

AFGHANISTAN ELECTION

Vote fraud imperils pact on US troops

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Claiming massive fraud in last week's runoff election, one of Afghanistan's two remaining presidential candidates on Wednesday called for an immediate halt to vote counting, a move that would throw the future of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan into doubt.

"We suspend our engagement with the [election] commission, we have asked our monitors to leave the counting centers of the commission, and we have asked for the

'We suspend our engagement with the [election] commission ... and we have asked for the counting process to stop immediately.'

Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah

counting process to stop immediately," said former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah at a news conference in Kabul.

Any delay in the election of a new president is likely to affect the Bilateral Security

Agreement to keep American troops in Afghanistan past 2014. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign the deal, saying the decision is up to his successor.

The lack of a BSA has frustrated the U.S.

military and the White House. As Karzai delayed, President Barack Obama in February ordered the Defense Department to begin planning for a full U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Abdullah's decision and escalating rhetoric also could throw the election process itself into doubt. Afghan leaders and international observers see the election as a major test of legitimacy for the government, which is facing the withdrawal of foreign military combat forces by the end of the year.

SEE FRAUD ON PAGE 2



**Above
— and —
beyond**
the call of duty

An Afghan War veteran who absorbed the blast of a grenade to protect a fellow Marine will receive the Medal of Honor on Thursday at the White House, becoming the eighth living recipient for actions in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Page 3

Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter, seen here in January 2012, was almost killed in Marjah, Afghanistan, in November 2010.

DANIEL WETZEL/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Pentagon's top brass bash Iraqi government

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — At a defense budget hearing dominated by the crisis in Iraq, Pentagon leaders bashed the Iraqi government for the deteriorating security situation, and addressed lawmakers' fears that the same thing could happen in Afghanistan after U.S. forces withdraw.

"Al-Qaida-inspired extremists raising flags over Iraq's embattled cities triggers in me the same thing that runs through the mind of any veteran who served there, which is bitter disappointment that Iraqi leaders failed to unite for the good of their people," chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey told members of Congress on Wednesday.

Dempsey said that over the past year, he and other senior U.S. military officials have been warning the Shia-dominated Iraqi government — including Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki — that its sectarian-motivated actions were alienating other ethnic groups and jeopardizing the Iraqi security forces' ability to deal with the threat posed by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant militants.

SEE BASH ON PAGE 14

Crisis in Iraq: latest developments

- Obama meeting with members of Congress Wednesday afternoon to discuss Iraq
- Militants attack Beiji oil refinery; could signal shift to targeting infrastructure
- Al-Maliki: 'Shock attacks' have united country, counteroffensive underway
- Iraq formally asks the US to launch airstrikes against militants

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am as broken and ashamed as a bride who is not a virgin on her wedding night."

— an Iraqi lieutenant colonel who escaped Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant militants' recent sweep over the northern city of Mosul

See story on Page 15

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MIDEAST

Fraud: Abdullah also claimed in 2009 that vote was rigged

FROM FRONT PAGE

Abdullah faced former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani in a runoff on June 14 after neither candidate got the more than 50 percent of votes needed in the first round of voting in April. Abdullah was ahead after the first round with about 45 percent.

In this second round, Abdullah and his supporters claim that the turnout was exaggerated and in some places the number of votes reported exceeded the population.

"Widespread fraud forced us to make this decision, and this decision is in the interest of the nation of Afghanistan," Abdullah said.

He said he raised concerns about fraud from the first round with the Independent Election Commission and with Karzai, but those concerns went unaddressed.

The commission will respond to Abdullah's complaints when it officially receives them, said IEC spokesman Noor Mohammad Noor, but meanwhile the process will go forward.

"The counting process is going on and will not stop," he told Stars and Stripes. "IEC will obey the code of conduct signed with the candidates, and if they respect the code of conduct as well, there will not be any problems."

Abdullah ran against Karzai in 2009 but pulled out before a runoff could take place, citing rampant vote rigging.

Nadir Mhusini, a spokesman for the Electoral Complaints Commission, which is tasked with investigating claims of fraud, said it was too early to reach any conclusions.

"We just started our work because we are just receiving the complaints," he told Stars and Stripes. "So these comments by Dr. Abdullah are very premature and it is not fair. Definitely, such comments and taking such stances are not good for the future of Afghanistan."

Mhusini promised that all complaints would be addressed in a just way.

A spokeswoman for Karzai declined to comment until she had further information.

"We consider the stoppage of vote-counting and withdrawal of observers as disrespect to people's votes," the Ghani campaign said via Twitter. "People have come out in masses on



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah, right, leaves after a news conference in Kabul on Wednesday. Abdullah, the front-runner in Afghanistan's runoff election, has called for vote counting to stop over fraud claims.

June 14, they have voted. Therefore, the IEC must complete all its election proceedings."

Abdullah won the most votes in the April 5 election, but may have seen the vote count turning against him this time, said Ghafour Livali, a political analyst who heads the Afghan Regional Study Center.

"I think [Abdullah] wants to kind of sabotage the process," Livali said. "I am confident the IEC will continue the counting of votes, but this will harm the legitimacy of the process, and the results will be less legitimate. He needs to be patient until the commission has announced the results."

This was a way for Abdullah to force his concerns into the public arena, said Kate Clark, a senior analyst with the Afghan Analyst Network. "In part, this is Abdullah say-

ing, 'You will listen to me,'" she said. "But it's a nuclear option because it is absolutely dangerous to the legitimacy of the next president, regardless of who comes out on top, because it hits at the process itself."

Abdullah's 2009 decision not to take the race to a second round is likely also hanging over his actions now. In 2009, the first round had been exceptionally fraudulent, but he gave in to domestic and international pressure to drop out.

"He believed he was defeated by mass fraud and political pressure," Clark said. "He also learned that you gain nothing, in those circumstances, from being a good loser."

Stars and Stripes reporter Heath Druzin and Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. smith.josh@stripes.com
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TODAY IN STRIPES

- Business 18
- American Roundup 16
- Classified 19, 21-22
- Comics 20
- Crossword 20
- Faces 17
- Letters/Opinion 12-13
- Sports 23-32
- Weather 18

US Marines in Darwin aid energy security

The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — The growing number of U.S. Marines in northern Australia is enhancing the security of the nation's burgeoning gas industry, which extends across the remote and sparsely populated northern coast, a senior American general said Wednesday.

Maj. Gen. Richard L. Simcock, Hawaii-based deputy commander of U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific, was commenting after an executive of U.S. energy giant Chevron Corp. told a conference of concerns that gas rigs off the Australian northwest coast and tankers

shipping liquid natural gas through Southeast Asian waters could be vulnerable to attack.

"We are very much aware that they could be considered strategic targets," said Chevron Australia Pty Ltd managing director Roy Krzywosinski, referring to gas platforms and shipping routes.

Krzywosinski told the U.S. Studies Center conference on the U.S.-Australian defense alliance that his company was "in very significant and close engagement" with Australian authorities on how to protect tens of billions of dollars in energy assets and product.

Simcock said the growing Marine presence

in the northern city of Darwin was ensuring the Australian energy industry's security.

"One of the things that the rebalance ensures is the security that has been provided to the region since World War II," Simcock told reporters on the sidelines of the conference. "How do you maintain that level of security in an evolving region? We think that part of that is through allies, partners, friends, but it's also about being here," he added.

Since President Barack Obama announced in 2011 a permanent Marine presence in Darwin, troop numbers have grown from 250 to 1,100.

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MILITARY

MEDAL OF HONOR

'THE ENEMY KILLED ME [BUT] I CAME BACK'



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter, 24, now retired, is set to receive the Medal of Honor on Thursday for his service in Afghanistan.

Former Marine to receive nation's highest honor for valor Thursday

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Marine Lance Cpls. Kyle Carpenter and Nicholas Eufrazio were standing watch on the roof of a mud and timber building being used as the command center at Patrol Base Dakota, in the Marjah district of Helmand province.

Their squad was pushing south into Taliban strongholds, working to set up patrol bases and establish a stronger U.S. Marine presence in the volatile region.

On the morning of Nov. 21, 2010, insurgents threw three grenades.

One landed on the roof. Rather than trying to escape the blast or shield himself, Carpenter dove on top of the grenade to protect his comrade.

"Due to Lance Corporal Carpenter's actions, the majority of the grenade blast was deflected down rather than up, causing a cone-shaped hole to be blown down through the ceiling of the command operations center (below) ... Lance Corporal Carpenter's body absorbed a majority of the resulting explosion," according to a Marine Corps account of the battle. The blast seat of the grenade was found under Carpenter's torso.

"His total disregard for his own personal safety distinguishes his conduct above and beyond the call of duty," according to the Marine Corps.

Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter, now medically retired, will be at the White House on Thursday

to receive the Medal of Honor — the nation's highest award for military valor — for his actions in Afghanistan.

Carpenter, 24, was serving as an automatic rifleman with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, when he nearly lost his life while saving a fellow Marine.

Eufrazio was severely wounded and suffered a shrapnel injury to his head from the grenade, but he survived the attack.

Carpenter doesn't remember much about what happened before the grenade detonated, but he does recall thinking afterward that he wasn't going to survive.

"When I close my eyes, I can still feel the warm blood pouring out of me onto my skin and fading out of consciousness with my ... final thought of 'I'm going to die,'" Carpenter wrote on Facebook last year on the third anniversary of the attack.

Carpenter was close to death on several occasions after sustaining a skull fracture, multiple facial fractures, the loss of a third of his lower jaw, a collapsed right lung and multiple injuries to his arms and legs. He also lost his right eye.

Carpenter had to be resuscitated in the medevac helicopter that

came to get him. Upon arriving at Camp Bastion, he was in such bad shape that medical personnel initially labeled him PEA — "patient expired on arrival." He later flatlined while recovering at Walter Reed National Medical Center.

"The enemy killed me [but] I came back," Carpenter said in a Defense Department video.

Carpenter's recovery was arduous. He had dozens of surgeries over the next 2½ years, including brain surgery.

"Going from toting a machine gun in Afghanistan ... to using a bed pan, and I can't even put my own socks on — that was hard to kind of suck it up," Carpenter said, according to a Marine Corps news release.

But Carpenter bounced back. Last year, he ran the Marine Corps Marathon and posted a time of 4:28:42, according to the "Operation Kyle" Facebook page, which was created by his supporters. He has also skydived.

"I won't ever quit. I am just getting started," Carpenter said in the DOD video.

In July 2013, Carpenter — who was born in the Jackson, Miss., suburb of Flowood and went to high school in Batesburg, S.C. — was medically retired, and he is a

full-time student at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

He has some advice for his admirers.

"Please take it from me ... enjoy every day to the fullest, don't take life too seriously, always try to make it count, appreciate the small and simple things, be kind and help others, let the ones you love always know you love them and when things get hard, trust there is a bigger plan and that you will be stronger for it," he wrote on Facebook.

Carpenter will be the eighth living recipient of the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. Besides Carpenter, only 14 servicemembers who fought in those wars have received the award. Still, Carpenter doesn't consider himself to be more heroic than other Marines.

"As many firefighters and instances where there's been opportunity, Marines have stepped up to the plate — not only in Iraq and Afghanistan but since the beginning of our country," Carpenter said, according to the Marine Corps news release. "I truly feel like I'm on an even playing field."

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Humanist denied chaplain status

A Navy chaplain candidate who believes people can pursue "good without a god" said the recent rejection of his application wouldn't stop his campaign to become the military's first humanist chaplain.

Readers respond:

Sounds like the Navy did the right thing here. ... Can you imagine if, after an attack, a Catholic sailor requests last rites? It would be this atheist chaplain's presumed "duty" to tell the man there is no God and he's going to die?

— pusherhombre

How would you feel if it were a Muslim Chaplin? How about a Satanist Chaplin? Why not? Some of us believe there is no "higher power." We have no rites, but have we no rights?

— DaveOfThisWorld

As long as "atheists" tear at the beliefs of Christians serving in the Armed Forces by claiming they are offended by a passage of scripture or a persons' sharing their beliefs with others, this atheist is not welcome anywhere we Marines may serve on the battlefield and require the sacraments.

— marine by choice

If you want to have faith, that's fine. More power to you. Just don't preach on my lawn and I'll return the same courtesy — that's a pretty basic solution.

— Erik LeDuc

I'm interested to know where the humanist got his concept of good. Last time I checked, I'd say he got it from religion and more specifically much of it from the Bible, which by faith is the word of God.

— Jim

Are you saying that religions that aren't based on a Christian God and the Bible don't have any concept of "good"? Last time I checked, good was based on empathy and compassion for all living creatures.

— Jaded

Join the fray at:
stripes.com/go/humanist

"When I close my eyes, I can still feel the warm blood pouring out of me onto my skin and fading out of consciousness with my ... final thought of 'I'm going to die.'"

Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter

EUROPE

Russian war games don't alter plans for Baltic drills

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — NATO officers taking part in war games in the Baltics say that Russia's surprise launch of military maneuvers nearby has not altered their plans for the Saber Strike exercise, which wraps up Friday.

"What Russia decides to do in response to a pre-planned exercise is beyond me," said Maj. Gen. Mark McQueen, the American directing the war games, which are playing out in sites across Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Soon after Saber Strike launched last week, Russia announced its own war games in response to the exercise in Kaliningrad, a tiny Russian enclave on the Baltic Sea that borders both Poland and Lithuania.

About 4,000 troops — including roughly 1,000 Americans — are participating in Saber Strike, making it the biggest exercise to bear that name since the series began in 2009.

NATO is seeking to maintain interoperability that member

nations gained by working and fighting together for more than a decade in Afghanistan. As the war continues to wind down with the withdrawal of coalition combat forces, the alliance plans to maintain this ability by conducting frequent exercises and other joint training drills.

Planning for the maneuvers began almost a year ago, McQueen said — well before Russia annexed Crimea or amassed some 40,000 troops on Ukraine's border.

McQueen and other officers involved in the exercise said they are primarily focused on building and maintaining interoperability among various regional and NATO militaries and didn't have any particular potential aggressor in mind when planning Saber Strike.

Russia hasn't seen it that way. "We can't take this military buildup by the alliance next to Russia's borders as anything but a demonstration of hostile intention," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Titov said last week as the U.S.-led exercise

kicked off, according to Russia's state-run Russia Today news service.

Less than 24 hours later, the Russian defense ministry announced its war games in Kaliningrad.

The Russian reaction "was, you know, interesting, but had no impact on our exercise," McQueen said.

Russia's actions in Ukraine, however, have had an effect on U.S. and NATO plans. A U.S.-led military exercise dubbed Rapid Trident, which was to have kicked off in Ukraine in July, has been postponed. Meanwhile, participation in Saber Strike has swelled from about 2,000 last year to more than double that this year.

Canada, citing Russia's actions in Ukraine, sent an additional 75 soldiers to augment the 45 troops it already planned to send to the maneuvers.

Capt. Austin Richardson, an officer in 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is among those 75. He dismissed the notion that he and his men taking part in ground man-



BERN LEBLANC/Courtesy of the Canadian Army

Pvt. Derik Reyes, of 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, secures the area during Exercise Saber Strike at the Drawsko Pomorskie training area in Poland on June 9. The exercise is being conducted primarily in the Baltics, but with some events in Poland.

nevers in Latvia see themselves as a deterrent to Russia.

"This is just an exercise that had already been preplanned," Richardson said. The situation between Russia and Ukraine "is not really a topic that we kind of think about or talk about."

The fictional scenarios Richardson and the other forces here are engaged in aren't aimed at any particular nation, Maj. Gen.

Almantas Leika, Lithuania's land forces commander, said in an email response provided by a Lithuanian Defense Ministry spokesman.

The only reason it's gotten more attention from the media and public this year, he said, is because of the "current situation" in that part of Europe.

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MILITARY

DOD: Fix found for cracks in F-35 bulkheads

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Lockheed Martin Corp. and the Pentagon said a fix has been found that should prevent more bulkhead cracks on the Marine Corps version of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the costliest U.S. weapons program.

On-the-ground stress testing may resume as soon as Sept. 30, officials said. It was suspended this past September after inspections found cracks in three of six bulkheads on a plane used for such tests.

The suspension increased scrutiny of the Marines' F-35B, the most complex of three versions, because it is intended to take off like a conventional fighter and land like a helicopter. The Lockheed-built plane, which Britain and Italy also are buying, is supposed to be declared combat-ready next year.

"They think they've got the root cause," Frank Kendall, the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer, said in an interview. "They've got a process that they want to implement that they believe will fix the problem for the existing jets."

"It's going to take a while to certify that process," he said. "They have reasonably good confidence in it. It's not certain yet that it's going to fix the problem."

The projected \$398.6 billion acquisition cost for the F-35 has climbed 7.1 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars since the Pentagon signed its initial contract with Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed in 2001, even as plans were adjusted to buy 409 fewer aircraft.

The bulkhead cracks were described as "a new defect" by Michael Gilmore, the Pentagon's chief weapons tester, when Bloomberg News disclosed the testing halt

in February.

"Government and industry engineers identified multiple factors," leading to the cracking even though the bulkheads were made to specifications, Joe DellaVedova, spokesman for the Pentagon's F-35 program office, said in an emailed statement. These included "underestimating the effect of corrosion-prevention treatments on fatigue life, resulting in not having enough metal thickness in key locations," he said.

"Bulkhead manufacturing processes will be modified to accommodate increased metal thickness and to minimize stresses within the final bulkhead," DellaVedova said.

Lorraine Martin, Lockheed's F-35 program manager, said in an interview that "we do understand what the stresses were that were impacting the aircraft."

Lockheed, the largest U.S. contractor,

has redesigned the bulkhead "so you'll never see these cracks" again, she said. The new bulkhead will be installed in aircraft to be made in the ninth production contract that's scheduled to awarded next year. Retrofit kits will be sent to depots to strengthen the aircraft already delivered, she said.

"It's not yet clear how aircraft to be made under the eighth production contract that's now under negotiation with Lockheed will benefit from the improvements, Kendall said.

"We are negotiating with Lockheed on how to handle that," Kendall said. "I'd be reluctant to buy jets that I don't feel are structurally sound."

Ground testing stresses an airframe to simulate flight conditions and determine whether a plane can reach its projected lifetime, which in the case of the Marines' F-35B is 8,000 flying hours.

Navy to revise maritime strategy for 1st time since 2007

The Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — The U.S. Navy's top officer asked naval officers, scholars and students at the Naval War College on Tuesday for their help in updating the nation's maritime strategy, last revised seven years ago when the country was fighting land wars in

Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert told an audience at the college he needs their suggestions before he signs off this year on a new maritime strategy for the 21st century.

The document helps guide how defense contracts are awarded and where assets are assigned.

It was last revised in 2007, in the midst of the two wars and before the economic recession.

The updated strategy will have a new emphasis on cyberwarfare and the changing security landscape, and will address such current issues as climate change in the Arctic that has allowed more shipping.

"We have to articulate our being, what we're about, to our allies and our partners, and our adversaries as well," Greenert said.

Greenert said U.S. presence will continue to be a guiding principle in the country's strategy. He noted that the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush was able to get to the Persian Gulf quickly

last weekend at President Barack Obama's behest amid the escalating violence in Iraq because the ship was already in the North Arabian Sea.

Greenert said he also plans to develop a trained, educated "strategic cadre" within the Navy that would be positioned throughout the force.

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 - Beef*
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 - Salad*
CAESAR SALAD
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THE NEW SANNO

VA SCANDAL

Critics: Bill to speed VA firings unconstitutional

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Congress' push to quickly fire Department of Veterans Affairs executives in the wake of a nationwide scheduling scandal threatens to do more harm than good, and could be unconstitutional, according to attorneys who specialize in federal employee cases.

Lawmakers moved with unusual speed and cooperation this week to pass a sweeping VA reform package that would make it easier to fire those involved with falsified patient wait lists at hundreds of hospitals and clinics.

Beginning Wednesday, they planned to cobble together two pieces of legislation recently passed in both chambers into a single reform package that will be sent to President Barack Obama. Key provisions in each bill would change how the VA terminates senior federal executives for incompetence or wrongdoing.

