

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy enacts most recommended changes

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has enacted nearly all the changes recommended in two 2017 reports it ordered after two fatal collisions at sea involving U.S. warships, the vice chief of naval operations recently told Congress.

Of the 117 changes the reports recommended — later trimmed to 103 — 91 were put in place, according to a Feb. 25 memorandum to Congress by Adm. William Moran. Those changes were meant to address years of underfunded operations, an increased pace of operations and an erosion of safety standards, according to the reports.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer ordered the reports to identify problems that led to the separate tragedies involving ships of the Japan-based 7th Fleet. He tasked the Navy with conducting a comprehensive review in August 2017 and the following month asked an independent team of subject matter experts to conduct a separate strategic readiness review.

The USS Fitzgerald collided with a Philippine container ship in June 2017, killing seven sailors. Two months later, the USS

John S. McCain ran into a Liberian merchant vessel, resulting in the deaths of 10 sailors.

Both destroyers sustained millions of dollars in damages.

A little more than a year after the reports came out, Moran in his memo declared the service “currently safe to operate and a more effective Navy than we were a year ago.”

While the memorandum provides the most detail yet on the changes made after the tragic collisions, some in Congress are pushing for more information to ensure safety standards are being met.

In a heated exchange last month, Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, challenged Adm. Philip Davidson, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, for more detail about the progress of the implementation of the recommendations.

“I would like to see specific data on where we stand with issues like certification of sailors and personnel on the ships, training rules, staffing levels — and I want real numbers,” King told Davidson at an Armed Services Committee hearing Feb. 12. “I don’t want general, ‘we’re working on staffing or we’re working on more training’ because these were avoidable tragedies.”

Davidson directed King to Moran’s report and said those numbers “were all readily available.”

The report highlighted several recommendations that have been implemented and offered some numbers, but Moran did not list all changes in his memo.

Moran in his memo said all ships reported implementing the suggested sleep schedules since the policy was rolled out in November 2017, but “anecdotal feedback indicates uneven compliance during manpower-intensive operation scenarios.”

In the past year, the Navy has also issued several assessments of leadership, including fleet-wide officer-of-the-deck competency checks. Results revealed “deficiencies in practical applications of the Maritime Rules of the Road,” but 91 percent of test takers passed the assessments, according to the memorandum. As a result, the Navy developed two new junior officer-of-the-deck courses for training.

Another assessment of surface warfare officers was improved to better gauge the proficiency of prospective commanding officers. Of the 103 officers who were assessed, five were removed from the command pipeline, according to the memorandum.

## AFRICOM denies US airstrikes killed civilians in Somalia

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTT GART, Germany — U.S. airstrikes have caused the deaths of numerous civilians in Somalia, where the military’s targeting methods could be in violation of international law, a new human rights report said Wednesday.

U.S. Africa Command has expanded its counterterrorism mission in Somalia with the number of airstrikes tripling since April 2017 — a spike that coincides with a Trump administration policy to grant military commanders broader authority. During that time,

AFRICOM public statements announcing strikes have repeatedly said that no civilians were believed to have been caught in the raids.

However, Amnesty International in a report released Wednesday found five incidents in which 14 civilians were killed and eight injured in strikes. During its investigation, Amnesty said it found “credible evidence” that U.S. strikes in Lower Shabelle — an administrative region in southern Somalia — were responsible for four of the incidents and that the fifth was “most plausibly” caused by a U.S. airstrike.

The reported attacks hap-

pened between April 2017 and December 2018.

“In the incidents presented in this report, civilians were killed and injured in attacks that may have violated international humanitarian law (IHL) and could, in some cases, constitute war crimes,” Amnesty International said in its report called “The Hidden U.S. War in Somalia.”

Hours before the release of the Amnesty report, AFRICOM announced that it carried out another strike in Somalia, which it said killed three terrorists.

“Also, we are aware of reports alleging civilian casualties re-

sulting from this airstrike,” AFRICOM said in a Tuesday statement. “As with any allegation of civilian casualties we receive, U.S. Africa Command will review any information it has about the incident, including any relevant information provided by third parties.”

Regarding the Amnesty report, AFRICOM said Tuesday: “Our assessments found that no AFRICOM airstrike resulted in any civilian casualty or injury. Our assessments are based on post-strike analysis using intelligence methods not available to non-military organizations.”

# Ship-in-a-box becomes model training tool

BY JOSHUA KARSTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — The boarding party swept through the boat, rifles at the ready, looking for stashes of illicit cargo, but they wouldn't encounter the typical challenges — livestock, rotting fruits and vegetables, or hostile crews — and they weren't even at sea.

Dubbed the “ship-in-a-box,” the full-scale fishing dhow inside a warehouse has become a key training tool in efforts to combat threats in Middle East waters, such as drug trafficking, that fund extremists in places like Afghanistan.

It's run by the Maritime Engagement Team, a group of 10 U.S. Coast Guardsmen who specialize in maritime enforcement operations.

Known as the MET Facility, the compound also includes a pair of stacked shipping containers simulating cargo aboard a ship and is in high

demand from U.S. and partner forces.

