

STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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DEFENSE BUDGET

What about Afghanistan?

Boost in GI pay, but no extra money for war as Trump mulls sending more troops

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of lawmakers called for halting American funding for the war in Afghanistan, a day after President Donald Trump unveiled a Pentagon budget proposal that included no money for the additional U.S. troops that the White House might send there.

Trump's \$639.1 billion Pentagon budget proposal was unveiled Tuesday and calls for a pay raise for troops and a modest increase to the size of the active-duty force. However, the spending plan lacks funding for an expanded role in Afghanistan that top U.S. officials are considering.

The proposal, Trump's first Pentagon budget, includes spending \$574.5 billion to increase the sizes of the active

Air Force and Navy each by about 4,000 troops and increase servicemembers' base pay by 2.1 percent.

The Defense Department's separate \$64.6 billion wartime spending account, known as Overseas Contingency Operations fund, would increase funding for operations to deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, but it would not provide additional money for either the counter-Islamic State campaign in Iraq and Syria or for the 16-year war in Afghanistan.

Yet, the Pentagon and White House are considering plans that could add up to 5,000 U.S. troops to its force of 8,400 in Afghanistan now to bolster the NATO-led train, advise and assist mission for Afghan forces. That decision could come at any time, as Trump meets this week with leaders from other

NATO nations at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

"Once those plans are approved, we'll have to take a look at this and reassess what the resource requirements might have to be," said John Roth, who is performing the duties of Pentagon comptroller.

But if a bipartisan group of lawmakers in Congress have their way, the Pentagon will not receive any additional funding to pay for an increase in American military operations there — at least not until the merits of America's longest war are debated on a national stage.

"My frustration and that of my colleagues is that we have not had a debate on a new [war authorization law] for Afghanistan for 16 years," Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday ahead of a Capitol Hill news conference later in the day alongside

Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif. "After 16 years, we need to have a new debate on Afghanistan. Three hundred members of Congress right now were not here in 2001."

Jones and Garamendi introduced legislation in March that would halt all funding for U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, effectively ending within a year the American war effort there, which Jones said has "no endpoint."

"What are we trying to accomplish there? I've had Marines as recently as two Saturdays ago tell me they've been to Afghanistan five, six times and nothing's changed," said Jones, who represents areas that include Camp Lejeune. "I am sick and tired of the waste in Afghanistan that could be used back home to help the sick and the tired."

CNO: Budget would put Navy on 'road to restoring wholeness'

By DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — With a presidential budget request that seeks to restore naval readiness, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said Wednesday that he is "hopeful" the Navy is heading in the right direction after a long stretch of wear on its ships, aircraft and sailors.

In testimony about the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget at the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Richardson and acting Navy

Secretary Sean Stackley said budget cuts and congressional stalemates have led to unpredictable patchwork funding and eaten away at the Navy's ability to maintain its fleet and train its sailors.

It has led to a sense of disillusionment in the deployed fleet and a sense that those in Washington "just don't get it," Richardson said.

"I tell them to be hopeful and optimistic," he said. "We are on the road to restoring wholeness and increasing naval power now and in the future."

President Donald Trump re-

quested \$171.5 billion for the Navy and Marine Corps for 2018, marking an increase of \$6.5 billion from the 2017 baseline budget. The Navy would get \$145.28 billion, with \$47.6 billion for personnel — enough to hire 4,000 sailors. The Navy budget includes funding for a steady pace of procurement, proposing eight new ships and dozens of new aircraft.

With operations and maintenance funds jumping to a proposed \$54.5 billion — up from \$46.9 billion from 2017 — Navy officials say 2018 is the year to catch up on readiness while

continuing to fund modernization of naval forces.

The budget would fund 100 percent of projected ship depot maintenance and 89 percent of projected aircraft depot maintenance, according to Navy budget documents.

Another notable increase in the Navy budget was for personnel. The addition would bring Navy end strength to 327,900. Some of the increased personnel will be active duty, and the rest will go toward boosting Reserve forces in cyberwarfare, unmanned aerial systems and shipyard maintenance.

Marines could see boost in readiness

By DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than half of the funding for the Marine Corps in fiscal year 2018 will be spent on personnel, but the force will remain constant at its current goal of 185,000.

In the budget proposed Tuesday by President Donald Trump, about 57 percent would go toward personnel — the key asset of the U.S. military's crisis reaction force.

As part of the Department of the Navy budget, the Marine Corps would receive \$27.7 billion, with just over \$1.3 billion of that from Overseas Contingency Operations funds.

The investment in personnel will help the Marine Corps address a readiness drop due to budget cuts and unpredictable funding, Marine Corps Commandant Robert Neller said Wednesday.

In testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Neller said the Corps had to cut back on training and preparedness.

The current appropriations bill "is a good down payment to improve the readiness bench and move us forward to recapitalize and modernize the force," he said.

Major spending would also address warfighting readiness with aircraft procurement and ground vehicle development.

Trump's budget would fund 18 F-35Bs, two new F-35 Cs, two CH-53K helicopters, 19 MV-22B Ospreys, 26 Ah-1Z attack helicopters and two KC-130J tankers transport aircraft.

The Marine Corps procurement costs were not listed separately on the Navy budget proposal.

