

## Marines will no longer lose free trip home

### Change allows US leave in between consecutive overseas assignments

BY LYDIA GORDON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Marines can now take annual leave between overseas tours without jeopardizing their eligibility for a paid trip to the U.S. from their new duty station, according to a recent message to the force.

Marines who serve back-to-back assignments abroad, called “consecutive overseas tours,” or who extend a previous posting in a foreign country are eligible for incentives, including a government-funded trip home from their next duty station.

Under the previous policy,

Marines who took leave in the U.S. while en route to their new overseas assignment lost that benefit, even if they paid out of pocket for the personal portion of the trip.

The benefit is unrelated to the tab for military moves that is paid for by the government.

“Marines, and their eligible dependents, authorized COT leave ... are encouraged to use their leave incentive during (permanent change of station) travel,” a message issued Wednesday said.

Flights between duty stations abroad are typically routed

through the U.S. as part of the government-funded PCS itinerary.

Before the recent change, Marines who interrupted that itinerary to take annual leave stateside were considered to have used their consecutive overseas tour benefit.

Now, they’re allowed to take leave at any location between duty stations without sacrificing the free trip home. They’ll also stay eligible for that perk for the entirety of their subsequent overseas assignment, the statement said.

However, Marines who volun-

tarily extend their assignment at the following duty station cannot claim the benefit a second time.

In addition, Marines seeking to remain at an overseas location for more than six years no longer need endorsement from a commanding general.

Instead, the request requires only their commanding officer’s approval before being forwarded to Headquarters Marine Corps, the announcement said.

Though the two Marine Corps orders haven’t officially been updated, the message said the changes are effective immediately.

## US unveils robotic fleet to target cartels in new campaign

*Miami Herald*

The United States is launching a major new military and surveillance campaign in the Western Hemisphere, deploying an unprecedented mix of robotic air and sea vessels to counter Latin American drug-trafficking cartels.

Called Operation Southern Spear, the initiative was formally announced Thursday night by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who said through his X account that the mission follows a direct order from President Donald Trump.

“President Trump ordered action — and the Department of War is delivering,” Hegseth said. “Operation SOUTHERNSPEAR defends our Homeland, removes narco-terrorists from our Hemisphere, and secures our Homeland from the drugs that are killing our people. The Western Hemisphere is America’s neighborhood — and we will protect it.”

The campaign will be led by Joint Task Force Southern Spear in coordination with U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet, headquartered at Naval Station Mayport in Florida. Operations are expected to begin later this month.

In a statement, 4th Fleet officials described Southern Spear as a significant step in the Navy’s evolving Hybrid Fleet Campaign, which integrates robotic and autonomous systems with traditional naval forces.

“Southern Spear will operationalize a heterogeneous mix of Robotic and Autonomous Systems to support the detection and monitoring of illicit trafficking while learning lessons for other theaters,” said Cmdr. Foster Edwards, 4th Fleet’s Hybrid Fleet director. “This will help develop critical techniques and procedures for integrating RAS into the maritime environment.”

According to the Navy, the mission will deploy:

- Long-dwell robotic surface vessels designed for persistent ocean patrols.

- Small robotic interceptor boats capable of high-speed maneuvering.

- Vertical take-off and landing robotic aircraft for aerial surveillance.

The systems will operate alongside U.S. Coast Guard cutters at sea and feed intelligence into operations centers at 4th Fleet and the Joint Interagency Task Force South, which coordinates regional counter-narcotics missions.

Officials say the deployment will help determine the most effective combinations of unmanned vehicles and manned forces for coordinated operations — data that will shape Navy doctrine under Project 33, the service’s initiative to accelerate robotic integration into fleet missions.

“Operation Southern Spear is the next step in our Hybrid Fleet Campaign,” said Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet. “Hybrid Fleet operations increase our collaboration with partners in the region while advancing the Navy’s tactics, techniques, procedures, and processes.”

The announcement comes amid a growing military buildup in the southern Caribbean Sea of a size not seen in the region for decades.

The world’s largest and most technologically advanced aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, arrived in the Caribbean on Sunday. The Center for Strategic and International Studies estimates that the U.S. military now has more than a dozen vessels in the region, including eight warships, three amphibious ships and a nuclear-powered submarine.



# Trump says he made Venezuela decision

*Miami Herald*

President Donald Trump said Friday night he has already decided on his next steps toward Venezuela, offering his clearest indication yet that Washington is preparing new military actions against Nicolás Maduro's government as the United States dramatically expands its presence in the Caribbean.

"I sort of made up my mind," Trump told reporters when pressed about recent high-level meetings on Venezuela within his administration and the deployment of U.S. forces near the country's shores. Speaking briefly as he walked toward Air Force One before departing Washington for a weekend trip to Florida, the president declined to elaborate. "I can't say

what it will be," he added.

Trump's comments — captured in an audio recording by a reporter traveling with the press pool — came less than an hour after The Washington Post reported that he had met with Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and senior Pentagon officials on Friday. According to the paper, the discussions focused on "a series of options" to advance the administration's strategy against Venezuela, whose leadership U.S. officials increasingly accuse of turning the country into a narco-state.

