

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Trump warns Taliban in 9/11 speech

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday marked the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, touting America's military might directed against the Taliban, which gave sanctuary to the masterminds of strikes against New York and Washington.

"The last four days, we have hit our enemy harder than they have ever been hit before. And that will continue," Trump said during a remembrance ceremony at the Pentagon's 9/11 memorial. "And if for any reason, they come back to our country, we will go wherever they are, and use power — the likes of which the United States has never used before.

"And I'm not even talking about nuclear power. They will never have seen anything like what will happen to them. No enemy on Earth can match the overwhelming strength, skill and might of the American armed forces."

Trump pointed to the large military budgets during his presidency to the crowd of survivors and family members of those

killed in the attacks. He also claimed the U.S. military had greatly increased its campaign against the Taliban since he abruptly canceled peace negotiations with them Saturday.

Pentagon officials on Wednesday did not confirm whether the U.S. military in Afghanistan had substantially increased its offensives against Taliban insurgents in recent days. However, Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, who leads U.S. Central Command, told Reuters this week that increased combat efforts were likely now that Trump has canceled negotiations.

The ceremony at the Pentagon was held in its memorial grove where 184 trees and benches inscribed with the victims' names face the facility's southwest wall, where an airliner was crashed into the building on Sept. 11, 2001. With a massive American flag marking the point of impact, officials held a moment of silence Wednesday and the names of the victims of the attack were read aloud.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanked those who responded that day and those

who served in the military since 9/11. He vowed the American people and the troops sworn to protect them will never forget the attacks.

"The terrorist attacks were meant to challenge our way of life and they sought to break our spirit," Dunford said. "But their purpose was never realized. That day made us stronger, more determined and more resolved to protect our nation and that for which it stands."

Trump thanked the first responders and those who joined the military in the wake of the attacks.

He spoke of individuals killed in the attacks who used their final moments to save other lives, and their family members, some of whom were in attendance.

"We offer you all that we have, our unwavering loyalty, our undying devotion and our internal pledge that your loved ones will never ever be forgotten," Trump said, calling 9/11 a "dark and wretched day."

Trump recalled learning of the first attack while watching television news before watching the second plane strike the South Tower "at tremendous speed."

## Esper approves border deployments for 2020

BY ROSE L. THAYER

*Stars and Stripes*

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has authorized up to 5,500 servicemembers to continue missions along the U.S.-Mexico border in fiscal year 2020.

Esper approved the request last week from the Department of Homeland Security to extend the mission, Lt. Col. Chris Mitchell, a Pentagon spokesman, confirmed Wednesday.

Troops will provide infrastructure support, operational support, detection and monitoring support and air support, Mitchell said. That is similar to the work that officials have described is now being done by troops along the border.

"These missions can be supported with manageable impacts to readiness and are contingent on the availability of funds and the continued statutory authority to pro-

vide such support," he said.

Nearly 5,000 American troops — about 2,900 active-duty and 2,000 National Guard members — are now serving along the U.S. southern border, but that number has varied since the mission began in April 2018 with President Donald Trump's first authorization of National Guard members to serve alongside U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Six months later, active-duty troops began deployments to the border.

Troops work alongside Border Patrol agents using mobile surveillance detection equipment, working in detention facilities, conducting administrative tasks and providing food service, transportation and medical aid.

An additional 1,000 Texas National Guard troops are serving through the end

of September at the command of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Mitchell said. Those troops are working in two migrant detention facilities.

It is unclear whether Esper's recent agreement of 5,500 troops includes National Guard and active-duty troops. It also is unclear whether troops will remain deployed for all of fiscal year 2020.

In April, military officials estimated the cost of the deployments to be about \$500 million through fiscal year 2019, which ends Sept. 30.

The deployments began as a way to help Border Patrols agents deal with an increase in apprehensions along the southern border. In May, more than 144,000 people were arrested at the border, according to data from Customs and Border Protection. They were primarily migrants from South and Central America seeking asylum.

## Europeans pick neutrality if US, Russia tangle

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — A vast majority of Europeans would want to remain neutral in the event of a conflict between the U.S. and Russia, but two NATO members lean more toward supporting Moscow than their fellow alliance member, a new opinion poll shows.

A survey conducted by the European Council on Foreign Relations asked Europeans in 14 European Union member states for their views on issues ranging from trade and climate change to military investment. When people were asked whom their country should side with in the event of conflict between the U.S. and Russia, majorities in all but one country said it would be best to not pick sides.

Poland was the only country where a minority — 45% — said they would choose to remain neutral in a hypothetical conflict between the U.S. and Russia. A third of Poles said they would back the U.S. while only 6% said they would support Russia.

Greece and Slovakia strongly favored neutrality — 81% and 65%, respectively — but, despite both countries being members of NATO, those polled also showed higher support for Russia than the U.S.

