

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Directive: Troops can carry personal guns on facilities

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has cleared the way for servicemembers to carry privately owned firearms on Defense Department property, reversing a long-standing rule that barred personal weapons from its facilities.

Troops can apply for authorization to carry a firearm that is not related to their official duties, according to a Pentagon directive issued Nov. 18 by Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work.

The new order also describes the Pentagon's policies for arming troops and civilian DOD personnel for official duties, such as law enforcement or security.

The directive is the result of a long debate about arming more troops on military installations in the wake of several shootings at Defense Department facilities in the past seven years that have left dozens dead.

Pentagon officials began reviewing the firearms policies in 2009, after a shooting rampage by an Army major on Fort Hood in Texas killed 13 people and injured 30. Last year, debate over arming more troops at military facilities heated up following the July 2015 lone-wolf terrorist attack on two military facilities in Chattanooga, Tenn., that left four Marines and a sailor dead.

The chairmen of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees — Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Rep. Mac

Thornberry, R-Texas — and others in Congress accused the military of dragging its feet in providing proper protections for servicemembers. But some high-level Pentagon officials argued against allowing troops to carry private weapons, and reminded commanders that they had the ability to arm additional troops for security purposes.

The Pentagon is moving forward with allowing servicemembers to request permission to “carry a privately owned firearm — concealed or open carry — on DOD property for a personal protection purpose,” Work’s 26-page directive reads.

National Guard troops not serving on federal duty and troops deployed to war zones are not affected by the directive.

## Japanese shaken by mild quake and tsunami

*Associated Press*

TOKYO — At first, it was 2011 all over again.

“It really came back. And it was so awful. The sways to the side were huge,” Kazuhiro Onuki said after northeastern Japan was jolted Tuesday by a magnitude-7.4 earthquake, the strongest since a devastating quake and tsunami five years ago. “But nothing fell from the shelves,” Onuki, 68, said in a phone interview, his voice calm and quiet.

Coastal residents returned home from higher ground, and fishing boats to port, after tsunami warnings were lifted along Japan’s Pacific coast. The earthquake gave Tokyo — 150 miles away — a good shake, but was much less powerful than the magnitude-9.0 quake in 2011, and only moderate tsunami waves reached shore.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, which leaked radiation for miles after the 2011 tsunami, reported no abnormalities. Decommissioning work on the destroyed reactors was suspended and the site inspected.

At least 14 people were reported injured, three with broken bones, and Japanese TV showed items scattered on the floor in a store and books fallen from shelves in a library.

On the coast, lines of cars snaked away in the predawn darkness after authorities urged residents to seek higher ground immediately.

The first tsunami waves hit about an hour later. The highest one, at 4.6 feet, reached Sendai Bay about two hours after the quake. By comparison, the waves in 2011 were 30 to 60 feet high.

## GAO looks at loan rates for military students

*The Washington Post*

Inaccurate information and poor coordination between federal agencies is putting members of the military at risk of paying more on their student loans than necessary, the Government Accountability Office said in a new report.

By law, military personnel are not supposed to be charged more than 6 percent interest on any loan while they are on active duty. Yet researchers at the GAO found that documents and a website the Department of Defense uses to keep servicemembers informed of their rights fail to explain the full extent of the interest rate cap on all student loans.

A part of the problem is the

inconsistent way the benefit is applied, the report said. The Department of Education requires all of its student loan servicers, the middlemen who collect payments, to match their portfolios of federal student loans against the Department of Defense’s database of active-duty troops to automatically grant the benefit.

But banks, credit unions and other private education lenders are under no obligation to follow suit, even though some have voluntarily adopted the practice, according to the GAO.

Until recently, men and women in uniform had to provide proof of active-duty status to receive the interest rate cap on all student loans. That changed after the government fined Sallie Mae and its former

subsidiary, Navient Solutions, \$97 million in 2014 for unlawfully charging active-duty servicemembers high interest rates on student loans.

To prevent future violations, education officials insisted all contractors servicing federal student loans adopt the automatic match.

Because those contractors applied the benefit retroactively, the number of servicemembers who received the interest rate cap on their federal student loans skyrocketed.

Reviewing the records of 10 federal servicers, the GAO found an increase from 107 servicemembers in October 2008 to 108,710 in December 2015.

# Search on for airman missing off Guam

BY WYATT OLSON AND LEON COOK  
*Stars and Stripes*

A search-and-rescue operation is underway after an airman went missing while swimming early Tuesday at Tarague Beach on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The Coast Guard, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and the Guam and Andersen fire departments were alerted to the missing airman, who was swimming around midnight, an Air Force statement said.

Base residents were asked to avoid the area until it is cleared by authorities.

The incident occurred just hours after the body of another airman, reported missing Sunday afternoon while swimming south of the air base near Pagat Point, was recovered Monday off the island's northeastern coast.

The name of that airman, who was temporarily assigned to Andersen, will not be released until 24 hours after the family is notified, a separate Air Force statement

said.

An HSC-25 helicopter, several Guam Fire Rescue boats and two Coast Guard vessels joined that search.

Members of the Guam Police Department also conducted shoreline searches.

