

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## DOD to deploy 5,200 troops to border

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
AND CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will deploy 5,200 active-duty troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to help curb illegal immigration, officials said Monday following President Donald Trump's repeated warning that migrants in southern Mexico making their way toward the U.S. pose a national security threat.

That deployment of mostly Army engineering, aviation,

medical and military police soldiers could grow even larger, officials said Tuesday.

By Monday evening, some 800 active-duty troops had arrived in Texas to "harden the southern border," said Air Force Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, the chief of U.S. Northern Command. The new crop of troops will arrive in the border region by Saturday, joining roughly 2,100 National Guard forces already operating — primarily in logistics and background support missions — on the southern border in support of U.S.

Customs and Border Protection agents.

"Our concept of operations is to flow in our military assets with a priority to build up southern Texas and then Arizona and then California to reinforce points of entry to enhance CBP's ability to harden and secure the border ... by providing robust military capabilities," the general said.

The massive deployment — about five times more troops than Pentagon officials indicated they initially planned to send last week — would bring to the

border a military force roughly equal to the U.S. military deployment in Iraq and Syria to fight the Islamic State. The Pentagon has about 5,200 troops in Iraq and 2,000 in Syria.

The new border mission, dubbed Operation Faithful Patriot, could get even larger in the coming weeks, a defense official said on the condition of anonymity. Units totaling "several thousand" additional troops have been notified they could be called to the border if needed, the official said.

## Report fails to reveal the why of military sex assaults

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

A recent Rand Corp. report requested by the Department of Defense offered a glimpse at where sexual assault was happening in the military, but experts say it failed to answer one of the most important questions: Why?

Of the four military branches studied, the Navy had the installations with the greatest risks of sexual assault. It was the only service to have installations with more than a 15 percent risk of sexual assault on women, with Naval Support Activity Charleston in South Carolina topping the list with 17.1 percent of female servicemembers reporting they'd experienced a sexual assault in fiscal year 2014.

"Our model estimates that more than one in six women assigned to duty at that installation were sexually assaulted in FY 2014," the report, published last month, said.

On average, men in the Navy were more likely to be sexually assaulted than those in other military branches. The Navy

had the highest average sexual assault risk for men — 1.5 percent — on installations studied servicewide, according to the report.

The Marine Corps had the highest average risk for women — about 8 percent overall — while the Navy came in second with about 7 percent risk.

Across all services, men and women in the Air Force had the lowest risk of sexual assault, according to the study.

Rand's authors wrote in the report that they could not definitively identify "what it is about these duty assignments that leads to their association with the highest risk of sexual assault" based on the data.

In an official statement to Stars and Stripes, the Navy said the report's "information will be vital to us in determining where and how to target training, prevention and response resources."

"The Navy has further engaged with Rand to help us take a closer look at the conclusions of this report by conducting follow-on projects to provide more

actionable information about where sexual assault risk is highest and lowest in the Navy," the statement said.

But information about where sexual assaults are happening is not enough. The Navy said it will work to understand what is causing numbers to be higher in certain regions.

"We take sexual assault seriously and specifically want to understand the 'why' presented by the data," the official Navy statement said. "Identifying protective and risk factors is essential to mitigating the risk of sexual assault for our sailors."

Some patterns in the report data could point to better understanding of the causes.

Authors said the correlation between ships and sexual assault was "the clearest pattern of high risk we recognize." All but one of the Navy's 15 installations with the highest risk of sexual assault for men were ships or clusters of ships; for female sailors, 13 of the 15 were ships, "including eight of the (Navy's) 10 aircraft carriers," according to the report.

"Ships dominate the highest-risk installations," the report said. "Our model estimates that more than 10 percent of all women experienced a sexual assault at each of these high-risk installations over a one-year period, and more than 15 percent of all women were assaulted at two of them."

Because "it is not just one or two ships that top the Navy's lists" of sexual assault risk, "there may be something about assignment to ships that elevates risk for women and men," the report said.

Vessels not at sea also had high instances of sexual assault. The USS Abraham Lincoln ranked among installations across all branches with the highest risk of sexual assault for women in 2014 while it was out of rotation for maintenance, according to the report.

The phenomenon may serve as evidence that ships' high sexual assault risks are "not exclusively due to life at sea or the cycles of shore leave experienced by deployed sailors," the report said.

## China preps to build Antarctic airfield

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

China has announced plans to build an airfield in Antarctica amid warnings that the communist nation is laying groundwork for a claim on the frozen continent's vast natural resources.

China's state-run Xinhua News Agency noted the effort to establish the airfield in a Monday report about an upcoming flight by the nation's first fixed-wing polar aircraft — the Xueying 601, or Snow Eagle.

The facility will be near Zhongshan Station, according to the agency. It's one of several outposts China operates in the Australian Antarctic Territory, which covers 42 percent of the continent.

The airfield should be complete in a couple of years and will be used for scientific expeditions and tourist groups, according to information from China's Ministry of Science and Technology reported by Australia's News Corp. on Monday.

There's no indication that the airfield will have a military purpose. However, Anne Marie Brady, an expert on Antarctica and China at the University of Can-

terbury in New Zealand has reported on Chinese military activities on the ice in recent months.