Operations and maintenance, 27 percent of Marine Corps funding, would include

training, forward-deployed units, equipment capabilities, infrastructure sustainment and upgrades.

It also covers current operations, rapid crisis response and rebalancing efforts in the Pacific.

In the proposal, 13 percent of Marine Corps funding would go for production of the joint light tactical vehicle, ground/air task-oriented radar and the amphibious assault vehicles survivability upgrade program.

The Marine Corps also plans to begin low-rate production of the Amphibious Combat Vehicle 1.1, which has been in competitive development since 2015.

The Corps would spend 3 percent of its budget to invest in new facilities and improve deteriorating ones, and for facilities to support force relocations in the Pacific.

New Air Force plan spares A-10, U-2 fleets

By TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After years of proposing to retire aging aircraft to meet reduced budgets, the Air Force said a proposed \$10 billion increase for 2018 will allow it to retain its spy aircraft and fighter jets, which is critical during air operations against Islamic State.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday requested \$146.3 billion for 2018 — \$132.4 billion in the baseline budget and \$13.9 billion in the Overseas Contingency Operations fund. The request marked a \$10 billion increase over last year.

With the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget, the Air Force said it would retain all 27 of its U-2 Dragon spy aircraft and fund all 283 of its A-10 Thunderbolt II ground attack aircraft and its 212 F-15C and D fighter jets. Each of the airframes is more than 30 years old, and the Air Force had considered early retirement for each over the last few years for different reasons: to meet tight budget requirements or to free up resources,

such as the A-10 maintainers, to have them ready to service F-35A Joint Strike Fighters.

"We have the funding to keep them, and we need to because of demand," said Capt. Hope Cronin, an Air Force spokesman. "We need to be able to meet the need for airpower right now. As long as we can make these systems lethal and survivable, it makes sense for us."

The Air Force also would use the proposed funding to buy new bombs and missiles to replace depleted munitions stocks; recruit and train new pilots; and advance several of the service's key modernization programs, such as its future stealth bomber and land-based nuclear missile defenses.

The budget would add almost 6,000 new airmen that the service has said are needed to increase its ability to maintain and fly its aircraft.

The budget calls for 4,100 additional active-duty airmen and 1,700 Guard and Reserve forces. Air Force end strength would rise to 502,000, which the service said was its "top readiness priority."

Army would get \$8B boost in budget plan

By TARA COPP
AND ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's administration has requested \$166.1 billion for the Army in its proposed budget for fiscal year 2018, which if passed would represent the second consecutive year of increased funding for the service to restore forces and equipment and stabilize end-strength levels at the cost of long-term modernization.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Horlander, the Army's budget director, made the case Tuesday for a rise in spending across the board to combat Islamic State, deter Russian aggression and upgrade the force for conflicts to come.

"We need predictable, consistent funding year to year" to fund a host of projects and invest in new weapons, vehicles and base construction, he said during a budget overview at the Pentagon.

The total proposal is \$8 billion more than the \$158 billion

the Army was funded in fiscal year 2017. The proposed budget includes \$137.1 billion in the base budget and \$28.9 billion in a wartime fund, known as the Overseas Contingency Operations account.

"Today, over 80 percent of U.S. military forces in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan are U.S. Army soldiers," the Army said.

The wartime account includes Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria and Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, along with the European Reassurance Initiative, the \$3.2 billion program to fund rotational armor and aviation brigades on the continent, according to briefing materials.

The budget maintains an Army end strength of 1,018,000 soldiers, including 476,000 active-duty soldiers, 343,000 in the Army National Guard and 199,000 in the Army Reserve. Scharre said the proposal is unclear about a preference to either maintain or grow end strength in years to come.

UK looks for accomplices in attack

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England — British security forces raided a building Wednesday in central Manchester as they investigated “a network” of people allegedly behind the city’s concert bombing. Hundreds of soldiers were sent to secure key sites across the country, including Buckingham Palace and the British Parliament at Westminster.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said the bomber, Salman Abedi, “likely” did not act alone when he killed 22 people and wounded nearly 120 at an Ariana Grande concert Monday night in Manchester.

She said he had been known to security forces “up to a point.” Abedi, a 22-year-old British citizen born to Libyan parents, died in the attack.

“I think it’s very clear this is a network we are investigating,” Manchester Police chief constable Ian Hopkins said, confirming that an off-duty police officer was among those killed in the attack.

Officials are examining Abedi’s trips to Libya as they piece together his allegiances and try to foil any new poten-

tial threats. The government said nearly 1,000 soldiers were deployed instead of police Wednesday in high-profile sites in London and elsewhere.

Britain raised its threat level from terrorism to “critical” late Tuesday amid concerns that Abedi may have accomplices who are planning another attack. Abedi grew up in Manchester’s southern suburbs and once attended Salford University there.

Police said three suspects were arrested Wednesday around Manchester, and Abedi’s father told The Associated Press that Abedi’s brother Ismail was arrested Tuesday in the area.

Heavily armed police raided an apartment building in Manchester on Wednesday afternoon, blasting the door open with a controlled explosion. The building, Granby House, is popular with students and young professionals. Neighbor Adam Prince said the raided flat had been used as an Airbnb.

