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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Intel soldiers raise concerns of being exposed through app

The Washington Post

Soldiers in an intelligence unit with top-secret clearances were ordered by their commander to download an information app, triggering fear their secretive work could be harnessed and exploited by adversary governments, soldiers in the unit told *The Washington Post*.

Army Col. Deitra Trotter, commander of Fort Hood's 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, told her soldiers in late October a new app developed for the unit could provide weather updates, training changes and other logistics. She then told the soldiers to download it onto their personal smartphones, according to the Texas-based soldiers in the unit.

But the soldiers — many of whom have jobs in interrogation, human intelligence and counterintelligence — soon noticed that the app's terms of service said it could collect substantial amounts of personal data and that the developer has a presence overseas.

That caused widespread concern that a hack could put individuals and missions worldwide at risk, soldiers in the unit said.

"We do top-secret work," said one noncommissioned officer, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of retribution by their chain of command. "If our personal information is being put out there to a foreign power, what can they get from our brigade?"

Intelligence soldiers specialize in siphoning enemy communications and groom sources to deliver information about their foes, like their location and what weapons or capabilities they may have. When they deploy, some soldiers grow their hair out and wear civilian clothes to obscure their military roles and don't disclose their work outside of close family, another noncommissioned officer in the

504th said.

The app's permissions — which suggested it could pull GPS location data, photos and contacts and even rewrite memory cards — frustrated soldiers who have taken extreme precautions they felt were glossed over by Trotter and other senior leaders. The worst-case scenario, the soldier said, was "our cover might be blown." While the app said permissions could be disabled, the soldiers said there was a failure of confidence it was secure. Senior leaders checked the phones of subordinates to ensure they had the app installed, soldiers in the unit said.

Adversarial governments and intelligence agencies prize gateways to people who collect and manage classified information, said David Forscey, the managing director of the Aspen Institute's Cybersecurity Group.

Sensitive information like loan debts, history of drug use or even a trail of adultery through dating apps are all pieces of information that can be used to blackmail soldiers or coerce them to hand over classified information, he said.

"One reason drug use is a question in background investigations is the U.S. wants to see what people could have to compromise you," Forscey said.

Even if secrets gathered from a soldier aren't apparent now, they could be useful later if correlated with other data, he said.

And if a soldier leaves the military and enters the CIA or another agency, "it would be useful for China to know who they are and what they look like."

Last Wednesday, the brigade said the soldiers had no "formal obligation" to download the app. A day later, while conceding the app was originally "mandatory," the brigade decided it would only "highly encourage" use of the app.

GIs in Syria vow to keep heat on ISIS

Associated Press

At a base in eastern Syria, a senior U.S. coalition commander said Monday that American troops who remain in the country are redeploying to bases, including in some new locations, and working with the Kurdish-led forces to keep up the pressure on Islamic State militants and to prevent the extremists from resurging or breaking out of prisons.

The commander, Air Force Maj. Gen. Eric T. Hill, said even though Bradley Fighting Vehicles have arrived in eastern Syria, the mission's focus has not changed. He said the "force mix," including the mechanized armored vehicles deployed in Syria for the first time since the war against ISIS, has an array of capabilities to deny ISIS the chance to regroup.

"The mission still continues. And Daesh is trying to resurge wherever they can," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the group. He said the forces have captured 700 ISIS fighters since its last territorial holding fell in March. "We've destroyed many war remnants and we continue to do so as we find them."

Speaking at a remote base in Syria where the Bradleys arrived last week, he said "our primary way that we do that" is through working with the U.S. partners, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

The deployment of the mechanized force comes after U.S. troops pulled out from northeastern Syria, making way for a Turkish offensive against Kurdish fighters that began last month. Only several miles away from the base, fighting

between Turkey-allied fighters and the SDF was ongoing, despite a cease-fire that has so far curbed the Turkish invasion but didn't end the violence.

Farther north, three car bombs went off Monday in the town of Qamishli, killing at least six people, while a priest was shot dead. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack that killed the Armenian Catholic priest and his father as they drove from Qamishli to the city of Hassakeh, in a sign that the extremists still have reach.

The U.S. withdrawal from northern Syria was widely criticized, even by allies of President Donald Trump. The Kurdish-led force, deserted by Washington in the face of the threat of a military operation by a NATO ally, leaned on the Syrian government and Russia for help.

The cease-fire, reached in late October, left Turkey in control of a stretch of land along the border that is roughly 70 miles wide and 20 miles deep. But fighting south of that zone continued. Kurdish officials say Turkey is seeking to expand its area of control.

Hill's emphasis on the continued partnership with the Kurdish-led forces comes as U.S. troops sent reinforcements to bases in the oil-rich region of eastern Syria. Trump approved an expanded military mission which he said was to secure an expanse of oil fields across eastern Syria. The directive raised questions about how the troops will operate, particularly in an area where there are Russia-backed Syrian troops who could try to take back oil facilities.

US soldier killed, 2 hurt in South Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — One American soldier was killed and two were injured when a Bradley Fighting Vehicle overturned during training in South Korea last week, the Army said Tuesday.