In Slovakia, 20% said they would side with Moscow in a conflict, compared with 6% for the United States. In Greece, support for Russia was only slightly higher than for the U.S. — 7% compared with 5%.

In Germany, which is home to roughly 30,000 U.S. troops, 70% of those polled favored neutrality while 12% supported the U.S. and 7% Russia.

## North Korea says it tested a 'super-large' launcher

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Wednesday that it test-fired another “super-large multiple rocket launcher” amid indications it may have been a partial failure.

South Korea’s military said the communist state on Tuesday fired two projectiles that flew eastward about 205 miles at a maximum altitude of 31-37 miles.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff didn’t give the speed or confirm where the missiles landed as it has in the past.

It was North Korea’s 10th weapons launch since early May as experts say it is seeking to boost its negotiating power ahead of possible new nuclear talks with the United States.

The launch followed an offer by the North to resume talks with the United States later this month.

Tuesday’s test, which was overseen by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, got an unusually lukewarm review from the North’s state-run Korean Central News Agency, which stopped short of declaring it a success.

Two rounds were fired and the test “was in full line with its purpose and served as an occasion to clearly decide the next-stage orientation to complete the weapon system,” KCNA said.

Kim was quoted as saying the weapon system “has been finally verified in terms of combat operation, the characteristics of trajectory, accuracy and precise homing functions,” but more testing was needed.

The third-generation leader has praised

past launches, including the Aug. 24 test of a “super-large multiple rocket launcher,” as great successes.

North Korea also released photos showing rockets being launched from the back of a truck.

It appeared that the North tried to fire three rockets, said Joseph Dempsey, a military analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

“Released imagery indicates three of the four launch tubes spent — suggesting one failure,” he wrote on Twitter.

North Korea conducted two launches in early May and eight more from July 25 to Aug. 24, showing that it’s continuing to develop its weapons capabilities as diplomacy remains stalled following a failed summit between President Donald Trump and Kim in Vietnam. The two leaders agreed during another meeting on June 30 at the Korean border to resume working-level talks, but no date has been set.

Many North Korea watchers said Trump’s decision this week to oust hard-line national security adviser John Bolton could boost chances for new talks. The North Koreans generally despised Bolton, calling him a “human defect” at one point.

Catherine Dill, a senior research associate at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Calif., said it would help to replace Bolton with the current U.S. envoy to North Korea, Stephen Biegun.

“I do not think talks under the current environment will advance diplomacy, but Bolton’s firing may change things, especially if Biegun is tapped for the job,” she said in an email.

## Troops overseas miss out on Popeyes sandwich craze

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
*Stars and Stripes*

Troops and their families are wondering when they will get a taste of the fast-food chicken sandwich that last month launched the “chicken sandwich wars” on social media and drew mouth-watering reviews.

While stateside customers are facing temporary shortages due to the popularity of the new sandwich, overseas customers have not had the option to try it.

Neither the regular nor spicy versions of the \$3.99 Chicken Sandwich that Popeyes

Louisiana Kitchen introduced Aug. 12 have made it to the menu for overseas troops. Officials could not say when the sandwich, which captured hearts and stomachs, and even prompted an attempted armed robbery at one location when it sold out, might be offered at any of the 34 Popeyes restaurants on U.S. bases overseas.

Why weren’t servicemembers and families overseas able to sample the sandwich and share in the phenomenon? Will they ever be included?

The new sandwich was available at mili-

tary installations in the U.S. before selling out, said Chris Ward, spokesman for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which contracts with fast-food outlets on bases. But AAFES didn’t get to decide when the sandwich would be introduced at other base locations, AAFES representatives said, referring questions to Popeyes.

“Popeyes is currently focused on the launch of its new Chicken Sandwich in the U.S.,” a company spokeswoman said in an email. “I’ll be sure to keep you posted once I have more information to share.”

# Dems to DOD: End stays at Trump resorts

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Two house Democrats on Tuesday pressed the Pentagon to ban its personnel who travel on taxpayer-funded trips from using accommodations at President Donald Trump's properties amid scrutiny of an Air Force crew's stay in March at a Trump resort in Scotland.

Reps. Elijah Cummings and Jamie Raskin, both Maryland Democrats, threatened to subpoena Pentagon records related to that trip and others in which crews have stayed at Trump's Turnberry resort during flights from the Middle East to the U.S.

In a letter sent to Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Tuesday, the congressmen said they have sought those records as part of an ongoing House Oversight Committee investigation since June, but the Defense Department has not responded to the request.

Cummings, the chairman of the Oversight Committee, and Raskin, who is the chairman of its subcommittee on civil rights and liberties, gave a Friday deadline to Esper to comply with their request before they

would issue a subpoena. They warned the spending of taxpayer dollars at Trump properties could be unconstitutional.

"In order to ensure compliance with the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution, the Department of Defense should not allow any of its officials to stay at Trump properties using taxpayer funds," they wrote. "It does not matter if they pay the government rate or a discounted rate. The Constitution prohibits taxpayer dollars from going to President Trump unless they are for his salary, including when those taxpayer funds are funneled through his businesses."

