemembers shot down in aircraft in 1944, the Navy said.

The underwater recovery team spent much of that time excavating the area using archeological tools and painstakingly

inspecting the bottom sediment, the Navy said.

"It's very labor intensive work, and they've had a large amount of bottom time making this operation successful," Lt. Cmdr. Tim Emge, 7th Fleet Salvage Officer, said in a Navy statement.

The remains will be analyzed by DPAA. If any positively match missing servicemembers associated with the crash site, the nearest next of kin will be notified. The names will be released to the public after that point.

Designed for underwater salvage work, the USNS Salvor was used to recover the sunken wreckage of a Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey that crashed last summer near Australia, killing three Marines. It also surveyed the wreckage of another Osprey that crashed offshore from Camp Schwab, Okinawa, in 2016.

"The biggest advantage the Navy has with us on the Salvor is that we are standing by for them with a decompression chamber on board for divers, and we have heavy-lift capability," Capt. Mike Flanagan, a civilian mariner and master of the Salvor, said in the statement.

The recovery team used 4-by-8-foot baskets for sifting sand in the hunt for remains. The baskets were dropped about 90 feet to the ocean floor and then filled with sediment that was spread over a large area around the wreckage.

It took roughly five hours to sift through a filled basket, the Navy said.

Ngerekebesang Island was the site of a Japanese submarine base and seaplane ramp during World War II. It was the target of numerous B-24 bombing raids by the United States in 1944-45.



## Police look for motive in Michigan shooting

Associated Press

Investigators were trying to figure out why a Central Michigan University student charged with fatally shooting his parents acted so strangely the day before the killings that he was taken to a hospital.

The shooting happened Friday after James Eric Davis Jr.'s parents picked him up from that hospital and brought him to his dorm to pack up for spring break. University police Chief Bill Yeagley said the teen can be seen on video in the dorm's parking lot with the gun before he entered the residence hall where his parents were shot around 8:30 a.m.

Davis Jr., 19, has been charged with two counts of murder and a weapons charge in the shootings of his father, Eric Davis Sr., and mother, Diva Davis, university spokeswoman Heather Smith said. Davis Sr. was a part-time police officer in Bellwood, Ill., and Yeagley said the gun used by Davis Jr. belonged to his father.

At a press conference Saturday, Yeagley declined to say whether drugs were found in Davis Jr.'s system. He declined to say what type of gun was used or whether it was his father's service revolver.

Davis Jr. was initially taken to a hospital after his arrest early Saturday but will be moved to a jail once he's discharged. It was not immediately clear when

he will make his first court appearance.

Authorities said Davis Jr. fled after the shootings, prompting an intensive manhunt in the area. He was arrested without incident shortly after midnight when someone aboard a train spotted a person along railroad tracks in Mount Pleasant and called police, Yeagley said.

Central Michigan is at Mount Pleasant, about a 285-mile drive from the family's hometown of Plainfield, Ill., in south suburban Chicago. The shooting occurred on a day when parents were arriving to pick up students at the university for the beginning of a weeklong spring break.

Yeagley said witness statements and video indicate that at the time they were shot, Davis Jr.'s parents were in his fourth-floor dorm at the campus' Campbell Hall "simply packing up for spring break."

Davis Sr. had been a member of the Illinois Army National Guard, serving in the Iraq War and later as a recruiter, according to Illinois National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Brad Leighton.

An officer was so concerned about Davis Jr.'s erratic behavior that he had spoken to his mother about possible drug use before the parents arrived on campus.

"The mother said she, too, was concerned this could be drugs," he said.

## Combatives contest is more than MMA

The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

Some of the best fighters from across the U.S. military descended on Fort Bragg last week for the Army's de facto combatives championship.

On Saturday, eight soldiers were crowned as champions and a team from Fort Campbell, Ky., claimed top honors.

The 2018 Fort Bragg Combatives Tournament Invitational was spread across three days, with the final bouts held at Sports USA.

The Fort Campbell team defended the title it won last year despite its soldiers losing their first four fights of the final. Fort Campbell fighters won three of the eight championship bouts, tied with Fort Bragg for the most. Fort Carson, Colo., was named runner-up of the team competition.

Combatives is similar to mixed-martial arts but designed to help soldiers fight hand-to-hand. The tournament was an opportunity for the Army's best fighters to test their mettle against competitors from across the force.