A House VA proposal guts the notification appeals process for executives, treating them the same as congressional staffers who can be fired on the spot. The Senate version of the bill, sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., immediately freezes pay and creates a dramatically shortened appeals process.

In each case, the legislation allows the VA to stop paying an executive before that employee can investigate the reasons for the termination, file a formal response or ask for an appeal.

The VA "can't do that. If they do, the first person they do it is going to sue and get it reversed," said Joyce E. Kitchens, an Atlanta-based attorney and former VA staff counsel who often represents federal employees.

Kitchens and other attorneys said the legislation butts up against a 1985 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that civil servants' pay is property protected under the Fifth Amendment, meaning it cannot be taken by the government without due process.

Congress wants to do away with rules that in most cases allow VA senior executives at least 30 days to respond to a call



JUAN LORCA/AP

People leave the Veterans Affairs clinic in El Paso, Texas, a state that has some of the longest patient wait times in the nation. In Washington, lawmakers are working on legislation that would make it easier to fire VA executives involved in the wait-list scandal.

for termination before the department or any federal agency can stop paying them. Instead, appeals would come after pay is stopped.

"If somebody gets fired under this legislation, they have reason to litigate," said Cheri Cannon, an attorney with the Washington law firm Tully Rinckey who represents VA clients. She is also former chief counsel for the chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, which reviews federal employee actions.

Cannon and others also worry that Congress may shorten the time allowed for VA employee appeals so much that a fair hearing is not possible.

The McCain-Sanders bill, widely hailed as a compromise breakthrough in the Senate, gives an executive just seven days to file an appeal after receiving a termination notice and losing pay. An appeals board would be required to give a decision in the case three weeks later.

Cannon said appeals now take at least three to four months to be resolved and

often longer due to a large number of pending appeals by federal employees who were furloughed recently.

Eric Pines, a Houston attorney who has handled VA cases for 18 years, said filing an appeal within one week would not be realistic without an extension from the VA.

It can take clients days just to find an attorney who specializes in federal employee cases and once an attorney is contacted it could take days more for counsel to get to the case, Pines said.

He said there is widespread mistreatment of employees and corruption in the VA, but Congress should be cautious about the new legislation.

"If you push things too quickly because of emotion, you are going to end up having major problems," he said. "It's a recipe for disaster."

The Senior Executives Association, a Washington-based nonprofit group that advocates for federal executives, has also come out against the legislation, saying there are constitutional issues with the

current language.

"SEA is very concerned. SEA is against both bills," said Debra Roth, general counsel for the group. "I think there are constitutional issues ... we have made our position known [on Capitol Hill] in lengthy, multiple rounds of discussions."

Lawmakers have denied there any legal issues with the legislation, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both chambers.

McCain spokesman Brian Rogers said executives would still be able to appeal a termination decision and could be awarded back pay by the Merit System Protection Board if that board rules the firing was not warranted.

Meanwhile, VA employees who claim they were fired improperly or due to discrimination could also file a complaint with the Office of Special Counsel or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, according to Rogers.

"There is no constitutional defect here," Rogers wrote in an email.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., who chairs the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, sponsored the bill that passed 390-33 and has been calling for reform at the VA for years.

His legislation would scrap the administrative process for firing VA senior executives and replace it with the same system used for congressional staff members, who can be fired on the spot without pay, offered the option of retirement, or in some cases, receive a severance package.

Miller said the critiques of the proposed law come from special interests that support the VA status quo, even though it is dysfunctional, and that opposition is unlikely to be backed in court.

"Ultimately," he said in a written statement to Stars and Stripes, "I suspect those who are fighting against our efforts to increase accountability at VA will have about as much support in a court of law as they did in the court of public opinion."

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Acting VA secretary orders scheduling reviews at clinics

By Chris Carroll
Stars and Stripes

BALTIMORE — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Wednesday that the acting secretary has ordered each regional director to conduct in-person reviews of scheduling practices in every clinic within their jurisdiction.

Sloan Gibson directed that site inspections will include observing daily scheduling processes and interacting with scheduling staff to ensure all policies are being followed to deliver timely care.

"Our top priority is getting veterans off of wait lists and into clinics," Gibson said in a news release. "Veterans must trust their health care system, and these reviews are an important step towards restoring integrity in all our scheduling activities."

The VA came under withering criticism resulting in VA secretary Eric Shinowski resigning after off-book wait lists were discovered at the Phoenix VA, and

subsequently at dozens of clinics nationwide.

On Tuesday, the Department of Veterans Affairs hung out the "help wanted" sign, announcing the beginning of the process to select a new head of the embattled Veterans Health Administration.

"I will tell you that filling this job — it's one of the most important jobs in government today," Gibson said Tuesday during a visit to the Baltimore VA Medical Center. As the leader of the nation's largest health care system at a crucial time, he said, "I believe this one position has a greater opportunity to have an impact and make a lasting difference than any other opportunity in health care."

Gibson said he visited the Baltimore VA hospital because it was identified recently by the department as having among the longest wait times in the nation for new patients seeking primary care appointments — 81 days on average.

Five new primary care doctors are in the process of being hired in Baltimore, a more than 10 percent staffing increase, officials

said. But Gibson said the VA must up its performance in Maryland and elsewhere.

"I think it's

pretty obvious we've seen a major erosion of that trust in recent times," Gibson said. "My commitment to all of you, my commitment to our veterans, my commitment to the American people and their elected representatives is that we will work to earn it back."

Gibson said the VA is striving for transparency, and that more data on wait times was being prepared for release by Wednesday. The former under secretary for health for the Veterans Health Administration, Dr. Robert K. Petzel, stepped down May 16, although he was already planning to retire later this year. The resignation did nothing to defuse



Gibson

the growing scandal over long wait times for appointments and fraudulent scheduling practices at VA health facilities, and Shinowski submitted his own resignation to President Barack Obama two weeks later.

According to the VA, a group of nine experts was to begin meeting in Washington on Tuesday to assess candidates.

The commission includes: ■ Retired Maj. Gen. Nancy Adams, RN, American Academy of Nursing Fellow.

■ Gary Augustine, Washington Headquarters executive director, Disabled American Veterans.

■ Dr. Delos Cosgrove, president and CEO, Cleveland Clinic.

■ Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, Army surgeon general and commander, U.S. Army Medical Command.

■ Dr. Kenneth W. Kizer, M.P.H., distinguished professor and director, Institute for Population Health Improvement, University of California Davis Health System.

■ Dr. Jennifer Lee, Virginia deputy secretary of health and

human services.

■ Dr. John E. Prescott, chief academic officer, Association of American Medical Colleges.

■ Jose D. Rijoas, VA chief of staff.

■ Bob Wallace, executive director, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Whoever is eventually chosen to lead VHA will oversee a budget of \$5.4 billion, managing some 277,000 staff members who serve more than 8 million enrolled veterans at 177 locations nationwide.

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MILITARY

GAO faults DOD on furlough numbers

By ERIC SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department did not calculate an accurate cost savings during its furlough of more than 600,000 civilian employees last year, says a General Accountability Office report that also noted a backlog of furlough appeals and sagging employee morale.

The GAO report, released Tuesday, calls into question whether the Pentagon furloughed the correct number of people to achieve the personnel savings it sought to meet the mandated federal budget cuts known as sequestration.

As the Pentagon planned to reduce its 2013 budget by \$37 billion because of sequestration, it planned for a furlough that valued the cost savings of furloughing its 767,006 civilian employees at \$300 per day, per person, according to the GAO report.

On the basis of that figure, DOD then exempted 142,602 employees from furlough, without examining the salaries of those employees.

"While DOD did adjust the numbers of civilians it included in its calculated cost savings, it never adjusted the per person, per day estimate of \$300 to account for the 18 percent of the civilian workforce exempted from the furlough," according to the GAO report.

Under an 11-day furlough, a scant \$10 swing in average savings per person, per day, alters the government's bottom line by \$72 million, according to the report. Since the figures were never recalculated, it's unknown how much money was actually saved, and whether managers could have made different decisions regarding furloughs.

DOD partially concurred with the GAO's finding but did not explain why in its official response. Instead, the DOD response contained a list of suggested wording for the final GAO report, such as changing "did not track cost savings in real time" to "could not track cost saving in real time due to system and process limitations."

The Pentagon had planned for a 22-day furlough that later changed to 14 days, and then 11 days. In September 2013, congressional committees approved about \$8.6 billion of DOD's finan-

cial transfer and reprogramming requests, allowing DOD to cut the furlough days to six.

DOD reported saving \$1 billion due to the furlough. However, the report stated that the figure did not take into account the administrative costs of preparing for the furlough, or the lost productivity as staff set aside their primary tasks.

"Further, Marine Corps officials stated that they spent a majority of their time dealing with the furlough rather than focusing on day-to-day business, such as developing critical skills training," according to the report.

Because the furlough occurred during the summer, the Air Force's Air Mobility Command reported to GAO that it adversely affected changes of station and reporting dates to new commands.

The furlough also had significant effects on the military medical system.

Effects of the furlough included an outflow of 2,700 Army civilian doctors and medical workers to the Veterans Administration — which wasn't affected by the furlough — and other organizations, according to the report.

At Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, one of the military's largest hospitals, conflicting policies caused confusion and management difficulties, the GAO said. For example, Air Force inpatient nurses were exempted from furlough, while Army inpatient nurses were not.

Meanwhile, job satisfaction after sequestration and three years of pay freezes fell from 71 percent in 2010 to 64 percent in a 2013 survey taken as the furlough decision was being formulated.

The Merit Systems Protection Board has received more than 32,000 appeals from civilian employees because of loss of wages, a caseload five times higher than normal for the quasi-judicial government board.

All of the 1,101 cases it has ruled on have been decided in DOD's favor, said the GAO.

The board hopes to have initial decisions for all cases done by September 2015, according to the report.

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Survey finds reprisals a concern for nearly 20 percent of federal workers

By ERIC YODER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Nearly 20 percent of federal employees fear reporting agency wrongdoing, according to a recent government survey.

That's a vexing percentage by any measure, but especially for agencies such as the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs, which, rocked by a scandal over falsifying veteran medical appointments, is telling workers who see something to say something.

Two government surveys show that skepticism and fear remain.

The Office of Personnel Management asked in its annual governmentwide poll whether employees agree or disagree with the statement, "I can disclose a suspected violation of any law, rule or regulation without fear of reprisal."

Last year, 19.5 percent of employees disagreed or strongly disagreed, up 0.4 percentage points from 2012; 61.2 percent of employees agreed or strongly

agreed, down by 0.3 percentage points. The rest were neutral.

Those results were less troubling than a 2010 survey from the Merit Systems Protection Board, which showed nearly 30 percent of workers feared reprisals.

MSPB, which hears appeals of personnel actions taken against federal employees, recently released an analysis of its 2010 study, its most recent.

Respondents who expressed doubt said they feared their lives might become more difficult if they spoke up. The survey, a follow-up to a similar one MSPB conducted in 1992, also asked whether employees personally had observed illegal or wasteful activities at their agency in the previous 12 months. In 2010, 11.1 percent of employees said yes, down from 17.7 percent in 1992.

In both years, though, more than a third of those said they did not make a report. Fear of retaliation and a belief that nothing would be done to address the problem were cited as reasons,

the survey showed.

"One of the most important things that an agency can do to learn about internal wrongdoing is to establish a culture that encourages employees to report perceived problems," the MSPB said in its analysis this month.

"Agencies should know where their culture stands so that they can determine the extent of their need for improvement and measure whether improvement is occurring."

In the MSPB survey, of those who were identified as the source of a disclosure, about a third said they were threatened or experienced retaliation, compared with 7 percent who said they were credited by management.

MSPB's recent analysis offered agency-specific information that was not in its earlier report. For example, 82 percent of NASA employees agreed that their agency encourages exposing wrongdoing, but just 43 percent at Housing and Urban Development said the same.



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MILITARY

Benghazi suspect to be questioned at sea

Capture another instance of US using Navy ship to detain a suspected terrorist

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — After the capture of a suspected planner of the 2012 attack against a U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, the Obama administration is expected to follow a legal course charted in two recent apprehensions of alleged terrorists in Africa: interrogate at sea and then prosecute.

Ahmed Abu Khattala, the 43-year-old Libyan suspected of planning the attack that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others, is now being held aboard a ship in the Mediterranean.

Sea after his capture by special operations forces and FBI agents, defense officials said.

His detention marks the third time since 2011 that a suspected terrorist captured by the U.S. military has been held at sea. It continues a practice that the Obama administration regards as the best alternative to placing him in the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or keeping him in another country, analysts say.

"There's now an established

game plan for handling these kinds of apprehensions," said Peter S. Margulies, a professor at Roger Williams University School of Law. "It usually involves a temporary period of time aboard a Navy vessel for periods of interrogation, followed by an arraignment in a civilian court."

U.S. attorneys unsealed a one-page indictment of Khattala on Tuesday charging him with three counts, including killing a person during an attack on a federal facility and providing material support to a terrorist organization.

If convicted of the lead count, Khattala would be eligible for the death penalty.

His capture resembles the apprehension of two other suspected terrorists in Africa. Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, also known as Abu Anas al-Libi, was spirited to the amphibious transport dock USS San Antonio in the Mediterranean Sea immediately after special operations forces and the FBI abducted him in Libya in 2013. He was held for seven days of interrogation aboard the ship before being placed in a cell in New York.

Suspected al-Shabab figure Ahmed Abulkadir Warsame, captured aboard a fishing vessel in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia in 2011, was held for more than two months aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer while he was interrogated.

James Stavridis, NATO's former supreme commander and cur-



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. officials said Ahmed Abu Khattala was being held on the USS New York, above, a Navy amphibious transport dock ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

rently dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, said Khattala will be isolated from the crew aboard the ship and watched around the clock. He'll likely be interrogated by a "fly-away team" of Defense Department, Justice Department and CIA officials, after which he would be flown to the U.S., probably on a military aircraft out of a base in Europe.

U.S. officials stress he will be taken quickly to the U.S. for detention. Defense officials say he was "en route" to the U.S. and that transit would be a matter of "days and weeks" as opposed to "weeks and months."

That difference is a significant one, legal experts say. In a criminal case, a suspect must be notified of his rights and given access to a lawyer immediately after being detained. But in cases involving terrorism, the intelligence a suspect might have is often valued more than the facts of the case against him, creating an incentive for interrogations.

The Bush administration chose to treat suspected terrorists as combatants, placing them at Guantanamo, and prosecuting

them through military tribunals. The Obama administration has vowed not to send suspected terrorists to Guantanamo but has had few other good options.

The "two-step" process of interrogating and prosecuting is a hybrid of the two systems, according to John B. Bellinger III, a lawyer with the firm Arnold & Porter in Washington, DC, and an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"They've been trying to straddle these two legal structures, of both treating them as combatants under the laws of war for initial detention and questioning and then treating them as suspects in a civilian court," he said.

The system is still imperfect. The Geneva Conventions, which dictate the care of combatants captured in war, state that prisoners of war cannot be held aboard a ship. That rule, according to Margulies, related more to the dangers of submarines at a time of war and hasn't been widely questioned in recent years.

But U.S. attorneys have had to answer for the lengthy pre-Miranda interrogations. In the Warsame case, they claimed a public safety

exception allowed them to interrogate the suspect at length before giving him access to a lawyer.

The "Quarles" exception, named for the case that established the rule, allows police in rare instances to question suspects before reading them their rights, when someone's safety is at risk. Those cases typically involve asking about an accomplice or something urgently related to the crime scene.

If Khattala is transferred quickly to a federal court, it may point to his distant relationship to the battlefied under U.S. law, which defines al-Qaida as the enemy. Khattala was commander of the Benghazi branch of Ansar al-Sharia, a militia designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. but that the State Department has said is not an affiliate of al-Qaida.

"One, it may be harder to justify holding him as a combatant under the Articles of War," Bellinger said. "And two, they may believe there's less intelligence to collect from him."

Stars and Stripes reporters Slobodan Lekic and Jon Harper contributed to this report.
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Khattala

Capture again spotlights role of special operations forces in Africa

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The capture of the alleged ringleader of the terrorist attacks in Benghazi over the weekend thrusts the growing role of U.S. Special Operations Command in Africa into the spotlight again, just as the ongoing crisis in Iraq and the end of U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan are looming.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday that U.S. special operators captured Ahmed Abu Khattala in a secret raid Sunday. He was designated a terrorist in January, with the State Department calling him a "senior leader" of the militant organization Ansar al-Sharia. The group was designated a terrorist organization and found by U.S. officials to be specifically responsible for the

Sept. 11, 2012, attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi that killed Chris Stevens, U.S. ambassador to Libya, and State Department security official Sean Smith.

The raid follows other similar operations in northern Africa, including in Libya. In October, for instance, U.S. Special Operations captured Nazih Abdul-Hamed al Ruqai, an alleged al-Qaida official, outside his home in Tripoli. It marked a rare instance of U.S. military involvement in "rendition," in which terrorism suspects are grabbed to face trial without an extradition hearing. Those operations have typically been conducted by the CIA or FBI. Ruqai was wanted for alleged involvement with the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania and Kenya.

That same weekend in October, U.S. Navy

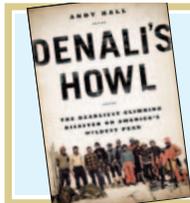
SEALs launched a raid on a seaside home in Barawe, Somalia, in search of Abulkadir Mohamed Abulkadir, an alleged senior commander of the Islamist militant group al-Shabab. The SEALs were forced to withdraw an hour later after they were spotted by a lone al-Shabab fighter, NBC News reported. The SEALs inflicted numerous casualties in a firefight that followed, U.S. officials said, but pulled away in small fast boats.

In March, SEALs launched another high-profile raid on the oil tanker Morning Glory off the coast of Cyprus, capturing the vessel without firing a shot. The mission was carried out by U.S. troops affiliated with Special Operations Command Europe, but on a ship that was seized in the Libyan port As-Sidra and carried 200,000 barrels of oil owned by

the Libyan government's National Oil Company. The mission was launched from the USS Roosevelt, a guided missile destroyer, with helicopter support overhead.

On Sunday, the New York Times Magazine highlighted other SOCOM missions in Africa in a glowing profile of Brig. Gen. James Linder, the commander of SOCOM Africa. It touches on ongoing training across Africa by special operators from the United States, as well as Great Britain, France and other countries.

After taking his current position in 2012, Linder boosted the fight against Joseph Kony, who is accused kidnaping tens of thousands of children to join his Lord's Resistance Army, a militant group in central Africa, the Times reported.



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NATION

Weather not cooperating in western wildfire fight

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Firefighters are bracing for another day of hot, dry and windy conditions as they battle a fast-moving wildfire that has consumed thousands of acres of piñon and juniper forest along with traditional grazing lands that Navajo families depend on to raise sheep and other livestock.

The Assayil Lake Fire blackened more than 19 square miles in less than two days while making its way across summer and winter grazing areas in the Chuska Mountains, just east of the Arizona-New Mexico border.

The flames destroyed at least four structures and threatened about 50 homes near the communities of Naschitti and Sheep

Springs, fire officials said. Some homes in Naschitti were evacuated, and authorities were urging desperate Navajo families to refrain from heading into the mountains to search for their sheep and other livestock.

That has been a challenge despite all the road closures, said fire spokeswoman Shari Malone. "They really do value the life of their livestock more than they value their own," she said. "It's been difficult."

The Navajo Nation's Department of Agriculture has been busy rounding up trailers to move some of the livestock corralled and brought down from the mountain before the fire made its run Monday. Some Navajo families took to social media to ask for hay and water donations.

Leo Watchman, head of the tribe's agriculture department, said it was too early to say what might have happened to the sheep and cattle that were on the mountain when the fire broke out. He said ensuring the safety of the community members has been the priority.

Authorities did sweeps of sheep camps in the hills and evacuated some people Sunday and Monday. The fire has since burned through those areas.

Agriculture and livestock, especially sheep, have been key in the evolution of Navajo society and economy. The animals are a staple of Navajo life, their wool is prized for its use in rugs, and mutton is on the menu of restaurants throughout the region.

