

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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1st US death in Syria blamed on IED

By E.B. Boyd

Stars and Stripes

The first U.S. servicemember to die in the Syrian conflict was killed by a blast from an improvised explosive device northwest of the Islamic State group's de facto capital of Raqqa.

U.S. Central Command said the servicemember died near the town of Ayn Issa, about 30 miles north of Raqqa. It was the first U.S. military death in Syria since President Barack Obama decided last year to dispatch special operations troops to assist local groups fighting the Islamic State group. There are at least 300 U.S. special operators in Syria.

The name of the servicemember was not released.

"I am deeply saddened by the news on this Thanksgiving Day that one of our brave servicemembers has been killed in Syria while protecting us from the evil of ISIL," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in a statement, using another acronym for the Islamic State group.

When the White House announced its decision in October last year to send troops into the country, spokesman Josh Earnest said they would not have a combat mission, though he acknowledged they would be operating in dangerous territory. Rather, Earnest said, their job would be to support and beef up — or "train, advise and assist," as the Pentagon calls it — a coalition of local forces focused on pushing the Islamic State group

out of Syria.

The militant group took control of Raqqa, a city in northwest Syria, in early 2014 and has since used it as the de facto capital of the "caliphate" it hopes to create.

Earlier this month, the Syrian Democratic Forces, the coalition U.S. troops are supporting, announced a campaign to retake Raqqa. Dubbed "Wrath of the Euphrates," the campaign was launched from Ayn Issa.

The Pentagon says 30,000-40,000 local forces are participating in that offensive.

The White House has said it does not have plans to put large numbers of troops on the ground in Syria. Instead, the Obama administration is using special operations teams to enhance the abilities of local forces to defeat

the Islamic State group on their own.

The U.S. and its coalition partners are also using airpower in the fight against the Islamic State.

In a briefing earlier this month, Col. John Dorrian, the spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve, said coalition airstrikes have disrupted Islamic State supply routes around Raqqa.

"They don't have the ability to move large troop formations" anymore, Dorrian said.

The strikes have made it "take longer for them to move and move around the battlefield," he said.

Pentagon officials have said that the U.S. troops are assisting in conducting those airstrikes.

Obama expands authority of JSOC

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is giving the elite Joint Special Operations Command expanded power to track, plan and potentially launch attacks on terrorist cells around the globe, a move driven by concerns of a dispersed terrorist threat as Islamic State militants are driven from strongholds in Iraq and Syria, U.S. officials said.

The missions could occur well beyond the battlefields of places like Iraq, Syria and Libya where JSOC has carried out clandestine operations in the past. When finalized, it will elevate JSOC from being a highly valued strike tool used by regional military commands to leading a new multiagency intelligence and action force.

Known as the "Counter-External Operations Task Force," the group will be designed to take JSOC's targeting model and export it globally to go after terrorist networks plotting attacks against the West.

The creation of a new JSOC entity this late in President Barack Obama's tenure is the "codification" of best practices in targeting terrorists outside of conventional conflict zones, according to the officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss administration deliberations.

It is unclear, however, if the administration of President-elect Donald Trump will keep this and other structures set up by Obama. They include guidelines for counterterrorism operations such as approval by

several agencies before a drone strike and "near certainty" that no civilians will be killed. This series of presidential orders is known as the "playbook."

The new JSOC task force could also offer intelligence, strike recommendations and advice to the militaries and security forces of traditional Western allies, or conduct joint operations, officials said. In other parts of the world, with weak or no governments, JSOC could act unilaterally.

The global focus is reminiscent of when U.S. forces first went after al-Qaida in the months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. As approaching U.S. troops forced militants to flee their safe havens in Afghanistan and scatter across the globe, the United States fol-

lowed in pursuit, using CIA assets to grab suspected al-Qaida operatives in dozens of countries, sometimes capturing, imprisoning and torturing them under murky legal authorities.

Some in the Pentagon hope to see the new task force working in tandem with the CIA, elevating a sometimes distant relationship to one of constant coordination to track and go after suspected terrorists outside of traditional war zones.

The new JSOC task force will report to the Pentagon through the U.S. Special Operations Command, or SOCOM, according to U.S. military officials, creating a hybrid command system that can circumvent regional commanders for the sake of speed.

General reprimanded over anthrax

BY TOM VANDEN BROOK
USA Today

WASHINGTON — The highest-ranking officer implicated in last year's scandal involving the Pentagon's botched handling of anthrax has received career-killing discipline from the Army, USA Today has learned.

The Army reprimanded Brig. Gen. William King after finding fault with his command of its laboratories at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. A reprimand prevents an officer from receiving another assignment, effectively ending his career, according to a Pentagon official familiar with King's case but not authorized to speak publicly about it.

"Brig. Gen. King was reprimanded for failing to take appropriate action to respond to and mitigate lapses in safety and protocol while serving as commander of Dugway Proving Ground," Lt. Col. Jennifer Johnson, an Army spokeswoman, said in a statement.

Command of operations at Dugway was also transferred to the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen, Md. Personnel from Edgewood have been destroying Dugway's toxins, ensuring decontamination of its labs and ensuring future use of deadly agents there follows new safety protocols, Johnson said.

