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For more excerpts from some of the case files, go to Page 6

'CORROSIVE CULTURE'

By Heath Druzin
Stars and Stripes

Damning IG report shows personal cost of VA's treatment of vets

Calling a dead man to schedule an appointment after denying him care; keeping suicidal patients waiting weeks; arranging for hospice care that never happens — the personal horror stories detailed in Tuesday's Department of Veterans Affairs Inspector General's report paint a grim picture of what the VA scandal has meant for ailing veterans.

While investigators were "unable to conclusively assert that the absence of timely quality care caused the deaths of these veterans," the report does detail patients dying while waiting for care (and indications the waits may have contributed) and some whose health likely deteriorated due to long wait times.

One of the most alarming aspects, given the military's focus on suicide prevention, is the apparent callousness that VA officials and staff showed toward suicidal patients. One, who was known to the staff and had attempted suicide four times, killed himself after a four-month wait for an appointment at the now-infamous Phoenix VA Health Care System.

The report reaches this conclusion: "Better availability of an appointment for this patient might have changed the outcome."

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can't give a 9-year-old an Uzi and expect her to control it."

— Ronald Scott, a firearms safety expert, on the accidental death of an Arizona shooting instructor as he was showing a 9-year-old girl how to use an automatic Uzi

See story on Page 11

MILITARY

Abdullah pulls out of Afghan vote audit

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah pulled his support from the country's United Nations-led election review Wednesday, arguing it was incapable of identifying the widespread fraud he believes took place.

In the interests of fairness, his rival, Ashraf Ghani, removed his observers from the audit later in the day at the request of the U.N. assistance mission. The negotiation forced a brief halt to the election audit, which resumed in the afternoon. A representative for the U.N. has said the audit will continue without both sides, if necessary.

The review is already behind schedule because of frequent disputes between the two candidates and previous boycotts from Abdullah's side.

A prolonged boycott by Abdullah would call into question the legitimacy of any audit results, possibly leading to further uncertainty and unrest in the country. Afghanistan is already struggling with an entrenched insurgency

and moribund economy, and it is running out of time to sign key agreements with NATO for a post-2014 military presence.

At issue this time is a phase of the audit that began Monday, an "invalidation" process that formally separates good votes from those deemed fraudulent. An Abdullah campaign spokesman said the criteria adopted by the U.N. for the new phase was too weak to identify the massive numbers of fraudulent votes the candidate believes exist.

Abdullah's decision is a blow to U.S. efforts to resolve the election through an impartial audit and to elicit agreement from both candidates to form a unity government including both the winner and the loser.

"The truth is that we have won in two rounds of the election," Abdullah spokesman Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Rahimi said. "And there are elements in this country that are not ready to accept democratic rule."

The original results from the June 14 runoff had Ghani ahead by more than 1 million votes. Abdullah received the most votes in the election in April.

The candidates had agreed to accept audit results under a deal brokered by Secretary of State John Kerry in July and pressed

"If the U.N. in its audit process doesn't apply high standards, then what it does in this process is legitimize fraud instead of target it."

Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Rahimi spokesman for Abdullah Abdullah

again earlier this month. Yet Abdullah's campaign has complained that audit rules have been too lax to catch what it holds is a massive scale of fraud involving millions of votes.

On Tuesday, an Abdullah campaign member demanded that the U.N. add three criteria to the invalidation process that had already been ruled out by the organization. The campaign threatened to boycott the audit if the steps weren't accepted.

Rahimi on Wednesday accused the Afghan organization conducting the audit, the Independent Election Commission, of rigging the process. He said ballot boxes from some provinces had been stuffed by officials after the boxes arrived in Kabul, and he claimed that some tally sheets of audited boxes were forged. He said such ballots wouldn't be invalidated under the U.N. rules.

"If the U.N. in its audit process doesn't apply high standards, then what it does in this process is legitimize fraud instead of target it," he said. "And that is what we're not ready for."

The campaign also seized upon a New York Times report last week citing unnamed Western analysts who said they believed Ghani had committed enough fraud to win

the election. Those officials said that the fraud had been directed by a coterie of presidential aides and ministers and managed in each province by government, election and security officials.

Rahimi said the only solution to the crisis was for the U.N. to accept the new criteria for the invalidation process.

