

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## DOD warns Turkey on Syria incursion

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon warned Turkey against a military incursion in north-eastern Syrian land controlled by Kurdish forces that the U.S. has backed for five years in their fight against Islamic State, the Defense Department said Monday in a statement.

The Pentagon issued the statement 12 hours after the White House announced it would remove U.S. troops from Syrian land along Turkey's border.

"The Department of Defense made clear to Turkey — as did the [President Donald Trump] — that we do not endorse a Turkish operation in northern Syria. The U.S. armed forces will not support, or be involved in any such operation," Jonathan Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said in the statement. "We will work with our other NATO allies and (anti-ISIS) coalition partners to

reiterate to Turkey the possible destabilizing consequences of potential actions to Turkey, the region, and beyond."

The decision by Trump to remove the American troops was announced late Sunday after he spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The White House said Turkey would "soon be moving forward" with a military intervention in northern Syria aimed at Kurdish forces it considers terrorists, including the YPG fighters who largely command the Syrian Democratic Forces, the group that the United States has relied on in its yearslong fight against ISIS terrorists in Syria.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned their Turkish counterparts in recent days against a military intervention in northern Syria, warning an attack against the Kurds would create risks for Turkey, Hoffman said in the statement.

Trump's decision to remove troops near Turkey's border sparked outrage on Capitol Hill, including among Republicans who have backed Trump on most issues, and in foreign policy circles, as some pundits warned such a decision would not only be devastating to the Kurds but could spark a resurgence of ISIS.

The United States has a force of about 1,000 troops in Syria. While those forces near the Turkish border were expected to withdraw, it was not immediately clear what the fate of the other U.S. troops in that country would be, said a Pentagon official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The United States has worked hand-in-hand with the SDF since 2015 in its successful efforts to push ISIS from eastern Syria, providing the SDF weapons, airpower and special operations advisers. The U.S. military's work with its Kurdish partners has long irked Turkey, who view the Kurds

as an offshoot of the terrorist PKK group, a Kurdish insurgent organization responsible for regular attacks in Turkey.

Trump initially appeared to back Erdogan's military operation Monday morning. But he later tweeted a warning of potential economic sanctions against Turkey — a NATO ally with which the United States has shared a tense relationship in recent years. "If Turkey does anything that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits," he wrote.

His unexpected announcement of a full withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria in December sparked the resignation of this then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his top diplomatic official working on the issue, then-special envoy for the anti-ISIS campaign, Brett McGurk. Both officials warned removing American forces from the region would leave the Kurds vulnerable to Turkish military operations.

## Army exercise to be largest in Europe since Cold War

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. Army will deploy a division headquarters, three tank brigades and thousands of other troops to Europe early next year to take part in what will be the largest American-led military exercise on the Continent in 25 years, U.S. European Command said Monday.

Defender Europe-20, which will resemble the massive "Reforger" drills held during the Cold War era, will involve 37,000 troops, including about 20,000 U.S. soldiers. Equipment will begin arriving in Europe

in February and the exercises will be held in April and May.

Military drills will take place in 10 different nations, but the main action will happen in Germany and Poland, EUCOM said.

"Readiness is not only about having the right forces and capabilities in place throughout the theater, it's about exercising our ability to quickly receive and integrate forces with our own and those of our allies and partners," Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, U.S. Army Europe commanding general, said in a statement. "This ability is critical in projecting force at a moment's notice."

During the Cold War, massive exercises, which focused on getting large numbers of troops to Europe quickly, were an essential part of preparing for a potential war with the Soviet Union. Known as Reforger, or Return of Forces to Germany exercises, the drills were a military staple that made the logistics of combat second nature for troops deployed to Europe.

But the skills needed for such large force movements slowly faded as the risk of large-scale conflict in Europe diminished after the collapse of the Soviet Union. While American military concerns have shifted to

wars in the Middle East during the past two decades, Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine forced the Pentagon to refocus on defending Europe and how to get American troops across an ocean in a crisis.

"A lot of those skills that the units are going to practice, loading up to go to another theater, have atrophied," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Kramer, who is in charge of EUCOM exercise programs. With Defender, "You'll have the better part of a heavy division move all their equipment and all their people, which is tremendous at the tactical level."

# South China Sea tensions worry India

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOHAMA, Japan — China's growing economic might doesn't trouble its neighbors, but its "destructive behaviors" in the South China Sea are worrisome, a former Indian foreign secretary said Sunday during a panel discussion on sea power.

Amb Kanwal Sibal, former Indian foreign secretary, said China's rise is intimidating because "for the first time in history, one country could dominate the Asian continent and the seas around it."

India sees China as its "greatest challenger," he said. "Never in history has a country expanded at this rate."

Sibal and experts from the U.S., Japan and Australia spoke of the Indo-Pacific region's rising importance and the boiling tensions in the South China Sea. China views the resource-rich South and East China Seas as its territorial waters, though international law considers them international waterways.

The experts convened as part of the upcoming fleet review by the Japan Self-Defense Forces. They agreed their nations' combined naval strength provides a bulwark to Chinese territorial ambitions.

