

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump's Pentagon budget said to add ship to Obama plan

Bloomberg

President Donald Trump is expected to propose a \$603 billion defense budget for the year beginning Oct. 1 that would add one warship but no more F-35 and Super Hornet jets than the Obama administration had projected, according to officials.

While the Obama administration had anticipated buying eight ships in the coming year, Trump's budget would ask Congress to pay for nine, adding one DDG-51 Flight III destroyer built by General Dynamics Corp. and Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc.

It also would buy enough Tomahawk cruise missiles made by Raytheon Corp. to keep the company's Tucson, Ariz., plant in operation.

The fiscal 2018 proposal is something of a placeholder until the Pentagon completes a new National Defense Strategy that Defense Secretary James Mattis commissioned on Feb. 1. It also doesn't reflect results of a pending review that Mattis requested in January — in response to a Twitter posting by Trump — to evaluate the cost and operational advantages of buying improved F/A-18E/F jets over the F-35C model designed for use on aircraft carriers, the officials said.

The decisions from those reviews will be reflected in a five-year plan for fiscal 2019-23.

The proposed fiscal 2018 budget is about \$18.5 billion, or 3.2 percent, larger than the comparable plan left by the Obama administration, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Re-

search Service.

Republican Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, criticized an earlier outline of the defense budget plan as insufficient and vowed to push for more.

The \$603 billion includes funding for defense-related spending by the Energy and Justice departments. The Pentagon-only defense request is \$574 billion, or about \$17 billion more than the Obama administration planned for the year.

In guidance in January, Mattis said the fiscal 2018 proposal would focus on rebuilding readiness, such as "buying more critical munitions" and funding facilities maintenance "at a higher rate" and "growing force structure at the maximum responsible rate."

The plan to buy more Tomahawks is in line with that guidance. Raytheon has said it would need to produce 196 of the cruise missiles annually to keep the Arizona assembly line open.

The Trump budget also would add funds to buy more precision munitions from Lockheed, Boeing and Raytheon to be used in the fight against Islamic State terrorists. The U.S.-led coalition dropped 3,878 munitions in March, the most since the operation began in August 2014.

The budget request's addition of one newer model Flight III destroyer falls short of the accelerated shipbuilding pace the Navy has said is needed to reach a fleet of about 350 ships, up from about 275 deployable today — a goal endorsed by Trump during the campaign.

## Navy: Separation for sharing explicit photos

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Sailors found guilty of sharing sexually explicit images online without the subject's consent will face mandatory separation from the service, the Navy announced Tuesday in an administrative message.

The announcement increases the minimum punishment for sailors found to have engaged in so-called revenge porn online and comes in the wake of a nude photo-sharing scandal inside the Marine Corps, which has resulted in the investigation of hundreds of servicemembers.

Previously, the Navy did not have a defined minimum punishment for anyone found to have engaged in sharing nude photos or videos without consent.

"There is no room in our Navy for this toxic behavior," Vice Adm. Robert Burke, the chief of naval personnel, said in a prepared statement. "This new policy shows that we are committed to eradicating this behavior from our force."

The Navy's decision to remove any sailors caught sharing such images follows a similar decision by the Marine Corps, which announced May 9 that Marines found to have engaged in improper nude photo sharing would face mandatory separation proceedings.

U.S. Navy Regulations, updated last month, define nonconsensual distribution or broadcasting of an image as sharing an image "without legal justification

or excuse [when the sharer] knows or reasonably should know that the depicted person did not consent to the disclosure, and the intimate image is distributed or broadcast with the intent to realize personal gain ... [or] to humiliate, harm, harass, intimidate, threaten, or coerce the depicted person; or ... with reckless disregard as to whether the depicted person would be humiliated, harmed, intimidated, threatened, or coerced."

In February, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service launched a probe into reports of a Marine-centric Facebook group that shared nude photos of active-duty and veteran female Marines. Marine Corps officials said in addition to the explicit photos, members of the Marines United Facebook group — a private page primarily for active Marines, Marine veterans and Navy hospital corpsmen — made harassing comments about women in the photographs including threats of rape.

In the months since the Marines United scandal was uncovered, the NCIS has expanded its investigation to more than 100 websites.

NCIS has since opened more than 20 felony-level cases, including against nine active-duty Marines, two Marine reservists, three sailors, one Navy reservist and one civilian. More than 30 other cases have been forwarded to military commanders for potential administrative action, according to the Naval law enforcement agency.



# US admiral: North Korea's actions 'recipe for disaster'

Associated Press

TOKYO — The top American military officer in the Pacific said Wednesday that North Korea's recent military actions are "a recipe for a disaster" and warned against a sense of complacency in the face of increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Adm. Harry Harris Jr. made the remarks at a lecture for a Tokyo think tank after meeting with Japanese leaders that he said focused on North Korea's missile and nuclear programs.

North Korea test-launched a missile on Sunday that many experts believe could be its most advanced yet, flying higher and longer than any previous missile.

"Combining nuclear warheads with ballistic technology in the hands of a volatile leader like Kim Jong Un is a recipe for a disaster," Harris said. "Kim Jong Un is not afraid to fail in public, and every test he makes is a success because it takes North Korea one step closer to being able to deliver a nuclear-equipped missile anywhere in the world."