Those accusations escalated in August, when U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi doubled the reward for Maduro's capture to \$50 million, calling him "one of the world's biggest drug traf-

fickers" and alleging he leads the regime-led Soles drug cartel. Bondi cited alleged collaboration between Maduro and criminal groups, including Venezuela's Tren de Aragua, Mexico's Sinaloa cartel and other transnational networks.

A senior U.S. official, speaking anonymously to The Post, said the American forces already positioned in the Caribbean are awaiting orders to "strike and respond" to new operations. The official said Trump prefers to maintain "strategic ambiguity," withholding clear signals about timing or targets to keep adversaries off balance.

Concerns about a looming escalation intensified Friday after Doral, Fla.-based U.S. Southern

Command posted a video on X showing the destruction of another vessel in the Caribbean, saying four alleged drug traffickers on board had been killed. Since Thursday, the administration has begun referring to the mission as Operation Southern Spear — a campaign Hegseth says is designed to block narcotics shipments bound for the United States.

Even ahead of the announcement, the U.S. Navy had already surged unprecedented firepower into the region. The USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest and most advanced aircraft carrier, arrived in the Caribbean Sea on Sunday, expanding what officials describe as the largest U.S. military presence in the Caribbean in decades.

## Likely Haitian gang shot at Marines at US Embassy

*Associated Press*

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti — A group of suspected Haitian gang members fired this week on American forces protecting the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, a spokesman said Saturday, in an incident that highlighted the tense security situation in the Caribbean nation.

Capt. Steven J. Keenan, a spokesman for the U.S. Marines, wrote in an email that the shooting, which came to light this weekend, happened Thursday, adding that the Marines returned fire. No Marines were hurt in the attack.

Haitian police were not immediately available to comment on the exchange of fire.

Gangs control 90% of Haiti's capital, where they extort businesses and fight for territory, using heavy weaponry.

The United States continues to operate an embassy in Haiti,

but in recent years the State Department has issued numerous warnings telling Americans not to travel there, due to the risk of kidnappings, crimes, terrorist activity and civil unrest.

According to the United Nations, gang violence has displaced more than 1.3 million Haitians from their homes in recent years.

Security in the nation of nearly 12 million people has deteriorated rapidly since 2021, when President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in his home by mercenaries.

The president's murder has generated a power vacuum that politicians in the nation have struggled to fill, and no elections have been held to replace Moise.

In September, the United Nations Security Council voted to create a gang suppression force that will be deployed to Haiti.

## Department of War signs are installed at Pentagon

**BY JOHN VANDIVER**

*Stars and Stripes*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth fastened the final screw into a new Department of War plaque at the Pentagon's main entrance for visiting VIPs Thursday, marking the latest effort to cement a name change that still requires congressional backing.

The new signage replaced previous Defense Department plaques that had been on the building for around 70 years, Hegseth said.

The White House seeks to have the agency use a name that was used by what is now the Department of the Army from 1789 to 1947.

"We want everybody who comes through this door to know that we are deadly serious about the name change of this organization," Hegseth said.

Each of the two new bronze

plaques installed Thursday weighs about 60 pounds and is roughly 30 by 20 inches, the Pentagon said. One was placed at the grand entrance facing the Potomac River, the other at the building's National Mall entrance.

But because official redesignation requires an act of Congress, Republicans on Capitol Hill are taking steps to make Department of War the formal name of the U.S. government's largest organization.

In September, Sen. Mike Lee of Utah introduced legislation to begin the process. Rep. Greg Steube of Florida has brought similar legislation in the House.

It's unclear when action will be taken on the bills, which Democrats have said they oppose.

The new name is now used in official department releases, and war.gov also replaced defense.gov.



# FAA takes first steps to restore flights

Associated Press

The Federal Aviation Administration on Friday halved the number of flights that U.S. airlines must cut from their schedules at 40 airports as the country's aviation system recovers from a shortage of air traffic controllers during the government shutdown.

The agency said airlines would only have to cancel 3% of their flights beginning at 6 a.m. Saturday instead of 6%. Citing safety concerns, the FAA first ordered flights reduced at the busy airports on Nov. 7 as absences mounted at air traffic facilities and airport towers. Controllers were among the federal employees who were required

to work while going unpaid during the shutdown.

Cancellations peaked last Sunday at nearly 3,000 flights, about 10% of the ones scheduled, as a result of the FAA order combined with continued controller shortages and bad weather in parts of the country. The numbers started to improve as the week went on and more controllers returned to work amid news of a possible shutdown deal in Congress, prompting the FAA to pause plans for further increases.

The rollback comes amid improved staffing levels after the 43-day shutdown ended Wednesday night, the FAA and Department of Transportation

said, adding that they will continue to monitor the situation throughout the weekend and evaluate when normal operations can resume.

Before the FAA released its updated guidance, airlines already seemed to be anticipating a change. Despite the restrictions still in place, just 2% of flights scheduled to depart Friday from the U.S. were canceled, according to the aviation analytics firm Cirium. By Friday evening, the flight-tracking site FlightAware was showing 273 cancellations for Saturday.