For the first time, the Fort Bragg tournament included a tactical team competition that asked soldiers to apply their combatives skills in a scenario mimicking a real-world mission.

Soldiers from Fort Campbell and Fort Carson performed a

demonstration, moving through the restaurant in full tactical gear and armed with padded weapons while detaining several soldiers playing the part of potential combatants.

Sgt. 1st Class Marques Daniels, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Fort Bragg's Combatives School, said addition was important in that it showed the importance of the combatives program in a true combat situation.

"We love getting in the cage and the tactical enclosure and fighting for you guys," he said. "But this is the Army ... This is not MMA. This is not Ju-jitsu. This is not kickboxing."

Officials said they believed the tactical team event was the future of Army combatives.

Sgt. 1st Class Josh McLean, a special operations combatives instructor with the 3rd Special Forces Group, said the goal of the new event was to show soldiers that combatives is more than a sport. It's a combat tool.

"We're taking the foundational skills and techniques and applying them to the modern-day battlefield," he said.

The Fort Bragg Combatives Tournament Invitational is the largest competition of its kind in the military, created after the U.S. Army dropped support for an All-Army Combatives championship. More than 100 servicemembers entered last week's competition.

## Man commits suicide in front of White House

New York Daily News

A man committed suicide outside the White House on Saturday, sparking panic and sending parts of the nation's capital into lockdown.

The Secret Service first said it was responding to reports of a self-inflicted shooting along the White House's north fence around noon.

The sound of gunfire echoed across the grounds, and report-

ers said they were told to stay inside the White House.

Video taken near the presidential residence showed crowds of people running away from the area as Metropolitan Police raced toward the scene.

President Donald Trump was in Florida at the time. He spent the night at Mar-a-Lago, his Palm Beach estate, and attended a Republican fundraiser Friday night.

The White House said it was aware of the situation and that Trump had been briefed.

Streets surrounding the White House were closed, and tourists were kept at bay as police cordoned off a large part of Pennsylvania Avenue across from Lafayette Square.

The local police said later that an "adult male has been declared deceased. We are working to notify next of kin."

No other injuries were reported.

The incident came a week after an armed Tennessee woman slammed her car into a security barrier near the western entrance of the White House.

Jessica Ford, of La Vergne, Tenn., was arrested after she crashed her van into a barrier at the corner of E and 17th streets, the Secret Service said.

# East cleans up after nor'easter

Associated Press

BOSTON — Coastal communities in the Northeast experienced damaging high tide flooding and the lingering effects of powerful, gusting winds Saturday even as residents tried to shake off a nor'easter that had already inundated roads and basements, snapped trees and knocked out power to more than 2 million homes and businesses from Virginia to Maine.

All along Massachusetts' heavily populated coast that includes Boston and Cape Cod, Saturday's midday high tide saw roaring, white-capped waves crashing onto shorelines, the churning surf battering beachfront homes, dousing docks and harbors and taking huge chunks out of the eroding coastline.

Residents elsewhere bailed out basements and surveyed the damage while waiting for

power to be restored, a process that power companies warned could take days in parts.

By Saturday evening, power outages on the East Coast had dipped by about 500,000 from a peak of 2 million earlier in the day. Officials said the lingering wind gusts — up to 40 mph in some areas — were slowing power repair efforts by tens of thousands of utility workers even through the main thrust of the storm had moved some 350 miles southeast of Cape Cod that morning.

The death toll from the storm increased by three, with authorities saying at least eight people had lost their lives.

A 25-year-old man in Connecticut, a 57-year-old Pennsylvania man and a 37-year-old Massachusetts man were killed when trees fell on their vehicles Friday. The other five people killed included two children. A man and a 6-year-old boy were killed in different parts of Vir-

ginia, while an 11-year-old boy in New York state and a man in Rhode Island, both died. A 77-year-old woman died after being struck by a branch outside her home near Baltimore.

The storm prompted more than 2,800 flight cancellations, mostly in the Northeast on Friday. A day later, airports from Washington, D.C. to Boston were still reporting dozens of delays and cancellations, but they were recovering.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency Saturday, joining governors in Maryland and Virginia who had earlier made the declarations.

Floodwaters in Quincy, Mass., submerged cars and trapped people in their homes. Local first-responders and National Guard troops rescued dozens of people overnight and were continuing to implore people not to try and navigate floodwaters on their own.

