

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Analysts: Truman plan highlights Navy woes

BY CHRIS CHURCH  
*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Truman carrier strike group's extension in the Middle East shows the U.S. military commitment to accelerate the campaign against the Islamic State group, but some analysts believe it also shows why the service's plan to limit carrier deployments is unrealistic.

Last week, the Navy announced the strike group would be extended for 30 days to continue supporting regional security and operations against terror networks in the Middle East.

The USS Harry S. Truman's deployment was supposed to be the first time the Navy would hold a carrier to a seven-month tour — a move announced in 2014 — in an attempt to provide stability for sailors and their families. But the flattop and its attached air wing have played a major role in the coalition to defeat Islamic State militants, setting a record for the most carrier-based ordnance dropped during Operation Inherent Resolve by delivering 580 tons of ordnance through April 15.

"The number of strikes demonstrates that we are committed to the president's No. 1 priority to accelerate the fight against (the Islamic State)," 5th Fleet Spokesman Lt. Ian McConnaughey said in an email.

Simply put, the strike group is too valuable to let it go home.

A lot of careful consideration and deliberate planning went into the Truman's extension, Navy Spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tim Hawkins said, including the impact on sailors, families, and fleet readiness.

"This is a situation that is an exception rather than the rule," Hawkins said. "That's how we view it."

The extension, however, comes at a time when leadership has had to make difficult decisions.

In 2014, Adm. Jonathan Greenert, then-chief of naval operations, said he wanted seven-month deployments to be the standard — a goal the Navy has pursued since.

"We think it's a sustainable goal," Hawkins said. "It balances needs to generate ready forces, support local presence requirements, respond to contingencies, and provide greater predictability and stability for sailors and their families."

And while many Navy platforms have managed to get down to predictable and sustainable deployment lengths, carriers have struggled due to an increased demand that has worn down the fleet.

Last Fall, the Navy chose to have a gap in carrier presence in the Middle East for the first time since 2007, and it said more gaps were possible.

The Truman already was replacing the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower on this deployment because the Ike's back-to-back deployments in 2012 and 2013 led to a significantly

extended maintenance availability.

News that the Truman would stay longer than planned didn't surprise Bryan McGrath, managing director of the Ferry Bridge Group, a business specializing in national security and defense consulting.

"Not only is it not surprising, it's predictable," McGrath said. "We are going to keep having these problems until the country wakes up and realizes we don't have a big enough Navy."

Currently, with the Navy's 10 aircraft carriers, seven-month deployments are "mathematically unobtainable," McGrath said.

The Navy sails right on the edge of being able to meet its global presence, said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. If one little thing goes wrong, such as the need for increased presence or maintenance delays, there will be a necessity for gaps or extended deployments.

The average length for deployments had shot up from a little over 6 months in the mid-2000s to more than 8 months or longer since 2012, leading to significant problems for the Navy.

Because of these long deployments, ships have suffered additional wear and tear while sequestration budget caps and shipyard constraints have left the Navy struggling to meet maintenance schedules, said a U.S. Government Accountability Office report released Monday.

## DOD cuts sexual assault claim retaliation estimate

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is lowering its estimate of the number of people it believes have faced retaliation for making claims of sexual assault, arguing that what might sometimes feel like revenge may actually be an attempt to help.

The decision, following a year of debate, is likely to face some criticism, particularly from sexual assault survivors who faced social snubs, harassment, job transfers or other actions in the emotional aftermath of an attack.

But what victims may see as vengeful actions are, in some cases, efforts that are meant to help survivors heal or to get them

away from their alleged attackers, military officials say. In other cases, social backlash, bullying or other negative social media behavior may be difficult to pinpoint or trace, and even harder to legally punish.

"It's not because we don't think that the others didn't have a bad experience, but everybody needs to have an understanding of what is the current state of policy and law to get after some of these experiences," said Nate Galbreath, senior executive adviser for the Pentagon's sexual assault prevention office.

In December 2014, a Rand Corp. survey initially said that more than 60 percent of sexual assault victims believed they had faced some type of retaliation from com-

manders or peers. That estimate was reduced to about 57 percent last year after officials concluded that the survey questions may have inadvertently included actions by commanders seeking to protect the victim or other social practices that were not designed to persuade victims not to press forward with criminal proceedings.

