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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Military reaction to election: Like 'day Osama was killed'

The Washington Post

Like many Americans, active-duty servicemembers stationed around the world were stunned at Tuesday's night's presidential race results.

"More than one person has compared it to the day Osama [bin Laden] was killed," said one Army officer, referring to the day the al-Qaida leader was killed during a raid by U.S. Navy SEALs. "I guess there's a feeling among soldiers that Trump will care about them and fix everything they see as broken about the Army."

The officer, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity because of his active-duty status, also passed on a Snapchat image from a fellow Army officer. The picture depicted an alcoholic beverage with white text superimposed over the half-full glass that said: "Taking flag off wall, resigning commission tomorrow."

As a traditionally Republican stalwart, the U.S. military appears to be embracing real estate executive Donald Trump's Wednesday presidential win, though there is also a healthy amount of reservation as well, according to nearly a dozen active-duty servicemembers interviewed for this report.

Pictures and videos were also circulating of soldiers celebrating the victory across the United States. At the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., soldiers cheered in their barracks as Trump's electoral vote count broached 270.

Overseas in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, however, the response was more muted. A soldier serving in southern Afghanistan said that the election was barely discussed at his

small base. Afghanistan in particular received hardly any attention during the presidential race. The soldier said troops were more focused on what was going to be for dinner last night.

Outside Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the site of a bloody campaign against the Islamic State, BuzzFeed's Mike Giglio tweeted a few impressions from the soldiers with whom he was embedded.

"Last night no one wanted to sleep. We stayed up on the phones trying to watch results come back," he quoted one soldier as saying.

"Our TV screen: drone footage on one half, FOX & CNN on the other," another soldier said.

Many in uniform said that they see support for Trump, with his vague foreign policy goals, as more of a referendum on former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who many rank-and-file troops view with suspicion for handling classified material in a manner that would garner severe punishments if they had acted in a similar manner. They also said that they see Trump as a candidate that could usher in serious change on the military's cultural issues, including gender integration.

Servicemembers interviewed for this report spoke of what they see as a groundswell of potential for Trump reversing the effects of the 2013 sequester and an announcement that same year by the Obama administration that opened all combat jobs to women. The decision was finalized by Defense Secretary Ash Carter in December 2015.

Two active-duty enlisted infantry Marines, one at a sniper

school and another in an infantry battalion, said some members of their units hope Trump looks at the data provided by the Marine Corps on its gender integration studies and comes to a conclusion that isn't "political" and hopefully reverses the decision to allow women in combat roles.

In 2014, the Marines started a nine-month experiment with a gender integrated infantry unit that concluded with mixed results.

A female Army lieutenant, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that she was worried about losing some of the gains that women in the military have made in recent years.

She said that she didn't trust Vice President-elect Mike Pence to believe in gender equality.

At the Pentagon and higher headquarters, where the military's bureaucracy is a maze of offices and acronyms, troops stationed there are worried that Trump might not have the firmest grasp on how the defense of the country actually works, and they said that they are increasingly concerned about how mission priorities and resources might be shuffled — for better or for worse — in the coming months.

It is unclear and probably difficult to say whether Trump's support is split between officer and enlisted lines, as those interviewed for this report said pockets of both supported and decried the candidate.

On Wednesday morning, Carter issued a statement about the election to the Pentagon, but the short paragraph did not mention Trump by name.

'The people have spoken'

Associated Press

From Virginia coal country, as election results trickled in, Jimmy McDonald texted his boss to warn he might need a day off Wednesday. Celebrations, it seemed, were in order.

"Historic day," his boss wrote back. "There's still some good in America," McDonald responded.

Just before midnight, he said he could barely believe it.

"The people have spoken," he cheered. "The people said, 'Enough is enough.'"

In a presidential contest that bitterly divided the nation, the election of Donald Trump to the White House left America's voters just as polarized. For those watching as the results came in, there was exuberance, despair — and surprise on both sides of the political aisle.

McDonald was overjoyed.

On the other side of the nation, Democrat Terry Zee Lee felt something far different.

"I fear for our country," said Lee, 68, who earlier Tuesday had no doubt in her mind that Hillary Clinton would be elected president. "I cannot imagine that as well as our country is doing right now, with all the improvements and all the gains we've had for equal opportunity and social justice — it just makes me sick to my stomach that my fellow Americans have that much hate and misogyny."

Election night turned into a nail-biter for millions of Americans as the nation waited for the final tally of votes from a small number of states. But Trump victories in Ohio, Florida, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, along with traditional Republican strongholds, gave the real estate mogul the path he needed to win.

The final determination of who would become the nation's 45th president extended an already long, acrimonious race.

Duterte OKs joint exercises with US

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has approved the continuation of joint military exercises with U.S. forces, but the number of drills will be reduced and will exclude mock assaults, defense officials said Wednesday.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Duterte also allowed the government to proceed with a 2014 defense accord with Washington permitting U.S. forces to be stationed temporarily at five designated Philippine military camps, along with their warships and planes.

Duterte had previously threatened to end military exercises with the U.S. and the presence of American forces in the country in about two years, saying the Philippines' still ill-equipped troops have not benefited from America's superior military.

Lorenzana said he and other security officials explained to the president at a Cabinet meeting Monday how the Philippines benefits from the annual maneuvers.