Still, Sibal said, China's concern that the international community wants to stop its expansion is unwarranted.

"The idea is not to contain China — the idea is to actually limit China's destructive behaviors as much as possible," he said.

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. James Pitts, commander of Submarine Group 7 headquartered at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, said the four countries share vital interests in the region, "which has fast become the epicenter for the global economy."

About 60% of the world's trade flows through the South China Sea, accounting for "an estimated one-third of global shipping," he said.

The sea, part of a busy commercial highway between the Indian and western Pacific oceans, is also a crossroads for navies of many countries.

The U.S. 7th Fleet, based at Yokosuka, keeps a high profile in the area. It covers an area from the International Date Line in mid-Pacific to the India-Pakistan border in the Indian Ocean. It's the largest of the U.S. numbered fleets.

"On any given day within the 7th Fleet area of responsibility, there are between 50 and 70 ships and submarines, 140 aircraft and approximately 20,000 sailors and marines," Pitts said.

Since 2010, China has claimed and militarized 27 islands and reefs in the South China Sea, according to the Center for Strategic Studies' Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

International law does not recognize China's sovereignty over the islands, but China maintains that countries should ask for permission before transiting within 12 nautical miles of them.

"We have no illusions about being able to control and safeguard the 100 million square miles that comprise the Indo-Pacific on our own," Pitts said.

## S. Korean helicopters OK'd in DMZ to contain swine virus

BY MATTHEW KEELER  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — South Korea was cleared by United Nations Command to begin helicopter decontamination operations Saturday within the Demilitarized Zone in continued efforts to contain an outbreak of African swine fever in the area.

Thirteen cases of the highly contagious, incurable virus, which is usually fatal to swine, have been reported since Sept. 17 in South Korea, all near the border with North Korea. The virus cannot be transmitted to humans.

Gen. Robert Abrams, commander of U.N. Command and U.S. Forces Korea, authorized South Korea to fly helicopters into the DMZ — a restricted airspace, according to the armistice agreement with North Korea — to spray a decontaminant, according to a U.N. Com-

mand statement Sunday.

The South Korean government asked to fly helicopters inside the DMZ and near the Military Demarcation Line to cover as much area as possible with decontaminant, according to the statement. The country is doubling its efforts to stem the outbreak after heavy rain dropped by Typhoon Mitag rendered previous measures ineffective last week.

Seven helicopters from the South Korean Forest Service equipped with sprayers are expected to finish spraying by Friday. The area will be monitored afterward, according to the spokesperson.

A week ago, Abrams ordered the temporary suspension of visits and tours at the border truce village of Panmunjom, also known as the Joint Security Area, and the recently opened hiking trails in the area.

## Diplomat's wife suspected in fatal crash faces calls to return to UK

BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS  
*Stars and Stripes*

MILDENHALL, England — The parents of a British teenager who died in a head-on collision outside a U.S. military communications hub in England are calling for the return of an American diplomat's wife who police said was behind the wheel of the car that killed him.

"We're all broken; we're just utterly shocked and appalled that someone is allowed to get on a plane and avoid our justice system," Charlotte Charles, the mother of Harry Dunn, 19, who was killed in August outside RAF Croughton, told Sky News on Monday.

A woman identified in the British media as Anne Sacoolas, 42, left England and returned to the U.S. after police said she was a suspect in the fatal accident near the base, about a 1.5-hour drive northwest of London. The British military base near Oxford is home to a signals intel-

ligence station operated by the U.S. Air Force and houses State Department employees.

A U.S. Embassy official in London confirmed that the woman and her family had returned to the U.S. but declined to name her "out of privacy and security concerns."

The American was driving the wrong way on the road when the crash occurred, Northamptonshire police said. After meeting with her and her legal advisers, investigators had sought to have her diplomatic immunity waived to allow them to proceed with the investigation, police officials told Stars and Stripes on Monday.

"We were aware that diplomatic immunity had been raised as an issue, and we then made immediate application for a waiver in order for us to undertake further investigations and an interview," said police superintendent Sarah Johnson.

The Embassy declined the waiver, she said.



# Army HQ in Poland changes only its name

By JOHN VANDIVER

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. Army's headquarters in the western Polish city of Poznan got a new name last week, but its mission remains unchanged.

The small team of soldiers known as "Mission Command Element" was rebranded 1st Infantry Division (Forward) in a ceremony Friday. The unit has served as a forward headquarters in Poznan since 2017,

overseeing operations for U.S. Army Europe on NATO's eastern flank.

"The change is to emphasize that 1st ID is regionally aligned with EUCOM (U.S. European Command) and fully vested in training and operations," said Maj. Traun Moore, a USA-REUR spokesman. There is no change in the size or purpose of the mission, he said.

Against the backdrop of an image of the U.S. flag enmeshed with Poland's, Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak

praised the strong ties between the two NATO allies.

"Poland and the United States are joined by a strategic partnership based on commonly professed values, traditional ties of friendship and respect for mutual interests," Blaszczak was quoted by the Polish Press Agency as saying.