The team recently took Stars and Stripes on a walk-through of the facility to show how it uses it to practice safety sweeps, close-quarter battle techniques, quick exits and searches.

“They're searching for illicit materials and we're trying to deter illicit activities,” said Coast Guard Capt. John Gregg, the team's commander. “Sometimes there are narcotics that are found, and we have had experiences where boarding teams have found weapons.”

The facility has been around since 2003, mainly to keep Coast Guard members up-to-date on qualifications, but it has recently become a valuable training environment where the Americans and partner countries can share best practices. The team's 2019 calendar is already fully booked, officials said.

“We realized that we really

had the capacity here, and as we began to build our own capability with this facility, it really had a lot of promise,” Gregg said. “So, we started to have engagements with partners and that demand signal grew.”

Last year, 27 countries sent nearly 800 participants to the facility.

Earlier this year, security forces from four Gulf countries came together with the Americans at the facility for an exercise in ship-boarding tactics.

“Each country has unique methods when it comes to inspection and approach,” said Capt. Saleh Alfodary of the Kuwaiti coast guard, in a U.S. Army video in January highlighting the exercise involving Kuwaiti, Saudi, Bahraini and Emirati teams. “This exercise was held on the basis of standardizing methods of inspection, uniting our understanding and theories and creating a foundation for cooperation

and relationships between the largest nations in the Arabian Gulf.”

The increased demand for the facility comes as boarding parties, known as visit, board, search and seizure teams, have scored some of the largest smuggling busts since the Combined Maritime Force here transitioned from a U.S. force to a multinational counterterrorism and maritime security coalition after 9/11.

Just before Christmas, the British destroyer HMS Dragon boarded a pair of dhows carrying nearly 11 tons of illegal drugs — the largest CMF bust so far. In December and January, the U.S. destroyer USS Chung-Hoon busted two more vessels hauling about 10 tons of hashish in the Gulf of Aden.

To hone their skills prior to the busts, Chung-Hoon's boarding team had trained at the ship-in-a-box and had received training onboard their own ship.

## Army plans short-term Pacific rotations for thousands of GIs

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Army plans to rotate thousands of soldiers from the mainland through short-term Pacific deployments in pursuit of becoming a more expeditionary force, Army officials said Tuesday.

“The forces already assigned will remain assigned,” said Gen. Robert Brown, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, referring to the roughly 85,000 soldiers in the theater, primarily stationed in South Korea, Hawaii, Washington and Alaska.

“We will bring forces from [the mainland] over,” he said during a media roundtable at U.S. Army Pacific headquarters that included Army Under Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Gen. James McConville, vice chief of staff of the Army.

Brown said the number of

troops to be tapped annually has not yet been set and would vary depending upon circumstances and the preferences of allies and partner nations hosting the troops.

“It would be a division headquarters and several brigades — you know, 5,000, 10,000 rotating over,” he said. “I would hesitate to throw a number out. It'll depend on the scenario. It'll depend on the exercise. There will be a continued focus on the assigned forces staying and the additional forces to come.”

McConville described the planned rotations as part of Dynamic Force Employment, a key component of the National Defense Strategy released by the Pentagon last year, which emphasized America's shift to so-called “great power competition.”

“We're talking about moving troops into a place with certain capabilities based on the partners we're dealing with

— move them out and move them back,” he said. “And then have the agility to move around the globe and in this theater the way we need to in response to our partners.”

“They're expeditionary. They're rotational. They're not long-term. They're not permanent. But we can move them the way we need to, depending on the mission requirements.”

The beefed-up rotations would dovetail with U.S. Army Pacific's evolving plans for Pacific Pathways and the new Multi-Domain Task Force.

Pacific Pathways, which launched in 2014, strings together already established Army exercises with allies and partner nations throughout the Pacific as a way of keeping U.S.-based troops and equipment deployed beyond the International Date Line for extended periods.

During the first several years, the rotations were a mat-

ter of a few weeks.

This winter, soldiers spent 3½ months in Thailand and are now in the Philippines for four months of joint training, Brown said.

“Next year it will be six months,” he said.

The Army's Multi-Domain Task Force program was piloted in the Pacific and this year is moving on to Europe for its second phase.

During the Pacific pilot, an artillery brigade stood as fires headquarters while integrating with an intelligence, cyber, electronic warfare and space detachment. The task force was first tested at a ship-sinking exercise during last summer's Rim of the Pacific drills in Hawaii. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley has since directed the Multi-Domain Task Force be built up to counter potential attempts by adversaries to deny access in those domains by U.S. forces.

# Trump and allies see upside to probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a witch hunt, a vendetta, the worst presidential harassment in history.

That's what President Donald Trump has shouted for two years about the special counsel's Russia probe. Now, barring an eleventh-hour surprise, Trump and his allies are starting to see it as something potentially very different: a political opportunity.

With Robert Mueller's findings expected any day, the president has grown increasingly confident the report will produce what he insisted all along: no clear evidence of a conspiracy between Russia and his 2016 campaign. And Trump and his advisers are considering how to weaponize those possible findings for the 2020 race, according to current and former White House officials and presidential confidants who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A change is underway as well among

congressional Democrats, who have long believed the report would offer damning evidence against the president. The Democrats are busy building new avenues for evidence to come out, opening a broad array of investigations of Trump's White House and businesses that go far beyond Mueller's focus on Russian interference to help Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

No one knows exactly what Mueller will say, but Trump, his allies and members of Congress are trying to map out the post-probe political dynamics.