Spc. Nicholas C. Panipinto, 20, of Bradenton, Fla., died Nov. 6 from injuries sustained in the rollover at Camp Humphreys, the Army said in a statement sent to Stars and Stripes.

"The accident is under investigation," it said.

All five soldiers who were

in the vehicle were taken to a nearby South Korean hospital, Eighth Army spokesman Lt. Col. Ellis Gales told Stars and Stripes. Panipinto died, two were released with non-life-threatening injuries and the other two were seen by medical staff as a precautionary measure, he said.

Panipinto was an infantryman assigned to the Fort Hood-based 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, which deployed to the divided Korean Peninsula in July for a nine-month rotation.

A memorial service will be held at Camp Humphreys

on Friday for Panipinto, who joined the Army in January 2018.

Brigade commander Col. Kevin Capra expressed "heartfelt condolences" to Panipinto's family, friends and loved ones.

"Nicholas was a dedicated and essential member of the Ghost Battalion and Greywolf Brigade," Capra said, using the nicknames of the units. "We are all deeply saddened by the loss and will keep his family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

Of around 28,500 American troops in South Korea, most are based at Camp Humphreys, which is about 55 miles south

of Seoul in the rural area of Pyeongtaek.

Army motor vehicle mishaps are the number one killer of on-duty soldiers, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston said in a safety video released in June.

Including the accident that killed Panipinto last week, at least 10 rollovers involving Army vehicles have claimed 10 lives this calendar year, according to a tally done by Stars and Stripes using data from the Army Combat Readiness Center.

That's up from six rollover accidents that resulted in four fatalities in 2018, the center said.

Drones find submarine sunk during World War II

The Washington Post

Tim Taylor was about to end the mission. His team had scoured the seabed off Japan with autonomous underwater vehicles, which are essentially high-tech drones, without a hit. His ship now needed repairs, and a \$7 million drone had just reported an error on its latest dive.

All that remained was to download the data from that drone before heading hundreds

of miles back to shore.

That's when they spotted it: an unusual reading on the ocean floor, more than 1,400 feet deep. The next day, another submersible with high-definition cameras went to investigate.

The images it beamed back left no doubt about what Taylor's team had found: A hulking ship lay rusting in the pitch-black water. As the camera rounded the bow and panned to

the bridge, an eerily preserved plaque came into view: USS Grayback.

"It was amazing. Everyone was excited," Taylor said in an interview with The Washington Post. "Then you realize there are 80 men buried there, and it's a sobering experience."

Taylor's discovery on June 5 solved an enduring 75-year-old mystery about the fate of the USS Grayback, one of World War II's most effective subma-

rines. The U.S. Navy confirmed Sunday that Taylor's team, part of a group dedicated to finding the 52 American submarines lost in action during World War II, found Grayback's final resting place in the ocean off Okinawa.

The Grayback's final mission started on Jan. 28, 1944, according to the Navy's official history, when it left Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on its 10th combat tour.

Army battalion command process adds psych exam

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Officers vying for battalion command will soon be screened through a psychological exam, an expert panel and other means as the Army moves away from choosing leaders based solely on their personnel files.

Beginning Jan. 1, lieutenant colonels on the centralized selection list will undergo a five-day audition at Fort Knox, Ky., through the Battalion Com-

mander Assessment Program, the Army said in a statement Nov. 6.

Officers will have to pass the Army physical fitness test, be interviewed by behavioral psychologists and a panel of senior officers and write an essay as part of the assessment.

The new program is part of a broader shift in personnel management practices prioritized by Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, who has referred to the current system as "industrial age."

"Right now, we spend more time and more money on selecting a Private to be in the Ranger Regiment than we do on selecting what I would argue is one of the most consequential leadership positions in the Army, our Battalion Commanders," McConville said in a tweet last month.

The new test process will better determine "fitness for command and potential" than the current system, which relies on personnel files and focuses on past actions, the Army said.

"I think the idea of actually looking the officer in the eye and seeing how they performed side-by-side with their peers will give us a much, much better picture of who our future leaders are," McConville said in a Federal News Network story last month.

Evaluations and past performance will still play a large role, however, in determining which officers should be selected to the leadership position, the Army statement said.

Wis. Guard whistleblower says he's being discharged

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A Wisconsin National Guard sergeant says his superiors have decided to discharge him from the service and deny him retirement benefits in retaliation for complaining about sexual misconduct in his unit.

Wisconsin Air National Guard Master Sgt. Jay Ellis' complaints about sexual assault and sexual harassment within the 115th Fighter Wing last year sparked two federal investigations.

"I just think it's funny how there is so much in the national news right now about whistleblowers, but no one seems to give two [expletive] about my situation," Ellis said Friday in an email to The Associated Press.

Ellis sent a letter in November 2018 to Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a Wisconsin Democrat, saying he had learned of at least six instances of sexual harassment or sexual assault against female members of the fighter wing's security squadron.

The complaint led Baldwin to request a U.S. Air Force investigation. She and Gov. Tony Evers also requested that federal National Guard officials conduct a top-to-bottom review of how the Wisconsin National Guard handles sexual assault allegations. Both probes are ongoing.