Air Force and senior Pentagon officials acknowledged Monday that the C-17 cargo jet crew had stopped at Trump Turnberry, a coastal property billed as a luxury golf resort about 35 miles south of Glasgow. The seven-person crew stayed at the Trump property during a flight between Alaska and Kuwait.

Politico on Tuesday reported another such incident of an Air National Guard crew staying at Turnberry during a flight between the United States and al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

Pentagon officials said the crew did nothing wrong by staying at the resort at a price that was within the allowed Defense Department lodging rate. The Air Force said the Trump property was the "closest available and least expensive accommodations to the airfield" for that particular trip, which was booked through the Defense Travel System.

Nonetheless, Gen. David Golfein, the Air Force chief of staff, directed Air Force Air Mobility Command, which overseas travel worldwide, to conduct a review of its regulations, including whether it was appropriate for troops to stay in luxury accommodations deeply discounted to attract government officials.

"What we need to look at is, even if something falls within the travel regulations, is it appropriate to stay at places that some people may consider a luxury property?" said Jonathan Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman. "Or do we need to rethink that? And that's something that the Air Force is looking at right now."

Hoffman said the review was not intended to single out Trump-owned properties.

## Lawmaker seeks probe of VA for handling of doctor

BY NIKKI WENTLING

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., urged the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on Tuesday to investigate how the Department of Veterans Affairs handled the case of a pathologist in Fayetteville, Ark., who allegedly misdiagnosed patients while intoxicated on the job.

Robert Levy, 53, the former chief pathologist at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, was indicted last month on three counts of involuntary manslaughter and 28 counts of mail fraud, wire fraud and false statements to law enforcement officials. His misdiagnoses totaled more than 3,000 cases and were responsible for at least 15 deaths, The Washington Post reported.

Levy was found in 2016 to have a blood alcohol level of

0.396 while at work, five times the legal limit in Arkansas of 0.08. He was suspended but returned to his position after completing a three-month treatment program and agreeing to random drug and alcohol screenings.

He was fired in 2018 after he was found to have used 2-methyl-2-butanol, a substance that causes intoxication in small doses but is undetectable in routine drug and alcohol tests.

Womack blasted the VA on Tuesday for its decision to return Levy to a supervisory position.

"I will never understand why the VA returned Mr. Levy to duty as a supervisor," Womack said. "I believe in second chances, but not in life or death circumstances."

Womack made the statements during a hearing of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## DOD lodging rate in flux ahead of funding deadline

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Operators of several lodging facilities used for official Defense Department travel are still adjusting their room rates, less than a month before the military stops receiving taxpayer dollars to sustain the accommodations.

The rates are expected to increase Oct. 1, when the congressionally appropriated funds dry up. In some places, guests could pay as much 25% more per night than they do now.

The Pentagon directed the funding change last year to make the lodging operations pay for themselves in an effort to make business operations more efficient and free up funds for other priorities.

Army lodging room rates would be minimally adjusted "to cover the full cost of op-

erations, such as maintenance, support and sustainment," Army officials in Europe said in July. But changes were still under review and officials were working to determine new rates at several locations in Europe this week.

The increase affects military lodging facilities that provide rooms for personnel traveling on temporary duty and while in transit during permanent change of station moves.

It's expected the rates will still remain within per diem limits. Any increases would cost DOD customers traveling for leisure more. Those travelers often choose to stay on base when rooms are available.

But employees staffing Army lodging facilities on Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Wiesbaden, all reached by phone on Wednesday, said any changes to room rates were still under review.

# GOP gets narrow victory in NC House race

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Conservative Republican Dan Bishop won a special election for an open House seat in North Carolina, averting a demoralizing Democratic capture of a district the GOP has held for nearly six decades. But his narrow victory didn't erase questions about whether President Donald Trump and his party's congressional candidates face troubling headwinds approaching 2020.

Bishop, a state senator best known for a North Carolina law dictating which public bathrooms transgender people can use, defeated centrist Democrat Dan McCready on Tuesday. Bishop tied himself tightly to Trump, who staged an election eve rally for him in the district, and Tuesday's voting seemed no less than a referendum on the Republican president, who quickly took credit for the triumph.

"Dan Bishop was down 17 points 3 weeks ago. He then asked me for help, we

changed his strategy together, and he ran a great race. Big Rally last night," Trump tweeted. No polling has emerged publicly that showed Bishop with a deficit of that magnitude. Operatives from both parties and analysts had long said the race was too close to call.

The results in the district underscored the rural-urban split between the parties, with Bishop, 55, running up substantial numbers in outlying areas and McCready eroding GOP advantages in suburban areas. McCready's moderate profile resembled that of many Democrats who won in Republican-leaning districts in the 2018 midterms and, even with the loss on Tuesday, showed the durability of that approach.

