

STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, October 12, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Mass destruction in Florida after Michael

Associated Press

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. — Search and rescue teams working through a ruined landscape found no signs of mass casualties during their initial “hasty search” after Hurricane Michael, but Florida Gov. Rick Scott said Friday they “do not know enough” about the fate of people who insisted on riding out the storm.

Michael, so powerful that it remained a hurricane for 12 hours after making landfall in Mexico Beach, thrashed the Carolinas and Virginia and was growing stronger again over the Atlantic, where the National Hurricane Center predicted it would eventually menace Britain with tropical-storm force winds.

Rescue teams have reached 80 percent of the disaster zone, deploying across a vast area from the Florida coast to the Georgia border to look for survivors, and that search continued Friday. But state emergency officials said they were happily canceling plans to roll out refrigerator vehicles to serve as temporary morgues, and instead would use the teams to distribute food and water.

Authorities reported 11 deaths as of Friday, with Virginia’s state medical examiner ruling four drownings and the firefighter’s death were storm-related. High winds, downed trees, streets inundated by rising waters and multiple rescues of motorists from waterlogged cars played out in spots around Virginia and neighboring North Carolina.

Linda Marquardt and her husband somehow survived the very worst of it in Mexico Beach, where Hurricane Michael’s eye passed directly over their home.

Air Force uncertain how long Tyndall out of action

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — How long Tyndall Air Force Base will remain closed is unknown after the coastal Florida installation sustained catastrophic damage from Hurricane Michael, which left nearly every building and some aircraft wrecked, service officials said Friday.

While the vast majority of Tyndall’s operational aircraft were evacuated from the base before the storm, some aircraft were left in base hangars for maintenance or safety reasons, said Erica Vega, a spokeswoman for the Air Force’s Air Combat Command. The extent of the damage to the planes was still unknown Friday, she said, but all of the hangars at the base suffered severe damage.

“We anticipate the aircraft parked inside may be damaged as well, but we won’t know the extent until our crews can safely enter those hangars and make an assessment,” Vega wrote in an email.

Many of the planes left behind were F-22 Raptor stealth fighter jets, said a defense official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. But the official did not know how many planes were at Tyndall during the Category 4 storm. Some of the fighters, which

cost more than \$130 million each, were likely damaged in the storm.

Other aircraft left at Tyndall included QF-4 drones, former fighter jets that have been converted into unmanned aircraft to serve as targets for training missions.

Meanwhile, Air Force personnel who rode out the storm at Tyndall, which lies on the Gulf of Mexico just between Panama City and Mexico Beach, were still assessing the storm’s impact on the base. Among their primary concerns Friday was establishing reliable communications channels with officials outside the Florida Panhandle, an Air Force official at the Pentagon said Friday. The cleanup effort was expected to begin sometime Friday, when a service Red Horse Squadron, an engineering unit, was scheduled to arrive at Tyndall from Hurlburt Field, some 80 miles west of Panama City.

It was also not clear Friday whether the Red Horse Squadron, moving its heavy construction equipment in a convoy, had arrived at Tyndall, the Air Force official said, highlighting the communications problems plaguing the opening stages of recovery after the storm.

Surging water filled their first floor, now muddy and ruined. They’re surrounded now by devastation: fishing boats

washed away by the storm surge.

Row after row of beachfront homes were obliterated by the epic Category 4 hurricane. The destruction along Florida’s white-sand northern Gulf Coast was called catastrophic. Officials predicted rebuilding costs in the billions.

“All of my furniture was floating,” said Marquardt, 67. “A river just started coming down the road. It was awful, and now there’s just nothing left.”

All told, more than 900,000 homes and businesses in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas were without power.

Thousands of National Guard troops, law enforcement officers and rescue teams still had much to do in the hardest hit area: Florida’s Panhandle. Families living along the Panhandle are now faced with a struggle to survive in a perilous landscape of shattered homes and shopping centers, the storm debris spread far and wide.

Most of Panama City’s homes were still standing, but little property was left undamaged. Downed power lines and twisted street signs lay all around. Aluminum siding was shredded and homes were split by fallen trees. Hundreds of cars had broken windows. Patients were moved out of hurricane-damaged hospitals and nursing homes.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott, who was going out with the National Guard on Friday to survey the damage from the air and on the ground, called it “unimaginable destruction.”

“So many lives have been changed forever. So many families have lost everything,” he lamented.

and cars tossed like toys, empty slabs where people hopefully escaped before houses exploded in 155 mph winds and were

DOD IG cites CNO in 'Bad Santa' report

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Navy's top officer was rebuked on Friday over his mishandling of a case involving the misconduct of an aide at a boozy Christmas party inside the Pentagon and that officer's predatory behavior toward subordinate female officers.

The Pentagon Inspector General's office upbraided Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson for the failure to discipline his spokesman Cmdr. Chris Servello in a timely way. The investigation stemmed from an office Christmas party in 2016 during which Servello, dressed in a Santa Claus outfit, slapped a civilian woman's buttocks. Later, at an after-party, Servello allegedly made sexual advances in a "predatory" way toward subordinate officers.