# Merkel set for 4th term

BERLIN — Germany's Social Democratic Party said Sunday its members have voted in favor of joining a coalition with Angela Merkel's conservative bloc, clearing the last major hurdle to the formation of a new government and a fourth term for the veteran German chancellor.

The decision ends almost six months of uncertainty in German politics, the longest the country has been without a government in its post-war history.

The center-left Social Democrats had furiously debated whether to extend the so-called grand coalition for another four years after suffering a slump in September's election. In the end, two-thirds of the valid votes cast by its 464,000 members favored a coalition deal, said party treasurer Dietmar Nietan, who oversaw the ballot.

Parliament is expected to meet next week to elect Merkel as chancellor.

Activists at the Social Democrats' headquarters in Berlin had worked through the night to count the votes. A "no" vote would have been a blow for the party's leadership — who campaigned for members' approval — and for Merkel, who spent months negotiating with rival parties to form a new government.

After September's election, in which the Social Democrats received just 20.5 percent of the vote, then-leader Martin Schulz had ruled out another grand coalition with Merkel. This forced Merkel to negotiate with two smaller parties, one of which eventually rejected a deal.

Pressure from German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier prompted Schulz to rethink and weeks of haggling between his party and Merkel's bloc resulted in a coalition agreement. Fewer Social Democrats approved the deal this time round than in 2013, when 76 percent of members backed a government with Merkel.

# Lawmakers set to approve Xi power grab

Associated Press

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping is poised to make a historic power grab as China's legislators gather beginning Monday to approve changes that will let him rule indefinitely and undo decades of efforts to prevent a return to crushing dictatorship.

This year's gathering of the ceremonial National People's Congress has been overshadowed by Xi's surprise move — announced just a week ago — to end constitutional two-term limits on the presidency. The changes would allow Xi, 64, already China's most powerful leader in decades, to extend his rule over the world's second-largest economy possibly for life.

"This is a critical moment in China's history," said Cheng Li, an expert on elite China politics at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

The move is widely seen as the culmination of Xi's efforts since being appointed leader of the ruling Communist Party in 2012 to concentrate power in his hands and defy norms of collective leadership established over the past two decades. Xi has appointed himself to head bodies overseeing national security, finance, economic reform and other major initiatives, effectively sidelining the party No. 2, Premier Li Keqiang.

The constitutional amendment would upend a system enacted by former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1982 to prevent a return to the

bloody excesses of a lifelong dictatorship typified by Mao Zedong's chaotic 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution.

Passage of the proposed constitutional amendment by the congress' nearly 3,000 hand-picked delegates is all but certain. But observers will be looking to see how many delegates abstain from voting as an indication of the reservations the move has encountered even in the political establishment.

Chinese authorities have tightly controlled discussion about the move, scrubbing social media of critical and satirical comments. State media have been largely muted about the topic, but the official People's Daily sought to reassure the public by saying in a commentary that the move did not signal a return to lifelong rule.

Still, a number of prominent Chinese figures have publicly protested the move, despite the risk of official retaliation.

Li Datong, a former editor for the state-run China Youth Daily, wrote that lifting term limits would "sow the seeds of chaos" and urged Beijing's lawmakers to exercise their power by rejecting the amendment.

Many expressed shock and disbelief at what they perceived to be a return to the Mao era, and the massive upheaval, violence and chaos of the Cultural Revolution 50 years ago that has barely faded from memory.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Farmer rescued after chin-deep in grain bin

**IL** IVESDALE — Authorities in central Illinois said a farmer was rescued after becoming trapped in a grain bin while trying to unclog an auger.

Ivesdale Fire Chief James Brewer told The (Champaign, Ill.) News-Gazette that the farmer became submerged in beans up to his chin Friday. Brewer said numerous fire departments, the Urbana Technical Rescue Team and others rescued the man.

Brewer said the farmer was conscious, breathing and alert when he was pulled from the beans about two hours later.

### Truck driver fired after urinating near cows

**VT** HIGHGATE — Officials said a dairy truck driver caught on surveillance camera urinating near dairy cows in Vermont has been fired.

Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts said investigators are looking into the matter. Local police also have been contacted.

