

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, October 6, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## US halts some exercises with Arab allies

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. military has halted some exercises with its Gulf Arab allies over the ongoing diplomatic crisis targeting Qatar, trying to use its influence to end the monthslong dispute, authorities told The Associated Press on Friday.

While offering few details, the acknowledgement by the U.S. military's Central Command shows the concern it has over the conflict gripping the Gulf, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet and crucial bases for its campaign against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, as well as the war in Afghanistan.

The Qatar crisis began June 5, when Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates launched an economic boycott while closing off the en-

ergy-rich nation's land border and its air and sea routes. The quartet of Arab nations pointed to Qatar's alleged support of extremists and overly warm ties to Iran. Qatar long has denied supporting extremists and shares a massive offshore natural gas field with Tehran that makes its citizens have the highest per-capita income in the world.

Initially, U.S. military officials said the boycott and dispute had no impact on their operations. Qatar is home to the massive al-Udeid Air Base, the forward headquarters of Central Command, which oversees the U.S.-led coalition's bombing campaign of ISIS and manages a direct line to Russia to manage Syria's crowded skies.

But as the dispute went on, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis traveled to Doha to offer his

support. The Trump administration also agreed to an in-the-works sale of F-15 fighter jets to Qatar for \$12 billion.

Responding to queries from the AP, Air Force Col. John Thomas, a Central Command spokesman, acknowledged it would be cutting back on the exercises.

"We are opting out of some military exercises out of respect for the concept of inclusiveness and shared regional interests," Thomas said in a statement. "We will continue to encourage all partners to work together toward the sort of common solutions that enable security and stability in the region."

Officials in Qatar did not immediately respond to a request for comment, while the boycotting nations have not acknowledged the disruption in military

exercises with the U.S.

The Qatar diplomatic crisis has torn apart the typically clubby Gulf Cooperation Council, a regional Arab bloc created in part as a counterbalance to Iran. The U.S. military holds exercises in part to build the confidence of local forces, many of which use American-made equipment.

Among the exercises likely to be affected is Eagle Resolve, an annual exercise held since 1999 that has GCC countries send forces alongside Americans to simulate working as a multinational force in battle. This year's Eagle Resolve exercise, held in Kuwait in March, involved 1,000 U.S. troops.

U.S. and Gulf allies also regularly have held joint, smaller-scale exercises in the region.

## Bergdahl expected to plead guilty, avoid trial

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was held captive by the Taliban for half a decade after abandoning his Afghanistan post, is expected to plead guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, two individuals with knowledge of the case said.

Bergdahl's decision to plead guilty rather than face trial marks another twist in an eight-year drama that caused the nation to wrestle with difficult questions of loyalty, negotiating with hostage takers and America's commitment not to leave its troops behind. President Donald Trump has called Bergdahl a "no-good traitor" who "should have been executed."

The decision by the 31-year-old Idaho native leaves open

whether he will return to captivity for years — this time in a U.S. prison — or receive a lesser sentence that reflects the time the Taliban held him under brutal conditions. He says he had been caged, kept in darkness, beaten and chained to a bed.

Bergdahl could face up to five years on the desertion charge and a life sentence for misbehavior.

Freed three years ago, Bergdahl had been scheduled for trial in late October. He had opted to let a judge rather than a military jury decide his fate, but a guilty plea later this month will spare the need for a trial.

Sentencing will start on Oct. 23, according to the individuals with knowledge of the case. They weren't authorized to dis-

cuss the case and demanded anonymity. During sentencing, U.S. troops who were seriously wounded searching for Bergdahl in Afghanistan are expected to testify, the individuals said.

It was unclear whether prosecutors and Bergdahl's defense team had reached any agreement ahead of sentencing about how severe a penalty prosecutors will recommend.

An attorney for Bergdahl, Eugene Fidell, declined to comment on Friday.

Maj. Justin Oshana, who is prosecuting the case, referred questions to the U.S. Army, which declined to discuss whether Bergdahl had agreed to plead guilty.

"We continue to maintain careful respect for the military-judicial process, the rights of the accused and ensuring the

case's fairness and impartiality during this ongoing legal case," said Paul Boyce, an Army spokesman.

Bergdahl was a 23-year-old private first class in June 2009 when, after five months in Afghanistan, he disappeared from his remote infantry post near the Pakistan border, triggering a massive search operation.

Videos soon emerged showing Bergdahl in captivity by the Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan in the years before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and harbored al-Qaida leaders including Osama bin Laden as they plotted against America.

For years, the U.S. kept tabs on Bergdahl with drones, spies and satellites as behind-the-scenes negotiations played out in fits and starts.

# 3 Green Berets killed in Niger identified

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Three Army staff sergeants with the elite 3rd Special Forces Group were the American soldiers killed Wednesday when their patrol alongside local forces in Niger was ambushed by militants, the Pentagon announced Friday.

Staff Sgts. Bryan C. Black, Jeremiah W. Johnson and Dustin M. Wright, who were assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., died of wounds suffered in the surprise attack in the southwestern part of Niger near its border with Mali in West Africa, according to a Defense Department statement. Two other American soldiers were wounded in the attack and one partner-nation soldier was killed, defense officials said.