Ellis filed a separate complaint in May with the Wisconsin National Guard's inspector general's office alleging that Guard officials transferred him out of his unit in January and had launched a review of his medical history to set up a medical discharge and deny him retirement benefits. Ellis said in the complaint they prepared a

memo for evaluators listing his medical issues even though the Guard has been aware of them since he joined 18 years ago.

He added that his problems have been resolved and any restrictions on his physical training have been lifted but the security squadron's top commander still recommended he be discharged.

The Wisconsin Guard's top commander, Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, has ordered an investigation into the reprisal allegations.

Ellis said he was informed Nov. 6 by a representative from a medical evaluation team out of Scott Air Force Base in Illinois that he will be discharged. He said he will appeal, but without the support of his commanders his attorney has warned him his chances are "less than zero."

If his appeals fail he'll be discharged sometime in February, he said. He said he believes the decision was timed to render Dunbar's investigation moot.

Baldwin sent a letter Friday to Dunbar and Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, urging them to halt Ellis' discharge.

Ordering the discharge before the investigation into Ellis' reprisal allegations is complete is "unacceptable" and could have a chilling effect on the sexual assault investigation by discouraging witnesses from coming forward, the senator wrote.

Wisconsin National Guard spokesman Joe Trovato didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Thomas Doscher, a spokesman for Scott Air Force Base, had no immediate comment but said he would try to gather what information he could about Ellis' situation.

US, Australian educators might be freed by Taliban

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two university professors — one from the U.S. and the other from Australia — who were kidnapped in Kabul three years ago are set to be freed in exchange for high-ranking Taliban leaders, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said Tuesday.

The three Taliban, who are being held in a prison near Bagram Airfield, will be released if the militant group frees Kevin King, of the U.S., and Timothy Weeks, of Australia, Ghani said in a live television broadcast. King and Weeks were abducted from the American University of Afghanistan in 2016.

The Taliban leaders who Ghani said would be freed in the prisoner exchange are Anas Haqqani, the younger brother of the head of the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network, which the U.S. has designated as a terrorist group;

Hafiz Rashid, a military strategist whose brother is a member of the Taliban's political committee in Qatar; and Haji Mali Khan, said to be the uncle of the Haqqani network's leader. The men will be "sent to Qatar under U.S. supervision," Radio Free Europe-Afghanistan cited an unnamed Afghan official as saying.

No date has been set for the prisoner swap.

Ghani said the exchange is "a humanitarian gesture," due to the deteriorating health of the two academics. King, in his early 60s, has been "seriously ill" and the Taliban are worried he could die in their custody, Agence France-Presse cited an unnamed Taliban source as saying Tuesday.

Erdogan urges 'new era' with US on eve of talks with Trump

Bloomberg

Turkey is looking to turn the page on a period of strife with the U.S. as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan prepares to meet President Donald Trump to discuss a series of issues dividing the NATO allies, especially his country's purchase of a Russian missile defense system.

Speaking Tuesday before traveling to Washington, Erdogan said he wants to "start a new era over common security issues" with the U.S. "We are in agreement with Trump to

solve problems and develop our ties despite the foggy weather in our relations," Erdogan told a televised news conference at the airport in Ankara.

Turkey's relationship with the U.S. has been strained by a series of rows, from disagreements over the Turkish offensive in Syria to Ankara's decision to purchase the advanced Russian S-400 missile system. The S-400 issue will top the agenda for Erdogan's talks with Trump on Wednesday, a "critical" meeting that's set to shape the

future of ties with the U.S., the Turkish president's communications chief, Fahrettin Altun, told Bloomberg late Monday.

Erdogan sees this week's encounter at the White House as crucial to reconcile those differences, Altun said. But obstacles to improved relations remain. Erdogan has insisted that the Russian system will be activated soon, defying calls from Washington to hold off.

The Turkish president didn't mention the row over the Russian missiles before his departure for

Washington but said he'll talk to President Vladimir Putin after his talks with Trump.

In Syria, where Americans have long been allied with Kurdish forces that Turkey regards as terrorists, Trump's decision to pull out U.S. troops led to a military operation by Turkish forces. The military campaign against the Kurds touched off an international outcry and led to demands by members of both parties in Congress for sanctions against the Erdogan government.

Key question: What did president want?

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the nearly 3,000 pages of interviews from the House impeachment inquiry released last week, President Donald Trump often seems like a supporting character in someone else's drama.

Aides struggle to please him. They fret about his fits of rage and do their best to anticipate his ever-shifting impulses and desires. Trump is an unseen and mercurial presence.

"President Trump changes his mind on what he wants on a daily basis," said Gordon Sondland, the Trump megadonor-turned-diplomat who sought to help Ukraine's new leader — desperate for American aid and an Oval Office meeting with Trump — to understand what the president wanted from him.

Amid the torrent of testimony, it is easy to forget that the crux of the historic House impeachment inquiry boils down to a simple question: What did Trump want from the Ukrainians — and what exactly did he do?

In trying to answer that question, Republicans and Democrats have cited the rough transcript of Trump's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — a conversation that witnesses have described as "improper," "shocking" and a confusing mishmash of conspiracy theo-

ries, empty threats and non sequiturs.

Republicans have made the rough transcript and the chaotic nature of the Trump presidency a central part of their defense.