This year, officials say, the retaliation estimate is closer to 38 percent — or nearly 4 in 10 sexual assault victims believe they face some kind of legally punishable retribution for filing their assault complaint. The number, while smaller, is still jarring to officials who say they need to do more education and training to prevent and resolve retaliation problems.

# GI sues Obama over 'illegal war' on militants

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — An Army captain filed suit against President Barack Obama on Wednesday, claiming that the president is engaged in an “illegal war” against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Nathan Michael Smith, who is deployed to Kuwait as an intelligence officer at Camp Arifjan, argues that the president lacks the proper authorization for his campaign against the Islamic State group, sometimes referred to as ISIS, because he failed to get congressional authorization under the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

“In waging war against ISIS, President Obama is misusing

limited congressional authorizations for the use of military force as a blank check to conduct a war against enemies of his own choosing, without geographical or temporal boundaries,” reads the lawsuit, filed by Smith and his counsel, famed human rights lawyer David Remes. Yale Law School professor Bruce Ackerman is a consultant in the suit.

“Congress passed the 1973 War Powers Resolution in response to just such presidential overreach in the Vietnam War, and to protect against such abuses of presidential power in the future,” they argue. Congressional authorizations of the use of military force in 2001 and 2002 are too limited to jus-

tify the campaign against the Islamic State, they say.

Smith joined the military in 2010 because he saw it as “a force for good in the world,” the lawsuit reads. He served in Afghanistan and cheered the administration’s airstrikes on the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria in August and September of 2014. As the effort dragged on, however, he noticed that some at home were worried about presidential overreach.

“I began to wonder, ‘Is this the Administration’s war, or is it America’s war?’ The Constitution tells us that Congress is supposed to answer that question, but Congress is AWOL,” he said, according to the suit. “My conscience bothered me.”

The Constitution grants only Congress the authority to declare war, and the War Powers Resolution limits the president’s ability to deploy forces into hostile situations for more than 60 days without congressional approval, Smith argues. As a result, he was conflicted about the engagement.

“How could I honor my oath when I am fighting a war, even a good war, that the Constitution does not allow, or Congress has not approved?”

The lawsuit grew from an Atlantic piece in which Ackerman laid forth the argument at the heart of the lawsuit. In it, he argued that soldiers would make particularly good plaintiffs in such a case.

## Brown takes reins of US Army Pacific

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Gen. Robert B. Brown, who has spent more than a decade of his career in the region, took command of U.S. Army Pacific on Wednesday, replacing Gen. Vincent Brooks.

When Brooks assumed command three years ago, he was U.S. Army Pacific’s first four-star commander since 1974. The elevation to a four-star command was touted as evidence of the federal commitment to the Army in the Pacific.

Brown, who was given his fourth star shortly before the ceremony, most recently served as commanding general of the Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The roughly 100,000 Army personnel now under his command will work to “shape” the security landscape in the Pacific, he said. He noted ongoing efforts to deter North Korea from more overt hostilities and that the Pacific’s ability to prosper economically has come because of regional peace.

“We want to sustain that peace,” he said. “But we have to be ready. It’s a complex world out there.”

From staff reports

## NCO expresses ‘regret’ over appearance flap

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A command sergeant major whose out-of-regulation hairstyles, makeup and clothing sparked a firestorm of social media criticism is receiving counseling and has expressed “regret” for the distraction she has caused.

Photos of Command Sgt. Maj. Angelia Flournoy, who is with the 8th Military Police Brigade at Schofield Barracks, were posted to the Facebook page of the group US Army Military Police WTF Moments. Hundreds of comments were subsequently posted to the 8th MPB Facebook page, some of which have been deleted.

Photos show Flournoy’s hair hanging over her collar, while others show her wearing high heels while in uniform.

Some online commenters, who claim firsthand experience with Flournoy, describe her as imperious, long ignoring so-called “spot corrections” made by fellow soldiers.

Others related disparaging anecdotes and secondhand gossip, and commenters turned their ire on MPB command

after Facebook posts were deleted and photos removed.

