

NATO to assess Russian jets in real time

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Armed Russian fighter planes flying into NATO airspace will not be automatically shot down, the alliance's top official said Tuesday after a series of recent aircraft incursions along the bloc's eastern flank.

Decisions on whether to shoot down an aircraft will be made based on real-time assessments by military commanders, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told reporters during a news conference at the alliance's Brussels headquarters.

NATO's top military commander, U.S. Air Force Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, has the relevant authority to determine what type of military response is required in the event of Russian incursions, Rutte said.

"What we will always do is to make sure that we react in a proportionate way," Rutte said, adding that such a response

"doesn't mean that we will always immediately shoot down a plane."

His comments came after last week's entry of three armed Russian MiG-31 fighters into Estonian territory, forcing allied aircraft to scramble in response.

The NATO jets "promptly intercepted and escorted the aircraft without escalation, as no immediate threat was assessed," Rutte said.

A rash of recent incidents, including a swarm of about 20 drones that flew into Polish territory two weeks ago, has raised questions about whether allies are doing enough to deter the Kremlin.

A separate Russian drone incursion in Romania last week also reinforced concerns along the alliance's southeastern flank.

The situation was the subject of an emergency meeting Monday at the United Nations, where Western officials blasted

Russia over the incidents.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, speaking at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council in New York, said Warsaw was prepared to shoot down any incoming Russian aircraft.

"I have only one request to the Russian government: If another missile or aircraft enters our space without permission, deliberately or by mistake, and gets shot down and the wreckage falls on NATO territory, please don't come here to whine about it," Sikorski said. "You have been warned."

Other leaders in the alliance have called for a more muscular response to Russian incursions. Lithuanian Defense Minister Dovile Sakaliene said in a statement Saturday that the 2015 shootdown of a Russian fighter plane that had breached Turkish airspace could serve as a template for what to do now.

"We need to mean business," she said.

Rutte, when pressed by reporters on whether there was a divergence of views among allies on how to handle the situation, said NATO will react based on the assessments of military commanders.

"You can be assured we will do what is necessary to defend our cities, our people, our infrastructure," he added.

A statement Tuesday by NATO's North Atlantic Council said the incursion in Estonia was part of a "wider pattern of increasingly irresponsible Russian behavior."

Other allies that have experienced recent airspace violations by Russia include Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Romania, the council statement said.

"Russia bears full responsibility for these actions, which are escalatory, risk miscalculation and endanger lives. They must stop," the council said.

Democrats demand cost estimate for DOD renaming

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of Senate Democrats are calling for a formal cost assessment of President Donald Trump's directive to give the Department of Defense a secondary title of the Department of War.

Ten senators have asked the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office to come up with a price tag for adopting the new name, including the cost of changing signage, stationery and other department materials.

Trump's directive "risks confusion, redundancy and unnecessary cost expenditure" and contradicts the administration's focus on minimizing federal spending, the senators argued in a letter sent Monday to Congressional Budget Office Director Philip Swagel.

"Given the Trump administration's repeated emphasis on fiscal restraint ... this symbolic renaming is both wasteful and hypocritical," the senators wrote. "It appears to prioritize political theater over responsible governance, while diverting resources from core national security functions."

The letter is led by Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon, the top Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee, and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

Trump signed an executive order Sept. 5 authorizing the Department of Defense to use the "Department of War" in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.

The department's website, social media accounts and some signage at the Pentagon

have since been changed to reflect the renaming.

The Defense Department has not provided a cost estimate for the rebrand, but name changes can come with a steep price tag. An initiative under the Biden administration to rename military bases and assets honoring Confederates cost more than \$60 million.

Senators are asking the Congressional Budget Office to tally the costs of updating titles, forms and communications, procuring new signage, branding and ceremonial materials, redesigning websites and updating digital infrastructure, along with any anticipated "downstream costs."

Legally changing the Department of Defense to the Department of War would require an act of Congress, and several Republican lawmakers have tried to pave the way for such a vote.

Pentagon revamps MRE with more caffeine, protein

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The pork sausage patty is out and buffalo chicken is in, as the Pentagon is set to dish up revamped field rations with more protein-filled snacks and caffeine starting next year.

Unpopular prepackaged items in Meals, Ready to Eat will be axed in 2026, the Defense Department said in a statement Monday. That includes beef taco filling and a second meat patty, the jalapeno pepper jack.

Replacing those three things will be buffalo chicken, Cuban-style beef picadillo with vegetables and a Thai-style red curry with chicken and rice, the statement said.

More snack fare packed with protein is also on the way in the form of new s'mores recovery bars and freeze-dried chocolate peanut butter bites.

Developers in the Army's Combat Feeding Division in Natick, Mass., worked to reduce weight and volume while maintaining the same number of calories and nutritional value.