In September, she wrote in The Australian newspaper about Chinese and Russian efforts to build their own satellite navigation networks — known as Beidou and Glonass — with Antarctic receiving stations.

"In a time of conflict, if the U.S. denied others access to GPS, China and Russia could employ Beidou and Glonass to guide strike weapons and other military operations," she wrote.

Brady said China is steadily expanding the level of involvement of its military in the Antarctica program.

Fifteen other nations, including the U.S. and Japan, have airfields on the continent, he said.

U.S. military personnel deploy to McMurdo Station on Ross Island to support the National Science Foundation's research during Antarctica's summer. New York Air National Guard LC-130 cargo planes operate out of nearby Pegasus Field and can land on skis at the South Pole and other places on the continent.

## New Okinawa leader blasts Tokyo's OK for US base

*The Washington Post*

TOKYO — The newly elected governor of the Japanese island of Okinawa said Tokyo's decision to press ahead with the construction of a new U.S. military base on Tuesday is "outrageous" and disrespects local democracy.

Denny Tamaki, the son of an Okinawan woman and a U.S. Marine he has never met, won a gubernatorial election last month on a platform of opposition to the construction of a new U.S. Marine base on the island.

He met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe earlier this month and told him that Okinawans opposed the building of a base at Henoko, in the northern part of the island. Less than three weeks later, Abe's government issued an injunction allowing construction to proceed.

"From my point of view, this is outrageous," Tamaki said in an interview Tuesday while on a trip to Tokyo. "What the central government did today is disrespectful to our democracy."

The Okinawa prefecture makes up just 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area, but hosts about half of the 54,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country.

Locals say that's unfair, complaining about the noise of low-flying aircraft, the danger of accidents and the behavior of a small minority of U.S. servicemembers.

The U.S. military says the island's strategic location means the bases are vital to the defense of Japan, as well as to keeping the peace in the entire East Asian region.

Last week, the Okinawan assembly voted to hold a nonbinding referendum on the issue, and Tamaki confirmed that the vote will occur within six months. Provided the referendum attracts at least 25 percent of registered voters, Tamaki vowed to respect its outcome and "carry the result" to Abe and to the U.S. government.

The base in Henoko is supposed to ease the burden on Okinawa by allowing a Marine Corps base at Futenma to close. Nearly half of the 19,000 Marines on Okinawa would be relocated to bases in Australia, Guam and Hawaii.

## Report details allegations against general

BY BRIAN FERGUSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

An Air Force brigadier general harassed subordinates, didn't report suicide attempts and misused government equipment on multiple occasions, according to an inspector general report released this week.

The redacted report obtained by Stars and Stripes documented five substantiated allegations levied against Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets IV during his tenure as commander of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., from June 2015 to July 2017.

Tibbets was not allowed to pin on a second star, received a letter of admonishment and was scheduled to retire after Oct. 19, following the end of his leave, Air Force officials told Stars and Stripes in September.

The report substantiated an allegation that Tibbets was derelict in the performance of his duties when he did not report suicide attempts through the official Commander's Critical Information Requirements report, or CCIR, and when on two occasions he questioned the medical diagnosis of a suicide attempt. Tibbets questioned the diagnosis of an airman who had accidentally overdosed three times.

"I do not believe this is an actual suicide attempt and therefore have not sent up a CCIR" to Air Force Global Strike Com-

mand, Tibbets stated in a February 2017 email. "Based on this Airman's pattern of behavior, we think this is a 'cry for help' (wanting attention)."

While medical personnel did report the suicide attempt through their own channels, Tibbets did not. In June 2017, the airman died by suicide.

By challenging the diagnoses, "Tibbets was negligent in that he exhibited a lack of due care which a reasonably prudent person would have exercised under the same or similar circumstances," the report stated.

In a substantiated allegation of conduct unbecoming an officer, Tibbets was quoted as saying, in reference to an enlisted female, "Isn't she such a beautiful young lady?" and "If only she didn't sleep with married men."

That came after Tibbets repeatedly asked the airman why she had lost a rank stripe during her time at Whiteman.

"I decided to tell him mostly because I did not want him to keep asking and I would say that was really it," the airman told investigators.

The airman had been demoted from airman first class after receiving nonjudicial punishment for having an unprofessional relationship with a married man.

Tibbets told investigators that he did not recall making the comments.

# Funerals begin as Trump goes to Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh's Jewish community began burying its dead Tuesday in the wake of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in American history.

The casket of Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, a family doctor known for his caring and kindness, was taken to the Jewish Community Center in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood for the first of 11 funerals.

Funerals were also set Tuesday for Cecil and David Rosenthal, two intellectually disabled brothers in their 50s, and Daniel Stein, a man seen as part of the core of his congregation.

Other victims' funerals have been sched-

uled through Friday in a week of mourning, anguish and questions about the rampage at Tree of Life synagogue that authorities say was carried out Saturday by a gunman who raged against Jews.

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump planned to visit Pittsburgh on Tuesday to "express the support of the American people and to grieve with the Pittsburgh community," the White House said.

The plan elicited mixed feelings in Pittsburgh.

Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers told CNN that the president is "certainly welcome," while Democratic Mayor Bill Peduto asked Trump not to come while the city

was burying its dead.

Some other people, including shooting survivor Barry Werber, weren't keen on a visit from a president who has embraced the politically fraught term "nationalist." Some have accused the president of helping to create the corrosive political atmosphere that may have led to the violence.

The man arrested in the massacre, Robert Gregory Bowers, 46, appeared briefly Monday in federal court, where he was ordered held without bail for a preliminary hearing on Thursday. He did not enter a plea.

The truck driver faces hate-crime charges that could bring the death penalty.

## Debate renewed over US 'domestic terrorism' cases

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The package bombs sent to Democrats across the country and the killings of Jews at a Pittsburgh synagogue may seem like clear-cut cases of terrorism. But the suspects will almost certainly never face terrorism charges.

The reason: There's no domestic terrorism law.

Whether there should be one is a matter of debate. On one hand, there's the belief that white supremacists who kill for ideology should get the same terrorism label as Islamic State supporters. On the other, there's concern about infringing on constitutional guarantees to protect free speech, no matter how abhorrent.

In the absence of domestic terrorism laws, the Justice Department relies on other statutes to prosecute ideologically motivated violence by people with no international ties. That makes it hard to track how often extremists driven by religious, racial or anti-government bias commit violence in the U.S. It also complicates efforts to develop a universally accepted domestic terrorism definition.

The discussion in some ways is more about labels than consequences. Even without a specific law, the Justice Department

has other tools available — including explosives, hate crime and firearm possession charges. The penalty can easily be every bit as severe as in the international terrorism cases the Justice Department routinely brings against people who align themselves with foreign extremist groups and carry out violence in their names.

Both Cesar Sayoc, accused of sending more than a dozen explosive packages to high-profile critics of President Donald Trump, and Robert Bowers, accused of killing 11 inside a Pittsburgh synagogue, could face decades in prison. In the case of Bowers, charged in a 29-count complaint with federal crimes including using a firearm to commit murder and obstructing the free exercise of religion, prosecutors intend to seek the death penalty.

Prosecutors are treating the synagogue shooting as a hate crime rather than domestic terrorism.

The Justice Department, acknowledging the homegrown extremism threat, appointed a domestic terrorism counsel in 2015 to coordinate the work of U.S. attorneys. But though ideas for a broader statute have been kicked around, Joshua Zive, outside counsel to the FBI Agents Association, said he could not recall any "viable" proposal.

## Official: Pipe bomb suspect kept a list

Associated Press

MIAMI — Law enforcement officials aren't sure whether they've discovered the last of the pipe bombs mailed to prominent Democrats and other opponents of President Donald Trump. They've said the packages were staggered, and more could be somewhere in the U.S. mail system.

What's more, an official told The Associated Press that the man suspected of sending the bombs kept a list of elected officials and others who investigators believe were intended targets.

The disclosure of the list came as Cesar Sayoc, 56, made his initial court appearance in Miami federal court Monday and after bomb squads were called to a post office in Atlanta about a suspicious mailing to CNN that was similar to the pipe bomb packages recovered last week.

The official said authorities had recovered soldering equipment, a printer and stamps similar to those used on the package bombs after arresting Sayoc last week in Florida.

Authorities believe he was putting explosives together in his van.

The official also said authorities have been scrutinizing Sayoc's social media posts. The

official wasn't authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The FBI said via its Twitter account that the recovered package in Atlanta was "similar in appearance" to the bubble-wrapped manila envelopes authorities say were sent by Sayoc to intended targets from Delaware to California, including former President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Vice President Joe Biden.

CNN President Jeff Zucker said all mail to CNN has been screened offsite since last week, when a series of package bombs began appearing around the country. Among them were two apparent mail bombs sent to CNN.

Sayoc was arrested Friday outside a South Florida auto parts store after investigators said they identified him through fingerprint and DNA evidence.

At Monday's hearing, federal prosecutors said they will seek to keep Sayoc jailed until trial as a flight risk and a danger to the community. A judge set another hearing for Friday on whether to grant bail to Sayoc and to discuss when he will be sent from Miami to New York, where five federal charges were filed.

# As midterms approach, Trump rehashes birthright citizenship

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is making another hard-line immigration play in the final days before midterm elections, declaring that he wants to order an end to the constitutional right to citizenship for babies born in the United States to noncitizens. Most scholars think he can't implement such a change unilaterally.

Trump made the comments to "Axios on HBO." Seeking to energize his supporters and help Republicans keep control of Congress, he has stoked anxiety about a caravan of Central American migrants making its way to the U.S.-Mexico border. He is dispatching additional troops and saying he'll set up tent cities for asylum-seekers.

Trump has long called for an end to birthright citizenship, as have many conservatives. An executive order would spark an uphill legal battle for Trump about whether the president has the unilateral ability to declare that children born in the U.S. to those living here illegally aren't citizens. Most scholars think he can't.

Asked about the legality of such an executive order, Trump said, "They're saying I can do it just with an executive order." He added that "we're the only country in the world where a person comes in and has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the United States."