The report, released Friday morning, said Richardson acknowledges that he should have acted sooner to handle case and

has put policies in place to prevent a recurrence. The inspector general found Richardson's actions did not amount to official misconduct but called on the Navy secretary to review his performance.

"We believe that Adm. Richardson's failure to ensure that (Servello) was removed from his personal staff in an expeditious manner — for 4 months after he decided to reassign (Servello) and take administrative action against (Servello) — sent the wrong message about how seriously Adm. Richardson took the allegations of sexual harassment. We agree with Adm. Richardson that he should have acted more expeditiously."

The inspector general's report takes accountability for sexual harassment and misconduct to the highest levels of the Pentagon. In recent years, illicit affairs and inappropriate behavior have felled several generals and admirals. Rich-

ardson, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the highest-ranking officer to be directly criticized for his handling of a case of inappropriate sexual behavior.

Richardson kept Servello on his staff for nine months despite warnings by an investigator who branded Servello's passes at junior officers "predatory," and the recommendation that Servello be immediately reassigned to a non-supervisory post, an investigation by USA Today found.

Richardson has said he had followed the advice of his lawyers in handling Servello's case to protect Servello and those who had accused him of assault and harassment. Servello continues to work as a public affairs officer and has been tasked with helping upgrade the Defense Department's website.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a New York Democrat and member of the Armed Services Com-

mittee, petitioned DOD acting Inspector General Glenn Fine to conduct the investigation.

Servello has expressed regret for poor judgment, but has noted that his career has been damaged.

Gillibrand called out Richardson on his failure to act sooner during a hearing on Capitol Hill in April.

Richardson acknowledged that it took too long to resolve the case but said competing claims slowed the process.

"I have become acutely aware that that may have sent a bad message, particularly to the survivors of the behavior," Richardson said. "So my radar has been completely re-tuned in terms of sensitivity to that message. I hope that we've arrived at a good place at the end of this event. It took longer, in hindsight, than it should have. And if I were to do it again, I'd move faster."

Abrams confirmed for USFK, Faller for SOUTHCOM

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army Gen. Robert B. Abrams was confirmed to become the next commander of U.S. Forces Korea in a series of Senate approvals for military nominees during a marathon session Thursday.

Vice Adm. Craig S. Faller was also confirmed as commander for U.S. Southern Command after fending off concerns about his ties to the so-called "Fat Leonard" scandal.

Abrams and Faller were among Defense Department nominees confirmed by the Senate in a long day for the upper chamber Thursday. The Senate was racing to leave for October recess ahead of the midterm elections in November. The House left earlier this month and isn't slated to return until after the elections.

"Each of these nominees de-

serve confirmation, and I would urge our colleagues to approve all of them," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said ahead of the Thursday session.

Abrams and Faller testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee last month about their nominations.

Since August 2015, Abrams has led Fort Bragg, N.C.-based Army Forces Command, the largest command in the service. His responsibilities included ensuring combat soldiers are trained and prepared to deploy. Abrams, nominated as commander of U.S. Forces Korea, United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command in Korea, told senators last month that addressing a pause in U.S.-South Korea military exercises would be a top priority under his watch.

The joint exercises were stopped following the June sum-

mit in Singapore between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, a move that drew criticism that the lack of training would hurt military readiness on the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. and South Korea conduct two major sets of military exercises each year — Foal Eagle and Key Resolve in the spring and Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which was slated for August and then canceled.

"I think that there was certainly degradation to the readiness of the force for the combined forces. [Ulchi Freedom Guardian is] a key exercise to maintain continuity and to continue to practice our interoperability," Abrams said of the pause.

In his Senate testimony, Faller, who has served as the senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis since January 2017, said he was cleared of any wrongdoing in

connection with companies tied to Leonard Glenn Francis, the infamous defense contractor from Singapore known as "Fat Leonard." Francis confessed to bribing dozens of U.S. Navy officials with expensive gifts, wild parties and prostitutes.

Last month, The Washington Post reported Faller accepted dinners from Francis. At the time, he was captain and commanding officer of the USS Shiloh, a guided-missile cruiser.

"I've never solicited, accepted or asked for a gift from Glenn Marine Defense (one of several companies affiliated with Francis), and every decision I made, event I attended, I had had ethics counsel review," Faller said during the Sept. 25 hearing.

The Senate on Thursday also approved for the Navy Vice Adm. Andrew L. Lewis, who has served as deputy chief of naval operations, to serve as commander of the 2nd Fleet.

Kanye takes stage in Oval Office meeting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Live from the Oval Office, it's Kanye West with a jaw-dropping performance.

The rapper didn't rap. But, seated across from President Donald Trump at the Resolute Desk, the musician delivered a rambling, multipart monologue Thursday that touched on social issues, hydrogen planes, mental health, endorsement deals, politics and oh so much more.

Seizing the spotlight from the typically center-stage president, West dropped the F-word, floated policy proposals and even went in for a hug.

"They tried to scare me to not wear this hat," West said of his red "Make America Great Again" cap. But, he said, "This hat, it gives me power in a way."

"You made a Superman cape for me," he told Trump.