Late Wednesday, Flournoy posted a statement on the 8th MPB’s Facebook page, saying: “I appreciate those who have corrected me and expressed their concern about my appearance not being fully in compliance with” regulations.

“You are right to insist standards be set and met by all soldiers,” she wrote. “I sincerely regret how this has distracted from the great things the 8th Military Police Soldiers are doing around the world.”

The 8th MPB is responsible for military policing in the Pacific region.

Maj. Leslie Waddle, a spokesperson for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, said the entire affair had made Flournoy “very humble.”

“Her hair was definitely out of regulation in some pictures,” Waddle said. “There are shoes that are not definitely out of regulation, but definitely questionable.”

“The command is definitely aware,” she said. “The command has brought her in for counseling.” She said the command at 8th TSC, which has oversight of the military police

brigade, considers the matter resolved.

Waddle said TSC Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Binford met with Flournoy “immediately” after command became aware of the photos, many of which commenters have altered into memes, and has been counseling her.

“It’s definitely gotten misconstrued on the Internet, for sure,” Waddle said. “He’s definitely been mentoring her, and she’s been very humble about it.”

In a statement posted on the 8th TSC Facebook page Wednesday, Binford wrote that “a humble leader can selflessly accept criticism” and that when “that epiphany comes, and the decision to change is made, it is a moment worthy of respect.”

“I believe CSM Flournoy has had that epiphany after our discussions about the important role we play as senior NCOs,” he wrote. “This is a moment of extreme humility, but only from that moment can a leader truly improve. I would encourage all leaders across the TSC, enlisted and officer alike, to look at themselves, be receptive to criticism, and be willing to change.”



# Cavs hit 25 threes in win Bosh won't play

Associated Press

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Your shot, Warriors. Dropping jumpers from every corner and angle, the Cleveland Cavaliers drained an NBA-record 25 three-pointers — the most in any regular-season or playoff game — during a 123-98 runaway win over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night in Game 2 of their second-round series.

J.R. Smith made seven threes as the Cavs, looking like an Eastern Conference version of Golden State's Splash Brothers, had the most prolific outside shooting game of any team in league history.

From the outset, they were on target and on a tear, and afterward LeBron James struggled to explain it.

"Tonight was a special night for all of us who played," he said. "This league has seen so many great teams, so many great players and great shooters and for us to set an all-time record is truly special."

James made four threes and scored 27 points for the defending conference champions, who were able to rest their starters for the entire fourth quarter. Their arms were tired.

Cleveland finished 25-for-45 behind the arc and had 10 players make at least one three.

Even the team's furry mascot, Moondog, got in on the act by making an over-the-head, backward fling from half court on his first try in the final minutes.

"When they put those shots down, I don't know if anyone can beat them, to be honest," said Atlanta's Kyle Korver, one of the game's deadliest shooters. "We were hoping that they'd start missing at some point."

The Cavs never did.

They made 18 three-pointers in the first half and added seven more after halftime to embarrass the Hawks, who have lost 10 straight postseason games to Cleveland.

The Cavs spent the final few minutes chasing history and when reserve Dahntay Jones dropped the Cavs' 24th three with 2:24 left, it bettered the mark of 23 previously held by Orlando (2009) and Houston (2013). Mo Williams added another three for good measure.

The Warriors, who beat the Cavs in last year's Finals and seem to be on a collision course with them again, recently set the postseason mark by making 21 three-pointers. Stephen Curry and Co. have a new bar to aim at.

Smith made six three-pointers in the first half — the Cavs knocked down seven straight during one dizzying stretch — as Cleveland built a 38-point lead over the stunned Hawks, who will head home for Friday's Game 3 down 2-0 in the series and utterly demoralized.

There was little Atlanta defenders could do against the Cavs, who stood behind the line, took aim and dropped shot after shot after shot.

After making Cleveland's 16th three-pointer in the first half, the easygoing Smith skipped back on defense like a little kid on a schoolyard playground as Cleveland's towel-waving fans danced with delight and smelled blood.

"When he's making shots, it's contagious," Cavs coach Tyrone Lue said.

By halftime, the Hawks were down 74-38 and finished. The team posted on its official Twitter account, "If you take away their 3s, we're right in this."