Democrats are counting on using the testimony of those around Trump — a mix of aides, sycophants and serious-minded civil servants — to make clear exactly what Trump was demanding of the Ukrainian president on the July 25 call.

Senior U.S. officials working on Ukraine often seemed to live in a state of dread and confusion over what the president might do or tweet. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch was clinging to her job in Kyiv this spring, amid a smear campaign organized by Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal attorney, when State Department officials told her to leave her possessions behind and come home on the first possible plane.

Her bosses in Washington didn't fear for her safety; rather, they feared Trump. "They were worried that if I wasn't physically out of Ukraine there would be some sort of public tweet from the White House," she told lawmakers.

With Yovanovitch gone, the new team in charge of Trump's Ukraine policy often struggled to make sense of his myriad grudges. In May, a trio of officials that consisted of Sondland, Energy Secretary Rick

Perry and special envoy Kurt Volker, huddled with Trump in the Oval Office to share their favorable impressions of the Ukrainian president.

"They tried to take me down. They tried to take me down," Sondland recalled Trump saying of the Ukrainians.

Most officials suspected that Trump's rage traced back to the conspiratorial conversations he was having with Giuliani regarding alleged — and unsubstantiated — Ukrainian interference in the 2016 election.

Even the highest-ranking officials were flying blind. Whenever Giuliani popped up on the television in John Bolton's West Wing office, the national security adviser would turn up the volume to try to learn what he might be telling Trump, said Fiona Hill, who oversaw Russia and Ukraine policy in the White House.

Meanwhile, Bolton issued orders to his aides to steer clear of Giuliani and his schemes.

Trump's precise role in the Ukraine scandal is further muddled by unreliable witnesses, faulty memories and, in one case, a disembodied voice announcing a confounding order to freeze \$391 million in desperately needed military aid to Ukraine.

On his July 25 call with Zelenskyy, Trump is clear regarding what he wants from Zelenskyy. "I would like you to do us a favor," Trump said.

He then pressed the Ukrainian president to investigate a widely debunked conspiracy theory, proffered by Russian President Vladimir Putin among others, that Ukraine and not Russia had interfered in the 2016 U.S. election. Trump also asked Zelenskyy to investigate former vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who had secured a lucrative position with a controversial Ukrainian gas company.

"It sounds horrible to me," Trump said.

Less clear is whether Trump ordered a hold on the \$391 million in military aid to blackmail the Ukrainians. Senior U.S. officials first learned of the freeze during a July 18 video conference in which an off-camera staff person from the White House's Office of Management and Budget said there was a hold on the aid, but would not say why.

"I and others sat in astonishment," recalled acting ambassador William Taylor, who had dialed in from Ukraine.

Top officials at the Pentagon and the State Department spent much of July and August struggling to figure out why Trump had frozen the aid and how to get it flowing. The answers were vague and unsatisfying.

This week, House Democrats and Republicans will call their first witnesses for the public portion of the impeachment inquiry testimony.

Esper: Vindman need not fear Army retaliation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Monday that an Army officer has no reason to fear retribution for testifying before Congress in the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

Esper was asked about potential retribution for Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman during a trip to New York City. The defense secretary said the

Pentagon "has protections for whistleblowers" who report waste, fraud or abuse.

He said Vindman or any other whistleblower "shouldn't have any fear of retaliation," according to a transcript of the exchange released by online publication Defense One.

Vindman is the Ukraine specialist at the White House's National Security Council who was on the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Vindman testified about concerns that Trump was delaying military aid to the Eastern European country while pressing the country to investigate his political rivals.

That phone call, and Trump's request for a "favor" from Ukraine, are the basis of the impeachment inquiry.

According to the Defense One transcript, Esper was asked what he would tell ser-

vice members who might wonder if Vindman's career is in jeopardy and whether their own careers would be at risk if they blew the whistle on waste, fraud or abuse.

Esper responded by saying the Pentagon "has protections for whistleblowers — they're guaranteed in law. And he shouldn't have any fear of retaliation. That's DOD's position," he said, referring to the Department of Defense.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Vet's fire-damaged flag cleaned for family

IN HOBART — A group of northwestern Indiana firefighters cleaned and returned a fire-damaged American flag to the family of a Korean War veteran.

After a January fire gutted his Hobart apartment, Steven Paul asked firefighters to try to find the flag he'd received at the funeral for his Navy veteran father, Kenneth E. Paul. They found the flag but it was damaged, so Hobart firefighters offered to find a way to clean it.

The Post-Tribune reported two cleaners declined to treat it, saying cleaning chemicals could damage it further. The firefighters instead gently cleaned the flag with detergent and restored its shadowbox, returning them Thursday to Paul's family.

Puppy stolen from orphanage found safe

NJ VOORHEES — A 12-week-old puppy stolen from an animal orphanage in New Jersey was found safe.

The Voorhees Animal Orphanage said Phoenix was found in a nearby PetSmart's bathroom Sunday. Posting on its Facebook page, the orphanage said Phoenix is safe and healthy.

The shelter said the puppy was snatched Saturday, a day after it had been spayed.

Police: Man shot bear on 2nd floor of motel

TN GATLINBURG — Police in Tennessee charged a man they say shot a black bear on the second floor of a motel.