The updated MREs will include new caffeinated options like beverages, gum and jelly beans, as well as energy chews and gels.

"What we've noticed is caffeine is one of the least consumed items in the MRE," Julie Edwards, a senior technologist in the Combat Feeding Division, said in the statement.

"Previous generations were big coffee drinkers, but the newer generation of soldiers are not."

Troops will also receive a larger, more resilient towelette, the statement said.

The Pentagon annually assesses and changes the lineup of MREs, which are handed out to troops in the field. The changes were the result of service member feedback.

The process of changing a meal item takes about four years, said Edwards, who is also a registered dietitian. Before hitting the field for evaluation, all new items must still be edible after six months at 100 degrees Fahrenheit and three years at 80 degrees.

Researchers meet with service members to find out what they like and then focus groups led by behavioral psychologists follow up on the initial feedback.

Decisions are then made by service leaders on the Joint Services Operational Rations Forum.

The Feeding Division is already working on offerings for 2027. Plant-based animal crackers, a new recovery bar, a protein bar and fruit-flavored cereal are among the possibilities, the statement said.

Also in 2027, plant-based entrees will also replace the four vegetarian meals currently available.

"Any new item that we get that can help bring variety and increase acceptability is important," Edwards said. "We know that eating an MRE isn't everyone's No. 1 thing. But we want to make it safe to eat — that's our No. 1 priority — and then to make it taste good as well."

Navy to preserve Hawaii island used for practice

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has promised additional protections for a tiny Hawaiian island it determined is a "traditional cultural place" where it plans to increase the frequency of bombing practice.

The island of Kaula — the site of aerial bombing drills for decades — is also eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the Navy said in a document released Wednesday.

The determination was part of a final environmental assessment issued in August ahead of plans to significantly increase the training tempo at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai and Kaula.

Kaula is a 135-acre crescent-shaped isle about 55 miles southwest of Kauai.

The assessment examined the potential environmental, safety and cultural effects of the increased tempo. On Wednesday, the Navy issued a finding of no significant impact, which means an exhaustive environmental impact statement will not be required.

The Navy plan overall calls for a significant increase in missile and rocket launches, amphibious and drone operations and airport use by helicopters by the joint force.

The assessment determined that the Navy's training program on Kaula "incorporates specific measures to ensure that known archaeological sites will be avoided during proposed training activities," which occur only in a designated impact area on the island's southern tip.

US lawmaker in Beijing calls for more dialogue

Associated Press

BEIJING — The United States and China are talking past each other on key issues, said a U.S. lawmaker leading a bipartisan congressional delegation to Beijing on Tuesday.

The visit, led by Rep. Adam Smith, a Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, is the first from the House of Representatives to China since 2019 and comes as tensions have risen between the two countries over trade, technology and opposing views on global conflicts.

The aim of the trip, Smith said, is to increase dialogue between the two sides.

"You have to be willing to start the process of saying, 'OK, this is where I'm coming from, where are you coming from?' And we're not even at that point yet. We're still sort of talking

past each other," Smith said.

The U.S. delegation said they hoped China would take meaningful action to reduce the inflow of fentanyl into the U.S. and they expressed concern over China's restrictions on the global supply of rare earths, according to a readout from the House Armed Services Committee.

Smith also said he is concerned that the U.S. and Chinese militaries are coming too close to each other operationally and that he specifically wants the Chinese side to engage in more dialogue.

"We've seen this with our ships and our planes, their ships, their planes, coming entirely too close to one another," he told reporters. "At the height of the Cold War, we had regular conversations, regular treaties with the Soviet Union."

Trump suggests link between Tylenol, autism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday used the platform of the presidency to promote unproven and in some cases discredited ties between Tylenol, vaccines and autism as his administration announced a wide-ranging effort to study the causes of the complex brain disorder.

“Don’t take Tylenol,” Trump instructed pregnant women around a dozen times during the unwieldy White House news conference, also urging mothers not to give their infants the drug, known by the generic name acetaminophen in the U.S. or paracetamol in most other countries.

He also fueled long-debunked claims that ingredients in vaccines or timing shots close together could contribute to rising rates of autism in the U.S., without providing any medical evidence.

The rambling announcement, which appeared to rely on exist-

ing studies rather than significant new research, comes as the Make America Healthy Again movement has been pushing for answers on the causes of autism. The diverse coalition of supporters of Health Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. includes several anti-vaccine activists who have long spread debunked claims that immunizations are responsible.

The announcement also sheds light on Trump’s own long-held fascination with autism and his trepidation about the childhood vaccine schedule, even as the president has taken pride in his work to disseminate COVID-19 vaccines during his first term.