Cleveland went past Golden State's record when Kyrie Irving nailed a three-pointer with 5:06 left in the third quarter. But that wasn't even enough to satisfy the ravenous sellout crowd which was still chanting "Let's Go Cavs!" with Cleveland leading by 40 points.

Paul Millsap scored 16 points and Jeff Teague added 14 for the Hawks, who need to regroup quickly or they'll get swept by the Cavs for the second straight year.

Here's the kind of night it was for Atlanta: Millsap knocked down a long three-pointer to end the first quarter, but replays showed it came after the horn and was disallowed.

Not that it would have mattered much.

"That was overwhelming," Hawks guard Kent Bazemore said. "I thought they shot [really well] in Game 1, but that was amazing."

MIAMI — Chris Bosh's season is now officially over, regardless of how far the Miami Heat advance in the postseason.

The Heat and Bosh made the announcement Wednesday afternoon after the team practiced in Toronto, ending the recent speculation that Bosh would try to return to the court during the playoffs.

Bosh has not played since the All-Star break after a blood clot was discovered in his left leg. It's the second consecutive year that Bosh's season ended at the break because of problems with clotting, and the joint statement came one day after the National Basketball Players Association urged Bosh and the team to resolve any issues they have about his immediate future.

"The Miami Heat and Chris Bosh announce that Chris will not be playing in the remainder of the 2016 NBA Playoffs," read the statement. "The Heat, Chris, the doctors and medical team have been working together throughout this process and will continue to do so to return Chris to playing basketball as soon as possible."

Bosh is expected to remain with the team throughout the remainder of the playoffs — helping his teammates however he can. And while the statement finally provides resolution on his short-term status, it remains unknown if he has dealt with any other clots or if he remains on blood thinners.

"This has been going on since February," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said in Toronto on Wednesday, before the announcement. "All we know is that he's taking care of himself, health-wise, and that's all we care about."

Miami leads Toronto 1-0 in the Eastern Conference semifinals, with Game 2 set for Thursday.

Bosh was averaging a team-best 19.1 points at the break, when the clot was found after he arrived in Toronto — the city where he spent his first seven NBA seasons — for the All-Star weekend. He went through the All-Star media day rigors on Friday of that weekend knowing he couldn't play in the game, and the reason initially cited was a calf strain.

Days later, it became known that it was much worse — though not as severe as in 2015, when a clot on one of his lungs caused so much pain and other problems that Bosh was hospitalized. And when the team began its post-All-Star schedule this season in Atlanta, coach Erik Spoelstra said players addressed what they would miss about Bosh not being available to play.

## Nyquist early favorite for 142nd Derby

Associated Press

A year after American Pharoah thrilled the sports world by winning horse racing's first Triple Crown in 37 years, here comes Nyquist.

The colt named for Detroit Red Wings player Gustav Nyquist is looking like a worthy successor to a sport eager to retain the new fans it gained during American Pharoah's sweep of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. Nyquist was last year's 2-year-old champion, capping his season with a victory in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Now he is a 3-1 favorite for the 142nd Kentucky Derby on Saturday. The colt brings a 7-0 career record into Churchill Downs.

No less an expert than four-time Derby-winning trainer Bob Baffert thinks Nyquist is the horse to beat in the 1 1/4-mile race.

"He hasn't done anything wrong at all," said Baffert, who oversaw now-retired American Pharoah. "You have Nyquist and you have a lot of horses underneath."

Nyquist comes into America's greatest race off a five-week break, winning the Florida Derby in his final prep. He beat another undefeated horse, Mohaymen,

who finished fourth. With \$3.28 million, Nyquist is the top earner among the contenders vying to wear the garland of red roses.

Nyquist is backed by an experienced team: owner J. Paul Reddam, trainer Doug O'Neill and jockey Mario Gutierrez. The Southern California-based trio won the 2012 Derby and Preakness with I'll Have Another, who was stunningly retired on the eve of the Belmont with a leg injury, dashing the sport's Triple Crown hopes.

"I hope I have the same ending as I'll Have Another, at least the first two legs," O'Neill said. "It's a little bit more enjoyable this time because we've been there before and we can kind of soak it up a little bit more."