Bishop's margin — a little more than 2 percentage points — was less than the 11 points by which Trump captured the district in 2016. And it was only slightly greater than when then-GOP candidate

Mark Harris seemed to win the seat over McCready, 36, last year — before those results were annulled after evidence of vote tampering surfaced and a new election was ordered.

Republicans have held the seat since 1963, and its loss would have been a worrisome preface to the party's presidential and congressional campaigns next year.

"I think it means Trump is going to get a second term, and Republicans will retake the majority," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said. Many analysts think a GOP takeover will be difficult.

Special elections generally attract such low turnout that their results aren't predictive of future general elections. Even so, the narrow margin in the GOP-tilted district suggested that Democrats' 2018 string of victories in suburban districts in red states including Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas could persist next year.

# UK court: Suspension of Parliament unlawful

Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament less than two months before Britain is due to leave the European Union was unlawful, a Scottish court ruled Wednesday — though it said Britain's top court must make the final decision.

Judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh said the government's action was illegal "because it had the purpose of stymieing Parliament."

The judges said the suspension was "null and of no effect," but referred the matter to Britain's Supreme Court for resolution. A hearing there is due to begin Tuesday.

After the ruling, opposition politicians urged the government to scrap the suspen-

sion and recall lawmakers to Parliament.

A group of about 70 opposition lawmakers challenged the government's decision to prorogue, or formally shut down, Parliament, for five weeks until Oct. 14 — just over two weeks before Britain is due to leave the EU.

Johnson says he took the action so he can start afresh on his domestic agenda at a new session of Parliament next month.

But the suspension also gives him a respite from rebellious lawmakers as he plots his next move to break the political deadlock and lead Britain out of the EU by Oct. 31.

Opponents argue that Johnson is trying to evade democratic scrutiny.

Last week, a court in Edinburgh rejected the lawmakers' challenge, saying it was a

matter for politicians, not the courts, to decide.

That was overturned Wednesday on appeal.

Jolyon Maugham, a lawyer who is part of the claim, said he believed "that the effect of the decision is that Parliament is no longer prorogued."

It was unclear what that means in practice. Catherine Haddon, a senior fellow at independent think tank the Institute for Government, tweeted that the ruling "does not (yet) change the prorogation itself. Though of course will add to pressure."

Labour Party Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer said the court's ruling was "very rare and it's very strong." He said the government should immediately recall Parliament.

# Iran signals its approval of Bolton's dismissal

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president urged the U.S. on Wednesday to "put warmongers aside" as tensions roil the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between Washington and Tehran in the wake of the collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks signaled approval of President Donald Trump's abrupt

dismissal of John Bolton as national security adviser. Bolton had been hawkish on Iran and other global challenges.

Rouhani's website quoted him as further urging the U.S. to "abandon warmongering and its maximum pressure policy" on Iran. He spoke at a Cabinet meeting in Tehran.

Ali Rabiei, a government spokesman, said after the meeting that Bolton's dismissal may help the U.S. have a "less bi-

ased" attitude toward Iran.

Though he stressed the dismissal was an internal U.S. issue, Rabiei called Bolton "the symbol of America's hawkish policies and its animosity toward Iran."

Bolton was critical of any potential talks between Trump and leaders of Iran and persuaded Trump to keep U.S. forces in Syria to counter the Iranian influence in the region.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Charges dropped in police military gear case

**MI** THETFORD TOWNSHIP — Charges were dropped against a Flint-area police chief arrested amid an investigation into his department's use of thousands of pieces of surplus military equipment, including parachutes and mine detectors.

The Flint Journal reported that a Genesee District Court judge ruled there was not enough evidence to send Thetford Township Police Chief Robert Kenny to trial for embezzlement and obstruction of justice.

Kenny was charged in August 2018 and placed on unpaid leave from the police department.

## Couple finds Civil War cannonballs after storm

**SC** FOLLY BEACH — A couple combing a South Carolina beach after Hurricane Dorian thought they'd discovered a large rock but soon realized they'd stumbled upon two Civil War-era cannonballs lodged in the sand.

Aaron Lattin told news outlets that he and his girlfriend encountered the 150-year-old relics on the edge of Folly Beach, about 10 miles from Charleston.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Air Force explosive ordnance disposal experts inspected the artifacts and deemed them safe.

## 10 inmates playing football hurt by lightning

**LA** HOMER — The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections said one state prison inmate

was critically injured and nine others hurt by a lightning strike while they played flag football.

A news release said nine inmates were back in the David Wade Correctional Center after treatment for cuts, bruises, headaches, dizziness and disorientation. The 10th remained hospitalized.

The statement said the prison in Homer clears the yard during potentially dangerous weather, but the lightning struck without warning, hitting the ground near the inmates.