Tribal members have grazed

sheep for centuries, withstanding the federal government's scorched-earth campaign during the 1860s in which their orchards and herds were destroyed in an effort to force them from their homeland. Decades later, they were forced to recover again after the government downsized their herds.

The Assayil Lake Fire is one of several blazes making problems for western states.

In California, diminishing winds have helped firefighters surround 85 percent of a blaze burning near Lake Isabella in the southern Sierra Nevada. The blaze burned brightly and sent smoke skyward within the fire lines on Tuesday, but did not jump outside of them.

Residents were told late Mon-

day they could return to about 1,000 mountain homes.

The blaze destroyed three houses, damaged another and forced hundreds to flee their homes. At least two of the burned houses appeared to be abandoned, the U.S. Forest Service said in a statement.

One other home was damaged by the fire, which charred more than 4 square miles of trees and brush in and around Sequoia National Forest. It also threatened power lines and communications facilities.

In northern Arizona, a 12-acre wildfire that broke out in Oak Creek Canyon was 25 percent contained. The fire was just north of a blaze that charred 31 square miles last month in the scenic canyon between Sedona and Flagstaff.



The Catholic Sun/AP

The Rev. Kenneth Walker, left, and the Rev. Joseph Terra perform a Mass in Phoenix. Walker was killed and Terra was badly injured during a robbery attempt at Mother of Mercy Mission church last week.

Attack raises questions of armed clergy

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A Roman Catholic priest responding to a break-in at his downtown Phoenix church grabbed a handgun that police say ended up in the burglar's hands — and was then used to kill a fellow priest who tried to help.

The Diocese of Phoenix has no policy on priests carrying guns, but the deadly burglary raised questions about the wisdom of clergy possessing weapons, no matter how dangerous their mission.

The attack occurred after the Rev. Joseph Terra opened the kitchen door of the Mother of Mercy Mission rectory on the evening of June 11 to investigate noises in a courtyard. The intruder he found bent him with a metal rod, but the priest managed to retrieve a .357-caliber gun from his bedroom.

He was unable to fire the weapon before the attacker grabbed it and used it to fatally shoot Terra's colleague, the Rev. Kenneth Walker, 28, according to court records.

Terra is expected to make a full recovery after being beaten so badly that authorities initially doubted he would survive the

first night.

A homeless ex-convict named Gary Michael Moran, 54, has been arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder, burglary and armed robbery, among other charges.

Many American Catholic leaders have argued that church teaching compels them to advocate for greater limits on guns, but self-defense is also part of Catholic theology, and Catholics have different views of the issue.

Walker's relatives have mixed feelings about Terra having kept a gun in the rectory. "On one hand, we feel that they should have a way to protect themselves," Sasha Keyes, Walker's stepister, said Tuesday in an interview. "But on the other hand, we think about the fact that our brother was killed with it."

Terra "was possibly thinking of both him and Father Kenny,

in protecting them." Keyes said. "But given his condition, he probably wasn't thinking very clearly when he went for the gun."

The Mother of Mercy Mission, where last week's attack happened, is in a rough neighborhood near the state Capitol. Protective bars cover nearly every window, as well as the windows of most of nearby homes. At the same time, residents say the police presence is strong, in part because of the government officials.

But concern about security at churches has grown in the last decade or so in the wake of several high-profile shootings, including 2007 fatal shooting at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo. Many of the attacks were related to domestic violence, personal conflicts or robbery. In response, some congregations put armed guards at the doors during worship services.

Still, in states that allow concealed weapons, many congregations bar firearms. Priests face a special challenge when it comes to security. The church's shortage of clergy means many live alone, including some in downtown areas deserted at night.



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NATION

Hot race for No. 3 spot in House GOP leadership

By ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The contest for the No. 3 spot in the House GOP has turned into conservatives' last, best shot at joining the congressional leadership after getting shut out of the two top jobs in the shake-up that followed Majority Leader Eric Cantor's surprise primary defeat.

It's become an intense intramural clash with no certain outcome, as two candidates from different ideological outposts and regions of the country — a conservative Southerner and an establishment-aligned Midwesterner — are challenged by a third who could play the role of spoiler for the tea party hopes.

All three — Reps. Steve Scalise, of Louisiana; Peter Roskam, of Illinois; and Marlin Stutzman, of Indiana — were to make their case to rank-and-file lawmakers Wednesday ahead of a Thursday vote.

The job they're vying for is majority whip, likely to become vacant because its current occupant, Rep. Kevin McCarthy is the strong favorite to become the new majority leader in a separate vote Thursday.

The whip position is perhaps little known outside Washington, but it entails lining up the votes to ensure victory for the party's legislative agenda. In this case, the contest has come to dramatize the deep feud within the GOP that pits conservative purists against lawmakers more aligned with the Republican establishment.

If there is a front-runner, it might be Scalise, 48, who chairs the conservative Republican Study Committee in the House and hails from the red-state South, a regional and political perspective that's now missing in House leadership and that many Southerners, and others, say is needed. Scalise is presenting himself as a strong conservative in one who can work with establishment-aligned leaders, not just throw bombs.

Roskam, 52, now serves as McCarthy's chief deputy and can make the case that he already knows the job and can count votes. To counter the regional argument, he's promised to appoint a red-state lawmaker as his own chief deputy.

Stutzman, 37, was a late entrant into the contest and is presenting himself as a fresh face, supported by some tea party firebrands in the House and some allies who, like him, were elected in the GOP wave election of 2010. He's staked out less support than either Roskam or Scalise and some fear a scenario where he splits the conservative vote with Scalise, opening a path for Roskam.

If no candidate gets an outright majority in Thursday's secret ballot — that would be 117 if all GOP lawmakers vote — the lowest vote-getter will be eliminated and ballots recast between the top two finishers.



BEN GRAY, THE ATLANTA (GA.) JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Death penalty opponents gather at Jackson State Diagnostic Prison in Jackson, Ga., where Marcus Wellons was put to death by lethal injection on Tuesday.

1st US executions since botched lethal injection

By JIM SALTER
AND KATE BRUMBACK
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Georgia and Missouri have carried out the nation's first executions since a botched lethal injection in Oklahoma in April revived concerns about capital punishment.

Neither execution had any noticeable complications. Another execution, the third in a 24-hour span, was scheduled for Wednesday evening in Florida.

Georgia inmate Marcus Wellons, 59, who was convicted in the 1989 rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl, received a single-drug injection late Tuesday night after the U.S. Supreme Court denied his late appeals. About an hour later, John Winfield, 46, was executed in Bonne Terre, Mo. Winfield was convicted in the 1996 killing of two women.

Nine executions nationwide have been stayed or postponed since late April, when Oklahoma prison officials halted the execu-

tion of Clayton Lockett after noting that the lethal injection drugs weren't being administered into his vein properly. Lockett died of a heart attack several minutes later.

Georgia, Missouri and Florida all refuse to say where they obtain their drugs, or if they are tested. Lawyers for Wellons and Winfield had challenged the secretive process used by some states to obtain lethal injection drugs from unidentified, loosely regulated compounding pharmacies.

Georgia and Missouri both use the single drug pentobarbital, a sedative. Florida uses a three-drug combination of midazolam hydrochloride, vecuronium bromide and potassium chloride.

In Georgia, Wellons lay still with his eyes closed as the drugs were administered at a prison in Jackson. Minutes into the procedure, he took some heavy breaths and blew air out through his lips as if snoring. There was no visible movement minutes later. Wellons was pronounced dead at 11:56

p.m. EDT Tuesday.

Winfield took four or five deep breaths as the drug was injected at 12:01 a.m. CDT Wednesday, puffed his cheeks twice and then fell silent, all in a matter of seconds. He was pronounced dead at 12:10, a spokesman for the Missouri Department of Public Safety said.

Before his execution, Wellons said he hoped his death would bring peace to the family of India Roberts, a teen neighbor whom he raped and murdered in suburban Atlanta in 1989.

"I'd like to apologize to the Roberts family for my crimes and ask for forgiveness," he said.

Winfield was executed for a jealous rampage in 1996 in which he shot three women in the head. Arthea Sanders and Shawnee Murphy died, while Winfield's former girlfriend, Carmelita Donald, survived but was blinded. Winfield had fathered two of Donald's children.

Winfield declined to make a statement Wednesday.

California lawmakers reject sugary drink labels

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A bill that would have made California the first U.S. state to require warning labels on sodas and other sugary drinks was effectively killed Tuesday.

The bill sponsored by state Sen. Bill Monning failed on an 8-7 vote as his fellow Democratic lawmakers doubted whether a label would change consumer behavior. It needed 10 votes to pass.

The bill would have required that certain sodas, energy drinks and fruit drinks carry a label reading, "STATE OF CALIFORNIA SAFETY WARNING: Drinking beverages with added sugar(s) contributes to obesity, diabetes, and tooth decay."

It was developed by public health advocates using cigarette and alcohol warnings as a model. Representatives of the beverage industry argued that the bill was unfair

“You can't start to even make a commitment to make behavior change if you don't have the information.”

Bill Monning
California state senator

educating people about the dangers of sugary drinks.

"Changing behavior is the hardest challenge in the world of medicine," Monning told lawmakers before the vote. "But you can't start to even make a commitment to make behavior change if you don't have the information."

His bill had support from the California Medical Association, the California Center for Public Health Advocacy and groups devoted to improving the health of minorities. A similar bill introduced in Vermont stalled this year.

Democratic Assemblyman Jimmy Gomez noted that cigarette warning labels were accompanied by taxes and prohibitions on smoking in public places before tobacco use plunged.

"It was not necessarily the labels that changed people's habits, but it was the other requirements," said Gomez.

CalBev, the California arm of the American Beverage Association, says it posts calorie counts on the front of many beverage containers as part of a voluntary campaign that started in 2010.

Industry groups also say warning labels may conflict with an upcoming overhaul of the nutritional information labels regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Rare stamp sets record at NYC auction

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A 1-cent postage stamp from a 19th-century British colony in South America has become the world's most valuable stamp — again.

The 1856 British Guiana One-Cent Magenta sold Tuesday at auction in New York for \$9.5 million, Sotheby's said. It was the fourth time the stamp has broken the auction record for a single stamp in its long history.

The stamp was expected to bring between \$10 million and \$20 million. Sotheby's said the buyer wished to remain anonymous. The

price included the buyer's premium.

David Redden, Sotheby's vice chairman, called the sale "a truly great moment for the world of stamp collecting."

Measuring 1 inch-by-1½ inches, it hasn't been on public view since 1986 and is the only major stamp absent from the British Royal Family's private Royal Philatelic Collection.

"You're not going to find anything rarer than this," according to Allen Kane, director of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. "It's a stamp the world of collectors has been dying to see for a long time."



WORLD

Ukraine's leader offers unilateral troop cease-fire

By DAVID McHUGH
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Wednesday proposed a unilateral cease-fire by his troops to allow pro-Russia separatists in the east of the country a chance to lay down weapons or leave the country, Russian and Ukrainian news agencies reported.

Poroshenko was quoted as saying this would be the first step in the peace plan he has proposed to de-escalate the conflict. Poroshenko's spokesman was not immediately available to confirm the offer of a unilateral move.

The president was quoted as saying, "The plan will begin with my order for a unilateral cease-fire." He added that "shortly afterward the plan will receive support from the other participants."

The proposal, reportedly discussed during a visit to an army academy in Kiev, comes after a telephone call between Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin in which a cease-fire was discussed.

The country's defense minister, Mikhail Koval, was quoted as saying the cease-fire could begin "literally within days."

Damaturu, Nigeria — Hours after a suicide bomber detonated explosives packed into a tricycle taxi at an outdoor World Cup viewing site in northeast Nigeria, police said the death toll was 14, with 26 people wounded.

14 dead in bombing at World Cup viewing site

The Associated Press

Witnesses said the tricycle taxi was driven into the outdoor area in Damaturu, capital of Yobe state, soon after the Brazil-Mexico match started Tuesday night.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but Boko Haram, an armed Islamic group that wants to turn Nigeria into an Islamic state, was suspected.

Police Assistant Superintendent Nathan Cheghan said Wednesday that 14 people were killed and 26 were wounded in the attack. He said rescue workers had been careful about rushing to the scene for fear of secondary explosions. Boko Haram group frequently detonates secondary

fire should be "comprehensive," not temporary. However, he said that if it was followed by negotiations "then it could be the step President Poroshenko has promised and which in general we were all waiting for."

Any such cease-fire would raise the question of whether the separatists would respect it, and whether Russia had the desire or the ability to persuade them to do so.

Separatists have seized government buildings, held disputed referendums and declared independence in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions along Ukraine's eastern border with Russia. Ukrainian troops have struggled to suppress the insurgents, who on Saturday shot down a military transport plane, killing all 49 on board. Authorities say more than 300 people have died in fighting.

Poroshenko was elected after a protest movement drove his predecessor, Viktor Yanukovich, from office in February.

In his inaugural address June 7, Poroshenko said he was willing to negotiate with people in the region, but not with "terrorists" with "blood on their hands."

He proposed an amnesty for separatists who have not committed violent acts, early regional elections and new efforts to create jobs in the area.

explosions to kill those who help victims from the first bomb.

Security experts have warned that Islamic militants might attack crowds watching the World Cup in public places in Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda, as they did in 2010 in Uganda. The explosions in Kampala, Uganda, at two sites where people watched the 2010 World Cup final on TV killed 74 people. Al-Shabab, a Somali insurgent group, set off those bombs.

Nigeria's military has promised increased security but appears incapable of halting a stream of attacks by extremists holding more than 250 schoolgirls hostage. The kidnapping of the girls two months ago and failure of Nigeria's military and government to rescue them has roused international concern. The United States is searching for the girls with drones and has sent experts to help in counterterrorism tactics and hostage negotiation.



HUMANITY SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL/AP

A dog waits to be sold for meat in a market in Yulin, in southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, in June 2013. Residents in the city that's come under fire for an annual summer solstice festival in which thousands of dogs are slaughtered for food have held their feasts early to avoid attention.

Chinese hold festival early to avoid dog meat criticism

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Residents in a southern Chinese city that has come under fire for an annual summer solstice festival in which thousands of dogs are slaughtered for food have held their feasts early to avoid attention.

Some residents of Yulin started gathering last weekend and eating dog meat and lychees to celebrate the longest day of the year, ahead of Saturday's actual solstice, state media reported this week. The residents wanted to avoid protests by animal rights activists.

In recent years, the festival has been targeted by activists who have drummed up public awareness of the event with posts on social media and online petitions and descended on the city to protest outside slaughterhouses or markets where the dogs are sold.

The public uproar reflects the increasing affluence of ordinary Chinese, who keep pets, travel overseas and are changing attitudes toward traditions they may

not have questioned before.

Photos on state media showed groups of Yulin city residents tucking into plates of meat and vegetables around dining tables strewn with lychees. Other photos, which circulated widely on Chinese microblogs, were of skinned, cooked dogs hanging from hooks at street stalls or piled on tables.

Under the Yulin tradition, eating dog and lychee and drinking liquor on the solstice is supposed to make people stay healthy during winter. It is unclear if the supposed health benefits diminish if the feast occurs before the solstice.

Animal rights activists say the event is a public health risk because the dogs undergo no quarantine to ensure they are free of disease, and that they are strays grabbed off streets around the country, as well as allegedly stolen from pet owners. The dogs are often poisoned with toxic chemicals that could be harmful to humans, they say.

Deng Yidan, an activist with Animals Asia, said the public backlash hurts the image of Yulin and China.

"Negative coverage is growing — dog theft, criminal activities, food hygiene issues and rabies fears — not to mention the division in society between those for and against the festival — together these have brought significantly more negative publicity to Yulin than economic benefits," Deng said in a statement.

The Yulin government has sought to distance itself from the feasting, saying it is not officially endorsed. State media reports say the government told restaurants to remove references to dog meat from their menus and signboards — though it did not bar the sale and consumption of the meat, which is not illegal in China.

The government has denied the formal existence of such a festival, saying it is a culinary habit practiced only by some businesses and people.

Japan bans possession of child pornography

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's parliament has passed a law which bans possession of child pornography, but excludes sexually explicit depictions of children in comics, animation and computer graphics.

The upper house voted Wednesday to approve the law, which was passed by the lower house earlier this month.

The law provides for prison terms of up to one year and fines of up to \$9,800 for having pornographic photographs or videos of children. It allows a grace period of one year for people owning such materials to dispose of them.

The law was first proposed in May 2013 as an amendment to

an earlier law that banned production and distribution of child pornography but not ownership of such materials.

Child advocates and other critics of the new legislation say it is a long-overdue improvement but are unhappy with the exclusion of depictions of sexual fantasies involving children in "manga" comic books, anime and video games. Pictures of children as young as toddlers posed in sexually suggestive ways are easily found online in Japan.

The exclusion was made after publishers and lawyers' associations contended that a ban on such images would violate the constitutional right of free speech.

According to humantraffick-

ing.org, Japan is a hub for the production and distribution of child pornography, part of a massive sex industry that includes prostitutes dressed in school uniforms and other outfits meant to cater to pedophiles.

The new law requires Internet providers and other such companies to cooperate with police in preventing and investigating distribution of child pornography, which it defines as photos and videos that expose or focus on children's sexual parts.

Police say widespread use of smartphones has aided the distribution of pornographic images of children. They reported 1,644 cases of child pornography in 2013.

STARS AND STRIPES

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

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IRAQ
 WILL US
 HELP US
 STABILIZE
 IRAQ



US should not cooperate with Iran on Iraq

BY MICHAEL DORAN AND MAX BOOT
 The growing disaster in Iraq has triggered anguished debate over two fundamental questions: What went wrong? And what do we do about it?

Surprisingly, many people who disagree vehemently about the former question (in particular, whether President George W. Bush or President Barack Obama is more to blame) agree on the latter. Thus Sen. Lindsey Graham of S.C., who has consistently attacked the Obama administration for its foreign policy, suggests that the United States should work with Iran to counter the rapid advance of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. That idea was also advanced by Secretary of State John Kerry, who said Monday that the administration is "open to discussions" with Tehran and would "not rule out" cooperation in Iraq.

It's sometimes true that very different countries can cooperate against a common enemy, as the United States and Soviet Union did during World War II. But the suggestion of a united U.S.-Iran front is more reminiscent of the wishful thinking among conservatives who argued in the 1930s that Britain and the United States shared a common interest with Nazi Germany in countering communism. The idea that the United States, a nation bent on defending democracy and safeguarding stability, shares a common interest with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a revolutionary theocracy that is the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism in the world, is as fanciful as the notion that Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler could work together for the good of Europe.

While it's true that Iran is run by Shiite fundamentalists and the ISIL is a Sunni organization, the rise of the ISIL provides Tehran with multiple benefits. For one thing, it makes Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and the Shiites of Iraq ever more dependent on Iranian protection. For another, the ISIL's frightening rise makes the United States more likely to compromise with Iran.

We have grown accustomed to Pakistan playing both arsonist and fireman at the same time — sheltering Osama bin Laden and supporting jihadist groups while winning aid from Washington by portraying itself as a partner in the war against ter-

rorism. Iran is adept at playing a similar game, only instead of aid it is likely hoping for a further relaxation of Western sanctions and a sweeter deal on its nuclear program.

Indeed, the non-jihadist Syrian position insists that the ISIL is a creation of Iran. In typical Middle East fashion, the Syrians overstate the case, but there is much evidence that Iran and its Syrian allies have cooperated with the ISIL. Don't forget that the ISIL was launched by the late Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who, U.S. intelligence believes, received aid, shelter and financial support from Iran after he was chased out of Afghanistan by U.S. forces in 2001. Al-Zarqawi received even more support from Iran's close ally, Syria, which allowed its territory to be used to supply al-Qaida in Iraq with a steady stream of foreign fighters.

As recently as 2012, the Treasury Department identified Iran as supportive of the ISIL, which has reportedly grown fat in no small part due to deals with the Assad regime for oil from wells under its control.