"We presented to him the long years of bilateral relationship," Lorenzana said. "The Armed Forces of the Philippines enumerated the benefits obtained from these exercises."

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Molly Koscina cited the swift response of American forces after Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the central Philippines in 2013. U.S. personnel reached the area four hours after the Philippines sought help.

U.S. troops, aircraft and aid, along with those from other countries, have been credited with preventing more casualties after the powerful storm struck. Haiyan left more than 7,300 dead or missing.

"That can't happen unless you have an

alliance and that you train together and work together," Koscina said.

Defense department public affairs chief Arsenio Andolong said the changes in annual joint maneuvers will be discussed with American military officials led by U.S. Pacific Command chief Harry Harris Jr. at a Nov. 22 meeting in Manila.

Duterte ordered assault exercises to be discontinued, the defense department said.

Andolong said two naval exercises involving amphibious beach landing and boat raids may be stopped. A largescale exercise called Balikatan or shoulder to shoulder will be retained but will shift its focus to disaster response, humanitarian aid and counterterrorism, he said.

Marines hold 1-day pause in operations

By TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — All Marine Corps units will hold a one-day pause in operations after a string of accidents and other incidents that have left 152 Marines dead during the last fiscal year.

Gen. Robert Neller, Marine Corps Commandant, announced the pause, which started Tuesday, in a message to commanders and enlisted leaders.

During the stand down, units are to take one day between Nov. 8 and Dec. 1 to discuss its operations and identify areas that can be improved.

During the last fiscal year, the Marine Corps has faced a string of helicopter and fighter jet crashes that killed pilots and crews, as well as high-profile hazing cases at the Parris Island training center in South Carolina that left at least one Marine recruit dead.

"This is our chance as professionals, from private to gen-

eral, to pause, think, reflect, and discuss who we are and how we can improve, both as individuals and as a team," Neller said in a prepared statement. "My goal is for Marines to understand their value to the organization, to know they have a voice, and for leaders to join them in the trenches to ensure we are focused on success."

Overall, Marine Corps units "are doing extraordinarily well," but training accidents and destructive behavior by a small number of Marines leave room for improvement, according to Neller's statement.

In fiscal year 2016, 53 of the 152 deaths were due to self-inflicted injuries across active-duty and reserve forces, a Marine Corps official said on the condition of anonymity.

The Marine Corps official said the number of deaths is similar to past years, and that Neller wanted the pause to find what works in units that have not had issues and learn from those practices.

LCS reaches San Diego

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Despite suffering a few wounds on its voyage from Alabama, the Navy's new littoral combat ship Montgomery reached its homeport of San Diego on Tuesday.

"It's a really excellent crew," Navy Commodore Jordy Harrison, 47, commander of Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 1, said as he waited for the Montgomery's 71 sailors to disembark. "Great teamwork, and they did a great job bringing this ship around."

Commissioned on Sept. 10 in Mobile, the Independence-class Montgomery was supposed to head to San Diego shortly afterward. But three days later, seawater leaked into the warship's hydraulic cooling system. Then the ship lost one of its gas turbine engines and both port shafts.

The vessel continued under its own power to the Mayport Navy base near Jacksonville, Fla. With Hurricane Matthew bearing down on Oct. 4, however, the Navy ordered the Montgomery to ride out the storm at sea.

While under tow, a tug boat struck and cracked the ship's trimaran aluminum hull, caus-

ing a "minor seawater intrusion" that the crew patched, according to the Navy.

After the hull was mended in Mayport, the Montgomery resumed its journey to San Diego. Then on Oct. 29, the ship struck a lock wall along the Panama Canal, causing a 1½-foot crack between the ship's transom plates and port quarter, the Navy said.

Harrison said the incident remains under investigation, but that the vessel was under the control of Panamanian authorities when the mishap occurred.

The ship arrived in San Diego without further incident, following a brief stop in Manzanillo, Mexico.

The fast and nimble littoral combat ships are designed to be the pocket knives of the Navy — able to hunt submarines, sweep for mines and insert special operations teams ashore for clandestine missions. But manufacturing flaws, maintenance troubles and leadership snafus have plagued the \$35 billion program over the past decade.

Win could have enormous impact on Supreme Court

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The political earthquake that hit Tuesday night has enormous consequences for the Supreme Court, swallowing up Judge Merrick Garland's ill-fated nomination and dismantling Democratic hopes for a liberal majority on the high court for the first time in nearly a half-century.

In the short term, Republican Donald Trump's victory means that at some point next year, the nine-member court will be restored to full capacity, once again with a majority of Republican-appointed justices.

Democratic attempts to filibuster Trump's choice would likely lead Republicans to end that option for Supreme Court justices, just as Democrats did for other judicial nominations when their party controlled the Senate.

Trump's upset victory likely changes the court's docket as well: Court challenges to President Barack Obama's regulations regarding the Affordable Care Act and immigration, which have preoccupied the justices in recent terms, will likely disappear under a President Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress.

The long-term question will be Trump's ultimate impact on the court's membership, and whether he gets the chance to do more than choose the successor to Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in February.

Two of the court's liberals, Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer, are 83 and 78, respectively. Moderate conservative Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 80.