The moves are likely the final steps in the Army's attempt to sweep clean the anthrax mess and hold accountable the officials responsible for it. Nine

civilians were demoted, suspended or lost supervisory responsibilities following an investigation and stinging report. Another soldier was also disciplined.

The Army's actions stem from problems with what Pentagon refers to as the "high-risk, zero-defects world of biological select agents program." Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Army found the military had mistakenly sent live anthrax spores over a 12-year period to 194 laboratories in 50 states, the District of Columbia, three U.S. territories and nine foreign countries. Concentrations of live anthrax in the samples were low, public health was not at risk, and nobody was sickened, an Army investigation found.

The samples were sent to labs to help them calibrate detection equipment and to help devise countermeasures to the toxin. If inhaled, live anthrax spores can be lethal.

Some of the problems investigators found at Dugway: Officials appointed a biosafety officer who lacked training and education for the job; failure to conduct routine tests on surfaces to ensure pathogens hadn't been spread outside secure cabinets; and staff who "regularly manipulated data" certifying pathogens being shipped were safe for use without special protective equipment.

After the news of the bungled handling of dangerous pathogens broke, the CDC suspended Dugway from producing anthrax for export to other labs.

Virginia Beach upset as aircraft carrier mural covered

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

When the Navy retired the iconic USS Enterprise in 2013, people came out in droves to pay tribute to the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier that had sailed through history for half a century.

In neighboring Virginia Beach, Va., a piece of the Big E remained in the form of a 12,000-square-foot mural by local artist Sam Welty painted on the back of a six-story building along the oceanfront. The mural depicted jets from nearby Naval Air Base Oceana flying over the carrier as it powered through the ocean in rich blues and grays, and it was a familiar and beloved tribute in this military region.

"Thousands of people drive by that mural every day and stare at it because it is such a statement," said George Smith, who has another of Welty's murals on a wall in his nearby shop, Jukebox Surf. "It says we love and respect the United States military and the sacrifices that are made to keep our country

safe."

But not for long.

As a contractor worked his way with white primer across the giant wall of what is now a privately run Howard Johnson, a community controversy bubbled up in its place. Welty posted an objection on Facebook, and news sailed across the close-knit community.

"By this time tomorrow, it will be nothing more than a memory," he wrote with alarm last Sunday. "I ask that if the landmark is to be destroyed and taken so unceremoniously from our community, that we join in a moment as grateful citizens, thanking the men and women who safeguard our way of life."

The news traveled across Facebook and drew the attention of local media. Welty said he'd spoken with the management months ago about repairing the mural but had not heard back and was surprised by the action. Supporters came out to the site, and Welty gave TV interviews.

They questioned why the painting happened overnight, on a weekend, without anyone

being notified. And while Welty acknowledged that the owner of the hotel franchise has indicated he wants the mural repainted, nothing has been solidified, he said.

Aaron Patel, who has the franchise and leases the property, said he did not realize the controversy he was creating when he hired a contractor to paint over the mural.

Patel took over the building two years ago, shortly after a new owner bought the run-down property that had been the Flagler Inn. He cleaned up the inside but said the health department in Virginia Beach was after him to seal the leaky back wall covered by the mural. He and Welty traded phone calls during the tourist season this year but never managed to connect, he said.

With the city warning that he was not code-compliant, Patel decided to seal the wall using primer.

"The mural was chipping," he said. "We had water penetrating inside my building, damaging the hotel, in the rooms. We had to do something. If I could not

cover up the mural, I would lose my building."

Patel said the backlash has been dramatic. His contractor, spooked by the news cameras and the few dozen people who had gathered with Welty in the lot behind the building, quit the job about two-thirds of the way through. Work has been halted as Patel searches for a new contractor. He also saw Facebook posts that he's "un-American."

"The last couple of days were a disaster for me," he said. "No. 1, we are patriotic. We respect Navy veterans — we are in a military town."

Patel said he intends to have Welty paint another mural on the building and is meeting with him next week to discuss it. He plans to offer to pay for the supplies, he said.

But supporters like Smith and his girlfriend, Danielle Elswick, say there were other ways to handle things. He could have contacted the community, let people know or attempted to patch the leaks without covering up the entire mural.

Firefighters struggle with PTSD

Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Battalion Chief David Dangerfield's nickname was "Super Dave," a moniker the veteran firefighter had earned over the years for his cheerful, get-things-done personality. The leader of a fire department dive team in a quiet Florida beach community of 15,000 volunteered for charities helping kids and families and was the 2013 Treasure Coast Emergency Service Provider of the Year.

But one Saturday night last month, Dangerfield posted a Facebook message that revealed a world of pain behind the brave facade.

"PTSD for Firefighters is real. If your love (sic) one is experiencing signs get them help quickly. 27 years of deaths and babies dying in your hands is a memory that you will never get rid off (sic). ... My love to my crews. Be safe, take care. I love you all."

He then drove to some woods, called 911 and told the dispatcher where his body could be found. He hung up and fatally shot himself. He was 48.

PTSD in spotlight

Dangerfield's death shined a light on firefighters who suffer

post-traumatic stress disorder, a problem most often associated with soldiers returning from war. Firefighters are finding that their long tradition of silent stoicism, and the belief that talking about one's demons is a sign of weakness that could isolate them from colleagues, has left many of them psychologically and emotionally damaged.

The Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance estimates about 30 percent of the nation's 1.3 million career and volunteer firefighters suffer from PTSD, with 132 suicides by active and former U.S. firefighters and paramedics reported last year. Officials believe those numbers are low because of misclassifications. Studies show firefighters are three to four times more likely to kill themselves than die in on-duty accidents.

There have been recent national efforts to train firefighters to recognize PTSD and to remove the stigma of seeking help.

But even knowledge can't save everyone.

Dangerfield became a firefighter in the 1980s, advancing through the ranks to a top position in the Indian River Fire Rescue Division in Vero Beach, a town of 15,000 known for its quiet beaches and retirees and

as the Dodgers' former spring training grounds. Dangerfield founded and ran the firefighters chili cook-off for charity.

'It sticks with you'

His team's work sometimes made the local news. He and a colleague found the severed body of a 9-year-old boy who had been attacked by a shark. He and his partners pulled mangled bodies from a small plane crash in a remote swamp and then sat with the corpses for hours before they could be removed.

In 2014, Dangerfield recovered the body of a 16-year-old bicyclist who had been knocked off a bridge and into a lagoon by a car.

He told the Vero News that firefighters feel the families' pain.

"It's difficult for us, too," he said. "It sticks with you."

Retired firefighter Blades Robinson, a dive team buddy, said Dangerfield had some difficulties over the past couple of years, including a divorce, but had been undergoing PTSD counseling. He had been promoted last year and bought a new house and truck. He seemed like his normal self.

"We were all blindsided by his death," Robinson said.

Cold weather in Afghanistan kills at least 20

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Cold weather and freezing temperatures that engulfed a remote northern province in Afghanistan this week killed at least 20 people, all of them internally displaced and including several children, Afghan officials said Friday.

The deaths occurred in Jawzjan province's district of Darzab, which has seen heavy snowfall, with almost 2 feet of snow on the ground, according to provincial police Chief Rahmatullah Turkistani.

The area in the remote province, which borders Turkmenistan, has no electricity or medical facilities, and the road linking it with the provincial capital of Shibirghan has been cut off by the Taliban. Authorities are waiting for the weather to clear up before delivering aid by air.

Jawzjan Gov. Lutfullah Azizi said early reports indicate that at least five children were among those who died from the cold weather, adding that there are fears of a higher death toll. Azizi called on the local population to offer shelter to the displaced in Jawzjan, where up to 500 have sought refuge from fighting in nearby Sari Pul province, in which the Taliban has increased its footprint in recent months.

Elsewhere, a roadside bombing on Friday in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, killed a policeman and wounded three civilians.

The previous night, a mortar shell struck a wedding party in Laghman province, also in the country's east, killing a child and wounding six people, according to Sarhadi Zwak, the spokesman for the governor of Laghman.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for those attacks. The Afghan affiliate of the Islamic State group, which is fighting in Iraq and Syria, has emerged over the past two years and established a presence in parts of eastern Afghanistan, including Nangarhar.

Warship named after black aviator

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — A U.S. Navy destroyer warship has been named in honor of a Topeka three-star general who became the first black aviator, first black general and first black base commander in the Marine Corps.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that the destroyer, which is under construction, would bear the name of Lt. Gen. Frank Petersen Jr. according to the Topeka Capital-Journal.

Petersen enlisted in the Navy in 1950, and left in 1952 to accept a commission as a second lieutenant and become the first black pilot in the Marine Corps. He flew over 350 combat missions and more than 4,000 military aircraft hours throughout the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Petersen retired in 1988 as the senior aviator on active duty in the U.S. military, and died in 2015 at the age of 83.

He received multiple awards for his service including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the

Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with Valor Device.

In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed Petersen to the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy. The board monitors morale and instruction.

Construction of the USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. began April 27 in Mississippi. It is expected to enter the Navy fleet in 2020.

Russian propaganda supported 'fake news'

The Washington Post

The flood of “fake news” this election season got support from a sophisticated Russian propaganda campaign that created and spread misleading articles online with the goal of punishing Democrat Hillary Clinton, helping Republican Donald Trump and undermining faith in American democracy, say independent researchers who tracked the operation.

Russia’s propaganda machinery echoed and amplified right-wing sites across the internet as they portrayed Clinton as a criminal hiding health problems and preparing to hand control to a cabal of global financiers.

Researchers portray the Russian campaign as part of a broadly effective strategy of

sowing distrust in U.S. democracy and its leaders. The tactics included penetrating the computers of election officials in several states and releasing troves of hacked emails that embarrassed Clinton in the final months of her campaign.

A report from Clint Watts, a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, with colleagues Andrew Weisburd and J.M. Berger, appeared on the national security blog War on the Rocks this month. Another group, called PropOrNot, a nonpartisan collection of researchers with foreign policy; military; and technology backgrounds, planned to release its own findings Friday showing the effectiveness of Russian propaganda campaigns.

The researchers used internet analytics tools to trace the origins of particular tweets and mapped the connections among social-media accounts that consistently delivered synchronized messages.