The unprecedented order started with 4% cuts that later grew to 6%, leading to the cancellation of more than 11,800

flights between Nov. 7 and Friday.

How long it will take for the aviation system to stabilize is unclear. The flight restrictions upended airline operations in just a matter of days. Many planes were rerouted and aren't where they're supposed to be. Airlines for America, the trade group of U.S. airlines, warned there could be residual effects for days.

Some experts predicted the problems could linger longer. But airline executives were optimistic that flying could quickly rebound ahead of the busy Thanksgiving travel week once the FAA order to cut flights is lifted.

## Trump scraps tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruit, more

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Friday that he was scrapping U.S. tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruits and a broad swath of other commodities — a dramatic move that comes amid mounting pressure on his administration to better combat high consumer prices.

Trump has built his second term around imposing steep levies on goods imported into the U.S. in hopes of encouraging do-

mestic production and lifting the U.S. economy. His abrupt retreat from his signature tariff policy on so many staples key to the American diet is significant, and it comes after voters in off-year elections this month cited economic concerns as their top issue, resulting in big wins for Democrats in Virginia, New Jersey and other key races around the country.

"We just did a little bit of a rollback on some foods like coffee," Trump said aboard Air

Force One as he flew to Florida hours after the tariff announcement was made.

Pressed on his tariffs helping to increase consumer prices, Trump acknowledged, "I say they may, in some cases."

Meanwhile, inflation — despite Trump's pronouncements that it has vanished since he took office in January — remains elevated, further increasing pressure on U.S. consumers.

The Trump administration has insisted that its tariffs had

helped fill government coffers and weren't a major factor in higher prices at grocery stores around the country. But Democrats were quick to paint the move as an acknowledgment that Trump's policies were hurting American pocketbooks.

Trump slapped tariffs on most countries around the globe in April. He and his administration still say that tariffs don't increase consumer prices, despite economic evidence to the contrary.

## Border Patrol commander touts arrests in Charlotte surge

Associated Press

A top Border Patrol commander touted dozens of arrests in North Carolina's largest city on Sunday as Charlotte residents reported encounters with federal immigration agents near churches and apartment complexes.

The Trump administration has made the Democratic city of about 950,000 people its latest target for an immigration enforcement surge it says will

combat crime, despite fierce objections from local leaders and down trending crime rates.

Gregory Bovino, who led hundreds of U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents on a similar operation in Chicago, took to social media to document some of the arrests he said had reached more than 80. He posted pictures of people the Trump administration commonly dubs "criminal illegal aliens," for people living in the U.S. without

legal permission who have alleged criminal records. That included one of a man with an alleged history of drunken driving convictions.

The effort was dubbed "Operation Charlotte's Web" as a play on the title of a famous children's book that isn't about North Carolina. But the flurry of activity immediately raised questions, including where detainees would be held, how long the operation would run and

what agents' tactics that have been heavily criticized elsewhere would look like in North Carolina.

Bovino's operations in Chicago and Los Angeles triggered a flurry of lawsuits and investigations over questions about use of force, including wide deployment of chemical agents. Democratic leaders in both cities said that agents' presence inflamed community tensions and led to violence.



# Iranian official: Uranium enriching halted

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's foreign minister on Sunday said that Tehran is no longer enriching uranium at any site in the country.

Answering a question from an Associated Press journalist visiting Iran, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi offered the most direct response yet from the Iranian government regarding its nuclear program following Israel and the United States' bombing of its enrichment sites in June during its 12-day war.

"There is no undeclared nuclear enrichment in Iran. All of our facilities are under the safeguards and monitoring" of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Araghchi said. "There is no enrichment right now because our facilities — our enrichment facilities — have been attacked."

Asked what it would take for Iran to continue negotiations with the U.S. and others, Araghchi said that Iran's message on its nuclear program remains "clear."

"Iran's right for enrichment,

for peaceful use of nuclear technology, including enrichment, is undeniable," the foreign minister continued. "We have this right and we continue to exercise that and we hope that the international community, including the United States, recognize our rights and understand that this is an inalienable right of Iran and we would never give up our rights."

Iran's government issued a three-day visa for the AP reporter to attend a summit alongside other journalists

from major British outlets and other media.

Iran's Institute for Political and International Studies, affiliated with the country's Foreign Ministry, hosted the summit. Titled "International Law Under Assault: Aggression and Self-Defense," the conference included papers by Iranian political analysts offering Tehran's view of the 12-day war in June, many seizing on comments from German Chancellor Friedrich Merz praising Israel for having done the "dirty work" in launching its attack.

## Congo, M23 rebels agree to peace deal framework

Associated Press

GOMA, Congo — Congo and Rwanda-backed rebel group M23 on Saturday signed a framework agreement for a peace deal, the latest step in the so far unsuccessful efforts to end the decades-long conflict in eastern Congo.

Earlier this year, M23 seized Goma and Bukavu, two key cities in eastern Congo, in a major escalation of the conflict.

Backed by neighboring Rwanda, M23 is the most prominent of more than 100 armed groups fighting for control in Congo's mineral-rich east. With 7 million people displaced, the conflict in Congo has been described by the U.N. as "one of the most protracted, complex, serious humanitarian crises on Earth."