Medical experts said Trump’s remarks were irresponsible. New York University bioethicist Art Caplan said it was “the saddest display of a lack of evidence, rumors, recycling old myths, lousy advice, outright lies and dangerous advice I have ever witnessed by anyone in authority.”

Trump announced during the event that the Food and Drug Administration would begin notifying doctors that the use of acetaminophen “can be associated” with an increased risk of autism, but did not immediately provide justification for the new recommendation.

Some studies have raised the possibility that taking acetaminophen during pregnancy might increase the risk of autism — but many others haven’t found that concern, said autism expert David Mandell of the University of Pennsylvania.

One challenge is that it’s hard to disentangle the effects of Tylenol use from the effects of high fevers during pregnancy.

Fevers, especially in the first trimester, can increase the risk for miscarriages, preterm birth and other problems, according to the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Responding to Trump’s warnings, the Society

for Maternal-Fetal Medicine said they still recommend Tylenol as an appropriate option to treat fever and pain during pregnancy.

The president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said Monday that suggestions that Tylenol use in pregnancy causes autism are “irresponsible when considering the harmful and confusing message they send to pregnant patients.”

Trump press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement Monday evening that the administration “does not believe popping more pills is always the answer for better health” and that it “will not be deterred in these efforts as we know millions across America are grateful.”

Tylenol maker Kenvue disputed any link between the drug and autism on Monday. Shares of Kenvue fell 7.5% in trading Monday, reducing the company’s market value by about \$2.6 billion.

ABC ends Kimmel’s short suspension; show is back

Associated Press

NEW YORK — ABC will reinstate Jimmy Kimmel’s late night show in the wake of criticism over his comments about the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, officials with the network said Monday.

“We have spent the last days having thoughtful conversations with Jimmy, and after those conversations, we reached the decision to return the show on Tuesday,” ABC said in a statement.

ABC suspended Kimmel indefinitely on Wednesday after comments he made about Kirk in a monologue.

Kimmel said “many in MAGA land are working very hard to capitalize on the murder of Charlie Kirk” and that “the MAGA gang” was “desperately trying to characterize this kid who

murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them.”

Kimmel has hosted “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” on ABC since 2003 and has been a fixture in television and comedy for even longer. He is also well known as a presenter, having hosted the Academy Awards four times.

Backlash to Kimmel’s comments was swift. Nexstar and Sinclair, two of ABC’s largest affiliate owners, said they would be pulling “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” from their stations. Others came to his defense.

Sinclair said it would not air Kimmel’s show Tuesday and would broadcast news programming instead. “Discussions with ABC are ongoing as we evaluate the show’s potential return,” the company said. There was no immediate comment from Nexstar on its plans for Kimmel’s return.

Trump cancels meeting with Dems with shutdown in play

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has abruptly canceled this week’s planned meeting with congressional Democratic leaders, refusing to negotiate over their demands to shore up health care funds as part of a deal to prevent a potential looming federal government shutdown.

In a lengthy Tuesday social media post, Trump rejected the sit-down the White House had agreed to the day before. It would have been the first time the Republican president met with the Democratic Party’s leaders, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, since his return to the White House.

“I have decided that no meeting with their Congressional Leaders could possibly be productive,” Trump wrote in the post.

The president complained the Democrats “are threatening to shut down the Government of the United States” unless the Republicans agree to more funding on health care for various groups of people he has criticized. Trump did not close the door on a future sit-down with the Democratic leaders, but he warned of a “long and brutal slog” ahead unless Democrats dropped their demands to salvage health funds.

With Congress at a stalemate, the government is headed toward a federal shutdown next week, Oct. 1, if the House and the Senate are unable to approve the legislation needed to fund offices and services into the new fiscal year. Lawmakers left town amid the logjam, and they are not due back until Sept. 29.

The president insisted over the weekend that essential services would remain open.

Trump brags, criticizes in UN speech

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — President Donald Trump castigated the United Nations as a feckless institution in a speech to the world body on Tuesday, praising the turn America has taken under his leadership while warning Europe will be ruined if it doesn't turn away from a "double-tailed monster" of ill-conceived migration and green energy policies.

His roughly hourlong speech before the U.N. General Assembly was both grievance-filled and self-congratulatory as he used the platform to applaud his second-term achievements and lament that some of his fellow world leaders' countries were "going to hell."

The address was the latest reminder for U.S. allies and foes that the United States — after a four-year interim under the more internationalist President

Joe Biden — has returned to an unapologetically "America First" posture with an antagonistic view toward the United Nations. Trump also sharply criticized the global body for inaction, saying it was filled with "empty words" that "don't solve wars."

"What is the purpose of the United Nations?" Trump said. "The U.N. has such tremendous potential. I've always said it. It has such tremendous, tremendous potential. But it's not even coming close to living up to that potential."