The Russian campaign during this election season, researchers from both groups say, worked by harnessing the online world’s fascination with “buzzy” content and tracks with popular conspiracy theories about how secret forces dictate world events.

Some of these stories originated with RT and Sputnik, state-funded Russian information services. On other occasions, RT, Sputnik and other Russian sites used social-media accounts to amplify mislead-

ing stories already circulating online.

The speed and coordination of these efforts allowed Russian-backed phony news to outcompete traditional news organizations for audience.

This propaganda machinery also helped push the phony story that an anti-Trump protester was paid thousands of dollars to participate in demonstrations, an allegation initially made by a self-described satirist and later repeated publicly by the Trump campaign.

The final weeks of the campaign featured a heavy dose of stories about supposed election irregularities, allegations of vote-rigging and the potential for Election Day violence should Clinton win, researchers said.

LASIK could cause vision problems

The Washington Post

LASIK isn’t always as awesome as we might think.

Millions of Americans each year undergo LASIK surgery to correct their vision. Given how common the procedure has become, you might be tempted to treat the decision to get the treatment pretty casually or think of it as purely a financial decision. A team of researchers from the Food and Drug Administration, the National Eye Institute and the Defense Department would like to make sure you weigh the potential risks to your eyes more seriously.

In 2009, as LASIK was becoming a household word, the government scientists launched a major study to investigate reports of adverse impacts from the procedure. At the time, there were a lot of anecdotes flying around but little scientific information about patient outcomes. The results, published in October 2014, showed that some patients developed problems that adversely affected their day-to-day lives, such as difficulty driving at night or in sunshine. But it was such a small number — less than 1

percent — of the patients in the study that it was difficult to draw any strong conclusions from that data.

On Wednesday, the group released a follow-up report in *JAMA Ophthalmology* that provides more sobering information. The study suggests that the percentage of people who undergo LASIK and wind up with new visual symptoms — such as double images, glare, halos or starbursts — may be much higher. The data was based on a questionnaire that looked at patient satisfaction with their vision and at visual and dry-eye symptoms following surgery.

More than 95 percent of participants said they were satisfied with the improvements to their vision. In addition, the prevalence of dry-eye symptoms also decreased after surgery. The bad news is that a “substantial” percentage of the study participants said they had other, new symptoms following the procedure.

The study analyzed outcomes for two groups of LASIK patients. In the first group, which included 262 Navy personnel with an average age of 29.1, it

was 43 percent reporting new symptoms. And in the second, consisting of 312 civilians at five practice and academic centers and with a median age of 31.5, it was 46 percent. In addition, about 28 percent of patients who had never had dry-eye symptoms before developed mild, moderate or severe symptoms three months after the procedure.

One interesting component of this study was that the survey showed that the percentage of people with symptoms may be much higher than what has been previously reported in studies involving direct interviews with health-care professionals.

The researchers cautioned that the study may not generalize to the LASIK population as a whole because of its small sample size and short follow period, which was typically three months. However, they emphasized that “although the magnitude of the development of symptoms is uncertain, patients undergoing LASIK surgery should be adequately counseled about the possibility of developing new visual symptoms after surgery prior to undergoing this elective procedure.”

Scores killed by Iraq bomb

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — The death toll from a car bombing claimed by the Islamic State group rose to 73 on Friday, including about 40 Iranian pilgrims.

Iraqi police and hospital officials said 65 other people were wounded in the Thursday attack at a gas station on a highway near the city of Hilla, about 60 miles south of the Iraqi capital.

It was the deadliest Islamic State attack in Iraq since July.

The Islamic State group claimed the attack in a statement on its Amaq media arm, saying it was a suicide truck bomb. Earlier, Iraqi officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, had put the death toll at 56.

The attack appears to have targeted a bus with Iranian pilgrims heading home after a major Shiite religious observance in Karbala.

Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Qashqavi was quoted by the semi-official Tasnim news agency on Thursday night as saying that 80 people were killed, including 40 Iranians.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Twitter halts CEO's account by accident

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Twitter CEO and co-founder Jack Dorsey said the social media platform accidentally suspended his account.

Dorsey tweeted Tuesday night, "just setting up my twttr. again (account suspension was an internal mistake)." The post was an echo of his first tweet, which came in 2006.

San Francisco-based Twitter suspended the accounts of several prominent members of the so-called "alt-right" in an apparent crackdown on accounts tied to hate speech or threats of violence. Twitter declined to comment, but noted its policies against hate speech and harassment.

Woman tried to use pizza as ID for bar

MA AMHERST — Police in Massachusetts said a woman tried to use a slice of pizza as a form of identification to get into a college town bar and slapped the bouncer when he refused her entry.

Monkey Bar co-owner Rasif Rafiq told The Boston Globe the apparent college student had attempted to hand the bar's bouncer a slice of pizza she had purchased at a nearby shop as proof of her legal age last week. She allegedly became aggressive, and a nearby police officer got involved.

Police said the woman was issued a trespass notice to stay away from the club.

Town looking to block sales of marijuana

ME OAKLAND — Oakland is considering becoming a "dry town" to block

marijuana retail stores and social clubs.

Unofficial results from the Maine secretary of state's office indicate the state referendum legalizing pot for people 21 or older narrowly passed. The vote is being recounted.

Most Oakland residents voted against the measure.