Darleen Tremblay of Tremblay Farm in Highgate told WCAX-TV that she was “shattered” when the surveillance footage came to her attention.

There have been no charges. But Monica Massey of the Dairy Farmers of America said the driver’s behavior was unacceptable regardless of whether any laws were broken.

### NYPD officer charged with exposing himself

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City police officer was charged with public lewdness after authorities said

he exposed himself to five female officers while he was on duty.

The Brooklyn district attorney’s office said Officer Anthony Avosso exposed himself on three occasions to one of the female officers between September and last month while they were alone in an office at their station house.

The female officer filed a complaint with her union, the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association.

Prosecutors said an internal affairs investigation found that the Avosso, 31, had exposed himself to four other female officers.

### Pastor: Loaded gun found in student’s bag

**SC** SPARTANBURG — A pastor of a church day care in South Carolina said a teacher found a loaded gun in a student’s lunch bag and safely confiscated it.

Lake Bowen Baptist Pastor Brad Atkins told the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg it appears the child’s mother put the gun in a zippered outer pouch but forgot to remove it when she dropped off her child.

Atkins said the woman had a concealed weapons permit and was carrying the gun after someone tried to carjack her husband.

### Dog saves man’s life by barking at house fire

**NC** SHAWBORO — A North Carolina man said his dog saved his life by waking him from a nap and barking when his home caught fire.

Adrian Woodley, 48, told The Daily Advance of Elizabeth City that his dog Shadow growled and barked, then jumped out of bed but stopped at the curtain

that divided the bedroom from the rest of the mobile home.

Woodley heard breaking and cracking sounds and then saw smoke in the hallway when he moved the curtain back.

He and Shadow escaped the mobile home, which was destroyed.

### Fire breaks out in fire department building

**MD** BALTIMORE — Baltimore firefighters probably made record time arriving at the scene of a recent fire. That’s because it broke out in the building housing the fire department’s headquarters.

Fire department spokeswoman Blair Skinner told The Baltimore Sun that an electrical fire Thursday triggered the evacuation of the downtown building the fire department shares with the city’s finance and information technology departments.

Skinner said the smoke appeared to have originated on one of the floors above the fire department’s offices.

### Jazz hall’s signature sousaphone stolen

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Be on the lookout for a wraparound tuba: Someone has stolen the signature sousaphone belonging to Preservation Hall in New Orleans.

Creative director and musician Ben Jaffe wrote about it on the traditional jazz venue’s Facebook page, saying he bought it after Hurricane Katrina to replace one lost to the 2005 storm.

He said it was taken after a performance at New Orleans Airlift.

Sousaphones can cost up to \$13,000.

### School to keep mascot name of ‘Millionaires’

**MA** LENOX — Students at a high school want to remain Millionaires.

The Lenox Memorial Middle and High School student council announced last week that a school-wide poll found a majority of students want to keep the sometimes contentious Millionaires mascot.

About 96 percent of the school’s 438 students voted last month. Fifty-one percent voted to keep the nickname, 32 percent wanted to change it, and 17 percent had no opinion.

The nickname is a tribute to wealthy out-of-towners, called “cottagers,” who built mansions during the gilded age and employed the locals.

### Rescuers save 2 eagles with talons locked

**PA** BLOOMSBURG — Two bald eagles with their talons locked were rescued from a Pennsylvania river.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission said in a Facebook post a woman and her 11-year-old daughter saw the two mature, male eagles floating along the banks of the Susquehanna River and contacted police.

Columbia County Game Warden Rick Deiterich said the eagles were likely fighting and dropped to the ground, where they tumbled into the water.

Deiterich estimated the birds were in the cold water for more than two hours, and their muscles had locked up, preventing them from releasing their talons.

They used snare poles to lift the eagles out. They were dried off and taken to a fire department building.

After an hour of warming up, the birds released their hold and flew off.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Griffin gets 20 reps with prosthetic

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — There's always energy in the bench press room at the NFL scouting combine when players grip the crossbar and begin pumping the 225 pounds of free weights as everybody nearby counts the repetitions.

But never like this.

Even Shaquem Griffin, the one-handed do-it-all defender from Central Florida and a late invitee to the combine, didn't expect to do what he did Saturday with his prosthetic left hand.

His personal max was 11 reps, but he had a much more modest benchmark in mind here.

"My goal was six," Griffin acknowledged.