As long as those three stay, the court's rulings on sensitive social issues — protecting

abortion rights, affirmative action and gay rights, for instance — are secure.

Tuesday's election assures that Kennedy will remain the court's pivotal justice, for now. Trump has said he will draw his Supreme Court nominee from a list of 20 judges and one senator: Mike Lee of Utah. All appear to be more conservative than Kennedy, the court's longest-serving justice.

Kennedy is the member of the current court most likely to be in the majority when the court splits 5 to 4 in its most controversial decisions. Most of the time, he sides with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and the court's other remaining conservatives: Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr.

But on some social issues, Kennedy sides with the liberals: Ginsburg, Breyer and Obama's two choices for the court, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., declared on the night of Scalia's death that Republicans would not act on any Obama nominee. The move brought charges that McConnell had politicized the process, but the gambit worked: It will now be a Republican president making the lifetime appointment to replace Scalia.

Trump has said his nominee will come from the list compiled with the help of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, and the legal group, the Federalist Society. His nominee will be like Scalia in seeking to overturn Roe and be a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, Trump has said.

Trump has list of promises to keep

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It all starts with the wall.

Donald Trump's vow to build a wall along the border with Mexico, to make Mexico pay for it and to achieve ironfisted control over illegal immigration stands as his leading promise, one that rang from the rafters countless times. But he owes his supporters — and now the country — much more than that.

While a lot of his agenda will be a hard sell, he won't have the excuse used by many presidents whose promises have fallen short — a Congress in the hands of the opposing party. Trump will take office with a unified government, both the Senate and House under Republican control.

A look at some of his IOUs:

Foreign policy

Trump's "America first" ethos means alliances and coalitions will not pass muster with him unless they produce a net benefit to the U.S. He speaks of a less interventionist approach to crises abroad — with the exception of his vow to crush the Islamic State group. Yet he also promises to spend much more to restore what he sees as depleted armed forces.

Energy

Trump vows to cut regulations as part of his effort to "unleash American energy." This means allowing unfettered production of oil, clean coal, natural gas and other sources to push the U.S. toward energy independence and create jobs. In particular, he owes coal miners a revival of their livelihood, even though the industry's decline is in large measure due to the rise of natural gas, which he also supports. He pledges to rescind the Clean Power Plan, a key element of President Barack Obama's strategy to fight climate change.

Health care

He's vowed to repeal Obama's

health care law and replace it with something more affordable. With a Republican Congress, the pressure will be on to do so. It remains to be seen how far lawmakers and the president will actually go to untangle a law that has sunk some roots, and Democrats won't be voiceless on this or other issues.

Iran

Trump promises to renegotiate or withdraw from the multilateral deal that eased sanctions on Iran in return for controls on its nuclear program.

Social Security

Trump has promised not to cut Social Security.

Immigration

Trump promises to stop the influx of Syrian refugees into the U.S., and somehow to help them overseas. He vows to deport people convicted of serious crimes who are in the U.S. illegally. And there's that wall, which Mexicans insist they won't pay for. But the fate of millions of people who are in the country illegally is a gray area — he's not promising to deport them but also not saying he would give them legal status. He'd ban immigration of people from areas prone to extremism, but how that would be defined is unclear.

Veterans

Trump promises to expand programs that allow veterans to choose their doctor — regardless of whether they're affiliated with the VA — and still receive government-paid medical care. He's pledged to fire or discipline VA employees who fail veterans or breach the public trust. He also would increase mental health professionals and create a "White House hotline" dedicated to veterans. If a valid complaint is not addressed, "I will pick up the phone and fix it myself if I have to," Trump pledged.

Republicans still hold House majority

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans retained their lock on the House for two more years as GOP candidates triumphed in a checkerboard of districts in Florida, Virginia and Colorado that Democrats had hoped Donald Trump's divisive comments about women and Hispanics would make their own.

Democrats who'd envisioned potentially big gains in suburban and ethnically diverse districts instead were on track for disappointingly modest pickups. Republican contenders were buoyed by Trump's surprising victory early Wednesday in his White House bid against Democrat Hillary Clinton and his appeal to white working-class voters.

Expectations had been low

that Democrats would win the 30 seats they'd needed to capture House control. But both sides had anticipated they'd cut the historic GOP majority by perhaps a dozen seats, which now seemed unlikely. Republicans currently hold a 247-188 majority, including three vacant seats, the most the GOP has commanded since their 270 in 1931.

By Wednesday morning, Republicans had at least 233 seats — guaranteeing control — and just five of their incumbents had lost. The GOP retained seats in Minnesota, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Iowa and Wisconsin that Democrats coveted, and Republicans prepared to build on their six-year run of House control.

House Speaker Paul Ryan,

R-Wis., who won a 10th term, called Trump to congratulate him on his win, and pledged to work together. It was initially unclear what impact the marginally smaller size of the GOP majority would have on Ryan, who'd angered some Republican lawmakers by refusing to campaign for Trump.

While one member of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus was defeated, several newly elected Republicans could bolster it. That would increase conservatives' leverage to demand their way on issues like curbing spending and government regulations.

In Florida, freshman GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo won a race that underscored how Trump's damage to Republicans would be limited. With around 7 in 10

of the Miami-area district's voters Hispanic, Democrats targeted it and the race became one of the country's most expensive with an \$18 million price tag. But Curbelo distanced himself from his own party's nominee and prevailed.