The Morning Sentinel reported Town Manager Gary Bowman said Tuesday the town can't enforce a pot moratorium though because its comprehensive plan hasn't been updated, and the town doesn't have zoning.

Councilor Don Borman said the town could later change the "dry town" designation.

Numerous other cities and towns have adopted and considered moratoriums.

Cops to grow goatees to benefit charity

MA CHICOPEE — Here comes the fuzz: Police in Chicopee are growing goatees for charity.

Officers in the western Massachusetts city are being challenged to sport a little facial hair as part of the popular "No Shave November" trend on social media.

In this case, the challenge is getting underway a little late — Nov. 27 — and it will run until New Year's Day.

Michael Wilk is the department's public information officer. He said participating officers will pay \$40 each, and donations are being encouraged from members of the public. Wilk said the proceeds will go to a local charity.

The Republican of Springfield reported that the department posted photos of actors George Clooney, Tom Selleck, Ben Affleck and Johnny Depp on its Facebook page "to illustrate the power of goatees."

Police: Man in candy store heist arrested

NM LAS VEGAS — Police said a man wanted in connection with a northern New Mexico candy store heist has been arrested.

The Las Vegas Optic reported Ramon Lucero, 54, recently was taken into custody for burglarizing the Ulibarri Farms Candy Shoppe in Las Vegas, N.M.

Authorities said Lucero took about \$300 in cash from the register and \$50 worth of candy, including a jar of Squirrel Nut Zippers, Assorted Taffy and Bit O Honey.

An affidavit said police were able to identify Lucero from video surveillance footage. He is charged with commercial burglary and breaking and entering.

Council seat contest settled by coin toss

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Officials have settled a deadlocked race for a spot on the West Jordan City Council by drawing names from a hat and flipping a coin. Utah and other states allow tied elections or appointments to be decided by chance.

Elections Director Mark Thomas said elections are settled by chance every few years in Utah, mostly in small races.

Six members of the West Jordan City Council last week were choosing a seventh council member from 10 candidates. After several rounds of voting, council members were divided 3-3 on Alan R. Anderson and David Pack.

Both men's names were written on pieces of paper that were placed in a hat. The police chief pulled them out one at a time, designating Anderson as heads

and Pack as tails. Another city employee flipped a coin, giving Anderson the seat.

America takes oath, becomes US citizen

NY NEW YORK — At age 99, a woman named America has become a U.S. citizen.

America Maria Hernandez, who was born in Colombia in 1917 and was brought to the U.S. by one of her daughters in 1988, signed her naturalization certificate and took the oath of allegiance during a ceremony Wednesday.

Surrounded by family members, she smiled and said she was very happy.

Hernandez was born in October 1917 in Cordoba, Colombia. She had 12 children and now has 22 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Hunter kills trophy eight-point ... doe?

WI GREEN BAY — A Wisconsin hunter has killed an eight-point ... doe?

WLUK-TV reported Wayne Douville was hunting near Abrams in northeastern Wisconsin on Monday when he shot and killed a 222-pound deer that had eight points on its antlers.

Upon closer inspection, Douville, 68, and his aptly-named friend, Mel Buckmaster, discovered the deer had female genitalia.

Jeff Pritzl, district wildlife supervisor for the state Department of Natural Resources, said the doe likely had a higher testosterone level, which might occur in 1 in 100,000 deer. The deer was tagged a buck because the antlers were at least three inches long.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Cowboys top 'Skins, win 10th straight

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott showed off his strong arm even when effectively using his feet in yet another victory.

While the rookie's season-low passing total of 195 yards was less than half of what Washington's Kirk Cousins had on Thanksgiving Day, the Dallas rookie used a stiff-arm to get extra yards on one play and later tied the single-season franchise record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback in a 31-26 victory.

"You see him run by a secondary player and then when he puts that stiff arm on there, you quit worrying about him a little bit," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said about his young quarterback running the ball.

The NFL-leading Cowboys (10-1), with their rookie combo of Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott, stretched their team-record winning streak to 10 games. They have their 10th win by Thanksgiving for only

the second time since 1995 — the last of their five Super Bowl championship seasons.

Prescott's stiff-arm on Washington safety Donte Whitner for extra yards on an 18-yard run came immediately before he threw a touchdown late in the first half.

"Guys are tired, guys are beat up. But that's no excuse," Whitner said. "We didn't make enough plays."

The Redskins (6-4-1) were within 17-12 after Cousins threw a 5-yard TD pass to Jordan Reed on the first play of the fourth quarter, and Elliott started the ensuing drive with a 21-yard run.

Prescott completed all three passes on that drive, including a short throw to Elliott for a 19-yard gain before rolling to his right and sneaking into the front corner of the end zone. The 6-yard score was Prescott's fifth rushing TD and matched Don Meredith's total in 1966.

"I just let the game come to me. I never go into a game

thinking I have to rush for so many yards or have so many carries," said Prescott, who had eight carries for 39 yards. "They were matching some routes and doing a good job of that. But they didn't have anyone to contain me or assigned to me. I was just using my feet."