It was a surreal scene even by the standards of a nonconventional White House. The un-

likely allies spoke to reporters before a closed-door lunch that had been billed as a forum to discuss policy issues including manufacturing, gangs, prison reform and violence in Chicago, where West grew up. Spectators at the show included Trump's son-in-law and top adviser, Jared Kushner, former NFL star Jim Brown, the attorney for a gang leader serving time in federal prison, and a gaggle of reporters.

During one pause, Trump seemed to acknowledge the oddness of the moment, saying, "That was quite something."

West's mental health has been a question of speculation since he was hospitalized in 2016. In a bizarre performance last month on "Saturday Night Live" he delivered an unscripted pro-Trump message after the credits rolled.

Addressing the topic Thursday, West said he had at one point been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, but was later

told by a neuropsychologist he'd been misdiagnosed.

"So he said that I actually wasn't bipolar; I had sleep deprivation, which could cause dementia 10 to 20 years from now, where I wouldn't even remember my son's name," he said.

The conversation began with an exchange on North Korea among Trump, Brown and West.

Trump said the region was headed for war before he took over, and West commended him for stopping it. Brown said he liked North Korea; Trump agreed.

From there, West discussed prison reform and violence in inner-city Chicago. He brought up Larry Hoover, the leader of the Gangster Disciples who is serving a life sentence for murder, claiming: "The reason why they imprisoned him is because he started doing positive for the community. He started showing that he actually had power, he wasn't just one of a monolithic

voice, that he could wrap people around."

West said he "loved Hillary" Clinton, Trump's 2016 Democratic rival, because he loves everyone, but said he connected with Trump's "male energy." He also criticized the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, calling it a "trap door."

Holding out his phone, West showed Trump a picture of a hydrogen-powered plane that he thought should replace Air Force One.

"This right here is the iPlane 1," he said. "This is what our president should be flying."

Added West: "If he don't look good, we don't look good. This is our president. He has to be the freshest, the flyest" and have "the flyest planes."

West also had a sartorial suggestion for Trump, proposing a hat that says just "Make America Great" — dropping the "again."

Army discharges more than 500 immigrant enlistees

Associated Press

During the course of 12 months, the U.S. Army discharged more than 500 immigrant enlistees who were recruited across the globe for their language or medical skills and promised a fast track to citizenship in exchange for their service, The Associated Press has found.

The decade-old Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest recruiting program was put on hold in 2016 amid concerns that immigrant recruits were not being screened sufficiently. The Army began booting out those enlistees last year without explanation.

The AP has interviewed more than a dozen recruits from countries such as Brazil, Pakistan, Iran, China and Mongolia who all said they were devastated by their unexpected discharges or canceled contracts.

Until now, it's been unclear

how many were discharged and for what reason because the Army has refused to discuss specific cases. But the Army's list, submitted to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia last month, says 502 servicemembers who enlisted under MAVNI were discharged between July 2017 and July 2018.

The list, which was unsealed this week after a request from the AP, offers "refuse to enlist" as the reason for expelling two-thirds of the recruits. That is the reason given for 35 percent of enlistee discharges Army-wide, according to a research study posted on a Defense Department website.

But at least one recruit whose paperwork said he was being discharged from the program for that reason said it was not accurate.

Badamsereejid Gansukh, whose recruiter told him his Turkish language skills would be an asset to the military,

said he didn't know he was discharged until he asked his congressman's office this summer to help him figure out why his security screening was taking so long.

"I never said I refuse to enlist, not at all," Gansukh said. In fact, he said, he had opted in for another year after getting a call from his recruiter. Upon learning he was discharged, "I just broke down," the Minnesota State University graduate said.

The DOD said it would not comment on individual cases.

Twenty-two percent of the discharged immigrants were told their entry-level performance and conduct was subpar, which Pentagon spokeswoman Carla Gleason said could include being injured. Ten percent — or 48 servicemembers — were listed as being discharged because of an unfavorable security screening. This can include having family members in another country —

which is typical for immigrants — or the military not completing all of the screenings in a reasonable period.

There were three discharges for apathy or personal problems, two for having an encounter with police after enlisting, one due to pregnancy and another citing education, which could indicate a university opportunity.

Two "declined to ship" to boot camp, the list said, and two enlistees were discharged with the explanation "unknown," which the Defense Department said it could not explain.

The names of the servicemembers and other personal information were redacted from the list to protect their privacy.

All the enlistees had committed to active duty or reserves; many had been regularly drilling and training with their recruiters in preparation for boot camp while awaiting security clearances.

Cardinal quits amid scandals over sex abuse

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis accepted the resignation Friday of Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl after he became entangled in two major sexual abuse and cover-up scandals and lost the support of many in his flock.

But in a letter released by Wuerl's office, Francis praised his longtime ally and suggested Wuerl had unfairly become a scapegoat, having made some "mistakes" in handling sex abuse cases, but not having covered them up.

With the resignation, Wuerl becomes the most prominent head to roll in the scandal roiling the Catholic Church after his predecessor as Washington archbishop, Theodore McCarrick, was forced to resign as cardinal over allegations he sexually abused at least two minors and adult seminarians.

A Vatican statement Friday said Fran-

cis had accepted Wuerl's resignation, but named no replacement; in his letter, the pope asked him to stay on in a temporary capacity until a new archbishop is found.