Pagat Point is a popular tourist area about 5 miles southwest of Andersen. Tarague Beach is part of the air base, and water entry is authorized only between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

## Space weapons will get a closer look under Trump

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — Missile defense and military space programs are likely to get a substantial funding boost under the incoming Republican-dominated government, lawmakers and analysts say.

Coming soon are a greater number of more capable anti-missile interceptors and radars deployed around the globe — on land, at sea and possibly in space, say these legislators and experts, several of whom have consulted with President-elect Donald Trump's advisers. More government money will be directed at protecting U.S. satellites from attack, potentially including systems that can ram into or otherwise disable another country's satellites. Senior Republicans who oversee Pentagon spending said in interviews this week that they support considering all such systems.

"I believe we need lots of platforms for every eventuality, including those," said Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, the New Jersey Republican who is expected to chair the House Appropriations Committee in the next Congress.

Trump's thoughts on mis-

sile defense and military space programs have gotten next to no attention, as compared with the president-elect's other defense proposals, such as growing the Army and building more warships. As a candidate, Trump said little on the subject. But experts expect such programs to account for a significant share of what is likely to be a defense budget boost potentially amounting to \$500 billion or more in the coming decade.

Trent Franks, an Arizona Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said the GOP's newly strengthened hand in Washington means a big payday is coming for programs aimed at developing weapons that can be deployed in space.

Riki Ellison, chairman and founder of the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, a nonprofit group that promotes anti-missile systems, said his organization responded to a request from the Trump campaign for a briefing earlier this year and has had extensive consultations.

The concept of a space-based anti-missile shield has long been a favorite of many Republicans, dating back to the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

## Report: Chemical weapons used 52 times by militants

*The Washington Post*

The Islamic State group has used chemical agents 52 times in Iraq and Syria since 2014, according to a new report published Tuesday.

The report, put out by IHS Markit, an information analytics company, and IHS Conflict Monitor, a subsidiary of IHS that uses open-source information to gather data from war zones, also warned of the extremist group's increasing likelihood of using chemical weapons as it retreats from the Iraqi city of Mosul.

As Iraq's second-largest city and an Islamic State stronghold since June 2014, Mosul has seen heavy fighting in recent weeks as Iraqi and Kurdish troops have advanced from multiple directions in an attempt to retake it. The Islamic State group has used snipers, anti-tank guided missiles and car bombs in an effort to stymie the offensive, but the group has yet to use any conventional chemical weapons as forces enter the city. Internationally condemned, chemical weapons are strictly regulated by international arms treaties.

The Islamic State group did, however, set fire to a nearly burned-out sulfur mine roughly 25 miles southeast of Mosul as the campaign to retake the city began in earnest. As the wind shifted, the noxious fumes wafted over nearby U.S. troops and civilians displaced from the city, causing the troops to

don gas masks and incapacitating hundreds of the unprotected civilians with nose bleeds, headaches and choking fits. Iraqi forces put out the fire within a week.

"As the Islamic State loses ground around Mosul, there is a high risk of the group using chemical weapons to slow down and demoralize advancing enemy forces, and to potentially make an example of — and take revenge on — civilian dissidents within the city," Columb Strack, senior analyst and head of the IHS Conflict Monitor, said in the report.

Since 2014, the Islamic State group has used chemical weapons 19 times around Mosul. However, before the Iraqi offensive on the city, chemical attacks declined, the report said. This is probably because the group's chemical weapons technicians and experts were evacuated to Syria, it added.

Also, the U.S.-led air campaign in Iraq and Syria has heavily targeted Islamic State chemical weapons facilities in Iraq in recent months. In March, U.S. Special Operations forces captured the group's top chemical weapons expert during a raid in northern Iraq.

The Islamic State group has used chemical weapons, namely sulphur mustard agents, haphazardly throughout its campaigns in Iraq and Syria, striking indiscriminately against entrenched forces and civilian areas.

# Ex-Sen. Brown thinks he could lead VA

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Scott Brown, a former Republican senator from Massachusetts, said he felt confident about his chances to be selected the next secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs after meeting with President-elect Donald Trump on Monday.

“[Trump and I] had a relationship prior to the election,” Brown said in a telephone interview with Stars and Stripes. “We speak frankly to each other. It was no mystery — he knows my feelings and position on veterans and the military.”

Trump and his transition team have started meeting at Trump Tower in New York with candidates under consideration for Cabinet positions. While the team hasn’t confirmed who is being eyed for VA secretary, Brown, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., and others have emerged as potential candidates.

Brown said he has begun forming plans for the department, including one to fire VA leaders who don’t immediately divulge the problems at the facilities that they manage.

“Let’s say I call up a hospital with my inspection and evaluation team and say, ‘Mr. Administrator, I need to know what’s going on, what the problems are, where the skeletons are buried, and you’re going to get a free pass — no fingers pointed, no issues — just tell me where everything is,’” he said. “If you don’t tell me, then you’re fired.”

Brown admitted the plan isn’t fully formed, but he’s “thinking a lot about it.”

“If people are not doing their jobs appropriately, they need to be held accountable,” he said.

Brown’s vision fits in with Trump’s campaign proposal to give greater authorization to fire more federal workers. The president-elect has made disciplining or firing poor-performing VA employees part of his 10-point plan to reform the scandal-ridden agency.