Nyquist will have to contend with a full field of 20 horses. Exaggerator drew the No. 11 post and is the 8-1 second choice.

"To me, it's not a stellar field like it was last year," said Ken Ramsey, who owns Oscar-Nominated, who will start from the No. 7 post. "So it's wide open."

O'Neill believes the Derby is the toughest race to win in the United States, partly because none of the 3-year-olds have run the distance or faced that many other horses. A bad post position or a poor

break from the starting gate can trip up a horse, too.

"You have to have a clean trip and then even if you get a clean trip you've got to have a horse that can go a mile-and-a-quarter no matter what time it is," he said. "What I love about Nyquist's chances is he's won from the rail, he's won from the 12-hole, he's won wire-to-wire, he's won from just off the pace. Mario can call audibles as the race unfolds if it doesn't unfold perfectly, and that really is a big benefit."

Baffert's lone entry is Mor Spirit, who has never been worse than second in seven career starts. He will break from the No. 17 post with jockey Gary Stevens, a three-time Derby winner whose last victory came in 1997 aboard Silver Charm. No horse has won from there in the race's previous 141 editions. Mor Spirit is 12-1.

Six months after American Pharoah headed off to stud duty in Lexington, Ky., Baffert still sees the effect his champion had on racing.

"People are really following it now to see if they can watch another horse," he said. "Nyquist, he's been perfect. Everybody's thinking maybe we're going to get another horse like that."

## Vogel out in Indiana

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers will not renew Frank Vogel's contract for next season, cutting ties with a respected name in the coaching ranks, Pacers President Larry Bird said on Thursday.

"I know it's not going to be a 100 percent popular move," Bird added. "But my responsibility is to do what's best for the franchise."

Vogel earned a 250-181 win-loss record in five and a half seasons with the Pacers. He led the team to the playoffs five times, including a first-round loss to the Toronto Raptors this season.

The Pacers became known as one of the better defensive teams in the NBA under Vogel's leadership, but Bird said he started thinking it might be time for a change around the All-Star break in an effort to get a coach to breathe life into a sometimes-stagnant offense.

He called the decision to part ways with Vogel one of the toughest he's ever had to make in basketball.



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# Cubs complete sweep of Pirates

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Chicago Cubs are threatening to run away with the NL Central.

Ben Zobrist hit a three-run home run, Anthony Rizzo also connected and Jon Lester worked out of a pair of jams to lead the Cubs over the second-place Pittsburgh Pirates 6-2 Wednesday for a three-game sweep.

With its seventh win in eight games, Chicago improved to a major league-best 20-6. The Cubs have won seven straight road games and completed their first sweep in Pittsburgh since Sept. 7-9, 2012. They lead the division by six games.

"We pitched really well in this series. We've been doing that the whole year," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "And the offense was good again. But the part that permits the offense to get into the flow of the game is the pitching's been so good. That we are able to stay even or most of the times on top of the other side."

"Offensively we keep having good at bats over the course of the game and then have a chance to work people down by the end. That's pretty much been the roadmap to this point."

Zobrist's third-inning homer put Chicago ahead after center fielder Andrew McCutchen dropped Rizzo's two-out liner for an error.

Lester (3-1) scattered eight hits in 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings, struck out five and walked two. The left-hander has allowed one run or none in five of six starts this season.

Pittsburgh loaded the bases in the fourth and put runners on first and second in the fifth — both times with no outs. The Pirates have lost four straight following a six-game winning streak.

"It says a lot about pitch execution because Johnny got in some jams and was able to pitch out of it, which was really nice to see," Cubs catcher David Ross said. "He's done that a couple times here lately."

Rizzo doubled and scored on Javier Baez's fifth-inning double and hit his ninth home run of the season in the seventh off Ryan Vogelsong. He had three hits, scored three times and finished the series with five doubles and the home run.

Baez also had three of the Cubs' 12 hits and drove in the game's final run with an RBI forceout in the ninth. Addison Russell added two hits and Kris Bryant extended his hitting streak to 10 games.

Pinch-hitter Matt Joyce had a two-run homer in the seventh against Adam Warren. Three of his four home runs have come as a pinch hitter.