The decision came after months in which Wuerl, who turns 78 in November, initially downplayed the scandal, insisted on his own good record, but then progressively came to the conclusion that he could no longer lead the archdiocese.

"The Holy Father's decision to provide new leadership to the Archdiocese can allow all of the faithful, clergy, religious and lay, to focus on healing and the future," Wuerl said in a statement Friday. "Once again for any past errors in judgment I apologize and ask for pardon."

In his letter accepting the resignation, Francis said he recognized that in asking to retire, Wuerl had put the interests and unity of his flock ahead of his own ambi-

tions, as all shepherds must do.

"You have sufficient elements to justify your actions and distinguish between what it means to cover up crimes or not to deal with problems, and to commit some mistakes," Francis wrote. "However, your nobility has led you not to choose this way of defense. Of this I am proud and thank you."

Wuerl had submitted his resignation to Francis nearly three years ago, when he turned 75, the normal retirement age for bishops. But Francis kept him on, as popes tend to do with able-bodied bishops who share their pastoral priorities.

But a grand jury report issued in August on rampant sex abuse in six Pennsylvania dioceses accused Wuerl of helping to protect some child-molesting priests while he was bishop of Pittsburgh from 1988 to 2006.

Wuerl has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

Turks say Saudis killed journalist in consulate

The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — The Turkish government has told U.S. officials that it has audio and video recordings that prove Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul this month, according to U.S. and Turkish officials.

The recordings show that a Saudi security team detained Khashoggi in the consulate after he walked in on Oct. 2 to obtain an official document before his upcoming wedding, then killed him and dismembered his body, the officials said.

The audio recording, in particular, provides some of the most persuasive and gruesome evidence that the Saudi team is responsible for Khashoggi's death, the of-

ficials said.

"The voice recording from inside the embassy lays out what happened to Jamal after he entered," said one person with knowledge of the recording who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss highly sensitive intelligence.

"You can hear his voice and the voices of men speaking Arabic," the person said. "You can hear how he was interrogated, tortured and then murdered."

A second person briefed on the recording said men could be heard beating Khashoggi.

The journalist has had long-standing ties to the Saudi royal family but has written critically of the current government and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The existence of such evidence would explain why Turkish officials were quick to blame Saudi Arabia for Khashoggi's killing. But Turkish officials are wary of releasing the recordings, fearing they could divulge how the Turks spy on foreign entities in their country, the officials said.

It's not clear whether or not U.S. officials have seen the footage or listened to the audio, but Turkish officials have described their contents to their American counterparts.

Saudi officials have denied any involvement in the disappearance of Khashoggi, saying he left the consulate shortly after entering. Turkey said Thursday it has agreed to a request by Saudi Arabia to form a joint committee to probe what happened to Khashoggi.

Turkish court convicts, then frees American pastor

Associated Press

ALIAGA, Turkey — A Turkish court on Friday convicted an American pastor on terrorism charges but released him from house arrest and allowed him to leave the country, a move that's likely to ease tensions between Turkey and the United States.

The court near the western city of Izmir sentenced Andrew Brunson to three years, one month and 15 days in prison for allegedly helping terrorism groups. But since the evangelical pastor had already spent nearly

two years in detention, Turkish law allowed him to remain free with time served.

The earlier charge of espionage against him was dropped.

Brunson, 50, a native of North Carolina whose detention had sparked a diplomatic dispute between the two NATO allies, had rejected the espionage and terrorism-related charges and strongly maintained his innocence.

Brunson had faced up to 35 years in jail if convicted of all the charges. With tears

in his eyes, he hugged his wife, Norine Lyn, as he awaited the decision Friday.

Lawyer Ismail Cem Halavurt said Brunson was expected to leave Turkey for the U.S., but it was not clear when. His lawyer said the electronic ankle bracelet for monitoring was removed. Brunson was seen going back to his home in Izmir from the courthouse.

President Donald Trump tweeted he was praying for Brunson and announced his release, saying "WILL BE HOME SOON!"

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Deputies: Man lied in shooting over chips

SC WALTERBORO — Authorities in South Carolina say a teen intentionally shot his cousin for eating his potato chips, but lied and called it an accidental shooting.

Colleton County sheriff's deputies said once the 17-year-old victim recovered, he told investigators the truth about what happened.

Authorities said Ryan Langdale, 19, gave deputies a different gun than the one fired in the Sept. 29 shooting, saying his cousin accidentally shot himself.

Deputies said the victim eventually told them Langdale shot him in the chest after warning him not to eat Langdale's chips. Investigators said they also found the gun actually used in the shooting.

The sheriff's office said in a statement that Langdale was charged Wednesday with attempted murder.

Fugitive who vowed to 'never be caught' held

IN MICHIGAN CITY — A fugitive from Minnesota who taunted authorities on social media, vowing that she'd "never be caught," has been arrested in northern Indiana.

Tiesha Monique Moore, 31, was apprehended Monday by members of the Twin Cities Apprehension Team in Michigan City. She was wanted on 16 outstanding warrants, including felony theft and domestic assault, all from Minnesota's Stearns and Benton counties.

She's being held in Indiana, awaiting extradition to Minnesota.