Griffin clipped his prosthetic hand onto the bar, then leaned back.

This wasn't his brother spotting him — the one who he was sure used to surreptitiously help him — but this new spotter was hyping him up and the crowd joined in as did his fellow linebacker prospects.

"Everybody in the stands was hyping me up. I got the guys I'm here with hyping me up. It felt amazing," Griffin said. "I was ready to go. I was ready to attack it."

His chest heaved. And the counting began.

One, two, three.

"I said, this thing feels like

135. Let's go!" Griffin recounted. "And I just started cranking them out."

Four, five, six.

That was easy.

Seven, eight, nine.

The crowd was hollering now.

Ten, 11 — this was his personal best.

Twelve.

A new high.

Thirteen ... 14 ... 15 ... 16.

The crowd was roaring in disbelief.

Seventeen.

Can this really be happening?

Eighteen!

That's one more than his twin brother, Shaquille, managed at last year's combine before the Seattle Seahawks selected the speedy cornerback in the third round of the NFL draft.

Nineteen!

One more ... 20!

"I got chill bumps watching him do 20 reps," said NFL Network analyst Mike Mayock. "I literally choked up a little bit watching him do that and I can't wait to watch him tomorrow."

On Sunday, Griffin will run the 40-yard dash, do some quickness drills and some on-field testing at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Griffin was 4 years old when doctors amputated his left hand a day after his mother found him in the kitchen attempting to cut off his jelly-like fingers, which were in scorching pain

whenever he touched anything, the result of amniotic band syndrome, a congenital birth defect.

Despite having just one hand, he kept up with his twin brother on and off the field.

As dozens of reporters and photographers gathered around him Saturday, Griffin said, "I thought I was going to walk over here and it was going to be like three people."

Not after becoming the best feel-good story of the combine so far — and by far.

"It was amazing, hearing the crowd and having the juices flowing, I mean I felt it," Griffin said. "I didn't know I had it in me."

Griffin said his mindset is he always has to do more than those around him to impress coaches.

"I always hold myself to a higher standard than a lot of people just because if we're running drills, if I drop a ball, they're going to like, 'Well, he dropped the ball because he has one hand.' If anybody else drops a ball, they're going to be like, 'Well, maybe it was a bad ball,'" Griffin said.

As a freshman, he couldn't even lift the 45-pound bar, but then he was fitted with the prosthetic and his mom cried when he did his first pull-up.

"It's amazing to see how far I've come from not being able to bench the bar to throwing up 20 reps of 225 and being able

to compete with the best here," said Griffin, the 2017 American Athletic Conference defensive player of the year.

Griffin, who played D-line, linebacker and safety at the Senior Bowl, said he was going to try to join the defensive back drills Sunday after doing his work with the linebackers.

"I feel like I could just start curling 225 right now and I'm pretty sure come tomorrow, it's going to be adrenaline just going crazy. I'm excited about tomorrow. If I feel this good doing the bench press, I can't wait to see how I am tomorrow."

Griffin said he hopes he's an inspiration to kids everywhere.

"If I can inspire one, and they can inspire another and [soon we'll] inspire a thousand," Griffin said.

As evidenced by the way they were cheering him on in the bench press, he's inspiring his fellow draft prospects at the combine.

"That's kind of cool when you have guys at that top level, the best of the best, and they come and talk to you about you motivating them and inspiring them," Griffin said. "I feel really good hearing that from them. It motivates me to do more and keep pushing when you've got guys all over the place, the top in the country, and they're proud of me."

"That was an amazing feeling, and it makes you enjoy it that much more."

# Hurst is diagnosed with heart condition

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Utah defensive lineman Lowell Lotulelei says Michigan defensive lineman Maurice Hurst Jr. told him Saturday that he had been diagnosed with the same heart condition as Lotulelei's older brother, Star.

The comments came shortly after ESPN.com first reported Hurst will not be allowed to participate in drills.

League spokesman Michael

Signora confirmed that players can be held out based on certain diagnoses but that he believed Hurst was still in town.

Jeff Foster, president of National Football Scouting, declined to confirm details of what happened because of privacy concerns. But he did tell The Associated Press that six to eight players have been withheld from drills this year for reasons players were not aware of before their arrival.

Foster said that number has

stayed relatively consistent over the past 13 years.