That's right. According to Western intelligence sources, Assad, Iran's top client in the region, has a business partnership with the ISIL even though the ISIL has been fighting his regime. (Assad's motives are varied, but among them is thought to be a desire to boost jihadist fighters so as to discredit the opposition in Western eyes.)

But even if we were to assume that Iran is truly the ISIL's implacable enemy, that doesn't mean it would be a good idea for the United States to cooperate with Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps — an organization that has been responsible for attacks against U.S. targets stretching back more than 30 years. We have seen in Syria how Iranian-backed forces go about putting down a Sunni-led insurgency. More than 150,000 people have already been killed in the Syrian civil war and millions more uprooted from their homes. The Assad regime has become notorious for dropping "barrel bombs" on civilians and even using chemical weapons.

Iranian-backed groups used equally brutal methods in Iraq during the height of the fighting after al-Qaida in Iraq's bombing of the Samarra mosque in 2006. Shiite extremists became notorious for kidnapping and torturing Sunnis. Those same groups stand on the front lines today of Shiite resistance to the ISIL.

The United States would be making a historic error if it were to assist such an Iranian-orchestrated ethnic-cleansing campaign with air power or even with diplomatic support. Not only would this be morally reprehensible, it would be strategically stupid because it would convince the region's Sunni Muslims that the United States is siding against them with Iran and its regional allies. That could lead Sunni states such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates to support extremists such as the ISIL, further feeding the growing sectarian conflict across the region.

Instead, the United States should develop a coalition of our traditional allies dedicated to building up an alternative to al-Qaida in the vast battlefield now stretching from Baghdad to Damascus. Such a policy will require training and equipping non-jihadist fighters of the Free Syrian Army while working to pull the Iraqi government out of Iran's orbit. The latter goal will probably require a strenuous effort to scuttle al-Maliki's bid for a third term in favor of a more inclusive leader. The United States should also work covertly, as it did during the 2007-08 "surge," to destroy Iranian networks in Iraq.

This is, to be sure, an ambitious plan, but nothing less than the future of the Middle East is at stake. If current trends continue, the United States will be faced with a nuclear Iran standing off against a Sunni Arab world in which al-Qaida is a more important player than ever and in which at least one state (probably Saudi Arabia) acquires nuclear weapons of its own.

Faced with such a prospect, we should not be pursuing a chimerical alliance with Iran. We don't have to, and should not, ally with one group of terrorists to fight another.

Michael Doran is a senior fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

Bad US decisions, Iraqi errors disastrous

By JOHN NAGL

The dissolution of Iraq is the entirely predictable result of a series of bad American decisions compounded by Iraqi government mistakes. The result is a disaster for the Iraqi and American people and a gift to radical Islamists worldwide. Correcting the mistakes will be enormously costly in blood and treasure and will take decades to repair.

The initial and most costly mistake was the decision to invade Iraq in the first place on the misguided belief that Saddam Hussein had a stockpile of weapons of mass destruction. Ignoring the history of deterrence, through which states choose not to use these weapons against other states for fear of reprisal, post-9/11 hysteria drove an illogical and destabilizing decision to upset the balance of power in the Middle East with no plan to police the inevitable chaos that followed the invasion.

Initial errors of providing too few troops to govern Iraq after Saddam was toppled were compounded by disbanding the Iraqi army and forbidding former Baath Party members from future government service; together, they inspired a Sunni insurgency against the American occupation. Too few troops, who had never been trained to conduct counterinsurgency, fought against an enemy they didn't understand and could rarely see. Iraq descended into chaos.

When all seemed lost, America made its one good decision of the entire fiasco, installing Robert Gates as secretary of defense and Gen. David Petraeus as Iraq commander to implement a fully resourced counterinsurgency strategy for the first time. The "surge" forces battled insurgents and also partnered with re-

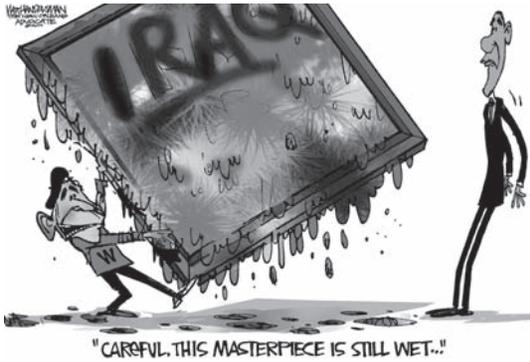
constituted Iraq security forces. Violence plummeted and, by 2010 there was a decent chance that, with continued American air power and advisers to support Iraqi forces and compel good decisions by the fledgling Iraqi government, a democratic Iraq would emerge from the shambles of one of the biggest mistakes in American history.

We fumbled the ball at the goal line by failing to negotiate a long-term security relationship with the Iraqi government. Left on its own, the Shiite government followed its worst impulses, oppressing the Sunni minority and inspiring a reinvigorated insurgency.

The summer of 2012 saw another unforgotten American error: We had the opportunity to support moderate Sunni insurgents fighting to depose President Bashar Assad, of Syria, but chose to let them fight without our assistance. Al-Qaida-affiliated fighters took control of the insurgency, killing many of the moderate fighters and creating an impossible choice for American policy in Syria: We could support al-Qaida or the tyrant Assad, who regularly uses chemical weapons against his own people. As in Iraq, the window to support the good guys closed, never to be reopened.

Now an unholy alliance of al-Qaida-affiliated Syrian insurgents has combined with native Sunni insurgents and captured much of the country that American forces fought so hard to secure. Without American advisers and the airpower they bring, which would easily decimate the insurgents, the Iraqi forces have simply melted away, surrendering without a fight.

Without American air power and special operations Forces to control it and inspire a will to fight, there is a real chance that Baghdad will fall, just as Saigon did in 1975 when America similarly abandoned



its allies without advisers and air support.

Ending wars is easy. Ending them responsibly by leaving a better peace behind is harder and more expensive, requiring the long-term commitment of troops — a tough decision we have made in the wake of every victorious war since World War II. In Iraq, as in Vietnam, we spurned the sacrifices of our own soldiers and our allies by making an expedient but shortsighted decision that, having paid the price to win the war, we would not pay the much smaller price to secure the peace.

Our negligence and dereliction of duty have given new hope to al-Qaida and may cost us a friendly government in Iraq that

many of my friends died to establish. The big question now is whether, as currently planned, we will similarly devalue the work of my friends who died to give the Afghan people a chance at freedom by failing to provide that country with the advisers and air power that would secure Afghanistan against its inevitable future enemies. We can already see the heavy cost of failing to build a better peace in Iraq.

John Nagl, an Army veteran of both Iraq wars, is the headmaster of the Haverford School in Philadelphia. He helped write the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual and is the author of the forthcoming "Knife Fights: A Memoir of Modern War." This column first appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Shouldn't Europe pay more for its own defense?

By GRAHAM ALLISON

This month in Poland, President Barack Obama offered \$1 billion in military assistance to address our NATO allies' anxiety about a resurgent Kremlin. Labeled the European Reassurance Initiative, this boosts NATO's budget by a mere 0.1 percent. It was nonetheless received with enthusiasm by European partners happy to have a Band-Aid to cover up an unpleasant truth: For decades, our NATO allies have so underinvested in creating their own security forces that when Vladimir Putin moved 40,000 Russian troops to Ukraine's border, they had no capacity to respond.

The crisis in Ukraine reminds us of dangers that are too easy to forget. Obama missed an opportunity to borrow line from President John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address. He should have challenged the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and even Poland to ask not what Americans can do for European security, but to ask what they can do for themselves.

This is not an abstract question. Two decades after the end of the Cold War, the twin trends of overdependence on U.S. power and underinvestment in military might have left European defenses at risk of becoming dangerously irrelevant.

The European Union's population is triple Russia's and its economy is eight times larger, yet it spends 60 percent less on defense than Russia does relative to GDP. Such miserly investment helps explain Europe's impotence in response to Putin. For Washington, this state of af-



A woman speaks with a volunteer before he sets off for eastern Ukraine to join the ranks of the special battalion "Azov" during a rally in Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday.

fairs is untenable. For Europe, it should be unacceptable.

This month's commemoration of D-Day was a fitting reminder of American sacrifices for European security. On June 6, 1944, 73,000 Americans landed on the beaches of Normandy to take the ground war to the European continent. Before Germany surrendered 11 months later, more than 180,000 Americans had given

their final measure in Europe. Had Americans not come to their rescue, Europeans could still be living under the jackboot of one of the most brutal regimes in history.

World War II left Europe in ruins. In what British Prime Minister Clement Attlee called an "act of unparalleled generosity and statesmanship," the United States contributed more than 5 percent of its GDP (the equivalent of \$840 billion today) to reconstruct Europe.

Later, when Soviet troops occupied the nations of Eastern Europe and the Soviet sector of Berlin and threatened to undermine Western European states, Americans responded. NATO became the greatest military alliance of all time, complete with an American nuclear umbrella to deter Soviet nuclear threats, even though this meant risking Boston for Berlin.

When the Berlin Wall came tumbling down in 1989, Americans took the lead in helping Germany recover East Germany and emerge as a unified state in the EU and NATO. When the Soviet Union collapsed in December 1991, Americans again took the lead, working with the new Russia to eliminate nuclear weapons left elsewhere in the former Soviet Union and secure the weapons that were returned to Russia.

Moscow was persuaded to recognize the independence and sovereignty of formerly occupied Eastern and Central Europe and the emerging states of the former Soviet Union. The U.S.-led NATO admitted 12 states from Eastern and Central Europe to its ranks, including Poland and the Baltic states, sheltering them under the security umbrella. To this day, Americans risk their

lives to protect the security of citizens in Europe.

Asking America to provide a security blanket has an understandable appeal. But for war-weary Americans determined to reduce unsustainable deficits by cutting federal expenditures, including defense, the current arrangement appears increasingly anachronistic.

On paper, that adds up to \$275 billion in total European defense spending and 1.5 million active-duty European troops.

That is almost twice the number of active-duty troops as Russia has and three times its budget. But the gap in what defense experts call "tooth to tail" — the amount devoted to overhead and support for each combat soldier — is evident in the test that was posed by Russian troops on the border of Ukraine. What did European NATO members do? What they have always done: Call USA-911. Truth be told, European military forces today sometimes seem like expensive dentures.

Asking America to provide a security blanket has an understandable appeal. But for war-weary Americans determined to reduce unsustainable deficits by cutting federal expenditures, including defense, the current arrangement appears increasingly anachronistic.

As the Ukraine crisis reminded Europe's leaders about threats on their continent, it is past time for Europeans to ask less what America can do for them, and more what they can do for European security.

Graham Allison is director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

IRAQ

Iraq says forces rallying, making gains on militants

By SAMEER N. YACUB AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces battled insurgents targeting the country's main oil refinery and said it had regained partial control of a city near the Syrian border Wednesday, trying to blunt a weeklong offensive by Sunni militants who diplomats fear may have also abducted some 100 foreign workers.

In a televised address to the nation, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki struck an optimistic tone and vowed to teach the attackers a "lesson" even though Iraqi soldiers abandoned their posts in the wake of the initial militant offensive.

"We have now started our counteroffensive, regaining the initiative and striking back," al-Maliki said.

The Pentagon on Tuesday said it was encouraged by reports that al-Maliki's forces appeared to be regaining.

"We're seeing indications certainly that Iraqi security forces in and around Baghdad are stiffening themselves. They're being assisted by Shia militia members. And it certainly appears as if they have the will to defend the capital," said Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby.

"We have indications that they (Shia militias) are finding common cause with the Iraqi security forces."

The campaign by the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has raised the specter of the sectarian warfare that nearly tore the country apart in 2006 and 2007. The relentless violence that followed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion now haunts those trying to decide how to respond. At the White House, President Barack Obama was to brief lawmakers later Wednesday on what options the U.S. could take.

The U.S. is pressing al-Maliki to undermine the insurgency by making overtures to Iraq's once-dominant Sunni minority, which has long complained of discrimination by al-Maliki's government and excesses by his Shiite-led security forces.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, has consistently rejected charges of bias against the Sunnis and has in recent days been stressing the notion that the threat posed by the Islamic State will affect all Iraqis regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliations. He appeared Tuesday night on television with Sunni leaders and politicians as a sign of solidarity.

The prime minister's relatively upbeat assessment came as the



Sky via AP video/AP

Kurdish soldiers aim their weapons toward positions held by fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant near Jalula, Iraq, on Tuesday. Kurdish security forces are engaged in gun battles with Sunni militants in the northern Iraqi town of Jalula, according to British Broadcaster Sky.

Iraqi military said its forces regained parts of the strategic city of Tal Afar near the Syrian border, which Islamic State fighters captured on Monday. Its closeness to the Syrian border strengthens the Islamic State's plan to carve out an Islamic caliphate, or state, stretching across parts of the two countries.

It also came hours after the chief military spokesman, Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, said government forces repelled an attack by militants on the country's largest oil refinery at Beji, some 155 miles north of the capital, Baghdad.

Al-Moussawi said 40 attackers were killed in fighting there

overnight and early Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Indian government said 40 Indian construction workers have been kidnapped near Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, which ISIL and allied Sunni fighters captured last week. Roughly 10,000 Indian citizens work and live in Iraq, with only about 100 in violent, insecure areas like Mosul, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin.

And the Turkish Foreign Ministry said its diplomats were investigating a Turkish media report that militants abducted 60 foreign construction workers, including some 15 Turks, near the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk.

Ethnic Kurds now control Kirkuk, moving to fill a vacuum after the flight of Iraqi soldiers. They too are battling the Sunni extremist militants.

On Wednesday, Kurdish security and hospital officials said that fighting has been raging since morning between Kurdish fighters known as peshmarga and militants who are trying to take the town of Jalula, in the restive Diyala province some 80 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Two civilians were killed and six peshmarga fighters were wounded, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Bash: Defense leaders acknowledge Afghanistan could face same risks as Iraq

FROM FRONT PAGE

"The behavior was, for the most part, exactly counter to what you would probably try to do if you were trying to bring your people together: Changing military leadership, cronyism — just all forms of sectarianism that have led us to where we are today," Dempsey said.

Dempsey said that members of the Iraqi security forces threw down their arms and in some cases colluded with ISIL when the militants were advancing across northern Iraq in recent days, because they had "lost faith" that the central government in Baghdad was dealing with the entire population in a fair and equitable way.

Dempsey did point out, however, that there are still units of the Iraqi armed forces composed of members of multiple religious sects standing firm and defending Baghdad.

"This has not broken down entirely on sectarian lines," Dempsey said, "but it could."

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel defended the administration from Republican criticism that it hasn't been doing enough to deal with the crisis.

"I don't think we should assign the blame to the United States for this ... ISIL [is responsible]. They invaded, but also this current government in Iraq has never fulfilled the commitments it made to bring a unity

US military assets in and near Iraq

WASHINGTON — As President Barack Obama weighs options for potential U.S. intervention in Iraq, the Pentagon has a broad range of ground, air and sea troops and assets in the region. They include:

- Six warships in the Persian Gulf, including the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush, a cruiser, three destroyers and the amphibious transport ship the USS Mesa Verde, which is carrying about 550 Marines and five V-22 Osprey hybrid aircraft.

- About 5,000 U.S. soldiers across the border in Kuwait as part of a routine rotational presence. They include the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, a combat aviation brigade and other support troops.

- Air Force aircraft capable of a full range of missions positioned within range of Iraq. According to Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James they include F-15E, F-16 and F-22 fighters; B-1 bombers, C-130 cargo planes and A-10 attack jets.

- Intelligence gathering and surveillance assets, including drones, in the region.

From The Associated Press

government together," Hagel said. "We can't dictate to them. ... When we're not there, we're not there. I don't know what you would have expected the United States to do."

In recent days, the U.S. has moved ships, aircraft and troops into the region to deal with a potential Iraq contingency. The officials said that no decisions about the use of force have been made.

Dempsey told lawmakers that the Iraqi government has formally asked the U.S. military to launch airstrikes against the

militants, but he pointed out that doing so could be difficult because ISIL is intermingled with the population and the Iraqi forces battling them.

He added that ISIL is not currently a direct threat to the U.S. homeland, but could become one "over time" if left unchecked.

Hagel was asked if he feared that a potential attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Baghdad could be worse than what happened in 2012 in Benghazi, Libya, when militants attacked the consulate and its annex and killed four Americans.

"It's a bigger force, bigger threat, bigger dynamics. Yes, it's a huge — it's a huge threat," Hagel said.

In recent days, the U.S. has deployed an additional 160 troops to protect U.S. facilities in Baghdad, and stationed another hundred or so near Iraq as a contingency force that could be involved in rescue operations.

Lawmakers from both parties expressed concerns that what is happening now in Iraq might happen in Afghanistan after American troops are withdrawn. Hagel and Dempsey both expressed confidence that that wouldn't happen, citing the growing strength of the Afghan National Security Forces and a belief that the new Afghan president will form and maintain a unity government. However, they acknowledged that an Iraq-like scenario could unfold.

"I can't ... completely convince myself or you that the risk is zero that that couldn't happen in Afghanistan," Dempsey said. "I do have concerns about the future of Afghanistan, and we will continue to do what we can to build into them the kind of resilience that we can build into a security force. But at the end of the day, a security force is only as good as the instrument that wields it, and that's the central government."

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IRAQ

CIA faces gaps as it hunts for ISIL militants

By KEN DILANIAN
AND JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA and other spy agencies are scrambling to close intelligence gaps as they seek ways to support possible military or covert action against the leaders of the militant group that has seized parts of Iraq and threatens Baghdad's government.

The lack of clear intelligence appears to have shifted President Barack Obama's immediate focus away from airstrikes in Iraq because officials said there are few obvious targets. However, officials said no final decisions had been made and suggested Obama ultimately could approve strikes if strong targets do become available.

As the U.S. intensifies its intelligence collection efforts, officials are confronting a diminished spying capability in the Middle East, where the 2011 departure of U.S. troops and the outbreak of civil war in Syria left large swaths of both countries largely off-limits to American operatives.

U.S. intelligence analysts are covering Iraq in the movement of key figures in the militant

“We have had a real interest ... in doing all we could to watch these guys. We have a reasonable sense for the nature of ISIL, but we have very limited visibility into who is doing what to whom right now.”

Rep. Jim Himes
D-Conn., House Intelligence Committee

group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which seized Mosul, Tikrit and other towns in Iraq as the country's military melted away. They are sifting through data provided by Jordanian, Saudi, Turkish and other intelligence services, as well as their own human sources, satellites, drones and communications intercepts by the National Security Agency, U.S. intelligence officials say.

The officials would not be quoted by name because they were not authorized to discuss the classified details publicly. Obama planned to brief top congressional leaders on his administration's possible responses to the crumbling situation in Iraq during a White House meeting Wednesday.

The Obama administration has discussed the possibility of launching targeted airstrikes,

either with drones or manned aircraft, to try to blunt the momentum of the fast-moving Sunni insurgency. Other options under consideration include deploying a small contingent of U.S. special operations forces to help train the Iraqi military and boosting intelligence available to the Iraqis.

More broadly, the Obama administration is also pressing for Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to take steps to make his Shiite-dominated government more inclusive. Obama said last week that any short-term U.S. military actions in Iraq would not be successful unless they were accompanied by political changes by the government in Baghdad.

It's unclear whether the CIA and the NSA have been able to locate the top insurgent figures, such as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the ISIL's leader, Baghdad, who was released in 2009 after spend-

ing four years in U.S. military custody in southern Iraq, came away with an appreciation of American monitoring technology that made him an elusive target once he took command, said Richard Zahner, a retired Army general and former senior NSA official.

But intelligence agencies have been tracking the ISIL for years, officials say, watching closely as it grew stronger in the Syrian civil war and began to challenge the Shiite-dominated Baghdad government.

“We have had a real interest, along with our friends the Jordanians, the Turks and others, in doing all we could to watch these guys,” said Rep. Jim Himes, a Connecticut Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. “We have a reasonable sense for the nature of ISIL, but we have very limited visibility into who is doing what to whom right now.”