Michigan City Police Sgt. Chris Yagelski said a local informant helped in the arrest in the city along Lake Michigan about 50 miles east of Chicago.

2nd inmate who fled, hid in trash caught

KY LOUISVILLE — Authorities in Kentucky have captured a second inmate who escaped a Louisville jail by hiding in a trash can.

The Courier Journal reported Louisville Metro Corrections said in a statement that Justin Stumler and Jeremy Hunt escaped Saturday night. It said the minimum-security inmates were working in the jail's kitchen when they hid in food-waste trash cans taken outside for disposal. It said a witness saw the men and notified a corrections officer.

Louisville police said in a statement that Stumler was arrested late Monday morning after officers received a tip on his whereabouts. Police said on the agency's Facebook page that Hunt was captured after a pursuit Monday afternoon.

Errant text leads to woman's drug charge

WY POWELL — Prosecutors in Wyoming say a woman mistakenly texted a police officer in her search for a gram of methamphetamine.

The Powell Tribune reports Audrey K. Biggica, 23, pleaded not guilty Monday to attempting to possess a controlled substance and prostitution. Prosecutors allege Biggica indicated she was willing to perform a sex act as part of the payment.

Powell Police Sgt. Paul Sapp reported receiving the misdirected text on Sept. 17.

He agreed to meet Biggica. However, he was in uniform, so he asked Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation Agent Chris Wallace to help.

Sapp hid in the backseat of Wallace's truck when Wallace met Biggica in an alley. Wallace drove around town for a bit

before pulling into the police department's parking lot and placing her under arrest.

Man stabbed at haunted house

TN MADISON — A man has been stabbed in the arm at a haunted house in Tennessee, and an attraction employee has been suspended.

The Tennessean reported James "Jay" Yochim, 29, was stabbed Friday night by a friend who had been handed a knife by a person thought to be a cast member. Yochim said he and his friends were attending Nashville Nightmare in Madison and had been chased by people with chain saws and other weapons. He said they expected the knife to be fake, "so she stabs at me with it, and everything got really black."

Yochim said the man who provided the knife started panicking, saying he didn't know the knife was sharp. Nashville Nightmare organizers said they've suspended a male employee believed to be involved.

Yochim's arm required nine stitches.

Former inmate sues over thrown feces

CA OAKLAND — A former Northern California jail inmate sued four former guards who he alleges encouraged other prisoners to spray him with feces and urine.

Fernando Mirguel Soria and his attorneys on Tuesday filed the civil rights lawsuit against the Alameda County Sheriff's Department and the four men in federal court.

Soria said he contacted hepatitis C because of the attacks in October and November 2016 when he was jailed in the Santa Rita Jail for resisting arrest.

The four deputies were arrested last year by their own

department and were charged with assaulting inmates.

School warns students about 'happy crack'

KS WICHITA — A Wichita middle school is asking parents to be sure their children aren't bringing a candy known as a "happy crack" to school.

Truesdell Middle School officials sent an email to families Monday saying the school's teachers are seeing more students bringing in powdered candy in plastic bags. The Wichita Eagle reported the candy is Kool-Aid mixed with sugar or crushed smarties. The email said the candy has caused disruptions at the school.

Wichita school district spokeswoman Susan Arensman said she hadn't heard about other schools having problems with "happy crack."

Police: 911 dispatcher aided in armed robbery

MS YAZOO CITY — When a man burst in to a 911 office and robbed a female dispatcher at gunpoint, Mississippi authorities say he had help — from another dispatcher.

Yazoo County Sheriff Jacob Sheriff told news outlets that Terrance Freeman, 27, was arrested Monday on a charge of accessory to armed robbery.

Sheriff said Freeman propped open a door so a scarf-wearing man could enter and rob a fellow dispatcher just after midnight Wednesday.

Office doors are normally locked late at night.

Deputies said they believe Freeman and the unnamed man knew the female dispatcher had a large amount of cash because she was about to pay her bills.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Teams turn to aces for key moments

Associated Press

Chris Sale is all set to start Game 1 at Fenway Park. If the Boston Red Sox later need him for middle relief, he's ready. Or a setup spot, sure.

"I mean, it's postseason baseball. You have to be prepared for anything," the All-Star lefty said.

Especially when it comes to pitching, particularly after seeing the likes of Justin Verlander, Clayton Kershaw, Max Scherzer and other All-Star aces working in unusual roles during recent Octobers.

Because as managers' moves this month have proven — some worked, some didn't — the winning strategy might be getting the best guy on the mound at the key moment, no matter when that comes.

"That's what it is. You're using your team's talents the best way you can to win games," Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said Thursday, a day before the Brewers host the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL Championship Series.

Sale and the Red Sox take on the Houston Astros in the ALCS beginning Saturday night.

Relievers have accounted for 48.8 percent of innings in the playoffs so far, topping last year's record of 46.5 percent for the whole postseason. By comparison, five years ago in 2013, relievers threw 35.7 percent of postseason innings.

But the remaining teams haven't been as quick to the bullpen as the trend might suggest.