The agreement signed in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday, following mediation by Qatar and the United States, is not yet a final peace agreement, but rather a framework outlining the measures required to reach one, the head of the M23 delegation, Benjamin Mbonimpa, said in a video posted on X.

"There will be neither any change in the situation on the

ground, nor any activity whatsoever, until the measures are debated, negotiated and discussed one by one and a final peace agreement is reached," Mbonimpa said.

The Congolese government said in a statement the framework agreement signed on Saturday includes eight measures that serve as a basis for a peace deal. Two of the measures — agreements on the release of prisoners and the creation of a ceasefire oversight body — were already signed in September and October.

The six other measures, which in part include the restoration of state authority in rebel-controlled areas, humanitarian access, and the resettlement of refugees, will be subject to discussion and negotiation in the next two weeks, the Congolese government said.

Qatar has hosted multiple rounds of talks since April between the Congo and M23, mainly to set preconditions for a peace deal and agree on confidence-building steps, but both sides still accuse each other of violating peace terms and fighting has continued.

## Finnish president says Ukraine ceasefire unlikely

Associated Press

HALVALA, Finland — A ceasefire in Ukraine is unlikely before the spring and European allies need to keep up support despite a corruption scandal that has engulfed Kyiv, President Alexander Stubb of Finland told The Associated Press.

Europe, meanwhile, will require "sisu," a Finnish word meaning endurance, resilience and grit, to get through the winter months, he said, as Russia continues its hybrid attacks and information war across the continent.

Stubb also needs that quality as one of the key European interlocutors between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. As the leader of one of Europe's smaller countries, but one that shares a 830-mile border with Russia, he is well aware of what's at stake.

In the 1940s, after two wars with Russia, Finland lost about 10% of its territory to Moscow and agreed to become militarily neutral. But Finland's losses were much less than they could have been as Finnish troops displayed "sisu" and inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet army,

despite being vastly outnumbered.

Finland's neutral stance only reversed after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, when the Finns joined NATO. Stubb leverages his good relationship with Trump — the two men have played golf together and speak regularly — to argue the case for Ukraine.

Stubb told AP on Saturday at a military base north of the capital Helsinki that Zelenskyy must deal quickly with allegations of kickbacks and embezzlement, saying the scandal plays into the hands of Russia. Nonetheless, he urged European leaders to look at boosting financial and military support for Kyiv, which is also facing creeping gains by Russia on the battlefield.

"I'm not very optimistic about achieving a ceasefire or the beginning of peace negotiations, at least this year," Stubb said, adding it would be good to "get something going" by March.

The three big questions on the road to a ceasefire are security guarantees for Ukraine, rebuilding its economy and coming to some sort of understanding about territorial claims, he said.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Trio charged in stuffed animal thefts, vandalism

**NY** NEW YORK — A trio of New Jersey men have been arrested following a vandalism spree at a New York amusement park that involved slashing cables, stealing stuffed animals and a rowboat escape, police said.

The men — a 20-year-old and two 19-year-olds — have all surrendered in recent days to Westchester County police for their role in the Sept. 23 break-in at Rye Playland, which caused an estimated \$57,000 in damages.

Police said the three friends arrived at the waterfront park before midnight on a small boat they had apparently taken from a marina in Connecticut. After jumping a fence, they ripped out fiber optic cables from an electrical room and made off with 200 stuffed animals in garbage bags, police said.

They also “attempted to throw a photo booth off the boardwalk but were unable to do so,” according to a police account, which was also backed up by surveillance images shared on social media.

The men then boarded the boat and returned it to the Connecticut marina, police said.

The suspects face felony burglary and criminal mischief charges.

### Former House speaker indicted in artifact theft

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — A grand jury last week indicted former Louisiana House Speaker Clay Schexnayder for felony theft and malfeasance in office for allegedly stealing a rare artifact that had

gone missing from the state capitol in Baton Rouge.

Schexnayder allegedly stole an ancient cypress board worth more than \$25,000 that had been on display in the Louisiana state Capitol building for decades. The felony theft charge can carry a sentence of up to 20 years or a \$50,000 fine.

The Times Picayune-Advocate reported in September that Schexnayder had taken the board from the capitol more than a decade ago to display in his legislative office in Gonzales. Schexnayder told The Times Picayune-Advocate that he had received permission to take the board, an account that other state officials rejected.

### Former aide to governor indicted in fund theft

**CA** SACRAMENTO — A former top aide to California Gov. Gavin Newsom has been indicted on federal charges alleging her involvement in a scheme to steal campaign money from former federal Health Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Dana Williamson was arrested and appeared in court last week in Sacramento. She pleaded not guilty to all charges, and a judge ordered her released from custody.

The federal indictment lists four co-conspirators. It alleges that Williamson developed a plan with Sean McCluskie, a longtime Becerra aide, to siphon money from one of Becerra’s dormant state campaign accounts to give to McCluskie to pad his salary after he accepted a job as his chief of staff in Washington.

McCluskie signed a plea agreement Oct. 30 in which he

admitted to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and wire fraud, according to court filings. He agreed to pay back the \$225,000 he took from the account.