After Washington scored again, Prescott scrambled for 7 yards to converted third-and-7 — and Dallas got an extra 15 yards when Whitner was penalized for unnecessary roughness after his hit on the sliding quarterback. Prescott then almost took off running again before he saw Dez Bryant in 1-on-1 coverage and delivered a strike for a 26-yard gain to the 1.

"Over and over again at critical times, he came up with big plays," coach Jason Garrett said. "He made a lot of plays with his feet out in space. He made plays with his arm. ... He handled different situations really, really well."

Here are a few things learned after the latest Redskins-Cow-

boys holiday matchup:

No love lost: After professing their respect for each other before first their first meeting in Week 2, Bryant and high-priced Washington CB Josh Norman were facemask-to-facemask after Round 2. "Tell Washington to get their money back," Bryant yelled at reporters on his way into the locker room. During the game, Bryant was most upset when Norman grabbed his leg after a tackle on a catch in the second half. They had to be separated after the game.

Some numbers: While Cousins threw for 449 yards and three touchdowns, all of the scores coming in the fourth quarter, the Cowboys are the only NFL team this season that still hasn't allowed a 100-yard rusher. ... Dallas was held to 353 total yards, ending their streak of eight consecutive 400-yard games. That matches the NFL record with the 2007 New England Patriots and 2013 Denver Broncos.

Late FG sinks Vikings, puts Lions atop NFC North

Associated Press

DETROIT — Matthew Stafford led another crucial drive late in the fourth quarter, and Matt Prater's kicking again helped Detroit to a tight victory over Minnesota.

For the second time this month, the Lions edged the Vikings. This time, they didn't need overtime.

Prater's 40-yard field goal on the final play gave Detroit a 16-13 victory Thursday, moving the Lions a game ahead of Minnesota atop the NFC North. Darius Slay intercepted Sam Bradford's pass with 30 seconds remaining to set up the winning kick.

On Nov. 6 at Minnesota, Stafford led the Lions into range for Prater's 58-yard field at the end of regulation, and Detroit went on to win 22-16 in overtime. Now the Lions (7-4) have sole possession of first place after Thursday's victory.

"Obviously, we're in decent position, but they don't hand out trophies and things of that nature after a few wins like we've had," Detroit coach Jim Caldwell said. "But we're happy that we were able to find a way to pull them out, that's for sure."

The Vikings (6-5) were facing third down in the final minute when Slay stepped up in coverage and intercepted Bradford. His return gave the Lions the ball at the Minnesota 20, and although there was some initial question about whether Slay fumbled at the end of the play, the call was upheld. Detroit ran the clock down, and Prater's kick won it.

The Lions have won six of their last seven, and Minnesota has dropped five of six since starting the season 5-0. Now the Vikings will have to rally to win a division that once looked like theirs for the taking.

Steelers 28, Colts 7: en Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown hooked up for three touchdowns, and the Pittsburgh Steelers' defense shut down the depleted Indianapolis Colts in a 28-7 victory Thursday night.

The Steelers (6-5) helped their playoff chances with a second straight win and snapped a four-game losing streak on Thanksgiving.

"When you're in the huddle with him (Roethlisberger), you know you're going to have a chance to make some big plays," Brown said.

Colts quarterback Andrew Luck sat out with a concussion, and his absence showed as Indy's first winning streak of the season ended at two games. While replacement Scott Tolzien hung tough most of the night, the performance wasn't good enough to extend the Colts' 10-game winning streak on Thursday nights.

The Steelers built a 21-7 lead by scoring touchdowns on each of their first three possessions — a 5-yard TD run from Le'Veon Bell, and touchdown catches by Brown of 25 and 33 yards.

Indy's only score came on a 5-yard TD pass from Tolzien to Donte Moncrief early in the second quarter, a play set up by the first completion of Pat McAfee's career on a fake punt.

The Colts (5-6) had two chances to trim the deficit but Tolzien was stopped twice on third-down runs at the 1-yard line, and the Steelers forced incompletions on both fourth-down plays.

"This is a humbling league and God, when you're that close, we've got to put them in," Tolzien said. "Personally, I look at those two opportunities. I had two chances with the ball in my hand and I just wish I could have punched them in."

No. 25 LSU rolls past No. 22 Aggies

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Steady chants of “Keep coach O” streamed out of LSU’s locker room after the 25th-ranked Tigers got a 54-39 win over No. 22 Texas A&M on Thursday night.

It’s clear LSU’s players want interim coach Ed Orgeron to remain in charge. The question is what the school’s administration plans to do.

Derrius Guice ran for a school-record 285 yards and had four touchdowns and Danny Etling threw for 324 yards and two scores to give short-handed LSU the victory.

“I want coach O to stay,” Guice said. “We need somebody like coach O to lead us out there and he’s done a great job since he’s been here.”

The Tigers were playing without star running back Leonard Fournette and leading tackler Kendell Beckwith because of injuries. But Guice and Etling did plenty to allow LSU (7-4, 5-3 SEC) to handle Texas A&M, and gave the Tigers a 300-yard pass-

er and a 200-yard rusher in the same game for the first time in school history.

It certainly wasn’t the first time Guice has had a big game this year, with Fournette struggling with an ankle injury for a big chunk of the season. His performance pushed his career-high rushing total to 1,249 and his four TDs were a career high. The game gave him one more yard than Fournette gained to set the school’s single-game rushing record last month.