A 2010 study from the Center

for Immigration Studies, a group that supports immigration restrictions, showed 30 nations offer birthright citizenship.

The Pew Research Center found in a survey published two years ago that births to "unauthorized immigrants" were declining and accounted for about 1 in 3 births to foreign-born mothers in the U.S. in 2014. About 275,000 babies were born to such parents in 2014, or about 7 percent of the 4 million births in the U.S. that year, according to Pew estimates based on government data. That represented a decline from 330,000 in 2009, at the end of the recession.

An excerpt of Trump's interview was posted on Axios' website Tuesday.

The president said White House lawyers are reviewing his proposal. It's unclear how quickly he would act, and the White House did not provide further details.

A person familiar with the internal White House debate said the topic of birthright citizenship had come up inside the West Wing at various times over at least the last year but has some internal detractors. White House lawyers have debated the topic, and expect to work with the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel to develop a legal justification for the action. It is one of many immigration changes being discussed including asylum law changes and barring the migrant caravan from entering the country.

But administration officials said there would likely be no decisions until after the midterms, due in part to the president's trip to Pittsburgh.

Legal experts questioned whether Trump has the authority to do this by executive order. Omar Jadwat, director of the Immigrants' Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union in New York, said Tuesday that the Constitution is very clear.

"If you are born in the United States, you're a citizen," he said, adding that it was "outrageous that the president can think he can override constitutional guarantees by issuing an executive order."

Suzanna Sherry, a professor at Vanderbilt Law School specializing in constitutional questions, said those advising Trump that he can change the Constitution via executive order are simply mistaken. "He can't do it by himself and, in fact, he can't do it even if Congress passed a statute."

"I think it would take a constitutional amendment," she said. "I don't see it as having any plausible legal basis," she said.

But others suggest the president may have an opening.

Jon Feere, a senior adviser at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is among those who has long argued that the president could limit the citizenship clause through executive action.

## Caravan seeks help from Mexico

Associated Press

NILTEPEC, Mexico — The migrant caravan slowly advancing through southern Mexico is demanding the Mexican government help its 4,000 participants reach Mexico City even as a smaller group of Central Americans entered the country, presumably with the intention of joining it.

Worn down from long miles of walking and frustrated by the caravan's slow progress, some migrants have been dropping out and returning home or applying for protected status in Mexico. Conscious of that frustration, its representatives demanded "safe and dignified" transportation to the capital Monday after the group arrived in the Oaxaca state town of Niltepec.

The Mexican government has shown no inclination to assist, however, with the exception of its migrant protection agency giving some of the caravan's stragglers rides to the next town over the weekend.

Pueblo Sin Fronteras, a group supporting the caravan, has said it hopes to hold meetings in Mexico City with federal lawmakers and authorities, as well as representatives of the incoming government, to discuss migrants' rights and the caravan's future.

But Mexican officials seem intent only on seeing the caravan melt away as it travels toward the U.S. border. The government regularly trumpets the number of migrants who have applied for refugee status or asked to return to their home countries.

On Monday, the Federal Police aggressively tried to turn back hundreds more migrants who crossed the Suchiate River to enter Mexico from Guatemala.

A low-flying police helicopter hovered overhead as the migrants waded in large groups across the murky river, apparently trying to use the downdraft from its rotors to discourage them.

## At least 10 killed in violent Italy storms

Associated Press

MILAN — At least 10 people have been killed over two days in Italy as heavy rains and high winds buffet much of the country.

The news agency ANSA said Tuesday that the deaths included a woman who was buried by

mud when a landslide struck her home and a firefighter who was struck by a tree while responding to the emergency, both in the northern region of Trentino-Alto Adige.

A man died while wind-surfing in Emilia-Romagna when he was slammed against rocks.

The other fatalities occurred

in Naples, Liguria and Lazio.

High winds created an exceptional tide in Venice on Monday, covering three-quarters of the city for the first time in a decade.

Water levels were forecast Tuesday at 43.3 inches, flooding 12 percent of the famed lagoon city.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Woman gives birth in middle of intersection

**UT** AMERICAN FORK — An Orem woman is crediting twin sisters for helping her deliver her baby in her car as it was stopped in an intersection.

Emily Acor told KSL-TV that she and her new daughter, Sophia, were resting at home Monday after the eventful delivery.

Acor said she and her mother were heading to the hospital Friday evening in American Fork when her water broke. They stopped the car in the middle of an intersection, and Acor's mother flagged down two women for help.

Sisters Ashley Haws and Adrienne Braun helped deliver Sophia.

### Bar pulls out of pub crawl after violence

**DE** WILMINGTON — A bar in Delaware's largest city will no longer participate in a Halloween pub crawl after police reported a night of fighting, gunshots and an arrest nearby.

The News Journal of Wilmington reported Kelley's Logan House announced Sunday it won't remain part of the Wilmington Halloween Loop. The business posted a Facebook message saying the event "brings to our establishment a clientele we do not welcome."

Officers arrived at Trolley Square — where most of the pubs are located — about 1 a.m. Sunday. The newspaper reported police arrested a man, 25, who was carrying a loaded gun.