The missile on Sunday was deliberately fired on a "lofted" trajectory — reaching more than 1,200 miles, which is higher than satellites in low Earth orbit — to test re-entry capabilities and place its "splash zone" in the open Pacific.

Harris, head of the United States Pacific Command, based

in Hawaii, said North Korea is "closer to being able to deliver a nuclear-equipped missile anywhere in the world" and called for further coordination between the U.S., Japan and South Korea to deal with the threat.

He also obliquely criticized China for throwing up obstacles to the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, where Beijing has constructed island bases in the disputed waters, saying "we should fly, be able to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows."

While in Tokyo, Harris met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defense Minister Tomomi Inada.

## Newly freed Manning 'figuring things out'

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Pvt. Chelsea Manning, the soldier who was sentenced to 35 years in a military prison for giving classified materials to WikiLeaks, said Wednesday that she's excited about what lies ahead, just hours after she walked free after serving seven years behind bars.

"I'm figuring things out right now — which is exciting, awkward, fun, and all new for me," Manning said in an emailed statement. "I am looking forward to so much! Whatever is ahead of me is far more important than the past."

Manning, who is transgender and was known as Bradley Manning before she transitioned in prison, was convicted in 2013 of 20 counts, including six Espionage Act violations, theft and computer fraud. She was acquitted of the most serious charge of aiding the enemy.

Manning, a former intelligence analyst in Iraq, has acknowledged leaking the materials, which included battlefield video. She said she wanted to expose what she considered to be the U.S. military's disregard of the effects of war on civilians and that she released information that she didn't believe would harm the U.S.

Critics said the leaks laid bare some of the nation's most sensitive secrets and endangered information sources, prompting the State Department to help some of those people move to protect their safety.

The Army said Tuesday that Manning would remain on active duty in a special, unpaid status that will legally entitle her to military medical care, along with commissary privileges. An Army spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Jennifer Johnson, said Manning will be on "excess leave" while her court-martial conviction is under appellate review.

## Report details possible improper discharges

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 13,000 servicemembers separated from the military for misconduct in recent years suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or another disorder and were prevented from receiving treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs because of their discharge status, a new report says.

The Government Accountability Office released a report Tuesday detailing the thousands of possibly improper discharges the Defense Department issued from 2011 through 2015. The report states the Defense Department is inconsistent and doesn't always follow its own policies to take into consideration that a service-related medical disorder could have led to a service-member's misconduct.

The report particularly focus-

es on PTSD and TBI, signature wounds of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars that the GAO report stated can change servicemembers' moods and behaviors and lead to disciplinary problems.

During the four-year span, the Defense Department separated 91,764 servicemembers for misconduct, and 57,141 — or 62 percent — were diagnosed with PTSD, TBI or other conditions such as adjustment, anxiety, bipolar or substance abuse disorders within two years before leaving the service. About 35 percent of servicemembers had adjustment disorders, which are psychological responses to stressful events. Eleven percent had TBI and 8 percent were diagnosed with PTSD.

Most of the servicemembers were given a general discharge, making them ineligible for some VA services. But 13,283 were given the more stringent other-than-honorable discharge, which disqualifies them from

receiving VA health care.

The GAO report found the Navy and Air Force didn't have a policy to medically screen servicemembers for PTSD and TBI before they're separated for misconduct.

Included in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act was a measure titled the "Fairness for Veterans Act" that requires Defense Department panels that review discharges to consider medical evidence from a veteran's health care provider. Panels are supposed to review each case presuming PTSD, TBI or another condition led to the discharge.

The Defense Department agreed with most of the GAO's recommendations to fix the issues. However, the department disputed some of the data included in the report, including a finding that 16 percent of separated servicemembers suffered from PTSD or TBI.



# Experts urge more US troops in Europe

By TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The United States should continue to support a robust conventional buildup in Eastern Europe to deter further Russian aggression there, panelists told an independent U.S. commission on Wednesday, just days ahead of President Donald Trump's rollout of his 2018 budget.

"I would support deploying on a permanent basis an additional brigade combat team, armored," said Michael Carpenter, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Ukraine and Russia under former President Barack Obama.

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe includes Republicans and Democrats from the Senate and House and representatives from the Defense and State departments and has been in place for more than four decades to examine European security issues.

"Having armor especially on the eastern flank of the Baltic states would be a large deterrent for Russia, especially manned by Americans as opposed to the multinational brigades," Carpenter, who was one of three experts on the panel, told the commission. "There is nothing that substitutes for American presence on the Eastern flank."

Carpenter's comments echoed testimony last week on Capitol Hill from Army Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, the top U.S. commander in Europe who oversees U.S. and NATO forces. Scaparrotti said NATO forces are "returning to our historic role as a warfighting command" due to Russia's actions.

Since Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, the United States has steadily increased funds to support more military operations in Europe,

including Army brigade rotations and stocks of equipment throughout the eastern part of the continent. It has also provided Ukraine with training and nonlethal equipment to help the country defend itself from further Russian incursion. Earlier this month, Congress passed the final portion of the 2017 budget, which included \$3.4 billion for the European Reassurance Initiative.