Across London, troops fanned out and authorities reconsidered security plans.

The changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Pal-

ace was canceled Wednesday so police officers can be redeployed, Britain’s Defense Ministry said. The traditional ceremony is a major tourist attraction in London.

The Palace of Westminster, which houses the British Parliament in London, was also closed Wednesday to all those without passes, and tours and events there were canceled until further notice. Armed police also patrolled outside St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, another popular tourist spot.

“(The goal) is to make our city as hostile an environment as possible for terrorists to plan and operate,” said London Police Commander Jane Connors.

The Chelsea soccer team also announced it would cancel Sunday’s victory parade in London that was to have celebrated the team’s Premier League title win.

“We are sure our fans will understand this decision,” the team said, adding that the parade would have diverted police from the bombing investigation.

Speaking Wednesday from the Libyan city of Tripoli, the father of the alleged Manches-

ter attacker denied that his son was linked to militants or to the deadly bombing. Ramadan Abedi told the AP that when he spoke to his son Abedi five days ago, he sounded “normal.”

He said Salman was getting ready to visit Saudi Arabia for a short Umrah pilgrimage, then planned to head to Libya to spend the Islamic holy month of Ramadan with his family.

“We don’t believe in killing innocents. This is not us,” the elder Abedi said by telephone.

He said his son last visited Libya a month-and-a-half ago.

The senior Abedi fled Tripoli in 1993 after Moammar Gadhafi’s security authorities issued an arrest warrant for him, and he eventually sought political asylum in Britain. Now he is a manager for the Central Security force in Tripoli.

Former Libyan security official Abdel-Basit Haroun told the AP that the elder Abedi was a member of the Libyan Islamic Fighting group in the 1990s, which had links to al-Qaida.

France’s interior minister said Abedi is believed to have also traveled to Syria and had “proven” links with ISIS.

ISIS-linked militants seize Philippines city

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Islamic State-linked extremists swept through a southern Philippine city, raising the black ISIS flag, seizing a priest and his worshippers and beheading a police chief in a brazen attack that led President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in the southern third of the country.

The violence erupted Tuesday night after the army raided the hideout of Isnilon Hapilon, a Muslim extremist commander who is on Washington’s list of most-wanted terrorists, with a reward of up to \$5 million for his capture. The militants called for reinforcements from an allied group, the Maute, and some 50 gunmen managed to enter the

city of Marawi.

“We are in a state of emergency,” Duterte said after landing in Manila from a visit to Moscow, adding that skirmishes were continuing.

“I have a serious problem in Mindanao and the ISIS footprints are everywhere.”

He said he may declare martial law elsewhere in the Philippines, where about 2,700 U.S. troops participated in the annual Balikatan military exercise this month.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and Marawi Bishop Edwin de la Pena said the militants forced their way into the Marawi Cathedral and seized a priest, 10 worshippers and three church workers.

The priest, Father Chito, and the others had no role in the conflict, Villegas said.

Duterte declared martial rule for 60 days in the entire Mindanao region, the restive southern third of the Philippine archipelago. He had vowed to be “harsh.”

Martial law allows Duterte to harness the armed forces to carry out arrests, searches and detentions more rapidly. He has repeatedly threatened to place the south, the scene of decades-long Muslim separatist uprisings, under martial law.

Human rights groups have expressed fears that martial law powers could further embolden Duterte, whom they have accused of allowing extrajudicial killings of thousands of drug suspects in a crackdown on il-

legal drugs.

Details from inside Marawi were sketchy because the largely Muslim city of more than 200,000 people appeared to be largely sealed off and without electricity.

Duterte met late Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and said he is counting on Russia to supply weapons for the Philippines to fight terrorism.

The Philippines is a longtime American ally and former U.S. colony but has been distancing itself from Washington since Duterte took office last year.

The atmosphere has improved since President Donald Trump took office, although no major steps have been taken to bolster the U.S.-Philippines relationship.

Iraq probes alleged abuses by its forces

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

An elite Iraqi police unit participating in the campaign to retake Mosul from Islamic State is being investigated for alleged abuses that include rape, torture and targeted killings, an Iraqi official said.

The allegations were first published last week in the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, which claims the Interior Ministry's Emergency Response Division carried out the abuses. It also claims that the unit was trained and supported by U.S. forces, though it does not indicate U.S. troops took part in the abuses.

Under a law known as the Leahy law, the U.S. is prohibited from supporting units accused of human rights abuses for which "credible" evidence exists. Officials with the U.S.-led anti-ISIS coalition could not confirm the allegations against the Iraqi forces but said the United States does not currently train or equip the Emergency Response Division.

"Any violation of the law of armed conflict would be unacceptable and should be investigated in a transparent manner," the U.S.-led international coalition in Iraq said in a statement. "Prime Minister [Haider al-Abadi] has stated that he has a zero-tolerance policy for any improper action by the Iraqi Security Forces and would thoroughly investigate any such allegations."

Iraqi forces have previously been accused of mistreating suspected ISIS fighters or civilians, prompting the U.S. to cut ties with some units.

The most recent accusations, dating back to the early months of the battle for Mosul, were documented by Iraqi photographer Ali Arkady. In the German magazine article he wrote that he witnessed "torture, rapes but also murders" while he accompanied the police unit.