One scenario would have seemed downright implausible until recently: The president will take the findings and run on them, rather than against them, by painting the special counsel as an example of failed government overreach and Trump himself as the victim who managed to prove his innocence.

The top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said on the House floor last week that

he had a "news flash" for Democrats who had high hopes that the report would be damaging to Trump.

"What happens when it comes back and says none of this was true, the president did not do anything wrong?" Collins asked. "Then the meltdown will occur."

Trump's tweeted version was even more graphic: The Democrats' House investigative committees were going "stone cold CRAZY."

That was in reaction to Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler's document requests to 81 people, businesses and organizations related to Trump.

Adam Schiff, chairman of the intelligence committee, also said there's much more to look into. Mueller, he said, "can't be doing much of a money laundering investigation" if he hasn't subpoenaed Deutsche Bank, which has loaned millions of dollars to Trump.

## Cutter in East China Sea with eye on North Korea

BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A U.S. Coast Guard cutter tasked with enforcing United Nations sanctions against North Korea completed a patrol of the East China Sea earlier this month.

The cutter *Bertholf* arrived March 3 at Sasebo Naval Base, according to a statement issued Monday by U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area.

The U.N. Security Council has imposed a number of economic sanctions on North Korea in response to its developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

The Coast Guard helps enforce those sanctions by keeping a lookout for prohibited ship-to-ship transfers of fuel, such as coal, and goods.

The Coast Guard did not say whether the *Bertholf* had interrupted any illicit transfers.

The *Bertholf*, first of the Coast Guard's new National Se-

curity cutters, left its homeport of Alameda, Calif., with its crew of 170 on Jan. 20 for deployment in the Western Pacific.

The cutter's presence also reinforces the U.S. commitment to keeping the East China Sea open to navigation, according to the Coast Guard.

"The United States is a Pacific nation," Vice Adm. Linda Fagan, commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area, said in the statement. "We have deep and long-standing ties with our partners in the region, and more importantly, we share a strong commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, governed by a rules-based international system that promotes peace, security, prosperity and sovereignty of all nations."

Prior to its patrol in the East China Sea, the *Bertholf* hosted Japan Coast Guard officers aboard the ship during a visit to Yokosuka.

"The U.S. Coast Guard is proud to operate with our Pacific counterparts," Fagan said.

## Trump welcomes Brazil's Bolsonaro at White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump welcomed Brazil's new far-right leader to the White House on Tuesday and made clear that flattery pays.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro — the "Trump of the Tropics" — ran an unabashedly pro-Trump, pro-American campaign last year, emulating Trump in tone and style. It seems to have paid off for Bolsonaro on his first official trip to Washington.

Trump announced that he had agreed to designate Brazil a "major non-NATO ally" — something Brazil had pursued to smooth U.S. weapons purchases and military coordination. Trump even said he'd be open to granting full NATO membership to Latin America's largest and most populous nation, even though Brazil doesn't qualify to join the alliance.

The showing was the latest example of the premium Trump puts on personal relationships and the extent to

which he's willing to work with those who sing his virtues. And it renewed focus on the growing wave of populist strongmen who have captured voters' support with blunt admonitions of "political correctness" and hardline immigration views.

As they sat down for the first time, Trump hailed Bolsonaro's run as "one of the incredible campaigns," saying he was "honored" it had drawn comparisons to his own 2016 victory. And he predicted the two would have a "fantastic working relationship," telling reporters they have "many views" in common.

Standing side-by-side in the White House Rose Garden, Bolsonaro said their countries "stand side by side in their efforts to ensure liberties and respect to traditional family lifestyles, respect to God, our Creator, against the gender ideology or the politically correct attitudes and against fake news."

# Floods could cost Midwest farms millions

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Farmer Jeff Jorgenson looks out over 750 acres of cropland submerged beneath the swollen Missouri River, and he knows he probably won't plant this year.

But that's not his biggest worry. He and other farmers have worked until midnight for days to move grain, equipment and fuel barrels away from the floodwaters fed by heavy rain and snowmelt. The rising water that has damaged hundreds of homes and been blamed for three deaths has also taken a heavy toll on agriculture, inundating thousands of acres, threatening stockpiled grain and killing livestock.

In Fremont County alone, Jorgenson estimates that more than a million bushels of

corn and nearly half a million bushels of soybeans have been lost after water overwhelmed grain bins before they could be emptied of last year's crop. His calculation using local grain prices puts the financial loss at more than \$7 million in grain alone. That's for about 28 farmers in his immediate area, he said.

Once it's deposited in bins, grain is not insured, so it's just lost money. This year farmers have stored much more grain than normal because of a large crop last year and fewer markets in which to sell soybeans because of a trade dispute with China.

"The economy in agriculture is not very good right now. It will end some of these folks farming, family legacies, family farms," he said. "There will be farmers that will be dealing with so much of a nega-

tive they won't be able to tolerate it."