A member of the Ghani campaign said it expects the U.N. to keep the criteria unchanged, despite Abdullah's protests.

"We will keep a close eye on the audit process," Ghani campaign member Dawood Sultanzozi said. "If the U.N. or international observers take any steps outside the national interest of the Afghanistani people, then they will have to answer to us."

During a news conference Wednesday, U.N. representative Nicholas Haysom defended the process, noting that both campaigns agreed to the audit's rules and limits. He urged the two sides to return to the audit process.

Abdullah met Wednesday with Danish Prime Minister, U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, according to Rahimi. Abdullah was scheduled to meet Ghani later in the day to discuss the situation.

The coming NATO summit in Wales has been seen as a key deadline for the audit and unity government talks, with alliance members deciding on future funding levels and military commitments to the country.

Zubair Babakarkhalil contributed to this report. beardsley.steven@stripes.com Twitter: @sbeardsley

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- 1. Coast Guard fires shot at Iranian dhow in Persian Gulf
2. American jihadist who traveled to Syria reportedly killed, US official says
3. Obama to award 3 Medals of Honor, including 1 to Civil War soldier
4. Obama tries to reassure veterans with 19 initiatives
5. Soldier dies after shooting herself at Fort Lee

COMING SOON



MUSIC

The Fender Stratocaster turns 60

Corrections

The Aug. 27 story on in-state tuition for veterans should have said that while President Barack Obama signed the bill into law on Aug. 7, for Fry Scholarship changes, the effective date is January 2015. For residency changes, the effective date is July 2015.

In the Aug. 27 edition, a story about a change of command at Special Operations Command Europe misquoted EUCOM Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. William Garrett III. He said: "During this time, he has transformed SOCEUR from a command focused on supporting operations in Afghanistan to a command that can operate at the pace of the challenge in dealing with the complex issues across Europe."

Finland, Sweden to increase NATO ties

The Associated Press

HELSINKI — Finland and Sweden plan to work more closely with NATO by signing a pact that allows assistance from alliance troops in the Nordic countries in emergency situations, officials said Wednesday.

The move comes as NATO prepares for a summit next week in Wales amid heightened tensions with Russia over the crisis in Ukraine. Finland shares an 800-mile border with Russia.

The Finnish government said

the Host Nation Support agreement applies to situations which include "disasters, disruptions and threats to security." It also enables joint training exercises and military cooperation.

Finnish Defense Ministry senior adviser Mika Varvikko said Finland intends to sign the agreement at next week's NATO summit. Sweden is also expected to do so.

Both countries, which already train and work closely with NATO in international operations, insisted the agreement doesn't mean

they were moving closer to joining the alliance.

"There is a very sharp difference between being a member and not being a member," Swedish Defense Minister Karin Enstrom told The Associated Press. "We are an active partner with NATO and we want to deepen our partnership with NATO."

Opinion polls in Finland and Sweden show majority opposition to NATO membership. Both countries were officially neutral during the Cold War.

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MILITARY

Delayed inquiry of assault in Japan costs 2-star

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An Army two-star general in Japan who delayed investigation of a sexual assault complaint against an officer with whom he had a long history will be ejected from the service and lose a star in retirement, the Army announced Wednesday.

“Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh has directed that Maj. Gen. Michael T. Harrison, former commander of U.S. Army Japan, be retired as a brigadier general,” according to an Army statement.

“Maj. Gen. Harrison was investigated and disciplined for failing to properly address a sexual assault allegation in his command.”

Federal law requires officers to retire at the last pay grade at which they served satisfactorily. The Army formally reprimanded Harrison for his handling of the allegation late last year and he submitted retirement papers this past spring.

The military has been dealing with a growing scandal over sexual assault in the ranks for years. Advocates for victims of mili-

tary sexual assault told Stars and Stripes earlier this year that Harrison’s actions were more proof of the tendency of male commanders to shield favored subordinates accused of sexual wrongdoing.

Harrison was suspended from his command position in June 2013 after he was accused of failing to act on a report of a sexual assault by an Army colonel against a Japanese civilian employee.

He was later assigned to the Pentagon to serve as director of program analysis and evaluation for an Army deputy chief of staff.

According to the Army inspector general, Harrison referred the case to criminal investigators only after a reporter from Stars and Stripes spoke to the victim and inquired with U.S. Army Japan about the allegations. Previously, the general had ordered only an internal investigation of the allegations, in violation of regulations.