NATO mulls counter-ISIS role as Trump heads to Brussels

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

BRUSSELS — On the eve of President Donald Trump's arrival at NATO's headquarters, allies are still debating whether to formally join the U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State, a possible sign of reluctance among some members about wading into a battle that the White House has deemed a top priority.

"We are still in discussion whether NATO should become a full member of the global coalition," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters Wednesday.

Trump has put two issues at the top of his NATO agenda: getting the 28-nation military pact more involved in counterterrorism efforts and pressuring members to dedicate more funds to their own militaries.

Stoltenberg, who welcomed a new Pentagon budget released Tuesday that boosts military spending in Europe, said NATO

heads of state will deal with Trump's key issues during a day of talks Thursday.

All NATO members contribute in different ways to the campaign against ISIS, Stoltenberg said. Short of an agreement to formally join the global alliance, Stoltenberg said he expects an agreement to expand the use of AWACS surveillance aircraft to support the coalition.

Some allies also have committed to air-to-air refueling support, a possible sign of NATO inching closer to deeper involvement in the coalition. But it is unlikely NATO's role against ISIS will develop into an effort like that in Afghanistan, where the alliance has deployed thousands of troops over the years and is weighing whether to send additional forces. A decision on more troop contributions for Afghanistan is expected by next month, Stoltenberg said.

Stoltenberg said he anticipates NATO members will agree to develop national plans for meeting defense spending

goals, something the Trump administration has demanded from all states. All but five of NATO's 28 members fall short of a target that calls for dedicating 2 percent of national economic output to military matters.

"These plans will set out how they intend to meet all three aspects of the pledge: cash, capabilities and contributions," Stoltenberg said. "We will decide that Allies will share and report on their progress every year. This will be a new tool. To ensure we keep up the momentum and live up to our commitments."

Upon Trump's arrival at NATO's new headquarters, a sprawling \$1.5 billion complex that was under construction for years, ceremonial pomp is expected to be on full display. Trump will dedicate a 9/11 memorial with a fragment of the World Trade Center while German Chancellor Angela Merkel will dedicate a similar memorial marking the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Report: Army did not track materiel sent to Iraq

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army failed to properly account for more than \$1 billion in equipment, including vehicles, weapons and ammunition, before transferring it to the Iraqi government, according to a 2016 Pentagon audit obtained by Amnesty International and released Wednesday.

The equipment was purchased under the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, which was created in 2015 and initially funded by \$1.6 billion under that year's National Defense Authorization Act to pay for thousands of rifles and body armor, as well as large quantities of trucks and other equipment. Appropriations in 2016 and 2017 together amount to about another \$1.6 billion for

the fund.

The program was created to supply Iraqi and Kurdish forces in the fight against Islamic State. But Amnesty said accountability problems have long plagued U.S. efforts to supply Iraqi forces with arms and equipment, citing a Government Accountability Office report from July 2007 that found, among other things, a discrepancy of 190,000 weapons in government data that tracks arms transfers.

"After all this time and all these warnings, the same problems keep re-occurring," Patrick Wilcken, Amnesty's arms control and human rights researcher, said in a statement. "This should be an urgent wake-up call for the U.S., and all countries supplying arms to Iraq, to urgently shore up

checks and controls."

Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S.-led anti-ISIS coalition, purchased \$1.3 billion worth of equipment in fiscal 2015, including everything from body armor, navigation sets and magazine pouches to ambulances and cargo trucks, the audit found.

But the Army's 1st Theater Sustainment Command, which is responsible for maintaining visibility and property accountability of the equipment before its transfer to the Iraqi government, lacked an effective way of tracking the equipment. It "could not provide the immediate quantity, dollar value, and location of equipment on hand in Kuwait and Iraq," including vehicles and ammunition, the audit found.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sheriff's office worker accused of being pimp

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A civilian employee of a Florida sheriff's office is facing charges that he is a pimp.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office arrested Joseph Maira, 56, who worked as a fleet manager for the office.

The Palm Beach Post said Maira was arrested last week after a woman met an undercover investigator at Maira's home and agreed to have sex with him for \$250. Deputies said she told the investigator she would take a cut.

They said they found Maira in the home's bathroom with a gun and that cocaine was found in the house. He was charged with living off the wages of prostitution, keeping a house of ill-fame, cocaine possession and displaying a gun during a felony. He was released on \$13,000 bond.

Mom of twins who died as she bought pot jailed

NY BATAVIA — A New York woman whose twin toddler sons died in a fire while she went to buy marijuana has been sentenced to a year in jail.

Heather Ace, 25, received the maximum sentence Monday in Batavia Town Court, where she pleaded guilty in February to a single count of endangering the welfare of a child. Ace's home caught fire last May, killing Michael and Micah Gard, 2. Authorities say Ace had left them locked in their bedroom alone for about 90 minutes while she went out to buy pot and alcohol and visited a friend.

Ace's lawyer, Benjamin Bonarigo, had asked the judge to grant probation so she could continue to see her 6-year-old son.

Cafe worker fired over insults on cop's receipt

NJ GALLOWAY — A New Jersey restaurant worker who wrote insults on a police officer's receipt has been fired.