Afterward, Trump assuaged fears from some diplomats by assuring the top U.N. leader that the U.S. remained "100%" supportive of the global body despite his earlier criticism.

"I may disagree with it sometimes, but I am so behind it because the potential for peace at this institution is great," Trump

told Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

It was another about-face after Trump offered a weave of jarring juxtapositions in his address to the assembly.

He trumpeted himself as a peacemaker and enumerated successes of his administration's efforts in several hotspots around the globe. At the same time, Trump heralded his decisions to order the U.S. military to carry out strikes on Iran and more recently against alleged drug smugglers from Venezuela and argued that "globalists" are on the verge of destroying successful nations.

The U.S. president's speech, typically among the most anticipated moments of the annual assembly, comes at one of the most volatile moments in the world body's 80-year-old history. Global leaders are being tested by intractable wars in

Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, uncertainty about the economic and social impact of emerging artificial intelligence technology, and anxiety about Trump's antipathy for the global body.

Trump touted his administration's policies allowing for expanded drilling for oil and natural gas in the United States, and aggressively cracking down on illegal immigration, implicitly suggesting more countries should follow suit.

He sharply criticized European nations that have more welcoming migration policies.

"It's time to end the failed experiment of open borders. You have to end it now. I can tell you, I'm really good at this stuff. Your countries are going to hell," Trump proclaimed.

He also blasted their commitment to expensive energy projects aimed at reducing their carbon footprint.

Russia, Ukraine fire as Zelenskyy seeks UN help

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia said that it shot down three dozen Ukrainian drones heading toward Moscow while Ukraine said that Russian missiles, drones and bombs killed at least two civilians, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy persevered with efforts to bolster international support for his country at a U.N. gathering on Tuesday.

With his troops under strain on the front line after more than three years of fighting Russia, Zelenskyy was due to begin meetings with leaders gathered in New York this week for the U.N. General Assembly.

Peace efforts set in motion by President Donald Trump since he returned to office in January appear to have stalled.

Trump's Alaska summit with

Russian President Vladimir Putin and a White House meeting with Zelenskyy and key European leaders took place more than a month ago.

Zelenskyy said that he met late Monday in New York with Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy. Kellogg and Zelenskyy discussed cooperation agreements on the manufacturing of drones and Ukraine's purchase of American weaponry, the Ukrainian president said.

Russian aircraft dropped five glide bombs on the city of Zaporizhzhia during the night, killing a man, regional head Ivan Fedorov said Tuesday.

The Russian Defense Ministry reported Tuesday that it intercepted 69 Ukrainian drones over a number of Russian regions and the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

France says it recognizes statehood for Palestine

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — As the Gaza war rages on, France recognized Palestinian statehood on Monday at the start of a high-profile meeting at the United Nations aimed at galvanizing support for a two-state solution to the Mideast conflict.

More nations are expected to follow, in defiance of Israel and the United States.

French President Emmanuel Macron's announcement in the U.N. General Assembly hall received loud applause from the more than 140 leaders in attendance.

The Palestinian delegation, including its U.N. ambassador, Riyad Mansour, could be seen standing and applauding as the declaration was made.

"True to the historic commitment of my country to the Mid-

dle East, to peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians, this is why I declare that today, France recognizes the state of Palestine," Macron said.

Andorra, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, and Monaco also announced or confirmed their recognition of a Palestinian state, a day after the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Portugal did.

Germany, Italy and Japan also took part in the conference but did not recognize such a state.

The meeting and expanded recognition of Palestinian statehood are expected to have little if any actual impact on the ground, where Israel is waging another major offensive in the Gaza Strip and expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Natural gas pipeline ruptures, charring train

WY CHEYENNE — A natural gas pipeline ruptured and burst into flames early Sunday in southern Wyoming, charring a freight train and lighting up the night sky with a glow seen more than 60 miles to the south in Colorado, officials said.

Emergency crews responded shortly after 1 a.m. after authorities received calls reporting explosions along Interstate 80 west of Cheyenne, according to a statement from Laramie County Fire District #10.

“Importantly, no injuries or fatalities occurred, and no large hazardous material releases posed a threat to the public,” the statement read.

Firefighters had the flames under control as of 9 a.m., officials said.

Lawmakers haven't been paid after raise lawsuit

SC ROCK HILL — South Carolina legislators have not been getting paid for months since a state senator sued over the first raise in the General Assembly's compensation in three decades.

A line in the budget, passed by both chambers, increased compensation from \$1,000 a month to \$2,500 a month for all 46 senators and 124 House members.

Republican state Sen. Wes Climer sued the state in June, saying the South Carolina constitution bans legislators from immediately increasing their pay.

As it sorts through the law-

suit, the South Carolina Supreme Court handed down a decision in late June just before the extra pay kicked in that stopped not only the raise but the payment of \$1,000 a month in the same budget line.

