

BRIEFLY
More than 12 punished for mistaken Afghan hospital attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a dozen U.S. military personnel have been disciplined — but face no criminal charges — for mistakes that led to the bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital that killed 42 people in Afghanistan last year, U.S. defense officials say.

The punishments, which have not been publicly announced, are largely administrative. But in some cases the actions, such as letters of reprimand, are tough enough to effectively end chances for further promotion. The military has previously said some personnel were suspended from their duties but has given no further details.

The disciplined include both officers and enlisted personnel, but officials said none are generals.

The officials, who were not authorized to discuss the outcomes publicly and so spoke on condition of anonymity, said the disciplinary process is nearly complete. It is derived from a military investigation of the Oct. 3, 2015, attack, the results of which are expected to be made public in a partially redacted form in coming days.

Sandra Murillo, a spokeswoman for Doctors Without Borders, said the charity would not comment on disciplinary actions until the Pentagon communicates its decisions directly to the group or makes a public announcement.

The hospital, run by the medical charity Doctors Without Borders in the northern city of Kunduz, was attacked by a U.S. Air Force special operations AC-130 gunship, one of the most lethal in the U.S. arsenal. Doctors Without Borders called the attack “relentless and brutal” and demanded an international investigation, but none has been undertaken.

Army Gen. John Campbell, who was the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan at the time but has since relinquished command, has called it a “tragic but avoidable accident caused primarily by human error.”

Fed keeps key rates unchanged; foresees fewer hikes in 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is keeping a key interest rate unchanged in light of global pressures that risk slowing the U.S. economy.

As a result, Fed officials expect to raise rates more gradually this year than they had envisioned in December. The officials now foresee two, rather than four, modest increases in their benchmark short-term rate during 2016.

The Fed said Wednesday that the economy has continued to grow moderately but that the global economy and financial markets still pose risks. Offsetting the threats, the Fed said in a statement after a policy meeting that it foresees further strengthening in the job market.

At a news conference, Chair Janet Yellen said the Fed expects inflation, which has stayed persistently low, to reach the central bank’s 2 percent target in two to three years.

Investors seemed pleased by the Fed’s expectation of a more gradual pace of rate increases.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which had been up slightly before the Fed’s statement was issued, closed up 74 points. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.91 percent from 1.97 percent.

Asked at her news conference whether she thought the Fed could receive enough new economic information to raise rates at its next meeting in the last week of April, Yellen stressed, as in the past, that “every meeting is a live meeting. April remains a live meeting.”

Obama nominates Garland to Supreme Court

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama nominated appeals court judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court on Wednesday, thrusting a respected moderate jurist and former prosecutor into the center of an election-year clash over the future of the nation’s highest court.

Obama cast the 63-year-old Garland as “a serious man and an exemplary judge” deserving of a full hearing and a Senate confirmation vote, despite Republican vows to deny him both. Standing in the White House Rose Garden with Garland, Obama argued the integrity of the court was at stake and appealed to the Senate to “play it straight” in filling the seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

“It’s supposed to be above politics,” Obama said of the high court. “It has to be. And it should stay that way.”

Republican leaders, however, held to their refusal to consider any nominee, saying the seat should be filled by the next president after this year’s election. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell spoke with Garland but did not change his position that “the American people will have a voice.” He said he would not be holding “a perfunctory meeting but he wished Judge Garland well,” a spokesman said.

Others in the GOP ranks were less wedded to the no-hearing, no-vote, not-even-a-meeting stance — a sign that Republicans are aware the strategy could leave them branded as obstructionist.

Unlike McConnell, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley said he is open to meeting with Garland in the coming weeks, as did five other Republican senators — Rob Portman of Ohio, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Susan Collins of Maine, James Inhofe of Oklahoma and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire. Others vowed to give his record a close look. The judge will begin visiting with Democratic senators on Thursday at the Capitol, before the



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Federal appeals court judge Merrick Garland is introduced as President Barack Obama’s nominee for the Supreme Court during an announcement in the Rose Garden on Wednesday.