"It is important that the administration and NATO continue the steps agreed at last year's NATO summit at Warsaw to enhance the alliance's conventional deterrence and defense capabilities in the Baltic region and Central Europe," said Steven Pifer, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who served under former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

However, it is not clear how much funding Trump will seek for military operations in Europe in his 2018 budget. He has openly criticized NATO for relying too heavily on U.S. military power. The first budget of his presidency will be unveiled May 23.

Experts warned Wednesday that the additional support for Ukraine and maintaining a strong presence in Europe has not deterred Russia, so far. They said it has not led to Russian compliance with cease-fire agreements in Ukraine or stopped them from pursuing advanced weaponry that could threaten Europe, including new land-based cruise missiles that are in violation of the 1987 Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

"Until Russia feels there are consequences" to meeting the terms of the negotiated cease-fire agreement and others, it will continue to act in violation of them, Carpenter said.

## Rapid-deployment exercise tests response systems

By DAN STOUTAMIRE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WIESBADEN, Germany — U.S. Army Europe will make use of its prepositioned equipment to allow Fort Carson-based 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, to participate in live-fire exercises at Grafenwoehr Training Area this month.

The light infantry battalion recently completed an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise from its home base in Colorado, arriving at two U.S. air bases in Germany over the past several days. Now, it will move east to Bavaria where it will take part in a variety of training events before returning home in roughly a month, said USAREUR's lead planner for the exercise, Lt. Col. Robert Gunther.

"You don't just deploy somebody someplace and then turn around and send them right back because it's a waste of money and not a good use of training resources," he said of the decision to send the unit to Grafenwoehr.

The additional time also represents an opportunity. While such exercises are commonplace Army-wide, this one allows European-based units to test their systems for a potential real-world crises in which large numbers of U.S.-based troops need to be transported to the continent rapidly and moved eastward.

The stockpiles of heavy equipment, vehicles and tanks — Army Prepositioned Stocks, or APS — at depots in Eygelshoven in the Netherlands and Duellmen in Germany, look set

to be a major part of that effort.

"Theoretically the Army could send a unit over — just soldiers and their personal weapons, fall in on (heavy) equipment, sign for them and move out," Gunther said.

This is not the first time the APS sites have been used to provide equipment for training events. But it's still a new enough idea that Gunther said the 21st Sustainment Command, which oversees the sites, benefits from the experience.

Maj. Christopher Richardson, chief logistician of the 4th Infantry Division Mission Control Element, currently based in Poznan, Poland, said the deploying battalion will not depend solely on the APS sites.

"They're bringing some organic equipment from home station, which were able to fit in the aircraft."

He added that rail transportation will be used to bring the rest of the equipment and supplies from various APS sites to Grafenwoehr, where the battalion will be waiting.

Last month, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commanding general of USAREUR, led a delegation of senior U.S. and NATO logistics officers to various sites around eastern Europe where the alliance hopes to establish major hubs over the next decade, including at Powidz in Poland and Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base in Romania. The purpose of the trip was to streamline the ability of spread-out U.S. and NATO forces to rapidly respond in the event of a crisis. The planning process for this exercise has helped to polish some processes, Richardson said.

## Navy probes as trash disks wash ashore

CAROVA BEACH, N.C. — The U.S. Navy is investigating after compacted trash disks washed up on beaches on North Carolina's Outer Banks.

The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk reported more than two dozen of the table-top sized plastic disks were scattered on the beach north of Corolla.

David Elder, with the town of Kill Devil Hills, reported the disks have shown up on his beaches, too.

Ted Brown with the Navy's Fleet Forces Command said the disks appear to be similar to those made on Navy ships to compress plastic waste for easy storage. Ships are not supposed to dump plastic into the ocean.

From The Associated Press



# Trump faces fallout over Comey appeal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump faced fallout Wednesday over revelations that he personally appealed to now-fired FBI Director James Comey to abandon the bureau's investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, allegations based on notes Comey wrote after the meeting.

The White House has denied the report, which came amid a furor over the president's discussions with Russian diplomats in which Trump is said to have disclosed classified information.

In a bizarre twist on Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to turn over to Congress records of Trump's discussions.

The White House has played down the importance and secrecy of the information Trump

gave to the Russians, which had been supplied by Israel under an intelligence-sharing agreement. Trump said he had "an absolute right" as president to share "facts pertaining to terrorism" and airline safety with Russia. Yet U.S. allies and some members of Congress expressed concern bordering on alarm.

Putin told a news conference that he would be willing to turn over notes of Trump's meeting with the Russian diplomats if the White House agreed.

Trump left the White House Wednesday morning to head to Connecticut where he was scheduled to give the commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

As for Comey, whom Trump fired last week, the FBI director wrote in a memo after a February meeting at the White House that the new president

had asked him to shut down the FBI's investigation of Flynn and his Russian contacts, said a person who had read the memo.

The Flynn investigation was part of a broader probe into Russian interference in last year's presidential election.