News outlets reported that Gatlinburg Police said Gregory

Sapp, 53, was charged with illegal discharge of a weapon and reckless endangerment.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency spokesman Matthew Cameron told the Knoxville News Sentinel that Sapp encountered the bear on a motel breezeway Thursday night. Cameron said Sapp told authorities he shot the bear six times after it made an "aggressive move" toward him.

The agency said that if those statements are true, it likely won't pursue more charges.

The bear fled and hasn't been found.

WWII vet receives honorary diploma

VA MECHANICSVILLE — A 93-year-old veteran from Virginia finally got a diploma, more than 75 years after World War II interrupted his education.

James Yarbrough received an honorary high school diploma Monday during a Veterans Day ceremony at Washington-Henry Elementary School in Mechanicsville.

Yarbrough entered into military service with the U.S. Army in 1943 during his senior year at the former Washington-Henry High School.

Man uses battle ax to fight off intruder

MI OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP — A Michigan man whose hobbies include ritualized combat with replica weapons from the Middle Ages said he wielded a battle ax to fend off an intruder.

Ben Ball, 36, told WOOD-TV he was playing video games at his apartment in Oshtemo Township late Nov. 6 when someone who once dated his ex-roommate kicked in his door. He believed the attacker

might be armed.

Ball told the station he grabbed the ax and struck the intruder in the torso. After the two grappled, the attacker fled.

Police deployed a K-9 unit to track a trail of blood leading to Alex Lavell Rawls, 33.

Kalamazoo County officials said Rawls spent the night at a hospital before going to jail. He faces home invasion charges.

Police: Newspaper's Pulitzer medal stolen

OH AKRON — Authorities are searching for a Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal that was reportedly stolen from an Ohio newspaper's former office.

The theft was discovered Thursday morning after the Akron Beacon Journal's staff moved from the paper's former building. The Beacon Journal reported the thief took the medal from a protective display case where it was stored in the former newsroom lobby.

The medal was awarded for the paper's 1994 "A Question of Color" series.

Police seek suspects in 2 tip jar thefts

NY NEW YORK — Police are looking for two men they say have been stealing tip jars from businesses and hitting people who tried to stop them.

The New York Police Department said the most recent incident was at a cafe in Queens on Friday. Authorities said the men went into the business, took a tip jar with \$100 and hit a female employee who had followed them out to try to get the jar back. She had minor injuries.

In an Oct. 28 incident, police said the men went into a cafe and took a tip jar with \$40. A

man who followed them out was hit in the face.

Hunters free pair of entangled bucks

MI BOWNE TOWNSHIP — Quick-thinking hunters in central Michigan rescued two deer who literally became locked in battle.

WOOD-TV reported that insurance agent Mark Johnson spotted the rutting bucks in a field with their antlers entangled. He figured the eight-point bucks would die from exhaustion or starvation if they stayed stuck.

Video of the Nov. 6 rescue on WOOD-TV's website shows Johnson's friend, Brad Lyons, eventually deploying a specialized branch saw to cut part of an antler. That enabled the bucks to pull away and run off.

Great white sharks follow snowbirds' path

FL KEY WEST — Like snowbirds, there's another group that's moving to Florida for the winter: sharks.

Shark experts say the coast of Florida is starting to heat up with white shark activity. OCSEARCH, a research group, said the annual migration to warmer waters off the Florida and Carolinas coasts is underway.

The Palm Beach Post reported that eight white sharks tagged by the Utah-based research group were spotted from New Jersey to Florida early this month. Three other sharks that had been tagged were detected Nov. 6 in waters on North Carolina beaches, and two more sharks made their presence known with toothy grins just west of Key West in September.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Seahawks hand 49ers first loss in OT

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Russell Wilson high-stepped his way down the sideline before hugging coach Pete Carroll after Jason Myers' kick split the uprights.

After a wild overtime that featured a rare Wilson interception, a missed field goal by San Francisco and a questionable decision from 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan, the Seahawks had knocked the Niners from the ranks of the unbeaten and made sure the NFC West will remain tight down the stretch.

Myers kicked a 42-yard field goal after Chase McLaughlin missed a kick earlier in overtime, and the Seahawks handed the San Francisco 49ers their first loss with a 27-24 victory on Monday night.

"That was the craziest game I've ever been a part of," Wilson said.

Myers gave Seattle (8-2) its second straight overtime win after Wilson got the Seahawks into position with an 18-yard scramble on third-and-3. After being iced by a timeout, Myers delivered one week after missing two field goals and an extra

point, moving Seattle on the heels of San Francisco (8-1) in the NFC West.

"We practice these situations every day," left tackle Duane Brown said. "Russell Wilson is the best quarterback in the league. When you have him under center, I don't care how much time is on the clock. We feel like we have a chance."

The Seahawks blew an opportunity to win the game on the opening possession of overtime when Wilson was intercepted at the 4 by Dre Greenlaw.

It was Wilson's second interception of the season and just the second red-zone interception in overtime in the last 25 years, according to STATS, with Jacoby Brissett having the other in 2017 against San Francisco.