"The strengthening of the alliance with the United States and the increase of American forces in Poland is one of my priorities as minister of defense," PAP cited him as

saying.

Polish and American troops "stand shoulder to shoulder, ready to give their lives if needed in the defense of freedom and in support of peace," U.S. Ambassador to Poland Georgette Mosbacher said at the name-change ceremony.

The U.S. military has been building up troop numbers in Poland in recent years and already operates out of numerous sites across the country.

## Trump's old playbook collides with new realities

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Telling half-truths and outright lies. Manipulating media coverage. Pushing legal boundaries. Pressuring subordinates to do the dirty work. Believing in the force of his own personality. Accepting no personal responsibility.

The playbook Donald Trump has used as a real estate developer, celebrity businessman and political candidate has, for the most part, proved effective through the first two-plus years of his presidency.

He has shown an uncanny ability to wriggle out of jams that might have doomed just about any of his predecessors.

That M.O. may finally be

catching up to Trump amid the House's impeachment inquiry. The tactics that helped win the White House have jeopardized his hold on it, ensnaring him in accusations that he enlisted a foreign government to investigate a political foe and, so far, leaving him flailing against a rapidly escalating investigation.

"He's arrived at a very different place right now," said Tim O'Brien, a Trump biographer and frequent critic. "He's being held to account in a way that he never had before and is running into the limits of what he normally does."

"The Trump we're used to seeing is someone whose visceral feeling to survive is to plow through public criticism

to just push forward. His behavior hasn't changed; his circumstance has."

It was Trump's ability to get out of one predicament that led him into this one.

The investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into Russian election interference shadowed the White House for two years before ending with a whimper on July 24, when the former FBI director's faltering testimony seemed to close the book on the inquiry. Mueller told Congress that he could not exonerate the president on obstruction of justice, and Trump told the world that he had been completely cleared.

A day after Mueller's congressional appearance, an emboldened Trump asked

Ukraine to investigate a leading Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden.

The speed of the story has stunned a capital already used to a relentless Trumpian news cycle. In barely two weeks' time, under an avalanche of disclosures in news stories and Trump's damaging admissions, House Democrats called for an impeachment inquiry, posing the gravest threat yet to his presidency.

To this point, Trump appears foundering in how he's reacted. With no formal response team and with many in his party keeping quiet, Trump has turned into a one-man war room.

## Judge rejects president's challenge to release of taxes

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — A federal judge Monday emphatically rejected President Donald Trump's challenge to the release of his tax returns to New York prosecutors, saying the president's broad claim of immunity from all criminal investigations is at odds with the Constitution. But an appeals court blocked any handover of the records for now.

At issue is a request from

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. that Trump's accounting firm turn over eight years' worth of his business and personal tax returns for an investigation into the payment of hush money to two women who claimed to have had affairs with the president.

U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero turned down Trump's attempt to keep the tax returns under wraps, saying the president was making a "categorical and limitless assertion of presi-

dential immunity."

The president's lawyers immediately appealed to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and it granted a temporary stay of the judge's ruling "pending expedited review" by the court.

"The Radical Left Democrats have failed on all fronts," Trump fumed on Twitter, "so now they are pushing local New York City and State Democrat prosecutors to go get President Trump. A thing like this has

never happened to any President before. Not even close!"

The criminal investigation in New York is unfolding with Trump already under siege on Capitol Hill from a fast-moving impeachment drive set off by his attempts to get Ukraine's leader to investigate his political rival, Joe Biden. The judge's ruling marked the latest in a string of setbacks for the president in the past couple of weeks.

# Ex-Engineer accuses Ethiopian Airlines

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Ethiopian Airlines' former chief engineer says in a whistleblower complaint filed with regulators that the carrier went into the maintenance records on a Boeing 737 Max jet a day after it crashed this year, a breach he contends was part of a pattern of corruption that included fabricating documents, signing off on shoddy repairs and even beating those who got out of line.

Yonas Yeshanew, who resigned this past summer and is seeking asylum in the U.S., said that while it is unclear what, if

anything, in the records was altered, the decision to go into them at all when they should have been sealed reflects a government-owned airline with few boundaries and plenty to hide.

"The brutal fact shall be exposed ... Ethiopian Airlines is pursuing the vision of expansion, growth and profitability by compromising safety," Yeshanew said in his report, which he gave to The Associated Press after sending it last month to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and other international air safety agencies.

Yeshanew's criticism of Ethi-

opian's maintenance practices, backed by three other former employees who spoke to the AP, makes him the latest voice urging investigators to take a closer look at potential human factors in the Max saga and not just focus on Boeing's faulty anti-stall system, which has been blamed in two crashes in four months.

It's not a coincidence, he said, that Ethiopian saw one of its Max planes go down when many other airlines that fly the plane suffered no such tragedy.

Ethiopian Airlines portrayed Yeshanew as a disgruntled former employee and categorically denied his allegations, which

paint a blistering counterpoint to the perception of the airline as one of Africa's most successful companies and a source of national pride.