Virginia freshman Rep. Barbara Comstock kept her seat in the Washington, D.C., suburbs despite Democrats' attempts to lash her to Trump. GOP Rep. Mike Coffman was re-elected outside Denver in another costly race.

No Democratic incumbent had lost by early Wednesday.

Both parties' candidates and outside groups spent nearly \$1.1 billion combined on House campaigns, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan research group.

Demos fail to take Senate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans held onto their slim Senate majority, a stinging blow to Democrats in a night full of them. Democrats had been nearly certain of retaking control but saw their hopes fizzle as endangered GOP incumbents won in Missouri, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and even Democrat-friendly Wisconsin.

GOP-held New Hampshire remained too close to call on Wednesday morning, but even if Democrats eked out a win there it would not make a difference.

Republicans started the night with a 54-46 majority in the Senate and were on track to end up with at least 52 seats, presuming they win a December runoff in Louisiana, as expected.

The outcome added to a debacle of a night for Democrats, who lost the presidency and faced being consigned to minority status on Capitol Hill for years to come.

Republicans celebrated their wins, already looking ahead to midterms in 2018 when Democrats could see their numbers reduced even further with a group of red-state Senate Democrats on the ballot.

Senate Majority Leader

Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who will serve in that role next year under a President Donald Trump, issued a statement congratulating the president-elect.

"After eight years of the Obama administration, the American people have chosen a new direction for our nation. President-elect Trump has a significant opportunity to bring our nation together," McConnell said. "It is my hope and intent that we succeed in the years ahead by working together with our colleagues across the aisle to strengthen our national and economic security."

In Pennsylvania, GOP Sen. Pat Toomey won a narrow victory for his second term over Democratic challenger Katie McGinty. It was a race Democrats expected to win going into the night. The story was the same in Wisconsin, where GOP Sen. Ron Johnson, written off for months by his own party, won re-election against former Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold in a rematch.

GOP Sen. John McCain of Arizona, 80, who un-endorsed Trump after audio emerged of him boasting of groping women, won his sixth term in quite possibly his final campaign.

GOP gains governorships, control of state legislatures

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Republicans have expanded their power in state capitols to their strongest levels in decades, picking up several previously held Democratic governorships while also claiming control of some key legislative chambers.

The Republican gains in statehouses capped a remarkable election in which Donald Trump won the presidency and the GOP held on to majorities in the U.S. Senate and House.

Heading into Tuesday, Republicans already controlled more than two-thirds of the nation's legislative chambers and 31 of the 50 governors' offices. By Wednesday, they were inching toward their historical high of 34 governorships set in 1922, with races in North Carolina and Montana still too close to call.

Republicans also won the Kentucky House for the first time in nearly a century and reclaimed the Iowa Senate from Democrats, giving the GOP control of both legislative chambers and the governor's

offices in those states.

Republicans took governors' offices from Democrats in Missouri, New Hampshire and Vermont. Former Navy SEAL Eric Greitens defeated Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster in Missouri's costliest gubernatorial race. He will succeed Jay Nixon to become just the second Republican governor in the past 24 years. Greitens capitalized on his military service and his work as founder of the veterans' charity The Mission Continues while casting himself as an outsider going up against a career politician.

Vermont Lt. Gov. Phil Scott defeated Democrat Sue Minter to take over the office held by Gov. Peter Shumlin.

Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb won election over Democratic former state House Speaker John Gregg to continue a 12-year run of Republican governors in Indiana. Holcomb, a former state Republican Party chairman, had been appointed to the state's No. 2 spot by Gov. Mike Pence and later was nominated as his replacement when Pence dropped his re-election bid in July to run for vice president.

Analysts weigh in on defense secretary pick

By TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A former national security adviser for George W. Bush and congressional defense leaders are considered front-runners for defense secretary for President-elect Donald Trump, experts said Tuesday.

Former national security adviser Stephen Hadley is a likely choice for the new Trump administration, defense analysts said. Hadley has worked in the Pentagon under multiple Republican administrations since the 1970s. His more recent assignments include serving as assistant secretary of defense, focused on NATO strategic issues, under President George H.W. Bush from 1989 to 1993 and as the former national

security adviser to President George W. Bush from 2005-09.

Mackenzie Eaglen, a senior defense analyst for the non-partisan American Enterprise Institute think tank in Washington, said Hadley is one of several likely choices for the post.

Hadley “would bring a lot of experience,” said Larry Korb, a former assistant secretary of defense for manpower under President Ronald Reagan who is a senior defense analyst at the progressive Center for American Progress think tank in Washington.

There are also several key contenders from Congress, analysts said. Former House Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., has been a vocal supporter for Trump and is part of the president-elect’s transition team.

Rogers was chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and is “very sharp and widely respected,” Eaglen said. Rogers is also a likely nominee to run the Central Intelligence Agency but is considered a defense secretary contender, Eaglen said.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was also a vocal Trump supporter during the campaign and is considered another front-runner, Eaglen and Korb said.

“His name would have to go on any short list,” Eaglen said.