More than two months elapsed between the woman’s allegation of sexual assault and her first contact with Army Criminal Investigation Command, the IG reported.

In the report, the IG concluded

Harrison had:

- Failed to investigate allegations against a colonel he had known since the 1980s.
 - Failed to treat the victim with dignity and fairness.
 - Investigated the allegation himself instead of referring it to criminal investigators.
 - Failed to remove the colonel from his position despite allegations of a pattern of misconduct.
- His demotion in retirement is likely to cost Harrison several hundred dollars a month.

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USCG crew fires on dhow

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — A U.S. Coast Guard small boat team fired a single shot at an Iranian-flagged dhow in the Persian Gulf after the dhow’s crew aimed a .50-caliber machine gun at the approaching U.S. boat, which was conducting a routine query.

Such approaches in the Persian Gulf are a common U.S. practice intended to improve maritime security.

The incident happened in international waters, and U.S. personnel acted in self-defense, U.S. 5th Fleet officials said.

The dhow, a small traditional sailing vessel commonly used in the Persian Gulf by fishermen, was operating near the USCG patrol boat Monomoy. Initially, both vessels were in contact with each other. When the dhow broke off contact with the Monomoy, a small crew was dispatched on an inflatable boat to investigate, said Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, U.S. 5th



TERAN L. MOLLISE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Monomoy participates in the International Mine Countermeasures Exercise in 2013. A small boat team from the Monomoy shot at an Iranian-flagged dhow after the crew aimed a machine gun at the boat.

Fleet spokesman.

The small boat crew observed that the dhow had two .50-caliber machine guns, with one manned during the approach. When the dhow’s gunner aimed and charged the weapon at the approaching U.S. personnel, the small boat crew immediately turned away from the dhow, and its gunner fired one round, Stephens said.

“This action by the dhow’s crew demonstrated hostile intent, which resulted in the defensive fire by the Coast Guardsmen,”

Stephens said in a written response to a query from Stars and Stripes.

He said it wasn’t known whether the fired round struck the dhow or any of its crewmembers. The dhow did not respond to the shot fired and left the area without any further communication.

No U.S. personnel were reported injured, and the small boat’s crew returned safely to the Monomoy, which remains on station in the Persian Gulf.

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US to send more troops to Poland for training

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Continuing tensions over Russia’s involvement in the Ukraine crisis will keep U.S. airmen busy with at least two more deployments to Poland this year.

This week, two C-130s and about 75 airmen from the 37th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein Air Base wrapped up a 60-day “flight training” deployment to Powidz air base in Poland. The squadron is tapped to send another rotation of the same assets to Poland in October, said Capt. Sybil Taunton, a spokeswoman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa. That deployment will conclude at the end of December, with planning of future rotations dependent on fiscal 2015 funding, she said in an email.

U.S. fighter aircraft based in Europe are also headed to Poland next month. Taunton said the 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy, will participate in a joint training operation at Lask air base, sending six F-16 fighter jets and about 120 airmen.

As part of the deployment, the aircraft will participate in a NATO-led exercise in the Czech Republic. Ample Strike, as the exercise is being called, will

take place during the first two weeks of September and will involve about a dozen NATO nations.

The Italy-based airmen and fighter jets will stay on at Lask until early October, Taunton said.

Meanwhile, another deployment of U.S. fighter jets to eastern Europe is ending. Twelve F-15Cs and about 180 airmen from the 48th Fighter Wing have been participating in bilateral training at Graf Ignatievo air base in Bulgaria since Aug. 18 and will head home this week, Taunton said.

The deployments to eastern Europe are in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, Taunton said. “We’re showing a commitment to reassuring our allies here, to partner with them and continue relationships into the future,” she said.

In response to the Ukraine crisis, the United States, under U.S. European Command’s Operation Atlantic Resolve, has taken additional military measures, including enhanced U.S. troop rotations in the region and joint military exercises, intended to reassure central and eastern European allies.

“Being forward based in Europe enables us to keep a persistent presence to work directly with our allies and partners,” Taunton wrote in the email.

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Judge seeks to review emails in rape case

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

A military judge presiding over a closely watched Air Force rape case said he’ll dismiss the case unless he’s able to review top Air Force officials’ email correspondence in which they discussed the matter.