### Lawmakers lose raise, \$1,000 a month in pay

**SC** COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers improperly gave themselves a \$1,500 monthly raise, the state Supreme Court ruled last week in a unanimous decision that will end up cutting legislators’ pay by thousands of dollars.

The justices said the “in-district compensation” qualifies as salary, meaning the increase can’t take effect until after the 2026 election. The General Assembly had made the raises immediate through a budget item earlier this year.

The ruling also eliminates a \$1,000 monthly expense payment that all 46 senators and 124 House members receive, reducing their paychecks until legislators approve a new proposal.

### Judge: Charges stand against Rep. McIver

**NJ** TRENTON — A federal judge on Thursday denied Democratic Rep. LaMonica McIver’s motions to toss out a prosecution against her stemming from a visit to an immigration detention center this year.

U.S. District Judge Jamel Semper also said he would reserve judgment on one of the New Jersey congresswoman’s motions to toss the case brought by acting U.S. Attorney Alina Habba, who was President Donald Trump’s former personal

attorney.

McIver sought to dismiss the case against her on the grounds that her May 9 visit to Newark’s Delaney Hall immigration detention center in May was protected on the grounds of constitutional legislative immunity as well as selective and vindictive prosecution.

Semper wrote that the congresswoman failed to show the prosecution was vindictive and that her actions were “wholly disconnected” from the oversight she was conducting as a member of Congress.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement uses the privately owned, 1,000-bed facility as a detention center.

### Maui deploys water tanks to help with fighting fires

**HI** HONOLULU — Two beige water tanks blend into the dull gray blanket of highly flammable invasive grasses covering a property on the other side of Honoapiilani Highway from Maalaea Harbor.

The state Department of Land and Natural Resources recently installed a 30,000-gallon storage tank and 10,000-gallon helicopter dip tank in South Maui — the first of several to be placed around the island to improve firefighting capabilities, according to Lance DeSilva, the department’s forest management supervisor on Maui.

County and state employees are planning to put the tanks in 10 to 15 locations prone to wildfires or that lack accessible water sources so that helicopters responding to future wildfires will have access to water to attack flames from the air, he said.

— From wire reports

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# Oklahoma defense leads upset of Alabama

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Oklahoma's playmaking defense traveled great again Saturday, this time coming up with 17 points off three turnovers to shovel more chaos into the Southeastern Conference and the College Football Playoff pictures with a 23-21 upset of Alabama.

The 11th-ranked Sooners (8-2, 4-2 SEC, No. 11 CFP) backed up their win two weeks ago at Tennessee with an even bigger shocker — this time taking down the fourth-ranked Crimson Tide (8-2, 6-1, No. 4 CFP).

Eli Bowen returned an interception 87 yards for a touchdown, Kip Lewis had two sacks and OU snapped 'Bama's 17-game home winning streak while handing its second-year coach, Kalen DeBoer, his first loss at Bryant-Denny Stadium. The Tide had won eight in a row overall since getting blown out at Florida State in its opener.

**No. 1 Ohio State 48, UCLA 10:** James Peoples scored two touchdowns, Lorenzo Styles Jr. had a 100-yard kickoff return and the host Buckeyes rolled to a victory over the Bruins.

Ohio State (10-0, 7-0 Big Ten) scored on its first five possessions against a UCLA squad that was without quarterback Nico Iamaleava, who missed the game due to a concussion.

**No. 2 Indiana 31, Wisconsin 7:** Fernando Mendoza completed 91.7% of his passes for 299 yards and four touchdowns as the host Hoosiers took another step toward clinching a spot in their first Big Ten title game and likely a second straight playoff berth with a victory over the Badgers.

Mendoza spent some time in the injury tent during the fourth quarter, but returned on the next Indiana series to throw his school-record-breaking 30th TD of the season — a 5-yarder to Omar Cooper Jr. Mendoza continued to make his

Heisman Trophy case by going 22 of 24 despite being sacked five times.

**No. 3 Texas A&M 31, South Carolina 30:** Marcel Reed threw for a career-high 439 yards and three touchdowns and the host Aggies rallied from a 27-point deficit to remain undefeated with a victory over the Gamecocks.

Reed bounced back from an awful first half where he was intercepted twice and had a fumble returned for a score to put Texas A&M in a 30-3 hole with a dazzling second half to keep the Aggies on track for their first CFP berth.

**No. 5 Georgia 35, No. 10 Texas 10:** Gunner Stockton threw four touchdown passes — two to Noah Thomas — and ran for a score to outplay Arch Manning as the host Bulldogs strengthened their postseason standing by overwhelming the Longhorns for their sixth straight victory.

After Texas trimmed Georgia's lead to 14-10 in the third quarter, Stockton's 30-yard touchdown pass to London Humphreys, followed by a successful onside kick, allowed the Bulldogs to put the game away. Stockton's 6-yard scoring pass to Lawson Luckie following the recovery of the kick iced the win. Stockton added a 4-yard scoring run late in the game.