## End of an era: Area's lone peep show closes

**NV** LAS VEGAS — An adult video and bookstore, which operated the Las Vegas area's lone peep show, has closed, marking the end of an era.

The Las Vegas Sun reported Showgirl Video shuttered last month and the building it occupied will soon be torn down to make way for a marijuana dispensary.

Showgirl Video was believed to be the last place in Las Vegas with a peep show — a place where dancers perform behind a window, which opened when a patron placed \$1 into a machine, for tips.

In 1992, the city passed an ordinance barring sexually-oriented businesses along Las Vegas Boulevard, but Showgirl Video was grandfathered under old code and continued doing business.

## Disney bans woman for life over assault

**FL** ORLANDO — Authorities said a woman was banned for life from Walt Disney World in Florida after she allegedly hit a taxi driver and then kicked a deputy at the resort.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office said in an arrest report that Ellen McMillion hit the taxi driver several times outside Disney's Hollywood Studios.

A Disney security guard and a deputy working a detail at the park intervened.

The taxi driver told deputies that McMillion started hitting him after she asked him for a cigarette and he told her he didn't have one.

## Observation wheel to be permanent structure

**OH** CINCINNATI — A permanent 200-foot-high SkyStar observation wheel is coming to downtown Cincinnati next year.

A release from Game Day Communications said the 150-foot-high portable wheel is scheduled to be replaced in early 2020.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported the Hamilton County Commissioners unanimously voted for the permanent structure.

## Police arrest 8 boys in SUV theft, other crimes

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — Police in Colorado arrested eight boys they say took part in stealing and crashing a sport-utility vehicle and committing several other crimes.

Colorado Springs police said the crimes began with the theft of the Toyota 4Runner.

Police allege people in the Toyota fired shots at a home. Nobody was hurt but police said a boy later stole from a liquor store before fleeing in the SUV.

Calls came in later that boys in the SUV stole a diaper bag and backpack from a woman at gunpoint and pointed a gun at another vehicle.

The Colorado Springs Gazette reported the Toyota later collided with another vehicle and police arrested eight boys ranging in age from 12 to 17.

## Man accused of driving at officer arrested

**MD** PERRYVILLE — A Maryland man who police said drove a stolen vehicle at an officer attempting to arrest him was taken into custody in Virginia after a multi-state chase.

Maryland State Police said William H. Galvin, 29, of Hughesville was arrested at a trailer in Front Royal.

Police said the pursuit began in Ocean City, Md., and continued through Delaware before reentering Maryland in Cecil County.

Police alleged that at one point during the chase, Galvin drove toward a Perryville Police Department officer as the officer and other police were trying to arrest him.

## Tap water turns pink in state's capital city

**NY** ALBANY — That's not rose flowing from your faucet.

The tap water in parts of New York's capital turned pink recently, but officials said it was perfectly safe to drink.

The Albany Water Department said the coloration is the result of a pass-through of sodium permanganate, a chemical used in the treatment process.

The water department said the pink water was also safe to use for cooking and bathing, but laundry should be avoided.

Sodium permanganate is used to control the taste and odor of tap water.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Dodgers clinch 7th straight NL West title

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Los Angeles Dodgers sprayed each other with bubbly, emptied dozens of bottles of beer while drinking very little of it and carried on in a fashion appropriate for a team celebrating its seventh consecutive NL West title.

The Dodgers certainly were elated about becoming the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff spot this season. Yet, because the occasion was virtually a given since May and not nearly as emotional as their playoff victory over the Colorado Rockies in Game 163 last year, the party was, as manager Dave Roberts put it,

“subdued.”

“It was one of those things that we expected it,” Roberts said Tuesday night after a 7-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles. “It’s obviously early in September, but it doesn’t take away what we as an organization accomplished.”

The Dodgers, with a power-packed lineup and imposing rotation, gained sole possession of first place on April 17 and never looked back. Their final pursuer was the Arizona Diamondbacks, who dropped 18½ games out of first place with a loss to the New York Mets on Tuesday night.

After the last out, the players gathered around the mound

and prepared for the soaking to follow.

It was the second-earliest clinching of the NL West behind the 1975 Cincinnati Reds, who accomplished the feat on Sept. 7.

Sure, the celebration was inevitable. So what?

“When we do get moments like this, I think we do a good job of appreciating what we have accomplished and it’s special. It really is,” Roberts said. “To win one division, but to win seven in a row, the consistency of the organization, what we’ve done, a lot of credit goes to a lot of people. And now it’s the idea of refocusing and everything we do going forward is to win 11 games in October.”

Los Angeles (94-52), coming off consecutive World Series losses to the Houston Astros and Boston Red Sox and seeking its first title since 1988, will likely begin the postseason at Dodger Stadium on Oct. 3 against the NL wild-card team.

“It’s something you don’t take for granted. You enjoy them all,” said third baseman Justin Turner, who received a beer drenching in the middle of his interview. “Obviously not as dramatic as last year, going to a Game 163, but it doesn’t take anything away from what we’ve accomplished. We’ve showed up trying to give ourselves another chance to make it to the World Series, and this is the first step.”