Guice was asked if he’d thought about breaking Fournette’s record.

“I haven’t. My head’s been on I miss him,” Guice said. “He was supposed to be out here with us tonight.”

The Tigers spoke this week about wanting a win to help boost Orgeron’s chances of keeping the job. But on Thursday reports surfaced that LSU was zeroing in on Houston’s Tom Herman. The reports prompted LSU’s vice chancellor and athletic director Joe Alleva and university administration to issue a statement denying they had chosen a new coach and praising Orgeron’s work

since taking over in September when Les Miles was fired.

Orgeron said after the game that he hadn’t heard anything about his future, but that he would love to retain the job.

“We had to turn this team around and we did,” he said. “It was a ship that was sinking and we turned it around.”

While LSU wasn’t at full strength, the Aggies (8-4, 4-4) were the healthiest they’ve been in weeks, with defensive end Myles Garrett over an ankle injury and quarterback Trevor Knight back from a shoulder injury.

Knight made an unexpected return after missing the last two games with the injury. Coach Kevin Sumlin said days after he was injured that he would miss the remainder of the regular season but would return for A&M’s bowl game. Instead he returned to throw for 211 yards and three touchdowns before leaving the game late in the fourth quarter with what looked to be a knee injury.

Pacioretty, Canadiens edge Hurricanes

Associated Press

MONTREAL — The Montreal Canadiens slowed down the streaking Carolina Hurricanes.

Max Pacioretty broke a tie 14 seconds into the third period and the NHL-leading Canadiens beat Carolina 2-1 on Thursday night to end the Hurricanes’ winning streak at five games.

Carey Price made 31 saves, and Andrew Shaw also scored for Montreal. The Canadiens improved to 15-4-2 and avenged a 3-2 loss last week in Carolina with backup Al Montoya in goal.

“We played solid defensively against a hot Hurricanes team,” Shaw said. “Everyone was contributing at both ends. They’d won five in a row and we knew they’d be flying.”

Elias Lindholm scored for Carolina, and Cam Ward stopped 21 shots.

“You’re not going to win every game,” Hurricanes forward Jeff Skinner said. “Some

games you get the bounces and others you don’t, but we have to believe in the system. There’s a lot of positive things in our game.”

The Hurricanes dropped to 8-7-4.

“We were up against a team that’s playing really well,” Montreal coach Michel Therrien said. “It wasn’t by luck that they won five in a row.”

The Canadiens will play their next five on the road.

“This trip comes at a good time,” Therrien. “It’s a big challenge against good teams. I’m anxious to see how we play. We’re playing with confidence, which is important.”

Pacioretty put Montreal ahead early in the third when he took the rebound of Tomas Plekanec’s shot off the end boards and banked it in off Ward. Carolina coach Bill Peters challenged that Plekanec was offside on the play but the goal stood up to video review.

The Hurricanes opened the scoring at 10:32 of the first period after a bounce put Lind-

holm in alone on the right side for a perfect wrist shot to the top corner.

Shaw tied it at 12:08, fighting off a check to jam in a feed from behind the net by Charles Hudon.

Senators 3, Bruins 1: Host Ottawa left Boston behind with a big third period.

Chris Wideman and Kyle Turris scored in the third to help the Senators beat the Bruins 3-1 on Thursday night.

Mark Stone tied it in the second period, and Craig Anderson made 19 saves.

“We’re becoming a more resilient group, a more veteran group where we don’t play to the scoreboard, we just play our way, the way we’re supposed to whether we’re up a goal or down a goal,” Anderson said. “I think we’ve grown here since the start of the year.”

The Senators were coming off a 4-3 victory at NHL-leading Montreal on Tuesday night. Before producing seven goals in their last six periods, the Senators had struggled to score

12 goals in their nine previous games.

“Huge win for us,” Turris said. “We just have to keep the momentum going now. We’re playing well. We played real strong defensively and in the neutral zone. It was just an all-around solid game for us.”

David Pastrnak scored for Boston, and Tuukka Rask stopped 23 shots.

“I think the whole game there was poor puck management in my estimation,” Bruins coach Claude Julien said. “We’ve been a better team than that. It’s disappointing tonight in an important game like this we came out with one of worst efforts in probably a month,” Julien said.

“I didn’t like our game tonight, decision making, puck management, I would say there were a lot of no shows, as well. Those are things that can’t happen in these kind of games. Definitely not happy with not just the outcome, but our team. Definitely we need to be better.”

Temple knocks off No. 25 Florida State

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Little had gone right for the Temple Owls before they gathered around coach Fran Dunphy during a timeout. It would have been easy for them to lament their woes.

Instead, as Shizz Alston Jr. recalled, their message to each other was cloaked in defiance.

“We’re on a big stage, we’re not going out like this,” Alston said after Temple’s 89-86 victory over No. 25 Florida State on Thursday in the first game of the NIT Season Tip-Off. “We want to fight back.”

Quinton Rose scored 26 points, including two free throws with 2 seconds left. Alston Jr. added 22 points and Obi Enechionya had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Owls (3-2).

Dwayne Bacon had 22 points for the Seminoles (4-1). Jonathan Issac added 19 points. Xavier Rathan-Mayes had 11, and Terance Mann 10.