Senate breaks for a two-week recess.

Scheduling courtesy meetings is a long way from securing a full hearing, much less winning the 60 votes needed for confirmation. Still, the White House seized the comments as evidence Garland’s weighty resume and bipartisan credentials were putting pressure on Republicans.

Garland, 63, is the chief judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, a court whose influence over federal policy and national security matters has made it a proving ground for potential justices.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Garland has clerked for two appointees of Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower — the liberal Justice William Brennan Jr. as well as Judge Henry J. Friendly, for whom Chief Justice John Roberts also clerked. As a federal prosecutor, he made his reputation overseeing the investigation and prosecutions in the Oklahoma City bombing case in 1995, as well as the case against Unabomber Ted Kaczynski.

When confirmed to the D.C. Circuit in 1997, Garland won backing from a majority in both

parties, including seven current Republicans senators.

As a replacement for Scalia, Garland would undoubtedly shift the court away from its conservative tilt. He would be expected to align with the more liberal members on environmental regulation, labor disputes and campaign finance.

The D.C. Circuit isn’t a hotbed for cases on social issues, leaving few solid indicators of Garland’s views on abortion rights or the death penalty.

Garland’s involvement in two high-profile gun rights cases has prompted concern from gun control opponents. In 2007, Garland wanted the full court to reconsider a panel decision that struck down Washington, D.C.’s ban on handgun ownership. But Garland never took a position on the merits of the case.

In 2000, he was part of a 2-1 majority that said the FBI could retain gun purchase records for six months to make sure the computerized instant background check system was working. The FBI’s position was challenged by the National Rifle Association and other gun rights groups.

But he is not viewed as a down-the-line liberal. He’s ruled against

giving the District of Columbia a vote in Congress. Particularly on criminal defense and national security cases, he’s earned a reputation as centrist with a law-and-order streak, siding more often with prosecutors.

When his name was floated for the Supreme Court in the past, it was liberal groups that expressed concerns, pointing to early decisions favoring the government in disputes over the legal rights of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison.

Progressives and civil rights activists also had pushed the president to name an African-American woman or to otherwise expand the court’s diversity. Obama passed over appeals court Judge Sri Srinivasan, who would have been the first Asian-American justice, and Judge Paul Watford, who would have been the second African-American on the current court.

Garland — a white, male jurist with an Ivy League pedigree and a career largely in the upper echelon of Washington’s legal elite — breaks no barriers. He would be the oldest Supreme Court nominee since Lewis Powell, who was 64 when he was confirmed in 1971.

In emotional remarks in the Rose Garden, he choked back tears, calling the nomination “the greatest honor of my life.” He described his grandparents’ flight from anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe and his modest upbringing. He said he viewed a judge’s job as a mandate to set aside personal preferences and “follow the law, not make it.”

Obama quoted past praise for Garland from Roberts and Sen. Orrin Hatch. In 2010, Hatch said he could be confirmed to the highest court “virtually unanimously.”

Garland has experience with a prolonged confirmation process. He waited 2½ years to win confirmation to the appeals court. Then, as now, one of the men blocking his path was Grassley, who argued he had no quarrel with Garland’s credentials but objected to a Democratic president trying to fill an appeals court he felt had too many seats.

Trump: Time to rally around me — or expect voter riots

WASHINGTON (AP) — After yet another round of convincing victories for Donald Trump, Republican leaders spent Wednesday wavering between grudging acceptance and deep denial about the businessman’s likely ascent to the GOP presidential nomination. An emboldened Trump warned that if the party tried to block him, “You’d have riots.”

With at least three more states in his win column, Trump is now the only candidate with a path to clinching the Republican nomination before the party’s convention in July. But he still must do better in upcoming contests to get the necessary 1,237 delegates, leaving some opponents with a sliver of hope he can still be stopped. “I still think it’s a very realistic chance that nobody’s going to have a majority of the delegates,” said Henry Barbour, a senior Republican National Committee member who worked on Marco Rubio’s delegate strategy until the Florida senator exited the race Tuesday.