Hurst had been rising steadily on mock draft boards.

The 6-foot-2, 280-pound defensive tackle had 59 tackles and 5 1/2 sacks last season. He also had 13 tackles for loss and has been considered one component of a deep class of defensive tackles in this year's draft.

Hurst's father played seven seasons with the New England Patriots as a cornerback.

Word leaked just after de-

fensive linemen and linebackers started talking to reporters at the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis.

"I just found out in the NFLPA meeting that we just had. He just said, 'Star was your brother?' And I said yeah. He's like, 'Man, I just got the same thing that he did,'" Lowell Lotulelei told reporters. "

Five years ago, Star Lotulelei arrived at the combine as the expected first pick in that year's draft.



# Michigan snaps Michigan State streak

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michigan was the best team in the Big Ten Conference at tournament time last year, and things aren't changing.

Mo Wagner scored 14 of his 15 points after a dreadful first half and fifth-seeded Michigan moved within a game of its second straight Big Ten Tournament title with a 75-64 victory over top-seeded Michigan State on Saturday, ending the No. 2 ranked Spartans' 13-game winning streak.

Senior swingman Duncan Robinson said this year feels like 2017 when the Wolverines won the tournament as the No. 8 seed, the lowest seed to win the event.

"I think coming down the stretch in that championship game and how it felt, I think all the guys want that again more than anything," said Robinson, one of five players in double figures in the eighth straight win for No. 15 Michigan (27-7). "We are one step closer, but we still have to stay locked in on the task at hand."

Michigan was to play third-seeded Pur-

due (28-5) on Sunday as the five-day tournament ends at Madison Square Garden. The No. 8-ranked Boilermakers, who edged Michigan twice in the regular season by a combined five points, beat seventh-seeded Penn State 78-70 in the second semifinal.

Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman and Zavier Simpson also had 15 for the Wolverines, who were also the last team to beat Michigan State (29-4), when they did it on Jan. 13. Robinson added 13 points off the bench and Charles Matthews had 12.

Michigan was just too balanced and quick for Michigan State.

The difference was the second half. Wagner got going and the Wolverines lit up the Spartans' defense, hitting 12 of 18 from the field and making 20 of 27 free throws in the final 20 minutes.

Michigan coach John Beilein had a great motivational speech for Wagner, who was 0-for-7 from the field in first 20 minutes.

"Hey, Mo, are you going to make a shot?" Beilein recalled saying. "Because right now you're stinking the place up. Just

make one shot."

Wagner, who finished 4-for-14 from the field, laughed when it was mentioned.

"Coach and I have a really good relationship," said Wagner, who stood in front of the Michigan fans after the game and repeatedly waived his arms to encourage the celebration. "He can say that. That's fine. He told me to pick it up a little bit and make plays."

Miles Bridges had 17 points to lead Michigan State before fouling out late. Jaren Jackson Jr. added 13 and Cassius Winston had 11, but the Spartans only crossed into double figures with the Michigan band revving the Maize and Blue faithful at Madison Square Garden with yet another version of "Hail To The Victors."

"Our mood is we're really mad, but like I said, we're not going to let it affect us in the future," Bridges said.

Michigan next plays Purdue in a game that will give the winner the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The other is sure to get an at-large bid when the field is announced.

## College basketball roundup

# Top-ranked Virginia holds off Notre Dame

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Devon Hall scored 17 points in his final game at John Paul Jones Arena and No. 1 Virginia outlasted Notre Dame 62-57 on Saturday.

Ty Jerome added 13 points for the Cavaliers (28-2, 17-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who won their fifth in a row.

Bonzie Colson, playing in just his second game since missing 15 with a broken foot, had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Irish (18-13, 8-10). Martin Geben added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

**No. 3 Xavier 65, DePaul 62:** At Chicago, Trevon Bluiett scored 22 points, and Xavier set a school record for regular-season wins while clinching the top seed in the Big East.

**No. 4 Villanova 97, Georgetown 73:** Mikal Bridges scored 24 points and Jalen Brunson had 16 points and seven assists and Jay Wright moved into a tie atop host Villanova's career

wins list with 413.

**No. 5 Duke 73, No. 9 North Carolina 64:** Marvin Bagley III had 18 of his 21 points in the second half along with 15 rebounds for Duke.