Miller, who is chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, has been one of the department’s most outspoken critics. He’s challenged VA Secretary Bob McDonald and other agency leadership repeatedly during the past two years on various issues, including greater accountability from senior executives.

It’s the “number one problem,” Miller wrote in a statement Monday.

“We think the biggest initial policy needs to be a reform of VA personnel policies, in particular how the VA fires bad employees,” said Dan Caldwell, vice president of communications for Concerned Veterans of America, a conservative advocacy group that is part of Trump’s transition team and linked to billionaires Charles and David

Koch. “That’s an absolute first-100-day priority.”

## Who’s being considered

Trump’s transition team has not confirmed who is in the running for VA secretary and the team did not respond Tuesday to a request for comment.

Brown said Trump reached out to him to discuss a Cabinet position and that Monday’s meeting “went very well.”

Brown has worked as a Fox News Channel political contributor in recent years and endorsed Trump on-air after the New Hampshire primaries in February.

During the summer, Trump said he would consider Miller as VA secretary, The Associated Press reported at the time. As of last week, Miller said he hadn’t been contacted by Trump representatives.

“Right now, Chairman Miller is focused on being chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and representing Florida’s first congressional district,” an aide of Miller’s said Monday.

After 15 years as a lawmaker, Miller announced in March he wouldn’t seek reelection. If appointed VA secretary, Miller would be the first person who has never served in the military to hold that position.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry also might be considered for the job. Perry met with Trump on Monday and was being eyed for different Cabinet posts, including VA secretary, Bloomberg reported.

## Brown’s background

Brown said another priority would be preventing suicide among veterans, including improvements to the Veterans Crisis Line — though he didn’t offer specific actions.

“I’m thinking through a lot,” he said.

Brown, 57, was a member of the Massachusetts legislature from 1999 to 2004, serving in the house and then the senate. He was then elected in 2010 to the U.S. Senate after Edward Kennedy died in office. In 2012, he lost his senate seat to Democrat Elizabeth Warren.

Brown moved to New Hampshire and ran for Senate in 2014, but lost to Democratic incumbent Jeanne Shaheen.

That year, Brown also retired from military service after 35 years, ending his career as a Judge Advocate General in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. But he does not qualify as a veteran under the VA definition because he did not spend enough time on federal active duty, he said.

“It’s not like I fell off the turnip truck yesterday when it comes to understanding military,” Brown said. “It’s important to have someone with strong military

credentials.”

Brown said he would likely find out after Thanksgiving whether he was appointed to the position.

“We don’t really know his ideas on VA reform. We hope he’s open to some of the reform we and the president-elect have been advocating for,” Caldwell said about Brown.

## Priorities for veterans

Communicating with veterans groups should be a priority for the next VA secretary, according to officials with two veterans service organizations.

Sherman Gillums Jr., executive director of Paralyzed Veterans of America, said he speaks monthly with VA Secretary Bob McDonald and Undersecretary David Shulkin. Rene Campos, director of government relations with Military Officers Association of America, said her organization is in close communication with Deputy VA Secretary Sloan Gibson.

“We’ve been very pleased with the secretary and his leadership team keeping us very engaged,” Campos said. “He and his team are very good about reaching out and getting the voice of the veteran. We — and my colleagues in other [veterans service organizations] — will continue to do our best to make sure that continues.”

Campos said MOAA wants greater collaboration between the Defense Department and the VA to help wounded, ill or injured servicemembers get treatment as they transition out of active duty. The organization is also advocating for a better process for veterans to appeal VA decisions on disability claims.

Gillums said he has concerns about Trump’s plan to expand options for veterans outside of the VA.

VA health care providers are “focused on the unique needs of veterans,” he said, and he’s worried paying for more outside care could bring the unintended consequence of eroding VA resources.

“We need to keep specialized services intact,” said Gillums, who supports Miller.

“He understands our concerns,” Gillums said. “He’ll have enough prior insight to have an informed conversation about this.”

Paralyzed Veterans of America also supports immediately hiring more nursing staff, standardizing care across the country and holding VA leadership accountable, Gillums said.

“Leadership is going to do whatever they feel they can get away with,” he said. “We want to see less of that. From the secretary on down, everybody acknowledges that’s a problem but haven’t done anything to fix it.”

# Adviser says Trump is not interested in Clinton probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump “doesn’t wish to pursue” more investigations into Hillary Clinton’s email practices, a top adviser said Tuesday, strongly signaling to congressional Republicans they should abandon years of probes into the Clintons after a bitter campaign in which he repeatedly branded his Democratic rival as crooked.

The adviser, Kellyanne Conway, spoke of “charges” against Hillary Clinton but referred specifically to Trump sending a message to members of Congress, not the Justice Department. Trump said during the campaign that Clinton would “be in jail” if he were president, but the FBI director has declared on two occasions there is no evidence warranting charges over her use of a private email account.

“I think Hillary Clinton still has to face the fact that a majority of Americans don’t find her to be honest or trustworthy, but if Donald Trump can help her heal, then perhaps that’s a good thing,” Conway said on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.”

On Tuesday, the president-elect heralded “more great meetings” in his Manhattan tower as he continued shaping his administration.

As for further investigations of Clinton, Trump seemed to waver in a recent interview on CBS’ “60 Minutes.” Justice Department investigations

are historically conducted without the influence or input of the White House.