Since 2015, 3rd Special Forces Group has focused much of its operations on northern

and western Africa where they work hand-in-hand with partner nations to build their military capacity with the aim of promoting regional stability, according to the Army.

Black, 35, was a Special Forces medic from Puyallup, Wash., according to the Army. He initially enlisted in the Army in October 2009. His awards and decorations included the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Special Forces tab, the Ranger tab and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge for sharpshooter with rifle.

Johnson, 39, was a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist from Springboro, Ohio, according to the Army. He enlisted in the service in October 2007. His awards and decorations included two Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement, three

Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Ribbon and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge – Expert for pistol and rifle.

Wright, 29, was a Special Forces engineer from Lyons, Ga., according to the Army. He joined the Army in July 2012. His awards and decorations included the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Special Forces tab.

Wright, a 2007 graduate of Toombs County High School in southeast Georgia, had previously deployed to Africa, according to family members.

Ginger Russell, Wright's aunt, told the Southeast Georgia Today News that the family was shocked by the news of his death and has been left with "many questions."

"Dustin was the most lovable, funny jokester who never met a stranger and would give his last dime to help someone in need," she said, according to the local news website based in Vidalia, Ga. "He made the ultimate sacrifice. He is our hometown hero."

It remained unclear Friday what group launched the attack on the Green Berets and their Nigerien partners. Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, the director of the Joint Staff, said Thursday that the attack was under investigation and officials would not speculate on its nature.

McKenzie said it appeared to be the first time American forces had come under fire in Niger, where some 800 U.S. troops are deployed, according to U.S. Africa Command. Their primary mission is to support local forces fighting extremist groups including Boko Haram and al-Qaida in the Maghreb, who operate in the region.

## SIGAR more optimistic about Afghan troops, US role

By PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The watchdog for U.S. reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan says the responsiveness of the Trump administration has made him more optimistic than ever about the future of the country's security forces.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, who is known for blistering critiques that highlight projects that waste taxpayers' money, said in an interview Friday with Stars and Stripes that he was upbeat about ongoing international efforts to help Afghanistan's army and police force stand on their own.

"Yeah, I'm positive; I'm more optimistic about it," said John Sopko, who is visiting Kabul for 10 days.

He said his assessment was

the result of new policies and the officials currently involved in the Afghan mission, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson.

"They have tremendous experience here," Sopko said. "They understand what worked and what didn't in the past, and they are very receptive to being self-critical and saying we're not going to do that again."

When asked if he had ever felt as optimistic during his five years as inspector general, Sopko replied: "I have not. But, I'm like Ronald Reagan: Trust, but verify. It's my job to go in and verify that optimism."

He acknowledges there's still a long way to go before Afghan forces are self-sufficient, as they face "a tremendous number of problems," one of the biggest being endemic corruption.

The main purpose of Sopko's visit to the Afghan capital is to inspect a new anti-corruption strategy that President Ashraf Ghani's government put forward at an international summit in Brussels last year.

"We got to deal with that," Sopko said of corruption. "If we don't deal with it, we're going to lose."

Congress established the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR, in 2008 to detect and prevent waste, fraud and abuse of U.S. funds being spent in Afghanistan.

Since then, SIGAR has produced more than 400 audits, inspections, alert letters and other material that has identified roughly \$1 billion in potential savings to U.S. taxpayers, according to the agency.

Sopko was sworn in as the Special Inspector General for

Afghanistan Reconstruction in 2012 by President Barack Obama and has 30 years of experience in oversight and investigations as a prosecutor, congressional counsel and senior government adviser.

SIGAR's latest "lessons learned" report last month looked at U.S. efforts to build the Afghan security forces. It concluded that Washington had not been properly prepared from the outset to help build an Afghan army and police force capable of protecting the country.

Strong local security forces are seen as vital to everything the U.S. and international coalition want to achieve in Afghanistan.

Sopko said the Trump administration has been "far more responsive" to the report — and other SIGAR work — than the previous administration had been.

## 3 Marine regiment leaders relieved

BY STEPHEN CARLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Three senior leaders of the 25th Marine Regiment were relieved of command Wednesday due to a loss of confidence, said Maj. Andrew Aranda, a Marine Forces Reserve spokesman.

Lt. Gen. Rex McMillian, who commands the Marine Forces Reserve, relieved Col. Morgan Mann, commander of the 25th Marine Regiment; Sgt. Maj. James Boutin, the regimental inspector-instructor; and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Hoy, the personnel officer, Aranda said Friday.

Aranda declined to give any further details about why the officers were relieved. He also would not say whether there was an ongoing investigation.

Col. Daniel Whisnant, deputy commander of the 25th Marine Regiment, will take command of the unit until a new commanding officer is chosen, Aranda said.

Mann enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1987 as a field artilleryman before being commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Course in 1989. He has held numerous command positions and served two tours in Iraq, in 2005 and 2007, and a tour in Afghanistan in 2013.

Boutin enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1989. He also served two tours in Iraq, in 2005 and 2009, and has served in numerous instructor and advisory positions.

The 25th Marine Regiment is based out of Fort Devens, Mass., and is part of the 4th Marine Division. Their unit sobriquet is the “Cold Steel Warriors” and they consist of three infantry battalions and a headquarters company.

## DOJ: Dismiss suit on trans policy

*Associated Press*

The Justice Department is asking a federal court to dismiss a lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump’s moves to curtail military service by transgender people.