### Police: Man wearing PJs stole truck, fled

**MA** DARTMOUTH — Massachusetts police said they are seeking

a pajamas-wearing man who stole a truck and ran from police.

Dartmouth police Officer Manuel Demelo was on patrol about 5 a.m. Sunday when he saw a truck run a stop sign. Masslive.com reported Demelo attempted to stop the car, but the driver sped away.

Police said the truck crashed while the driver tried to make a turn. Demelo said he saw a white male wearing pajamas fleeing into the nearby woods.

Officers and a K-9 unit searched the area but could not find the suspect. Police said they later learned someone broke into a Dartmouth home and stole the keys to the truck.

### Penthouse apartment sells for record price

**NY** NEW YORK — A sprawling New York City penthouse has set a record for the most expensive uptown condominium sale at more than \$9.4 million.

The penthouse, at West 110th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, has five bedrooms, a full dining room and two terraces.

Real estate broker Corcoran told The Wall Street Journal it is the most expensive sale of a property above 96th Street on Manhattan's West Side and above 102nd street on the East Side.

### Giant mural being created on grain bins

**KS** WICHITA — Drivers going south on Interstate 135 near Wichita are watching the creation of what is being billed as the largest mural by a single artist in North America.

Armando Minjarez said the mural on grain bins in north Wichita is designed to unite

people who are physically, emotionally or mentally divided by the interstate. The mural will show members of Hispanic and black neighborhoods reaching out to each other.

All of the figures in the mural are based on photographs of people who live or have lived in the surrounding neighborhoods in the past.

The artwork was designed and is being completed by GLeo, a street artist from Cali, Colombia.

### Police: Man hid baby in car atop stolen gun

**GA** SNELLVILLE — Police in Georgia said a man driving with his infant daughter on his lap hid the child from officers, who found the 3-month-old lying on a stolen gun.

News outlets reported that Detavis Madison, 24, was arrested on charges including theft. Snellville police said officers conducted a traffic stop, and Madison hid the girl before saying he was alone. Police said officers then searched the car and found the baby on the driver's floorboard lying atop a stolen gun.

Police said officers also found marijuana and hundreds of ecstasy pills shaped as Lego characters.

### Hundreds of 'witches' paddle down river

**OR** PORTLAND — Hundreds of "witches" traded in broomsticks for paddles in Oregon during the last weekend before Halloween.

The costumed coven paddled 6 miles on boards Saturday along the Willamette River, which divides the city of Portland.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that the paddleboard

event started two years ago with a handful of participants but now attracts hundreds. Participants donated packages of socks, underwear and T-shirts to a local nonprofit group before they started paddling.

### Cops: Woman sprayed ant killer on dogs

**FL** VERO BEACH — Authorities allege a Florida woman sprayed her neighbor's two dogs with ant killer.

Treasure Coast Newspapers reported that Carol Watt was arrested and charged with misdemeanor cruelty to animals.

The neighbor told Indian River County deputies she had just let her German shepherd and Doberman pinscher out in her fenced-in backyard when she heard barking. An arrest report says the dogs' owner and neighbors told deputies they saw Watt spraying the dogs' faces with a yellow canister. Watt said she was spraying ant killer on her hanging plants and did not intentionally spray the dogs.

Watt is free on \$1,000 bail.

### Corn starch prompts response at school

**CT** TORRINGTON — Police said a small bag of corn starch prompted an emergency response at a Connecticut high school.

Police and officers from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection responded when a bag of white powder was found at Torrington High School.

Students were told to hold in place while officials worked to identify the substance, which was later identified as corn starch.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Pats shut down anemic Bills' offense

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Ever since he topped the 10,000 career yards rushing mark last season, LeSean McCoy set a "12K or bust" objective.

Bust was more like it for the Buffalo Bills running back on Monday night, when McCoy totaled 13 yards on 12 carries in continuing what's been a season-long struggle for the 10th-year player.

"I've had bad games, but this? The flow of the season and everything is bad," McCoy said following a 25-6 loss to the New England Patriots. "I'm 30 years old. I've been playing since high school. This stuff has never happened to me. Yeah, it's tough."

McCoy, who has missed one game with a groin injury, has just 257 yards rushing through eight games. That's 20 yards more than he had in his first two games with Philadelphia in 2013, when McCoy finished with an NFL-leading 1,607 yards rushing.

What hurts even more is being part of an anemic offense that is doing very little in supporting a defense that limited Tom Brady and the Patriots to scoring four field goals through

three quarters.

"It's tough. And you see the defense out there just grinding; it's so frustrating," said McCoy, who did lead the Bills with 82 yards receiving. "We don't do nothing on offense, and it's not fair on them."

Buffalo lost its third straight and dropped to 2-6 in which it has scored just 87 points.

As for New England, Brady was held without a touchdown pass for the first time this season. And yet the Patriots secured their fifth straight win and improved their AFC East-leading record to 6-2 courtesy of James White scoring on a 1-yard run and defensive back Devin McCourty returning an interception 84 yards for a touchdown four minutes apart in the fourth quarter.

The interception was the turning point.

Trailing 18-6, the Bills responded with what was initially ruled a touchdown, when tight end Jason Croom appeared to make a diving, one-handed catch in the end zone. The 25-yard catch was negated when replays showed Croom never had possession.