Jorgenson, 43, who has farmed since 1998, reached out to friends Saturday, and they helped him move his grain out of bins to an elevator. Had they not acted, he would have lost \$135,000.

Vice President Mike Pence surveyed flooded areas in Nebraska on Tuesday, where he viewed the raging Elkhorn River, talked to first responders and visited a shelter for displaced people. He promised expedited action on presidential disaster declarations for Iowa and Nebraska.

"We're going to make sure that federal resources are there for you," Pence told volunteers at Waterloo, a town of less than 1,000 residents about 21 miles west of Omaha that was virtually cut off by the floodwaters.

# Death toll from cyclone rises in Africa

Associated Press

CHIPINGE, Zimbabwe — Mozambique on Wednesday began three days of national mourning for more than 200 victims of Cyclone Idai, while the death toll rose over 100 in neighboring Zimbabwe from one of the most destructive storms to strike southern Africa in decades.

Torrential rains are expected to continue into Thursday and floodwaters are still rising, according to aid groups trying to get food, shelter and clothing to desperate survivors. It will be days before Mozambique's inundated plains drain toward the Indian Ocean.

People have been clinging to rooftops

and trees since the cyclone roared in over the weekend. The United Nations humanitarian office said the town of Buzi, with about 200,000 people, was at risk of becoming at least partially submerged.

"Floodwaters are predicted to rise significantly in the coming days and 350,000 people are at risk," the U.N. office said.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa received a somber welcome in the hard-hit mountain community of Chimanimani near the border with Mozambique. Zimbabwean officials have said about 350 people may have died. Some bodies from Zimbabwe have been swept down the mountainside into Mozambique.

"Some of the peasants in Mozambique were calling some of our people to say, 'We see bodies, we believe those bodies are coming from Zimbabwe,'" said July Moyo, the minister of local government.

Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi said late Tuesday that more than 200 people were confirmed dead there. After flying over the affected region Monday, he said he expected more than 1,000 deaths.

Aid workers were shocked as they arrived in the Mozambique port city of Beira, estimated to be 90 percent destroyed. The 500,000 residents of the city, which has some neighborhoods that are below sea level, are scrambling for food, fuel and medicine.

# Study links daily marijuana use with psychosis

Associated Press

LONDON — Smoking high-potency marijuana every day could increase the chances of developing psychosis by nearly five times, according to the biggest study to examine the impact of pot on psychotic disorder rates.

The research adds to previous studies that have found links between marijuana and mental health problems, but does not definitively pinpoint marijuana as the cause.

Psychotic disorders — in which people lose touch with reality — are typically triggered by factors including genetics and the environment. But experts say the new study's findings have implications for jurisdictions legalizing marijuana, warning

they should consider the potential impact on their mental health services.

"If we think there's something particular about (high-potency) cannabis, then making that harder to get a hold of could be a useful harm-reduction measure," said Suzanne Gage, of the University of Liverpool, who was not connected to the new study.

Researchers at King's College London and elsewhere analyzed data from a dozen sites across Europe and Brazil from 2010 to 2015. About 900 people who were diagnosed with a first episode of the disorder at a mental health clinic, including those with delusions and hallucinations, were compared with more than 1,200 healthy patients. After surveying the patients about

their use of cannabis and other drugs, researchers found daily marijuana use was more common among patients with a first episode of psychosis compared with the healthy, control group.

The scientists estimated that people who smoked marijuana on a daily basis were three times more likely to be diagnosed with psychosis compared with people who never used the drug. For those who used high-potency marijuana daily, the risk jumped to nearly five times. The paper was published online Tuesday by the journal *Lancet*. It was paid for by funders including Britain's Medical Research Council, the Sao Paulo Research Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Thousands of dead fish wash up in shore town

**NJ** OCEANPORT — State environmental officials say thousands of dead fish washed up in a New Jersey shore community.

The adult menhaden were found Saturday in creeks and bays in Oceanport that are part of the Shrewsbury River estuary in Monmouth County. Officials say the deaths occurred after a large school of menhaden were pursued by predatory fish and depleted the oxygen from the shallow water.

Menhaden are small schooling fish that play a vital role in the ocean food web. They are also harvested commercially for fish oil and use as aquaculture feed.

### Police seek owner of ring left in pet store

**CT** BROOKFIELD — Police are asking the owner of a wedding ring found at a Connecticut pet supply store to come forward to avoid being put “in the dog house.”

Brookfield Police posted on Facebook on Sunday that an honest citizen turned in the wedding ring after finding it at the Petco in town.

They didn't post a photo. Authorities say the owner will need to provide a description of the ring and other details to claim it.

### Civil war flag returned to home state

**ME** SOUTH PORTLAND — An American flag that a Maine regiment brought into battles in Louisiana and Texas during the Civil War has returned to its home state.

The Portland Press Herald reported the torn and tattered 156-year-old flag was delivered in a wooden frame to the Maine Military Museum in South Portland.

The flag will be on display as part of an exhibit on the 15th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The flag had been stored for years at the home of a Colorado woman who was married to the regiment commander's great-grandson.