The lawsuit was filed in August by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) on behalf of eight transgender individuals, including servicemembers in the Air Force, Coast Guard and the Army, as well as students at the U.S. Naval Academy and in the ROTC program at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

Trump tweeted in July that the federal government “will not accept or allow” transgender individuals to serve “in any capacity” in the military. That would reverse a 2016 policy change that allowed transgender people to serve openly.

Trump subsequently directed the Pentagon to extend indefinitely a ban on transgender individuals joining the military, and gave Defense Secretary Jim Mattis six months to come up with a policy on how to deal with those who are currently serving, leaving the door open to permitting their continued

service.

Trump also directed Mattis to halt the use of federal funds to pay for sexual reassignment surgeries and medications, except in cases where it is deemed necessary to protect the health of an individual who has already begun the transition.

Late Wednesday, the Justice Department filed a brief asking a U.S. District Court judge in Washington to dismiss the lawsuit.

The lawsuit “is premature and should be dismissed for many reasons, including that the Defense Department is actively reviewing such service requirements, as the president ordered,” said Justice Department spokeswoman Lauren Ehram. She said none of the plaintiffs have established that they will be impacted by current policies on military service.

The two advocacy groups who filed the lawsuit assailed that assertion, saying there was a “compelling need” to halt the administration’s efforts.

“Transgender Americans looking to enlist are not able to do so, and currently serving transgender servicemembers have been demeaned and stigmatized, denied health care,

and are facing the loss of their professions, livelihoods, health care, and the post-military retirement they have worked hard to earn,” the groups said Thursday.

The groups highlighted the uncertainty now facing Dylan Kohere, the University of New Haven student, and Regan Kibby, the Naval Academy student.

“Because of the president’s ban, smart, dedicated, and idealistic young people like our plaintiffs ... are barred from fulfilling their dreams of military service,” said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

The Justice Department brief argued that the lawsuit, even if it were allowed to proceed, was likely to fail.

“Federal courts owe the utmost deference to the political branches in the field of national defense and military affairs, both because the Constitution commits military decisions exclusively to those branches and because courts ‘have less competence’ to second-guess military decision-making,” the brief said.

## USS Wasp deployment to Pacific delayed

BY STEPHEN CARLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — USS Wasp, an amphibious assault ship, will delay its deployment to the Pacific as it continues relief operations in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Defense Department officials said Thursday.

Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie told reporters at the Pentagon that operations in Puerto Rico also could cause delays for deployments of other ships and troops around the world.

“[Hurricane relief efforts] may have a cascading effect,” he said.

McKenzie confirmed dur-

ing the news briefing that the Wasp was expected to take on F-35 Lightning II fighter jets during its deployment to the Pacific.

But he also downplayed reports that hurricane relief efforts were slowing the deployment of forces to Afghanistan due to shortages of transport aircraft. He said the number U.S. troops in Afghanistan still stood at roughly 11,000.

“Forces continue to flow into Afghanistan. They have been slightly delayed by hurricane efforts. I’m not going to characterize those delays in any further way, but forces continue to flow. It will take some time to build up forces in

Afghanistan,” McKenzie said.

In addition to about 11,000 personnel, the U.S. military has 80 helicopters and the Wasp and USNS Comfort, a hospital ship, in Puerto Rico.

Hurricane Maria, which struck Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, caused widespread flooding and devastated the island’s roads and power grid. There has been widespread shortages of necessities such as water, food and medical care due to the destruction of the U.S. territory’s infrastructure.

At least 34 people have been confirmed dead from the effects of the storm and its chaotic aftermath.

# Gunman left carnage, but no answers

*The Washington Post*

Investigators have spent most of this week piecing together the story of Stephen Paddock, who on Sunday opened fire from his Las Vegas hotel suite, gunning down 58 people at a country music festival and injuring hundreds more.

They have delved into Paddock's gun purchases, computers and travel plans and spoke with his relatives and girlfriend. What they lack are answers.

As the investigation entered its fifth full day Friday, the biggest remaining question about the shooting remained unanswered: Why did Paddock, 64, an avid gambler, meticulously plan and carry out America's deadliest mass shooting?

Unlike many other mass killers who have unleashed bloodshed in America's churches, colleges, nightclubs, workplaces, college towns or public spaces, Paddock left no clear sign authorities have identified so far. After previous mass shootings, there were bigoted screeds posted online, confessions to police, videotaped rants, histories of violent behavior or worrisome trails of arrest records and mental health consultations.

Here, instead, there is mystery. People who knew Paddock described him as anti-social, someone who went out of his way to avoid other human beings, but his girlfriend said she saw no indication that he was capable of such horror.

Other questions still surrounded the shooting, as Joseph

Lombardo, the Las Vegas sheriff, outlined during a news briefing. Did anyone help Paddock or know of his plans? Did Paddock intend to die in his hotel suite — shooting himself before a SWAT team breached the door on Sunday night — or had he hoped to escape? What, if anything, did it mean that he had intensified his gun buying habits in the year before the shooting?

"Stephen Paddock is a man who spent decades acquiring weapons and ammo and living a secret life, much of which will never be fully understood," Lombardo said. "Anything that would indicate this individual's trigger point and would cause him to do such harm, we haven't understood it yet."