One of Trump’s most vocal defense supporters, retired Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn, is not eligible for the post because U.S. law requires that any former military official seeking the position must have been

retired for seven years before serving again. Flynn retired from the military in 2014. However, Congress could waive the requirement.

Beyond defense secretary, both analysts suggested that former House Armed Services subcommittee on seapower chairman Rep. Randy Forbes, who was defeated in his Virginia primary earlier this year, would be a strong choice for secretary of the Navy.

Given the unpredictability of this election, Eaglen cautioned against going with conventional wisdom, noting Trump may seek out a complete outsider, such as a head of a Fortune 100 company, to run the Pentagon, which is the nation’s largest government agency and accounts for half of its discretionary spending.

College students protest after results announced

The Washington Post

As election results poured in, students took to the streets at colleges across the country, especially on the West Coast, crying and shouting with rage.

At many schools, the chants were the same: “[expletive] Donald Trump!” over and over, with fists pumping the air or arms around one another, some holding cellphones aloft to light their way through campuses, or to film and share on social media.

College students are part of a generation that is the most Democratic and liberal-leaning of all age groups, and over the last decade or so, there has been a real generational shift toward the Democrats, according to John Baughman, associate professor of politics at Bates College.

So while there was real jubilation from some students, often those were smaller celebrations. At many schools, Trump supporters had said they stayed “closeted” because the mood on campus was so vehemently against him. Even in states where support for Presi-

dent-elect Trump was strong, students were less likely to be celebrating the results than the people in the communities around campus.

For most students, this was their first presidential election.

And for many, the response to the results was visceral.

Hundreds of University of California, Los Angeles students poured through the streets shouting.

The Yale Daily News reported that scores of students ran to meet for a primal scream outside the library.

At the University of California, Davis, video posted on social media shows students marching through campus yelling, “You are not America!” “WE are America!” and “[expletive] Donald Trump!” over and over.

A similar group marched at the University of Oregon, and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

At Columbia University, the campus newspaper reported that some professors postponed midterm exams out of concern for students.

Voters back pot use, gun control in several states

Associated Press

The campaign to legalize marijuana achieved a major breakthrough, with victories in at least six states on Tuesday.

In addition, voters in a scattering of states tightened gun control laws and approved increases in the minimum wage.

In all, more than 150 measures appeared on statewide ballots in Tuesday’s election.

California, Nevada and Massachusetts approved measures legalizing the recreational use of marijuana, while Florida, Arkansas and North Dakota voted to allow pot for medical purposes. A recreational pot proposal lost in Arizona. The outcome of another in Maine was too close to call.

Gun control was on the ballot in four states, including California, which already has some of the nation’s toughest gun-related laws. Voters there approved a measure that will outlaw possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines, require permits to buy ammunition and extend California’s unique

program that allows authorities to seize firearms from owners who bought guns legally but are no longer allowed to own them.

Washington state approved a ballot measure that will allow judges to issue orders temporarily seizing guns from individuals who are deemed a threat.

In Maine and Nevada, a group founded by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg spent millions promoting ballot measures that would require background checks on nearly all gun sales and transfers. The measure was approved in Nevada but was too close to call in Maine early Wednesday.

With Congress unable to agree on an increase in the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, numerous states and cities have taken action. Arizona, Colorado and Maine voters approved measures phasing in a \$12 minimum hourly wages by 2020. In Washington state, voters approved a measure raising that to \$13.50 an hour by 2020.

Coaches bemoan transfers

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Andrew White III began his career at Kansas, then transferred to Nebraska and redshirted a year before playing another, only to wind up at Syracuse to finish off his unique college basketball odyssey.

All that moving around hardly makes him unique, though.

It's more like the new norm.

More than 700 players on Division I rosters swapped schools last season, many taking advantage of fifth-year transfer rules that allow them to play immediately. The number could swell to more than 800 by the time this season begins next week. And that has coaches and administrators at every level concerned about the long-term effect on the health and popularity of the sport.

"I do think it's a big-time problem in college basketball. It's a problem in college athletics," said Kansas coach Bill Self, who has three transfers from four-year schools on his current roster. "But I also think it's a societal problem because how many kids now, if you don't play on your high school team, what's the first thing you do? You switch schools. It happens in football and other sports, too.

"I mean, we'd like for it to be tightened up," Self added, "where there's less transfers and hopefully that will be the case. But I don't know what the answer is for that."

That's the biggest problem: Nobody seems to know.

In interviews with nearly two dozen coaches and officials, including four conference commissioners, the only consensus was that the transfer epidemic is a problem striking college basketball to its core.

"The numbers concern me. But within those numbers, you have to understand there are sometimes very good reasons to transfer that are beyond just playing time," ACC commissioner John Swofford said. "Some of it is societal in nature, in which it's instant-gratification syndrome of, 'If I'm not playing immediately and not playing a big role, I'm going somewhere else. That's indicative of a larger issue beyond basketball."

Swofford said the days of kids "waiting their turn" are a quaint construct of yesteryear. Now, everybody wants to get on the floor right away, and they're willing to uproot if that's what it takes.

"My concern is more about the academic part of it as much as anything, and how much can you bounce around and truly receive the kind of education that you'd want," Swofford said. "But again, it's hard to lump that all into one bag. There is a lot going on."