Yeshanew alleged in his report and interviews with the AP that Ethiopian is growing too fast and struggling to keep planes in the air now that it is carrying 11 million passengers a year, four times what it was handling a decade ago. He said mechanics are overworked and pressed to take shortcuts to get planes cleared for takeoff, while pilots are flying on too little rest and not enough training.

## Army replaced by police in volatile Baghdad area

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister on Monday ordered the police to replace the army in a heavily populated Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad where dozens of people were killed or wounded in weekend clashes stemming from anti-government protests, the military said.

Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi gave the order after a week of violence that gripped Iraq left more than 100 dead and thousands wounded.

Since Oct. 1, spontaneous rallies have erupted in Baghdad and a number of southern cities by Iraqis demanding jobs, better basic services such as electricity and water and an end to endemic corruption. Security forces have responded with live ammuni-

tion and tear gas to quell the protests.

The unrest is the most serious challenge facing Iraq two years after the victory against Islamic State militants.

The chaos also comes at a critical time for the government, which has been caught in the middle of increasing tensions between Iran and the U.S. in the region. Iraq is allied with both countries and hosts thousands of U.S. troops as well as powerful paramilitary forces allied with Iran.

Monday's order for withdrawing the army from Sadr City appears aimed at calming tensions in the sprawling neighborhood, where populist Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr enjoys wide support.

The army statement said excessive force was used in Sadr City, adding that officers

and soldiers who "carried out these wrong acts" will be held accountable.

A day after the protests began, authorities imposed a curfew and blocked the internet to try to quell the unrest. The curfew, ignored by protesters, was lifted Saturday and the internet was restored after sunset Monday.

Hundreds gathered on side streets near Sadr City, a Baghdad suburb about 2.5 miles from the central Tahrir Square, which has been the destination of demonstrators, although authorities prevented them from reaching it.

Iraqi security officials said 14 protesters were killed and 62 wounded on Sunday, many of them in Sadr City.

## 2019 Nobel Medicine prize goes to 3 for oxygen study

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Two Americans and a British scientist won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for discovering how the body's cells sense and react to oxygen levels, work that has paved the way for new strategies to fight anemia, cancer and other diseases, the Nobel Committee said.

Drs. William G. Kaelin Jr., of Harvard University; Gregg L. Semenza, of Johns Hopkins

University; and Peter J. Ratcliffe at the Francis Crick Institute in Britain and Oxford University will share equally the \$918,000 cash award, the Karolinska Institute said.

It is the 110th prize in the category that has been awarded since 1901.

Their work has "greatly expanded our knowledge of how physiological response makes life possible," the committee said, explaining that the scien-

tists identified the biological machinery that regulates how genes respond to varying levels of oxygen.

That response is key to things like producing red blood cells, generating new blood vessels and fine-tuning the immune system.

The Nobel Committee said scientists are focused on developing drugs that can treat diseases by either activating or blocking the body's oxygen-

sensing machinery.

The oxygen response is hijacked by cancer cells, for example, which stimulate the formation of blood vessels to help themselves grow. And people with kidney failure often get hormonal treatments for anemia, but the work of the new laureates points the way toward new treatments, Nils-Göran Larsson, of the Nobel committee, told The Associated Press.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Jurors mull ex-police chief's hate crime trial

**NJ** CAMDEN — A jury was to resume deliberations Monday in the federal trial of a white former New Jersey police chief accused of slamming a handcuffed black man's head into a doorjamb three years ago.

Authorities allege that Frank Nucera, 62, the former Borden-town Township police chief, approached the 18-year-old prisoner from behind in September 2016 and smashed his head into a doorjamb while the suspect was being escorted from a hotel.

They allege a fellow officer then recorded him making a series of derogatory comments.

## City may outlaw hair discrimination

**OH** CINCINNATI — A city council member in Cincinnati wants to prohibit discrimination against natural hair and hairstyles associated with race.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported Cincinnati City Councilman Chris Seelbach has proposed that natural hair be added to the city's discrimination policy.

Seelbach said people of color have been forced to regard popular natural hairstyles such as cornrows or dreadlocks as liabilities in the workplace, housing and elsewhere. He said black women are especially penalized.

The proposed law allow fines of up to \$1,000.

## Gunman opens fire outside bar; 5 hurt

**IN** EVANSVILLE — Police said a gunman wounded five people when he

opened fire outside an Evansville bar after being thrown out because of a fight.

Three of those wounded were hospitalized with serious injuries from the shooting about 3 a.m. Sunday, while the other two suffered minor injuries and declined treatment. Police said officers arrested a 37-year-old man who witnesses said fired the shots at an American Legion post near downtown Evansville.

Police said the man was in the parking lot when the person he was fighting with went outside with a group of people. The man fired into the group, with bullets also hitting four vehicles.

## Police: 2 dead after nightclub shootout

**TX** HOUSTON — Police in Houston said two people were killed in an early morning shootout in front of a crowded nightclub.

Houston Police spokesman Sgt. Anthony Turner said a fight broke out between two women inside the club and spilled out into the parking lot where a shootout between multiple people occurred about 1:50 a.m. Sunday.

Officers later found the bodies of a man and a woman in the parking lot. Turner said another man with gunshot wounds was taken to a local hospital and was expected to survive.