FBI agents are piecing together Paddock's life in the weeks and months before the massacre, hoping to unearth an explanation. Aaron Rouse, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Las Vegas division, warned that the probe will "take a while," but he pledged that authorities "will get to the bottom of this no matter how long it takes."

Details emerging from the investigation have amounted to pieces of a puzzle that has not yet taken shape. Chief among them was the discovery that Paddock had booked space in two other hotels overlooking popular music festivals — one in Las Vegas last month and the other in Chicago in August.

Investigators were still unsure of the significance of the hotel bookings and are trying

to determine if they were ominous signs of the horror to come or the meaningless actions of a man with the financial means to fly around the country.

Even as investigators were unsure of the significance, the Chicago reservation was unnerving to contemplate. Two months before he opened fire from the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, targeting a country music festival far below, Paddock had made a reservation at a high-rise hotel overlooking Lollapalooza, a music festival in Chicago's Grant Park, according to two people familiar with the investigation.

From the Blackstone Hotel, where Paddock had made the reservation, a person with the right room could see clear across Lollapalooza and to Lake Michigan, which runs along the park's eastern side. Lollapalooza draws an average of about 100,000 people per day, five times the number at the Las Vegas country music festival Paddock ultimately targeted. In the end, Paddock did not show up in Chicago.

Instead, Paddock headed toward Las Vegas, home to so many of the casinos where he felt at home. Paddock was known to sit for hours playing video poker and slot machines, gambling with tens of thousands of dollars and earning VIP status.

Paddock arrived at the Mandalay Bay on Sept. 28, three days before the concert shooting, bringing with him 23 guns, a dozen of them equipped with

"bump" stocks, which allow for more rapid fire. These bump stocks have become the epicenter of the debate over gun violence after Las Vegas, and the National Rifle Association, which had been silent since the massacre, on Thursday lent its support to the growing effort to restrict the devices.

Paddock also had in his car thousands of rounds of ammunition he never fired, along with explosive material. More guns, ammunition and explosive material were found at his homes, police said.

As Paddock's background has come into focus, the portrait that emerged was one of a financially well-off man who so disliked being around other people and sought to avoid speaking with them.

Paddock had expressed a dislike for taxes and the government, the broker said, even selling off a series of buildings in California to move his money to the low-tax havens of Texas and Nevada. A person familiar with the investigation into the massacre said these anti-government views alone didn't explain why Paddock targeted a country music concert.

What could have driven Paddock remained central to the investigators who have chased leads around the globe. FBI agents interviewed Marilou Danley, Paddock's girlfriend, hoping she could provide insight, but she has said she knew nothing of his plans or potential for such violence.

## 'Greatest American:' Officer, Guard vet honored at vigil

*From wire reports*

On Thursday night, thousands raised candles and surrounded the widow and two children of Officer Charleston Hartfield, who was killed in Sunday's mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Hartfield, 34, a 16-year Army National Guard veteran who served in Iraq, was known as "Charles," "Chuck" and "Chuck-yHart," but one longtime friend and colleague dubbed him "Captain America."

"Charlie Hartfield was the greatest American I have ever known," Sgt. Ryan Fryman told the crowd.

Hartfield was a Las Vegas police officer, a father and a youth football coach, friends and family said. Those who knew him said each of those roles touched on the type of person Hartfield was.

"He was one of those guys who gives, gives, gives," said Stanley King, a friend.

Troy Rhett, who coached the Henderson Cowboys youth football team with Hartfield, sounded a similar note.

"He wasn't someone who was just here," Rhett said. "He made sure the time he spent here was valuable."

Rhett said Hartfield got into coaching football because his son was a standout

athlete and is now a high school football player. Hartfield leaves behind that son, a daughter who is in elementary school and a wife, Veronica, Rhett said.

Family members said Hartfield had just finished a book about his life as a police officer called "Memoirs of a Public Servant." He changed the banner photo on his Facebook page to an image of the Route 91 Harvest festival on Sunday, just hours before the mass shooting.

His was among the first memorials for the dead, whose identities have now all been released by authorities.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Raccoons evade police after napping on bus

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City school bus driver was surprised to find a pair of sleeping raccoons while he was doing a vehicle check in Brooklyn.

The driver called police to flush out the pair of raccoons. The Daily News reported the raccoons woke up by the time police arrived and were able to evade the police who boarded the bus. The raccoons, racing between responding officers legs, made their way off the bus toward a nearby bagel store.

Ultimately, the animals were both caught and released back into the wild by responding officers.

## Police: Nude, drunken man fired weapons

**FL** KEY LARGO — Authorities say a naked, drunken Florida man wanted to know if his .45-caliber gun and shotgun worked, so he fired them into the air.

Neighbors heard the gunfire Tuesday and called the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

Spokeswoman Becky Herrin said in a news release that arriving deputies found Roger Scheid, 66, inside the home. Herrin said Scheid was "naked and appeared to be intoxicated."

Investigators found the weapons and two spent casings.

Scheid is charged with unlawful discharge of a weapon and firing a weapon while under the influence. An attorney is not listed on jail records.

## Man shoots self while trying to calm child

**PA** BERWICK — Police said a Pennsylvania man fatally shot himself when

he tried to catch a gun that fell from his holster while he was trying to calm his crying child in the back seat of a car.