## MLB roundup

### Brewers’ Yelich breaks kneecap, out for rest of season

Associated Press

MIAMI — Christian Yelich and the Milwaukee Brewers didn’t need this kind of break.

Trying to catch up in the wild-card race, the Brewers instead saw the reigning NL MVP foul a ball off his leg in the first inning and go down with a broken right kneecap Tuesday night.

Trent Grisham continued Yelich’s at-bat with a 1-2 count and struck out — the strikeout was charged to Yelich.

“We don’t have a definitive time frame other than we know he will be out the remainder of the season right now,” general manager David Stearns said after a 4-3 win over Miami. “We also don’t know if surgery is required.”

Yelich was to travel to Milwaukee for additional tests Wednesday. The Brewers didn’t say whether he might be able to return for the playoffs that begin Oct. 1 if they make it that far. Milwaukee, which won its fifth in a row, closed within one game of the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

“I just heard. That’s not good,” Cubs manager Joe Mad-

don said after a 9-8 loss in 10 innings at San Diego. “Listen, I always want to beat other teams at their best, so that’s a tough one right there.”

Yelich hit .329 with 44 home runs and 97 RBIs along with 30 stolen bases this season. The outfielder was leading the majors in slugging percentage and OPS when he was hurt.

It was 3-all when Yasmani Grandal led off the ninth with a single off Miami reliever Adam Conley (2-9) and advanced to third on Grisham’s double. Pinch-hitter Tyler Austin’s fly ball to medium center was deep enough to score Grandal.

**Mets 3, Diamondbacks 2:** Zack Wheeler pitched one-run ball for seven innings, Justin Wilson navigated four difficult outs for his first save since April and host New York beat Arizona.

**Padres 9, Cubs 8 (10):** Manuel Margot drew a four-pitch, bases-loaded walk with one out in the 10th inning and host San Diego overcame a power display by Kris Bryant and Jason Heyward to beat Chicago.

**Phillies 6, Braves 5:** Corey Dickerson homered twice to

help his team’s wild-card push and host Philadelphia hit five home runs in the win.

**Tigers 12, Yankees 11:** Jordy Mercer capped a comeback from a six-run deficit with a game-ending single, and host Detroit overcame six home runs by New York.

**Twins 5, Nationals 0:** Jose Berrios surrendered two singles in seven innings in his best start in six weeks, Mitch Garver hit the tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh, and host Minnesota beat Washington.

**Rays 5, Rangers 3 (11):** Austin Meadows tied the game with a two-run homer in the eighth, and visiting Tampa Bay scored twice in the 11th after two Texas errors on the same play, stretching its winning streak to six games.

**White Sox 7, Royals 3:** Rookie Eloy Jimenez hit his first career grand slam, Yoan Moncada launched a two-run homer and host Chicago beat Kansas City.

**Athletics 21, Astros 7:** Matt Olson and Sean Murphy each homered twice, and Oakland tagged Wade Miley for seven runs in the first inning and

scored a season-high 21 runs in a rout of host Houston.

**Rockies 2, Cardinals 1:** Nolan Arenado hit a 482-foot two-run homer that bounced out of Coors Field in the first inning, Chi Chi Gonzalez got his first big league win in four years and host Colorado slowed St. Louis’ playoff push.

**Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 3:** Rowdy Tellez hit a two-run home run, Cavan Biggio and Reese McGuire added solo shots and host Toronto snapped a seven-game losing streak with a win over Boston.

**Giants 5, Pirates 4:** Johnny Cueto dazzled for five shutout innings in his long-awaited season debut, pitching host San Francisco past Pittsburgh.

**Mariners 4, Reds 3:** Kyle Lewis homered in his major league debut, Kyle Seager hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth, and host Seattle stopped a six-game losing streak by beating Cincinnati.

**Indians 8, Angels 0:** Rookie Zach Plesac pitched a four-hitter for his first complete game in the majors and visiting Cleveland kept pace in the playoff race.

# France knocks off US at hoops World Cup

Associated Press

DONGGUAN, China — No gold. No medal. No more winning streak.

The U.S. reign atop international basketball has ended — this time, thwarted by France at the World Cup.

For the first time since 2006, the U.S. sent NBA players to a major international tournament and won't win gold. Evan Fournier scored 22 points, Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 16 rebounds and France beat the U.S. 89-79 in the World Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday, rallying from a seven-point fourth-quarter deficit to pull off the upset.

"Any loss hurts," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "And in this situation, it hurts more. But life goes on. This is very important and we would have loved to have won ... but we're all grown, we all have families

and lives and life goes on."

The U.S. had won 58 consecutive tournament games in FIBA and Olympic competition, starting with the bronze-medal game at the 2006 world championships and continuing through every FIBA Americas, World Cup and Olympics event since. It was bidding to become the first nation to win three consecutive World Cups, after winning three straight Olympic golds in that span.