Asked about investigations in that interview, he said, “I’m going to think about it. I feel that I want to focus on jobs, I want to focus on health care, I want to focus on the border and immigration and doing a really great immigration bill. We want to have a great immigration bill. And I want to focus on — all of these other things that we’ve been talking about.”

Conway suggested Trump’s new posture is aimed at Republicans in Congress who have relentlessly investigated the former secretary of state, including whether classified information passed through her private email server and how she acted in connection with the raid on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans.

The remarks come after months of Trump calling Clinton “Crooked Hillary,” questioning whether the Clinton Foundation is a pay-for-play scheme and raging against the Justice Department for refusing to prosecute her for blending private and official business on her email server. He told her face-to-face at a presidential debate that if he won the presidency, she’d “be in jail.”

But Trump has been promising to unite the country around his presidency, saying repeatedly he will be president of “all Americans.”

## Expert: Trump won’t withdraw Far East troops

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO, Japan — A foreign policy expert says America won’t withdraw troops from the Far East but could disperse some of them after President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January.

Martin Schulz, a senior research fellow at the Fujitsu Research Institute, told the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan he didn’t think the Trump administration would vacate U.S. bases in the Western Pacific. About 50,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed in Japan, with almost 30,000 on the Korean peninsula.

Trump said during the election campaign that Japan and South Korea should contribute more to the cost of stationing U.S. forces on their territory and threatened to withdraw troops if the host nations didn’t oblige.

But Schulz said he didn’t think leaders could envision a future where there could be peace and stability in the Far East without a U.S.-Japan alliance. “Trump never said Japan should defend itself,” he said, adding that the businessman and former reality television star has already backed off several promises made on the campaign trail.

The U.S. and Japan have agreed to share the multibillion-dollar cost of moving thousands of Marines and family members from Okinawa to Guam over the next decade.

“Kadena [Air Base] is like a sitting duck susceptible to missile attacks from the Chinese,” Schulz said.

“We should disperse our forces in Asia and out of Okinawa ... but I can’t imagine a world in which there is no U.S. military presence in Japan that the Japanese would want to see come about.

“I can’t imagine Trump would try to make that world come about by trying to pull us out of Japan.”

## Mall Santa is relocated after telling child Hillary only one on naughty list

The Washington Post

Not even a visit to Santa is apolitical anymore.

A man who played Santa Claus at a Florida mall has been removed after reportedly telling a child sitting on his lap that Hillary Clinton was on his “naughty list.”

The incident took place last week at Seminole Towne Center in Sanford, Fla., about 25 miles northeast of Orlando.

According to CBS affiliate WKMG, a local woman had taken her two children to the mall to see Santa, a holiday tradition for many families in America.

The woman’s 4-year-old child posed first with Saint Nick, and then her 10-year-old daughter

sat on the mall Santa’s lap, according to a WKMG screen shot of one of the woman’s Facebook posts.

“She tells Santa what she wants, and then he tells her she’s on the nice list,” the Facebook post read. “He then says that there’s only one name on the naughty list. Can you guess who? My daughter says who? And he says Hillary Clinton and then started laughing.”

The woman, who identified herself as a Clinton supporter, wrote that she quickly left with her kids.

“I’m upset because this had nothing to do with a child and seeing Santa, and at age 10 she still believes,” the woman wrote.

The news station did not name the woman but reported that she complained to Seminole Towne Center officials. Those officials told her that the man who played Santa at the mall was an employee of a third-party vendor.

According to the woman’s Facebook post, the Seminole Towne Center manager reached out to her to say the mall did not condone Santa’s behavior.

Seminole Towne Center representatives did not respond to an interview request Monday. But on Friday, the mall released a statement noting that the Santa was employed by an outside company and had since been relocated.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Store pulls ride-on toy truck due to fire

**NJ** WAYNE — Toys 'R' Us has pulled a ride-on toy truck from shelves days after a couple said one burst into flames while they were taking it home from the store.

The couple told KING-TV the Tonka 12V Ride-On Dump Truck was a present for their grandson. They were taking it to their Bellingham, Wash., home in the back of their pickup when they say it caught fire.

Toys 'R' Us spokeswoman Nicole Hayes said that the incident appears to be isolated, but the New Jersey-based company is pulling the item from stores and its website "pending further investigation."

### 4 rescued from island as storm swells river

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Southern California is getting a much-needed soaking from an autumn storm that has flooded freeways, engorged rivers and knocked out electricity.

A swiftwater rescue team using boats plucked four people from an island on the raging Los Angeles River early Monday just north of downtown LA.

Fire officials said the two men and two women, believed to be transients, became trapped after heavy rain increased the river flow. The four were not injured.

### QB tackles purse snatcher on street

**NY** ROCHESTER — University of Rochester quarterback Daniel Bronson had to switch to defense recently after witnessing a purse snatching.

The junior from Lockport in

Niagara County was leaving a restaurant in his hometown on Nov. 5 when he saw a man run past a 73-year-old woman and yank her purse out of her arms as she walked with her husband.

Bronson, 21, took off after the man, who dropped the purse but kept running. Bronson tackled the suspect and held him down with the help of his girlfriend's father and brother. Police arrived and arrested the 31-year-old suspect on a robbery charge.