## Death of toddler who fell at airport probed

**NC** CHARLOTTE — Officials and law enforcement authorities in North Carolina are investigating the death of a toddler who was seriously injured when he fell last month at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

The Charlotte Observer

reported that Jaiden Samir Cowart, 3, died Sept. 28, three days after the fall involving an escalator.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department spokesman Blake Page said the homicide unit is reviewing the case.

## Mayor: Deal reached to keep Preakness

**MD** BALTIMORE — Baltimore officials and the owners of the historic racetrack that hosts the Preakness Stakes have reached an agreement to keep the Triple Crown series' middle jewel in the city.

The agreement, which is subject to approval of the General Assembly during its next session, ends a bitter dispute between owner The Stronach Group and the city over the future of Pimlico Race Course.

Located in northwest Baltimore, the second-oldest track in America has been home to the famed annual race since 1909 but it is in need of a major overhaul, which has previously been estimated to cost nearly half a billion dollars.

## Long-lost sculpture returned to library

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A bronze sculpture that mysteriously disappeared from the Los Angeles Central Library 50 years ago has returned to its original home.

One of three panels of the Well of Scribes was unveiled at the downtown library Friday, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The sculpture depicting writers from different cultures vanished in 1969 when the library underwent a renovation.

The story of its disappearance was revived in Susan Orlean's 2018 novel "The Library Book," which inspired Alta

magazine's managing editor to investigate its whereabouts.

An article in the magazine's July edition caught the attention of an antiques dealer in Arizona who bought the panel from a woman for \$500 years earlier. Floyd Lillard, of Bisbee, Ariz., recognized the sculpture, contacted the library and gave it back.

## 2 hurt as small plane crashes in Everglades

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — A single-engine plane crashed in the Everglades in western Broward County on Saturday, injuring two men who were on board, officials said.

The crash of the Champion 7ECA aircraft happened at 4:15 p.m. about 5 miles west of Pembroke Pines in an area accessible only by airboats.

One of the men had to be extricated from the plane, said Pembroke Pines Fire-Rescue Assistant Division Chief Marcel Rodriguez. He said both victims were hospitalized in serious condition.

## Driver making food delivery shot, killed

**NJ** PATERSON — Authorities said a food delivery driver was shot to death while making a delivery in New Jersey.

Passaic County prosecutors and Paterson police said Petra Rhoden, 43, was found in her crashed car with an apparent gunshot wound about 10:20 p.m. Friday. She died shortly afterward at St. Joseph's University Medical Center.

Authorities said Rhoden had just made a DoorDash food delivery at an address when she was shot.

From wire reports

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# 7 two-out runs in 6th lift Dodgers past Nats

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — David Freese wasn't in the Los Angeles Dodgers' starting lineup for Game 3 of the NL Division Series. Neither was Kike Hernandez or Chris Taylor.

All are right-handed batters, and all knew that if the Washington Nationals persisted in their playoff pattern of using starters in relief, they might very well be called upon to pinch hit against \$140 million lefty Patrick Corbin.

So in the first inning Sunday night, that trio headed to the indoor batting cage that sits near the staircase leading from the visitors' dugout to the clubhouse to try to prepare. And, boy, were they prepared when Corbin entered. So were other Dodgers hitters, producing a postseason inning unlike any other: seven runs, all scored with two outs and two strikes.

Justin Turner's three-run homer capped a startling and record-setting rally in the sixth

as the Dodgers roughed up the starter-turned-reliever and beat Washington 10-4 to grab a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five NLDS.

"We're just always ready, no matter who's on the mound. Righty, lefty. You've got to fake it sometimes, whether you're ready or not," said Freese who singled as a pinch hitter in the sixth and finished with four hits.

"Definitely, two strikes, you've got to take it seriously. You can't assume your AB's over," Freese said. "You look at the best guys in the game ... they look like they like two strikes."

Hernandez also entered in that inning and contributed a two-run double, and Taylor walked as a pinch hitter.

Russell Martin started, his first appearance of these playoffs, and hit a two-run double in the sixth as LA became the first team in major league history to score seven two-out, two-strike runs in one postseason inning.

"We never doubt ourselves," Freese said.

Martin, who like Freese is 36, tacked on a two-run homer in the ninth. This is Martin's 10th postseason — Freese joked it might be his teammate's 26th — and Freese's sixth.

The Dodgers can advance to the NL Championship Series for the fourth consecutive year by closing the best-of-five NLDS in Game 4 at Washington on Monday, when LA sends Rich Hill to the mound against Max Scherzer.

And to think: Things were not looking all that good for the Dodgers, who entered the sixth trailing 2-1 after Juan Soto's two-run homer off eventual winner Hyun-Jin Ryu in the first and Max Muncy's solo shot off Washington starter Anibal Sanchez in the fifth.

That hit seemed to wake up LA's offense.

Well, it was either that or the fact that Sanchez, who struck out nine, was gone to begin the

sixth. In came Corbin, the lefty who started — and lost — the opener and hadn't made a relief appearance since 2017, when he made only one.