Juan Nicasio (3-3) had won his first three home starts after being signed as a free agent, allowed four runs — one earned — eight hits and three walks in 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

Pittsburgh got two hits each from McCutchen, David Freese and Josh Harrison. McCutchen had gone 2-for-19 in his previous five games.

"We had our chances but we didn't capitalize on them," Harrison said. "It's disappointing to get swept but we're good about getting past things. We came in, took a shower and now we're moving on."

Rizzo is hitting .362 (17 for 47) with 16 RBIs in his last 12 games after hitting .163 in his first 14.

**Blue Jays 4, Rangers 3:** Catcher Russell Martin singled home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning and host Toronto beat Texas, their second straight last at-bat victory over the Rangers.

Edwin Encarnacion singled off Tony Barnette (1-2) to begin the ninth and was replaced by pinch-runner Ezequiel Carrera. Justin Smoak walked, Troy Tulowitzki popped up and Kevin Pillar walked to load the bases for Martin, who drove a ball beyond the reach of Nomar Mazara into the right field corner.

"I was just thinking of trying to drive the ball somehow," said Martin, whose two-hit effort boosted his batting average to .169. "The end result, I'm definitely happy about it."

Martin was mobbed behind the mound by his teammates. The Blue Jays won 3-1 in 10 innings Tuesday on Smoak's second home run of the game.

"It's huge for Russell," Blue Jays starter Aaron Sanchez said. "Obviously, that was a huge hit. He'd been struggling to get that big hit in a key spot."

Roberto Osuna (1-0) worked one inning for the win.

**Red Sox 5, White Sox 2:** David Ortiz

hit his 509th home run to put visiting Boston ahead to stay.

Ortiz's two-run shot to right field off Carlos Rodon (1-4) in the fifth inning tied him with Gary Sheffield for 25th all-time. It was his sixth homer of the season and 451st with Boston, one off Carl Yastrzemski's club mark.

**Cardinals 5, Phillies 4:** Matt Holliday's RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning gave host St. Louis a victory.

St. Louis loaded the bases with one out in the ninth inning against Phillies closer Jeanmar Gomez (2-1). Stephen Piscotty delivered an RBI infield single to tie the game. Holliday then smacked a single through the left side of the infield to drive in the winning run.

**Astros 16, Twins 4:** Jason Castro homered and drove in four runs, and Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa each homered and knocked in three as host Houston won consecutive games for the first time this season.

The Astros built a 6-0 lead after two innings and didn't let up in setting a season high for runs.

**Mets 8, Braves 0:** Steven Matz (4-1) allowed two hits over 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, Lucas Duda hit two of the Mets' four home runs and host New York extended its streak of winning series to six for the first time since August and September 2006.

**Yankees 7, Orioles 0:** CC Sabathia pitched seven sharp innings, Brian McCann drove in three runs and visiting New York ended its six-game losing streak.

Playing in his 1,000th major league game, Jacoby Ellsbury went 3-for-3 with two walks to help the Yankees improve to 9-16 and avoid their worst skid since April 2007.

**Indians 4, Tigers 0:** Corey Kluber pitched a five-hit shutout and host Cleveland used a four-run fourth inning to defeat Detroit for the fifth straight time this season.

Kluber (2-3) worked out of jams in the second and fourth to beat Detroit for the second time in two weeks. The right-hander, who won the AL Cy Young Award in 2014, struck out seven and walked two in his second career shutout and eighth complete game.

**Rays 8, Dodgers 5:** Steve Pearce hit

one of four Tampa Bay homers, a go-ahead three-run shot in the sixth inning, and the host Rays beat Los Angeles.

**Marlins 4, Diamondbacks 3:** Giancarlo Stanton homered and drove in two runs for host Miami.

**Reds 7, Giants 4:** Brandon Phillips, Eugenio Suarez and Zack Cozart homered in a five-run second against Jake Peavy (1-3).

Peavy allowed seven runs and eight hits in six innings, raising his ERA to 9.00 in six starts. He had been 7-0 with a 2.38 ERA in 12 starts against the host Reds.

**Angels 7, Brewers 3:** Mike Trout had an RBI triple and sparked a four-run eighth with a solo homer for visiting Los Angeles.

