

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Modly apologizes for Roosevelt speech

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly quickly apologized in a public statement Monday for saying, in a speech aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt the same day, that the ship's former commander was "too naïve or too stupid" to lead the crew.

Modly relieved Capt. Brett Crozier from command Thursday after a letter the captain wrote seeking help for the coronavirus-stricken aircraft carrier was leaked to the media earlier in the week.

In his speech on board the vessel Monday afternoon in Guam, Modly said Crozier "lost sight" of the ship's mission, according to a transcript and audio recording of the speech posted online the same day.

"He compromised critical information about your status intentionally to draw greater attention to your situation," Modly said over the ship's internal public address system.

In a letter to The New York

Times published Monday, Modly said Crozier put the nation in danger after "sensitive information about the material condition of our biggest and most powerful warship made its way out into the public arena, in the hands of our adversaries."

Crozier must have known the letter would have gone public — otherwise, he was "either too naïve or too stupid to be a commanding officer of a ship like this," Modly told sailors in his address.

The decision to relieve Crozier was not well received on the ship or by the public. A petition to reinstate Crozier on Change.org had nearly 300,000 signatures Tuesday and two House members and at least 17 senators have signed letters asking the Defense Department Investigator General to look into Crozier's firing.

Crozier, in a four-page letter to senior military officials March 30, said: "sailors do not need to die" because "we are not at war." The San Fran-

cisco Chronicle first reported the contents of Crozier's letter March 31.

Addressing the Roosevelt crew, Modly said this notion bothered him the most.

"Let me tell ya something, the only reason we are dealing with this right now is a big authoritative regime called China was not forthcoming about what was happening with this virus and they put the world at risk to protect themselves and to protect their reputations," Modly said during his speech.

China is listed among the U.S.'s strategic competitors in the National Defense Strategy, and much of the Navy's missions in the Western Pacific challenge Chinese claims to islands and reefs in the ocean.

Modly told sailors Crozier's letter created a "big controversy in Washington, D.C., and across the country about a martyr [commanding officer] who wasn't getting the help he needed."

In his apology, Modly said that he does not think Crozier

"is naïve nor stupid."

"Capt. Crozier is smart and passionate," Modly said. "I believe, precisely because he is not naïve and stupid, that he sent his alarming email with the intention of getting it into the public domain in an effort to draw public attention to the situation on his ship."

Crozier's letter was uncalled for because Modly's chief of staff had been in contact with Crozier, who "expressed no alarm to him at all," but said he was "impatient with the pace of moving sailors off the ship," Modly wrote in his letter to The New York Times.

"Bottom line, the public disclosure of Capt. Crozier's letter had no impact on the flow of support to the ship," Modly wrote. "The crew of the ship was already being tested as rapidly as possible, isolated as necessary, and moved off the ship to quarantine."

The Navy has now secured nearly 3,700 individual rooms to isolate sailors across Guam, Modly wrote.

## Memo directs sailors in Japan to log movements, contacts

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. Naval Forces Japan has directed sailors to keep a daily log of their movements and people with whom they have close contact, according to a memorandum Stars and Stripes obtained Tuesday.

Sailors were also told to write out all contacts and movements they'd made in the 14 days prior to the memo. The aim is to track the potential coronavirus spread should a sailor later test positive, according to the

memo issued Thursday.

"In the event of a positive COVID-19 test, one of the important actions taken by medical professionals is to conduct contact tracing," Naval Forces Japan commander Adm. Brian Fort wrote in the memo. "This information is vitally important to understand whether other personnel need to be placed in quarantine."

Sailors who had close contact with someone who tested positive for coronavirus are placed under 14-day quarantines even if they do not present symp-

toms, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley told Stars and Stripes in an email last month.

"Close contact" is defined as being within six feet for a prolonged period or having direct contact with someone, such as being sneezed or coughed on, according to Fort's memo.

Further, sailors were advised to keep "no more than 10 close contacts to include family members," the memo said.

Fort did not provide a specific form in which the information should be tracked, but told sailors that they do not need to

share their daily logs with their commands.

At least three active-duty sailors in Japan had tested positive for the coronavirus by March 27. The Navy has since implemented a policy not to disclose the number of positive cases associated with individual installations. Instead, the numbers are lumped into the overall Navy tallies of sailors positive with the virus.

As of Monday, 436 sailors had tested positive across the service, according to the Navy's most recent coronavirus report.

# USNS Comfort now taking virus patients

BY ROSE L. THAYER

*Stars and Stripes*

With a confirmed case of coronavirus already among the crew members of the USNS Comfort, the hospital ship docked in New York City will begin formally accepting patients with the respiratory illness, U.S. Northern Command announced Tuesday.

The Comfort's transition to coronavirus care is to help relieve mounting pressure on the city's hospital system, according to a news release from NORTHCOM, which is taking the lead on the Defense De-

partment's coronavirus operations in the U.S.