"Just couldn't seem to get that third out there," Corbin said. "Just stinks."

It continued Nationals manager Dave Martinez's postseason penchant for pushing his starters to appear in relief, deemed necessary because of his club's NL-worst bullpen. The strategy had been working.

Needless to say, not this time against the Dodgers, who lost in the World Series each of the past two years and led the NL with 106 wins this season, 13 more than the Nationals.

"Anibal was at 87 pitches. He gave us all he had. We were at a good spot in the lineup, where we thought Corbin could get through it," Martinez said. "And his stuff was good. ... But he had every hitter 0-2. He just couldn't finish."

## Braves score 3 in 9th, take 2-1 series lead

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Through injuries and slumps, demotions and disappointments, Dansby Swanson and Adam Duvall got ready for the big moment.

When it arrived, they were ready.

Swanson hit a tying double with two outs in the ninth inning and Duvall delivered a two-run single as the Atlanta Braves rallied past the St. Louis Cardinals 3-1 on Sunday to take a 2-1 lead in the NL Division Series.

"They never quit. They never give up," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "The heart and desire and will is unbelievable in those guys."

Atlanta had managed just four hits off Adam Wainwright and Andrew Miller before breaking through against closer Carlos Martinez. With runners on the corners, Swanson tied it at 1 with a drive off the wall in left.

Swanson pumped his arms as he celebrated after his third hit of the game. He came through after an intentional walk to Brian McCann — Swanson's .187 batting average with runners in scoring position was the lowest in the majors this year among qualified players.

"I love Dansby in those situations. I always have," Snitker said. "That kid lives for that moment."

Watching the inning develop, Swanson said he thought he might get a chance to bat in a big spot.

"In those situations, you just try and breathe and relax," said Swanson, who missed the playoffs last year because of an injured left hand. "It's easier said than done."

Duvall, who entered in the eighth, then hit a liner into center field to put the Braves ahead to stay. It was his second big hit of the series after he connected

for a pinch-hit homer in Atlanta's 3-0 victory Friday.

"I'll be ready whenever they need me," said Duvall, who spent much of the year with Triple-A Gwinnett.

Game 4 is Monday at Busch Stadium. Atlanta needs one more win to advance to the NL Championship Series for the first time since 2001.

This is the first time the Braves have led a postseason series since they were up 2-1 on San Francisco in the 2002 NLDS. They lost the final two games that year.

"History, we don't really play into that. This is now," Swanson said.

St. Louis wasted a terrific performance by Wainwright, who pitched 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings of four-hit ball in his first postseason start since 2014. The 38-year-old struck out eight and walked two.

In the age of bullpens taking

over in October, Wainwright and Mike Soroka locked up in an old-fashioned pitchers' duel. But the relievers ultimately decided the game.

"We were one out away and that is exactly what playoff baseball is all about," Wainwright said. "Just crazy stuff."

Wainwright departed after he walked Ozzie Albies on his 120th pitch, loading the bases in the first playoff game in St. Louis in four years. He got a big hug on the mound from catcher Yadier Molina and the sellout crowd of 46,701 saluted Wainwright with a standing ovation as he walked to the dugout.

Miller then came in and retired Freddie Freeman on a flyball to center, preserving a 1-0 lead.

But Martinez was hit hard for the second time in the series. He allowed three runs before he closed out St. Louis' 7-6 victory in Game 1.



## NFL roundup

## Colts bottle up potent Chiefs

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The way Indianapolis handled the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday night sent a jolt through the NFL, whether it was dominating the line of scrimmage or shutting down Patrick Mahomes and Co. on defense.

The one place the shock didn't reverberate? The visiting locker room in Arrowhead Stadium.

"The one emotion we were not feeling is shock. I can't even explain it," Colts coach Frank Reich said after the 19-13 victory. "The way guys were walking down the hallway, it was 'We're not going to be denied. We have to get on track. We've got to do it.' I just knew it was real. I felt it all week.

"There was just an air of confidence and belief that we would do what we did today."

Marlon Mack ran for 132 yards, and ageless kicker Adam Vinatieri knocked through four field goals, as the Colts atoned ever-so-slightly for a January playoff defeat inside the same stadium.

Asked what the message was pregame, longtime Chiefs line-backer-turned-Colts defensive end Justin Houston replied: "To come out here and play our game. To leave it out there every snap, to play with your heart, play with your soul. And I think we did that tonight."

The Colts (3-2) allowed points on the Chiefs' first two possessions before shutting them out until Harrison Butker's field goal with 1:16 to go. Indianapolis recovered the onside kick without any issue and ran out the clock to celebrate a big win heading into its bye.

Mahomes threw for 321 yards and a touchdown, and the Chiefs (4-1) had just 36 yards rushing despite getting top running back Damien Williams back from an injury, all while watching their record streak of 22 straight games scoring at least 26 points come to a crashing conclusion.

**Ravens 26, Steelers 23:**

After Pittsburgh quarterback Mason Rudolph was knocked out by a head-high hit in the third quarter Sunday, Justin Tucker made a 46-yard field goal in overtime to lift visiting Baltimore past the Steelers.