Comey's memo, an apparent effort to create a paper trail of his contacts with the White House, would be the clearest evidence to date that the president has tried to influence the investigation.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Republican chairman of the House oversight committee, sent a letter to the FBI on Tuesday requesting that it turn over all documents and recordings that detail communications between Comey and Trump. He said he would give the FBI a week and then "if we need a subpoena, we'll do it."

The panel's top Democrat, Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, a constant Trump critic, called the allegation of Trump pressure on Comey "explosive" and said "it appears like a textbook case of criminal obstruction of justice."

John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said late Tuesday that the developments had reached "Watergate size and scale."

Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader of the Senate, said simply, "It would be helpful to have less drama emanating from the White House."

The person who described the Comey memo to The Associated Press was not authorized to discuss it by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The existence of the memo was first reported Tuesday by The New York Times.

## Tornadoes slam Wis., Okla.

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Two people died and dozens were injured when tornadoes flattened a mobile home park in Wisconsin and a housing subdivision in Oklahoma during powerful spring storms that battered an area from the South Plains of Texas to the Great Lakes.

The storms hit late in the afternoon Tuesday and into the evening, leveling the Prairie Lake Estate Mobile Park near Chetek, Wis., about 110 miles northeast of Minneapolis. When first responders arrived at the scene, they could hear the people crying for help in the rubble, Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald told KMSP-TV.

One person died at the mobile home park, the Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center said in a statement late Tuesday. No details of the fatality were given. More than 25 people were injured, the statement said, without giving their conditions. Helicopter video from WCCO-TV and KARE-

TV shows extensive damage at the trailer park, with several homes reduced to rubble.

"It's a mess," Fitzgerald told the Leader-Telegram of Eau Claire. "We have at least one deceased so far and we're still in a search pattern."

In Oklahoma, another tornado damaged much of a subdivision on the southern fringe of Elk City, Okla., about 110 miles west of Oklahoma City. Fire Chaplain Danny Ringer told reporters at the scene late Tuesday that one person was known dead from the twister, although details were lacking. He also said the storm destroyed 40 homes and damaged 50 to 75 others severely. It was not immediately known if there were injuries.

More than two dozen tornado sightings were reported to the National Weather Service on Tuesday night across Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin. The storm also brought numerous reports of large hail and strong winds.

## SC runoff election is headed for a recount

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The runoff election for the Republican GOP nomination to replace Mick Mulvaney in South Carolina's 5th District was too close to call Tuesday night, with the slightest of margins separating the contenders.

The difference in votes between former lawmaker Ralph Norman and state legislator Tommy Pope was less than 1 percent, meaning a recount is automatic.

Norman, who held a slight lead with all precincts reporting, was claiming victory, and the Club for Growth, whose political arm backed Norman, sent out an email message congratulating him.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Pope said he would let the automatic recount process play out.

Mulvaney vacated the 5th District seat to become White House budget director. The run-

off was required when voters in the Republican-leaning district gave Norman and Pope roughly equal support while rejecting the flamethrowers and outsiders in a seven-way GOP primary.

Both candidates selectively align with President Donald Trump, supporting his proposed border wall with Mexico as well as favoring his efforts to promote U.S. economic growth by loosening federal regulations. Both also pledged to get rid of the Affordable Care Act.

Although Pope, a former prosecutor, had the support of several high-profile state Republicans, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, Norman got backing from conservative organizations from outside the state. That vein of support includes Ted Cruz, who stumped with the real estate developer Monday, as well as Jim DeMint, the former senator and recently departed chief at The Heritage Foundation.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Jaguar escapes its yard at zoo, attacks monkey

**TX** ABILENE — Officials said there was no risk to the public when a jaguar escaped its enclosure and attacked a monkey at a Texas zoo even though they don't know how the big cat got loose.

Abilene Zoo Executive Director Bill Gersonde said staff discovered 2-year-old Estrella missing Monday morning before the zoo opened for the day.

Estrella was found soon after atop a neighboring exhibit holding spider monkeys. Gersonde said it appears Estrella reached inside and seriously injured the monkey, which has been euthanized.

Estrella was tranquilized using a dart gun, then placed in a holding pen. Another jaguar also was secured.

## Officer accidentally ODs after making arrest

**OH** EAST LIVERPOOL — Police said an Ohio officer suffered an accidental overdose after making a drug arrest when he touched powder on his shirt without realizing it was the powerful opioid fentanyl.

He was treated with an overdose reversal drug after brushing off the powder with his hand and passing out Friday in East Liverpool, roughly 85 miles southeast of Cleveland. Fentanyl can be absorbed through the skin, and a few specks can kill an adult.

East Liverpool police Capt. Patrick Wright was fine by Sunday.

## Worker suspected of theft for side business

**VT** MONTPELIER — Federal authorities are investigating a former Cabot

cheese employee suspected of stealing machine parts from the Vermont-based company and using them in his side business selling maple syrup production equipment.

Randall Swartz is accused of buying parts for Cabot Creamery with company funds and then using them to build machines he sold in his business. Cabot did not say whether the parts are used in any of its equipment. The FBI said Swartz had worked at Cabot for 20 years and was fired in February for allegedly stealing from the company. No charges have been filed.

## 3 beachgoers at park run over by county truck

**FL** MIAMI — Police said three beachgoers at a Miami-area park suffered scrapes and bruises after they were run over by a county pickup truck.