“They’re so deep,” Dunphy said about Florida State. “So athletic. They can make shots, too.”

Trailing by 12 with 9:26 left, Temple went on a 15-2 run to take a 73-72 lead. The stretch began when Alston made a three. That was followed by Rose’s putback, Enechionya’s layup, two made free throws

by Alston, and consecutive threes from Alston and Damon Moore.

The Owls were able to extend their advantage to 85-80 after Enechionya’s made three with 3:18 left. But Trent Forrest’s layup with 77 seconds left cut the deficit to one, 87-86.

“They spread the floor,” Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton said of Temple’s offensive approach in the second half. “They were shooting the threes and they spread the floor, did a great job of taking us off the dribble when they got to the foul line.

“Give them credit: They did what they had to do.”

Florida State had a chance to win, but Isaac air-balled a layup attempt with four seconds left. Rose’s two free throws sealed the win.

“We started making every shot we took,” Dunphy said.

No. 8 Arizona 69, Santa Clara 61: At Las Vegas, Lauri Markkanen had 16 points and nine rebounds, and the Wildcats held off the Broncos to reach the championship game of the Continental Las Vegas Invitational.

Kobi Simmons added 14 points for Arizona (5-0), which was scheduled to play Butler for the title on Friday.

No. 10 Louisville 62, Wichita State 52: At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Donovan Mitchell

made two three-pointers in the final 4½ minutes and scored 14 points to help the Cardinals beat the Shockers for a spot in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game.

Quentin Snider also scored 14 points for Louisville (5-0). The Cardinals will play Baylor (5-0) for the title.

No. 20 Baylor 73, No. 24 Michigan State 58: Johnathan Motley scored 20 of his 26 points in the first half and the Bears beat the Spartans to reach the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game.

No. 14 UCLA 99, Portland 77: Freshman sensation Lonzo Ball had 18 points and 11 assists for his second career double-double, Thomas Welch added 16 points and 10 rebounds, and the host Bruins romped past the Pilots in the first round of the Wooden Legacy.

All five starters for the Bruins (5-0) scored in double figures. Isaac Hamilton had 16 points, TJ Leaf added 14 and Bryce Alford 13.

No. 19 West Virginia 89, Illinois 57: Nathan Adrian had 13 points and eight rebounds in the Mountaineers’ victory over the Illini in the NIT Season Tip-Off in New York.

Jevon Carter added 10 points, six rebounds, six steals and five assists for the Mountaineers (4-0). Esa Ahmad and Elijah Macon each had nine

points, and Teyvon Myers and Dexter Miles Jr. added eight each.

No. 11 Gonzaga 82, Quinnipiac 62: At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Jonathan Williams and Zach Collins led a balanced offense with 13 points apiece, helping the Bulldogs pull away from the Bobcats in the first round of the AdvoCare Invitational.

The Bulldogs (5-0) also got 10 points each from Jordan Mathews and Josh Perkins to advance to the semifinals of the eight-team tournament against Florida.

No. 21 Iowa State 73, Indiana State 71: Monte Morris scored 20 points and the Cyclones took the lead for good in the final minute in the opening game of the AdvoCare Invitational at Disney World.

Iowa State (4-0) will face Miami in the semifinals.

Joe Thomas shrugged off a poor shooting performance to put Iowa State ahead with a three-pointer with 54 seconds remaining. Nazareth Mitrou-Long made one of two free throws with 7.6 seconds left, and the Sycamores’ hope for an upset ended when Brenton Scott’s three-pointer rimmed out at the buzzer.

Scott led Indiana State (2-2) with 20 points.

Emails: ‘Total protection’ shielded Russian drug cheats

Associated Press

PARIS — A doping cover-up dubbed the “total protection project” shielded Russian medal winners at the 2012 London Olympics, allowing them to compete when they should have been banned, according to emails seized by French prosecutors.

The emails published Friday by French newspaper Le Monde and German broadcaster ARD suggest the scale of suspected wrongdoing involving Russian track and field and officials

who were then at the IAAF, the sport’s global governing body, may have been broader than previously thought.

In a July 2014 message, which ARD published on its website, former Russian athletics federation head Valentin Balakhnichev wrote of “cynical and cruel blackmail” by IAAF officials and threatened to expose them. Doing so would leave “a huge black spot” on the IAAF and destroy careers, Balakhnichev warned in the email.

“We will not remain silent. It was not us who started this

game. It was the IAAF project and the IAAF shall be the key victim of future scandal,” said the email published by ARD.

“We have enough evidence to prove criminal activities of the IAAF people,” it added.

Another letter said to have been written by Balakhnichev in June 2014 alleged that IAAF representatives invented the “total protection” moniker for the cover-up scheme, Le Monde reported.

“We think the only way to avoid an enormous scandal about the covering up of nu-

merous anti-doping violations, implicating numerous IAAF officials, is to continue to keep the situation ‘under the table,’ as has been the case all these years,” Le Monde quoted the letter as saying.

Le Monde said the emails were seized at the Paris area home of lawyer Habib Cisse, who was the legal adviser to then IAAF President Lamine Diack. Diack is now under investigation in France on money laundering and corruption charges related to doping cover-ups.