Baltimore (3-2) snapped a two-game skid when safety Marlon Humphrey stripped Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster and recovered the fumble at the Pittsburgh 34. Tucker knocked through the winner four plays later. He also forced overtime with a field goal 14 seconds from the end of regulation.

**Packers 34, Cowboys 24:** Aaron Rodgers looked quite comfortable in Dallas — again. Green Bay's star quarterback kept his team moving to a big early lead with more dazzling plays at AT&T Stadium, Aaron Jones scored a career-high four touchdowns and the Packers bounced back from their first loss by hanging on.

**Broncos 20, Chargers 13:** At Carson, Calif., Phillip Lindsay ran for 114 yards and Denver's defense forced three turnovers as the Broncos got their first win under Vic Fangio.

**Raiders 24, Bears 21:** Josh Jacobs scored his second touchdown of the game with a leap from the 2-yard line with 1:57 to play, capping a 97-yard drive that helped Oakland rally in a roller-coaster game that delighted the sellout crowd in London.

**Saints 31, Buccaneers 24:** Teddy Bridgewater passed for 314 yards and four touchdowns to remain unbeaten in three starts for host New Orleans this season.

Bridgewater had his best game yet for New Orleans (4-1), completing 26 of 34 passes.

**Patriots 33, Redskins 7:** Tom Brady picked apart lowly Washington, helped visiting New England stay unbeaten and climbed past a former NFL star in the record book.

Now in his 20th season, Brady whisked by Brett Favre into third place on the career

list with 71,923 yards passing. The 42-year-old Brady now trails only Peyton Manning (71,940 yards) and Drew Brees (74,845).

**Panthers 34, Jaguars 27:** At Charlotte, Christian McCaffrey tied a career high with 237 yards from scrimmage and scored three touchdowns, Brian Burns returned a fumble 56 yards for a touchdown and had a strip-sack in the fourth quarter.

McCaffrey set a franchise record with an 84-yard TD run and scored on a 5-yard run when he somersaulted into the end zone. He also caught an 18-yard TD pass from Kyle Allen before leaving with five minutes remaining after cramping.

**Bills 14, Titans 7:** Josh Allen threw for 219 yards and two touchdowns as visiting Buffalo won a defensive showdown for its third straight win in this series.

**Cardinals 26, Bengals 23:** Rookie Kyler Murray ran for a touchdown and led Arizona on a drive to Zane Gonzalez's 31-yard field goal on the final play as the visiting Cardinals got their first win under coach Kliff Kingsbury.

**Texans 53, Falcons 32:** At Houston, Deshaun Watson threw for a career-high 426 yards and tied his personal best with five touchdown passes, including three to Will Fuller.

**Eagles 31, Jets 6:** Nate Gerry returned an interception for a score and Orlando Scan-drick took a strip-sack the distance for host Philadelphia.

**Vikings 28, Giants 10:** Kirk Cousins threw two touchdown passes to Adam Thielen, Dalvin Cook ran for 132 yards and visiting Minnesota made life miserable for Giants quarterback Daniel Jones.

Cousins completed 22 of 27 for a season-high 306 yards and had touchdown passes of 15 and 9 yards to Thielen. The receiver, who complained after a two-catch, 6-yard game against Chicago, finished with seven catches for 130 yards.

## Redskins fire coach Gruden

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jay Gruden was fired as head coach of the Washington Redskins on Monday after an 0-5 start to the sixth season of a tenure that featured only one playoff appearance.

The Redskins have gone 35-49-1 overall under Gruden, whose brother, Jon, coaches the Oakland Raiders.

A person familiar with the team's plans told The Associated Press that offensive line coach Bill Callahan would replace Gruden on an interim basis. Callahan has coached the Raiders in the NFL and Nebraska in college football.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Callahan's new role wasn't immediately announced.

Owner Daniel Snyder and team president Bruce Allen informed Gruden he was out early Monday morning, a day after a 33-7 loss to the New England Patriots. Allen made a rare appearance at a news conference Monday afternoon.

The statement announcing that Gruden would no longer be the head coach said: "Through the first five games of the 2019 season, the team has clearly not performed up to expectations, and we all share in that responsibility. Moving forward we are committed to doing all that we can collectively as an organization to turn things around and give our Redskins fans and alumni a team they can be proud of in 2019 and beyond."

This season alone has seen star left tackle Trent Williams hold out, a shuffle at quarterback after Dwayne Haskins was taken No. 15 overall in the draft, a series of injuries up and down the roster — and, perhaps most upsetting to team leadership, increasingly large contingents of visiting fans attending games at Washington's home stadium.

# Larson flashes potential in playoff win

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Kyle Larson was the can't-miss future star who tore up the sprint car circuit and would lead a new generation of young stars into the next era of NASCAR.

His promise yet unfulfilled, Larson's path toward prominence has been slow burning in six-plus years in the Cup Series. He's been saddled with mediocre cars that not even his raw talent could salvage, and a fantastic 2017 was more a blip than a sign Larson would blossom into a perennial championship contender.