The owner of Romanelli's Garden Cafe in Galloway took the action after a photo of the receipt was posted online. It showed the words "cops," "pigs" and the Spanish word for pigs scribbled on the receipt.

Owner Drew Huggard apologized in a Facebook post and said his business supports the police. Huggard confirmed that the employee wrote the message and that he had fired the worker.

Boa constrictor might be on loose in park

SC CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK — A boa constrictor could be loose at South Carolina's only national park.

Rangers at Congaree National Park posted on Facebook that a visitor reported releasing the snake Sunday night from the park's 2½-mile boardwalk loop. Rangers said boa constrictors are not native to the park and that releasing the snake was illegal. They also said native species shouldn't be let loose because they can bring diseases.

Trial delayed for man in cannon death case

IA MANCHESTER — A trial has been delayed for an eastern Iowa man charged in the death of a woman hit by fragments from a homemade cannon.

The Telegraph Herald reported that the trial of Max Fenton, of Greeley, now is scheduled to begin Aug. 16. He has pleaded

not guilty to a felony charge of involuntary manslaughter.

The improvised cannon was made from the sawed-off barrel of a .50-caliber, black powder rifle and was supposed to serve as a noisemaker.

A Delaware County news release said the rear of the barrel "blew out" on July 2 of last year, sending fragments toward where Lori Heims, 55, was sitting, hitting her in the head. She died later at a hospital.

3 deaths in gas-filled drain ruled accidental

FL KEY LARGO — Investigators have determined that three Florida Keys road workers died accidentally in a storm-water drain filled with poisonous gases.

The Citizen reported that the Monroe County Sheriff's Office concluded its investigation into the Jan. 16 deaths without finding evidence to support criminal charges. Sheriff Rick Ramsay said there was "a string of errors that led to this disaster" in Key Largo, but the deaths of three workers for a contractor were accidental. A U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigation remains open.

Eagle dubbed 'The Old Man' might be female

ME FREEDOM — The oldest eagle ever documented in Maine is going to need a new nickname.

The 34-year-old bird found in Trescott Township was dubbed "The Old Man." Rehabilitators are now almost certain the eagle is a female.

The bird was rescued in early April. Wildlife officials say a band was put around the bird's leg shortly after it hatched on June 21, 1983, on Grand Manan Island in Canada.

Bull shot in neighbors' dispute; man faces trial

WY GILLETTE — A northeastern Wyoming man was bound over for trial on charges that he shot a neighbor's bull, rendering it incapable of being used for breeding.

The Gillette News Record reported that Circuit Court Judge Wendy Bartlett found probable cause to suspect Todd Slattery, 50, in the shooting. He is scheduled to enter a plea to a charge of felony destruction of property during a June 1 hearing.

The bull was shot in the penis, testicles and hindquarter last July while the owners were away from their property near Gillette. The bull was euthanized.

Court records say the owner told investigators Slattery had threatened the animal in a dispute over a fence that separated the bull from Slattery's cows.

Worker suspended for restraint of student

PA RANKIN — The lawyer for a Pennsylvania school worker charged with assault says his client did not choke a 13-year-old student, but lifted him off the ground by his chin.

The attorney told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that Joseph Golden III, a behavioral specialist at an alternative school, was using an approved restraint method April 12 when he was captured on surveillance video carrying the student down the hallway. The superintendent of the school district said it was not an approved restraint that he was aware of.

Golden is charged with simple assault and endangering a child. He has been suspended, and the superintendent has recommended his firing.

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Senators bounce back, force Game 7

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Craig Anderson and the Ottawa Senators bounced back nicely two days after a blowout loss put them on the brink of elimination.

Anderson stopped 45 shots, Mike Hoffman scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period and the Senators beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 2-1 Tuesday night to force a decisive Game 7 in the Eastern Conference finals.

The 36-year-old Anderson was coming off a pair of rough outings, including Sunday's game when he was pulled after giving up four goals in the Senators' 7-0 loss in Game 5 at Pittsburgh.

"You can't change what happens in the past," said Anderson, who worked with a sports psychologist early in his career to help him manage the mental side of the game. "From that moment on you have to look forward and get ready for the next one."

Hoffman fired a slap shot through traffic off a pass from Fredrik Claesson to put the

Senators ahead at 1:34 of the third. Bobby Ryan also scored a rare power-play goal for Ottawa.

It was quite a response after the drubbing in the previous game.

"I think the biggest message for us was if somebody told us back in training camp in September that we'd have an opportunity to win Game 6 in the Eastern Conference final at home in front of our fans we would've taken it," Ryan said. "So let's not dwell, let's not kick ourselves and put our heads down. Let's embrace this opportunity to extend this for two more days together and go from there."

Evgeni Malkin gave Pittsburgh, vying for its second straight trip to the Stanley Cup Final, the lead early in the second period and Matt Murray finished with 28 saves.

"I thought we played a real good game," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "I thought we dominated zone time. We had lots of chances. We didn't score tonight. The puck didn't go in the net, but if we continue to play the game that way, then

I believe we'll get the result."

Game 7 is Thursday night in Pittsburgh, with the winner advancing to face the Nashville Predators for the championship.