Some lawmakers said they have had to use their own private salaries for town halls, equipment needed to help constituents or common expenses to serve the public.

Board rejects proposed casino near the UN

NY NEW YORK — There will be no casino in Manhattan after a community panel rejected a proposed Mohegan Sun resort near the United Nations headquarters.

The Freedom Plaza development, which also called for hotels, retail, dining, entertainment and housing, was denied by a state-commissioned community advisory committee on a 4-2 vote Monday.

Committee members, who were appointed by Gov. Kathy Hochul, Mayor Eric Adams and other local politicians, cast their votes with barely any discussion, other than to thank the applicants for their time and responsiveness.

State bans masks for law enforcement officers

CA SACRAMENTO — California became the first state to ban most law enforcement officers, including federal immigration agents, from covering their faces while conducting official business under a bill that was signed Satur-

day by Gov. Gavin Newsom and swiftly denounced by Trump administration officials.

The ban is a direct response to recent immigration raids in Los Angeles, where federal agents wore masks while making mass arrests.

Trump administration officials have defended use of masks, saying immigration agents face strident and increasing harassment in public and online as they carry out enforcement in service of Trump's drive toward mass deportation.

The new law prohibits neck gaiters, ski masks and other facial coverings for local and federal officers, including immigration enforcement agents, while they conduct official business. It makes exceptions for undercover agents, medical masks such as N95 respirators or tactical gear and it does not apply to state police.

Caretaker killed by tiger at wildlife preserve

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — A large tiger fatally attacked an animal handler as horrified onlookers watched during the end of a big cat show at a preserve in southeastern Oklahoma, officials said Monday.

Ryan Easley, 37, was dead when deputies arrived Saturday at the Growler Pines Tiger Preserve near Hugo, not far from the Texas border, just minutes after dispatchers received an emergency call, said Choctaw County Sheriff Terry Park.

Park said the tiger unexpectedly started to bite and then shake Easley while the two

were inside of a large cage.

“It was a big tiger,” Park told The Associated Press. “This particular one, he'd had for quite some time.”

Park said Easley's wife and young daughter were present when the attack occurred.

All tours have been canceled until further notice, the statement said.

Candidate followed explicit accounts online

WI MADISON — A Republican manufacturer running for governor in Wisconsin as a conservative supporter of “family values” and President Donald Trump followed numerous sexually explicit accounts online, including a nonbinary pornography performer.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Monday that Bill Berrien, the CEO of Pindel Global Precision and one of two announced 2026 Republican candidates for governor, unfollowed several accounts in recent days after the newspaper asked about the matter.

In a post on X on Monday, Berrien derided the Journal Sentinel story as “garbage political hits.” He did not refute anything written in the story in his comments to the AP or in his post on X.

Berrien, 56, is a political newcomer running his first race for Wisconsin's open governor's seat. Josh Schoemann, the Washington County executive, is the other Republican in the race. The GOP primary is 11 months away.

— From wire reports

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Lions win as offense overpowers Ravens

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Punishing all night — and tricky when they had to be — the Lions battered the Ravens with a performance that epitomized everything they've become under coach Dan Campbell.

Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery ran for two touchdowns apiece, and Detroit bulled its way to a 38-30 win over Baltimore on Monday night. The Lions sacked Lamar Jackson seven times and outrushed the Ravens 224 yards to 85.

"I just thought it was an outstanding team effort, man. I was proud of the players, I was proud of the coaches," Campbell said. "It's just a huge win."

Detroit scored on drives of 98 and 96 yards against a Baltimore front that was without defensive lineman Nnamdi Madubuike and showed little ability to handle the Lions physically. Up 31-24 at the two-minute warning, Detroit converted on

fourth-and-2 from its own 49 when Jared Goff completed a 20-yard pass to Amon-Ra St. Brown.

"I got a tremendous amount of trust in those guys, and that's been built up now in five years," Campbell said.

Then Montgomery raced for a 31-yard touchdown with 1:42 to play, capping a 151-yard night on the ground for the running back.

Jackson threw his third touchdown pass of the night, a 27-yarder to Mark Andrews with 29 seconds remaining. A failed 2-point conversion and a failed onside kick later, the Lions could kneel out the clock.

"The biggest problem is we didn't play good defense," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "There's nobody in that locker room that thinks that's good enough. That's not who we are. It cannot be who we are. It's not good enough, it's not acceptable."

This was quite a statement for a Detroit team that lost offensive coordinator Ben Johnson in the offseason and began the season with a dud at Green Bay. After rebounding in Week 2 against Chicago, the Lions looked very much like Super Bowl contenders against Baltimore.