Transfers are more pervasive in college basketball for a number of reasons.

First, the game is largely the same regardless of where you go. Teams run different offenses, coaches utilize different systems and

defenses vary from school to school. But it's not like football, where a player who transfers has to learn hundreds of complicated plays in a condensed time period.

That makes it easy for a player to get up to speed quickly.

Another reason is numbers: There are only five guys on the floor at a time, and only 200 minutes to go around per game. Compare that to football, where an offense will run about 80 plays and there are 11 guys on the field at a time, not to mention opportunities to play on special teams.

"We need coaches to be frank on the front end, what their program is about," Belmont coach Rick Byrd said, "and then we need kids when they make their decision to stay there and not hop around looking for the next best thing because they didn't play 38 minutes a game as a freshman."

The NCAA is continually examining the issue through its committee on academics, but has so far stood pat. And that is particularly troubling for mid-major coaches like Byrd when it comes to the fifth-year transfer rule, which allows athletes who have graduated to play immediately somewhere else.

That rule has turned some mid-major programs into de-facto minor leagues.

Most coaches are in favor of eliminating the rule, which would mean those players would have to redshirt a year just like any other transfer. Other ideas to curb the number of transfers include a cap on the number of schools where an athlete can play, and rules that limit where an athlete transferring can go.

"I'm heartened by the fact that the NCAA continues to look at transfer issues," Ohio Valley commissioner Beth DeBauche said, "because they're very complex."

Now, there are cases where transfers are best for everybody involved: coaching changes, players deciding they want to play closer to home, academics and myriad other issues that can pop up over the years.

Then there are the benefits to playing in different places.

Jim Boeheim had a handful of transfers in his first 40 years as their coach. He'll have three in the lineup this year.

"Transfers that we've taken have been very impactful to our program," Boeheim said. "We haven't taken that many, but the guys that we have taken are very impactful."

As for the transfer outlook for college basketball?

"It's here to stay now," Boeheim said. "So if you need a guy you can't get a freshman to help you, if you can get a guy that has started for two or three years, that would bring something to enhance recruiting."

Six players to watch for

Associated Press

The list of potential impact transfers for the upcoming college basketball season includes the son of a Hall of Famer.

Last week, we put together a list of six schools that are relying on multiple newcomers who began their college careers at other Division I schools. Now we're focusing on six individual transfers who are starting over at their new schools.

Canyon Barry, Florida (former school: College of Charleston):

Barry, the son of Hall of Famer Rick Barry, averaged 19.7 points per game last season at College of Charleston before a shoulder injury ended his season prematurely. He had three performances of 30-plus points. The 6-foot-6 guard signed with Florida as a graduate transfer.

Marcus Foster, Creighton (former school: Kansas State):

Foster, a 6-foot-3 junior guard, led Kansas State in scoring each of his two seasons with the Wildcats before transferring to Creighton. Foster averaged 15.5 points in 2013-14 and 12.5 points in 2014-15. Although he played only two seasons at Kansas State, he ranks 10th in that school's history in three-pointers (138) and three-point percentage (.373). He sat out last season due to NCAA transfer rules.

L.G. Gill, Maryland (former school: Duquesne):

Gill arrives at Maryland as a graduate transfer after averaging 10.1 points and a team-high 6.5 rebounds at Duquesne last season. The 6-foot-8 forward averaged 6.9 points and 4.1 rebounds in 2014-15. His experience should boost a Maryland team that returns only one starter from last season.

Terry Larrier, Connecticut (former school: VCU):

Larrier averaged 6.6 points and 18.5 minutes in his lone season at VCU before transferring. The 6-foot-8 sophomore guard/forward missed the 2015-16 season due to NCAA transfer rules. He has enough versatility to play either small forward or power forward.

Austin Nichols, Virginia (former school: Memphis):

Nichols averaged 3.4 blocks per game to rank third among all Division I players in 2014-15 with Memphis. He also averaged 13.3 points and 6.1 rebounds that season and earned first-team all-American Athletic Conference honors. Nichols, a 6-foot-9 junior forward, sat out last season due to NCAA transfer rules.

Eric Paschall, Villanova (former school: Fordham):

Paschall was the Atlantic 10 rookie of the year in 2014-15, as he averaged a team-high 15.9 points as well as 5.5 rebounds in his lone season at Fordham.

Washington moves in playoff position

Associated Press

Washington moved into fourth in the College Football Playoff rankings, putting the four remaining unbeaten teams from the Power Five conferences at the top of the selection committee's second top 25.

Alabama, Clemson and Michigan still hold the top three spots.

The committee's first ranking of the season caused a bit of a stir because the unbeaten Huskies were behind Texas A&M last week. The Aggies then went out and lost at Mississippi State to clear up the mini-controversy.

Ohio State is behind Washington in fifth.

"It was a small margin between No. 4 and No. 5," committee chairman Kirby Hocutt said.

Hocutt, who is the athletic director at Texas Tech, said last week that Texas A&M was ahead of Washington because of the Aggies' superior schedule strength. That left open the possibility that Ohio State would jump the Huskies for the same reason after the Buckeyes pounded Nebraska on Saturday.

Hocutt said a big difference was Texas A&M's only loss was to Alabama whereas Ohio State's one loss was to 10th-ranked Penn State.