### Girl Scouts to earn environmental patches

**ME** PORTLAND — The Girl Scouts of Maine are about to start earning "Sustainable Maine" patches for actions they take to help the planet.

The Scouts are partnering with the Natural Resources Council of Maine on the new patch. The Scouts and the council say the patch will be awarded to Girl Scouts who take "personal actions toward a more sustainable future."

The Scouts' goal this year is to increase awareness of the opportunity to safely recycle paint in Maine for free at nearly 100 drop-off locations around the state. The Scouts say many residents of the state are unaware that paint recycling is available to them.

### Strange odor closes 4th-grade classroom

**MI** ST. JOSEPH — It's no schoolboy prank: A mysterious odor shut down a fourth-grade classroom in southwestern Michigan.

The room at Clarke Elementary School in St. Joseph has been closed for about three weeks. Superintendent Ann Cardon told The Herald-Pal-

adium that the source of the odor still is unknown.

She said the district is waiting for air samples to be analyzed.

Officials thought it might be linked to a leaky roof. But a repair didn't eliminate the problem. Cardon said the bad smell seems to come and go.

### 300 claims filed after record earthquake

**OK** TULSA — Nearly 300 damage claims have been submitted since Oklahoma's largest earthquake hit in September, but only four of those claims have been paid.

An analysis of Oklahoma Insurance Department data by the Tulsa World shows that the approved claims totaled \$24,000 — with the largest single payout around \$21,000.

The magnitude-5.8 earthquake rattled near Pawnee on Sept. 3.

The department doesn't have data available on the magnitude-5.0 temblor that struck on Nov. 6 near Cushing, damaging dozens of buildings.

Claims from the Pawnee earthquake are about equal to the nearly 340 filed after a magnitude-5.6 earthquake struck near the town of Prague, Okla., in 2011.

### Reported cougars now believed to be bobcats

**MN** NASHWAUK — Minnesota Department of Natural Resources officials say a 16-year-old hunter's report of two cougars fighting was a case of mistaken identity.

The Pioneer Press reported that after examining evidence, department officials said they now believe the two animals weren't cougars, but bobcats.

Wildlife officials said they were cautious about the report

from the beginning because spotting two cougars together would've been extremely rare in Minnesota.

### Mom burns infant's hand to teach lesson

**IA** COUNCIL BLUFFS — Authorities said a Council Bluffs woman placed one of her 10-month-old son's hands in a mug of coffee to prove to him that the coffee was hot.

Police said Rebecca Brahier, 36, is charged with willful injury and child endangerment.

Brahier was arrested after Jennie Edmundson Hospital officials reported their suspicions about the infant's hand and forearm injuries. Investigators were told the child tried to touch Brahier's hot coffee several times before she placed one of his hands in the mug.

The child was taken to Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha for further treatment.

### Canines gets in on 'mannequin challenge'

**KS** PITTSBURG — The "mannequin challenge" has gone to the dogs.

Canines are getting in on the internet craze that has featured videos of athletes, students and celebrities frozen in various poses.

Kansas college student Ryan Thomas has garnered nearly 200,000 retweets for his video of a boxer named Boston sitting still while wearing costumes. The dog also displays willpower by posing in front of a tray of muffins and on a couch while covered in Doritos.

WTVC-TV reported Ralfi, a dog in Chattanooga, Tenn., is the star of a challenge video, posing with bacon in its mouth, a ball on its nose and a full glass of wine on its head.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# In Mexico, Raiders rally past irked Texans

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The party in the stands started early in the second NFL regular season game ever played in Mexico with loud cheers and chants from before kickoff until the final whistle. The Oakland offense took a little longer to get going, but once they did Derek Carr and the Raiders came out with yet another win on Monday night.

Carr woke up a struggling offense by throwing two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter as the Raiders capped a successful trip to Mexico with a 27-20 victory over the Houston Texans, who were frustrated by questionable spotting by officials and by a green laser from the crowd that kept shining in quarterback Brock Osweiler's eyes.

"We got punched in the mouth," Carr said. "We weren't doing things the way we usually want to do things executing wise. But there was no doubt in anybody's mind that we'd come back and win the football game."

Oakland had been held to 120 yards through three quarters with the running game going nowhere and Carr finding few

open receivers downfield. But that suddenly changed in the fourth quarter to give the Raiders (8-2) their fourth straight win for the first time since 2002.

With star receiver Amari Cooper lined up in the backfield, Carr found fullback Jamize Olawale open for a 75-yard catch and run that tied Houston (6-4) at 20.

"We felt like that was the momentum shifter," Cooper said.

Then Oakland took advantage on two questionable spots by the officials to take over on downs at the 15 and drove 85 yards in five plays to take the lead on a 35-yard pass to Cooper to send the Texans to their fourth loss in five games outside of Houston.

"Very tough loss," defensive lineman Jadaveon Clowney said. "We should have won the game, we are trying to win every game. You don't leave the game in the ref's hands."

That set off loud celebrations from the pro-Raiders crowd of 76,743 in the second regular season game ever played in Mexico. What was originally scheduled as an Oakland home game featured Raiders music during stoppages, Tommie Smith lighting the Al Davis

torch in a memorable return to Mexico City nearly a half-century after his Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympics and frequent "RAI-DERS!" chants.