Berwick police say Kenneth Morris, 28, reached through the car's rear driver's side door to comfort his son when the .357-caliber gun fell from Morris' shoulder holster. When Morris tried to grab the falling weapon, he accidentally pulled the trigger, shooting himself in the stomach.

Police say surveillance video captured the shooting, which happened Tuesday afternoon in a driveway of a home. Morris was from the Nescopeck area.

He was taken to a hospital, where he later died.

## State trooper tells a cow to move it

**NJ** STOCKTON — A New Jersey state trooper on his way to work had to tell a cow to move it.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Flynn was driving to headquarters Thursday morning when he came across a traffic jam on Route 29 in rural Stockton. He drove along the shoulder and came upon a wayward cow that was slowing down traffic.

The cow gave the trooper a look and continued to meander along the highway.

Flynn said the cow's farmer arrived and with the help of another trooper, they managed to get the cow back to its farm on the other side of the highway.

Flynn said it's not the first time he's had to deal with livestock. He's also had to corral horses and goats.

## Thief robs register, fills belly, leaves tip

**NY** HICKSVILLE — A burglar made a clean getaway from a Long Island restaurant after emptying the

cash register, cooking a meal and washing the dishes.

Will Colon told Newsday he found bent burglar bars when he arrived Tuesday at Nelly's Taqueria in Hicksville, N.Y.

Security video showed the intruder put on food-service gloves and started heating up a pot before hammering the register open. He pocketed the money and put a dollar in the tip jar.

Then, Colon said, the man started "cooking up a storm" in the dark — beans, chicken, shrimp. Colon said "the dude had some skills."

After eating, he covered and refrigerated the food and wiped down surfaces.

## FDA: 'Love' is not really in granola

**MA** CONCORD — A Massachusetts bakery's granola may be made with love, but federal officials said it shouldn't be listed as an ingredient on the package.

Nashoba Brook Bakery in Concord has been told by the Food and Drug Administration that the label on its Nashoba Granola lists "love," and that needs to change.

In a letter posted this week, it said federal regulations require that ingredients must be listed by their common or usual name, and that "love" is not a common or usual name of an ingredient.

The bakery's CEO, John Gates, said they've gotten a positive reaction from people since news of the letter began to circulate. He said it's tapped into a feeling a lot of Americans have that the government can overreach, adding that it seems silly.

## Man says intoxication due to time traveling

**WY** CASPER — Police said a Wyoming man

they arrested for public intoxication claimed he had traveled back in time to warn people of aliens coming.

Casper police said the man they encountered about 10:30 p.m. Monday claimed he was from the year 2048.

KTWO-AM in Casper reported that the man told police he was trying to warn the people of Casper that aliens were coming next year, and they should leave as soon as possible.

He added that he wanted to speak to the president of the town.

The man also told police the only way he was able to time travel was to have aliens fill his body with alcohol. He noted that he was supposed to be transported to the year 2018, instead of this year.

## 1 of oldest birch-bark canoes now on display

**ME** BRUNSWICK — One of the oldest known examples of a Native American birch-bark canoe is on display at a museum operated by a historical society in Maine.

The Pejepscot Historical Society said the canoe dates to the mid-1700s. It's an example of the type of canoe that was critically important to the history and culture of the Wabanaki, the first people of parts of northern New England and Atlantic Canada.

The historical society put the canoe on display Thursday. The society came into the possession of it in 1889. It had spent three decades in a barn before being placed in the museum.

The Penobscot Nation's tribal historian James E. Francis Sr. said this type of canoe was "extremely important for your family's survival" in his tribe.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Altuve's 3 HRs lead Astros past Red Sox

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve had just arrived in the Astros dugout after launching his third home run of the game when George Springer grabbed his right biceps and examined it, as if searching for an explanation for his teammate's extraordinary pop.

"He makes sure he stays on top of his gym routine, whatever it is," Springer said. "The dude is just a joke."

The major league batting champion put on an unprecedented show of power Thursday as Houston roughed up Chris Sale and the Boston Red Sox 8-2 in Game 1 of the AL Division Series.

Buoyed by chants of "MVP" in each trip to the plate, the 5-foot-6 Altuve hit solo homers in the first and fifth innings off Sale. He connected again in the seventh off reliever Austin Maddox to give Houston a quick boost in the best-of-five series.

"As soon as I cross the white line, I feel the same size as everyone else," Altuve said.

It was just the 10th time a

player hit three homers in a postseason game, and first since Pablo Sandoval for the Giants in the 2012 World Series opener against Detroit. Babe Ruth did it twice.

"I told him the last time I've seen three home runs in a game was Pablo Sandoval and I gave up two of them, so I'm glad there's somebody new that's done it," winning pitcher Justin Verlander said.

Altuve became the first Astros player to hit three homers in one game since 2007, when Carlos Lee did it in the regular season. He seemed as surprised as anyone else that he was now in a category with the Sultan of Swat, Reggie Jackson and Albert Pujols.

"I hit one and I was like: 'Wow,'" he said. "And the second one is like: 'Wow, what's going on here?'"

And his thoughts after the third?

"I got to wake up," he said, flashing a huge grin.