**No. 6 Mississippi 34, Florida 24:** Kewan Lacy rushed for 224 yards and three touchdowns, including the go-ahead score on the first play of the fourth quarter, and the host Rebels rallied past the Gators.

Mississippi (10-1, 6-1 Southeastern Conference, No. 7 CFP) finally put Florida away with 1:43 left on Lacy's 31st and final carry, a 4-yard touchdown. The Rebels took over on downs after the Gators went for it on fourth-and-9 at their own 4, and Sage Ryan broke up D.J. Lagway's desperation heave at midfield.

**No. 8 Texas Tech 48, UCF 9:**

Linebacker Jacob Rodriguez struck the Heisman Trophy pose again after the first offensive touchdown of his career, Reggie Virgil scored three times and the host Red Raiders routed the Knights.

Texas Tech (10-1, 7-1 Big 12, No. 6 CFP) stayed on track for a shot at their first Big 12 championship in their regular-season home finale, reaching 10 victories for the first time since going 11-2 under the late Mike Leach in 2008.

**No. 9 Notre Dame 37, No. 23 Pittsburgh 15:** Jeremiyah Love ran for 147 yards and a score, Malachi Fields hauled in a pair of touchdown passes and the visiting Fighting Irish breezed past the Panthers.

Notre Dame has won eight straight games by an average of 26 points since its 0-2 start. The Irish likely need to merely avoid upset bids by Syracuse or Stanford to end the season to secure a spot in the College Football Playoff.

**No. 12 BYU 44, TCU 13:** Bear Bachmeier threw for 296 yards and a touchdown to lead the host Cougars to a victory over the Horned Frogs.

Parker Kingston added 80 yards on five catches. LJ Martin led BYU (9-1, 6-1 Big 12, No. 12 CFP) with 88 yards and a touchdown on the ground. The Cougars scored on their first seven drives and did not punt until the fourth quarter.

**No. 14 Georgia Tech 36, Boston College 34:** Aidan Birr kicked a 23-yard field goal with 11 seconds left and the visiting Yellow Jackets rallied for a victory over the Eagles to remain tied for first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Haynes King completed 26 of 34 passes for 371 yards and a touchdown as Georgia Tech (9-1, 6-1, No. 16 CFP) stayed even with No. 20 Virginia (No. 19 CFP) atop the league standings.

**No. 15 Utah 55, Baylor 28:** Utes true freshman quarter-

back Byrd Ficklin had touchdown runs of 67 and 74 yards, Elijah Davis returned an interception 65 yards for a score and visiting Utah beat the Bears for its third consecutive win.

**No. 16 Miami 41, N.C. State 7:** Carson Beck passed for 291 yards and three touchdowns, two of them to Malachi Toney, and the host Hurricanes — looking to climb in the College Football Playoff rankings — rolled past the Wolfpack.

**No. 17 Southern Cal 26, Iowa 21:** Makai Lemon made 10 catches for 153 yards and a second-half touchdown, and the host Trojans scored 19 unanswered points to keep their College Football Playoff hopes alive with a victory over the Hawkeyes.

**No. 18 Michigan 24, Northwestern 22:** Dominic Zvada kicked a 31-yard field goal as time expired, Jordan Marshall ran for 142 yards and two touchdowns before exiting with an injury and the visiting Wolverines stayed in the playoff chase by beating the Wildcats.

**No. 20 Virginia 34, Duke 17:** Chandler Morris passed for 316 yards and two touchdowns, J'Mari Taylor ran for 133 yards and two scores on 18 carries, and the visiting Cavaliers kept their conference title hopes intact with a victory over the Blue Devils.

**No. 21 Tennessee 42, New Mexico State 9:** Joey Aguilar threw for 204 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score to lead the host Volunteers over the Aggies.

**Arizona 30, No. 22 Cincinnati 24:** Noah Fifita passed for 294 yards and a touchdown to become the Wildcats' all-time leader in TD passes as visiting Arizona beat the Bearcats.

**No. 24 James Madison 58, Appalachian State 10:** Jobi Malary rushed for 105 yards and three touchdowns as the host Dukes extended their winning streak to eight games with a win over the Mountaineers.



# Heidenreich sets Navy receiving record in win

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Eli Heidenreich caught five passes for 146 yards and became Navy's all-time receiving yards leader, quarterback Braxton Woodson ran for 103 yards and two touchdowns in the fourth quarter in relief of the cramping Blake Horvath and the Midshipmen defeated No. 25 South Florida 41-38 on Saturday.

Alex Tecza carried 12 times for 126 yards, including an early 76-yard score, and caught Horvath's lone touchdown pass as Navy (8-2, 6-1 American Athletic Conference) secured a half-game lead in the conference.

Heidenreich has 1,794 career receiving yards and moved past Rob Thompson's 1,736, compiled from 1965-

67. "It was a really special feeling," Heidenreich, a senior, said after his class' final regular-season home game. "To be able to go out and perform like that on a day for them, really. ... To be able to do it in that manner was really cool."

South Florida's Byrum Brown threw for 327 yards and two touchdowns, and ran for 136 yards and two more scores — including a 60-yard keeper on a draw. He helped the Bulls (7-3, 4-2) score 22 points in the fourth quarter, but they still lost their second consecutive road game — as well as ground in the race to reach the conference title game.