While the atmosphere was electric, the field was a bit slippery leading to some falls and the high elevation 7,380 feet above sea level played a factor. The Raiders needed to use a timeout on defense at one point in the fourth to catch their breath and receiver Michael Crabtree was seen gasping for breath at one point.

"To be able to play here was amazing," Carr said. "There's so much history, so much rowdiness. I love soccer and it gave me a kind of soccer feel."

**Close spots:** The Texans were upset on two spots on the fourth-quarter drive before Oakland went ahead. On third-and-2, Lamar Miller was stopped just short of the first down even though Houston believed he got it. Coach Bill O'Brien went for it on fourth down but Akeem Hunt was stopped about an inch short on fourth down and the play stood after a replay challenge.

**Laser show:** Houston QB Brock Osweiler had to deal with an unusual distraction

during the game as a fan with a green laser frequently shined it on the Houston quarterback as he dropped back to pass in an act more familiar in soccer games played here than in NFL games.

"I never want to say one thing's a difference maker, but certainly having a laser zoomed in your eyeball definitely affects how you play a game," Osweiler said.

Fans here have used the laser to try to distract opponents during World Cup qualifiers, but it caught some of these football players off guard.

"Yeah, that was kind of weird," Raiders pass rusher Khalil Mack said. "I saw that and I thought I was in the Twilight Zone."

That wasn't the only soccer tradition imported for this game. Fans also used a homophobic chant on kickoffs. Mexico's soccer federation has been punished by FIFA in the past for the chant during World Cup qualifiers. Fans threw paper airplanes on the field in the third quarter with Oakland's Sean Smith taking a turn throwing one that reached the field during a break.

# Colts could be without Luck against Steelers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts' second straight win may have cost them quarterback Andrew Luck.

Luck entered the concussion protocol after complaining about concussion-like symptoms following Sunday's 24-17 victory over Tennessee. Coach Chuck Pagano said Monday he believes the injury concussion occurred in the fourth quarter, but couldn't cite which play Luck was injured on.

The surprising news came a little more than 24 hours after Pagano told reporters the Colts had no significant injuries from the game. Indy (5-5) hosts Pittsburgh on Thanksgiving night, leaving little time for Luck to recover. If he can't play, the Colts will likely go with backup Scott Tolzien, who hasn't thrown a regular-season pass since the 2013 season.

"Andrew and (safety) Clayton Geathers, pretty much well after we were all done

with media and the locker room and things like that, both guys didn't feel right," Pagano said Monday. "Both guys went in the training room and saw our docs and both were evaluated for concussions. Both are in the protocol and it's up to the docs and trainers to monitor that situation, so that's where that's at."

Geathers also entered the protocol after apparently getting hurt on the final defensive play of the game.

Even with Luck healthy and playing pretty well this year, it's been a struggle. Indy needed fourth-quarter rallies to win its first two games and had to hold off opponents' comeback bids in each of the last three wins.

Last year, Luck missed nine games with multiple injuries, the last seven because of a lacerated kidney. To help keep him healthy this season, the Colts reduced his workload at practice. But he has been

sacked a league-high 35 times.

So when Luck was not taking snaps at practice Monday, it wasn't immediately clear whether it was part of the routine or a new injury. After practice, Pagano clarified what had happened — and the process Luck must undergo before playing again.

"You have to feel better, you have to take an impact test and pass an impact test, then practice non-contact, then have another day and then take another impact test and be cleared by an independent," he said. "Again, that is our trainers and docs that will handle that."

The timing couldn't be worse.

Indy just moved back into second place in the AFC South and got back into the playoff hunt by stringing together its first winning streak of the season.

Now, the Colts will probably face an old nemesis, Pittsburgh (5-5), without their star quarterback.

# US dumps Klinsmann, rehires Arena

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a sign of just how much American soccer has grown up, U.S. national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann was fired after a pair of losses in the final round World Cup qualifying.

Six days after a 4-0 loss at Costa Rica dropped the Americans to 0-2, Klinsmann was terminated after nearly 5½ years during a meeting Monday at a Los Angeles hotel with U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati and Secretary General Dan Flynn.

Los Angeles Galaxy coach Bruce Arena was hired to succeed Klinsmann, and his hiring could be announced as early as Tuesday. Arena coached the national team from 1998 to 2006.

“His experience at the international level, understanding of the requirements needed to lead a team through World Cup qualifying, and proven ability to build a successful team were all aspects we felt were vital for the next coach,” Gulati, who fired Arena in 2006, said in a statement. “I know Bruce will be fully committed to preparing the players for the next eight qualifying games and earning a berth to an eighth straight FIFA World Cup.”

Gone are the days when U.S. coaches were immune to the win-now mentality that

permeates soccer. Qualifying resumes when the U.S. hosts Honduras on March 24 and plays four days later at Panama, and the USSF is expecting a quick turnaround.

“While we remain confident that we have quality players to help us advance to Russia 2018, the form and growth of the team up to this point left us convinced that we need to go in a different direction,” Gulati said in a statement. “With the next qualifying match in late March, we have several months to refocus the group and determine the best way forward to ensure a successful journey to qualify for our eighth consecutive World Cup.”