After he finished talking to Springer following his third shot, Altuve's teammates goaded him into exiting the dugout

for a curtain call. And as he tipped his hat to the crowd, one fan near the dugout held a sign that proclaimed in blue block letters: "That Kid Can Hit."

Verlander pitched six effective innings and improved to 6-0 since Houston got him in late trade with Detroit. He is 5-0 with a 2.24 ERA in nine career starts in the division series.

Sale, the major league strikeout leader, was tagged for seven runs in five-plus innings of his postseason debut.

Game 2 is Friday, with Dallas Keuchel starting for the Astros against Drew Pomeranz.

Among the shortest players in the majors, Altuve couldn't be a bigger leader for the Astros. He's one of the few players remaining who languished through a rebuilding process that led to three straight 100-loss seasons from 2011-13, and is perhaps the main reason this team ran away with the AL West title this year.

"First off, how good is Jose Altuve?" Houston manager A.J. Hinch asked. "It's incredible to watch him step up and be every bit the star that we needed today for sure. It's hard to de-

scribe in different ways."

Altuve hit .346 this year, his fourth straight 200-hit season. He had 24 home runs this year — this was his third career multihomer game, and the first time he'd hit three all at once.

Quite a comeback from his only previous postseason — in 2015, he batted just .154 (4 for 26) without an extra-base hit.

Alex Bregman and Altuve hit back-to-back homers in the first inning, making Sale look a bit rattled. The Red Sox tied it up by scoring a run each in the second and fourth innings before Marwin Gonzalez lined a two-run double in the fourth for a 4-2 lead.

There were two outs in the fifth inning when Altuve connected again to push the lead to 5-2 and make him the third player in franchise history with a multihomer game in the postseason, joining Carlos Correa and Carlos Beltran.

The crowd of 43,402, which included Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan, Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio, waved bright orange towels as Altuve trotted around the bases.

## Bauer shuts out Yanks as Tribe takes 1-0 lead in ALDS

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Trevor Bauer made Aaron Judge look silly, and made his manager look like a genius.

One year after nearly costing the Indians a trip to the World Series, Bauer helped them take the first step back.

Named a surprise starter for Game 1, Bauer chopped Judge and New York's other big bats down to size, and Jay Bruce drove in three runs as Cleveland began chasing its first World Series title in 69 years with a 4-0 win over the Yankees on the Thursday night in the opener of the AL Division Series.

Bauer struck out Judge three times, twice getting the MVP candidate looking. He allowed just two hits in 6 2-3 innings be-

fore manager Terry Francona, who chose to start the right-hander over ace Corey Kluber, turned to baseball's best bullpen, using Andrew Miller and closer Cody Allen to finish the three-hitter.

Allen came in with two on and two outs in the eighth to face Judge, who struck out for the fourth time and the rookie angrily snatched at his bat frustration.

Judge's verdict on Bauer was unanimous in New York's clubhouse.

"He was mixing his pitches well, he was using the corners extremely well," he said. "You've got to tip your cap sometimes. We've just got to pick ourselves up and get ready for tomorrow."

New York's now got to face Kluber, an 18-game winner

during the regular season. He'll start Game 2 on Friday against CC Sabathia.

Bruce connected for a two-run homer in the fourth off Sonny Gray and added a sacrifice fly in the fifth as the Indians began a journey to try and end the majors' longest Series title drought.

Eyebrows were raised when Francona picked Bauer instead of Kluber, and the eccentric right-hander, perhaps best known for slicing a pinkie open while repairing a drone during last year's postseason and bleeding all over the mound in Toronto, delivered a performance that started October just right for the Indians.

"The mindset was to go out there like a closer in the first inning and put up a scoreless inning at all costs," Bauer said.

"And then if I was still in the game, do it again in the second inning and the third and on until I was taken out of the game. So no-hitter, 10-hitter, or whatever, that was the mindset. I never really strayed from that."

Coming off their win over Minnesota in the wild-card game Tuesday, when Judge homered in his playoff debut, the Yankees came in with momentum.

Bauer stopped the Bronx Bombers cold.

He struck out eight and took a no-hitter into the sixth before Aaron Hicks doubled with one out. It was the longest no-hit bid by a Cleveland pitcher in the postseason, bettering Hall of Famers Bob Feller (1948) and Early Wynn (1954), who both went four innings.

# Patriots' defense holds off Buccaneers

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — It's one game.

But for New England's porous defense, holding off the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 19-14 was a step in the right direction.

"We didn't play perfect," safety Devin McCourty said after Thursday night's victory.

"But that's the thing. We don't have to play perfect all the time to get a win," McCourty added. "Just play smart, be on the same page and not have mental errors. I thought we did a better job of doing that."

The Patriots (3-2) entered the prime-time matchup on pace to set an NFL record for yards allowed in a season. They'd also yielded 32 points per game during their worst start since 2012, and the Bucs looked a team that might be able to take advantage of their defensive shortcomings.

Jameis Winston threw for 334 yards and one touchdown without an interception, but

most of that production came in the fourth quarter.

Nick Folk hindered the young quarterback's effort to come from behind in the fourth quarter for the second straight week.

The veteran kicker missed two field goals and an extra point before beating the New York Giants with a kick as time expired last Sunday.

This time, Folk missed a 56-yarder just before halftime, a 49-yarder on the second play of the fourth quarter and a 31-yarder that would have pulled the Bucs within six points with 5:36 remaining.