Ottawa was primarily looking for a return to structure in Game 6, beginning with a smoother start — which it got. Notable in a scoreless opening period were two effective penalty kills, one of which saw Viktor Stalberg get the best opportunity short-handed.

Pittsburgh had four shots with the man advantage, but Anderson stopped them all. It was evident early that he had his game back in this one. He stopped Nick Bonino off a rebound in transition, Scott Wilson off a deflected shot by Phil Kessel, and Bonino again when Kyle Turris gave the puck away.

Anderson then stopped 22 of 23 shots in the second period.

"I think Anderson was the reason that they got this one, he played big for them," Murray said. "But in our room we just focus on what we need to do. We played really well, we just didn't get the bounces and

weren't able to put one home."

Anderson's performance was a reminder for Senators coach Guy Boucher of why he took the job with Ottawa in the first place last May.

"I'll be honest with you, if I didn't have a No. 1 goalie, I didn't want the job," Boucher said. "I've lived it for quite a few years, and it's hell when you don't have it because everything you do turns to darkness, and there's nothing that really matters when you don't have a real No. 1 goaltender."

"It's like a quarterback in football and a pitcher in baseball, and we have it," Boucher added.

Murray was also sharp. The 22-year-old, who replaced Marc-Andre Fleury after Game 3, made maybe his finest save of the first on Derick Brassard, who found an open lane down the middle of the ice following a pass from Ryan.

The Penguins appeared to have opened the scoring just over three minutes into the second, but Trevor Daley was deemed to have interfered with Anderson following an Ottawa challenge.

NFL owners reduce OT, move '21 Super Bowl to Tampa

Associated Press

CHICAGO — NFL owners cut the overtime period from 15 minutes to 10 minutes to address coaches' concerns too many players were exhausted and risking injuries at the end of the extra period.

The change covers pre-season, regular-season and playoff games.

Research suggests the number of games that will go into overtime and end up tied will climb slightly. Over the last five years, with the 15-minute period in use, the league has averaged about one tie game each season. Projections show that could climb to three.

"We don't think it will lead to more ties," Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday,

joining a number of coaches who said they expect a more aggressive strategy during the shorter extra period.

Also on Tuesday, the 2021 Super Bowl was moved from Los Angeles to Tampa.

Five days after the opening of the \$2.6 billion football stadium in Inglewood, Calif., was pushed back to 2020 — construction delays caused by Los Angeles' uncommonly wet winter were blamed — league owners approved the move. Owners voted unanimously to give the February 2021 game to Tampa and have the Rams' and Chargers' new home host the 2022 Super Bowl.

The NFL would have needed to waive a rule that prohibits a Super Bowl being played at a stadium before it has hosted

two full regular seasons. Instead, it chose to move the game to Tampa, runner-up to Los Angeles in the bidding.

"Our focus in this process is this building should host multiple Super Bowls over many generations, and we need to make sure we deliver a building that is an exceptional, Super Bowl-quality building," Rams chief operating officer Kevin Demoff said last week. "Our focus is more on the caliber of building than the exact year of the Super Bowl."

Rams owner Stan Kroenke said he welcomed the decision to delay awarding the Super Bowl to Los Angeles by a year.

"We want to be sure that we do everything right, 100 percent," he said after the meetings. "To have the Super Bowl,

that's the important thing."

Also approved at the meeting was the Oakland Raiders' lease for a stadium in Las Vegas, where the team is expected to play the 2020 season.

For all the maneuvering, end zone celebration talk generated the most buzz. After years of limiting how — and how much — players could celebrate following touchdowns, the league decided to loosen up its rules, allowing players to again use the football as a prop, celebrate as a group and roll around or flap their arms like snow angels on the ground again if they choose.

Goodell said the moniker "No Fun League" had been thrown around since he was an intern in the league office.

Irving rallies Cavaliers to Game 4 win

By TOM WITHERS

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kyrie Irving gritted his teeth, tightened up his left sneaker and hopped to his feet.

The pain couldn't stop him. The Celtics couldn't, either.

Irving took over in the second half and finished with 42 points despite playing on a tender ankle. LeBron James added 34 and the Cleveland Cavaliers moved within one win of an almost inevitable third date in the NBA Finals with Golden State by rallying to beat Boston 112-99 on Tuesday night in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals.

With James in foul trouble, Irving was forced to do more than ever and he delivered, scoring 19 in less than five minutes and 33 in a 19-minute stretch.

"The kid is special," James said. "I was happy to sit back and watch him. He was born for these moments."

The defending NBA champions, who shot 71 percent in the second half, opened a 3-1 lead in the series and can wrap up their third straight conference

title — and a "three-match" against the Warriors — with a win in Game 5 on Thursday night in Boston.

But if Games 3 and 4 are any indication, it won't be easy.

Fighting to keep their season alive, the Celtics aren't giving an inch despite playing without All-Star guard Isaiah Thomas, who may need surgery on a hip injury.

The Cavs, meanwhile, wouldn't be on the cusp of the Finals without Irving.

With Cleveland in jeopardy of dropping its second game in a row after James followed an 11-point Game 3 debacle by picking up four first-half fouls, Irving put on a breathtaking one-man show.