A former star forward for Germany who has lived mostly in California with his American wife since his retirement as a player in 1998, Klinsmann replaced Bob Bradley in 2011. He led the team to the 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup title and the second round of the 2014 World Cup, where the U.S. lost to Belgium in extra time.

The USSF announced in December 2013 a four-year contract extension through 2018, but the successful World Cup was followed by poor performances. The U.S. was knocked out by Jamaica in last year’s Gold Cup semifinals and lost to Mexico in a playoff for a

Confederations Cup berth. The team rebounded to reach this year’s Copa America semifinals before losing to Argentina 4-0.

But this month Mexico beat the Americans 2-1 at Columbus, Ohio, in the first home qualifying loss for the U.S. since 2001.

And last week in Costa Rica, the Americans were stunned by their largest margin of defeat in qualifying since 1980. They dropped to 0-2 for the first time in the hexagonal, as the final round of qualifying in North and Central America and the Caribbean is known.

While there is time to recover, given the top three teams qualify for the 2018 tournament in Russia and the fourth-place finisher advances to a playoff against Asia’s No. 5 team, players seemed confused by Klinsmann’s tactics, such as a 3-4-1-2 formation used at the start against the Mexicans.

“Today we made the difficult decision of parting ways with Jurgen Klinsmann,” Gulati said. “There were considerable achievements along the way ... but there were also lesser publicized efforts behind the scenes. He challenged everyone in the U.S. Soccer community to think about things in new ways, and thanks to his efforts we have grown as an organization and expect there will be benefits from his work

for years to come.”

Klinsmann made controversial decisions, such as dropping Landon Donovan from the 2014 World Cup roster while taking along relatively inexperienced players such as John Brooks, Julian Green and DeAndre Yedlin. Brooks and Green were among five German-Americans on the 23-man U.S. World Cup roster, which drew criticism from some in the American soccer community.

He went 55-27-16, including a U.S.-record 12-game winning streak and victories in exhibitions at Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. He has worked in the past year to integrate more young players into the lineup, such as teen midfield sensation Christian Pulisic, Bobby Wood and Jordan Morris.

Arena, a 65-year-old wisecracking Brooklynite known for blunt talk and sarcasm, was inducted into the U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2010. He coached the University of Virginia from 1978-95, then coached D.C. United to titles in Major League Soccer’s first two seasons before losing in the 1998 final. As U.S. coach, he led the Americans to the 2002 World Cup quarterfinals in the team’s best finish since 1930. He was let go after the team’s first-round elimination in 2006.

## Draisaitl helps Oilers shut out Blackhawks

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Edmonton Oilers hope they are finally out of their funk.

Leon Draisaitl scored twice and Cam Talbot made 31 saves for his third shut-out of the season, helping Edmonton beat the Western Conference-leading Chicago Blackhawks 5-0 on Monday night.

“They’ve been playing some good hockey lately so it’s not an easy team to shut out by any means,” Talbot said. “We played a great team game. That’s a huge statement win for us tonight.”

Oscar Klefbom, Andrej Sekera and Anton Slepyshev also scored for the Oilers, who have won two straight since ending a

five-game skid.

Connor McDavid had two assists to move into the NHL scoring lead with 24 points in 20 games.

“They’ve been playing really well and for us to get a win like that is definitely big for the confidence moving forward,” McDavid said. “We’ve been able to snap out of a bit of a funk and we’re looking to go on a run now. Once you get out of one of those, it is important you take off from there.”

**Rangers 5, Penguins 2:** J.T. Miller scored short-handed to cap a second-period rally, helping visiting New York overcome an early two-goal deficit to beat Pittsburgh.

**Stars 3, Wild 2 (OT):** Jamie Benn flicked in a goal 1:23 into overtime, lifting host Dallas over Minnesota.

**Sharks 4, Devils 0:** Martin Jones made 26 saves, Chris Tierney and Patrick Marleau each scored early and host San Jose sent New Jersey to its third straight loss.

**Predators 3, Lightning 1:** P.K. Subban scored twice in the second period and Pekka Rinne made 23 saves, helping host Nashville to a win over Tampa Bay.

**Avalanche 3, Blue Jackets 2 (OT):** Matt Duchene scored 1:49 into overtime in his first game back from a concussion, helping visiting Colorado snap Columbus’ seven-game home winning streak.

**Sabres 4, Flames 2:** Kyle Okposo had a goal and an assist, helping host Buffalo bust an offensive slump with three power-play goals in a victory over Calgary.

# Georgetown knocks off No. 13 Oregon

Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Georgetown was at its best in the first half, playing aggressive defense, feeding the hot hand of Rodney Pryor.

The Hoyas were at their worst to start the second half, failing stops or shots to drop.

Rather than folding, as they had in the past, the Hoyas gritted out a victory over a tough opponent.

Pryor had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Georgetown withstood a furious second-half rally to hold on for a 65-61 victory over No. 13 Oregon on Monday in the first round of the Maui Invitational.

"In the second half they came out and threw some blows," said Pryor, who had 18 points by halftime. "We didn't get early stops that we needed and they got back into the game. But then we were able to take a deep breath, get some stops

and get some baskets."