AP Photo/Chuck Burton

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally in Hickory, N.C., on Monday.

Barbour said Trump “doesn’t deserve to be president,” but also said he could ultimately support the billionaire if he “can convince me that he’s presidential material.”

Trump cautioned that his supporters would revolt if he falls just short in the delegate count and loses in a rules fight.

“If you just disenfranchise these people,

I think you would have problems like you’ve never seen before,” Trump said on CNN’s “New Day.”

Despite the deep concerns about Trump within the Republican Party, there was little tangible action Wednesday that indicated a way to stop the real estate mogul’s march toward the general election.

There was no rush among party leaders or donors to coalesce around Ted Cruz, the only candidate in the race with even a long-shot chance of overtaking Trump in the delegate count. A small group of conservatives moved forward with plans to meet Thursday to discuss the prospect of rallying behind a third-party option, but no candidate had been identified to lead that effort.

The three best-financed efforts to stop Trump abruptly ceased advertising

after Tuesday’s elections. The outside groups American Future Fund, Our Principles and Club for Growth have no Trump attack ads planned for Arizona — a crucial winner-take-all contest in six days — or in any states beyond.

Former House Speaker John Boehner floated his successor, Paul Ryan, as the nominee in the event of a convention fight. But Ryan quickly took himself out of the mix, saying through a spokeswoman that he would “not accept a nomination and believes our nominee should be someone who ran this year.”

Meanwhile, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton set her sights on a November showdown with Trump. Her sweep of Tuesday’s five primary contests — including a slim lead in yet-to-be-called Missouri

— was a harsh blow to rival Bernie Sanders, giving Clinton what her campaign manager described as an “insurmountable lead” in the delegate count.

“We are confident that for the first time in our nation’s history, the Democratic Party will nominate a woman as their presidential nominee,” Robby Mook wrote in a memo to supporters.

Clinton has at least 1,599 delegates to Sanders’ 844. It takes 2,383 to win the Democratic nomination.

Trump urged Republicans to view the party’s nominating contest with the same sense of clarity. During a round of calls to morning television shows, he said some of the same Republican senators who publicly criticize him have called him privately to say they want to “become involved” in his campaign eventually.

Where would you go if you died today?

WHAT GOD SAYS:

- 1. You have sinned against God:** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)
- 2. There is a penalty for your sin:** “For the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23a) “And Death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:14)
- 3. Jesus Christ paid your penalty:** “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8) “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...He was buried, and...He rose again the third day...” (I Corinthians 15:3-4)
- 4. Now He offers you a free gift:** “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23b)

*You Cannot Earn That Gift: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...” (Titus 3:5) “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...” (Ephesians 2:8)

WHAT YOU MUST DO:

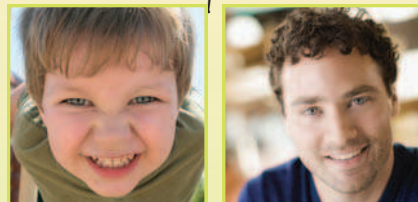
You must accept God’s gift. HOW?

- 1. You Must REPENT** (agree with God that you are a sinner and need to be saved). “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)
- 2. You Must TRUST IN CHRIST** “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him (Jesus) from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9) “For whosoever shall CALL upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Jacob Tyler Jones



ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
 Congratulations! We are so very proud of you.
 Love Mom & Dad

Tell your favorite graduate how proud you are in our Graduation 2016 special section in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald & share their "Then" & "Now" Photos!

\$25.00
 Private Party Only

Publishes: May 28th in the EO & June 1st in the HH
 Send in your text and photos to cmcclellan@eastoregonian.com or bring to Chris at the East Oregonian office by May 18th.
 Mailing address: Attn: Chris McClellan
 211 SE Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801

Your Name: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Graduate's Name: _____
 Graduate's School: _____
 Message to Graduate: _____