"To go and play on the road against a really good

football team in-conference, you've got to play great football. At times we did, at times we didn't," South Florida coach Alex Golesh said.

"We got outplayed at some critical times."

After Heidenreich's earlier career-long 82-yard catch of a pass from Horvath set up Brandon Chatman's 4-yard touchdown run to make it 14-3 at the end of the first quarter, his 32-yard catch from Woodson was a crucial moment during an eight-play, 75-yard scoring drive that ended with Woodson's 20-yard scoring run to make it 34-24.

On Navy's next possession, Woodson ran 64 yards for the Midshipmen's third play of 60 or more yards to make it 41-30. On his last run,

Woodson picked up a gritty 9 yards to pick up a crucial first down and virtually seal the win.

"It was just a very emotional first down, because I knew we needed that to close out the game," Woodson said.

## The takeaway

After another big home win put the Bulls back in the Top 25 for the fifth time this season, South Florida may fall back.

## 60-plus

Navy now has 10 plays of 60 or more yards this season. It entered the weekend tied for the FBS lead in that category with Air Force, Old Dominion, Texas-San Antonio and Texas State.

# Mitchell scores 30 points as Cavs rally over Grizzlies

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter over four minutes, to rally the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 108-100 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Saturday.

Evan Mobley had 22 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland, which used a 17-2 run to seize a 103-92 lead with 3:36 remaining. The Cavaliers outscored Memphis 32-16 in the fourth after trailing by double digits for much of the middle periods.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 26 points and tied his career high with 12 free throws made, but shot just 6 of 23 from the field for the Grizzlies. Zach Edey had 13 points and seven rebounds in his season debut following left ankle surgery on June 7.

Memphis point guard Ja Morant scored seven points in six minutes before exiting with right calf soreness. He missed

the previous game Wednesday in Boston with a sore right ankle.

**Thunder 109, Hornets 96:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points and Chet Holmgren added 25 as defending champion Oklahoma City used a big third quarter to beat host Charlotte for its fifth straight win.

Ajay Mitchell scored 14 points for the Thunder, who have won 23 consecutive games against Eastern Conference opponents and are 22-2 in their last 24 road contests. Isaiah Hartenstein had 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Cason Wallace scored 10 points.

Miles Bridges scored 15 points and Ryan Kalkbrenner, Collin Sexton and Moussa Diabate had 13 points apiece for the Hornets. Charlotte played without Brandon Miller (shoulder subluxation) and LaMelo Ball, who sat out the second game of a back-to-back after returning from an ankle im-

pingement Friday night in Milwaukee.

**Raptors 129, Pacers 111:** RJ Barrett and Jakob Poeltl each scored 22 points and Toronto wrapped up a successful five-game road trip with a victory over Indiana.

Barrett made 9 of 17 shots with three 3-pointers for the Raptors, who won four games on the trip and improved to 6-3 on the road, 8-5 overall. Poeltl made eight of nine shots and had nine rebounds, but was just 6 of 14 at the line.

Toronto had seven double-digit scorers. Brandon Ingram added 19. Scottie Barnes had 14 points, 11 rebounds and six assists.

**Lakers 119, Bucks 95:** Luka Doncic had 41 points and nine rebounds, Austin Reaves added 25 points and eight assists, and visiting Los Angeles beat Milwaukee.

Deandre Ayton had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 10 rebounds, AJ Green scored 15 points and Gary Trent Jr. added 13 for the Bucks (8-6), who couldn't overcome ice-cold first-half shooting and ended with a season-low point total.

**Nuggets 123, Timberwolves 112:** Tim Hardaway Jr. and Nikola Jokic led visiting Denver over Minnesota for its seventh straight victory.

The Nuggets were missing both of their starting forwards, Christian Braun (left ankle sprain) and Cam Johnson (right biceps strain), who were both injured during Denver's win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday. Braun is expected to be sidelined at least six weeks.

The Northwest Division rivals have met in the playoffs twice in the last three years. The Timberwolves swept the regular-season series last year, but the Nuggets have won both meetings this season.



# Lightning top Panthers on Finley's 1st goal

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Jack Finley scored his first NHL goal early in the third period to break a tie and the Tampa Bay Lightning held on to beat the Florida Panthers 3-1 on Saturday night.

Emil Lilleberg and Zemgus Girgenons also scored for the Lightning. They improved to 8-2-0 in their last 10 games and 5-2-2 on the road.

Brad Marchand scored his team-leading 12th goal of the season for the Panthers, a power-play tally midway through the second period that tied it at 1.

But Finley picked up a loose puck near the blue line and skated in alone on goalie Sergei Bobrovsky for what became the go-ahead goal 4:09 into the third. Girgenons sealed it with an empty-netter with 50.3 seconds remaining.

**Jets 4, Flames 3 (SO):** Gabriel Vilardi scored the lone goal in a shootout to give Winnipeg a road victory over Calgary.

Connor Hellebuyck made 31 saves in regulation and overtime, then faced three shooters in the tiebreaker without allowing a goal before Vilardi ended it. Hellebuyck tied Harry Lumley for 30th on the NHL victory list with 330.