Greenlaw returned it 47 yards to the Seattle 49 and the Niners moved the ball 20 yards before McLaughlin missed badly to the left on a 47-yard attempt. McLaughlin had made his first three field goals after being signed earlier in the week when Robbie Gould went down with a quadriceps injury.

"Just rushed it a little bit, hit

it a little high and unfortunately missed it," McLaughlin said.

The teams then traded punts, and the Seahawks took over at their 36 with 1:25 remaining after Jimmy Garoppolo threw three straight incompletions as San Francisco burned only 14 seconds off the clock with Seattle out of timeouts.

"Definitely wish we had taken more time off the clock, but was counting on us catching one of those balls," Shanahan said.

After the defenses dominated much of the game, with each team scoring a defensive touchdown and generating three takeaways apiece in regulation, the quarterbacks traded late drives for field goals that set the stage for overtime.

Wilson drove the Seahawks 47 yards before Chris Carson was stuffed on third-and-1, leading to a 46-yard field goal by Myers with 1:45 to play.

Garoppolo and the Niners took over from there and used short passes to move the ball down to the 29, where McLaughlin kicked a 47-yard field goal with 1 second left to tie it at 24.

Making a point

The Seahawks shut down San Francisco's running game, allowing only 3.2 yards per carry, and forced Garoppolo into an off night with his receivers contributing with several drops. Garoppolo finished 24-for-48 for 248 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

He was sacked five times and missed injured tight end George Kittle and Emmanuel Sanders, who left in the first quarter with a rib injury.

"We wanted to prove we were the best defense on the field today," Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "We understood what people were thinking because of the last two weeks. We felt like we had something to prove."

Clowney's day

Jadeveon Clowney had his biggest impact since joining Seattle this season. He returned a fumble 10 yards for the Seahawks' first touchdown, set up another with a strip sack and had five quarterback hits on the night.

Redskins name Haskins starting QB for rest of season

Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Dwayne Haskins' time has finally come.

The Washington Redskins on Monday named Haskins their starting quarterback for the rest of the season. The 15th overall draft pick takes over with Washington 1-8 and the New York Jets up next Sunday.

"We've got a lot of confidence in Dwayne," interim coach Bill Callahan said in announcing the much-expected move. "He's worked hard, he's smart, he studies, he prepares, so this will be a great opportunity for him going forward."

Haskins is 27-for-44 for 284 yards with no touchdowns and four interceptions in three appearances — two in relief and a

start Nov. 3 at Buffalo. The Jets game will be his second NFL start.

"It helps to have a full week of preparation where you're the starter," second-year receiver Trey Quinn said. "I'm looking forward to seeing him grow because he's a talent. He's definitely a talent, so sky's the limit right now for him. It's just up to him to take the extra time and learn on his own."

Previous coach Jay Gruden and Callahan had been reluctant to hand the reins over to Haskins because he looked much more like a long-term project than a ready-made professional quarterback. Veteran Case Keenum started seven of the first eight games and longtime backup Colt McCoy the other.

But Haskins showed enough in his audition against the Bills to earn the full-time role. Callahan liked Haskins' consistency and decisiveness in completing 15 of 22 passes with a limited playbook.

There's also the mere fact that this is becoming a lost season for the Redskins, who are likely to have a top-five draft pick and would be wise to see what they have in Haskins.

"He needs the experience," Callahan said. "Let's give Dwayne an opportunity. We're at a juncture where we don't want to be record-wise, so this is a good opportunity for him to take advantage of every (snap) practice-wise and game-wise so we can see growth in his play."

There already has been

growth in Haskins from a very raw training camp through this week.

"He's always had an arm, always standing tall in the pocket and is confident in himself and I think the people around him," Quinn said. "Other than that, it's just getting in the pro system and kind of feeling comfortable calling the plays, going through the progressions, making the check at the line and just studying a little extra. Week by week, he's done that."

Keenum is expected to serve as the backup against the 2-7 Jets with McCoy the third QB. Haskins should have another offensive weapon at his disposal with the anticipated return of running back Derrius Guice.

Alonso, Alvarez named Rookies of Year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Young sluggers known for their prodigious power, Pete Alonso and Yordan Alvarez knocked the Rookie of the Year voting out of the park.

In a rarity for the major league home run leader, Alonso didn't land the biggest blow.

Alonso, a star first baseman with the New York Mets, got 29 of 30 first-place votes for NL Rookie of the Year. Braves right-hander Mike Soroka got the other first-place vote and finished second in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America revealed Monday night.

"To just win the award, doesn't matter if it's unanimous or not," Alonso said. "It's still such a blessing."

Alvarez, a hulking designated hitter from the Houston Astros, earned all 30 first-place votes to become the 24th unanimous selection since the award was introduced in 1949.

"I was really not expecting it," Alvarez said through a translator.

The 24-year-old Alonso led the majors with 53 homers, one better than Yankees slugger Aaron Judge's rookie record from 2017. "Polar Bear" Pete became the face of baseball in Flushing, beloved for his power, personality and philanthropy. He's the sixth Met to win the award and first since teammate Jacob deGrom in 2014.

Padres shortstop Fernando

Tatis Jr. was third in NL balloting. The only voter to place Soroka ahead of Alonso was Andrew Baggarly of The Athletic. Alonso was the only NL player named on every ballot.