"Effective immediately, USNS Comfort will accept trauma, emergency and urgent care patients without regard to their coronavirus status," NORTHCOM said.

The crew member who tested positive for the virus Monday is isolated from patients and other crew members, said Cmdr. Ashley Hockycko, spokeswoman for the U.S. 2nd Fleet.

"There is no impact to Comfort's mission, and this will not affect the ability for Comfort to receive patients," she said in a statement. "The ship is follow-

ing protocols and taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety of all crewmembers and patients on board."

The ship will have to reduce its 1,000-patient capacity by half to accommodate highly contagious coronavirus cases, however, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Tuesday during a news conference.

Cuomo said that he called President Donald Trump on Monday to ask the Comfort to treat coronavirus patients because there aren't many non-virus patients. He said that stay-at-home orders have led to fewer traffic accidents and re-

duced crime.

Prior to Tuesday, the Comfort had received more than 41 patients, including several who later tested positive for the coronavirus, Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, the Pentagon's Joint Staff surgeon, said Monday during a news conference. Of those patients, 16 were in intensive care.

"Our commitment has been, if a patient comes to us, we would take care of them," he said.

By Tuesday morning, the number of patients aboard the Comfort rose to more than 50, Hockycko said.

## Lawmakers prod DOD for help on military moves

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Over 30 lawmakers have requested that Defense Secretary Mark Esper provide more direction and support to help service members and military families financially affected by the Pentagon's 60-day stop movement orders.

"While the stop movement order was noble and necessary, this unprecedented action left thousands of military families in extreme financial distress," the letter states.

Two stop movement orders were issued in March by Esper in response to the spreading coronavirus outbreak and barred all travel, including military moves and redeployments. The travel restrictions have affected thousands of service members and their families around the world, according to the letter. U.S. Forces Korea alone estimated that it would affect almost 8,000 service members and their families moving to or leaving South Korea.

The letter was sent Thursday by 35 House lawmakers — six Republicans and 29 Democrats — requesting that Esper issue

guidance to the service branches and installation commanders for them to "use the greatest possible breadth of relief options" for service members and families, and to include coordinating with local governments and nonprofits.

The letter stated that since the 60-day travel restriction was implemented, several lawmakers have heard from families who are paying rent on a home at their next duty station while stuck living in a house from which they intended to move. Spouses have left jobs due to anticipated moves, and families who have already shipped their household goods must pay to replace some of their necessities during the travel restriction.

Jonathan Hoffman, the chief spokesman for the Pentagon, said in a statement Monday that the Defense Department "understands that [the coronavirus] has impacted many throughout DOD and we are working to help our men and women in uniform weather this crisis. We will use all means available to assist service members who were impacted by [the virus]."

## Navy bases near Tokyo place restrictive rules on movement

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The declaration of a public health emergency by U.S. Forces Japan on Monday prompted commanders at two naval bases near Tokyo to tighten restrictions on sailors and civilians.

At Naval Air Facility Atsugi, commander Capt. Lloyd Mack implemented a shelter-in-place order Monday to "further limit movement and potential for exposure [to the coronavirus]," he said in an announcement on the official base Facebook page Monday evening.

"Shelter-in-place does not confine anyone to their homes, barracks or off-base residences," Mack said in a video posted to the Facebook page. "It simply restricts all unnecessary movement about the base or off base."

The public health emergency gives commanders authority over the civilian dependents and employees, including contractors, on their facilities. Under previous restrictions, most civilians were simply encouraged to abide by limits imposed on service members.

Under Mack's order, only "designated mission-essential personnel should report to work, and then, only under the direction of your supervisor," he said in the video.

Entrance to the base is limited to mission-essential personnel between 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. on Sundays.

Civilians and service members who live off base may buy "essential goods and groceries" from facilities on base, such as the Navy Exchange and commissary, during regular business hours, Mack said.

At Yokosuka Naval Base, the USFJ declaration prompted authorities to allow nonessential personnel to enter base only between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. beginning Tuesday. Mission-essential personnel can enter for work purposes anytime.

Nonessential personnel will also be required to identify themselves, their sponsoring commands, their destinations and purpose for entering or leaving the base, according to an image of a form on the official base Facebook page. The form also asks for the number of contacts the subject has recently had.



# NYC virus deaths exceed city's toll for 9/11

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City's death toll from the coronavirus officially eclipsed the number of those killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11, health officials said Tuesday. In Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in intensive care with the virus.

At least 3,202 people have died in New York from COVID-19, according to the count released by the city. The deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil killed 2,753 people in the city and 2,977 overall, when hijacked planes slammed into the twin towers, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001.

New York state recorded 731 new coronavirus deaths Tuesday, its biggest one-day jump yet, for a statewide toll of nearly 5,500, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

But in an encouraging sign, he reported that the average number of people newly hospitalized each day is dropping, as is the number of those receiving breathing tubes, indicating that measures taken to make people keep their distance from each other are succeeding.