Freezing Boston defenders with his dribble and driving to the basket whenever he wanted, Irving made six layups, two three-pointers and a free throw in a dizzying span of 4:48. He capped his blistering 19-point outburst with a three in the final second of the quarter and celebrated at mid-court by pretending to put two pistols back in his holster.

"He saw 'Bron went out and he wanted to put the team on

his shoulders," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "He did that."

Irving said he was driven by the thought of the Cavs seeing their series lead vanish.

"In the back of my mind, I thought, 'They can't tie up the series,'" he said. "We can't go back to Boston tied 2-2. We needed everything tonight."

Irving put a scare into the Cavs and their fans when he stepped on Terry Rozier's foot and rolled his ankle. He stayed on the floor for a few moments before sitting up and re-tying his sneaker. Nothing was keeping him out.

"It was one of those games we had to fight through and we had to earn it," he said.

Celtics coach Brad Stevens was disappointed with his team's defense on Irving, who was able to spread the floor while surrounded by shooters.

"There's choices," Stevens said. "I'm not sure there are good choices. When he gets going like that, he's tough to stop. The ones we gotta look at are the ones he got at the rim."

Kevin Love added 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Cavs, now 11-1 in the postseason.

Avery Bradley scored 19 and

Jae Crowder 18 for Boston.

Irving did not show any noticeable limp following the game as he walked down the hallway, stopping to hug and kiss friends and family following his performance.

Irving, who has had a history of injuries, said he's rolled his ankle enough times to know when it's serious.

"My adrenaline is still going," he said. "I'm pretty sure I'll be sore when I get home."

Crowder and the Celtics are looking forward to going home and redeeming themselves after the blowout losses in Games 1 and 2.

"I feel like we're humble enough to know we haven't played well at home," he said. "We want to give our home crowd a better outing than we put out the past two games."

Lue paused for several seconds before responding to a question about the third and fourth fouls called on James, who was whistled for barely touching Marcus Smart on a jumper and then was called for a charge.

"They called them," he said of the officials. "We had to do what we had to do."

Ginobili one of several Spurs' uncertainties

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Manu Ginobili was swept away by the emotions of a sold-out home crowd serenading him with chants of "Manu, Manu" and rising as one for a standing ovation in the closing minutes of the Western Conference finals.

Spurs fans were saying goodbye, but did not want to let go of the star who helped San Antonio win four of its five NBA championships with his dynamic play.

"It was kind of emotional and overwhelming," Ginobili said. "Yeah, I don't have a lot of words to describe it, but of course it makes you feel really well. Feeling that type of appreciation, love, respect. ... When it happens in a situation like that and you receive all of that without expecting it, it shakes your world a little bit."

The emotional outpouring led Ginobili to make a startling revelation to friend and teammate, Australian Patty Mills, as they

sat on the bench.

Ginobili had no idea what all the fuss was about.

"It felt like they wanted me to retire," he said with a smile. "Like they were giving me sort of a celebration night. And of course, I'm getting closer and closer. There is no secret, for sure. It's getting harder and harder, but I always said that I wanted to let it sink in for three weeks, four weeks, and then I will sit with my wife and see how it feels."

San Antonio's highly passionate fan base does not want Ginobili to retire. The fans simply wanted to show their appreciation because they are unsure if their beloved star will return next season. The Spurs also aren't sure.

"If he decides he's going to play again, that's up to him," coach Gregg Popovich said. "I won't try to convince him one way or the other. I don't think he needs that."

Ginobili's uncertain future is one of

many questions the Spurs are awaiting answers on this offseason. San Antonio's season came to an end when they were swept by Golden State in the conference finals.

Still, San Antonio's first season in 20 years without cornerstone Tim Duncan was a success. The Spurs captured their second straight Southwest Division title and earned their 20th straight playoff appearance.

Kawhi Leonard will be fine after some rest and rehabilitation. Forward David Lee is also expected to return after suffering a torn patellar tendon in Game 3 against the Warriors. Tony Parker is expected to be out at least eight months after suffering a ruptured left quadriceps tendon against Houston in Game 2 of the West semifinals.

The Spurs do not have any existing cap space to add players, but do have eight potential free agents that could impact that.

Lee, Pau Gasol and Dewayne Dedmon all have player options while Mills and Jonathan Simmons are unrestricted free agents.

Forsythe returns, lifts Dodgers in 13th

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Logan Forsythe batted in the Los Angeles Dodgers lineup for the first time in a month and promptly struck out in his first four at-bats.

After getting a few extra innings to find his stroke, the infielder put a celebratory cap on his return.

Forsythe doubled in a run in the 13th inning to lift the Dodgers over the St. Louis Cardinals 2-1 on Tuesday night after a stellar duel between starters Clayton Kershaw and Lance Lynn.

Forsythe returned from a DL stint with a broken toe and didn't put a ball in play in the first nine innings. He walked in the 11th, then delivered the winning hit in the 13th, a double off Jonathan Broxton (0-1) that scored Enrique Hernandez.

"You try not to focus on the negatives," Forsythe said of his early at-bats. "My swing didn't feel too bad. Something was a

tick off. Lance has always had my number when I've faced him before. Yeah, I was just trying to make adjustments. I looked at some video. Not a huge video guy. Luckily, the adjustment was made and was able to deliver for the team."