The World Series champion Astros and Los Angeles are bucking the relief revolution movement, with the Dodgers at 30 percent bullpen usage and Houston at 36. Interestingly, those 'pens are also 1-2 in lowest ERA this postseason with marks under 1.00.

Kershaw will start the NLCS opener for the Dodgers. He threw four scoreless innings in middle relief in Game 7 of the World Series last year, and earned his only big league save in the clinching game of the 2016 playoffs against Washington.

As for letting bullpens handle a bulk of the load, "If it works, it's great," he said Thursday.

"I'm kind of a traditionalist when it comes to baseball. But when it comes down the postseason, you've got to win games," Kershaw said. "It's probably tough to sustain for a full season ... but definitely makes sense for a postseason."

Even when teams have gone to the bullpen, it hasn't necessarily been for a traditional reliever. The Red Sox bullpen was seen as a potential weakness this October, so rookie manager Alex Cora didn't hesitate to use Sale — who started Game 1 of the ALDS — for the eighth inning this week, trying to finish off New York at Yankee Stadium.

"He was in the bullpen, but it was kind of like his day. Everybody was on board. I even shouted to the dugout, 'Hey, we're all in! He's coming in,'" Cora said.

Cora also employed former Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello to start and

relieve against the Yankees.

The Brewers are the only team among the final four to use relievers for more outs than starters. At a time when more teams are using relievers to start for an inning or two, the Brewers went that way in their NL Division Series opener against Colorado. Reliever Brandon Woodruff began with three hitless innings.

"Look, it's no secret that we're going to use our pitching a little differently than traditionally, than the traditionalists would like," Counsell said.

"We know we've got a lot of guys, the depth of our staff is what is the most meaningful thing for me when we kind of figure out how we do this," he said.

Counsell played for the Arizona Diamondbacks when they won the 2001 World Series. Imposing aces Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling started five times in the seven-game win over the Yankees, with Johnson also working once in relief.

"I'm not trying to — we're not trying to eliminate the need for great starting pitching," Counsell said. "I mean, Randy Johnson would be probably first in my draft list. If you could pick a player for me to take in the series, I'd say him in a heartbeat."

"It would be nice to have him. Our team's different, you know, and so we're going to try to — and we're trying to figure out what's the best way for us to put together a tough 27 outs and make it tough on them and get those outs as fast as we can," he said. "And so we're considering a different way to put that puzzle together."

Will home-field advantage push Boston over top?

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Red Sox hope home-field advantage makes a difference after consecutive Division Series eliminations.

Boston began the postseason 0-2 on the road at Cleveland in 2016 and again at Houston last year.

By winning a club-record 108 games this season, the Red Sox ensured home-field advantage through the postseason. They split at home against the Yankees last weekend, then swept a pair of games in New York to advance and open the AL Championship Series against the World Series champion As-

trots on Saturday night.

Chris Sale starts for the Red Sox and Justin Verlander for the Astros.

Sale gave up seven runs in last year's opening 8-2 loss to Houston, including two home runs by Jose Altuve and by Alex Bregman. Sale made a rare relief appearance in Game 4 at Fenway Park, replacing Rick Porcello to start the fourth inning with Boston trailing 2-1. After Andrew Benintendi's two-run homer put the Red Sox ahead, Sale allowed Bregman's tying home run leading off the eighth and a one-out single to Evan Gattis, who gave Houston the lead for good when he scored on Josh Reddick's single

against Craig Kimbrel.

"Going through that the last two years helped," said Boston utility player Brock Holt. "We're better because of what happened last year."

Boston was 57-24 at Fenway Park this year, the best home record in the major leagues, and Sale has a 1.29 ERA and .199 opponents' batting average in his last eight home starts.

Boston won the AL pennant in four of the six times it opened the Championship Series at Fenway, in 1975, 1986, 2007 and 2013, the last two en route to World Series titles. The Red Sox failed at this stage in 1988 and 1990.

"It's a big difference to be

able to start at home against a good team," Holt said.

With its quirky dimensions that include the Green Monster in left, Fenway can be difficult for visiting teams defensively. Houston's Marwin Gonzalez has played just 24 regular-season innings in left field at Fenway plus the two games last October.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora said this year's win over the 100-win Yankees provides a mental boost, especially after the Game 2 loss at home.

"I think we grew up as a group," he said.

Cora was Houston's bench coach last year before he was hired by Boston.

Wentz leads Eagles to 'big win' over Giants

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Breathe a little easier Philadelphia and surrounding areas. The Eagles are back and looking super.

Just goes to show you what a little urgency, some big plays — and a timely game against the New York Giants can do for the defending Super Bowl champions.

Carson Wentz threw a season-high three touchdown passes and the Eagles got an early lift from their defense and special teams in beating the struggling Giants 34-13 on Thursday night, avoiding their first three-game losing streak since the 2016 season.

"It's a big win for us," said Wentz, who finished 26-for-36 for 278 yards and no interceptions. "NFC East and the conference. It's huge. Being 3-3 is better than 2-4. This is more like who we are. We can build from this."

The win put the Eagles into a first-place tie with Washington (2-2) in the NFC East with Dal-

las (2-3) a half game back. The Giants are fading fast.