And alarming as the one-day increase in deaths might sound, the governor said that's a "lagging indicator," reflecting people who had been hospitalized before this

week. Over the past several days, in fact, the number of deaths appeared to be leveling off.

"You see that plateauing — that's because of what we are doing. If we don't do what we are doing, that is a much different curve," he said. "So social distancing is working."

Across the U.S., the death toll reached about 11,000, with around 370,000 confirmed infections.

In London, the 55-year-old Johnson, the world's first head of government known to have fallen ill with the virus, was in stable condition and conscious at a hospital, where he was receiving oxygen but was not on a ventilator, said his spokesman James Slack. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab was designated to run the country in the meantime.

"We're desperately hoping that Boris can make the speediest possible recovery," said Cabinet minister Michael Gove, who is among scores of British officials in self-isolation.

Japan's prime minister made an emergency declaration after a spike in infections in Tokyo, but it was a stay-at-home request — not an order — and violators will not be penalized. Despite having relatively few infections and deaths, Japan is a worrying target for a virus that has been kill-

ing the elderly at much higher rates than other age groups.

In some European hot spots, as in New York, authorities were hoping that the outbreak was turning a corner, based on slowdowns in new deaths and hospitalizations.

In Spain, one of the hardest-hit countries, new deaths Tuesday rose to 743 and infections climbed by 5,400 after five days of declines, but the increases were believed to reflect a weekend backlog. Authorities said slowing the contagion will be a long process and were confident in the downward trend.

Italy's commissioner for fighting COVID-19 appealed to Italians ahead of Easter weekend not to lower their guard and to abide by a lockdown now in its fifth week.

Citing data that shows that pressure on Italian intensive care wards is easing, Domenico Arcuri said that "the cruel reality is stronger than algorithms."

"Don't ever forget even for an instant that this invisible, strong and unknown virus has taken 16,523 lives through yesterday," Arcuri said, reciting the figure repeatedly. "I beg you, in the next hours and days, do not cancel this number from your memory."

New coronavirus cases were also slowing in France and Portugal.

## Congress, White House think big on another aid bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders are jolting ahead with another coronavirus rescue package as President Donald Trump indicated that Americans will need more aid during the stark pandemic and economic shutdown.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said another \$1 trillion is needed, beyond the just-passed \$2.2 trillion effort. She wants another round of direct payments to Americans and more money for companies to keep making payroll. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said in recent days that health care should top the list, signaling his intent to get to work on a new bill.

"We're going to take good care of our people," Trump said Monday at his daily White House briefing. "It was not

their fault."

It's a rare sign of emerging consensus as Washington responds to the public health emergency and severe economic fallout that is ransacking communities nationwide, a crisis on par with a war effort or the Great Depression.

The contours of the package are still being debated and any votes in Congress remain a logistical conundrum. The House and Senate adjourned for most of the month, as part of strict stay-at-home orders from public health officials to prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus.

On an afternoon conference call with House Democrats, Pelosi told lawmakers at least another \$1 trillion would be needed, according to a person unauthorized to discuss the call and granted anonymity. The California Democrat has

vowed to put the next package together in time for a House vote this month.

Former Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen joined the private call and warned Democrats the economic fallout will depend on the public health response to the pandemic, the person said. As businesses shutter to stop the virus' spread, it has hurled the U.S. economy toward a recession.

Yellen said it was impossible to know how deep and long the recession would be, and added that it would depend on the health response.

The former Fed chairwoman also told them the nation's unemployment rate is now at least 13% and this week's jobless report will show higher numbers than last week's. Yellen said she expects a 30% contraction of GDP this year, but has seen models as high as 50%, accord-

ing to a Democratic aide unauthorized to discuss the call and granted anonymity.

The earlier relief package, approved in late March, included one-time \$1,200 direct payments to Americans, along with forgivable small-business loans for companies to keep making payroll.

It also included a boost of unemployment pay, money for hospitals and a \$500 billion fund for bigger corporations and industries.

Pelosi told Democrats said the \$1,200 direct payments to Americans and the paycheck protection program for small businesses are not enough and more needs to be done, the person said.

She also said there needs to be more aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps.

# Governor thinks Calif. cases to peak in May

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom is sticking with a mid-May projection for when the COVID-19 outbreak will reach its peak in California, continuing efforts to stockpile hospital beds and protective gear for health care workers even as a new analysis suggests that the virus' spread could be slowing sooner.

While confirmed cases and deaths continue rising in California, the rate of hospitalizations and intensive care placements — a key indicator of resources the state needs — have been increasing more slowly. Both rose less than 5% over the weekend. It was enough that Newsom felt comfortable loaning 500 ventilators to other states.

Newsom on Monday gave his update on the virus efforts in Sacramento as workers prepared 400 hospital beds. It's part of a plan to add an extra 66,000 hospital beds and 10,000 ventilators.

A new analysis from the University of Washington, which state officials are using to inform their work, projects that California will see an earlier and lower peak for deaths and needed hospital resources. The statistical model that is updated daily for all 50 states was developed to help hospitals and health systems prepare for the surge and is a tool for many government officials.