The hallmarks of Campbell's tenure were all there. Detroit was aggressive on fourth down, converting all three of its attempts. One of those was a gadget play that went for a touchdown and gave the Lions the lead for good.

And at the line of scrimmage, Detroit was overpowering at times.

"That's what happens when good coverage marries good rush," pass-rushing star Aidan Hutchinson said. "Today was that."

Jackson did some damage in the passing game, especially in the first half, but by the end, the

Lions had him out of sync. And when he tried to escape the pocket, they kept him under control.

"Those guys were very disciplined," Campbell said.

"We didn't have anybody jumping up in the air, diving — ill-advised diving. They all bottled him up, they were disciplined, and guys made huge plays. And he had nowhere to go."

It was a jarring sight to see the Ravens (1-2) pushed around on their home field, where they lost for only the fourth time in 26 prime-time games under Harbaugh. When Gibbs and Montgomery weren't running through the Baltimore defense, Goff had plenty of time to pick the Ravens apart as Detroit methodically advanced down the field.

This was Detroit's first win over the Ravens in Baltimore and snapped an overall five-game losing streak in the series.

49ers star Bosa will miss rest of season with torn ACL

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers star defensive end Nick Bosa tore the ACL in his right knee and will miss the rest of the season.

Bosa hurt his knee in the first half of a win over the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday and didn't return to the game. Bosa gave a thumbs-down to someone in the crowd after the injury, but initial tests did not show a torn ACL although coach Kyle Shanahan said Bosa feared that he had.

More tests were done Monday showing that Bosa had torn his ACL and his season was done.

"Obviously he's bummed," Shanahan said. "But Nick can handle anything and he's going to handle it like he always does, which will be great. But obviously he was bummed out

from it, not being able to finish out this year, especially how good of a year he was having so far."

Shanahan said there was no damage to the meniscus or other ligaments, which bodes well for his rehabilitation.

"I was told to do it was clean as it gets," Shanahan said. "If you have an ACL, I was told that it's the kind that you want."

This is the second time Bosa has gone down with a season-ending ACL tear early in the season. Bosa tore the ACL in his left knee in Week 2 of the 2020 season and missed the rest of that season.

That marked the only time in Bosa's first six seasons in the NFL that he didn't have at least nine sacks in a season. He's been one of the most productive edge rushers ever since being drafted second overall in 2019.

"You don't just replace a guy like Nick," Shanahan said. "Everyone's got to keep continuing to get better at everything. Same thing I'd be preaching if we did have Nick too. When you lose your better players, it gets harder. ... Lots of guys obviously will have to step it up as it goes, but I believe that'll be more by committee than any individual."

Bosa has made the Pro Bowl in all five of his healthy seasons and won the AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year award in 2022, when he lead the league with 18½ sacks.

Bosa's 74½ sacks in the regular season and playoffs are the fourth-most in the NFL since he entered the league in 2019, and his 280 total pressures are the most in the NFL in that span, according to Sportradar.

The injury to Bosa is a significant

blow to San Francisco's young but promising defense. The 49ers been relying on Bosa to solidify the defensive line that is counting on rookies Mykel Williams, Alfred Collins and C.J. West to make contributions.

With Bosa out, San Francisco's top options at defensive line are Williams, who has been playing both inside and outside so far this season, and veterans Bryce Huff and Yetur Gross-Matos.

"I feel like it was the whole group, like the whole D-line room said we've got to step it up because Bosa is a great player for us and he holds a heavy load," Williams said after the game Sunday. "So when we lose him, everybody has got to raise their game."

The Niners have overcome injuries to several stars to get off to a 3-0 start this season.

Padres clinch playoff spot with walk-off win

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — San Diego is headed back to the playoffs for the fourth time in six seasons.

The Padres clinched a playoff berth with a 5-4, 11-inning win against the three-time NL Central champion Milwaukee Brewers on Monday night.

Freddy Fermin, acquired from Kansas City at the trade deadline July 31, singled in automatic runner Bryce Johnson with one out in the 11th to set off a wild celebration in front of a sellout crowd of 42,371 at Petco Park.

San Diego pulled within 2½ games of the idle Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West race and 2½ games behind the idle Chicago Cubs in the race for the National League's first of three wild card spots.

Manny Machado, shirtless, wearing sunglasses and drenched with beer and Champagne, said he feels good about

the team's chances in the playoffs.

"Everything is different. But we've got heart," Machado said. "Everybody wants it. It's always a challenge. Baseball's a challenge. It's hard."

The Padres' road appears to be tougher than last year, when they swept the Atlanta Braves in a home wild-card series to earn a shot at the rival Dodgers. San Diego led 2-1 before its bats went so cold that it didn't score in the last 24 innings as it lost the series in five games. LA went on to win the World Series.