In the court-martial of Airman 1st Class Brandon T. Wright, Lt. Col. Joshua Kastenberg ruled for the defense and ordered release of any pertinent emails from the Air Force’s top lawyer, the Judge Advocate General, and the Air Force Secretary, among others. The judge’s ruling came after the defense requested disclosure to determine if the case might have been prejudiced by unlawful command influence.

Kastenberg said he would dismiss the case — which has dragged on for more than two years — if officials did not turn over the emails for the judge’s review, according to Air Force officials who declined to be identified because they weren’t authorized to publicly discuss the case.

The Air Force is appealing the ruling to the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals.

The Air Force argues that the emails are privileged attorney-client communications exempt from disclosure and that any email communication among them is irrelevant to questions of unlawful command influence. They say what is relevant is that the convening authority who sent the case to court-martial acted independently, with no pressure from high-ups in the chain of command.

The case began in July 2012, with the allegation made at Aviano Air Base, Italy, by an Air Force sergeant who said that Wright raped her in her home while the two were watching movies. Wright has maintained that any sexual contact was consensual.

After an Article 32 investigatory hearing at Aviano to determine whether there was sufficient evidence for a court-martial, the hearing officer recommended that charges against Wright be dropped. Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin, the court-martial convening authority, concurred and dismissed the case.

But that was not the end of it.

Top Air Force officials by name involved after offering that the sergeant’s special victims counsel had, in a memo to Franklin, raised questions about the Article 32 hearing officer’s impartiality and requested a meeting. They were troubled that Franklin had declined to meet with the alleged victim, as convening authorities are supposed to do, to discuss any concerns.

The officials then took the highly unusual step of transferring the case for another investigation by a different command, the Air Force District of Washington, at Joint Base Andrews, Md., where the alleged victim had been reassigned.

In January, a second Article 32 hearing took place, and that investigative officer recommended that the case proceed to court-martial. The new convening authority, Maj. Gen. Sharon K.G. Dunbar, concurred, and ordered the case to trial.

Wright’s defense has consistently argued that charges against Wright should not have been brought a second time.

“We object to this hearing generally,” Maj. Dominic Angiolo said at the January Article 32 hearing. “We’ve already been through an Article 32. We thought that was conducted properly.”

The new convening authority reached for comment on the latest development in the case.

Ryan Guilds, a Washington-based lawyer who recently joined the Air Force special victims counsel in representing the sergeant, said that the sergeant was “resent but extremely frustrated” with the process.

“She has obviously gone through a tremendous amount, with two Article 32s and all that that entails,” he said. “She wants her day in court.”

If the appellate court does not overturn Kastenberg’s ruling, it’s unclear whether the Air Force would reconsider the decision not to release the emails.

“I don’t know what will happen if push comes to shove,” one official said.

No decision from the appellate court is expected for at least three months.

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PACIFIC

Locklear: Navy tech must 'bend' for future

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Scientific innovators will need to “bend” elements of the Navy’s current technology to meet the force’s future needs, the commander of U.S. Pacific Command said Tuesday. “You don’t have the industrial base to build a whole new navy for a whole new threat,” Adm. Samuel J. Locklear said during the opening address of the 16th annual Pacific Operational Science and Technology Conference.

The U.S. and its allies in the Pacific region have built a “magnificent force” with “unbelievable capabilities,” he said. But that force “can’t remain stagnant” and must “be morphed to be credible in the next 25, 30 years,” he said, noting that about 80 percent of the craft used by the Navy today will still be in use in 25 years.

That will require defense industry engineers to re-examine the components of the Navy’s legacy fleet and “bend them toward the future,” Locklear said. “It’s not a new approach, but one that’s going to be used even more in an era of budget cutbacks.

Locklear cited several past examples, such as the B-52 aircraft, now in use for about six decades.

“Now, are they what you want 60 years from now?” he said. “No, but we’ve been able to bend them in that direction. And that’s because of work done in groups like this.”



MARTIN WRIGHT/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Spectators watch a robotics competition during Rim of the Pacific exercises in July. The Navy must find ways to “bend” technology for future needs, Adm. Samuel J. Locklear said.

Likewise, the Aegis ballistic missile defense system had Cold War origins for defense against potential long-range attacks by the Soviet Union, he said.