Miami-Dade police said the driver of the pickup, county employee Kevin Gonzalez, 23, told them he didn't see the three before his Ford F-150 truck rolled over them as they sunbathed. The incident happened late Friday at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne.

The Miami Herald reported that no charges have been filed against Gonzalez. The three beachgoers suffered injuries mainly to their legs and feet but were not seriously hurt.

## Man thanks iPhone's Siri for saving his life

**NH** WILMOT — A New Hampshire man who was injured in a house explosion is thanking Siri for saving his life.

Christopher Beaucher said he was checking on his mother's vacant cottage in Wilmot on May 1 when he saw something suspicious and went inside.

He told WMUR-TV that when he switched on a light, the house exploded. Beaucher's face and hands were badly burned. He grabbed his cellphone but was unable to dial because of his injuries. He said he somehow asked his iPhone's voice-controlled virtual assistant, Siri, to call 911, believing he was going into shock.

## Man found dead, pinned under mower in creek

**PA** BROGUE — A Pennsylvania man was found dead, pinned beneath a lawn mower in a creek.

York County authorities said the man had been riding the mower before he was found unresponsive about 9:30 p.m. Sunday in Chanceford Township, about 40 miles southeast of Harrisburg. County Coroner Pamela Gray said the man was mowing on his property before he was found dead.

Pennsylvania State Police are investigating.

## Pedestrian hit by driver facing multiple charges

**NY** CLAY — Authorities said a central New York man has been charged with carjacking a woman's vehicle and sexually assaulting her after she struck him as he walked across a road.

The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office said a 36-year-old was making a turn in Clay on Thursday afternoon when she hit a pedestrian at an intersection.

Deputies said the man jumped into the back seat of her vehicle, claimed he was armed and demanded money. Police said he forced the woman to drive to a nearby apartment complex, where he sexually assaulted her.

The man then fled on foot while the woman called 911. Witness descriptions of the sus-

pect led police to the Liverpool residence of a 19-year-old man, who was charged with kidnapping, robbery and sexual assault.

## Cops: Family barricaded in house where fire set

**SC** WEDGEFIELD — A South Carolina woman was arrested after authorities say she set her house on fire and barricaded her family inside.

The State reported that Willie Mae McQuilla, 67, was arrested Saturday and charged with one count of arson and three counts of attempted murder.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that McQuilla admitted to setting the house on fire when deputies stopped to question her as firefighters headed to her house. The news release says the family members were able to escape without injury.

## Lobsterman's buoy recovered in France

**ME** ADDISON — A Maine lobsterman's buoy has been found 2,500 miles away from his boat.

WCSH-TV reported Adrian Batson offered Gilbert Mellaza some Maine lobster to ship his buoy from where it washed up in Brest, France.

Mellaza had posted a photo of the buoy on a Facebook group called "Lost at Sea." Members of the group used its ID number to track it back to Batson.

Batson said the buoy's design is from 15 years ago. He paints each of his more than 600 buoys its own color.

Mellaza said he often finds trash from Canada, Maine and Massachusetts, and he worries about the environment.

Batson said his buoys break apart to protect sea life.

From wire reports

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# Warriors jump on Spurs early, win big

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Steve Kerr provided a strong message, just not from his usual spot on the bench: Play with urgency from the opening tip this time.

The Golden State Warriors did just that for their ailing coach watching from the locker room, and left Gregg Popovich questioning and criticizing his Spurs players for a lack of belief and feeling sorry for themselves without injured superstar Kawhi Leonard.

Stephen Curry had 29 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in three quarters and the Warriors trounced the short-handed Spurs, running away from San Antonio for a 136-100 rout Tuesday night and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Kevin Durant added 16 points and Draymond Green provided another impressive all-around performance with 13 points, nine rebounds, six assists, two steals and two blocks. Rookie Patrick McCaw had 18 points and five assists off the bench,

shooting 6-for-8 as the Warriors earned their second-most lopsided postseason victory ever to improve to 10-0.

“That’s just been the message all year, just play with urgency and start the game off with some energy and throw the first punch,” Durant said. “Unlike Game 1, we did that tonight. We know they’re a little undermanned but they still play extremely hard, so we knew we couldn’t come out here and relax and think they were just going to give us the game. We had to go take it.”

The 36-point victory is second to a 39-point victory for the then-Philadelphia Warriors at St. Louis on April 6, 1948.

Jonathon Simmons scored 17 of his 22 points in the first half as the lone bright spot for the Spurs.

“It looked pretty collective to me. I don’t think it was one guy who didn’t believe and he infected everybody else or anything like that. As a group they just let themselves down,” Popovich said. “The truth always quote-unquote sets you free. You can’t sugarcoat it or

say, ‘If we had just made a couple shots we’d have been right there.’ That’s pretty lame. So, call it like it is. We didn’t come to play. We felt sorry for ourselves. We need to get slapped and come back and play Game 3 and see who we are.”

Leonard re-injured his left ankle in Sunday’s 113-111 Game 1 loss after coming down on Zaza Pachulia’s foot. Popovich on Monday called out the Warriors starting center for the “dangerous” and “unsportsmanlike” closeout — which had Pachulia insisting he is not a dirty player, was only playing hard, and felt badly that the All-Star forward was injured.