Wentz sandwiched touchdowns passes of 13 and 1 yard to Alshon Jeffery around a 10-yarder to tight end Zach Ertz to help the Eagles build a 31-6 lead. They beat the Giants (1-5) for the fourth straight time and seventh in eight games.

Corey Clement scored on a 1-yard run and Jake Elliott added field goals of 33 and 30 yards.

"This is finally the game where we played like the Philadelphia Eagles," said Ertz, who was limited to seven passes for 43 yards. "We're finally the Eagles again."

Rookie halfback Saquon Barkley scored on a 50-yard run and rushed for 130 yards in one of the few bright spots for the Giants' offense, which was booed repeatedly in losing at home for the third time. Aldrick Rosas had field goals of 33 and 21 yards.

This was seen as a must-win game for both teams in the weak and wide-open NFC East, and the Eagles went out and

grabbed it.

They came into the game having scored seven points in the first quarter and they doubled that against New York.

Eli Manning was under pressure all night from the Eagles. They sacked him four times and hit him 13 other times. He finished 24-for-43 for 281 yards.

"We want to get after the passer every week," coach Doug Pederson said. "These games are battles. It all comes down to which team gets after the passer. We hit Eli and put him on the ground. That was big."

It started on the opening series.

Kamu Grugier-Hill intercepted Manning's pass that was tipped by fellow linebacker Jordan Hicks and he returned it to Giants 16. Three plays later, Wentz was forced out of the pocket and found Jeffery after getting all day to throw.

A 46-yard run by Barkley set up Rosas' 33-yarder to cut the gap to 7-3, but the Eagles took control later in the quarter

after DeAndre Carter returned a punt 23 yards to the New York 44. Passes of 17 to Jeffery and 14 to Clement set up Clement's touchdown run.

A spectacular tackle-breaking run by Barkley on a 55-yard screen pass helped cut the lead to 14-6 in the second quarter but Wentz hit a wide-open Nelson Agholer on a third-and-3 and connected with Ertz for a 21-6 lead on the next play.

Elliott made it 24-6 just before halftime and Philadelphia put the game out of reach with a 75-yard drive that ended with a short Jeffery TD catch.

"We didn't do anything well enough to win tonight," Giants coach Pat Shurmur said. "Credit Philadelphia. Good football team."

The only thing meaningful after that was Barkley's touchdown run.

"How do I feel about my performance tonight?" Barkley asked rhetorically. "Doesn't matter to me. We didn't win."

Army QB Hopkins has adjusted to starting role

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. has a different mindset, one that bodes well for the Black Knights.

A year ago Hopkins knew he wasn't going to see much playing time under center because Ahmad Bradshaw was having a stellar senior season. Now Hopkins is the lead man and things have changed.

"You've got to take a lot of things a lot more seriously (as the starter)," said Hopkins, who won a three-way competition in preseason camp. "You've got to prepare like you're about to play."

Five games into the season, Hopkins has demonstrated he's up for the challenge of leading Army's triple option. He has quickly matured in his new role as the Black Knights (3-

2) chase a third straight bowl game appearance.

"He's really grown as a player," coach Jeff Monken said. "He is a talented guy and has done a good job taking care of the ball, giving it to the right people and leading our team. I think our guys believe in him."

Army's lone losses have come on the road against teams that have been ranked this fall — Duke in the season opener and Oklahoma, which needed overtime to win. The Black Knights earned a boatload of respect in that one three weeks ago and received a standing ovation from the partisan crowd after the game.

Ball security is emphasized by the coaching staff at West Point because it's a key to success. The Army offense lost only four fumbles last season and matched an academy re-

cord with 10 wins, so there was dismay when Hopkins and the offense got off to a shaky start at Duke, losing two of five fumbles in a 34-14 loss.

"I felt like the first game I got a little bit tired early," Hopkins said. "My last full game was in high school in 2014. It took me a while to get my wind and calm down."

In nearly 300 snaps since, the offense hasn't fumbled and Hopkins has excelled. He has 397 yards rushing to lead an attack that's averaging 308 on the ground, third nationally, and leads the nation in time of possession, averaging just over 40 minutes. Against Oklahoma, the Black Knights had the ball for 44:41 and ran 87 plays to 40 for the then-No. 5 Sooners, the third-fewest offensive plays for Oklahoma in school history and the fewest since 1960.

What's different about Army this year is that Hopkins has made the Black Knights more of a threat through the air. He's 25-for-51 passing for 551 yards and three TDs with three interceptions. In 13 games last year, Army finished with 361 passing yards, attempting only 65 passes and suffering six interceptions to rank last nationally.

Hopkins offered a glimpse of his potential as a sophomore, etching his name in academy lore by rallying the Black Knights to an improbable win over Temple at Michie Stadium. Army trailed by seven points with 91 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter when Monken replaced Bradshaw with Hopkins, and Hopkins guided the Black Knights on a 14-play, 79-yard scoring drive that included five completions for 67 yards.

FIFA women's plan draws mixed reaction

Associated Press

FIFA's new global strategy to grow the women's game is prompting both praise and skepticism.

Soccer's governing body has been addressing the women's side of the sport in the past several years, partly in response to calls for more equity. The result is a five-pronged proposal announced this week that focuses on the grassroots level among FIFA's 211 member associations.