Two plays later, McCourty jumped in front of Derek An-

erson's attempt to hit tight end Charles Clay over the middle.

"Those are bonus points. It's hard to count on those," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "It was a big play for us. They were driving in the red area and it turned it around."

**Sunday night showdown:** With a win on Monday night out of the way, the Patriots can look ahead to hosting Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers for a Sunday night showdown. It'll mark just the second time Brady and Rodgers will face each other as starters. Green Bay won the last meeting, 26-21, in 2014.

"Aaron's one of the best to ever play, so it'll be exciting," said Brady, who finished 29-for-45 for 324 yards passing against the Bills.

**Patterson on the run:** With rookie running back Sony Michel out with a left knee injury, the Patriots leaned on Cordarrelle Patterson to help their ground game. Patterson finished with a team-best 38 yards rushing.

White had 15 yards rushing, and added 10 catches for 79 yards. He now has 55 catches in becoming the NFL's ninth running back to top 50 in his

first eight games.

**Sputtering Bills:** The Bills have scored just seven touchdowns this season, and two in their past five. Buffalo also hasn't scored a touchdown in the first half since rookie quarterback Josh Allen scored on a 14-yard run in a 13-12 win against Tennessee on Oct. 7.

Kicker Stephen Hauschka accounted for all of Buffalo's points by hitting 51- and 47-yard field goals.

**Anderson hurt:** The Bills might be down yet another quarterback after Anderson was escorted off the field after being sacked with 1:25 left. Coach Sean McDermott couldn't provide any details on Anderson's injury because the player was still being evaluated.

The 35-year-old went 22-for-39 for 290 yards passing with an interception and a lost fumble in making his second start in place of rookie Josh Allen, who is listed week to week with a sprained right elbow.

Buffalo's only other quarterback is Nathan Peterman, who lost the starting job after faltering in the first half of a 47-3 season-opening loss at Baltimore.

## Vikings face tough schedule in second half

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings hit their stride last year well before midseason, using an eight-game winning streak to build a 13-3 record for the second seed in the NFC.

This year, the second half of the season is going to be much more difficult.

The challenge starts with the schedule. The next five games include trips to Chicago, New England and Seattle, with two division-leading foes and one of the toughest venues to play in. Detroit and Green Bay are the home opponents during that stretch, bringing two dangerous quarterbacks to U.S. Bank Stadium.

The Vikings are also 4-3-1, just behind the Bears in the NFC North and slightly ahead of the Packers, so they've squandered their margin for error.

"I'm not disappointed," coach Mike Zimmer said. "It is what it is. We have eight

more games to go, and that will determine what we end up doing."

After losing 30-20 to New Orleans on Sunday night, the Vikings were mostly upset about the way they let the game slip away. They were in control late in the second quarter with a 13-10 lead, when Adam Thielen plunged forward for extra yardage and lost the ball at the 14-yard line. The Saints turned that fumble into a touchdown, making the potential cost of that rare mistake by Thielen a whopping 14 points.

"It's more frustrating because I think we had it going execution-wise and scheme-wise and all that," Thielen said on Monday.

"I think when it's maybe a lack of concentration or just being too relaxed or what have you, that's the frustrating part. Because you know how many times that you've done it a different way and the right way, and the one time you slip up it costs you maybe the game."

The other half of Minnesota's dominant

receiver duo, Stefon Diggs, was responsible for the other devastating turnover. Diggs stopped his drag route short before an under-pressure Kirk Cousins dumped the ball off to the spot where he expected Diggs to be had he kept running. The interception was returned for a score to give the Saints a 27-13 advantage.

Thielen and Diggs were outspoken after the game about their acceptance of blame, but Zimmer wasn't having it, and he said as much to the team.

Though the loss clearly hurt the Vikings in the conference and division standings, there were reasons for them to feel better about where they're headed at the halfway mark. Thielen and Diggs don't have a pattern of such gaffes, for one. They also played without six injured starters.

"I'm encouraged after this ballgame. I'm encouraged after the last four weeks," Zimmer said. "If I was ticked off, I'd let them know. Trust me."

# Thompson's 14 3-pointers lift Warriors

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Klay Thompson popped to the wing off a screen from Stephen Curry, caught the pass from Kevin Durant and dribbled to his left before launching the record three-pointer.

The ball swished through the net. He raised both arms, pumped his fist and got mobbed.

Thompson broke Curry's NBA record with 14 three-pointers and finished with 52 points to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 149-124 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

Thompson set the mark when he nailed a three with just under five minutes remaining in the

third quarter. He celebrated with teammates as they headed to the sideline for a timeout, with the Warriors leading 113-69. Curry hit 13 three-pointers in a win over New Orleans on Nov. 7, 2016.

"That's what I do this for is those moments that you share with your teammates," Thompson said. "That's why we play basketball. It's a collective effort. And I don't know if I would be able to break these records I have gotten in my past like tonight without the system I play in or the team I play with, the guys I play with."