## Michigan

LANSING — Michigan lawmakers planned to meet Tuesday to consider extending a statewide emergency declaration during the coronavirus pandemic, but are divided over the safety and necessity of convening.

Republicans who control the Legislature said that they must act now because Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's emergency declaration expires Tuesday. But Democrats said it does not lapse because she issued a declaration last week that also includes a new disaster declaration, meaning legis-

lators do not have to vote until April 29.

Republicans plan to extend the emergency by 23 days, through April 30. Whitmer said that it should be extended by 70 days, until mid-June.

The Legislature is implementing screening and distancing procedures to limit lawmakers from potential exposure on Tuesday. Two legislators have tested positive for COVID-19, while a third has died of the suspected virus.

## New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE — While federal environmental regulators have waived enforcement on a range of legally mandated public health and environmental protections, New Mexico is marching ahead.

Food inspections are ongoing, as is the tracking of methane emissions and other critical work related to drinking water protections and worker safety as the number of new coronavirus cases in the state increased Monday by several dozen.

New Mexico has nearly 690 cases and the death toll remains at 12. The new cases come a day after President Donald Trump signed off on a federal disaster declaration for New Mexico, freeing up funding to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts.

"The important thing is that New Mexico now has an approved major disaster declaration and our requests will be prioritized at a higher level," said spokeswoman Jodi McGinnis-Porter.

## Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Legislature on Monday granted sweeping new powers to the governor to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

The House and Senate met in special session and approved the resolution under the never-before-used Catastrophic Health Emergency Act, which gives Gov. Kevin Stitt the authority to temporarily suspend laws and regulations that inter-

fere with the state's ability to respond to the pandemic.

It also gives the governor the authority to redirect state employees and other resources, including up to \$50 million state funds, from one agency to another, among other things. The powers also authorize the state's public health authority, in this case the State Department of Health, to take control of any human remains.

Those entering the Capitol on Monday had their temperature checked, and most House and Senate members wore masks and gloves as they filed onto the floor in groups of 10 or less to cast their votes. Some members in the House also voted by proxy, a move authorized under new rules approved last month.

## Washington

OLYMPIA — Schools in Washington state will remain physically closed for the remainder of the school year while more than 1.2 million public and private K-12 students continue distance learning at least until mid-June due to the coronavirus outbreak, officials said Monday.

Schools have been shut statewide since March 17 and were initially scheduled to reopen April 27. That was extended until June 19 — when the spring term ends — and schools were encouraged to continue distance learning.

The order also asks schools to start planning for a potential expansion of the closures into the summer and fall, though Gov. Jay Inslee said that officials would explore whether it was possible to bring students back for graduation later in the year.

Schools Superintendent Chris Reykdall said that the decision was tough, but the risks of returning students to school too soon were high due to the pandemic.

## Kansas

KANSAS CITY — Kansas City Public Schools has sus-

pending its free meal distribution program for students after a food service worker helping with the effort tested positive for COVID-19, district officials said.

The district announced the suspension Monday, the Kansas City Star reported. Officials gave no timeline for when the program might resume, but suggested that families go to the Harvesters Community Food Network website to locate food pantries and mobile distribution sites.

"This was not an easy decision," district spokesman Ray Weikal said. "We understand that many of our families depend on school meals to help meet the nutritional needs of their children."

It was the second case of the coronavirus among the district's food service workers. Weeks ago, a worker who was out of town at the time tested positive.

## Nebraska

LINCOLN — Two remote Nebraska counties have reported their first cases of the coronavirus, state health officials reported.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services said in a news release Monday night that Cheyenne County in the Nebraska Panhandle reported a woman in her 20s had tested positive for COVID-19. The woman had been in close contact with another person who had been infected, local officials said.

And on the opposite side of the state, in northeastern Nebraska's Stanton County, a man in his 60s with no underlying health conditions has tested positive for the virus. Officials said that his case originates from "community spread," meaning health officials can't trace the source of the infection.

Both counties are rural and sparsely populated, with about 10,000 people calling Cheyenne County home and little more than 6,000 people in Stanton County.



# Taliban walk away from talks, cite prisoner release issues

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's fragile peace process suffered a major blow Tuesday as the Taliban said they were breaking off talks with the government about a prisoner exchange, which is a key part of a deal the insurgents signed with the United States.

The release of prisoners by the insurgents and Kabul is one of several conditions spelled out in the U.S.-Taliban deal signed in late February, which must be met if all international forces are to withdraw from Afghanistan by next spring.

But after a week of face-to-face discussions with government negotiators, the Taliban said Tuesday they were walking away from the dialogue.

"Unfortunately, their release has been delayed under one pretext or another till now," Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said on Twitter, where he also said his side was pulling out.