The best the Americans can do now in China is finish fifth, and they're assured of their worst finish in a big tournament with NBA players since placing sixth at the 2002 world championships. They're going home with a berth in the 2020 Olympics secured but no medal.

Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points for the U.S., all of them coming in the first three quarters. The Americans came up

scoreless on six consecutive possessions down the stretch, the drought that allowed the French to take control of a back-and-forth game for the final time.

"Just got to take it like a man at this point," U.S. guard Kemba Walker said. "We lost. There's nothing we can do. We competed. We've been competing since day one that we got to training camp. But we gave it everything we've got. I know we're Team USA and things of that nature and they've been winning for a lot of years, but you know, we didn't get a chance to pull it off."

Nando De Colo scored 18 for France. The French held the U.S. to 4-for-15 shooting in the fourth quarter — and benefited from the Americans going 4-for-11 from the foul line in the final 10 minutes.

"We came here to win gold,"

Gobert said. "We knew it wasn't going to be easy. A lot of people counted us out, but we got the win."

Gobert said beating the Americans wasn't the goal — winning gold is.

"It doesn't mean anything if you don't win in the end," Gobert said.

France was up 10 early in the second half. The U.S. went on a 31-14 run over the next 10 minutes to go up by seven. And then the French responded with a 15-2 run over the next five minutes, going up 82-76 on a long jumper by Frank Ntilikina with 2:05 left.

Mitchell had a chance to get the U.S. within two with about a minute left, driving against Gobert — but the Utah center read what the Utah guard was going to do perfectly, swatting the try away.

## Many NHL restricted free agents still haven't signed

Associated Press

P.K. Subban doesn't want to give advice to all the unsigned young players around the NHL. He just vividly remembers his own experience as a restricted free agent.

Before he signed a short, so-called "bridge" contract, he took some motherly advice.

"My mom picked up the phone and called me and said: 'P.K., listen, you're young still. You have lots of time. If you're ready to go and play, go play,'" Subban recalled. "And I went and played and won the Norris Trophy."

Almost a dozen prominent restricted free agents remain unsigned on the eve of training camps around the league, and several situations threaten to linger into the season, like Subban in 2013 and Toronto's William Nylander a year ago. Maple Leafs teammate Mitch Marner, Tampa Bay's Brayden Point, Philadelphia's Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecny,

Colorado's Mikko Rantanen, Boston's Charlie McAvoy and Brandon Carlo, and Winnipeg's Patrik Laine and Kyle Connor could all be conspicuously absent when camps open this week.

"Everybody's waiting on somebody to make a move," Toronto center Auston Matthews said. "I'm surprised there's lots of guys. It's not just (Marner). You've got a lot of really good players that aren't signed yet. I guess everybody's just kind of playing the waiting game."

Dominoes could start to fall after Columbus signed restricted free agent defenseman Zach Werenski to a \$15 million, three-year deal and New Jersey gave forward Pavel Zacha \$6.75 million over three years. The salary cap is a concern: Toronto will have to use long-term injury allowance to get Marner under contract, Tampa Bay has less than \$9 million in cap space for Point, Boston is roughly \$7 million under with McAvoy and Carlo unsigned,

and Winnipeg has \$15 million for both Laine and Connor.

"Everybody's got room to do what they need to do," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "You're not looking at situations where the restricted free agents haven't been made substantial offers. It's they and their agents want more. I respect that."

NHLPA executive director Don Fehr said he would like all those players to have the contracts they want but acknowledged, "That's not probably the world we live in." The ongoing contract stalemates have sparked plenty of questions about the lack of rights for restricted free agents and the trend toward younger players wanting to cash in on their second contracts.

"The team has you in a certain situation where you have no rights, so you don't have much of a say," Boston defenseman Torey Krug said. "That's how it's set up. Those guys will make their big bucks later

on or whatever. It's just how it works."

Krug said, "If you just look at the star power, it's potentially damaging to some teams" if they can't get their restricted free agents signed in time for the start of the season. Nylander missed the first two months last season when contract talks were at an impasse. Things could also drag out with Marner and others.

It didn't work out between Edmonton and restricted free agent forward Jesse Puljujarvi, who took his talents back to Finland for the season. Zacha was in talks to play in the KHL before signing with the Devils on Tuesday.

The overseas route is far more common for European players but is often considered a last resort. If Laine plays anywhere but Winnipeg or Connor stays home, it affects everything for the Jets.

"Everyone wants them back," forward Nikolaj Ehlers said.

# Former trainer accuses WR Brown of rape

Associated Press

New England Patriots wide receiver Antonio Brown has been accused of rape by a former trainer.

Britney Taylor says Brown sexually assaulted her on three occasions, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday in the Southern District of Florida.