### Need for hot sauce proves to be lucky

**FL** MIAMI — A customer at a Taco Bell in Winter Haven, Fla., got very lucky over the weekend.

According to a Facebook post from the Winter Haven Police Department, a man was eating his food in the fast food restaurant around 4:30 p.m. Saturday when he decided he needed more seasoning.

Within seconds of him getting up from his seat to retrieve hot sauce, a car crashed through the restaurant.

The vehicle was driven by Emmanuel Akowuah of New York, who had parked right in front of the fast food spot. The 77-year-old told cops that he thought he was placing the car in reverse but accidentally put it into drive.

### Online users mourn loss of albino raccoon

**CA** OAKLAND — Social media users in California posted memorial messages in honor of what is believed to be an albino raccoon.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Oakland residents posted messages mourning the passing of the animal on

the Next Door social networking app.

The newspaper said Oakland resident Pawel Dlugosz posted a photo March 17 of a raccoon that appears to be dead in the Adams Point neighborhood with an orange and flowers laid over its body and at its side.

### Arrested man tried to drink in front of deputy

**WI** PORTAGE — Authorities in southern Wisconsin said a 56-year-old Cambria man arrested on suspicion of his 8th OWI offense tried to drink in front of a deputy.

According to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, a vehicle was reported in a ditch in the Town of Fountain Prairie Saturday night. The caller reported the driver wasn't hurt, but “something wasn't right with the driver.” The caller gave the man a ride home.

When a deputy arrived, the man had returned in another car. When the man was told he would be arrested, authorities say he tried to grab an open liquor bottle from the vehicle and drink from it.

### Police: Windows broken at historic church

**VA** NORFOLK — Police in Virginia are investigating a burglary and vandalism at a historic church.

Norfolk Police issued a news release saying the vandalism was discovered Saturday morning at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Officers observed several shattered windows and saw that a room in a church building had been vandalized.

The current church building was erected in 1739 but was rebuilt after damage during the Revolutionary War.

### Swan released after lead poisoning treatment

**WA** MOUNT VERNON — A trumpeter swan treated for suspected lead poisoning was released back to the wild.

The Skagit Valley Herald reported the swan was found Jan. 17 when it became entangled in a fence and Mount Vernon Animal Control was called in.

The state Department of Fish and Game also was called in because trumpeter swans are a protected species.

The swan was taken to the Whatcom Humane Society's wildlife rehabilitation center after rescuers noticed it was wobbly and stumbling.

Lead poisoning is a common affliction for birds that ingest buckshot.

### Students' beer honors 'George Squashington'

**NH** DURHAM — University of New Hampshire students brewed a butternut squash pale ale using home-grown gourds.

They say the “George Squashington” brew is reminiscent of the pumpkin ales first developed during Colonial times and will be served during the hospitality college's spring dining series April 12-14.

Cheryl Parker, manager of the UNH Brewing Science Lab, said the students brewed a hoppy pale ale that uses English and American Ale yeast, butternut squash, and brown sugar. The base malt is Maris Otter barley from England with caramel malted barley for a sweet, nutty color and flavor.

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# 1-bid conferences have impact players

Associated Press

Vermont's Anthony Lamb is among several players from one-bid conferences capable of leading their teams to major upsets in the NCAA Tournament.

The 6-foot-6 junior forward scored 24 points against Kansas and 25 points against Louisville in the NIT Season Tip Off in November. Although Vermont lost both games, Lamb surely has Florida State's attention.

Vermont (27-6) is the No. 13 seed in the West Regional and faces the Seminoles (27-7) on Thursday at Hartford, Conn.

"I don't really associate the names with the schools," Lamb said. "I think no matter who you are, you have to prove your worth on the court every time you step onto it. I'm just looking forward to going out there and testing my weight versus them and making sure they have to prove themselves to me."

Other notable performers on NCAA Tournament teams from one-bid leagues include Wofford's Fletcher Magee and Buffalo's CJ Massinburg. Murray State guard and likely NBA lottery pick Ja Morant will likely have one or two highlight-reel moments but isn't on this list because the Ohio Valley Conference became a multiple-bid league for the first time since 1987 with both Murray State and Belmont making the field.

Lamb leads the America East Conference in scoring (21.4) and ranks second in rebounding (7.8), making him the clear

choice as the league's player of the year.

A look at some of the players from one-bid leagues worth keeping an eye on:

## Jonathan Galloway Forward, UC Irvine

**First game:** Friday vs. Kansas State in San Jose, Calif.

Most of the people on this list are here because of their scoring ability. Galloway's included because of his defense. The 6-10 fifth-year senior averages only 7 points a game, but he's a three-time Big West Conference defensive player of the year who broke UC Irvine's 44-year-old school record for career rebounds.

## Rapolas Ivanauskas Forward, Colgate

**First game:** Friday vs. Tennessee at Columbus, Ohio.

Colgate won its first Patriot League title in 23 years thanks in part to Ivanauskas, the league's player of the year. Ivanauskas began his college career at Northwestern but struggled with injuries in two seasons before transferring. The 6-10 junior is healthy this year and averaging 16.4 points and 7.9 rebounds.