Thompson hadn't scored more than 19 this season and made just five of 36 three-pointers in the Warriors' first seven games. But he broke out

in a huge way, making 14 of 24 from beyond the arc. And he did it in just 26 minutes before sitting out the fourth quarter. About the only thing that slowed down Thompson on Monday night was when he suffered a cut above his right eye that needed two stitches in the third quarter. He returned a few minutes later sporting a yellow headband.

The four-time All-Star guard hit 10 threes and scored 36 as Golden State built a 92-50 half-time lead. It was the second-highest scoring half ever by an NBA team. Phoenix had 107 in the first half of a 173-143 victory over Denver in 1990.

The Warriors also set an NBA record for three-pointers in a half with 17 before

intermission.

"This is what it's been like," coach Steve Kerr said. "I can't even tell you how lucky I am and how I feel every night watching these guys, how unselfish they are."

Curry scored 23. Kevin Durant had 14 points and eight assists. And Chicago product Alfonzo McKinnie added 19 points and 10 rebounds as the two-time defending NBA champions improved to 7-1.

Zach LaVine and Antonio Blakeney led the Bulls with 21 points, and Wendell Carter Jr. scored 18.

Thompson nailed his first three three-pointers and made six while scoring 22 in the first quarter.

## NBA roundup

# Bucks hammer Raptors in battle of last 2 unbeatens

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — No Giannis Antetokounmpo, no problem for the Milwaukee Bucks.

With the way they're shooting from the three-point line, the Bucks look like they can beat just about anybody in the NBA.

Ersan Ilyasova scored a season-high 19 points and the Bucks cruised without the injured Antetokounmpo to beat the Toronto Raptors 124-109 on Monday night in a showdown of the NBA's last undefeated teams.

Milwaukee improved to 7-0 in a marquee matchup that lost some luster with Antetokounmpo in concussion protocol and Raptors star Kawhi Leonard sitting out to rest.

The Bucks' start to the season matches the 1971-72 club for best in franchise history. Milwaukee made up for Antetokounmpo's absence with another strong showing from the perimeter, with Malcolm Brogdon and Eric Bledsoe chipping in 17 points each.

"Of course we have more con-

fidence when (Antetokounmpo) is on the floor," Brogdon said. "But we have a lot of confidence even when he's not on the floor due to the system and due to the confidence that (coach Mike Budenholzer) gives us."

Serge Ibaka scored 30 points for Toronto, which had its franchise-best 6-0 start snapped. Pascal Siakam added 22.

They still couldn't keep up with the Bucks, who eclipsed the 110-point mark for the seventh straight game even without the high-flying Antetokounmpo, who averages 25.0 points and 14.2 rebounds.

Ilyasova, starting for Antetokounmpo, helped pick up the slack, setting the tone with an active night all over the floor and adding a team-high 10 rebounds.

**Timberwolves 124, Lakers 120:** Jimmy Butler hit five of his team's eight three-pointers in the fourth quarter to finish with 32 points and help host Minnesota hang on to beat LeBron James and Los Angeles.

Karl-Anthony Towns pitched in with 25 points, a season-high 16 rebounds and four blocks for

the Timberwolves.

**Kings 123, Heat 113:** Willie Cauley-Stein scored 26 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Buddy Hield added 23 points and visiting Sacramento ran past Miami.

De'Aaron Fox scored 20 points and Nemanja Bjelica added 19 for the Kings, who outscored Miami 77-55 in the middle two quarters and won on the Heat's home floor for the second consecutive season.

**Knicks 115, Nets 96:** Tim Hardaway Jr. had 25 points and eight assists, and host New York rolled to its second win of the season by beating Brooklyn.

Frank Ntilikina added 16 points and Enes Kanter had 15 points and 15 rebounds off the bench for the Knicks, who had dropped five straight since beating Atlanta in their season opener.

**Trail Blazers 103, Pacers 93:** Zach Collins matched his career high with 17 points and C.J. McCollum also had 17 to lead visiting Portland past Indiana.

The Blazers have won three straight in the series and eight

of the last nine against the Pacers.

**76ers 113, Hawks 92:** Ben Simmons had 21 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists and host Philadelphia flashed a little of last year's playoff form in a win over Atlanta.

The oft-maligned Markelle Fultz had season-highs with seven baskets (on 16 attempts) and 16 points in 23 minutes. Joel Embiid added 10 points.

**Spurs 113, Mavericks 108 (OT):** DeMar DeRozan had 34 points and nine assists and host San Antonio withstood a 31-point outburst by Dallas rookie Luka Doncic for the overtime victory.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 points as San Antonio won its second overtime game.

**Nuggets 116, Pelicans 111:** Gary Harris scored 23 points and came up with a big steal late to help host Denver hold off short-handed New Orleans after nearly squandering an 18-point lead.

Jamal Murray chipped in 23 points and Nikola Jokic had 12 points and 10 assists for his fifth double-double in six games.

# Do MLB rule changes await in offseason?

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The World Series was baseball 2018 in a microcosm.

Half the 44 runs scored by the champion Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers came across the plate on home runs. That's the second-highest percentage in baseball history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, behind only last year's 57.4 percent.