"But more than anything it's the consistency that we've seen week in and week out with Washington," Hocutt said.

Chaos theory

If chaos is what you crave down the stretch of the college football season, these last few weeks are set to leave you feeling less than satisfied.

For sure, none of the teams in the latest top four are safe. Weird stuff happens. What mitigates the chances for real chaos is the firewall the top three teams, and to some extent Washington, has created. Alabama (vs. Mississippi State), Clemson (vs. Pitt) and Michigan (at Iowa) could all lose this weekend and still they would be fine to reach the final four if they win out and become conference champions. Washington would likely be in more trouble than the rest with a loss to Southern California on Saturday, but far from out.

The potential for chaos is also limited by the teams lurk-

ing behind No. 6 Louisville (8-1). All nine teams ranked from seven to 15 have already lost twice. There was only one 7-2 in the committee's top 15 at this point last season.

The field

Four of these nine teams will almost certainly make the College Football Playoff: Alabama, Clemson, Michigan, Washington, Ohio State, Louisville, Wisconsin, Auburn and No. 16 West Virginia. Here's where they stand.

Total control

Alabama
Clemson
Michigan
Washington
Ohio State
Auburn

Win out, get in the playoff. Simple. Barring a significant upset in the next couple weeks Alabama-Auburn and Michigan-Ohio State on Nov. 26 might as well be early round playoff games.

Some control

Wisconsin
West Virginia
The Badgers and Mountain-

eers would be very much in the mix if they win out and win their conferences, but would still need some help.

No control

Louisville

With the Cardinals' chance to win the Atlantic Coast Conference at slim to none, the best Louisville can do is win out and hope the upsets start piling up.

Sort of still in it

Penn State
No. 12 Colorado
No. 14 Utah
No. 23 Washington State
Unranked Florida

The Nittany Lions need two losses from Michigan to reach the Big Ten championship game, but they do hold the tiebreaker on Ohio State. The Utes, Buffaloes and Cougars could all still win the Pac-12 at 11-2, which at least gets them a look if there are conference championship game upsets.

Don't laugh at the Gators. If Florida wins out it would be 10-2 with victories against LSU, Florida State and maybe Alabama to win the SEC championship. OK, yeah, you can laugh a little.

Western Michigan downs Kent State, stays unbeaten

Associated Press

KENT, Ohio — Western Michigan's perfect season is still afloat.

On a rainy night, the team that lives to "Row the Boat" stayed above water and unbeaten.

Jarvion Franklin rushed for 134 yards and a touchdown and Fabian Johnson added a career-high 125 yards as the No. 14 Broncos rallied for a 37-21 win over Kent State on Tuesday night to become the nation's first 10-win team.

Franklin's 19-yard TD with 8:27 helped the Broncos (10-0, 6-0 Mid-American Conference) finally put away the upset-minded Golden Flashes (3-7, 2-4), who jumped to a 14-0

lead in the first quarter.

But Western Michigan, abiding by coach P.J. Fleck's "Row the Boat" mantra, kept plugging away and scored 21 straight points before swinging the game with a safety in the fourth.

"That's something we didn't anticipate," Franklin said of the 14-point hole. "But we just kept our oars in the water, stayed true to the process and believed we deserve to be here."

The Broncos are the highest-ranked MAC school in the AP Top 25 poll since 2008 and have their sights on a major bowl bid. They moved to No. 21 in the latest College Football Playoff rankings just before kickoff and then shook off their biggest

deficit this season.

"I've never been more proud of a football team in my entire career because they had everything on the line," Fleck said. "We're going to get everybody's best shot. We're always now on a national stage. Somebody wants to be the team to knock us off, and we know that."

Quarterback Zach Terrell scored on a 1-yard keeper in the third quarter, capping a 20-play drive, to give Western Michigan its first lead at 19-14 before he threw a pass to Johnson for the 2-point conversion.

Kent State didn't fold and responded with an 83-yard drive, tying it on freshman Justin Rankin's 20-yard run.

Western Michigan's next

drive stalled near mid-field, but the Broncos downed a punt at Kent State's 1, and on the next play linebacker Robert Spillane stuffed Rankin in the end zone for two points.

"The play of the game," Fleck said.

The Broncos got the ball back, and Johnson, primarily a blocking back, picked up 35 yards on four carries before Franklin scored his 39th career TD, tying the school record held by Jerome Persell (1976-79).

Kent State's defense was missing its best player as star safety Nate Holley was suspended indefinitely following his arrest on felony kidnapping charges.

Sheary's two goals power Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Connor McDavid skated into the faceoff circle and looked up and there he was: his childhood idol Sidney Crosby.

The NHL's future vs. the NHL's present. And as mature as the Edmonton Oilers' rising 19-year-old star can be on the ice, even he was momentarily starstruck by the Pittsburgh Penguins captain. The proof came in what happened next.

"It was pretty funny that I take the opening draw against him and have him snap it back," McDavid said. "I don't even think I got my stick on it."

The jitters vanished almost instantly. McDavid more than held his own in his first meeting with the two-time MVP, picking up three assists. The Penguins, however, rallied for a 4-3 victory behind Conor Sheary's two goals, including the winner with 1:42 left.