If the current standings hold, the Padres would visit the Cubs for a best-of-3 wild-card series. The winner would move into the division series against the Brewers, who clinched their third straight division title Sunday and are in the postseason for the seventh time in eight seasons.

It's been an interesting season for San Diego, which led

the division for much of April before slipping back as it played .500 ball in May and sub-.500 ball in June. The Dodgers never could open a big lead, but the Padres never could regain the lead, except for brief stretches in August.

Cardinals 6, Giants 5: Iván Herrera hit a tying two-run homer in the fifth inning before visiting St. Louis scored the go-ahead run on San Francisco second baseman Casey Schmitt's error and Jordan Walker added an RBI groundout, sending the Cardinals past the Giants.

Michael McGreevy (8-3) allowed five runs on six hits over five innings. The right-hander came in with an 11-inning scoreless streak, but that ended when he surrendered a leadoff home run to Heliot Ramos to begin his outing.

JoJo Romero, the fifth St. Louis pitcher, tossed a 1-2-3 ninth for his eighth save.

José Fermín doubled twice

and drove in a run for the Cardinals. And once they went ahead 5-4, starter Justin Verlander's night was done.

Braves 11, Nationals 5: Chris Sale earned his first win against Washington, Ronald Acuña Jr. homered and host Atlanta beat the Nationals.

The Braves continued their strong run over the final two weeks of the season with their ninth straight win, their longest run since 2023.

Sale (6-5) allowed five runs on three hits over five innings. It was the second time he allowed five earned runs in his 19 starts this season. José Suarez pitched three scoreless innings for his first save.

Rookie catcher Drake Baldwin went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and NL Rookie of the Year candidate has an RBI in each of his last six games. Acuña reached base five times with a home run, three walks and he was hit by a pitch.

Duke's Lawson to coach women's basketball at LA Olympics

Associated Press

Kara Lawson helped the U.S. women's basketball team win an Olympic gold medal as a player 17 years ago. Now she'll have a chance to lead it to another as the coach in the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

Lawson was announced as the head coach for the women's team for the next four years by USA Basketball on Monday.

"I mean it's hard to put everything into words as it's something I've been working toward. I have so much love for USA Basketball and have been so excited to serve in any capacity they ask me to," Lawson said during a phone interview. "It's the best job in the sport in our country. To lead the U.S. women's national team is such an amazing feeling. I felt a great sense of excitement and pride and just am really grateful for the opportunity."

Lawson's first chance to coach the team in a major competition will be at the World Cup next September in Germany. The Americans will play next March in a qualifier for that tournament, but that's right before the NCAA Tournament, which would make it difficult for Lawson to coach the

U.S. because she also leads Duke's women's basketball team.

In addition to the Olympic gold she won as a player at the Beijing Games, Lawson helped the U.S. win gold as an assistant coach at the 2022 World Cup and 2024 Paris Olympics and as head coach at the FIBA Women's AmeriCup in July.

Syracuse fined, reprimanded for faking injuries in win vs. Clemson

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Atlantic Coast Conference has fined Syracuse \$25,000 and issued a public reprimand for the Orange feigning injuries in Saturday's 34-21 victory over conference opponent Clemson.

Syracuse issued a statement Monday saying it acknowledged and accepted the reprimand and fine. The school added: "We remain firmly committed to upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship and competitive integrity across all 20 of our varsity programs."

Play was stopped several times for injuries to Orange players during the game at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, which a frustrated Tigers quarterback Cade Klub-

nik alluded to after the game.

The funds from the fine will be placed into the Weaver-James-Corrigan-Swofford Postgraduate Scholarship account.

Falcons' Morris fires receivers coach Hilliard following shutout

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Atlanta coach Raheem Morris made a change on his offensive staff on Monday, firing wide receivers coach Ike Hilliard one day after a 30-0 loss at Carolina.

The Falcons passed for only 201 yards as they were shut out for the first time falling 25-0 to the New England Patriots on Nov. 18, 2021.

Passing game coordinator T.J. Yates will now coach the wide receivers. Atlanta announced the staff changes after Morris met with reporters.

Michael Penix Jr. threw two interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown by Chau Smith-Wade. Another pick came on a play when wide receiver Ray-Ray McCloud slipped. Another receiver, Darnell Mooney, has struggled since missing the preseason with a hamstring injury.

Auburn men's basketball coach Pearl retiring

Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn coach Bruce Pearl announced his retirement Monday, less than six months after finishing the Tigers' best season in program history with another trip to the Final Four.

Pearl's 38-year-old son Steven Pearl, who has been on his father's coaching staff for all 11 seasons at Auburn, will take over as coach.

"I just feel when I can't give 100%, it's time to pass the torch," Bruce Pearl said in a 14-minute video posted on social media.