Alvarez, a 22-year-old from Cuba, played 87 games after debuting in June, fewest by any position player to win AL Rookie of the Year. He hit 27 homers, batted .313, drove in 78 and had a 1.067 OPS for the pennant-winning Astros. He struggled at times in the post-season, but that was after voting had concluded.

"My whole family was telling me I would be the winner of the award," Alvarez said. "And once I was selected as the winner, I was very excited."

He's the third Houston player to win, following teammate Carlos Correa in 2015 and Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell in 1991.

Alvarez easily beat out the other AL finalists, with Orioles left-hander John Means second and Rays infielder Brandon Lowe third.

The Mets agitated their fans by stashing Alonso at Triple-A through the end of the 2018 season, citing his inadequate defense at first base. He went to spring training this year battling with buddy Dominic Smith for the starting job, and Alonso wasn't even certain to crack the opening-day roster until being declared New York's primary first baseman a day before the regular season.

Alonso said he was chal-

lenged by first-year general manager Brodie Van Wagenen to "show up in shape and earn your spot."

The former Florida Gator became an instant star in the Mets' blue and orange. Wielding his hefty 34-inch, 32-ounce birch bat, Alonso hit .292 with nine homers, 26 RBIs and a 1.024 OPS over March and April, claiming the first of three NL Rookie of the Month honors. He put on a power-packed show while winning the All-Star Home Run Derby, and then cemented his fan-favorite status by donating \$100,000 of his \$1 million derby prize to charities supporting injured soldiers and 9/11 workers.

Alonso wore a hat reading "100%" on the broadcast while being named the NL winner, but his vote total didn't match. The upbeat slugger was all smiles as usual — just like when teammates ripped off his jersey following a game-ending walk in September.

"I'm not taking my shirt off for this one," Alonso joked.

With a left-handed swing reminiscent of long-legged Hall of Famer Willie McCovey — another unanimous Rookie of the Year pick — Alvarez immediately entrenched himself in the middle of Houston's batting order. He hit seven homers in his first 12 games, and his OPS ranked fifth in the majors after he debuted June 9.

Alvarez's OPS was the highest ever by a rookie, surpassing

Shoeless Joe Jackson's 1.058 mark in 1911.

"It's a dream for every player to get to the major leagues," Alvarez said. "I was basically living my dream."

McCovey appeared in 52 games while winning the NL award in 1959, the only total lower than Alvarez.

Alvarez is the fourth Cuban-born Rookie of the Year, joining Jose Canseco (1986), Jose Fernandez (2013) and Jose Abreu (2014).

Cardinals, Wainwright agree to 1-year deal

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals and Adam Wainwright have agreed to a contract for the 2020 season, increasing the likelihood the veteran pitcher finishes his career with the only major league team for which he has ever played.

The 38-year-old Wainwright was drafted by the Braves in 2000 and traded to the Cardinals three years later. He made his major league debut in 2005 and has been a stalwart for St. Louis the past 14 seasons, going 162-95 with a 3.39 ERA and three All-Star game appearances.

He played last season on a \$2 million deal and proved he was still effective, going 14-10 with a 4.19 ERA while helping the Cardinals reach the National League Championship Series.

Winthrop goes on road, knocks off No. 18 Saint Mary's

Associated Press

MORAGA, Calif. — Saint Mary's star Jordan Ford missed a layup with 1 second left and Winthrop pulled off a 61-59 upset of the No. 18 Gaels a night after losing on a buzzer beater.

Chandler Vaudrin had 19 points, five rebounds and four assists off the bench for Winthrop (2-1). The Eagles of the Big South Conference lost 77-74 at Fresno State on Sunday before traveling to the Bay Area

to take on Saint Mary's.

Winthrop had never played in the state of California before the Sunday-Monday back-to-back.

The jubilant Eagles danced through the hallways of McKeeon Pavilion celebrating on the way to the locker room after stunning the Gaels.

Ford had converted a layup with 10 seconds left to pull Saint Mary's within 61-59. Saint Mary's Elijah Thomas quickly fouled Russell Jones,

who missed the front end of a 1-and-1 free-throw opportunity and the Gaels secured the rebound to give themselves one more chance.

Ford finished with 22 points and six rebounds and Malik Fitts added 18 points and 13 rebounds for Saint Mary's (1-1).

"I think we have pretty good players and we are pretty good defensively," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "We just have to figure out the right

pieces to put together, trust each other and share the ball."

Jamal King made a three-pointer early in the second half to put Winthrop ahead 31-28, then the Eagles followed with an 8-0 run.

The teams were even on the boards with 31 each and both had 15 turnovers.

Only five players scored points, and the bench was outscored 38-2. The Gaels went just 5-for-17 from deep.

NBA roundup

Walker helps Celtics hold off Mavericks

Associated Press

BOSTON — Kemba Walker took on some extra responsibility at the offensive end in Boston's first game since Gordon Hayward broke his left hand.

Walker made a trio of key three-pointers in the fourth quarter and finished with 29 points, Jaylen Brown added 25 points and 11 rebounds, and the Celtics beat the Dallas Mavericks 116-106 Monday night.