**No. 4 North Carolina 104, Chaminade 61:** At Lahaina, Hawaii, Isaiah Hicks scored 22 points, Kennedy Meeks had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and the Tar Heels overpowered the Silverswords in the Maui Invitational.

North Carolina (5-0) needed a little time to shake pesky Chaminade, doing so midway through the first half by pounding the ball inside.

**No. 5 Kansas 83, UAB 63:** At Kansas City, Mo., Josh Jackson had 22 points, Frank Mason III and Devonte Graham were nearly as productive and the Jayhawks rolled to a victory over the Blazers in the CBE Classic semifinals.

Mason finished with 20 points and Graham had 16 for Kansas (3-1), which advanced to play Georgia for the title on Tuesday night. The Bulldogs beat George Washington 81-73

in the other semifinal.

**No. 8 Arizona 71, Northern Colorado 55:** Lauri Markkanen scored 17 points, Parker Jackson-Cartwright had 15 points and a career-high 11 assists and the host Wildcats pulled away over the final 12½ minutes to beat the Bears.

Kadeem Allen added 10 for Arizona (4-0).

Gerard Davis scored 20 for Northern Colorado (1-3). Chaz Glotta, a transfer from Southern Illinois, made 5 of 11 three-pointers for 15 points.

**No. 12 Creighton 86, Mississippi 77:** At St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Marcus Foster scored 25 points, and the Bluejays had to rally in the second half to beat the Rebels in the championship game of the Paradise Jam tournament.

Khyri Thomas added 16 points, Toby Hegner had 12 and Justin Patton 11 for Creighton (5-0), which trailed by as many

as 11 points in the first half and was down 50-40 with 18:44 left in the game.

**No. 16 Wisconsin 74, Tennessee 62:** At Lahaina, Hawaii, Bronson Koenig scored 21 points, Nigel Hayes had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and the Badgers opened the Maui Invitational with a win over the Volunteers.

Wisconsin (3-1) built a big early lead and rallied after Tennessee made two runs to take the lead early in the second half. Hayes hit a couple of big three-pointers and the Badgers pulled away late to earn a spot in the second round on Tuesday.

**Northwestern 77, No. 22 Texas 58:** At New York, Bryant McIntosh had 20 points and five assists to lead the Wildcats to a convincing victory over the Longhorns in the semifinals of the Legends Classic at Barclays Center.

## Clippers down Raptors in matchup of division leaders

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The streaking Clippers are playing with purpose. Even after handling a quality opponent, they hardly sounded satisfied.

Chris Paul had 26 points and 12 assists, Blake Griffin also scored 26 and Los Angeles beat the Toronto Raptors 123-115 on Monday night in a matchup of early-season division leaders.

"We got stops early in the beginning of the second half and got in transition and got buckets," Griffin said. "We haven't been as good in the last three games in my opinion, but it's still great to start out like this."

DeAndre Jordan added 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Clippers, who improved the NBA's best record to 13-2 with their 10th victory in 11 games.

J.J. Redick scored 20 points as Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak to Toronto. Jamal Crawford had 12 and Luc Mbah a Moute chipped in with 10.

"We still have to be better. There was a lot of turnovers, fouls, and we gave up easy buckets for Toronto down the stretch," Paul said.

The Clippers led by 17 in the second half but the Raptors cut the margin to 119-115 on a three-pointer by Kyle Lowry with less than a minute to play.

Redick made four free throws down the stretch to seal it.

"We scrapped and fought and didn't lay down even after what happened to us last night," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said, referring to a close loss at Sacramento that ended with a disputed call.

"We got enough offense but until we improve on defense and get stops, we aren't going anywhere. It seems like every game we play lately is an offensive slugfest."

Lowry led Toronto with 27 points and DeMar DeRozan, averaging 31.4 per game, added 25. Jonas Valanciunas scored 15 for the Raptors.

**Warriors 120, Pacers 83:** Klay Thompson scored 25 points in 26 minutes and two-time MVP Stephen Curry added 22 points as Golden State routed host Indiana.

The Warriors (12-2) have won eight straight and kept their starters on the bench for the entire fourth quarter after taking a 29-point lead.

**Grizzlies 105, Hornets 90:** Mike Conley had 31 points, Marc Gasol flirted with a triple-double and Memphis defeated host Charlotte for its fifth straight win.

Conley had five three-pointers and shot 11-for-21 from the field, including a long three with 4 minutes left that thwarted Charlotte's fourth-quarter rally.

**76ers 101, Heat 94:** Joel Embiid had 22 points, including four late free throws, to lead host Philadelphia over Miami.

**Wizards 106, Suns 101:** Bradley Beal scored a career-high 42 points and John Wall

shook off an awful shooting night with seven key points down the stretch as host Washington beat Phoenix.

**Rockets 99, Pistons 96:** James Harden had 28 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds to lift Houston over host Detroit.

Clint Capela added 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Rockets, who won their third straight game.

**Celtics 99, Timberwolves 93:** Isaiah Thomas scored 29 points and Boston rallied from 13 points down in the fourth quarter to beat host Minnesota.

**Bucks 93, Magic 89:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had his first triple-double of the season to lead host Milwaukee over Orlando.

The Bucks snapped a three-game losing streak.

**Spurs 96, Mavericks 91:** Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and nine rebounds, and host San Antonio defeated Dallas for its sixth straight victory.