The talks on the prisoner release faltered because the Taliban had insisted that 15 "high-level and dangerous commanders" be among those who would be freed, said Abdul Matin Bek, a member of the government's negotiating team. Although Kabul refused that condition, it was prepared to release hundreds of other detainees with ties to the Taliban, he said.

The Taliban were demonstrating a "lack of seriousness about peace" by quitting the talks, which had reached an "important phase ahead of the release," said Javid Faisal, a spokesman for

Afghanistan's National Security Council, without providing details. The government, on the other hand, remained committed to the peace process, he said in a tweet.

The announcement by the Taliban that it was quitting the talks came two days after the group said repeated U.S. raids and "brutal drone attacks" across Afghanistan violated the deal the insurgents signed with the Americans on Feb. 29.

That deal, which spells out the conditions that must be met if international forces are to completely withdraw from Afghanistan within 14 months, could be in jeopardy if the attacks continue, the Taliban said in a statement. One of the conditions was the release of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners in exchange for up to 1,000 prisoners held by the insurgents; another was the convening of intra-Afghan talks immediately after the release.

United States Forces-Afghanistan described the Taliban's accusations as "baseless."

But, USFOR-A spokesman Col. Sonny Leggett said in a tweet, "We will defend our ANDSF partners if attacked, in compliance with the agreement," using an acronym for Afghanistan's security forces.

Also causing the Afghan peace process to stumble is the failure of President Ashraf Ghani and his political rival Abdullah Abdullah to agree on which of the two of them won September's presidential election.

## USAF to test high-energy lasers to take down drones

*The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Back in December, tales of drones harassing north-eastern Colorado were heard.

If they ever come back, the Air Force may have a new way to zap them from the sky. The service announced Monday it is ready to test its first high-energy lasers for use against enemy drones overseas.

"(Troops) will utilize this system as an operational asset against small unmanned aircraft systems for the duration of the field assessment," said Michael Jirjis, who headed development of the laser for the Air Force Research Laboratory in Ohio.

At F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo., the Air Force has a program focusing on drones that could pose a security risk to domestic bases. The new lasers, with models under consideration from the Air Force lab and defense contractor Raytheon, would take aim at drones that have already proven worrisome in the Persian Gulf.

Iranian drones were tied to a 2019 attack on Saudi oil production facilities and have been used by Islamic State militants to drop grenades.

The Air Force has been experimenting with lasers in a number of programs since the 1980s.

Now, the military is looking at more modest solid-state lasers, which could solve a lot of problems in the future.

Relatively cheap and lightweight, the lasers convert electricity into focused beams of light that destroy targets by melting them or blinding their sensors.

Lasers are cheaper to fire than one-time-use missiles, faster than bullets, and create little debris on training ranges.

The new generation of lasers has drawn field tests from the Army, Air Force and Navy in recent years.

## AFRICOM kills senior al-Shabab leader in Somalia

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — A senior al-Shabab leader who played a key role in plotting deadly attacks throughout East Africa has been killed in an airstrike in Somalia, U.S. Africa Command said Tuesday.

Yusuf Jiis was one of three al-Shabab members killed in the April 2 airstrike, AFRICOM said. The strike was one of a flurry of attacks in Somalia in recent days.

Jiis was "violent, ruthless, and responsible for the loss of many innocent lives," AFRICOM commander Gen. Stephen

Townsend said in a statement. "His removal makes Somalia and neighboring countries safer."

AFRICOM has launched six airstrikes in Somalia since April 2, including one on Monday in which five terrorists were killed, it said.

AFRICOM said no civilians were killed in Monday's strike on Jilib, around 230 miles south of the capital, Mogadishu, but it is investigating reports that allege there were civilian casualties.

"As with any allegation of civilian casualties U.S. Africa Command receives and reviews any information it has

about the incident, including any relevant information provided by third parties," it said.

AFRICOM announced last week that it will begin issuing quarterly reports on the outcomes of its investigations into civilian casualty claims as a way to boost transparency.

To date, AFRICOM says only one civilian has been killed in its airstrike campaign in Somalia, but the human rights group Amnesty International says the number is higher. The group has reported that more than a dozen civilians have been killed in U.S. airstrikes in recent years.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ax-wielding man arrested after standoff

**KS** ARKANSAS CITY — A man with a long-handled ax was taken into custody after a standoff at a police station in southern Kansas.

Arkansas City Police Chief Dan Ward said that Douglas Gleaves, 38, entered the lobby of the police department Sunday afternoon and hit the interior door of the department's secured area with the ax.

Officers blocked off part of the downtown while members of state and county law enforcement agencies tried to talk to him.

A little more than two hours after the confrontation began, Gleaves left the police station and was subdued with a Taser, KWCH reported. Nobody was hurt, Ward said.

## Skiers raise more than \$500K for nonprofit

**ME** WESTBROOK — Skiers and snowboarders in Maine raised more than \$500,000 for a nonprofit group that works to help children enjoy more winter activities.

Organizers said that the WinterKids Downhill 24 collected the most revenue in its history at \$562,000. The event took place in early March.