"It's been a bad week," Folk said. "I left points out there. We should have won that game 20-19. This is on me."

Winston, however, insisted he was to blame. He threw an 18-yard TD pass to Cameron Brate to trim Tampa Bay's deficit to 16-14 with just over two minutes left, and nearly led his team downfield to win after Stephen Gostkowski kicked his

fourth field goal to put the Patriots up by five.

With two seconds remaining, Winston took a snap and threw incomplete down the middle for O.J. Howard.

"There are two seconds on the clock, your quarterback has to make a play for you," Winston said. "You've got to do something."

The Patriots held the third-year pro to 109 yards passing through three quarters. Winston threw for 225 yards and his seventh TD of the season in the final 15 minutes.

Tom Brady, meanwhile overcame his first interception in the past eight regular-seasons games and a sack/fumble. Neither turnover led to points and the New England quarterback noted the defense had a lot to do with that.

"I wish we could have scored more points offensively, but the defense really held their own," Brady said.

"Hopefully we keep finding ways to win. I've been a part of

lot of teams that we didn't score many points but we won the game anyway, and there were games where we scored a lot of points and we got a win," Brady added. "That's what team football is all about. Offense isn't always going to have a great day; defense isn't always going to have a great day. You've got to figure out a way to get a win. We did that today."

Brady, playing without injured star tight end Rob Gronkowski (thigh), threw for 303 yards and one TD.

And with his 186th career regular-season win as a starter, the five-time Super Bowl champion tied Brett Favre and Peyton Manning for the most by a quarterback in NFL history. He also has 25 postseason victories.

"Very proud of our football team," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "Coming off a tough game on Sunday and going on the road Thursday night, I thought they really responded with a great effort."

## Ovechkin scores hat trick as Caps down Sens in SO

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Alex Ovechkin had a hat trick in a 6:33 span in the third period and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored the shootout winner in the Washington Capitals' 5-4 victory over the Ottawa Senators on Thursday night in the season opener for both teams.

Brett Connolly also scored for Washington, and Braden Holtby made 28 saves. Mark Stone struck twice for the Senators, Derick Brassard had a goal and two assists, Chris Wideman also scored, and Craig Anderson made 24 saves.

Ovechkin scored twice in a 1:23 span to tie it early in the third period.

Ottawa regained the lead 1:17 later when Stone tipped in Dion Phaneuf's shot.

Ovechkin tied it again with 9:12 left in the period.

**Blackhawks 10, Penguins 1:** Brandon Saad scored three

times in his return to his former team and Ryan Hartman had a goal and four assists, helping host Chicago pound Pittsburgh.

Nick Schmaltz added two goals and an assist as Chicago kicked off its season in style with a runaway victory over the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions.

**Red Wings 4, Wild 2:** Henrik Zetterberg and Martin Frk scored in the third period to lift host Detroit past Minnesota in the first regular-season game at Little Caesars Arena.

Anthony Mantha and Dylan Larkin scored 23 seconds apart in the second period for the Red Wings, who rallied after blowing a 2-0 lead early in the third. Joel Eriksson Ek and Chris Stewart scored 48 seconds apart to tie it, and then Zetterberg put Detroit back ahead to stay with 12:53 remaining.

**Canadiens 3, Sabres 2 (SO):**

Jonathan Drouin scored the lone shootout goal in rallying visiting Montreal past Buffalo in the season opener for both teams.

Phillip Danault forced overtime by scoring a short-handed goal on a wraparound with 11:59 left. Max Pacioretty also scored for Montreal.

**Bruins 4, Predators 3:** Jake DeBrusk had a goal and assist in his first NHL game, Charlie McAvoy added a goal and assist in his first regular-season appearance and host Boston beat Nashville in the opener for both teams.

David Pastrnak and Brad Marchand also scored, and David Krejci had three assists. Anders Bjork added an assist in his first NHL start, and Tuukka Rask made 26 saves.

**Avalanche 4, Rangers 2:** Semyon Varlamov stopped 37 shots, Tyson Barrie scored the tiebreaking goal late in the sec-

ond period and visiting Colorado beat New York in the teams' opener.

Matt Duchene and Mikko Rantanen scored in the first period, and Gabriel Landeskog added an empty-netter for the Avalanche.

**Kings 2, Flyers 0:** Jonathan Quick made 35 saves in the first season-opening shutout of his career, and host Los Angeles won in new head coach John Stevens' debut, beating Philadelphia.

Trevor Lewis and Tyler Tofoli scored for the Kings, who immediately got a vintage game from their well-rested goalie.

**Ducks 5, Coyotes 4:** Richard Rakell broke a tie with 3:30 left and host Anaheim overcame a three-goal deficit to beat Arizona in the opener.

Corey Perry scored twice and set up Andrew Cogliano's tying goal with 6:15 remaining.

# No. 24 NC State stuns No. 17 Louisville

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State coach Dave Doeren spent the weeks leading up to the season repeatedly saying his Wolfpack team was ready for a big step forward after years of building depth and experience.

Halfway through the schedule, his team is proving him right.

Nyheim Hines ran for two touchdowns while the defense slowed reigning Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson to help No. 24 North Carolina State beat No. 17 Louisville 39-25 on Thursday night.