"Every game we're down two we still think we have a chance to win," Sheary said. "Nothing

was different for us tonight."

Evgeni Malkin and Carl Hagelin also scored for Pittsburgh while Matt Murray stopped 25 shots in his first home start since Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Final.

Crosby was held without a point for the first time this season, but helped start the deciding sequence by creating a turnover behind the Edmonton net that eventually became a goal when Oilers forward Benoit Pouliot's clearing attempt smacked off Sheary and past Oilers goaltender Cam Talbot.

"I don't know who whacked it, but it ended up in the back of the net," Sheary said.

The Penguins won their fourth straight and remained unbeaten in regulation (6-0-1) while also praising McDavid and the upstart Oilers, who are atop the Pacific Division by playing a blazing end-to-end game that dares opponents to keep up. McDavid's line provided all three goals, with Jordan Eberle getting two and Patrick Maroon getting the other.

"He doesn't need a lot of time and space," Crosby said. "It's one thing to kind of watch games and see it, but out there you can really tell he needs no time and space at all. If you're even with him, you're in big trouble so you better make sure you're a step ahead."

"They're never out of a game," McDavid said. "You can be up 3-1, but they have so much offensive firepower and they can find a way either way, no matter what."

Jets 8, Stars 2: Patrik Laine took the NHL lead in goals with the second hat trick of his rookie season, lifting host Winnipeg over Dallas.

Sharks 3, Capitals 0: Martin Jones stopped 24 shots, Brent Burns scored his fifth goal of the season and visiting San Jose ended the Washington's five-game winning streak.

Canadiens 3, Bruins 2: Carey Price stopped 41 shots, Paul Byron scored with 1:02 left and host Montreal beat Boston.

Kings 7, Maple Leafs 0:

Jeff Carter scored twice during a four-goal second period, Peter Budaj made 19 saves and visiting Los Angeles thumped Toronto.

Predators 3, Senators 1: James Neal and P.K. Subban each had a goal and an assist to lead host Nashville over Ottawa.

Red Wings 3, Flyers 2 (SO): Andreas Athanasiou tied it midway through the third period and had the only score in the shootout, helping visiting Detroit snap a five-game losing streak.

Canucks 5, Rangers 3: Alexandre Burrows scored twice in the third period to help visiting Vancouver end a nine-game losing streak.

Devils 3, Hurricanes 2 (SO): PA Parenteau and Taylor Hall scored in the shootout, and host New Jersey rallied to defeat Carolina.

Coyotes 4, Avalanche 2: Jordan Martinook scored two goals, Max Domi had a goal and two assists and visiting Arizona beat Colorado.

Hawks hand defending champ Cavs their first loss

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Dennis Schroder scored a career-high 28 points and the Atlanta Hawks gave the reigning NBA champions their first loss of the season, 110-106.

Cleveland (6-1) cut into two large second-half deficits, but Atlanta converted clutch shots down the stretch.

"It was a weird game," said LeBron James, who scored 23 points after having only two in the first half.

Atlanta led by 18 points in the third quarter before Cleveland cut the margin to two. The Hawks rebuilt the lead to 15 early in the fourth, but the Cavaliers got within two with 25 seconds remaining.

Kent Bazemore, who scored 25 points, hit a jumper from the corner with 7 seconds left and put the game away.

"They've dominated the Eastern Conference for a long time now," Bazemore said. "They're definitely the measuring stick, and we passed our first test tonight."

Atlanta had lost 11 straight to Cleveland, including playoff sweeps the last two seasons.

"For my two years here, they've kicked our butts," Bazemore said. "This is one of the biggest wins I've had since I've been here."

Paul Millsap scored 21 points for Atlanta. Dwight Howard, who received four stitches for a bloody lip in the first half, had 17 rebounds.

"Give them a lot of credit," James said. "They played a heck of a game. You know toward the end of the season they'll be right there."

Nets 119, Timberwolves 110: Brook Lopez scored 26 points, leading eight players

with at least nine points, and Brooklyn kept Minnesota winless on the road.

Andrew Wiggins scored a career-high 36 points for the Wolves, making a career-best six three-pointers.

Grizzlies 108, Nuggets 107: Marc Gasol scored on an inbounds pass from Vince Carter at the buzzer to lift host Memphis.

Gasol's basket came over Emmanuel Mudiay on a high-arc pass from Carter underneath the Memphis basket. When Carter inbounded the ball there were 0.7 seconds left.

Gasol had 19 points for the Grizzlies, who had lost two straight. Mudiay had 23 points and Danilo Gallinari added 21 for the Nuggets.

Trail Blazers 124, Suns 124: Damian Lillard scored 38 points, including key free

throws in the waning seconds, for host Portland.

CJ McCollum added 33 points for the Blazers, who have won three straight.

Mavericks 109, Lakers 97: Harrison Barnes scored 31 points and Seth Curry added 23 as visiting Dallas won its second straight game after an 0-5 start.

JJ Barea had 18 points, seven rebounds and eight assists for the Mavericks.

Kings 102, Pelicans 94: DeMarcus Cousins had 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter for Sacramento, which never trailed in defeating winless New Orleans.

Anthony Davis had 34 points and eight rebounds for the Pelicans, whose eight straight losses match the 2004-05 team for the worst start in franchise history.