This year's event attracted 4,000 donors, 49 teams and 491 participants, organizers said. The event is the only annual event that brings night skiing to Sugarloaf Mountain, organizers said.

Organizers said that they'd give \$25,000 to Sugarloaf Ski Club's King's Kids Fund, which lets local children train in Sugarloaf's weekend ski and ride programs.

## Park's 150th birthday celebration goes online

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Golden Gate Park turns 150 years old Saturday, and the huge party to celebrate San Francisco's beloved treasure will, for the time being, take place online.

Originally, city officials planned a yearlong celebration that included free museum admission, concerts and the participation of more than 150 cultural institutions and community groups. A giant Ferris wheel that lifts passengers 150 feet into the sky was brought in for the occasion. But the spread of the coronavirus forced them to delay the event.

Instead, they launched an online concert series featuring musical sets performed in the park over the years. They include an appearance by Boz Scaggs at the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festival in 2016 and Metallica's headlining performance at the Outside Lands festival in 2017.

"Golden Gate Park has served as a place of inspiration, hope and refuge for San Franciscans for 150 years," Mayor London Breed said in a statement. "We hope these virtual experiences will bring some joy and entertainment during this challenging times."

## Trooper and driver sent to hospital after fight

**MD** CHESTERTOWN — A Maryland state trooper and a motorist were treated for injuries following an altercation early Saturday that began when the officer spotted a suspicious vehicle and ended in a vehicle pursuit, a news release said.

Maryland State Police said that the driver, who was later taken into custody, had what ap-

peared to be a gunshot wound to the upper torso.

The suspect was flown to the University of Maryland shock trauma center in Baltimore. The trooper, whom officers found lying in a ditch and may have been dragged by the vehicle, was also treated at the center, police said.

## Researcher believes he has ID'd shipwreck

**ME** PORTLAND — A researcher believes that he has identified the mysterious shipwreck that appears from time to time in the right conditions on a beach in York.

The ship's remains, which were last exposed by a nor'easter in 2018, are likely those of the Defiance, a sloop that washed ashore during a violent storm in 1769, said researcher Stefan Claesson, owner of Nearview, an aerial drone and archaeological surveying company.

The Defiance was built in 1754 in Massachusetts, which fits with historical documents and tree-ring dating conducted by Cornell University, he said.

But, he said, "additional historical research and archaeological investigations are needed to confirm the identification."

## Strip clubs sue over raised danger age limit

**FL** JACKSONVILLE — Adult clubs in one Florida city are suing over a new law that raised the minimum age for strippers from 18 to 21.

The law in Jacksonville was enacted March 5 in a bid to reduce human trafficking. But lawyers for the clubs, including the lead plaintiff Wacko's, contend in a federal lawsuit that it violates the First Amendment

by restricting the ability of performers to dance.

"The Constitution does not permit the deprivation of First Amendment rights based on the age of ... citizens who have attained the age of 18," attorneys Gary Edinger and James Benjamin argued in a complaint filed in the names of 13 businesses and four dancers, two of them under age 21.

The Florida Times-Union reported that after the law was signed, the clubs were prevented from using close to 100 dancers under age 21 during a two-week period, according to the lawsuit.

The 140-page suit noted that people under 21 can hold any other job at those businesses, even own the clubs.

## Bison euthanized after escape from preserve

**TN** CROSSVILLE — Four bison, one weighing around 1,800 pounds, that escaped from a private hunting preserve in Tennessee were euthanized after attempts to recapture the animals failed, authorities said.

The small herd broke loose from an enclosed area and had been roaming through an area in Crossville since Monday, The Crossville Chronicle reported.

Cumberland County Sheriff Casey Cox said that off-duty Deputy Roy Kemmer had attempted to help the owner round up the animals, but the bison continued to evade recapture.

"(Kemmer) told me that the buffaloes would be grazing and as soon as those trying to recapture them got within 150 yards, the animals would smell their presence, raise their heads and take off," Cox said.

From wire reports

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# Sources: MLB may move season to Arizona

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Putting all 30 teams in the Phoenix area this season and playing in empty ballparks was among the ideas discussed Monday by Major League Baseball and the players' association.

The sides held a telephone call to talk about paths forward for a season delayed by the coronavirus pandemic, people familiar with the discussion told The Associated Press.

Ideas are still in the early stage, and the Arizona option would have many obstacles to overcome, the people said.

"MLB has been actively considering numerous contingency plans that would allow play to commence once the public health situation has improved to the point that it is safe to do so," the commissioner's office said in a statement Tuesday. "While we have discussed the idea of staging games at one location as one potential option, we have not settled on that option or developed a detailed plan."

Baseball officials intend to study which options may be viable.

"While we continue to interact regularly with governmental and public health officials, we have not sought or received ap-

proval of any plan from federal, state and local officials, or the players' association," MLB said. "We are not ready at this time to endorse any particular format for staging games in light of the rapidly changing public health situation caused by the coronavirus."