There were 109 strikeouts and 76 hits, a 1.43 ratio that was the second-highest behind 1.48 in 2012. That followed the first regular season in major league history with more strikeouts than hits and with the lowest overall batting average since 1972 — the year before the start of the designated hitter.

Discussion of possible rule changes to increase action will dominate the offseason, along with speculation about a free agent market that includes Bryce Harper, Manny Machado and Josh Donaldson, and possibly David Price and Clay-

ton Kershaw if they opt out of their contracts.

"What we try to do is pay attention over the course of the season," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said last week, "think about what we've learned during the postseason and see whether we may need to make some change in response to what we're seeing."

Analytics have transformed the sport, from offense-suffocating shifts to shortening starting pitchers' time on the mound and constantly rotating relievers from the major leagues to the minors in order to have an array of fresh bullpen arms each game.

"I don't spend a lot of time worrying about whether analytics are a good thing or a bad thing, and the reason for that is they are a real thing," Manfred said. "We have them. They're going to continue to use them. There's nothing you can do to stop people from thinking about the game, however the heck it is they want to think about the game."

Discussion will start next week, when general managers meet in Carlsbad, Calif. Owners gather Nov. 14-15 in Atlanta, and the major offseason get-together will be the winter meetings in Las Vegas from Dec. 10-13.

Manfred and players' association head Tony Clark already have been talking — they appeared together at a World Series news conference last weekend, which would have been unimaginable a year ago given the tension between management and players.

Both sides are concerned about a 4 percent attendance drop that left the major league average below 30,000 for the first time since 2003. Six ballparks set their record lows and 17 of 30 experienced drops, partly because of historically bad weather that caused 54 postponements, the most since 1989.

Management wanted to introduce a pitch clock at the major league level in an effort to speed the pace of games but

players refused to agree, and Major League Baseball backed off a threat to impose one over the union's objections. Instead, a more modest change restricted the amount of mound visits by players and coaches without pitching changes.

The average time of a nine-inning game dropped to 3 hours, 44 seconds during the regular season from 3:05:11 for last season, and mound visits without pitching changes fell to 4.01 from 7.41.

That was swift compared with October. Nine-inning games averaged 3:30 in the World Series, up from 3:16 last year, and 3:35 throughout the postseason, an increase from 3:29.

And that was with a drop on mound conferences, which fell to an average of 6.6 in the postseason from 11.2 and to 6.4 in the World Series from 19.0.

Talk on rule changes will be conducted as the union watches free-agent negotiations unfold. The first 145 free agents hit the market Monday.

## Flames score twice in third period, put away Leafs

Associated Press

TORONTO — Boored out of their own building after a lopsided loss last week, the Calgary Flames recommitted to their defensive structure and the move paid off against Toronto.

Sean Monahan and Elias Lindholm scored in a 55-second span of the third period to lead the Flames to a 3-1 victory over the Maple Leafs on Monday night, snapping a three-game losing streak.

"We put together 60 good minutes," said Lindholm, who leads his team with eight goals after coming over in a blockbuster trade with the Carolina Hurricanes at the NHL Draft. "We were above them all night, first to pucks, won battles."

Lindholm and Monahan each added an assist. Michael Frolik added an empty-net goal to seal

it. Mike Smith made 24 saves.

Nazem Kadri, playing his 500th NHL game, scored for Toronto. Frederik Andersen stopped 31 shots.

The Leafs lacked jump in their first game without Auston Matthews. It was announced earlier Monday that the center would miss at least four weeks with a left shoulder injury.

"Our last two games have been the way we want to play," Calgary captain Mark Giordano said. "When you play well defensively the goals come."

Monahan snapped a scoreless tie 4:39 into the third on a power play, netting his fifth goal of the season on a rebound of a shot by Lindholm.

Lindholm then gave the Flames, who were 0-2-1 over their last three, a 2-0 edge with his team-leading eighth goal at 6:34 after the Leafs turned the puck over in their own zone.

"I thought they skated, I thought they worked, I thought they sailed out of their zone and beat us up the ice," said Leafs head coach Mike Babcock, whose club was coming off back-to-back wins over the Winnipeg Jets. "The game is frustrating when the other team works harder than you."

Toronto defenseman Igor Ozhiganov hit the post at the other end on the next shift.

The Leafs got to within one at 16:07, when Kadri scored his third of the season and third in as many games on a feed from Mitch Marner, one second after a Toronto two-man advantage of 1:09 expired.

The Leafs pressed for the tie, but were unable to get another one past Smith before Frolik added an insurance goal into an empty net, his fifth goal of the season.

The Flames fell 3-2 in a shootout to the Washington Capitals in Calgary on Saturday — a result that, despite the final score, was viewed as a step in the right direction after getting blown out 9-1 by the Pittsburgh Penguins at home 48 hours earlier.

**Canucks 5, Wild 2:** Rookie Elias Pettersson scored two goals and host Vancouver snapped a two-game losing streak by beating Minnesota.

Pettersson, whose second goal came on a breakaway in the third period, now has seven goals in seven games. He leads all NHL rookies in goals and points with 10.

Markus Granlund and Jake Virtanen also scored for the Canucks, who ended the Wild's five-game winning streak. Ben Hutton scored into an empty net with 39.1 seconds remaining.