Trout tied the game at 3 after leading off the eighth with a drive to right on a hanging curveball from Tyler Thornburg (2-1). Five batters later, pinch-hitter C.J. Cron drove in the go-ahead run after looping a two-out double. Trout, a four-time All-Star, has 18 RBIs in his last 13 games after a slow start.

**Nationals 13, Royals 2:** Daniel Murphy finished a triple shy of the cycle, slumping slugger Bryce Harper also went deep, and Murphy and Clint Robinson drove in three runs apiece for visiting Washington.

Stephen Strasburg (5-0) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings while striking out seven.

**Mariners 9, Athletics 8:** Dae-Ho Lee hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh after an earlier solo shot for his first career multi-homer game, and visiting Seattle completed a three-game sweep.

Mike Montgomery (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win on a day Nelson Cruz also homered, a rare shot into the second deck of seats in dead-center.

**Rockies 2, Padres 0:** Tyler Chatwood (4-2) pitched three-hit ball for eight innings in his sixth start since Tommy John surgery, sending host San Diego to its eighth shutout loss in 28 games this season.

Jake McGee pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh save.

# Penguins put Caps on brink of elimination

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Patric Hornqvist makes a living by working in tight spaces. Given a rare moment of freedom from his usual spot parked in front of the opponent's net, the Pittsburgh Penguins forward pushed the Washington Capitals to the brink of elimination.

Hornqvist fired a loose puck between Braden Holtby's legs 2:34 into overtime to give the Penguins a 3-2 victory Wednesday night in Game 4 of the tightly contested second-round series.

Washington's Mike Weber tried to steer the puck out of harm's way in front of the net, but it went right to Hornqvist charging in from the right circle. The burly forward buried it for his fifth goal of the postseason to give the Penguins a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals.

"That's a big win," Hornqvist said. "Now we have to stick with it. We haven't done

anything yet."

Maybe, but the Penguins can advance to the conference final with a victory in Game 5 in Washington on Saturday after sending the Capitals to a third straight loss. Washington dropped three consecutive games just once while capturing the Presidents' Trophy for posting the league's best record. Now the Capitals are three periods away from an eighth playoff series loss to the Penguins in nine all-time postseason meetings.

"We have to have the mentality shift by shift, period by period, try to turn it around," said Washington captain Alex Ovechkin, who had seven of his team's 36 shots but was held without a point.

The Penguins survived despite missing defenseman Kris Letang, serving a one-game suspension for an illegal hit on Marcus Johansson in Game 3. The makeshift group at the blue line that included Brian Dumoulin and Justin Schultz played just fine in the absence of per-

haps Pittsburgh's most indispensable player. The Penguins blocked 14 shots and clogged the area in front of the net to protect goaltender Matt Murray.

"It wasn't a perfect game by any stretch but we're playing against a pretty good opponent and Tanager's a tough guy to replace," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said. "Guys had to play more minutes, more significant roles. I thought the group of them did a tremendous job."

Matt Cullen and Trevor Daley also scored for Pittsburgh and Murray stopped 34 shots to improve to 13-1 in his last 14 starts, including a 6-1 mark in the postseason. Penguins captain Crosby left briefly in the third period after getting slashed by Ovechkin but his presence early in overtime helped set up the winner.

Pittsburgh had been on the wrong end of sudden death overtime eight straight times since beating the New York Islanders in Game 6 of the first round in

2013. The drought ended when a Conor Sheary shot from the point was stopped by Weber before it got to Holtby. Weber then nudged it across the slot to an awaiting Hornqvist. Holtby, who was focusing on Crosby standing right in front of him, couldn't get his legs closed fast enough.

"I have to get over there quicker than I did," Holtby said.

Jay Beagle and John Carlson scored for Washington, and Holtby made 29 saves.

The Capitals now have to rally from a 3-1 deficit, something they've only done twice in the franchise's 41 seasons. Washington had the league's best record in one-goal games during the regular season but is just 2-4 in one-goal contests in the playoffs.

"We have the experience, the composure," Holtby said. "It's just a matter of putting it to use now and keep pushing forward. Hopefully the bounces will go our way sooner or later."