Pearl, 65, is the school's winningest men's coach and took the Tigers to their only two Final Four appearances. He will move into an ambassador role as an assistant to Auburn's athletic director, and isn't going into politics after rumors had circulated about a potential Senate run.

"Many of you know that I thought and prayed about maybe running for United States Senate, maybe to be the next great senator from the state of Alabama," said Pearl, who was a college head coach for over 30 seasons with four schools. "That would have required leaving Auburn, and instead the university has given me the opportunity to stay here and be Auburn's senator. I need to focus now on being a great

husband, being a great father, being the best grandfather I possibly can be."

Pearl advanced the Tigers to their first Final Four in 2019, defeating Kansas, North Carolina and Kentucky in successive games. They lost to eventual-champion Virginia by one point. Last season, led by All-American Johni Broome, Auburn earned the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and had a school-record 32 wins before losing to Southeastern Conference rival Florida in the national semifinal.

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey credited Pearl with helping to elevate the competitive level and popularity of men's basketball in the league with his "dynamic leadership and relentless energy."

"While his on-court achievements are well documented, it is his genuine connection with fans, media and the broader community that truly distinguishes his impact," Sankey said.

Pearl and Rick Pitino, who ushered in a quick turnaround at St. John's, last season shared The Associated Press men's college basketball coach of the year award. It was the first tie in the 58-year history of the award.

Pearl had a 246-125 record at Auburn, but the school recognizes only 232 of those wins af-

ter vacating games from the 2016-17 season because of NCAA infractions involving former assistant coach Chuck Person. Pearl received a two-game suspension for failure to monitor his assistant and adequately promote compliance.

Tennessee fired Pearl in 2011 after the NCAA charged him with unethical conduct and then additional violations surfaced. He was 145-71 and made the NCAA Tournament all six seasons with the Vols from 2005-11, getting to the Sweet 16 three times, and their first regional final in 2010.

The Tigers hired Pearl in March 2014, when he was in the final months of his show-cause penalty, to take over a program that hadn't been to the NCAA Tournament since 2003. Auburn went six times, all in the past seven seasons.

Before his two SEC stops, Pearl won an NCAA Division II national championship in 1995 with Southern Indiana while going 231-46 in his first head coaching job from 1992-01. He then was 86-38 in four seasons at Milwaukee, going to the NCAA Sweet 16 in 2005 before getting hired by Tennessee.

Steven Pearl played 101 games for his father with the Vols from 2007-11. He was a medical sales representative for three years before joining the Tigers staff in 2014, and was

promoted to associate head coach before the 2023-24 season.

"There is nobody more qualified or in a position to maintain our culture of faith, family and doing it the Auburn way than Steven," Bruce Pearl said. "He's actually tougher than I am, and just as competitive. Out of loyalty to Auburn and me, Steven passed on several previous chances to pursue head coaching opportunities, choosing instead to invest in our men's basketball program and help it reach unprecedented heights."

When Bruce Pearl served his two-game suspension early in the 2021-22 season, Steven Pearl was the acting head coach in a pair of lopsided wins.

Tigers AD John Cohen said that when he took the job three years ago, Bruce Pearl made it clear he was nearing the end of his career. Cohen said there was an internal national search to prepare for when that happened.

"Throughout our detailed process, it became obvious to me and our staff that Steven Pearl was clearly the best fit for Auburn," Cohen said. "His expertise in coaching defense, his skills as an evaluator, recruiter, teacher and motivator, and his relationships with our student-athletes and staff were paramount."

Former Appalachian State head coach Clark dies at 50

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — UCF offensive line coach Shawn Clark died Sunday at 50 years old nearly two weeks after he was hospitalized with a medical emergency, the school announced.

Clark suffered the medical emergency Sept. 9 and had been away from the team. He was said last week to be stable at the hospital. The team did not disclose his specific condition at the time.

"Shawn was so much more than a coach," Knights coach Scott Frost said in a statement.

"He was a remarkable man, husband, and father who cared deeply about his players and staff. The reaction of our players and coaches to the news this morning is a testament to Shawn's character and the impact he had on every life that he touched. He was loved."

Clark joined UCF's staff this season after five seasons as head coach at Appalachian State. He went 40-24 in five seasons there and was 3-1 in bowl games, including a win in the 2023 Cure Bowl that took place at the Knights' stadium. He led Appalachian State to a 10-win

season in 2021.

Clark's coaching career began in 2001 as a graduate assistant at Louisville. He was an offensive line coach at Eastern Kentucky, Purdue and Kent State before returning to his alma mater in 2016, where he served as offensive line coach and eventually offensive coordinator.

He took over as the head coach in 2020.

Clark was a two-time All-American and three-time all-conference offensive lineman at Appalachian State before moving into the coaching ranks.