FIFA wants to see women's participation double to 60 million worldwide by 2026. A key component will be insuring all associations have comprehensive women's plans in place by 2022.

The strategy will leverage the Women's World Cup in France next summer to drive growth.

Former U.S. national team forward Abby Wambach, an outspoken advocate of equity, praised FIFA for the strategy but wants more details.

"Whenever we're talking about these big sweeping

changes, for FIFA it's a huge deal, but I also want to see it actually happen. I want to see not only the growth of the game, but I also want to see money get into the hands of the women who are actually growing it," Wambach said.

Last month, FIFA pledged to increase prize money for the women's event. The U.S. women's team earned \$2 million of a \$15 million pool of prize money for the 2015 World Cup; the French men's team earned \$38 million of a \$400 million pool for winning the World Cup this summer.

FIFA has been criticized for not committing to using video replay to assist referees at next year's World Cup. Video assistant referees were used in the men's World Cup for the first time in Russia. The organization says a decision about VAR will come "in due time."

Some have complained the women's final on July 7 is the same day as the Copa America final in Rio de Janeiro and the

CONCACAF Gold Cup final in Chicago, which could take attention away from the women's game.

U.S. coach Jill Ellis, speaking after a World Cup qualifying match on Wednesday night, was pleased with the effort to grow the sport. She also criticized the scheduling conflict on the day of the women's final.

"They're targeting participation numbers, and they're targeting marketing. All of these things are excellent for our game in terms of willingness to grow our sport, grow our brand and make it more available and supportive. I think it's great. We need to make sure that it is supported. In my own personal opinion, playing three big matches in one day isn't supporting the women's game. So, there you go," Ellis said.

Former U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo also pointed to the schedule.

"FIFA says it's taking action to promote grassroots football while enhancing the commercial value of the women's game. What they refuse to see is that

the value in the women's game is already there, yet they continue to perpetuate the inequalities," Solo told The Associated Press.

"Until their actions are in line with their words, then it is just more lip service. Maybe we are just supposed to be 'grateful' for any amount of progress, but any new strategy needs to address equality across the board."

The framework launched Tuesday was approved by the FIFA Council last year. It's linked with the FIFA 2.0 vision statement and the creation of a new women's soccer division unveiled by President Gianni Infantino in 2016 after he replaced Sepp Blatter as FIFA president.

The initiative includes having a woman on the executive committee of all 211 member associations by 2026. The governing body also wants women comprising one third of its committee members — up from the current requirement of one per panel.

NHL roundup

Kessel's hat trick powers Pens past Golden Knights

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Phil Kessel scored a natural hat trick and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Vegas Golden Knights 4-2 on Thursday night.

Vegas scored the first goal, and Kessel had the next three — with the final two coming on second-period breakaways. It was Kessel's sixth career hat trick and first in four seasons with Pittsburgh. His last hat trick came Feb. 1, 2014, with Toronto.

Jake Guentzel scored his third goal and Evgeni Malkin had three assists.

Casey DeSmith stopped 35 shots in his first regular-season start for Pittsburgh. Starter Matt Murray is day-to-day with a concussion.

Reilly Smith scored his second of the season for Vegas and 100th career goal. Tomas Nosek also scored for Vegas, which lost its third straight and has opened the season with four losses in five games.

Maple Leafs 5, Red Wings 3: Auston Matthews scored twice for an NHL-leading nine goals — tying a league record after five games — as visiting Toronto beat Detroit for its third straight victory.

Avalanche 6, Sabres 1: Nathan MacKinnon scored twice to extend his season-opening goals streak to four games, and visiting Colorado beat Buffalo.

Rangers 3, Sharks 2 (OT): Brady Skjei buried a wrist shot 37 seconds into overtime to lift host New York past San Jose for coach David Quinn's first

career victory.

Kings 3, Canadiens 0: Jack Campbell made 40 saves for his first career shutout as Los Angeles spoiled Montreal's home opener.

Bruins 4, Oilers 1: Brad Marchand and Joakim Nordstrom scored in a 36-second span in the first period and Jaroslav Halak stopped 25 shots to help host Boston beat Edmonton.

Predators 3, Jets 0: Pekka Rinne made 29 saves for his 52nd career shutout, leading host Nashville past Winnipeg.

Wild 4, Blackhawks 3 (OT): Ryan Suter tied it with 23 seconds left in the third period and Jason Zucker scored in overtime, rallying host Minnesota past Chicago.

Blues 5, Flames 3: David

Perron scored his fourth career hat trick, Alexander Steen had a goal and an assist, and host St. Louis beat Calgary for its first victory of the season.

Blue Jackets 5, Panthers 4: Cam Atkinson scored with 2:46 left to lift visiting Columbus over Florida.

Devils 6, Capitals 0: Kyle Palmieri scored twice, Keith Kinkaid made 21 saves and New Jersey celebrated its home opener with a blowout victory over Stanley Cup champion Washington.

Canucks 4, Lightning 1: Elias Pettersson and Brock Boeser scored 1:10 apart in the third period and Jake Virtanen and Markus Granlund added empty-net goals in visiting Vancouver's victory over Tampa Bay.