## Fletcher Magee Guard, Wofford

**First game:** Thursday vs. Seton Hall at Jacksonville, Fla.

Magee will likely become the most prolific three-point shooter in NCAA Division I history at this tournament. The Southern Conference player of the year has made 502 career three-pointers and is only two behind Division I record-holder Travis Bader, who made 504 for Oakland from 2010-14. Magee leads all Division I players with 151 three-point baskets this season.

## CJ Massinburg Guard, Buffalo

**First game:** Friday vs. Arizona State or St. John's at Tulsa, Okla.

Massinburg is a two-time first-team all-Mid-American Conference selection and the reigning MAC player of the year. He averages 18.3 points, 6.6 rebounds and 3.3 assists. The 6-3 senior had a 43-point outburst in a victory over West Virginia and a 25-point performance in a win at Syracuse.

## Drew McDonald Forward/center, N. Kentucky

**First game:** Friday vs. Texas Tech at Tulsa, Okla.

McDonald is a three-time, first-team all-Horizon League performer who was named the league's player of the year this season. The 6-8 senior leads the Horizon League in rebounding (9.6) and ranks second in scoring (19.1). His three-pointer with 1.3 seconds left gave Northern Kentucky a 64-63 victory over Oakland in the Horizon League semifinals.

## Rickey McGill Guard, Iona

**First game:** Friday vs. North Carolina at Columbus, Ohio.

McGill is the first player in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference history to play on four conference tournament championship teams. He was named the most valuable player of this year's MAAC Tournament. The 6-2 senior averages 15.5 points and 5 assists.

## Miye Oni Guard, Yale

**First game:** Thursday vs. LSU at Jacksonville, Fla.

Oni is the Ivy League's player of the year and ranks third in the

league in scoring (17.6), third in assists (3.5) and tied for eighth in rebounding (6.4). The 6-6 junior scored 29 points in a victory over Miami. He had 12 points, nine rebounds and five assists in a loss to Duke.

## Vasa Pusica Guard, Northeastern

**First game:** Thursday vs. Kansas at Salt Lake City.

This fifth-year senior from Serbia scored 20 points in an early season upset of Alabama. Pusica scored 21 points and shot 7-for-12 from three-point range as Northeastern surprised Hofstra in the Colonial Athletic Association championship game. The San Diego transfer averages 17.8 points and 4.2 assists.

## D'Marcus Simonds Guard, Georgia State

**First game:** Friday vs. Houston at Tulsa, Okla.

Simonds is back on this stage after scoring 24 points in an NCAA Tournament loss to Cincinnati last season. The 6-3 junior was named Sun Belt player of the year last season and earned first-team all-conference honors again this year. He averages 18.4 points.

## B.J. Stith Guard, Old Dominion

**First game:** Thursday vs. Purdue at Hartford, Conn.

Stith is the son of Bryant Stith, a former NBA player who remains Virginia's all-time leading scorer. Stith started his college career at Virginia before transferring to Old Dominion, where his dad's an assistant coach. The 6-5 senior is the Conference USA player of the year and averages 16.9 points and 7.4 rebounds.

## Belmont overwhelms Temple, gets first NCAA victory

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — A few seconds were still left on the clock when Fran Dunphy headed to midcourt for his final postgame handshake, the outcome long decided. Belmont was simply too much for his Owls.

Nobody else in the NCAA Tournament is excited to face their efficient offense, either.

Kevin McClain scored 29

points and led the decisive second-half run as Belmont got its first NCAA Tournament win, pulling away to an 81-70 victory Tuesday night and ending Dunphy's career in the First Four.

The 11th-seeded Bruins (27-5) play Maryland on Thursday in the East Region.

"We belong in this tournament," said McClain, who finished two points shy of his

career high. "You can see that."

Belmont got an at-large bid after losing to Murray State in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title game. The Bruins showed the selection committee's faith was not misplaced, getting the breakthrough win on their eighth try.

"I think that they can play in

this atmosphere and this is important," coach Rick Byrd said. "I didn't think many times we played well, or knew what we were in offensively, but they found a way to win. And you never play perfect, and I think they've got some toughness about them."

The loss sent Temple (23-10) into a transition. Dunphy is retiring after his 13th season.

# Fans cheer Ichiro in Mariners' victory

Associated Press

TOKYO — Ichiro drew all the cheers. Most everyone else on the Seattle Mariners did all the hitting.

A crowd that came to salute Ichiro Suzuki in his homeland saw Domingo Santana deliver the biggest hit at the Tokyo Dome, a grand slam that sent Seattle over the Oakland Athletics 9-7 Wednesday in the Major League Baseball opener.

Batting ninth and knowing he'd get two plate appearances, Ichiro popped up and worked a walk. The 45-year-old star took his spot in right field to begin the bottom of the fourth inning, then was pulled to another huge ovation. He was met with hugs from the Mariners on the diamond.

"The fans in Japan probably aren't used to the reception I got from my teammates, but it's not that unusual in the majors," Ichiro said.

Mariners manager Scott Servais said Ichiro will play in Thursday's final game of the series, but there is no guarantee he'll start.