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Saturday in San Antonio.

Pachulia left the game injured for a Warriors team already without key reserve forward Andre Iguodala, held out because of soreness in his left knee that limited him to 10 minutes in Game 1.

An X-ray on Pachulia’s bruised right heel was clear but he was scheduled for an MRI on Wednesday.

Golden State quickly established its pass-happy, up-tempo style to take the Spurs out from the opening tip. It was a drastic difference from a game of catch-up two days earlier when the Warriors rallied from 25 down and a 20-point halftime deficit.

The bench contributed a season-best 63 points.

“They came out with a sense of urgency from the beginning and they played that way for 48 minutes,” acting Warriors coach Mike Brown said.

Klay Thompson, still struggling to find his steady shooting touch, had 11 points, six rebounds and four assists. The Warriors had 39 assists — the most by any team this postseason — including 30 on their initial 38 baskets.

Shaun Livingston scored in double figures for the first time this postseason with 10 points for Golden State.

Simmons started in Leonard’s place and shot 6-for-9 to begin the game while the rest of the Spurs were 3-for-22.

## Celtics win NBA Draft lottery, take home No. 1 pick

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Celtics won by beating out the Lakers, giving the draft lottery an old NBA Finals feel.

Yet, obvious by Magic Johnson’s smile, the hated rivals were both celebrating.

The Celtics won the lottery Tuesday night to continue another amazing basketball springtime in Boston, capitalizing on a trade they made with the Brooklyn Nets four years ago.

A night after winning Game 7 against Washington to secure an Eastern Conference finals matchup with Cleveland, the Celtics cashed in their 25 percent chance to land the No. 1 pick in the June draft.

“Game last night, Game 7, a tough Washington team. Game

tomorrow against a tough Cleveland team. And now we squeeze in the lottery and win the pick. I don’t know what’s happening here. It’s pretty amazing,” said Wyc Grousbeck, a Celtics owner who represented them on stage.

The Lakers moved up one spot to second to hold onto their pick. They would have had to trade it to Philadelphia if it fell outside the top three.

“When [Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum] called out No. 4 and he said it wasn’t us, I said, ‘Um, that’s it, that’s all I care about,’” said Johnson, the Hall of Famer in his first year as Lakers president. “I didn’t know where we were going to land from there, but I was like, ‘OK, I can breathe now.’”

The Celtics finished dismantling the team that beat the

Lakers to win the 2008 championship when they traded Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett to Brooklyn on the night of the 2013 draft. Boston acquired the Nets’ 2014, 2016 and 2018 first-round picks, as well as the rights to swap in 2017.

The timing was perfect for the Celtics, as Brooklyn finished with the worst record in the league.

“And look what I leave behind for the Celts on my way out (No. 1) pick,” Pierce wrote on Twitter.

The 76ers will pick third, while Phoenix fell two spots and is fourth.

“I’m excited,” 76ers rookie center Joel Embiid said. “We jumped up one more spot. I wish we would have gotten the No. 1 pick, but we trust the process and it’s going to be exciting

to see what we’re going for.”

The Celtics were going to be in prime position no matter how the Ping-Pong balls bounced in a hotel ballroom Tuesday. They were guaranteed no worse than the No. 4 pick to add to a team that had the best record in the East this season behind All-Star Isaiah Thomas.

“It’s two completely different situations: One is a lot about the future, and one is in the present,” Celtics president Danny Ainge said. “This team is a lot of fun to be around this year.”

Their victory made it three straight years the team with the best odds has won the lottery, after going the previous decade without a victory. Minnesota snapped that streak by getting eventual Rookie of the Year Karl-Anthony Towns in 2015.



# Predators rally to take 2-1 series lead

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Nashville Predators are so confident right now that not even having two goals in eight seconds waved off for goaltender interference can shake them.

Especially not on home ice.

Roman Josi scored a power-play goal with 2:43 left, and the Predators rallied to beat the Anaheim Ducks 2-1 Tuesday in their first-ever home game in the Western Conference finals.

The Predators grabbed a 2-1 lead in the series with their 10th straight home win in the postseason going back to last season. The Predators are the first NHL team to win 10 straight playoff games at home since Detroit in 1997-98.

Defenseman Mattias Ekholm said the team feels comfortable on home ice.

"That's really it," Ekholm said. "Our fans, I really didn't think they could bring it to a new level, but I really thought they did tonight. It helps us so much, especially with those

two goals.

"We have our fans standing up the whole third period literally and cheering us on. It gives us that extra boost and that extra energy that we needed."

Filip Forsberg tied it up at 3:54 of the third as the Predators rallied for the win against an Anaheim team that has notched four comeback victories already when trailing by multiple goals this postseason.

Both goals were waved off within three minutes of Forsberg's goal, but the Predators kept pressing with Josi scoring Nashville's first power-play goal of the series for the win.

"Going out for the third, I think our guys stepped on the gas a little bit more," Nashville coach Peter Laviolette said.

Ducks goalie John Gibson made 38 saves, and Corey Perry scored a power-play goal in the second period for Anaheim.