**Oklahoma State 82, No. 6 Kansas 64:** Kendall Smith scored a career-high 25 points and Mitchell Solomon had 16 points and seven rebounds for host Oklahoma State.

**No. 7 Gonzaga 83, Loyola Marymount 69:** At Las Vegas, Killian Tillie scored 24 points, including making all five three-point attempts, while Johnathan Williams added 20 points for Gonzaga in the West Coast Conference quarterfinals.

**No. 8 Purdue 78, Penn State 70:** At New York, Carsen Edwards scored 27 points and Purdue pulled away to reach the Big Ten Tournament championship game for the second time in three seasons.

**No. 12 Texas Tech 79, TCU 75:** Keenan Evans scored 23 points and host Texas Tech

stopped a four-game losing streak.

**No. 14 Auburn 79, South Carolina 70:** Bryce Brown scored 29 points, making eight three pointers, and the host Tigers claimed a share of the Southeastern Conference title.

**No. 16 Tennessee 66, Georgia 61:** Admiral Schofield scored 23 points to lead Tennessee's second-half comeback Saturday as the host Volunteers won a share of the Southeastern Conference regular-season championship.

**Syracuse 55, No. 18 Clemson 52:** Oshae Brissett and Tyus Battle each scored 17 points for the host Orange.

**No. 19 Arizona 66, California 54:** Deandre Ayton had 26 points and 20 rebounds, helping the Wildcats clinch the Pac-12 regular-season title outright in their final home game of the 2017-18 season.

**Texas 87, No. 20 West Virginia 79 (OT):** Matt Coleman and Kerwin Roach II each scored 22 points and Texas

used an 11-0 run early in overtime to pull away from visiting West Virginia for a victory that was critical to the Longhorns' NCAA Tournament hopes.

**San Diego State 79, No. 21 Nevada 74:** At San Diego, Trey Kell scored six points in the final 1:19 to finish with 17 and fellow senior Malik Pope scored 16 to lead the Aztecs.

**No. 22 Saint Mary's 69, Pepperdine 66:** At Las Vegas, Jock Landale had 17 points and 19 rebounds, and Saint Mary's withstood a scare from Pepperdine in the West Coast Conference quarterfinals.

**Florida 80, No. 23 Kentucky 67:** Jalen Hudson scored 22 points and Chris Chiozza broke the school's all-time assist record as the Gators ended visiting Kentucky's four-game winning streak.

**Marshall 76, No. 24 Middle Tennessee State 67:** Jon Elmore scored 23 points and Marshall swept two games from host Middle Tennessee.



## NHL roundup

# Capitals light up Leafs at Annapolis

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — T.J. Oshie found a moment of tranquility as he stared through the darkness and into the crowd at fans holding their cellphones up to light up the stadium.

With music playing and an opportunity to reflect, he contemplated the spectacle of playing an outdoor game at the U.S. Naval Academy that will go down in the standings as an important 5-2 victory by Oshie and the Washington Capitals over the Toronto Maple Leafs. For Oshie, first star John Carlson and especially the American players on the winning side of the first NHL outdoor game at a service academy, the two points are great but the meaning was more significant.

"I really made a point to soak it all in tonight, to really enjoy it as much as I could," Oshie said after the Capitals' second consecutive victory following a run of four losses in six games. "Tonight was a lot of fun. It was pretty special for me, pretty special for the team here."

The Capitals put on a special performance at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium under the lights that went out because of a power surge with 10 minutes left. A 15-minute delay did nothing to stem the tide of Washington's win that included Alex Ovechkin's 40 goal of the season and 598th of his career.

Ovechkin became the sixth player in NHL history with nine-plus 40-goal seasons, joining Wayne Gretzky (12), Marcel Dionne (10), Mario Lemieux (10), Mike Gartner (nine) and Mike Bossy (nine).

"Forty is good, but 50's better," Ovechkin said. "I still have time to do that."

The offensive fireworks of the first two periods — including three goals in the first 6:19 — matched the pomp and circumstance of the NHL's first

game at a U.S. service academy. Navy midshipmen and Canadian servicemen and women took part in a patriotic pre-game ceremony capped off by a memorable flyover with only the afterburners visible against the night sky.