Kershaw and Lynn struck out 10 batters and allowed a run each, with Kershaw going nine innings and Lynn pitching eight. The Cardinals got just three hits against Kershaw, and the Dodgers had two off Lynn, including Yasmani Grandal's homer in the first inning.

Kershaw missed out on what would have been his majors-leading eighth victory when Randal Grichuk scored from second on a wild pitch in the ninth inning. Catcher Grandal failed to block the ball in the dirt and then couldn't track down the misfire, eventually finding the ball near the Dodger dugout as Grichuk sprinted home.

"Tough pitch to block, obviously," Kershaw said. "You hope

it's just a wild pitch. Just unfortunate. There's no way else to put it. The way it bounced, where it ended up. Two bases on a wild pitch, that's no fun."

Josh Fields (1-0) pitched the 13th for Los Angeles.

Joc Pederson left the game after a frightening collision with Yasiel Puig in the 10th inning. Puig made a running catch of Yadier Molina's flyball in the right-center gap before crashing into Pederson, and his left elbow appeared to catch Pederson in the side of the head. Pederson's hat and glove went flying as the center fielder slammed face-first into the outfield wall.

Puig momentarily remained on his feet, raising his glove to show he had caught the ball before grabbing his chest and dropping to the track.

Both players stayed down for a few moments, and Pederson appeared to have blood on his forehead when he finally stood. Pederson, who the Dodgers said suffered a neck sprain,

was lifted for pinch-hitter Chris Taylor in the bottom of the inning, then replaced in center by Hernandez in the 11th. Puig returned to the outfield for the next inning.

"My neck is a little stiff. We'll see (Wednesday)," Pederson said. "I already did some treatment (Tuesday night). I'll come back (Wednesday) and see where I'm at."

Pederson narrowly avoided a scary collision in the seventh inning, when he and left fielder Cody Bellinger bumped each other while chasing a ball in the left-center gap.

Grandal homered to center, his fifth of the year, on a full count with two outs in the first.

"When it's all said and done, I made one mistake and it cost me a run," Lynn said. "But you know it's a solo homer, and you know you limit it at that and you're able to get deep in the game and give your team a chance to win."

Encarnacion's two homers power Indians past Reds

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Edwin Encarnacion talked his manager out of giving him a day off, and then delivered his best game yet for the Indians.

Encarnacion hit two of Cleveland's four homers off rookie Amir Garrett and scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch Tuesday night, leading the Indians to an 8-7 victory and a split of their two-game series with the Cincinnati Reds.

The series moves to Cleveland for two games. The Indians have won seven of the last eight between Ohio's teams.

The most encouraging development for the defending AL champions was Encarnacion's emergence. They signed him to a three-year, \$60 million deal as their biggest move of the offseason, but the slugger slumped so badly that he was dropped from the cleanup spot

after 36 games.

Manager Terry Francona was planning to give him a day off in Cincinnati, where he started his career in 2005 and loves to hit. Encarnacion talked him out of it.

Twins 2, Orioles 0: Ervin Santana pitched a two-hitter for his 10th career shutout, Brian Dozier homered and surging Minnesota beat host Baltimore.

Red Sox 11, Rangers 6: Xander Bogaerts had three RBIs and twice scored on wild pitches, and Dustin Pedroia hit a two-run double for host Boston.

Angels 4, Rays 0: Cameron Maybin and Mike Trout hit back-to-back home runs to begin the game and Matt Shoemaker won his third consecutive start for visiting Los Angeles.

Royals 6, Yankees 2: Danny Duffy beat the host Yankees for

the second time in a week and rookie Jorge Bonifacio capped a three-run, seventh-inning rally with a go-ahead, two-run homer for Kansas City.

Astros 6, Tigers 2: Juan Centeno homered in his Houston debut and Yuli Gurriel also connected.

Nationals 10, Mariners 1: Anthony Rendon homered twice and drove in five runs, and Joe Ross returned from the minors to allow one run in a career high-tying eight innings for host Washington.

Rockies 8, Phillies 2: Charlie Blackmon hit a pair of two-run homers and German Marquez tossed six effective innings for visiting Colorado.

Cubs 4, Giants 1: Jon Lester pitched a four-hitter and the Cubs beat Johnny Cueto and visiting San Francisco in a rainy rematch of last year's playoff opener.

Mets 9, Padres 3: Michael

Conforto homered twice and had a career-high four RBIs, and Matt Harvey won his first home start since getting suspended.

Blue Jays 4, Brewers 3: Kendrys Morales hit a two-run homer to lead visiting Toronto.

Diamondbacks 5, White Sox 4: Jake Lamb and Chris Herrmann homered and host Arizona held off the White Sox for their seventh win in eight games.

Braves 6, Pirates 5: Matt Adams singled in the winning run with about 200 fans left in the stands for the ninth inning, lifting the host Braves over the Pirates in a game delayed more than three hours by rain.

Marlins 11, Athletics 9: Justin Bour matched his career high with four hits to highlight visiting Miami's best offensive game of the season, and the Marlins held off a late surge to beat the Athletics.