"Told our team it was coming, told y'all it was coming, some of you believed me, some of you didn't," Doeren said. "But I'm really excited and you can just feel it right now in our locker room. They believe they're the

best team. And they're playing hard and they're playing together and they're tough — and it's fun, a lot of fun."

The Wolfpack (5-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) got contributions throughout the lineup. Hines ran for 102 yards and had a 48-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter to set up a touchdown drive. Ryan Finley directed a passing attack that posted two 100-yard receivers and a third player who finished with 99 yards.

Then there was the defensive front — led by preseason Associated Press All-American Bradley Chubb — that kept the pressure on Jackson. Jackson ran for two scores and threw a touchdown pass, but the Wolfpack sacked him four times and got a clinching interception return for a touchdown late to close out the Cardinals (4-2, 1-2).

"We come into every game knowing nobody can beat us if we go out there and play Wolfpack football," said Jaylen Samuels, who had 104 yards receiving. "The confidence is very high. We know what we've got and what we can accomplish."

Finley threw for 367 yards and a 48-yard score to Kelvin Harmon, part of N.C. State's 520 total yards on a night it never trailed.

"We've got a lot of work to do," Cardinals coach Bobby Petrino said. "I'm not getting it done. I've got to do a better job with our coaches, do a better job with our players and get back on the right track."

## The takeaway

**Louisville:** The Cardinals didn't do much to slow the Wolfpack to offset some of Jackson's usual brilliance, and that might

have all but ended Louisville's title hopes in the league's Atlantic Division. They had already lost at home to reigning national champion Clemson and now find themselves two games back in the loss column of the standings.

"I didn't think we played well at all defensively," Petrino said.

**N.C. State:** That's the first 3-0 start in ACC play for the Wolfpack since 2002. And with wins over Florida State and Louisville, the preseason dark horse in the Atlantic Division has beaten two of the teams picked to finish higher in the standings to position itself as the division's likely top challenger to Clemson.

"They don't want to be denied what they feel is theirs right now," Doeren said, adding: "There's no flinch in these guys, I can tell you that."

## Surprising TCU takes spotlight in things to know

Associated Press

This week's college football action features Washington State quarterback Luke Falk trying to solidify his status as a Heisman Trophy contender, TCU attempting to remain unbeaten and Miami seeking to end Florida State's recent Sunshine State dominance.

Here's your things to know for Week 6:

### Best game

**West Virginia at No. 8 TCU:** TCU (4-0, 1-0 Big 12) has emerged as one of the nation's bigger surprises this season and will try to maintain its perfect start Saturday when it hosts West Virginia (3-1, 1-0). The Horned Frogs weren't ranked in the preseason for the first time since 2014 but have played their way into playoff contention.

West Virginia has won three straight by an average margin of 33.7 points since a season-opening 31-24 loss to No. 16 Virginia Tech.

This game pits the Big 12's leading rusher against the conference's top run defense. West Virginia's Justin Crawford has run for a league-high 112.8 yards per game and averages 7.4 yards per carry. TCU is allowing just 94.5 yards rushing per game and 2.8 yards per carry.

### Heisman watch

**Luke Falk, QB, Washington State:** Falk emerged as a potential Heisman candidate last week by outperforming Southern California's Sam Darnold in Washington State's 30-27 victory over the previously unbeaten Trojans. Falk threw for 340 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

The fifth-year senior can enhance his credentials this week when the 11th-ranked Cougars (5-0, 2-0 Pac-12) visit Oregon (4-1, 1-1). Washington State is seeking a third straight victory over Oregon, something this program hasn't accomplished since 1982-84.

Falk is the NCAA's active career leader in touchdown passes (105), yards passing (12,611) and total offense (12,308).

### Numbers to know

**9.1:** The number of yards No. 3 Oklahoma is gaining per play, the most of any Football Bowl Subdivision team. Oklahoma's single-season school record for yards per play is 7.6 in 1971.

**14:** No. 12 Auburn is the only FBS team that hasn't allowed more than 14 points in a game all season.

**37.6:** That's the average margin of victory for No. 1 Alabama this season. Alabama also is outrushing opponents by 241.8 yards per game.

**17-1:** Florida State's record against other Florida schools during Jimbo Fisher's coaching tenure. The Seminoles are three-point underdogs Saturday as they host No. 13 Miami.

**1,088:** The total number of rushing yards by Stanford's Bryce Love through five games. The only FBS players

to rush for more yards through the first five games of a season were Northern Illinois' Garrett Wolfe (1,181 in 2006), Southern California's Marcus Allen (1,136 in 1981) and Texas Tech's Byron Hanspard (1,112 in 1996).

### Under the radar

**Air Force at Navy:** This week doesn't feature too many intriguing matchups involving unranked teams, but the 50th meeting between these two service academies bears watching.

Navy (4-0) will attempt to remain undefeated while gaining some revenge after losing 28-14 to Air Force last season.

Air Force (1-3) lost 56-38 to New Mexico but earlier had been competitive against a pair of Top 25 teams. The Falcons fell 29-13 at No. 7 Michigan on Sept. 16 and lost 28-24 to No. 19 San Diego State on Sept. 23.

The Navy-Air Force victor has gone on to win the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy every year since 1997.