In one of the best-themed outdoor games to date, the game was played on a rink on top of a facsimile of an aircraft carrier with a replica jet stationed in one corner. Capitals coach Barry Trotz wore a dark Navy cap with a gold "N" on the front as he stood in front of the lit up names of several battles, including Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly says the NHL hopes to stage outdoor games at Army's West Point and the Air Force Academy.

**Lightning 7, Flyers 6:** Steven Stamkos had two goals and three assists for a career-high five points and added a shootout goal for host Tampa Bay.

**Penguins 3, Islanders 2 (OT):** Sidney Crosby finished off a 2-on-1 by burying a shot past Chris Gibson 3:48 into overtime in host Pittsburgh's victor.

**Bruins 2, Canadiens 1 (OT):** Brad Marchand scored 2:06 into overtime to lift host Boston over Montreal.

**Blackhawks 5, Kings 3:** Jonathan Toews broke a tie on a power play with 1:58 left and Chicago beat Los Angeles to snap a seven-game road losing streak.

**Coyotes 2, Senators 1:** Antti Raanta made 23 saves and host Arizona rallied to beat Ottawa.

**Stars 3, Blues 2 (OT):** Jamie Benn scored 3:04 into overtime to lift host Dallas past St. Louis.

**Rangers 3, Oilers 2:** Mika Zibanejad had a goal and an assist, and Alexander Georgiev made 35 saves for his first NHL win as the resurgent New York Rangers held off host Edmonton.

## NBA roundup

# Rockets hold off Celtics

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Eric Gordon scored 29 points off the bench, James Harden had 26 points and 10 assists, and the Houston Rockets outlasted the Boston Celtics 123-120 on Saturday night to extend their winning streak to a season-high 15 games.

Houston trailed by six before using a 10-2 run, with the last five points coming from Trevor Ariza, to take a 117-115 lead with 1:16 remaining. Ariza made a three-pointer before stealing the ball from Kyrie Irving and finishing with a basket on the other end to cap the run.

**Nuggets 126, Cavaliers 117:** Gary Harris scored 32 points, Will Barton added 23 and Denver did most of its damage behind the three-point arc in a win over LeBron James and Cleveland.

**Lakers 116, Spurs 112:**

Lonzo Ball hit a career-best six three-pointers, Julius Randle had 25 points and visiting Los Angeles rallied in the final two minutes to beat San Antonio.

**Trail Blazers 108, Thunder 100:** CJ McCollum scored 28 points, Damian Lillard had 20 and Portland won its sixth straight game with a victory over visiting Oklahoma City.

**Jazz 98, Kings 91:** Donovan Mitchell scored eight of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and Utah beat host Sacramento.

**Magic 107, Grizzlies 100:** Evan Fournier broke a tie on a long three-pointer with 22.5 seconds left, and Orlando rookie Jonathan Isaac helped preserve the lead with his third block of the game in a win that stretched visiting Memphis' losing streak to 13 games.

**Heat 105, Pistons 96:** Kelly Olynyk and Josh Richardson each scored 17 points, and host Miami enhanced its playoff hopes with a win over Detroit.

## Briefly

# Ortega stops Edgar, Cyborg defends belt at UFC 222

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Brian Ortega needed less than one round at UFC 222 to do something that had never done before.

After becoming the first person ever to knock out Frankie Edgar, there's no telling what this Californian could do next.

Ortega stopped the former UFC champion on a devastating uppercut with 16 seconds left in the first round, and Cris "Cyborg" Justino defended her featherweight title with a first-round stoppage of Yana Kunitskaya at UFC 222 on Saturday.

Edgar (21-6-1) was stopped for the first time in his 13-year mixed martial arts career by Ortega (14-0), who likely earned a featherweight title shot against dominant champion Max Holloway.

Cyborg (20-1, 1 no-contest) finished the show with her 10th

consecutive victory against Kunitskaya (10-4), a Russian veteran making her UFC debut on short notice. The champion had little trouble, hurting Kunitskaya repeatedly with strikes before finishing her off with ground-and-pound.

## Wilder survives, stops Ortiz in 10th round

NEW YORK — Deontay Wilder survived a pummeling from Luis Ortiz, then knocked out the challenger in the 10th round Saturday night to retain his WBC heavyweight title.

It was over with 55 seconds to go in the 10th after Ortiz went down for the second time in the round from a right uppercut and referee David Fields stopped it.

Wilder is 40-0 with 39 knockouts. This easily was his toughest bout.