"We certainly want to give him an opportunity to go out and play, but we also want to get some other guys in the game," Servais said. "I understand everybody wants to see him go all nine innings. We're trying to do

the best thing for the team and Ichiro understands."

This marked the earliest opening day ever — the summer sport actually started on the last day of winter. No doubt, most fans in North America were sound asleep when Oakland's Mike Fiers threw the first pitch at 5:36 a.m. EDT (6:36 p.m. local).

A year after the Cubs' Ian Happ homered on the very pitch of the season, the ball again was flying.

Tim Beckham also homered as several Seattle newcomers excelled. Khris Davis, who led the majors with 48 home runs last year, Stephen Piscotty and Matt Chapman connected for the A's.

"It was great. It's a fun crowd to play in front of. Even the pre-game stuff was exciting. I think everybody had a good time," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said.

A packed crowd of 45,787 was buzzing for its favorite star, sending cheers, chants and camera flashes for Ichiro bounding all around the park. Signs and Ichiro jerseys were plenty, too.

Ichiro became the second-oldest position player to start an opener, only a few months younger than Julio Franco was for Atlanta in 2004. Several of

the players in this game weren't born when Ichiro began his pro career.

Ichiro is getting very near the end of a sensational pro career that began in Japan in 1992 when he was at 18. He stopped playing last May to become a Mariners special assistant — after totaling 4,367 hits on both sides of the ocean — and struggled in spring training this year.

Santana, one of many Mariners new to the lineup, had no trouble at the plate. His opposite-field grand slam capped a five-run burst in the third for a 5-2 lead and Beckham's drive in the fifth made it 9-4.

Beckham got three hits and three times. Also making a nice debut for Seattle were Jay Bruce, who singled for MLB's first hit of the season, and Edwin Encarnacion, who scored twice.

The Mariners won for the 12th time in 15 openers. They also beat the A's in 2012 when MLB last started in Japan.

Seattle starter Marco Gonzales hung in for six innings, allowing three earned runs and seven hits, and got the win. Felix Hernandez had started the last 10 openers for the Mariners.

**Not this time:** After a lot of offseason talk about improved

pace of play, the opener took 3 hours, 24 minutes. ... The Mariners had held opponents to no more than three runs in their past 12 openers, an MLB record.

**Trainer's room: Mariners:** C Omar Narvaez got stung in the bare thumb on a fastball right down the middle after an early cross-up with Gonzales. Narvaez was checked by a trainer and stayed in. ... 1B Daniel Vogelbach was hit in the elbow by a pitch and kept playing.

**Athletics:** OF Nick Martini (sprained knee), who hit well after making his big league debut last season, is on the injured list for at least another week.

**Up next:** Mariners: LHP Yusei Kikuchi makes his major league debut in his home country. The 27-year-old lefty starred for Seibu last season, then joined Seattle with a contract that could be worth \$109 million over seven years. Kikuchi mixes a hard fastball with a tough, looping curve.

**Athletics:** RHP Marco Estrada makes his debut after signing with the A's. The 35-year-old was 7-14 with a career-worst 5.64 ERA last season for Toronto and was hampered by hip and back problems.

## Fairleigh Dickinson overcomes terrible start to advance

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Eleven months ago, Fairleigh Dickinson coach Greg Herenda was seriously ill with life-threatening blood clots. On Tuesday night, he danced on the court and hugged his players after they secured the first NCAA Tournament win in school history.

Senior guard Darnell Edge scored a career-high 33 points and Jahliil Jenkins had 20 of his 22 points in the second half as the Knights capped a furious comeback by taking down Prairie View A&M 82-76 in a First

Four game on Tuesday night.

"It's overwhelming," said Herenda, in his sixth season at the Hackensack, N.J., school. "When you coach for 35 years and you take a team to an NCAA Tournament and a team that, when I got here six years ago, we had nothing. And to build it, and then it's here, and it's so sad that every coach can't experience this."

Fairleigh Dickinson (21-13), which got the automatic tournament bid by winning the Northeast Conference Tournament, won its first NCAA tourney game in six tries. The Knights

move on to play Gonzaga, the No. 1 seed in West Region, on Thursday in Salt Lake City.

Prairie View (22-13), also seeking its first tournament win, built up 13-point leads in both halves, but Fairleigh Dickinson took control in the second half behind the shooting of Edge and Jenkins.

"Jahlil Jenkins has the biggest heart in Ohio right now," Herenda said. "As a sophomore, he took over the game in the second half."

A three-pointer by Gary Blackston pulled Prairie View back to within two points, 78-

76, but a layup from Mike Holloway Jr. and a pair of free throws by Edge with 17 seconds left sealed it for Fairleigh Dickinson.

Blackston led the Panthers with 26 points and Devonte Patterson had 17.

"Having coach go through that last year, I remember us being in practice and him always just telling us that he just wanted to be there with us," Edge said. "All he thought about while he was in the hospital was us. So we rallied together, and it's just a great win for us, for our program."

## NHL roundup

# Capitals regain first in Metropolitan

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Brett Connolly has been doing his best Alex Ovechkin imitation the past six weeks and it is coming just in time to help the defending champion Washington Capitals gear up for another Stanley Cup run.