Half of the MLB clubs hold spring training in Arizona, the other half in Florida.

Arizona's advantage is 10 spring training ballparks plus the Arizona Diamondbacks' Chase Field all within about 50 miles. Florida's spring training ballparks are spread out by as much as 220 miles.

"It allows for immediacy of a schedule, where you might be able to begin it and televise it, provide Major League Baseball to America," said Scott Boras, baseball's most prominent agent. "I think players are willing to do what's necessary because I think they understand the importance of baseball for their own livelihoods and for the interest of our country and providing a necessary product that gives all the people that are isolated enjoyment."

"It gives them a sense of a return to some normalcy," Boras added. "You talk to a psychologist about it and they say it's really good for a culture to have sport and

to have a focus like that, where for a few hours a day they can take their minds off the difficult reality of the virus."

Baseball's season had been set to start March 26 but spring training was halted on March 12. After the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended restricting events of more than 50 people for eight weeks, MLB said it would not open until mid-May at the earliest.

The players' association would want to survey its members to determine whether they would support such a plan, one of the people said.

"You're going to be largely separated from your families and you're going to have to function in a very contained way. It's not a normal life, this idea," Boras said. "You're going to have an identified group of people. You're going to have a constantly tested group of people. And you're going to have a very limited access of those people to the outside world so that you can assure a very uncontaminated league, if you will, to produce a product that is inspirational to our country."

Chase Field, with artificial turf and a retractable roof, could be the site of daily tripleheaders, Boras said.

## White: UFC 249 is still on 'Somewhere on Earth'

Associated Press

UFC 249 is still on schedule for April 18, with Tony Ferguson fighting Justin Gaethje for an interim lightweight title in the main event.

Although UFC President Dana White hasn't announced a venue for his promotion's biggest pay-per-view show of the spring, he remains determined to hold an event in less than two weeks amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The mixed martial arts promotion announced the change to UFC 249's main event bout Monday. Gaethje replaces lightweight champ Khabib Nurmagomedov, who is apparently unable to leave Russia amid the pandemic.

"The fight is signed and is 100% ON LIVE on ESPN somewhere on EARTH!!!!" White tweeted Monday.

White has remained steadfast in his plan for the UFC to fight on while virtually all high-level sports competition has stopped around the world. Even if the UFC fights without fans as expected, most U.S. states and developed nations have restrictions in place that would make it impossible to stage an MMA show.

White later told TMZ he is attempting to secure the use of a private island to hold several shows over the next two months, flying the fighters and support personnel to the island on private planes. He said the UFC will screen the health of every participant before the fights occur.

White also confirmed several additional matchups for UFC 249. Former strawweight champions Rose Namajunas and Jessica Andrade will meet in the penultimate bout.

## U.S. prosecutors allege bribes in World Cup votes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Prosecutors revealed new details of alleged bribes paid to FIFA executive committee members to gain their votes for Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup and charged a pair of former 21st Century Fox executives with making illegal payments to win broadcast rights for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

An indictment unsealed Monday in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn says Nicolás Leoz, then president of the South American governing body CONMEBOL, and former Brazil federation president Ricardo Teixeira received bribes to vote for Qatar at the 2010 FIFA executive committee meeting.

Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago, president of the North and Central American and Caribbean governing body CON-

CACAF, received \$5 million in bribes to vote for Russia to host in 2018 from 10 different shell companies that included entities in Anguilla, Cyprus and the British Virgin Islands, the indictment alleged. Guatemala federation president Rafael Salguero was promised a \$1 million bribe to vote for Russia, according to the indictment.

Leoz, who died last August, avoided extradition, as have Warner and Teixeira. Salguero pleaded guilty in 2018 to two counts of wire fraud conspiracy and one count each of racketeering conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy.

Alejandro Burzaco, former head of the marketing company Torneos y Competencias, testified in 2017 that all three South Americans on the FIFA executive committee took million-dollar bribes to support Qatar, over the U.S. 14-8.

# All-Decade Team has 8 unanimous picks

Associated Press

Von Miller had to catch his breath after finding out he got every vote for the 2010s All-Decade Team.

Miller, Tom Brady, J.J. Watt and Adrian Peterson are among eight unanimous selections to the 2010s NFL All-Decade Team announced Monday by the NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"I never dreamed about making the All-Decade Team," Miller said. "You think about Super Bowls ... but this is such an honor that's so hard to get that you don't really even think about it. It's incredible to be here. It's incredible to achieve this honor."

Aaron Donald, Joe Thomas, Marshal Yanda and Justin Tucker also are on every ballot of the 48-member Hall of Fame selection committee. All but tackle Thomas and guard Yanda are active.

The 55-member team is comprised only of players who made an AP All-Pro team, a Pro Bowl or a Pro Football Writers of America all-conference squad from 2010-19. Four of the unanimous players — Brady, Miller, Yanda and Tucker — won Super Bowls during the decade.