Brown has denied the allegations. Darren Heitner, a lawyer representing Brown, told The Associated Press his client plans to countersue.

"He will pursue all legal remedies to not only clear his name, but to also protect other professional athletes against false accusations," Heitner said in a statement.

Heitner said Brown and Taylor had "a consensual personal relationship."

The New York Times first reported about the lawsuit.

The AP does not ordinarily name the alleged victims of sex assaults, but Taylor was identified in the federal lawsuit and was quoted in a statement provided by her lawyer, David Haas.

"As a rape victim of Antonio

Brown, deciding to speak out has been an incredibly difficult decision," Taylor said. "I have found strength in my faith, my family, and from the accounts of other survivors of sexual assault. Speaking out removes the shame that I have felt for the past year and places it on the person responsible for my rape."

Taylor also said in the statement she will cooperate with the NFL and any other agencies.

A spokesman for the NFL declined comment, but the Patriots said the league told the team it will launch an investigation.

"We are aware of the civil lawsuit that was filed earlier today against Antonio Brown, as well as the response by Antonio's representatives," the Patriots said in a statement. "We take these allegations very seriously. Under no circumstance does this organization condone sexual violence or assault. The league has informed us that they will be investigating. We will have no further comment while that investigation takes place."

The 31-year-old Brown, a Miami native, was released by

Oakland last week after clashing with the team throughout training camp. He agreed to a contract with New England on Saturday, but has yet to play for the Patriots.

Brown and Taylor met through a Fellowship of Christian Athletes group at Central Michigan University, according to the suit.

Taylor said Brown reached out to her via Facebook in June 2017 and asked the former gymnast for help with improving his strength and flexibility.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor was sexually assaulted by Brown on separate training trips to Pittsburgh and Florida that same month. The suit includes what it says are text messages from Brown bragging about the second assault.

Taylor says in the suit she then cut off ties with Brown. But she agreed to work with him again after she says he apologized and agreed to provide hotel accommodations for each training trip.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor and Brown were in Miami in May 2018 when he raped her in a bedroom at his home. Tay-

lor says she shouted "no" and "stop," but Brown refused.

Heitner said in his statement Taylor invited herself to join Brown and his friends on a night out on the town, and then came on to Brown before they engaged in consensual sex at his residence.

Brown was approached by Taylor in 2017, according to Heitner, about making a \$1.6 million investment in a business project. But he declined.

Heitner said Taylor reached out to Brown again last year, and she traveled to his residences on multiple occasions. Heitner said she asked for tickets to a Pittsburgh Steelers game.

Brown was originally traded from Pittsburgh to Oakland in the offseason. But a bizarre foot injury, fight with the NFL over his helmet, skipped practices, multiple fines, a run-in with general manager Mike Mayock and his social media posts ultimately led to the decision to release him.

## Panthers' Newton still questioned about shoulder

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton thinks he knows why the Panthers aren't throwing more deep passes.

The 2015 league MVP joked that Panthers offensive coordinator Norv Turner must have Christian McCaffrey on his fantasy football team, a reference to the Carolina running back getting the bulk of action in Week 1 and racking up 209 yards from scrimmage and scoring two touchdowns — on 29 total touches — in Carolina's 30-27 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

Newton, meanwhile, did not throw or run for a TD against the Rams and only attempted one pass of longer than 20 yards.

"I think that is what it is," Newton said with a big smile. "Doggone Norv gone and picked CMAC for fantasy, man. I should have went over and seen who he was drafting in his league."

Then Newton paused and continued joking, "That's probably why we ain't throwing no deep passes, right? He didn't pick me for his quarterback! Now it's all making sense."

All kidding aside, there is some question about why Newton still isn't throwing deep even though he's supposedly healed and under no restrictions from the coaching staff following arthroscopic surgery in January.

Newton attempted 38 passes against the Rams, but most were check-downs or passes

underneath the coverage. His only attempt beyond 20 yards was a ball that sailed 25 yards through the air and over the head of wide receiver Curtis Samuel.

That's reminiscent of last season, when Newton struggled through a lingering shoulder injury that limited his arm strength. He rarely threw a pass of more than 20 yards in the second half of last season.

Newton has insisted his shoulder is fine entering Thursday night's game against Tampa Bay and that it didn't bother him in Week 1.

The 30-year-old quarterback said he's grown tired of people asking him questions about it, and his standard answer has been that he's "taking what the defense gives him."

Still, the questions will continue until he proves he can throw deep in a real game.

"You are only asking me because of my shoulder," Newton said. "How about this: talk to the defensive coordinator for Tampa and ask if they don't think I can throw the ball over 20 yards and see how far that gets you."

Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians said he believes Newton.

"I don't believe there is any doubt about it or he wouldn't be playing," Arians said. "Yeah, he has all of his tools and he's ready to go."

Arians said the Bucs won't defend Newton any differently on Thursday night.

"I don't want to find out in a game," Arians said.