Connolly sparked a three-goal second period and the Capitals moved into first place in the Metropolitan Division with a 4-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday night.

“I have been playing the best hockey probably of my career right now,” the 26-year-old forward said after scoring his career-best 20th goal. “I just really want to focus on being good going into the postseason. We have a good team and we are right there again. We’re

getting close to the level we need to be at.”

Since returning from the All-Star break, Connolly has 11 goals. The only other player on the Caps with that many is Ovechkin.

Connolly snapped a 1-all tie at 5:57 of the middle period, redirecting Christian Djoos’ cross-ice pass into an open net past rookie goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood.

“I went right to ‘Juicer’ and gave him a big hug. He made a great play on the goal,” said Connolly, who also said he would not attend the Capitals’ White House trip on Monday in support of a player no longer with the team. “It’s been a good season. We have a lot of good players and good guys. It’s a good fit for me here and we’ll see what happens in the future.”

Capitals coach Todd Reirden said Connolly has had a strong season.

**Hurricanes 3, Penguins 2 (SO):** Dougie Hamilton scored in the shootout, and Petr Mrazek stopped Pittsburgh cold to lead host Carolina to victory.

**Canadiens 3, Flyers 1:** Brendan Gallagher, Shea Weber and Max Domi scored goals, Carey Price stopped 32 shots and visiting Montreal earned a win over Philadelphia.

**Predators 3, Maple Leafs 0:** Pekka Rinne shut out Toronto for the second time this season and Brian Boyle, Wayne Simmonds and Filip Forsberg scored goals to give host Nashville the win.

**Bruins 5, Islanders 0:** Sean Kuraly scored twice and Tuukka Rask earned his 45th career shutout and visiting Boston beat New York.

**Flames 4, Blue Jackets 2:** Johnny Gaudreau scored his team-leading 35th goal and Michael Frolik added a goal and an assist and host Calgary earned a win over Columbus.

**Stars 4, Panthers 2:** Alexander Radulov had two goals in the third period to lift host Dallas over Florida.

**Avalanche 3, Wild 1:** Philipp Grubauer made 36 saves to lift visiting Colorado in a game that had playoff implications in Minnesota and elsewhere.

**Blues 7, Oilers 2:** Jaden Schwartz had three goals and an assist, David Perron added two goals and two assists, and host St. Louis routed Edmonton.

**Red Wings 3, Rangers 2:** Andreas Athanasiou scored twice and visiting Detroit beat New York.

## NBA roundup

# Nets rally from 28 down in second half to beat Kings

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Brooklyn coach Kenny Atkinson tried just about everything to kick the Nets into gear. There were quick timeouts, angry, animated discussions with his players and even switching from man to zone defense.

When nothing else worked, D’Angelo Russell and a handful of Brooklyn reserves took over and carried the Nets to an improbable win on their longest road trip of the season.

Russell scored 27 of his career-high 44 points in the fourth quarter, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson made a layup with eight-tenths of a second remaining, and the Nets rallied from 28 points down in the second half to beat the Sacramento Kings 123-121 Tuesday night and snap a four-game losing streak.

“We were at our wit’s end, it was kind of desperation,” Atkinson said. “It was a little bit like, ‘Let’s conserve our main guys and kind of play it out.’ I wasn’t expecting an amazing comeback, I just have to be honest. And then slowly but surely we started cutting the lead.”

Brooklyn was sluggish and out of sync for three quarters before Russell sparked the Nets’ biggest comeback of the season.

After scoring 17 points in the first half and going without a point in the third quarter, Russell shot 10-for-15 in the fourth quarter, repeatedly burning Sacramento’s defense with quick drives to the basket. He scored 16 straight points during one stretch while getting plenty of help from his teammates.

“I give a lot of credit to our bigs,” Russell said. “They set screens and got me open, got

me downhill. Once you get downhill, any player that can get downhill and see the floor like that and see the rim wide open, the sky’s the limit.”

Russell’s 27 points are the most in a fourth quarter in the NBA this season. Russell also had four three-pointers in the fourth quarter, breaking Allen Crabbe’s single-season record of 201, set last season. Russell has 202.

“Once you get in that groove it’s hard to get you out of it,” Russell said. “No matter what defense a team throws at you, you’re going to find a way to get it done. That’s kind of what it was.”

**Warriors 117, Timberwolves 107:** Stephen Curry scored 22 of his 36 points in the third quarter and Klay Thompson pitched in with 28 points as visiting Golden State beat fading Minnesota and re-

gained first place in the Western Conference.

**Clippers 115, Pacers 109:** Danilo Gallinari scored 24 points, Montrezl Harrell had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and host Los Angeles prevented Indiana from clinching a playoff berth.

**Bucks 115, Lakers 101:** Khris Middleton scored 30 points and Brook Lopez added 28 as host Milwaukee beat Los Angeles.

**Rockets 121, Hawks 105:** James Harden had 31 points and 10 assists, Clint Capela added 26 points and 11 rebounds and visiting Houston won its third straight game.

**76ers 118, Hornets 114:** Ben Simmons scored 28 points, JJ Redick had 27 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and Philadelphia held on to beat visiting Charlotte for its fifth straight victory.