“But those systems today perform amazingly well in the ballistic missile defense environment,” Locklear said. “They have been bent through [science and technology] fixes when new issues have been thrown at them.”

The weeklong conference is sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association and PACOM’s Science and Technology Office. Attendees include representatives from ally and partner nations in the region, but many of the presentations about the most cutting-edge technology are restricted to U.S. citizens.

Locklear urged the defense researchers attending to “sit with my folks for the next couple of days” to get a better idea of PACOM’s needs.

“Let’s look at what we already have and see if we can’t, in an affordable way, use it differently or make it work in a different way,” he said.

“Bending” aside, however, he did not want the innovators to lose sight of “the next big thing.”

“And how do ya’ll get us to the next big thing through the S&T community?” he said. “That’s particularly hard, because no one wants to let go of the old one, right?”

Locklear was asked about the Navy’s new littoral combat ships that are slated to replace old-generation frigates and mine-sweepers. The ships, however, have been troubled with cost overruns and structural problems that have included cracked hulls, corrosion and equipment malfunctions. Locklear defended the Navy’s need for the LCS design, and he may indeed have some pride of parentage in the concept.

“I was in the room the day the littoral combat ship got thought about in the Navy,” he said. “It was called Streefighter at that time.”

The idea behind it was to build ships quicker than the usual 17-year concept-to-launch timeframe, he said.

“We tried to cut that down, let industry give us some R&D,” Locklear said. “Faster ship. Reconfigurable. Went from a ship of 350 people on it to one with 75 on it. We tried to make it multi-mission. And we

tried to make it cheaper.

“There are things about those ships that I really need in this theater. I need that re-configuration. I need the speed. I need littoral capability.”

But that line is not the Navy’s future, he said.

“That’s the future of the littoral Navy. But I have other things I have to worry about,” he said. “Ships have to do ballistic missile defense. Ships have to do anti-submarine warfare. Ships have to be able to stay at sea for weeks and weeks and weeks because of the enduring nature of a security problem. We have to eventually be able to operate north in the Arctic Circle.”

All those ships have to be able to operate alone, together and with allies and partners — with the right level of lethality and acceptable level of survivability, Locklear said.

The region under PACOM is “the most militarized part of the world,” Locklear said, with seven of the 10 largest armies in world and all the globe’s biggest navies.

The U.S. and its allies “have to, on one hand, believe that we can maintain peace and prosperity in this part of the world for another 100 years,” he said. “But we also have to hedge, if we don’t.”

“If you’re hedging the future, you’ve got to be able to operate in a much higher environment,” he said. “And you need [science and technology] to bend what we have to do that.”

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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Vets likened to Oscar the Grouch in VA guide

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — An internal training guide used by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Philadelphia compares veterans unhappy about their care to Oscar the Grouch.

The Philadelphia Inquirer obtained a VA training slideshow on how to help veterans with their claims. It was shown to VA em-

ployees staffing town-hall events with veterans there.

The Inquirer reported about a dozen slides include pictures of the grumpy "Sesame Street" character who lives in a trash can. The slide show advises staffers on "what to say to Oscar the Grouch."

Veterans groups call the comparison insulting, especially in the wake of a VA scandal over

veterans' health care.

"There is no time or place to make light of the current crisis that the VA is in," said Joe Davis, a national spokesman for the VFW, told the newspaper. "And especially to insult the VA's primary customer."

A VA spokeswoman said the agency did not intend to compare veterans to the grouchy Muppet and regrets any misunderstanding.

The 18-page slide show says veterans might be demanding and unrealistic and tells VA staffers to apologize for the "perception" of the agency.

"The training provided was not intended to equate veterans with this character," spokeswoman Marisa Prugsawan said. "It was intended to remind our employees to conduct themselves as courteously and professionally as

possible when dealing with veterans and their concerns."

About a dozen slides include pictures of the misanthropic Muppet in the can he calls home. In one, a sign reading "CRANKY" hangs from the rim. In another, Oscar's face is flanked by the words "100% GROUCHY, DEAL WITH IT."

Vietnam, Civil War vets to receive Medal of Honor

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor to two soldiers who served in Vietnam and one who distinguished himself in the battle of Gettysburg, the White House announced Tuesday.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins and Army Spc. 4 Donald P. Sloat will be honored Sept. 15 for their conspicuous gallantry.