But as Larson stood atop his Chevy with a two-year winless streak behind him, perhaps his playoff victory Sunday at Dover International Speedway was indeed a preview of a championship celebration ahead.

"It's not a shock," Larson said. "We've been running really well this year."

Larson's wife, Katelyn, shot-gunned a beer in a sudsy victory lane bash as he flashed a No. 1 sign behind her, a worthy way to end a 75-race winless streak.

The 27-year-old Larson has been oh-so close toward grabbing the checkered flag since his last win Sept. 9, 2017, in Richmond. He had nine runner-up finishes over that span and won the \$1 million NASCAR All-Star race this season.

He cashed in at Dover with the Monster Mile-stone win (it was the track's 100th race) that earned him an automatic berth into the third round. Not only has Larson failed to win a title, long-time team owner Chip Ganassi has never won a NASCAR Cup Series championship, something that's surely chapped an organization with handfuls of IndyCar titles.

"It would be nice to get him that championship that, honestly, he's probably owed," Larson said.

Larson had four of his six career Cup wins in 2017 and Dover marked his first one in the playoffs. He led 154 laps late after Denny Hamlin faded from a dominant early run (he led 219 laps) in the No. 11 Toyota that opened the door for Larson.

Playoff drivers took the top six spots: Martin Truex Jr. was second, followed by Alex Bowman, Kevin Harvick, Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch. Chase Elliott and reigning series champion Joey Logano both suffered serious blows to their championship runs with a rough start to the second round.

Larson felt like a win or two was within reach on the strength of a sensational late-summer run of top-10 finishes. He escaped the first round without any serious drama and can now head to treacherous Talladega and then Kansas to end the second round without

any serious concerns. He's the first driver of the 12 contenders in the field of eight.

"Everybody in this playoff field is going to be stressing next week at Talladega except for me, so that's good," Larson said. "Last time I was at Talladega I was on my lid. I could still end up on my lid next week, but it's not going to matter after this win."

Larson was expected to help bridge the gap between grassroots racing and NASCAR when Ganassi hired him before the 2012 season, prompting Tony Stewart — who also started his career on dirt tracks in open wheel cars — to guarantee Larson would be the next big thing in NASCAR.

"If not, you can take everything I own, because I'm that confident," Stewart said years ago. "It's not a matter of if, it's when."

Larson's not there yet — but just maybe he's getting there.

## NHL roundup

# Slavin's OT goal lifts Hurricanes past Lightning

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes fall behind in the first two periods, then figure out a way to win after regulation.

The unconventional formula worked again Sunday night, with Jacob Slavin scoring at 1:53 of overtime to give the Hurricanes a 4-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The Hurricanes improved to 3-0, for only the second time in franchise history, overcoming third-period deficits and winning after regulation in each. Carolina won its opener over Montreal in a shootout on Thursday night, then beat Washington in overtime on Saturday night.

It was Slavin's turn Sunday to provide the overtime theatrics. He beat Curtis McElhinney on a shot from the right slot to give Carolina just its fifth win in 24 tries against the Lightning.

"We've got a resilient group in here," Slavin said. "We've got to learn not to put ourselves in those holes and obviously play a stronger first two periods so we don't

have to rely on that third period and always be coming from behind. But it's definitely a confidence-builder for the group and we hope we can continue on that path."

Dougie Hamilton, Brett Pesce and Erik Haula also scored for Carolina, and the Hurricanes held the Lightning to just two shots after the first period. Petr Mrazek only had to make 10 saves for Carolina.

Haula, acquired by Carolina from Vegas in a draft-day trade, has scored in each of his first three games with the Hurricanes. He has quickly adapted to his role with his new team.

"You find a way to win," Haula said. "It doesn't matter how you get it. It's a great start but there's a lot of hockey left."

Tyler Johnson, Kevin Shattenkirk and Steven Stamkos scored in the first period for Tampa Bay, and McElhinney, who helped the Hurricanes reach the Eastern Conference final last season, made 40 saves.

McElhinney won 20 games during the regular-season and then three more in the playoffs for Carolina last season. He signed

a free-agent deal with the Lightning in the offseason and got his first start with his new team against his old team.

"It was a fun atmosphere," McElhinney said. "They're off to a great start and are playing really well. It's unfortunate to be on the wrong side of it but you know, it's nice to get my first game out of the way."

**Red Wings 4, Stars 3:** Anthony Mantha scored a career-high four goals, breaking a tie with 53.3 seconds left to lift Detroit past Dallas in its home opener.

Mantha scored twice in second and put Detroit up 3-2 early in the third. Roope Hintz pulled Dallas even 33 seconds later with his second goal of the game.

Jonathan Bernier stopped 19 shots to help the Red Wings improve to 2-0.

Tyler Seguin also scored for Dallas, and Anton Khudobin made 29 saves.

**Islanders 4, Jets 1:** Josh Bailey, Brock Nelson and Anders Lee scored second-period goals and Thomas Greiss made 35 saves in New York's victory over Winnipeg.

Anthony Beauvillier also scored for New York. Patrik Laine scored for Winnipeg.