"Gibby played well for us," Perry said. "He kept us in that game."

Game 4 is Thursday night in

Nashville.

Forsberg tied it up with his third goal in as many games. When officials first waved off a would-be goal by Colton Sissons at 6:25 and then Ryan Johansen's goal at 6:33, fans started tossing towels onto the ice.

Chris Wagner went to the box for high-sticking Nashville defenseman Ryan Ellis with 3:55 left in the Ducks' offensive zone.

Nashville had been 0-for-11 on the power play in this series. Josi ended that drought with his wrist from the right circle off an assist from Viktor Arvidsson.

Nashville, 10-3 this postseason, has yet to lose consecutive games.

"We're a confident team," Josi said. "We know what we can do in the room ... Nobody panicked. We knew we played a good game, and we had a lot of chances, a lot of shots. We need to play the same way, and they're going to go in some time."

The Ducks finally got the faster start they missed in the first two games in Anaheim, outshooting Nashville 8-4 to open the game.

But the Predators took the next 11 shots and outshot Anaheim 40-20 for the game.

"We didn't play anywhere near where we're capable of playing," Ducks coach Randy Carlyle said. "And we received the game a lot. But we still had a chance. And that's the most encouraging part, because we can play better than what we played tonight. We know that."

The Predators held the Ducks without a shot throughout the second period until 8:12 left when Brandon Montour put a backhand on Rinne, a puck that went across the goal line.

But the net came off its moorings at the same time with Ekholm crashing into it. Referee Brad Meier immediately waved off the goal, which was upheld on review.

## Banged-up Penguins keeping their focus

Associated Press

Seeing a top-line forward and your most indispensable defenseman walking slowly down the tunnel and out of sight during a game would be startling if the Pittsburgh Penguins haven't grown so used to it.

At least Bryan Rust and Justin Schultz felt well enough on Tuesday to join the rest of the team as the defending Stanley Cup champions hopped a plane and headed to Ottawa for Games 3 and 4 of their Eastern Conference final tied at 1-1.

Whether Rust, Schultz and Patric Hornqvist — scratched after warmups before Pittsburgh's 1-0 Game 2 victory on Monday night — get a chance to play is unclear. All three are day-to-day with upper-body injuries, though their absence hardly slowed their remarkably resilient team. The Penguins controlled play despite playing the last 50 minutes with just five defensemen and 11 forwards.

Just another day at work for a team that is within three victories of a return trip to the Cup Final despite an injured list that at times seems to grow by the shift.

Rust left just five minutes into Game 2 when he was on the wrong end of a crushing but legal check by Ottawa's Dion Phaneuf. Schultz followed him out five minutes later after sliding awkwardly into the end boards. Hornqvist dressed but ended up staying in the locker room, the wear and tear of being a bulldozer in front of the opposing net and a wall in front of his own catching up with him.

And yet the Penguins roll on.

"We've been having to deal with these kind of injuries all year long," defenseman Chad Ruhwedel said. "It really shows the character of this squad."

Do-everything defenseman Kris Letang is out for the season after having surgery on his neck and Trevor Daley remains out with a lower-body injury of his own. Schultz had taken over the responsibility of being the primary puck mover, quarterbacking the power play while delivering on the two-way promise he flirted with but never showcased with any consistency during three-plus years in Edmonton.

The silence inside the arena during his abrupt exit on Monday night was palpable,

yet the five blue liners remaining — Ruhwedel, 37-year-old playoff rookie Ron Hainsey, Brian Dumoulin, Ian Cole and Olli Maatta — made it work anyway. The Senators managed just 23 shots on net and 35 in all, their lowest total of the season. At one point, Ottawa went nearly 19 minutes without sending a puck Marc-Andre Fleury's way.

Credit a puck-hogging performance by the forwards, who pinned Ottawa in its own end for much of the night. Credit Fleury for being sharp the few times he was legitimately tested on the way to his 10th career postseason shutout. Credit Phil Kessel's wrist shot with 6:55 left that provided the difference. And credit a group that plays with a mental toughness that's become one of the defining traits of coach Mike Sullivan's 17-month tenure.

"We believe we have a good team and we have a deep team, and we have what it takes to win regardless of which guys are in our lineup," Sullivan said, "I think this team has a chemistry. That is a competitive advantage for us. We believe that."

# Darvish helps Rangers win 7th straight

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — It took Yu Darvish a bit longer than expected to get his 50th career win.

The Texas Rangers didn't bank on taking this much time to reach .500, either.

Darvish reached his milestone with nine strikeouts in seven innings, and the Rangers beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-1 on Tuesday night to stretch the majors' longest active winning streak to seven games.

"I think we're doing a great job with the starters," Darvish said through an interpreter. "But at the same time, as a team, we're playing good baseball. That's why we're winning games."

Darvish became the sixth Japanese pitcher to reach 50 career victories. In his 109th

start, he joined Hideo Nomo (123), Hiroki Kuroda (79), Hisashi Iwakuma (63), Daisuke Matsuzaka (56) and Tomo Ohka (51).

Darvish likely would have reached the mark sooner, but he missed the entire 2015 season and some of 2016 after having Tommy John surgery.