The CIA and other agencies are assembling detailed dossiers known as “targeting packages” that amount to profiles of insurgent commanders, including as much day-to-day information as can be gathered about their location, movements, associates and communications. Those packages can be used to target the subjects for drone strikes or other military action, though they also can be used for nonlethal purposes, current and former officials say.

More than a year ago, the CIA's Counterterrorism Center expanded a team of officers at the agency's headquarters in northern Virginia to track and target al-Qaida-linked militants operating in Syria and Iraq. Those efforts are now intensifying, U.S. officials say. They would not discuss in detail their efforts to monitor the Iraqi insurgents for fear of tipping them off. Already, they said, key leaders communicate through couriers and take other steps to avoid eavesdropping.

Despite challenges, intelligence agencies know “quite a bit” about the current organization and its leadership, said a senior U.S. intelligence official, expressing a widely held view within the CIA and other agencies.

Humiliation at rout hits Iraqi military hard

By HAMZA HENDAWI
AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi soldiers tell of how they can hardly live with the shame of their rout under the onslaught of the Islamic militants. Their commanders disappeared. Pleas for more ammunition went unanswered. Troops ran from post to post only to find them already taken by gunmen, forcing them to flee.

“I see it in the eyes of my family, relatives and neighbors,” one lieutenant colonel who escaped the militants' sweep over the northern city of Mosul told The Associated Press. “I am as broken and as sad as a bride who is not a virgin on her wedding night.”

Iraq's military has been deeply shaken by their collapse in the face of fighters led by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which in a little more than a week overran Mosul then stormed toward Baghdad, seizing town after town, several cities and army bases after army base over a large swath of territory.

The impact is hurting efforts to rally the armed forces to fight back. Shiite militiamen and volunteers have had to fill the void as the regular army struggles to regroup.

Top commanders have been put under investigation. Conspiracy theories are running rampant in the meltdown. Some Shiite allies of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki have accused Kurds in the north of encouraging the military collapse so they could grab territory and weapons for themselves — an accusation that they've provided no proof for but that is straining already tense ties with the Kurdish autonomous region where officials deny the claim.

On Tuesday, al-Maliki retired three gen-



Militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant lead away captured Iraqi soldiers after taking over a base in Tikrit, Iraq, in this image posted on a militant website Saturday.

erals who had been deployed in Mosul and ordered legal proceedings against them. He also dismissed a brigadier general and ordered his court-martial in absentia. He said he planned to retire off or court-martial more senior officers, but gave no details.

Already he had ordered the questioning of the military's chief of joint operations, Gen. Abboud Gambar, and the ground forces commander, Gen. Ali Gheidan, according to security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. The two face no charges and no legal action has been taken

against them.

Al-Maliki has also vowed to bring the full weight of military law, including the execution of deserters, on anyone who is found out to have fled the battle.

Al-Maliki is trying to turn the armed forces around. He told army commanders and volunteers in a rally south of Baghdad this week that the rout served as a much needed wake-up call. He said it would lead to the exposure and punishment of military commanders and politicians he accuses of betraying their country.

He has also cryptically blamed conspiracies, acts of treachery and meddling Arab

nations.

The blow was particularly harsh in a country that has traditionally prided itself on the prowess of its soldiers, with the faith of its Shiite majority immersed in a narrative of martyrdom that is rooted in the fabled bravery of its saints.

In an attempt to restore faith in the armed forces, state-run Iraqiya television has been airing little over the past week besides clips of troops and police marching or in action, helicopters strafing what is purportedly militants' positions and soldiers and policemen performing traditional dancing with civilians.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

\$1.8M house built on park ordered removed

RI NARRAGANSETT — A developer who mistakenly built a \$1.8 million waterfront house on park land has been ordered to remove it.

The Rhode Island Supreme Court found that the home, built by developer Four Twenty Corp., was built entirely on land in Narragansett owned by the Rose Nulman Park Foundation, and therefore must be removed.

The developer began building the home in 2009, but didn't discover the error until 2011. It argued it should not be penalized for an innocent surveying mistake.

The court said the park's property rights outweighed that.

Foundation lawyer Mark Freel said it's not known whether the unoccupied house can be moved or will have to be torn down. He said the house has been there for a long time already, and it's time for it to go.

Official: Hoarder died under crush of debris

CT CHESHIRE — Medical examiners in Connecticut say an apparent hoarder died of accidental and traumatic asphyxia after a floor piled high with debris collapsed into her basement.

The chief medical examiner's office released the cause of death of Beverly Mitchell, 66, on Tuesday. Her body was found Saturday as crews were using a backhoe to remove debris from her home in Cheshire. Police said she may have been dead for more than a week.

Officers went to Mitchell's home last Thursday after a postal carrier reported that her mail was piling up. Officials said they didn't find anyone and thought Mitchell wasn't home. Police said it wasn't until Friday that officials realized the first floor had collapsed.

Building officials are determining whether the home needs to be torn down.

Signs replaced at school named for KKK leader

FL JACKSONVILLE — Signs are being replaced as Jacksonville's B. Forrest High School is getting a new name.

The Duval County School Board agreed in January to change the name of the school, ending a decades-long debate. The school was named in 1959 after a former state general. The school's founder of the Ku Klux Klan. It is becoming Westside High to reflect the school's neighborhood.

The Florida Times-Union reported businesses and community members have either given donations or in-kind donations, but that's not enough to offset the costs to the school board.

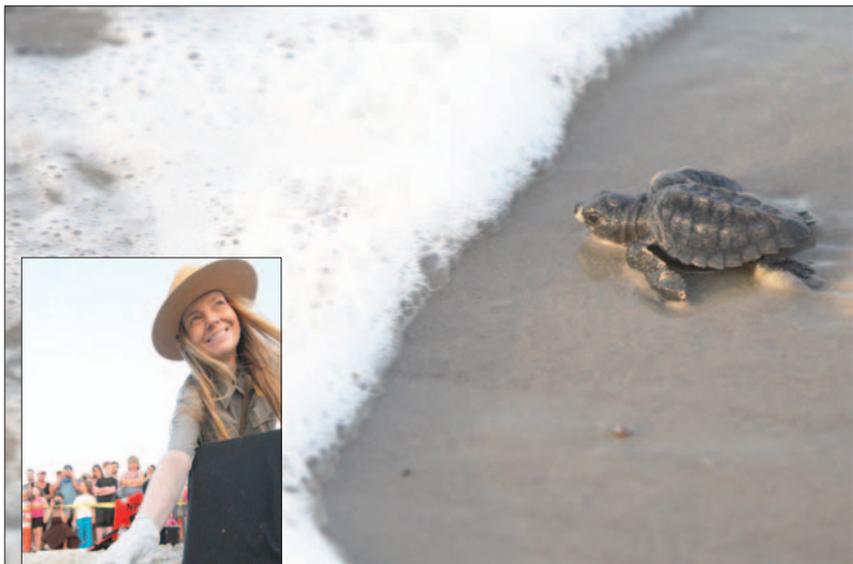
It is costing \$220,000 to change the signs, gym floor and student athletic uniforms. So far, the district has received about \$2,087 in donations.

Bryan Croft, president and chief executive officer of Homes Sign & Sign, told the Times-Union his company is donating

THE CENSUS

\$80K

The amount that a necklace and pistol once owned by ex-scout and showman "Buffalo Bill" Cody sold for at auction Saturday in Dallas. The necklace, made from the claws of a grizzly bear, was a gift to Cody from Sioux warrior chief Sitting Bull, according to Heritage Auctions. Cody purchased the pistol, a Colt .45 1873 Frontier Six-Shooter Revolver, from New York City firearms dealer Hartley & Graham in January 1883. It was said to be one of his favorites.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL DENNY CLOW, CORPUS CHRISTI (TEXAS) CALLER-TIMES/AP

Hatchlings head home

Left: Donna Shaver, chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, National Park Service, Padre Island National Seashore, places Kemp's ridley sea turtle hatchlings onto the sand Monday at the seashore near Corpus Christi, Texas, during the first hatchling release of the season. **Above:** A Kemp's ridley sea turtle makes its way to the Gulf of Mexico after being released. A total of 98 hatchlings were released from a nest discovered April 27.

about 10 signs, with a value of about \$2,000.

"We're a 60-year-old Jacksonville community and one of our core values is to support our community any way we can," he said.

The school board is taking money from the general fund to cover the changes.

Boy calls 911, falsely reports friend slain

MI PORTSMOUTH TOWNSHIP — Authorities in Michigan said a boy who was upset because his friend had a better bicycle called 911 to falsely report that the friend had been killed.

The Bay City Times reported the Bay County Sheriff's Department and Bay City Police responded Saturday evening to a home in Portsmouth Township. Undersheriff Troy Cunningham said the boy, who is younger than 10, told 911 that there was "blood everywhere."

Deputies said no one was killed or injured at the home about 90 miles northwest of Detroit. Cunningham said apparent jealousy

over the bike prompted the call.

Meth lab found at retirement community

CA FRESNO — Fresno police and residents of a retirement community were stunned that a 64-year-old Northern California man arrested during a traffic stop was accused of cooking methamphetamine inside his apartment at the facility for seniors.

"Just shocking someone that age would do that, but actually a perfect place to do it, right?" Fresno police Lt. Joe Gomez told KFSN-TV on Sunday, the day after Robert Short, of Fresno, was taken into custody. "Retirement village, who would suspect it going on there?"

Police pulled over Short in a routine traffic stop in Fresno late Saturday. During the stop, officers learned that Short was on supervised release for selling meth. While conducting a search of Short's car, officers found 4 ounces of crystal meth, plastic bags and an electronic scale, Sgt. Brian Valles said.

Investigators then went to Short's apartment at the California League-Fresno Village. There, they found a half-pound of crystal meth with a street value of about \$1,700, some heroin and materials for a small meth lab, Valles said.

Firefighters rescue would-be cat rescuer

PA ERIE — Authorities in northwestern Pennsylvania said a woman who tried to rescue a cat from a tree ended up needing a rescue herself.

Firefighters in Erie said they brought a 28-foot ladder to help Tara Dennis get down from the branches on Sunday.

Residents told the Times-News that they've heard the feline crying for the past couple of days. It was not clear who owned the cat.

Dennis said she couldn't stand by and do nothing. So, she scaled a fence, got on a roof and climbed onto a branch. She reached the animal, which she put in her shirt.

But the 21-year-old got stuck as she tried to come down. A neigh-

bor called 911.

Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Carroll said firefighters first carried down the cat, then helped Dennis.

Blind man earns degree in auto mechanics

NM LAS CRUCES — A blind New Mexico man has earned an auto mechanics degree and says he can fix cars by listening.

KOAT-TV reported that Clifford Alderson recently graduated from New Mexico State University and earned his degree by learning to feel his way around the vehicle.

Born with a genetic disease that led to his blindness, Alderson got his on-the-job training at a small auto shop in Alamogordo.

Damian Orchard, of All Makes Automotive, said that for the most part he could just tell Alderson what needed to be done on a car and turn him loose.

Alderson said graduating with an auto mechanics degree felt like a dream. He's now looking for a full-time job.

From wire reports

FACES

“I am ‘Jenny From the Block.’” But I am also “Jenny From Rodeo Drive.”

Jennifer Lopez is at peace with her multi-hyphenate juggling act

By GERRICK D. KENNEDY
Los Angeles Times

In the course of one recent week, Jennifer Lopez was honored with a Billboard Icon Award, her single “First Love” became the most-added song on pop radio, she played to a sold-out crowd in Anaheim, Calif., and wrapped another season as an “American Idol” judge.

In other words, it was business as usual for the multiplatinum singer known as J.Lo, who has multiple films and a TV series in the works, fragrances, countless endorsement deals, a TV and film production company and part ownership in a cable network. It’s an insane juggling act that makes multitasker Jay Z look like a slacker.

“I think because I do a lot of different things, I don’t get credit for being great at one thing like some people are.” Lopez, 44, said of her mixed-medium career. “Somebody once told me, ‘One of the best things is when people underestimate you, because then you can always surprise them.’”

And that she’s done. After a couple bumpy years in the late aughts that saw her stock in music and films fall, Lopez tried her hand as an “Idol” judge. The payoff was big. Her comeback album, 2011’s “Love?” had a top 5 debut (a feat she hadn’t accomplished since 2005); its lead single, “On the Floor,” was her highest debut, and the video became one of the most-watched.

“A.K.A.,” her follow-up album released Tuesday, is what Lopez wants to talk about now. “It’s very surreal. You feel like you started yesterday. Believe it or not, (the time) just goes,” she said, snapping her fingers for emphasis from inside the dressing room of a West Hollywood, Calif., soundstage.

Like previous efforts, the new album shows Lopez’s wide-ranging tastes, but “A.K.A.” also showcases a singer better adept at balancing her pop and

hip-hop roots. She zips from the dancey title track to the breezy electro-pop of the Max Martin-produced “First Love” to sticky hip-hop offerings such as “Acting Like That” and “I Luh Ya Papi” to torch ballads.

She is large, she contains multitudes: “I did a couple of dance records and people want me to do a dance album. Or they think I should go back to being

‘Jenny From the Block,’” she laughs. “I am dance, I am pop, I am R&B, I am hip-hop, I am Latin, I am ‘Jenny From the Block.’ But I am also ‘Jenny From Rodeo Drive.’ It was about embracing all those things musically, everything about me emotionally, and putting that into lyrics and sound for this album.”

Looking barefoot in a leather armchair, the singer-actress-dancer and mom looked relaxed despite her whirlwind schedule and a brewing controversy over the FIFA-commissioned World Cup anthem “We Are One (Ole Ola).” It was recorded largely in English and Spanish with Cuban-American rapper Pitbull and Brazilian pop star Claudia Leitte (with hardly any Portuguese for a song touting the Brazil-hosted matches, thus part of the outcry from Brazilians who felt the Bronx-born Puerto Rican Lopez and Pitbull were unfit).

If Lopez is stressed out by any of this, she doesn’t let it show. She looks as radiant and warm as she does in that judge’s chair — and makes eating pizza look almost glamorous. She says, through bites, that she’ll be in New York the next day for a promo tour including a homecoming concert (playing to 20,000 fans in the Bronx) and a set for “Good Morning America’s” annual concert series.

Fifteen years after launching her music career, Lopez has sold more than 80 million records globally and is still the only performer to have a No. 1 album (“J.Lo”) and film (“The Wedding Planner”) the same week (2001). “A.K.A.” is her first offering on Capitol Records after years of label shifts (Lopez departed Island Def Jam after “Love?”), before that, she parted ways with Sony/Epic.



Jennifer Lopez’s new album “A.K.A.” features collaborations with Iggy Azalea, Nas, Pitbull, Rick Ross and T.I.

DAN HALLMAN, INVISION/AP

Teenage singer Zendaya says she is the right fit for Aaliyah TV movie role

The Associated Press

For anyone concerned about who would play Aaliyah in a film about her life, the girl who earned the role — 17-year-old Zendaya — says it mattered to her, too.

“I really want it to be perfect for her and show young people what she was able to do and what she accomplished,” the Disney Channel star said in an interview Tuesday, a day after Lifetime announced she would play the role of the R&B singer. Zendaya says she’s the right choice for

the part because “if you want something done right, you’ve got to do it yourself.”

Aaliyah was killed in 2001 at age 22 when her plane crashed after takeoff from a Bahamian runway. She dominated on the R&B and pop charts, earning platinum-plus albums and racking hits with songs like “Try Again,” “Back & Forth” and “Are You That Somebody?”

Zendaya, who was the runner-up on “Dancing with the Stars” last year, says she’s aware the role comes with a lot of scrutiny.

“I can’t please everybody ... what I can do is work really hard and you know, just continue to show her legacy,” she said.

Other news

■ Former “Jersey Shore” cast member Mike “The Situation” Sorrentino was arrested after a fight at a tanning salon. Sorrentino was charged with simple assault after the afternoon confrontation at the Boca salon in Middletown Township, N.J., which he and his family own and operate.

He posted \$500 bail and was released; a court date hasn’t been scheduled.

■ Katy Perry announced the launch of her own record label, Metamorphosis Music, on Tuesday. It’s a joint venture with her current label, Capitol Records. The first to sign with Perry’s label is pop singer Ferras, who released his Perry executive-produced EP on Tuesday.

■ Prosecutors are dropping a disorderly conduct case against Paul Simon and his wife, Edie Brickell, related to a fight in April at the couple’s Connecticut home.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

GM sales hold up despite recalls

By Tom Krisher

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Consumers looking for a used vehicle aren't shying away from GM models — even though more than 20 million GM cars and trucks have been recalled this year.

General Motors cars such as the Chevrolet Malibu have retained or increased in value, sometimes more than rival vehicles. And sales of new cars aren't slowing either, up 13 percent in May.

GM has issued 44 recalls in North America this year for parts ranging from ignition switches to air bags. The most serious is for ignition switches in 2.6 million small cars linked to more than 50 crashes and at least 13 deaths. Investigations into that recall have exposed GM as a company that was too slow to react to serious safety issues.

In the past, consumers punished automakers for big recalls. Those consumers lost market

share — Toyota's dropped 2 percentage points over 12 months when it recalled 14 million cars for unintended acceleration. Yet GM's has held fairly steady so far, around 18 percent.

GM has cautioned that an ongoing company-wide safety review could produce even more recalls — just Monday it recalled another 3.4 million cars for a separate ignition switch issue — so consumers might still decide it's smarter to buy their wheels elsewhere.

But for now, experts say, GM has retained buyers' confidence by appearing to act quickly on safety matters — even though GM's internal investigation into the small-car switch recall showed that employees took years to realize they had a safety problem on their hands.

"People are associating that with being vigilant more than being careless," said Larry Dominic, president of A.L.G., formerly Automotive Lease Guide, whose data is used by dealers to set val-

ues of leased cars. That could explain why the value of the 2010 Chevrolet Malibu rose almost 3 percent from February, when the recalls started, through May, according to ALG. That compares with midsize cars as a whole, which dropped in value by 1 percent. The Malibu has been part of five recalls this year.

The value of most other used GM cars also rose. The exception: the Chevrolet Cobalt, which is at the heart of the first ignition switch recall. About 1 million Cobalts are being recalled. Of the 13 deaths GM counts, nine occurred in Cobalts.

ALG says the value of 2010 Cobalts dropped 2.4 percent from February through May, but the compact car segment's value rose almost 3 percent. Falling values have triggered lawsuits from Cobalt owners.

That doesn't mean the cars won't sell. At L.A. Sales in Oyster Bay, N.Y., owner Andy Kaufman recently sold a 2005 Cobalt for just

under the \$5,000 he was asking. The buyer had no concerns once Kaufman showed him the switch had been replaced, he said.

Experts say the volume of recalls has taken away some of the fear factor.