"I was just trying to be aggressive, trying to make the right plays," Walker said. "My shot felt good the whole night. I was just missing them. Then, in the fourth quarter, just naturally, the competitive nature just comes out and I try to do what I can do to put the ball in the basket."

Marcus Smart scored 17 points, Daniel Theis chipped in with 11 and Brad Wanamaker had 10 for Boston, which won its eighth straight game

since a season-opening loss at Philadelphia.

Jayson Tatum shot 1-for-18 from the field and scored only five points for the Celtics.

Luka Doncic led the Mavericks (6-4) with 34 points, nine assists and six rebounds. Maxi Kleber had 15 points with eight boards.

Kristaps Porzingis scored just four points on 1-for-11 shooting for Dallas.

"Porzingis had a tough night. We're just going to flush it and move on," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said with a laugh. "You know, there's nights like this."

Clippers 98, Raptors 88: Lou Williams scored 21 points, Kawhi Leonard just missed a triple-double in his first game against his former team and host Los Angeles beat defending NBA champion Toronto.

Leonard finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists to go with nine turn-

overs. Last season, he led the Raptors to their first championship, averaging 30.5 points and 9.1 rebounds in 24 postseason games.

Jazz 122, Warriors 108: Rudy Gobert had 25 points and 14 rebounds as visiting Utah topped Golden State.

Donovan Mitchell added 23 points and Mike Conley scored 22 for the Jazz, who improved to 7-3.

The injury-ravaged Warriors fell to an NBA-worst 2-9 and their frustrations boiled over in the fourth quarter. Draymond Green, back after missing five games with a torn finger ligament, earned back-to-back technicals and an ejection for arguing a blocking call with 8:28 left.

Rockets 122, Pelicans 116: James Harden scored 39 points, including 13 straight in the fourth quarter, and visiting Houston beat short-handed New Orleans.

Russell Westbrook had 26 points and Clint Capela added 11 points and 20 rebounds to help the Rockets to their fourth straight win.

Grizzlies 113, Spurs 109: Jaren Jackson Jr. had 24 points and Memphis put a damper on Tony Parker's jersey retirement by beating host San Antonio.

Parker's uniform No. 9 was lifted to the rafters alongside fellow Big Three members Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili following the game. They led San Antonio to four of its five championships and have the most wins (541) of any trio in NBA history.

Timberwolves 120, Pistons 114: Andrew Wiggins scored 33 points and visiting Minnesota spoiled Blake Griffin's return from injury, beating Detroit.

Griffin played for the first time this season, coming back from hamstring and knee issues, and scored 19 points.

NHL roundup

Oshie's OT goal erased as Caps fall to Coyotes in SO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even as T.J. Oshie skated to the bench and figured his overtime goal would be waved off, opposing goaltender Antti Raanta waited for official word. He'd been burned too many times before.

A couple of Raanta's Arizona Coyotes teammates left the bench and turned toward their locker room before others screamed the play might've been offside. They returned, as the Capitals remained on the ice and waited until video review wiped out a goal by Oshie that would've extended Washington's winning streak to seven.

Instead, the Coyotes picked themselves up and beat the NHL-leading Capitals 4-3 in a shootout Monday night.

"You're thinking as a coach, 'We got a point, but we blew a three-goal lead,'" Arizona's Rick Tocchet said. "You come back from the dead."

After blowing a 3-0 lead to let the game slip into overtime, where it looked like Oshie beat them, the Coyotes got shootout goals from Nick Schmaltz and Conor Garland and two more big stops from Raanta to snap their three-game skid. Raanta made 31 saves in regulation and overtime, and was able to keep the puck out against Oshie and Evgeny Kuznetsov in the shootout to cap a stellar night.

Raanta "tried to kind of stay in the moment and just hope that it would be offside" when Oshie's goal 2:16 into overtime was being reviewed. Coyotes players refocused after referee Frederick L'Ecuyer announced

no goal and didn't let the roller coaster of emotions derail them.

"It's tough when you kind of feel so dejected and then, oh, you've got three more minutes to play," defenseman Jason Demers said. "I think guys did a great job of staying locked in."

Washington, which lost for just the second time in 12 games, was on the wrong side of two video reviews. A puck off the skate of Arizona's Christian Fischer 10 seconds into the second period was found to be completely over the goal line while inside Ilya Samsonov's glove, and then Oshie was clearly offside in OT.

Hurricanes 8, Senators 2: Sebastian Aho scored twice, Joel Edmundson had a goal and two assists, and host Carolina beat Ottawa to snap a four-

game losing streak.

Warren Foegele, Ryan Dzingel and Martin Necas each had a goal and an assist, and Haydn Fleury and Dougie Hamilton also scored to help the Hurricanes win for only the second time this month (2-4-0) after matching a franchise record with eight wins in October. Andre Svechnikov and Brett Pesce each added two assists, and Petr Mrazek stopped 26 shots for his eighth win of the season.

Colin White and Brady Tkachuk scored for Ottawa, which had won three of its previous four games. Anders Nilsson gave up four goals on 19 shots before being pulled in the second period, and Craig Anderson stopped 20 of the 24 shots he faced.