"Being elected unanimously is really, really cool," said Tucker, who has worked with

the same long snapper and holder since breaking into the NFL in 2012. "There's kind of a lot going on in the world right now, so it's hard to be super excited about stuff that happens in the football world, but it is still an incredible honor.

"It's something that I wouldn't have had a chance at if it wasn't for all the great people around me. It starts with (long snapper) Morgan Cox and (holder) Sam Koch on the field and includes (kicking consultant) Randy Brown, (former special teams coach) Jerry Rosburg, (current special teams coach) Chris Horton, coach (John) Harbaugh. They provide an environment for us as a special teams unit to thrive."

Seattle has the most honorees with five: linebacker Bobby Wagner, safety Earl Thomas, cornerback Richard Sherman, running back Marshawn Lynch and coach Pete Carroll.

Brady is joined at quarterback by another NFL champion, Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers. Brady, of course, took three of his six Super Bowl victories during the decade with New England, going 141-42 overall, and recently left the Patriots as a free agent for Tampa Bay. Rodgers went 112-63-2 in the decade.

Peterson, the only non-quarterback to win MVP honors in

the 10-season span, is accompanied by Lynch, Frank Gore and LeSean McCoy in the backfield. Darren Sproles is the flex player — and one of the punt returners.

Calvin Johnson, who becomes eligible for the Hall of Fame next year, is joined by Julio Jones, Larry Fitzgerald and Antonio Brown at wideout. The tight ends are Rob Gronkowski and Travis Kelce. Along with Thomas, the tackles are Jason Peters, Joe Staley and Tyron Smith. Yanda's fellow guards are Zack Martin, Logan Mankins and Jahri Evans. Alex Mack and Maurkice Pouncey are the centers.

Up front on defense with end Watt, a three-time Defensive Player of the Year, and tackle Donald are ends Calais Campbell, Cam Jordan and Julius Peppers, and tackles Geno Atkins, Fletcher Cox and Ndamukong Suh.

Wagner's and Miller's mates at linebacker are recently retired Luke Kuechly, Khalil Mack, Chandler Jones, and Patrick Willis.

The three cornerbacks are Sherman, Darrelle Revis and Patrick Peterson. Safeties are Earl Thomas, Eric Weddle and Eric Berry. Selected as defensive backs, in recognition of slot cornerbacks and other versatile players in the secondary, are

Chris Harris Jr., and Tyrann Mathieu.

"Honored to be named to the All-Decade team among this group of extraordinary men. I can't & won't speak for everyone on this list. But I know personally that each name on this team (& others who deserve to be) drove me to be better every single day!" Patrick Peterson tweeted.

Harris and former teammate Miller — Harris left the Broncos for the Chargers this off-season — both entered the NFL in 2011. Now they are together on the All-Decade squad.

"It's an honor and a great feeling to make the All-Decade Team with Von," said Harris, who was an undrafted free agent in 2011. "He's definitely worked extremely hard to get it. We came into the league together and he's one of those staple guys who have been great from the moment they stepped onto the football field and are still amazing. To get this honor with Von is a great feeling."

Tucker is joined by Stephen Gostkowski as placekickers. Shane Lechler and Johnny Hekker are the punters. Tyreek Hill and Sproles are the punt returners, while the kickoff returners are Cordarrelle Patterson and Devin Hester.

Carroll and Bill Belichick are the coaches.

## NFL Draft will be conducted in virtual format

Associated Press

The NFL Draft will be conducted in a virtual format, with team personnel working from their homes.

In a memo sent to the 32 teams Monday, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell outlined procedures for the April 23-25 draft. The guidelines include no group gatherings.

"We have reviewed this matter in the past few days with both the competition committee and CEC (a group of league executives)," Goodell wrote, "and this will confirm that clubs will conduct their draft

operations remotely, with club personnel separately located in their homes."

All team facilities were closed on March 26 and Goodell has ordered them to remain shut indefinitely.

The draft was scheduled to be held in Las Vegas, but the NFL canceled all public events last month as a safeguard against the coronavirus. On Monday, Goodell instructed the teams on how they should plan to make their selections.

"We have made this decision for several reasons," he wrote. "All clubs will not have access

to their facilities, which is contrary to the fundamental equity principle that all clubs operate in a consistent and fair way.

"Moreover, we want all NFL personnel to comply with government directives and to model safe and appropriate health practices. Our staff will carry out its responsibilities in the same way, operating in separate locations outside of our offices. And after consulting with medical advisers, we cannot identify an alternative that is preferable from a medical or public health perspective, given the varying needs of clubs."

Several team general managers had sought a delay in the draft, basically citing an unfair playing field. But the owners pushed for the draft, the NFL's biggest offseason event, to take place as scheduled. It is up to each team to ensure not only safe and healthy conditions, but to offset any perceived competitive imbalance under the guidelines set forth by Goodell.

"We are operating in an environment unlike anything we have experienced before," Goodell added, "one that requires flexibility, patience, and cooperation."