"I'm beginning to wonder if the consumer is almost numb to the next headline that comes out," said Ricky Beggs, a senior vice president of Black Book, which also monitors used car prices.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 19)	\$1.3906
Dollar buys (June 19)	€0.7190
British pound (June 19)	\$1.74
Japanese yen (June 19)	99.00
South Korean won (June 19)	996.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6955
Canada (dollar)	1.0868
China (Yuan)	6.1191
Denmark (Krone)	5.6426
Egypt (Pound)	4.2200
Euro	\$1.3579/7.354
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7813
Hungary (Forint)	226.20
Israel (Shekel)	3.4564
Kuwait (Dinar)	102.12
Japan (Yen)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.0243
Philippines (Peso)	44.01
Poland (Zloty)	3.4005
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2521
South Korea (Won)	1,022.36
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8971
Thailand (Baht)	32.49
Turkey (Lira)	2.1408

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchases of British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

June 17, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+27.48	16,808.49
Nasdaq composite	+16.12	4,337.23
Standard & Poor's 500	+4.21	1,941.99
Russell 2000	+9.80	1,176.62

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.44

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlene, Texas	80	74	Cldy	Chatanooga	94	70	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	86	69	Cldy	Louisville	92	74	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	83	63	Cldy	Chicago	87	70	Rain	Fresno	97	65	Cldy	Lubbock	88	68	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	81	62	Cir	Cincinnati	88	68	Rain	Goodland	80	58	Cir	Macon	93	72	Pcldy
Albuquerque	88	62	Pcldy	Cleveland	81	63	Cldy	Grand Junction	78	52	Cir	Madison	81	69	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	86	52	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	78	53	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	82	65	Cldy	Medford	89	55	Cir
Amarillo	89	65	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	97	73	Cir	Green Bay	76	59	Cir	Memphis	92	76	Pcldy
Anchorage	59	48	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	94	73	Pcldy	Great Falls, N.C.	66	47	Cldy	Miami Beach	85	75	Cir
Ashville	85	64	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	85	66	Rain	Harrisburg	88	60	Cldy	Midland-Odesa	90	69	Cir
Atlanta	91	65	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	82	48	Cir	Hartford Springfield	76	59	Pcldy	Milwaukee	69	61	Cldy
Atlantic City	89	60	Cldy	Corpus Christi	93	78	Pcldy	Helena	73	49	Cir	Missoula	74	46	Cir
Atlanta	89	60	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	84	65	Rain	Honolulu	74	51	Pcldy	Miami Beach	85	75	Cir
Baltimore	82	68	Rain	Dayton	84	67	Rain	Houston	92	75	Pcldy	Montgomery	94	71	Pcldy
Baton Rouge	92	72	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	87	74	Cldy	Huntsville	92	71	Pcldy	Nashville	95	71	Cldy
Bilings	74	52	Cldy	Denver	89	52	Cir	Indianapolis	87	71	Rain	New Orleans	92	72	Pcldy
Birmingham	91	72	Pcldy	Des Moines	87	67	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	93	71	Pcldy	New York City	86	62	Cldy
Bismarck	76	55	Pcldy	Detroit	81	62	Cldy	Jacksonville	90	70	Pcldy	Newark	89	61	Cldy
Boise	83	55	Cir	Duluth	83	63	Rain	Juneau	82	45	Cldy	Newark, Va.	92	74	Pcldy
Boston	82	58	Cir	El Paso	96	74	Pcldy	Kansas City	87	66	Rain	North Platte	82	57	Cir
Bridgeport	86	57	Pcldy	Elkins	81	63	Rain	Key West	89	79	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	87	74	Cir
Brownsville	95	77	Pcldy	Erie	78	58	Cldy	Knoxville	92	69	Pcldy	Omaha	85	68	Cir
Buffalo	76	55	Pcldy	Eugene	78	51	Cir	Lake Charles	88	73	Pcldy	Orlando	90	72	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	76	49	Cldy	Evansville	92	73	Pcldy	Langston	81	62	Cir	Paducah	92	72	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	71	46	Pcldy	Fairbanks	63	47	Rain	Las Vegas	97	75	Cir	Pendleton	85	55	Cir
Casper	75	44	Cir	Fargo	81	60	Cir	Lexington	89	72	Cldy	Peoria	90	71	Rain
Charleston, S.C.	84	73	Cir	Flagstaff	77	42	Cir	Lincoln	86	67	Cldy	Philadelphia	89	65	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	89	68	Rain	Flint	80	57	Cldy	Little Rock	93	73	Pcldy	Phoenix	102	80	Rain
Charlotte, N.C.	94	71	Pcldy	Fort Smith	91	72	Pcldy	Los Angeles	78	62	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	83	65	Rain
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Sioux City	85	64	Cldy	Sioux Falls	82	63	Cldy	Sioux Falls	82	63	Cldy	Sioux Falls	82	63	Cldy
Sioux Falls	85	64	Cldy	South Bend	86	69	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	76	52	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	89	69	Pcldy
Springfield, Ill.	76	52	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	89	69	Pcldy	Syracuse	75	47	Cir	Tampa	89	74	Cldy
Springfield, Mo.	89	69	Pcldy	Syracuse	75	47	Cir	Tampa	89	74	Cldy	Toledo	82	64	Rain
Syracuse	75	47	Cir	Tampa	89	74	Cldy	Toledo	82	64	Rain	Tulsa	86	68	Cldy
Tampa	89	74	Cldy	Toledo	82	64	Rain	Tulsa	86	68	Cldy	Tucson	100	71	Cir
Toledo	82	64	Rain	Tucson	100	71	Cir	Tulsa	86	68	Cldy	Tulsa	86	68	Cldy
Tucson	100	71	Cir	Tulsa	86	68	Cldy	Tulsa	86	68	Cldy	Waco	91	72	Cir
Tulsa	86	68	Cldy	Waco	91	72	Cir	Waco	91	72	Cir	Washington	91	71	Rain
Waco	91	72	Cir	Washington	91	71	Rain	Washington	91	71	Rain	Wichita	85	74	Rain
Washington	91	71	Rain	Wichita	85	74	Rain	Wichita	85	74	Rain	Wichita Falls	89	69	Cldy
Wichita	85	74	Rain	Wichita Falls	89	69	Cldy	Wichita Falls	89	69	Cldy	Wilmington, Del.	88	63	Cldy
Wichita Falls	89	69	Cldy	Wilmington, Del.	88	63	Cldy	Wichita Falls	89	69	Cldy	Yakima	86	58	Cir
Wilmington, Del.	88	63	Cldy	Yakima	86	58	Cir	Yakima	86	58	Cir	Youngstown	63	61	Cldy
Yakima	86	58	Cir	Youngstown	63	61	Cldy	Youngstown	63	61	Cldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 108, Bullhead City, Ariz.
Lo: Tue., 22, Chemult, Ore.

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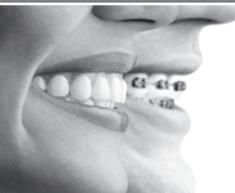
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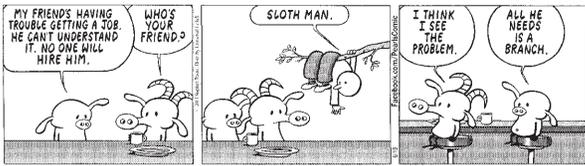
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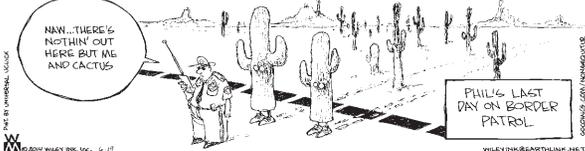
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15				16					17	
18								19	20	
		21			22	23				
24	25	26		27				28	29	30
31									33	
34		35							37	
		38						40		
41	42							43		
47				48	49	50				
51					52					53
54					55					

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trails the pack
 - 5 Starter home?
 - 9 "I — Camera"
 - 12 Actress Skye
 - 13 Lotion additive
 - 14 Gift
 - 15 Big snakes
 - 17 Expert
 - 18 Paraphrase
 - 19 Square dance quorum
 - 21 "Forget it!"
 - 22 Sacrifice site
 - 24 African nation
 - 27 Comic Philips
 - 28 "— the Knife"
 - 31 Good, in Grenoble
 - 32 Frenzied
 - 33 Cattle call?
 - 34 Quid pro quo
 - 36 Submachine gun
 - 37 Bygone filers
 - 38 Temporary deviation
 - 40 Exist
 - 41 Hoimes' creator
 - 43 Deli meat
 - 47 Hirt and Gore
 - 48 Curses
 - 51 Cambridge sch.
 - 52 Make over
 - 53 Honeycomb compartment
 - 54 Neg. opp.
- DOWN**
- 1 Perjurer
 - 2 Top-notch
 - 3 Chew persistently
 - 4 Moment
 - 5 Prop for Harry Potter
 - 6 Antiquated
 - 7 Long-gone bird
 - 8 Under siege
 - 9 Letter shuffles
 - 10 Greatly
 - 11 Aid and —
 - 16 Acapulco gold
 - 20 Cartesian conclusion
 - 22 Astound
 - 23 New Jersey city
 - 24 "NCIS" ailer
 - 25 "Explain"
 - 26 Shrinks
 - 27 Ostriches' kin
 - 29 Barracks bed
 - 30 Decks, for short
 - 35 Crony
 - 37 Choose
 - 39 Oyster's prize
 - 40 "Humbbug!"
 - 41 Moist
 - 42 Hodgepodge
 - 43 Halt
 - 44 U.S.
 - 45 Guy
 - 46 Gilligan's home
 - 49 Ultra-modernist
 - 50 Commotion

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	P	A	S		B	O	B		D	A	M	E			
W	O	N	T		R	H	O		A	V	I	D			
A	U	D	I	T	I	O	N		M	I	M	E			
P	R	I	C	E	S		D	O	M	A	I	N			
					K	A	T		S	K	I	T			
I	D	A		M	O	P		S	N	I	P	S			
N	O	D	S		L	A	P		S	G	O	R	E		
S	H	O	E	S		D	A	H		N	O	W			
					P	A	I	L		R	O	B			
N	E	T	T	L	E		A	P		A	P	A	C	H	E
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P	O	O	L		S	A	L		H	E	L	D			
A	N	N	E		E	Y	E		E	L	M	S			

6-19 CRYPTOQUIP

IWEJA QYN FMTGEBU, NWA
 UPQYG QH CJQQT MPPMBUAPK
 IEJJ CA FMPAHYJ BQN NQ
 KNMPN M HJQPEKN HEPA.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: THIS NEW COMPUTER GAME CONGRATULATES PLAYERS EVEN IF THEY DON'T WIN. IT'S VERY LOSER-FRIENDLY.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals T

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

Table with columns for team, East Division, West Division, and Central Division. Rows include Toronto, New York, Boston, Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Detroit, Chicago, Minnesota, Oakland, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego, Houston.

National League

Table with columns for team, East Division, West Division, and Central Division. Rows include Washington, Atlanta, Miami, Philadelphia, New York, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Arizona.

Monday's games

Table listing Monday's games with columns for location, teams, and scores. Includes Cleveland 4, Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 5, Boston 2, Minnesota 1, Kansas City 4, St. Louis 6, Arizona 3, Los Angeles 6, Philadelphia 4, New York Mets at St. Louis, Milwaukee 7, Colorado 2.

Tuesday's games

Table listing Tuesday's games with columns for location, teams, and scores. Includes Toronto 1, Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 5, Boston 2, Minnesota 1, Seattle 6, Pittsburgh 5, Washington 6, Houston 5, Miami 6, Chicago Cubs 5, Atlanta 4, Chicago White Sox at San Francisco 2, Milwaukee 7, Arizona 5.

Wednesday's games

Table listing Wednesday's games with columns for location, teams, and scores. Includes Baltimore 3, Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota at Detroit, Los Angeles at Cleveland, Toronto 1, Philadelphia at Atlanta, New York Mets at St. Louis, San Francisco at Chicago White Sox, Houston at Washington, Colorado at St. Louis, Los Angeles (Richards 2) at Cleveland (McAllister 5), Kansas City (Duffy 4) at Detroit (Sanchez 2), Toronto (Hutchinson 5) at N.Y. Yankees (Gallardo 4) at Tampa Bay (McQuinn 4) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 3) at Minnesota (Pino 0).

Thursday's games

Table listing Thursday's games with columns for location, teams, and scores. Includes Philadelphia (Buchanan 2-3) at St. Louis (S.Miller 7), Toronto (Hutchinson 5) at N.Y. Yankees (Gallardo 4) at Tampa Bay (McQuinn 4) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 3) at Minnesota (Pino 0), Cincinnati (Bailey 7) at Pittsburgh (Locke 1), Houston (Gallardo 4) at Arizona (CAnderson 5), Philadelphia (Buchanan 2-3) at St. Louis (S.Miller 7).

Friday's games

Table listing Friday's games with columns for location, teams, and scores. Includes Toronto 3, Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 5, Boston 2, Minnesota 1, Seattle 6, Pittsburgh 5, Washington 6, Houston 5, Miami 6, Chicago Cubs 5, Atlanta 4, Chicago White Sox at San Francisco 2, Milwaukee 7, Arizona 5.

Saturday's games

Table listing Saturday's games with columns for location, teams, and scores. Includes Toronto 3, Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 5, Boston 2, Minnesota 1, Seattle 6, Pittsburgh 5, Washington 6, Houston 5, Miami 6, Chicago Cubs 5, Atlanta 4, Chicago White Sox at San Francisco 2, Milwaukee 7, Arizona 5.

Mariners 6, Padres 1

Box score for Mariners vs Padres. Mariners won 6-1. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Orioles 7, Rays 5

Box score for Orioles vs Rays. Orioles won 7-5. Pitcher: J. Lugo (10-1).

White Sox 8, Giants 2

Box score for White Sox vs Giants. White Sox won 8-2. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Angels 9, Indians 3

Box score for Angels vs Indians. Angels won 9-3. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Royals 11, Tigers 4

Box score for Royals vs Tigers. Royals won 11-4. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Yankees 3, Blue Jays 1

Box score for Yankees vs Blue Jays. Yankees won 3-1. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Red Sox 2, Twins 1

Box score for Red Sox vs Twins. Red Sox won 2-1. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Baltimore

Box score for Baltimore Orioles. Pitcher: J. Lugo (10-1).

Tampa Bay

Box score for Tampa Bay Rays. Pitcher: J. Lugo (10-1).

San Francisco

Box score for San Francisco Giants. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Chicago

Box score for Chicago White Sox. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Los Angeles

Box score for Los Angeles Angels. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

San Diego

Box score for San Diego Padres. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

St. Louis

Box score for St. Louis Cardinals. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Philadelphia

Box score for Philadelphia Phillies. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Atlanta

Box score for Atlanta Braves. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Arizona

Box score for Arizona Diamondbacks. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Colorado

Box score for Colorado Rockies. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Minnesota

Box score for Minnesota Twins. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

New York

Box score for New York Yankees. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

St. Louis

Box score for St. Louis Cardinals. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Chicago

Box score for Chicago White Sox. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Texas

Box score for Texas Rangers. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Florida

Box score for Florida Marlins. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

Los Angeles

Box score for Los Angeles Dodgers. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

San Diego

Box score for San Diego Padres. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

San Francisco

Box score for San Francisco Giants. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

San Francisco

Box score for San Francisco Giants. Pitcher: J. Santana (10-1).

MLB

Royals grab AL Central lead from Tigers

Seven runs in second inning gives Kansas City its 9th straight victory

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — It's been over a decade since the Kansas City Royals were in first place this late in the season, and try as he might, manager Ned Yost couldn't totally downplay the achievement.

He just wants it kept in perspective.

"It's nice. We've got a lot of games to play. We don't get all geeked up," Yost said. "It's better than the alternative, trust me."

Alex Gordon and Mike Moustakas honored as part of a seven-run second inning, and the Royals displaced the Detroit Tigers atop the AL Central on Tuesday night with an 11-4 victory, their ninth in a row.

Kansas City is in first place this late in the season for the first time since 2003, according to STATS. The Royals were leading the division in late August that year, only to finish third at 83-79. They have not made the postseason since winning the World Series in 1985.

"A lot of games left, so it really doesn't matter, but to say you're in first place, it feels pretty good," designated hitter Billy Butler said. "Being in first place any time is good — even if it's after the first game."

Gordon and Moustakas hit two-run shots off Max Scherzer, and Kansas City has won the first two

Did you know

The Kansas City Royals are in first place this late in the season for the first time since August 2003.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

games of this four-game series emphatically. The Royals, who trailed the Tigers by seven games after a May 20 loss, now lead Detroit by a half-game.

Scherzer (8-3) yielded a career high-tying 10 runs in four-plus innings. The reigning AL Cy Young winner allowed the first eight batters of the second inning to reach base, with Kansas City scoring six runs before making an out.

"I'm just not putting guys away with two strikes. That's my problem," Scherzer said. "I've taken punches on the chin before, and I've come back. I'm not worried about that. I just have to get back to where I'm putting guys away."

Yordano Ventura (5-5) allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Ian Kinsler hit a solo homer for



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Royals, from left, Jarrod Dyson, Eric Hosmer, Lorenzo Cain and Alcides Escobar celebrate their 11-4 over the Tigers on Wednesday in Detroit. The win was Kansas City's ninth in a row and moved the Royals past the Tigers into first place in the AL Central division.

Detroit.

After winning 86 games in 2013, Kansas City is hoping to unseat the Tigers, who have won the last three division titles. Detroit looked headed for a fourth straight year at the top after a 27-12 start, but now the Tigers are facing a surprising number of questions about their starting rotation, which was expected to be among the best in baseball.

Justin Verlander has slumped badly over the last month — he took the loss in Kansas City's 11-8 Monday in the series opener Monday. Scherzer threw his first career shutout last week, but the

Royals tagged him for 10 hits in his next start Tuesday.

Gordon opened the scoring with his two-run drive to right field, and Moustakas' homer made it 4-0. Omar Infante added a two-run single before Eric Hosmer finally made the first out of the second inning on a tapper to the pitcher. Some fans cheered sarcastically, even though another run came home on the play to make it 7-0.

Verlander and Scherzer combined to allow 17 runs in the first two games of this series. That's the most ever by two teammates with Cy Young Awards in back-to-back team games, according to STATS.

Ventura allowed two runs in the second, but that was the first of three consecutive innings in which Detroit hit into a double play. With the Royals ahead 10-2 in the fifth, Ventura walked Miguel Cabrera with the bases loaded, but the hard-throwing rookie caught a break when a pitch to Victor Martinez sailed past catcher Salvador Perez.

The ball bounced hard off the backstop, right back to Perez, and Detroit's Eugenio Suarez was caught between third base and home. Perez threw to third to catch Suarez retreating and end the inning.

Yankees' Tanaka shuts down Jays

By BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Once Masahiro Tanaka overcame that early jolt from Jose Reyes, the Japanese rookie did just fine.

Tanaka gave up a home run to Reyes on the first pitch of the game, then earned his major-league-high 11th victory as the New York Yankees beat Toronto 3-1 Tuesday night for their 14th straight home win over the Blue Jays.

That was the first time Tanaka could remember getting tagged so quickly and said it "threw me off my rhythm a little bit."

Overall, I think my stuff wasn't really there," he said through a translator.

Even so, Tanaka (11-1) struck out 10 in six innings and left with an AL-best 1.99 ERA. The right-hander has made 14 starts this season — he's gone at least six innings in every outing and never permitted more than three earned runs.

"What he's done is remark-

able," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "He wins."

Brett Gardner hit a two-run homer off the right-field foul pole and the Yankees sent the AL East leaders to their seventh loss in 10 games.

Tanaka made his big league debut April 4 at Toronto and Melky Cabrera hit a leadoff home run on the third pitch.

Reyes provided an even faster start with a drive into the lower deck in right, and slapped his hands as he rounded first.

"I made up my mind before the game that I was going to swing at the first pitch," he said. "You don't want to face Tanaka with two strikes."

Said Girardi: "He just threw a pitch right down the middle and I, Reyes knew what to do."

"Reyes is familiar with this ballpark," he said. "He went to the short part of the park."

Cabrera followed with a liner between Tanaka's legs that knocked off the pitcher's glove. But Tanaka scrambled to retrieve the ball behind the mound and threw out



KATHY WILLENS/AP

Yankees pitcher Masahiro Tanaka throws to first to put out Blue Jays catcher Dioner Navarro in the sixth inning on Tuesday at Yankee Stadium.

Cabrera, and never again allowed a runner past second.

Tanaka gave up five hits and walked two in moving ahead of Toronto's Mark Buehrle for the most wins in the majors.

Dellin Betances worked two innings and David Robertson closed for his 17th save in 19 tries. New York pitchers combined for 15 strikeouts and became the latest staff to slow down the Blue Jays, limited to 24 runs in their past 11 games.

Lucroy's slam powers Brewers past D-Backs

By BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Revenge was a fleeting thing for the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Milwaukee Brewers got their payback the very next pitch.

Jonathan Lucroy homered twice, including a grand slam in an eventful seventh inning, as the Brewers made it two in a row over Arizona by beating the Diamondbacks 7-5 on Tuesday night.

Lucroy's slam to center came on Brad Ziegler's first delivery after Arizona reliever Evan Marshall was ejected for hitting Ryan Braun with a pitch.

"They won the tough-guy points, but I don't know what the stats are for those," Milwaukee starter Kyle Lohse said. "We won the game because of that."

Brewers manager Ron Roenicke called Lucroy's at-bat "probably the best I've ever seen."