On Tuesday, Darvish mixed up his pitches and continued his dominance in interleague play, lowering his career ERA to 2.19 in 14 starts against the National League.

"Arguably the best slider in baseball, in my opinion," Phillies manager Pete Mackanin said. "When that's the first time a team sees him, it's got to be tough, especially the way he located it."

Darvish used his slider and curveball in key moments.

After cruising through the

first five innings, he ran into trouble in the sixth inning, but struck out Freddy Galvis on a slider and Odubel Herrera on a curveball. He preserved a two-run lead by striking out Brock Stassi on a curveball with runners at first and second after he allowed his only run on an RBI single by Freddy Galvis in the seventh inning.

"I thought that good use of all his pitches tonight," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "He really got the curveball in play tonight for some big strikeouts."

Nomar Mazara had a solo homer in the first, and Mike Napoli hit a two-run shot in the eighth. Napoli, who came in hitting .165, went 3 for 3.

Closer Matt Bush struck out one in a perfect ninth after Napoli's homer eliminated a save situation.

Phillies starter Jared Eickhoff (0-4) struck out eight and allowed seven hits in his first career start against the franchise that drafted him in 2011. Eickhoff was traded to Philadelphia in a deal that included LHP Cole Hamels in 2015.

Robinson Chirinos had an RBI groundout in the second inning and Jonathan Lucroy had an RBI double in the fifth to give the Rangers a 3-0 lead after Mazara's homer.

Texas' win streak is the second-longest in the big leagues this season. The Yankees won eight straight games between April 9 and 17.

"We didn't start the year how we wanted to and we all knew that," Mazara said. "We were struggling at the beginning. Everybody's going to struggle at some point in the season."

# Maddon gets 1,000th victory as Cubs return to .500

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Cubs manager Joe Maddon paired his 1,000th win with a glass of red wine made by Big Smooth wines out of Lodi, Calif.

A nod to his past on a very sweet night.

Slumping sluggers Anthony Rizzo and Kyle Schwarber homered to help the Cubs beat the Cincinnati Reds 9-5 on Tuesday, handing a landmark victory to their beloved manager.

Maddon became the eighth active manager with at least 1,000 wins. He started his coaching career in the minors with the Angels and served as the interim manager of the major league club on two occasions before taking over Tampa Bay. He is in his third season with the Cubs after guiding them to a World Series title last year.

"I've seen a lot of different methods," Maddon said with the glass of wine waiting on the table in front of him. "I've been taught well, and I really want to say, it's 1,000 wins, other guys

have done it, but to the players that have been a part of this, I want to say thank you, because you don't do this without really good players. You don't."

The 63-year-old Maddon, known for his eccentric tricks over the years like mariachi bands and impromptu petting zoos, also thanked his coaches before he was toasted by the team in a room off the main clubhouse at Wrigley Field.

**Orioles 13, Tigers 11 (13):** Chris Davis homered in the 12th inning and again in the 13th, and visiting Baltimore finally held on after the second one.

**Astros 12, Marlins 2:** Unbeaten ace Dallas Keuchel became the first seven-game winner in the majors despite pitching only five innings, his shortest outing this season, and visiting Houston beat swooning Miami.

**Nationals 8, Pirates 4:** Bryce Harper belted his 13th home run, Ryan Zimmerman smacked a two-run double to add to his major league-leading RBI total and Washington held

off struggling host Pittsburgh.

**Rockies 7, Twins 3:** Charlie Blackmon hit a towering two-run homer during a four-run sixth inning and finished with three hits to lead Colorado over host Minnesota.

**Angels 7, White Sox 6:** Cameron Maybin had five hits, including a tying double in the 11th inning, and Albert Pujols singled home the winning run moments later to give host Los Angeles a victory over Chicago.

**Red Sox 6, Cardinals 3:** Mookie Betts homered and drove in two runs, Jackie Bradley Jr. also went deep and Boston beat host St. Louis in the opener of a two-game interleague series.

**Yankees 7, Royals 1:** Gary Sanchez hit a three-run homer, Chris Carter added a two-run shot and CC Sabathia got back on track as New York rolled over host Kansas City.

**Giants 2, Dodgers 1:** Brandon Belt homered for the fourth time in six games and scored the tiebreaking run on Brandon Crawford's single in the sixth,

lifting host San Francisco to its fifth straight win.

**Diamondbacks 5, Mets 4:** Yasmany Tomas homered against reeling New York again and Zack Greinke (5-2) pitched host Arizona to a victory.

**Rays 6, Indians 4:** Corey Dickerson hit two of Tampa Bay's season-high five home runs in a victory over host Cleveland.

**Athletics 9, Mariners 6:** Matt Joyce hit a two-run homer and Mark Canha added a three-run shot in a five-run ninth inning that rallied visiting Oakland.

**Braves 9, Blue Jays 5:** Dansby Swanson hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning, Freddie Freeman also had a two-run shot and Atlanta beat host Toronto, sweeping their two-game series.

**Brewers 6, Padres 2:** Eric Sogard had a career-high four hits and drove in a run, and Jimmy Nelson struck out eight in six-plus innings and hit an RBI single to help Milwaukee beat host San Diego.