Winnipeg finished 2-4-0 on a six-game trip. At 5-12-3, Calgary is last overall in the NHL.

**Stars 5, Flyers 1:** Jason Ro-

bertson's natural hat trick gave him consecutive multigoal games, and host Dallas beat Philadelphia for its fifth victory in a row.

Robertson scored twice in the second period and on a third-period power play, giving him three straight three-point games. It was his sixth career hat trick, with one coming in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Roope Hintz assisted on all three of Robertson's goals.

**Kings 1, Senators 0:** Anton Forsberg made 17 saves in his Ottawa return for his first shutout of the season, Alex Laferriere scored in the first period and visiting Los Angeles beat the Senators.

Forsberg was playing his first game against Ottawa after spending parts of five seasons with the Senators. The Kings have opened a four-game trip with four victories to improve to 10-5-4. They extended their road points streak to 10.

Ottawa dropped to 9-6-4, now hits the road for seven games.

**Blackhawks 3, Maple Leafs 2:** Colton Dach scored the tie-breaking goal late in the third period, and host Chicago beat Toronto.

Ryan Greene and Teuvo Teravainen also scored for the Blackhawks, who won for the fourth time in five games and extended their point streak to 4-0-1.

Nicholas Robertson and Morgan Reilly scored for the Maple Leafs in their fifth straight loss (0-4-1).

**Kraken 4, Sharks 1:** Philipp Grubauer stopped all 19 shots he faced in relief of injured Matt Murray, and host Seattle got two goals from Jaden Schwartz to help beat San Jose.

Adam Larsson and Eeli Tolvanen scored 38 seconds apart late in the second period to give the Kraken a 3-1 lead.

**Wild 2, Ducks 0:** Wild backup Jesper Wallstedt made 28 saves for his second straight shutout and host Minnesota beat Anaheim.

Wallstedt extended his shutout streak to 141:09 after beating Calgary 2-0 on Sunday night.

**Bruins 3, Canadiens 2:** Jeremy Swayman stopped 26 shots for his fifth consecutive victory and visiting Boston overcame the loss of defenseman Charlie McAvoy to a mouth injury to beat Montreal.

The Bruins improved to 12-8-0, winning for the eighth time in nine games.

**Devils 3, Capitals 2 (SO):** Luke Hughes had a goal and assist and Simon Nemec had the shootout winner as visiting New Jersey beat Washington.

The Capitals have lost eight of their last 10 and remain at the bottom of the division standings.

**Golden Knights 4, Blues 1:** Braeden Bowman scored his first NHL goal and got his first assist, and Vegas snapped a four-game losing streak with a road win over St. Louis.

Brandon Saad, Noah Hanifin and Tomas Hertl also scored for the Golden Knights while Akira Schmid stopped 22 shots.

**Sabres 5, Red Wings 4 (OT):** Mattias Samuelsson scored at 1:05 of overtime as visiting Buffalo rallied from a three-goal deficit to snap a five-game losing streak with a win over Detroit.

Josh Doan also had a goal and an assist as the Sabres got their first road win this season. Buffalo had gone 0-5-2 in road games as the only team not to have a road victory.

**Rangers 1, Blue Jackets 1 (SO):** J.T. Miller and Vincent Trocheck scored in the shootout to give New York its NHL-leading ninth road win.

The Rangers have won three straight overall and six in a row on the road.

**Oilers 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT):** Leon Draisaitl scored 19 seconds into overtime to give Edmonton a road win against Carolina.

Connor McDavid scored twice, Jack Roslovic added a goal and Draisaitl had two assists for the Oilers. Stuart Skinner stopped 33 shots in Edmonton's third win in four games.

## Dolphins use interception to set up winning FG in OT

Associated Press

MADRID — The Miami Dolphins edged the Washington Commanders in overtime in the first NFL regular-season game in Spain on Sunday, keeping the momentum after their win over Buffalo at home last week.

Jack Jones intercepted Marcus Mariota on the first offensive play of overtime and Riley Patterson kicked a 29-yard field goal to give the Dolphins a 16-13 victory at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The Commanders (3-8) had a chance to win with 15 seconds left in regulation, but

Matt Gay's 56-yard field goal attempt sailed wide right.

Miami (4-7) was twice stopped on fourth-and-goal, including inside the final two minutes after recovering the ball on an earlier muffed punt return by Washington. The muff came after the Commanders were stopped on fourth-and-goal the other way.

It was the seventh — and final — international game this season, the most in one year for the NFL as it continues to expand globally.

Mariota had to temporarily leave near the end of the third quarter to be evaluated for a concussion. He went down awkwardly

while throwing the ball away in his own end zone. He eventually cleared concussion protocol and was able to return.

Washington, still without injured quarterback Jayden Daniels, has lost six straight, including 44-22 to the Detroit Lions at home last week, while the Dolphins were coming off a commanding 30-13 victory over the Bills.

"It's a great team victory," Miami quarterback Tua Tagovailoa said. "All wins are good and we are going to carry this momentum along through our bye week and hopefully take it to our next game."