"After they smoke our guy, they bring in their closer, the first pitch he sees he hits a grand slam. There's no way an at-bat can get bigger than that," he said.

It was the first grand slam and only the 16th home run allowed by Ziegler, who is not usually the Arizona closer.

The Brewers couldn't understand why the Diamondbacks picked that moment to hit Braun.

"We know the way the game works," Braun said. "I was surprised I got hit in that situation, those circumstances — go ahead, run at second base, tying run at third."

Lucroy insisted the Diamondbacks drilling Braun did not provide added motivation.

"I'm not about revenge or payback," the catcher said. "I'm just about winning the game. It worked out for us."

Marshall (2-2) took the loss, facing three batters without getting an out after relieving starter Mike Bolsinger, who was called up from the Triple-A Reno Aces earlier in the day.

Lucroy had a solo homer in the sixth. Aramis Ramirez also hit a solo shot for the Brewers.

Lohse (8-2), who had hit three batters all season, plunked two in his six innings.

MLB/COLLEGE BASEBALL



TODD KIRKLAND/AP

Philadelphia's Ryan Howard crosses the plate after hitting a two-run homer in the first inning of a Phillies' 5-2 win over the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday at Turner Field in Atlanta.

Roundup

Kendrick, Howard propel Phils over slumping Braves

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Philadelphia Phillies manager Ryne Sandberg sensed it would be a good night for Kyle Kendrick when the right-hander threw his first six pitches for strikes.

"They were quality pitches and it pretty much lasted throughout the outing," Sandberg said. "Probably his best outing of the year as far as establishing command and the quality of pitches."

Ryan Howard homered, Kendrick won consecutive starts for the first time in 11 months and the Phillies beat the Atlanta Braves 5-2 on Tuesday night.

The Phillies, winners of two straight and six of eight, got a solid start from Kendrick (3-6), who had gone 2-11 in his previous 20 starts since last Aug. 11.

Kendrick allowed six hits and two runs with one walk and six strikeouts in seven innings.

Not since he beat Washington last July 11 and won at the New York Mets July 19 had Kendrick won two straight starts. The right-hander was coming off a 7-3 victory last week against San Diego.

"I was able to get ahead most of the night," Kendrick said. "I was down and trying to pound the strike zone. I think that was the main thing. In the first inning, most of the pitches were down."

Ervin Santana (5-4) continued to struggle, giving up eight hits and four runs — three earned

— with three walks in six innings. Santana, who struck out five, is 1-4 with a 6.17 ERA in his last

seven starts. "It was a little better, yeah, but it was tough battling out there," Santana said. "The pitch that Howard hit was a good pitch. Just one of those days."

The Phillies took a 2-0 lead in the first when Jimmy Rollins led off with a double and Howard hit his 13th homer. Howard also homered in Monday's 6-1 victory.

"You're just trying to find some real estate, trying to get a good pitch to hit," Howard said. "I was fortunate enough to do that. It landed on the other side of the fence and gave us an early lead."

Closer Jonathan Papelbon recovered from a blown save Monday to record his 16th save in 18 chances. Papelbon retired pinch-hitter Ryan Doumit on a lineout, Tommy La Stella on a groundout and Johnson on a lineout.

Red Sox 2, Twins 1: Brock Holt scored both Boston runs, Jon Lester weathered a shaky start and pitched six-plus strong innings as the Red Sox held off visiting Minnesota.

Mariners 6, Padres 1: Robinson Cano hit a two-run homer and Jesus Montero got his first big league homer in more than a year to help host Seattle sweep a two-game set with San Diego.

Angels 9, Indians 3: Mike Trout homered twice and drove in four runs, and rookie Matt Shoemaker remained unbeaten as a starter as Los Angeles beat host Cleveland.

Mets 6, Cubs 5: Garrett Jones hit a three-run homer in the

seventh inning and Miami rallied to beat visiting Chicago.

Orioles 7, Rays 5: Chris Davis hit a replay-delayed grand slam to lead Baltimore's past host Tampa Bay. Davis was awarded a slam off Erik Bedard (3-5) during a five-run third-inning after a video review showed his drive struck the foul pole.

Nationals 6, Astros 5: Anthony Rendon doubled twice and drove in three runs, and Washington opened a six-game homestand with a win over Houston.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 2: Hanley Ramirez homered before leaving with a hand injury, and Zack Greinke pitched host Los Angeles to a win over Colorado.

Cardinals 5, Mets 2: Michael Wacha escaped a pair of jams with strikeouts, Yadier Molina hit his first homer in nearly four weeks and host St. Louis won for the eighth time in nine games.

Reds 6, Pirates 5: Todd Frazier led off the ninth inning with a tiebreaking homer, lifting visiting Cincinnati past Pittsburgh after the Reds' bullpen blew a three-run lead.

Athletics 10, Rangers 6: Derek Norris homered and drove in five runs, Stephen Vogt was 3-for-3 with two RBIs and host Oakland held off Texas for its third win in four games.

White Sox 8, Giants 2: Gordon Beckham and Dayan Viciedo hit two-run home runs, John Danks pitched effectively into the seventh inning and host Chicago snapped a four-game losing streak.

College World Series roundup

UVA wins 15-inning marathon over TCU

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — It took 15 innings, but Nate Irving and Daniel Pinero finally got the job done for Virginia.

Pinero's sacrifice fly scored pinch runner Thomas Woodruff in the bottom of the 15th to give Virginia a 3-2 victory over TCU on Tuesday night in a game that matched the longest in the College World Series' 66-year history.

Before Irving started the inning with a ground-rule double, the Cavaliers had 16 batters in a row retired.

"You've got to string hits together, you've got to find a break in this World Series these days, because these games are just tough to win," Virginia coach Brian O'Connor said.

It was the longest game, as measured by innings, since Southern California beat Florida State 2-1 in 15 in the 1970 national championship game. Two other CWS games had gone 15. The game went 4 hours, 51 minutes, making it the fourth-longest ever on the clock.

Virginia (51-14), which had a walk-off 2-1 win against Mississippi on Sunday in nine innings, plays Friday in its bracket final. TCU (48-17) plays Ole Miss (47-20) in an elimination game Thursday.

Artis Lewicki (8-1) got the win with two innings of no-hit relief. Trey Teakel (6-1) worked 2½ innings and took the loss as players on both teams, swinging the restricted bats that entered the game in 2011, struggled to generate any offense with the wind blowing in at up to 30 mph at TD Ameritrade Park.

"It's hard to get offense when you're facing that kind of pitching, especially ... I got to be careful before I say some things about this ballpark that I'll regret, but it's just a travesty what we've done to college baseball," TCU coach Jim Schlossnagle said.

TCU pitchers retired every Virginia batter in extra innings before Irving's fly to left bounced over the wall to start the bottom of the 15th. Woodruff entered as a pinch runner and moved to third on Brandon Cogswell's sacrifice.



ERIC FRANCIS/AP

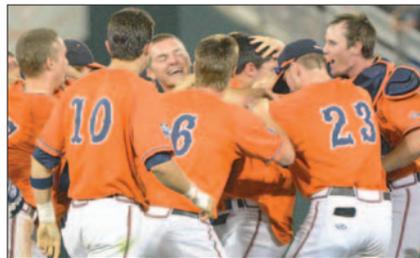
Mississippi players, from left, Brantley Bell, John Gatlin, Aaron Greenwood and Errol Robinson, celebrate their 2-1 win over Texas Tech in a College World Series on Tuesday.

Pinero fouled off two squeeze-bunt attempts before he lofted a fly to center. Cody Jones' throw toward home never had a chance to get Woodruff. The Cavaliers' bench and bullpen emptied, moin Pinero near second base.

Mississippi 2, Texas Tech 1: Pinch hitter John Gatlin's single into short right field over a pulled-in, five-man infield in the bottom of the ninth inning gave Mississippi a victory over Texas Tech in an elimination game.

The exciting finish came after Texas Tech (45-20) tied it in the top of the ninth on a couple daring steals and a sacrifice fly. Ole Miss won after Colby Bortles walked with one out. Brantley Bell hit a comebacker to Cameron Smith, who tried to force out Bortles at second. But he threw high into center field, allowing Bortles to go on third.

Aaron Greenwood then pinch ran for Bortles, Dominic Moreno came on to face Gatlin and Texas Tech shifted an extra player to the left side of the infield and went with only two outfielders. Gatlin punched a 1-2 pitch over second base as Greenwood scored and the celebration was on.



TODD KIRK/AP

Virginia players celebrate a 3-2, 15-inning win over TCU in the College World Series on Tuesday in Omaha, Neb.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Trademark board rules against Redskins' name

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Patent Office ruled Wednesday that the Washington Redskins nickname is “disparaging of Native Americans” and that the team’s federal trademarks for the name must be canceled.

The 2-1 ruling comes after a campaign to change the name has gained momentum over the past year. The team doesn’t immediately lose trademark protection and is allowed to retain it during an appeal.

Redskins owner Daniel Snyder has refused to change the team’s name, citing tradition, but there has been growing pressure including statements in recent months from President Barack Obama, lawmakers of both parties and civil rights groups.

The decision means the team can continue to use the Redskins name, but it would lose a significant portion of its ability to protect the financial interests connected to its use. If others printed the name on sweatshirts, apparel, or other team material, it becomes more difficult to go after groups who use it without permission.

The decision by the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board is similar to one it issued in 1999. That ruling was overturned in 2003 in large part on a technicality after the courts decided that the plaintiffs were too old and should have filed their complaint soon after the Redskins registered their nickname in 1967.

The new case was launched in 2006 by a younger group of Native Americans, and was heard by the board in March of last year.

The group argued that the Redskins should lose their federal trademark protection based on a law that prohibits registered names that are disparaging, scandalous, contemptuous or disreputable. The case involves six registered trademarks that involve the use of the word Redskins, but it does not apply to the team’s logo.

In other NFL news:

■ Quarterback Johnny Manziel agreed to a four-year rookie contract with the Cleveland Browns on Tuesday.

Terms were not released, but the NFL rookie wage scale projected Manziel’s deal to be worth about \$8.25 million for four years. Like all first-round picks, his contract includes a fifth-year team option.

■ Washington Redskins defensive end Jason Hatcher will have surgery on his left knee and will be sidelined four to six weeks, Hatcher said Wednesday he will have an arthroscopic procedure to clean up some cartilage. If the timetable holds, he will be able to practice around the start of training camp on July 23.

■ NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and several hundred friends and family paid their respects on Tuesday at a funeral mass honoring former Pittsburgh Steelers coach Chuck Noll, who died last week at age 82.

Noll is the only coach in NFL history to win four Super Bowls

while leading the Steelers from 1969 to 1991.

Steelers President Art Rooney II and Hall of Fame defensive lineman Joe Greene were among Noll’s pallbearers Tuesday.

■ The New York Jets have signed third-round draft pick Dexter McDougle to a four-year deal. Tuesday night’s contract for the cornerback means all 12 of the Jets’ draft picks are in the fold.

■ The Pittsburgh Steelers and second-round draft pick Stephen Tuitt have agreed to a four-year contract. Financial details were not disclosed.

McIlroy to compete for Ireland in Rio Games

CORK, Ireland—After months of indecision over who to repre-

sent, Rory McIlroy announced Wednesday that he will play for Ireland — not Britain — at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The 25-year-old McIlroy, who is from Northern Ireland, was eligible to play for either Ireland or Team GB when golf makes its return to the Olympics in Brazil for the first time since 1904.

Citizens of Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, can hold both British and Irish citizenship. Most of the Protestant majority is British, most of its Catholic minority Irish.

Djokovic, Serena No. 1 seeds for Wimbledon

LONDON — Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams were seeded No. 1 for Wimbledon on Wednes-

day, while defending men’s champion Andy Murray was bumped up two spots above his world ranking to No. 3.

Djokovic, the 2011 Wimbledon champion, is ranked No. 2, but was given the top seeding by the All England Club ahead of top-ranked Rafael Nadal.

Murray last year became the first British player to win the Wimbledon men’s title since 1936.

Seven-time champion Roger Federer is No. 4, while Australian Open winner Stan Wawrinka is down two spots from his world ranking at No. 5.

The women’s seedings, however, stick to the WTA rankings.

That means five-time champion Williams is No. 1, followed by Li Na, French Open runner-up Simona Halep, Agnieszka Radwan-

ska and Maria Sharapova.

Venus Williams, a five-time Wimbledon champion who has gradually slipped in the rankings, is seeded only No. 30.

Red Sox designate OF Sizemore for assignment

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox have designated outfielder Grady Sizemore for assignment.

The move comes as Sizemore struggles after injuries sidelined him between September 2011 and this season. In 52 games this year, he hit .216 with two homers and 15 RBIs.

Sizemore made the All-Star team three times with the Cleveland Indians then had seven operations since 2009, including both knees, his back and elbow.

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WORLD CUP

GROUP C



FERNANDO VERGARA/AP

Colombia's James Rodriguez, front, celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's third goal in a 3-0 victory over Greece on Saturday. Colombia is trying to advance for the first time since 1990.

Knockout stage in sight

Colombia, Ivory Coast likely vying for spot in next round with win

By STEVE DOUGLAS
The Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil — As two of soccer's underachieving nations, Ivory Coast and Colombia will be desperate not to let slip a rare chance to qualify for the knockout stage of the World Cup when they meet in Brasilia on Thursday.

Both teams opened Group C with victories, meaning another in the Brazilian capital will almost certainly guarantee a place in the last 16.

"It's looking a little bit like a final of the group," Ivory Coast coach Sabri Lamouchi said, "[and] I'm pretty sure the winner will be qualified for the next phase."

That would be a first for the Ivorians, who failed to get out of difficult groups in 2006 and '10 — their only previous appearances on the world's biggest stage. It continued a trend of underperformance at major tournaments following failures at the last five African Cup tournaments when they were favorites each time.

Colombia, meanwhile, has only advanced from its group once in four World Cups — in 1990 when the team was eliminated in the following match. Expectations had been tempered this time round after star striker Radamel Falcao was ruled out of the tournament with a knee injury.

Yet a 3-0 win over Greece has raised belief that the Colombians have the tools to cope without their one world-class player.

"Colombia proved [against Greece] that we have many positive assets," Colombia coach Jose Pekerman said. "We can play, we can create good opportunities



DOLORES OCHOA/AP

Japan's Masato Morishige, left, and Yuto Nagatomo struggle with Ivory Coast star Didier Drogba in Saturday's game



Colombia vs. Ivory Coast
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Thursday CET
12:30 a.m. Friday JKT

and we can take them.

"All the players did what they were expected to do and that makes us very confident."

Much of the talk surrounding Ivory Coast also centers on a striker.

The 36-year-old Didier Drogba, one of Africa's greatest players and taking part in what surely is his final World Cup, inspired a turnaround in the Ivorians' opening match against Japan when he came on as a substitute with his team 1-0 behind. Within four minutes, they were 2-1 ahead and that's how it finished.

Will that be enough to earn Drogba a starting spot ahead of Wilfried Bony? Probably not, Lamouchi suggested.

"People love Didier Drogba and I know there are a lot of lovers of Drogba's style," Lamouchi said. "But you have to understand the last time he played 90 minutes was a few months ago in Turkey. He's just recovered from injury. He made a lot of sacrifices to be here at the World Cup."

Teofil Gutierrez is stepping up as Colombia's chief striker and he is already off the mark in Brazil, scoring the team's second against Greece.

It's in defense, where the 38-year-old Mario Yepes still resides, where Colombia's problems may lie. And with Yaya Toure playing behind the front three of Salomon Kalou, Gervinho and either Drogba or Bony, Ivory Coast also have exciting options going forward.

"We will try to improve what we did against Greece and neutralize Ivory Coast's attack," Colombia midfielder Carlos Sanchez said.

Greece working on rebuilding defense

By JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

NATAL, Brazil — Rock-solid defenders who constantly chase, tackle and bully their opponents have been the key to Greece tactics ever since they became European champions in 2004.

A decade ago, that team conceded a miserly four goals at Euro 2004 and its successor only conceded four in qualifying to secure its place at the 2014 World Cup as Greece stayed true to its reputation for hard work and ruthless discipline at the back.

That all changed when the squad arrived in Brazil. The team's much-vaunted defense was torn apart in a 3-0 defeat by Colombia, whose display of speed and style sometimes left the Greeks standing around like statues.

Greece now faces Japan in Natal on Thursday in a game that could very well put either team out of contention. Japan lost to Ivory Coast 2-1 in its opener, meaning neither team can really afford another defeat if they hope to advance out of Group C.

Japan advanced to the round of 16 four years ago but lost to Paraguay on penalties. Greece has bowed out in the group stage in its previous two World Cups.

For Greece, the need to rebuild its solid back line will be all the more important at a World Cup that is so far seeing crowd-pleasing flair in attack and plenty of goals: 4-1 in the first 14 games.

Colombia scored in the fifth minute, forcing Greece out of its comfort zone and attacking with speed on the flanks. Greek frustration was reflected in two of its players drawing yellow cards in the second half.

"That wasn't what people expected," Greece forward Andreas Samaris said. "I know what everyone expected of Greece



Japan vs. Greece
AFN-Sports
11:30 p.m. Thursday CET
6:30 a.m. Friday JKT

though: that we would have 11 men behind the ball, defend, defend, defend and give everything to keep a clean sheet.

"We went out to win against Colombia, and that philosophy will not change. We just hope it brings a better result for us because Japan is now a must, must-win game for us."

Like Colombia, Japan is likely to attack at speed through the Europe-based trio of Shinji Kagawa, Yuto Nagatomo and Keisuke Honda. Against Ivory Coast, Japan had the better of the first half but ultimately struggled as the game got more physical.

The Ivorians' use of star striker Didier Drogba as a second-half substitute also raised his team's performance and there was only a muted response from Japan.

AC Milan midfielder Honda said that the team was determined to bounce back against Greece.

"Nobody feels good about losing and obviously it was a shock," Honda, who opened the scoring with a powerful first-half strike, was quoted as saying. "But it's not a shock that we lost, the thing that shocks me is we lost because we could not play to our strengths."

"We gave our opponents' front line too much respect. Mentally we were weak but that is not a problem that can't be fixed. A little bit more spirit can turn things around ... of course we still have an opportunity to get through the group phase."



FRANK AUGSTEN/AP

Greece defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos, left, challenges Colombia's Juan Cuadrado on Saturday. Greece's much-touted defense was picked apart in their 3-0 loss, leaving them in need of a crucial win against Japan on Thursday if they hope to advance.

WORLD CUP

Scoreboard

FIRST ROUND						GROUP E						
GROUP A						GROUP F						
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	
Brazil	1	0	0	3	1	France	1	0	0	2	1	3
Mexico	1	0	1	1	0	Switzerland	1	0	0	2	1	3
Cameroon	0	1	0	0	0	Ecuador	0	1	0	1	3	0
Croatia	0	1	0	1	3	Honduras	0	1	0	0	3	0
Thursday, June 12						Sunday, June 15						
Brazil 3, Croatia 1						Switzerland 2, Ecuador 1						
Friday, June 13						Monday, June 16						
Mexico 1, Cameroon 0						France 3, Honduras 2						
Tuesday, June 17						Friday, June 20						
Brazil 0, Mexico 0						At Salvador, Brazil						
Wednesday, June 18						Switzerland vs. France						
At Manaus, Brazil						At Curitiba, Brazil						
Croatia vs. Cameroon						Ecuador vs. Honduras						
Monday, June 23						Wednesday, June 25						
At Brasilia, Brazil						At Manaus, Brazil						
Brazil vs. Cameroon						Switzerland vs. Honduras						
At Recife, Brazil						At Rio de Janeiro						
Croatia vs. Mexico						Ecuador vs. France						
GROUP B						GROUP G						
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	
Netherlands	1	0	0	3	1	Argentina	1	0	0	2	1	3
Chile	1	0	0	3	1	Iran	0	1	0	0	0	0
Australia	0	1	0	1	3	Nigeria	0	1	0	0	1	0
Spain	0	1	0	1	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Friday, June 13						Sunday, June 15						
Netherlands 5, Spain 1						Argentina 2, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1						
Wednesday, June 18						Monday, June 16						
Chile 3, Australia 1						Iran 0, Nigeria 0						
Thursday, June 19						Saturday, June 21						
At Porto Alegre, Brazil						At Belo Horizonte, Brazil						
Netherlands vs. Australia						Argentina vs. Iran						
At Rio de Janeiro						At Guaba, Brazil						
Spain vs. Chile						Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Nigeria						
Monday, June 23						Wednesday, June 25						
At Curitiba, Brazil						At Porto Alegre, Brazil						
Spain vs. Australia						Argentina vs. Nigeria						
At Sao Paulo						At Salvador, Brazil						
Netherlands vs. Chile						Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Iran						
GROUP C						GROUP D						
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	
Colombia	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ivory Coast	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greece	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saturday, June 14						Monday, June 16						
Colombia 3, Greece 0						Germany 4, Portugal 0						
Ivory Coast 2, Japan 1						Saturday, June 21						
Thursday, June 19						Sunday, June 22						
At Brasilia, Brazil						At Manaus, Brazil						
Colombia vs. Ivory Coast						Portugal vs. United States						
At Natal, Brazil						Thursday, June 26						
Greece vs. Japan						At Recife, Brazil						
Tuesday, June 24						At Brasilia, Brazil						
At Culaba, Brazil						Portugal vs. United States						
Colombia vs. Japan						GROUP H						
At Fortaleza, Brazil						W						
Greece vs. Ivory Coast						L						
GROUP D						T						
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	
Costa Rica	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	
Italy	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	
Uruguay	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Costa Rica	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	
Uruguay	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	
Saturday, June 14						Tuesday, June 17						
Costa Rica 3, Uruguay 1						At Belo Horizonte, Brazil						
Thursday, June 19						Sunday, June 22						
At Sao Paulo						Belgium 2, Algeria 1						
Uruguay vs. England						At Culaba, Brazil						
Friday, June 20						Monday, June 22						
At Recife, Brazil						Russia 1, South Korea 1						
Costa Rica vs. Italy						Belgium vs. Russia						
Tuesday, June 24						Thursday, June 26						
At Natal, Brazil						At Sao Paulo						
Uruguay vs. Italy						Belgium vs. South Korea						
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil						At Curitiba, Brazil						
Costa Rica vs. England						Algeria vs. Russia						



BRUNO MAGALHAES/AP

Uruguay's Luis Suarez, right, trains with his team at Arena do Jacare Stadium in Sete Lagoas, Brazil on Tuesday. Uruguay faces England on Thursday at the World Cup, and Suarez, who is recovering from an injury, is expected to play in their Group D match.

England, Uruguay look for a hero

Pressure mounts on strikers Suarez, Rooney to revive teams' chances

By ROB HARRIS
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — With their World Cup fates already in jeopardy, Uruguay and England will be counting on their unpredictable strikers to revive their campaigns in Sao Paulo on Thursday.

Luis Suarez is preparing to return from Uruguay's treatment room and hoping his scoring abilities have not been impeded by injury. Wayne Rooney, England's one-time teenage prodigy, will be seeking to prove his critics wrong by finally scoring at the pinnacle of soccer.

Uruguay and England desperately need their star forwards to deliver after both teams made a losing start to their World Cup campaigns.

England was seen as a gallant loser in Group D on Saturday, showing a real willingness to attack but still going down 2-1 to Italy. On the same day, Uruguay, a favorite after reaching the 2010 semifinals, was unexpectedly ripped apart in a 3-1 defeat by Costa Rica.

Suarez was forced to endure Uruguay's desolation from the bench, but has declared himself fit following knee surgery, and will be eager to make an impression on the tournament.

A controversial figure, the Liverpool striker has caused outrage in England for incidents that led to two lengthy bans, one for racism and the other for biting an opponent. Before those, Suarez was condemned at the 2010 World Cup for a cynical handball on the goal-line that allowed Uruguay to advance to the semifinals.

Liverpool teammate Daniel Sturridge, who could be leading England's strike force, wouldn't break the rules like that. "We don't like to cheat to win. We want to play in an honest way,"



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Following an opening-game loss to Italy, Wayne Rooney is looking to silence critics by keeping England alive for spot in the Round of 16. England faces Uruguay, upset by Costa Rica in its opener, in a Group D match on Thursday.



Uruguay vs. England
AFN-Sports

8:30 p.m. Thursday CET
3:30 a.m. Friday JKT

Sturridge said in response to a general question about Uruguay. "I'm going to do anything in my power to win this game, provided it's within the rules of the game, but I'm not going to dive and I'm not going to handball a goal shot because it's not in my nature." How sharp Suarez will be in front of goal, though, remains uncertain after more than a month on the sidelines. Uruguay could be left relying on Diego Forlan, who was voted the 2010 World Cup's

top player but is now 35, and Edinson Cavani, who cost Paris Saint-Germain \$84 million last year but could only score a penalty against a Costa Rica side ranked 28th in the world.

Perhaps Uruguay's fixation on the progress of Suarez's recovery is only matched by England's concern over Rooney's failure to score now at a third World Cup. Shunted out of position on the left wing, Rooney was denied his favored central role by Daniel Sturridge.

Amid scrutiny from pundits, players and managers, England midfielder Frank Lampard lamented the fact that a "furore has been built up around" Rooney. Rooney was spotted training with the backup players on Monday, which was interpreted in British newspapers as a sign he could be dropped against Uruguay. The Manchester United forward maintained on Tuesday that he was just putting in extra scoring practice.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Russia's goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev reacts after letting in the opening goal during the group H match against South Korea at the Arena Pantanal in Culaba, Brazil, on Tuesday.

WORLD CUP

Mexico's 'miracle' man thwarts Brazil

Goalkeeper Ochoa holds off Brazilian barrage to gain hard-fought point in scoreless draw

By TALES AZZONI
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — He was called a hero and a savior by his Mexican teammates. His Brazilian opponents said he produced miracles.

There is no doubt that Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa was the one responsible for spoiling Brazil's hopes of another World Cup win at its home tournament. Ochoa made a series of outstanding saves to help his side hold Brazil to a thrilling 0-0 draw on Tuesday.

The result left both teams with four points each after two games in Group A, but Brazil is ahead on goal difference going into their decisive final matches. Croatia and Cameroon were to meet on Wednesday for their second games after both opened with defeats.

"We can't avoid talking about their goalkeeper," Brazil striker Fred said. "He came up with at least four miracles."

Ochoa's first remarkable save prevented Neymar from scoring in the 26th minute. The Brazil striker's powerful header looked set to fly just inside the post when the goalkeeper dived to his right to push the ball wide.

Ochoa also made three other difficult saves to keep the hosts from breaking the deadlock — a shot by Paulinho in the 44th, a second-half effort by Neymar from inside



THEMBA MADRE/AP

Mexico's goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, left, saves a header by Brazil's Thiago Silva in the 86th minute to help preserve a scoreless draw in a Group A World Cup match at the Arena Castelao in Fortaleza, Brazil, on Tuesday. Both teams are now 1-0-1 in group play with one game remaining.

the box and a close-range header by Thiago Silva in the 86th minute which produced a remarkable block by the Mexico goalkeeper.

"It was the match of my life," said Ochoa, who was visibly moved after the match. "To do it in a World Cup, in front of all the

fans, it's incredible."

Mexico captain Rafael Marquez said Ochoa was the "savior" and coach Miguel Herrera called him the "hero" of the match.

"He did what we expected him to do, he came up with extraordinary saves," Herrera said. "I can't

remember another Mexican goalkeeper doing such a great job in the World Cup."

A win by either team would have guaranteed a spot in the next round if Cameroon and Croatia were to draw in the jungle city of Manaus.

"In the end, the 0-0 mirrors what happened, it was a very hard-fought match," Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "The draw wasn't a good result because a victory would have already allowed us to advance, but we need to be able to respect our opponent, which played very well."

Herrera was pleased with his side's performance.

"We had a great match against a great rival playing in front of its fans, in its stadium in its country," he said. "We showed that we can play at the same level as any other team."

Brazil had won all three previous World Cup matches between the teams without conceding a goal, but the Latin American rivals hadn't met in the sport's showcase tournament since 1962.

"We already expected a match this difficult," Fred said. "We tried to score until the end but it wasn't possible. We'll have to wait until the next match to try to secure a spot in the next round."

It was an evenly balanced game at the Arena Castelao, with Mexico not allowing Brazil to take control. El Tri didn't play defensively and created chances throughout the match, especially with long-range shots by midfielders Hector Herrera and Jose Vazquez.

Brazil, playing without striker Hulk, turned up the pressure in the second half, but there was no getting past Ochoa.

Belgium fights back for win over Algeria

By FRANK GRIFFITHS
The Associated Press

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — Waiting and waiting for an equalizer, the tension started showing on the faces of the Belgium players as the second half wore on in the country's first World Cup match in 12 years.

Algeria was on the verge of a major upset in their Group H opener Tuesday, taking the lead through penalty in the 25th minute. Try as they might, Belgium's attacking players just couldn't break down Algeria's defense.

In the end, it was the Belgian bench which found the way, with substitutes scoring twice for a 2-1 comeback win.

"We tired them. We just tired them through the game," captain Wilfried Muntari said. "I told them, 'Don't worry, we will score.'"

Algeria's surprising lead stood for 45 minutes until Marouane Fellaini's strong glancing header, with his back to goal, from a Kevin De Bruyne cross in the 70th.

Fellaini, who many had considered would start the match, had only come onto the pitch five minutes earlier and was Wilfried's

final substitution.

Dries Mertens' right-foot strike beat Algeria's goalkeeper in the 80th after Eden Hazard saw him free on the right and set him up for the decider. Mertens, who went on at the start of the second half, sent his shot high in the net outside of Rais Mbolhi's reach.

"We knew it would be tough, that there would be no space," Wilfried said. "We made one error and we paid for it. The bench made the difference. We showed mental strength and we came back."

The error was an obvious one. Belgium left back Jan Vertonghen dragged down Sofiane Feghouli in the area, and the Algerian attacking midfielder got up and converted the resulting penalty.

At that point, Algeria was on course to produce another upset of a major team as it did in 1982 when it beat West Germany in its first group match.

"We played a very good game against one of the favorites," Feghouli said. "We have to build on this."

The Algerians started brightly, but faded toward the end against Belgium's unrelenting attack. "We saw their strength come



PETER DAVID JOSE/AP

Belgium's Eden Hazard, left, pushes off Algeria's Mehdi Mousfah during their Group H World Cup match at the Mineiro Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil on Tuesday.

through. They showed that Belgium has great players," captain Madjid Bougherra said. "We lacked freshness and energy. The heat cost us."

Belgium, widely billed as the favorite in Group H, next plays Russia, while Algeria meets South Korea on June 22.

Algeria dominated possession in the opening minutes, surging forward and moving the ball with flair. Belgium eventually settled down and regained control, ending the match with 65 percent possession.

Russia escapes with tie against S. Korea

By STEVE DOUGLAS
The Associated Press

UIJUBA, Brazil — Blundering Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was bailed out by teammate Alexander Kerzhakov in a 1-1 draw with South Korea in the World Cup on Tuesday that exposed both teams' deficiencies.

Akinfeev had already looked suspect in dealing with long-range shots before spilling Lee Keun-ho's speculative effort into his own net in the 68th minute, gifting South Korea the lead at the Arena Pantanal.

Kerzhakov, though, came to Akinfeev's rescue by turning in a shot from close range six minutes later — just three minutes after coming on as a substitute — to earn Russia a point from a poorly quality Group H match.

Akinfeev stayed on the ground inside his own net, head in his hands, after making his error, clearly embarrassed after dropping what was a routine save from a shot from about 30 yards. He was consoled by a couple of teammates, who patted him on the back.

"It was a kid's mistake," Akinfeev said. "The goalkeeper of the

national team shouldn't make mistakes like this one."

Russia coach Fabio Capello has remained loyal to Akinfeev this season despite some patchy form, and stood by him again.

"He is a great goalkeeper," Capello said. "There can be mistakes, of course, some can get a penalty wrong ... and it's logical for a goalkeeper to make a mistake as well."

"That we were able to make up for that and we can accept a mistake by a great keeper like Akinfeev."

The explosive six-minute spell that featured both goals was not in keeping with the rest of a fairly mundane game characterized by slow build-up play, poor passing and wayward finishing.

Save for a shot by Son Heung-min that flew over the bar in the 39th when the forward was free at the edge of the area, there was barely a chance created in the first half.

Capello stood with his hands on his hips in the technical area throughout the first 45 minutes, looking distinctly unimpressed.

There was a major improvement after the break, although it resulted in a mistake by Akinfeev to really get the game going.

WORLD CUP

France showing maturity under pressure

Cooler heads prevail four years after team imploded in S. Africa

By JEROME PUGMIRE
The Associated Press

RIBEIRAO PRETO, Brazil — Aside from France's new-found panache in attack, it was the composure in the face of some ferocious tackling that really stood out in France's 3-0 World Cup win against Honduras.

Striker Karim Benzema took the acclaim after scoring twice and playing a decisive role in the other goal. But Sunday's Group E contest against a side reduced to 10 men just before halftime was really settled behind him as France's midfield and fullbacks kept calm in a hostile situation.

Four years ago, France's team could not even handle their nerves in training, let alone a match. They fell apart completely, with Nicolas Anelka's expletive-raced rant at former coach Raymond Domenech prompting the infamous training ground strike that shamed a nation.

It was a shambolic World Cup for France, outplayed by Mexico and beaten by an average South Africa side as it creaked out of the group stage without winning a game and with its reputation in tatters.

Coach Didier Deschamps has made sure there are cooler heads this time around, and they were needed against a Honduras team seemingly intent on turning the game into a scrap.

"This is the highest level, it's never easy to start a competition and you always have doubts. You wonder how each player will respond," Deschamps said Monday. "It's my job to warn them in advance. We'd seen Honduras' matches over the past two years. We knew they would be very committed and that we'd have to be, too, but not to get drawn in. Apart from one or two reactions every one controlled themselves well in



Jon SUPER/AP

France's Paul Pogba, left, and Honduras' Roger Espinoza battle for the ball during their match Sunday. France coach Didier Deschamps removed Pogba from the game after 57 minutes after he received a yellow card for lashing out at Honduras' Wilson Palacios.

that respect." The exception was midfielder Paul Pogba, because otherwise France showed maturity to withstand some intense provocation.

Pogba was perhaps fortunate to escape with just a yellow card when he lashed out at fellow midfielder Wilson Palacios, who had gone through him with a heavy challenge.

"I'm not here to point the finger at him, I'm here to help him and to make sure that he controls himself," Deschamps said. "The way he plays means that he takes a lot of blows. Given his size and height, it's easier to foul him than a smaller player — although Mathieu (Valbuena) was roughed up quite a bit."

Deschamps, himself a tough-tackling combative midfielder when he led France to the World Cup title in 1998, took Pogba off after 57 minutes. Although he did not explicitly say it was to prevent him getting sent off, Deschamps

hinted that the Juventus star must learn not to retaliate.

"When you play at the highest level you need to be in total control of yourself," Deschamps said, adding that the hype surrounding the 21-year-old Pogba may be affecting his concentration.

"There's so much excitement about him. Even though he does have a lot of qualities, you talk about him like he's the star of the tournament," Deschamps said. "You shouldn't go so fast, because this kind of environment isn't easy to handle, even though he's in a big club where he's expected to win every match. But he's still young and he's still got room for improvement."

The other two yellows were for midfielder Yohan Cabaye and left back Patrice Evra, both of whom had been clattered several times. Honduras' players charged into the back of players on almost every high ball and regularly left their foot in on tackles.

"They were very aggressive from the outset," Deschamps said.

France's next match, thankfully for those nursing bruises, is against a Switzerland side more renowned for trying to play constructive football.

"Their attack is much different, with much more impact and individual quality, especially from the wingers," Deschamps. "Obviously they'll be committed, but it won't be anything like we saw (against Honduras)."

France picked up one minor injury from Sunday's game, with Cabaye going off midway through the second half with a groin problem.

France's assistant coach Guy Stephan sounded hopeful Tuesday when he said "the game is still a fairly long way off, but there's no reason to believe he won't play," adding that Cabaye is "doing pretty well."

Diving: Coaches hope move not emulated in youth leagues

FROM BACK PAGE

A furious Lovren scoffed, "We can give the World Cup directly to Brazil."

"He does it well, throws himself at the right time because you can see that there's no foul at all. Lovren doesn't pull him back," said Remy, who played two seasons with Fred for Lyon from 2006-08. "Experience comes into it, and it's important to fall at the right time. For me, the striker should be punished for this kind of wrongdoing."

Players can be disciplined later for diving, though Fred wasn't, and it rarely happens at the highest levels of the sport. In basketball, the NBA has tried to crack down, and its policy was on display during the league's recent finals.

Hami's Dwyane Wade was hit with a \$5,000 fine June 9 for flopping in Game 2 on a foul by the Spurs' Manu Ginobili.

"The 'soccer dive' has been perfected by our South American friends," said Todd Yeagley, a former MLS player and executive who's now the soccer coach at Indiana. "Unfortunately, diving is utilized by some of our finest attackers to create free-kick opportunities and penalty kicks. The officials have a tall order to determine whether it was a true foul or a well-orchestrated dive. The potential yellow for diving is calculated by many as a risk worth taking to get a key PK call by the official."

It sure appeared that way for Fred in his team's 3-1 victory. Youth soccer coaches hope youngsters don't attempt to mimic the World Cup way after watching the tournament.

"The diving is certainly translated to the youth game, unfortunately," said Rob Risley, a former player in the UK and at Marshall University who has coached youth soccer for 15 years, currently at FC Los Angeles. "Play-

ers learn to anticipate contact and take that as a foul rather than using their body to protect the ball and work through the contact."

Meanwhile, the apparent dives keep coming. U.S. right back Fabian Johnson threw his arms in the air to protest during the second half of Monday's 2-1 win against Ghana when it looked as though he made only the slightest contact on the back of Jonathan Mensah in the 57th minute.

"After watching the dives done by Brazil footballers I can only imagine how their diving team is improving in preparation for the (Olympic) Games in Rio 2016," cracked Johansen. "I think I will call our IU soccer coach Yeagley ... and see if I can learn any new diving techniques to help give my team an edge."

AP Sports Writers Ronald Blum, Aron Heller and Jerome Pugmire contributed to this report.



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SPORTS



‘Disparaging’
Patent office board votes to cancel Redskins’ trademark | Page 27

Diving right in

Notorious soccer move debated after Fred’s flop in World Cup opener

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

Fred denies diving in Brazil’s World Cup opener that led to a disputed, go-ahead penalty kick. France’s Loic Remy considers the fall a disgrace and has called for punishment.

The debate over diving began on Day 1 of this World Cup, and it has people everywhere talking about whether simulation is simply part of the game or bad for the sport altogether.

Coaches at all levels and players young and old are questioning the motives and sportsmanship of global stars on the sport’s biggest stage — and how such examples of flopping might affect the on-field behavior of the next generation.

Even 2012 U.S. Olympic diving coach Drew Johansen is taking notice.

“I have been watching the World Cup and have been very impressed with the dives I have seen,” said Johansen, who coaches at Indiana University. “Similar to the sport of diving, it’s all about getting the judges’ (referees’) attention. I think Fred’s use of his arms really got the job done on that dive. I would score at 9.5 on the Olympic scale.”

Fred went down in the penalty area under minimal contact from Dejan Lovren in the 71st minute last Thursday, leading to Neymar’s kick that put the Selecao ahead 2-1.

A day later, Remy called for Fred to be “punished” for the move — one that incensed the Croats and put referee Yuichi Nishimura of Japan in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

SEE DIVING ON PAGE 31

Inside:

■ Goalie Ochoa saves Mexico against Brazil, Page 30

■ England looks to star, Page 29



FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP

Brazil's Fred raises his arms after a penalty was called against Croatia's Dejan Lovren during their match last week. Coaches are questioning the value of the traditional soccer dive after Fred's questionable move cost Croatia a point in the standings.