Adkins deployed to Vietnam three times. During his second deployment, in March 1966, he was a sergeant first class with

Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces. Adkins displayed "extraordinary bravery" during a sustained and vicious attack by the Viet Cong from March 9 to March 12, 1966, said Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., in 2013.

Rogers spoke about Adkins' actions in asking Congress to pass a bill allowing the president to award him the Medal of Honor.

Adkins had been recommended by his command for the Medal of Honor but received a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions, which included running through exploding mortar rounds while wounded to drag several of

his fellow soldiers to safety, Rogers said.

Adkins retired from the Army after serving 22 years and will travel to Washington from his home in Alabama to receive the medal, the White House said.

Sloat was a machine gunner with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, America Division, when he was killed in Vietnam in 1970. His squad was on a patrol near Hawk Hill Fire Base on Jan. 17, 1970, when one of the soldiers triggered a grenade booby trap in their path, the White House said. Sloat picked up the grenade, intending to throw it

away, but realizing it was about to explode, instead used his body to shield three fellow soldiers from the blast, the White House said.

Sloat's brother, William Sloat of Enid, Okla., will accept the medal on his brother's behalf.

Obama also approved a Medal of Honor for 1st Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing for his actions while serving as commanding officer of Battery A, 4th United States Artillery, Artillery Brigade, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. Details on when a ceremony might happen for Cushing are forthcoming.

Cushing was shot multiple times while commanding his battery in the area of Cemetery Ridge,

Gettysburg, Pa., on July 3, 1863, but refused to retreat, according to the 2013 bill authorizing the president to award Cushing the Medal of Honor. His battery took "a severe pounding by Confederate artillery," and as the rebel infantry advanced in what is known as Pickett's Charge, Cushing manned the last working piece of field artillery in his battery, according to the White House.

Cushing was killed, but his actions made it possible for the Union Army to overcome the Confederate assault, the White House said.

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CPO Club Dining room is open to all hands all the time!

Mongolian BBQ

Wednesdays from 1700 to 2100

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Lunch Buffet

Monday through Friday from 1100 to 1330

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Club Alliance 243-3000

Sinfully Spicy Night

Saturday, August 30 from 1700 to 2045 in Italian Gardens

Set your taste buds ablaze with tantalizing fiery foods from places like Thailand, India and Mexico! Choose from our special menu of appetizers, entrées and deserts. Menu items will range from mildly spicy to "burn the roof off your mouth hot!"

End of Summer Aloha Bingo

Saturday, September 6 doors open at 1000, first game at 1300
Celebrate the end of summer with big jackpots and delicious food at our Hawaiian themed bingo bash! Enjoy a delicious Hawaiian buffet including Kahlua Pork, Mahi Mahi, Slow Roasted Ginger Pork and lots of sides, salad and dessert. All guests receive a lei and souvenir photograph. Guests who wear Hawaiian or Tiki themed attire (shirts/dresses) will receive a complimentary card for the \$3,000 game! Buffet opens at 1100. Guaranteed \$10,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 jackpots! Advanced tickets are available at all Yokosuka clubs, and ITT.

Club Takemiya 246-8077

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Wednesday, September 3

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VETERANS

Report lists problems throughout VA system

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Affairs problems discovered in the inspector general audit released Tuesday go far beyond the Phoenix hospital system. Staff across the country including top leadership and managers were accused of ethical lapses and held responsible for delays in veteran care at hundreds of facilities. Here are some of the significant audit findings:

■ Various hospitals and clinics used six distinct schemes to manipulate patient wait times, including keeping paper lists outside the official electronic schedule, listing next available slots as veterans' desired appointment dates, and canceling and rescheduling solely to reduce the appearance of a wait.

■ Despite the widespread manipulation, top VA management waived a requirement requiring certification of scheduling practices at hospitals and clinics during 2012 and 2013, which could have uncovered the activity. A VA official present when the decision was made said medical facility directors put up "significant resistance" and were "concerned about certifying results that may be later found inaccurate" by the IG.

■ Instead of a certification, the VA allowed facility directors to do a self-review using a set checklist. Of 127 VA health care facilities that answered the self-review, 114 said they were in compliance and were identifying and avoiding inappropriate scheduling activities.

■ IG investigations of wait-time manipulation at 93 facilities nationwide are still ongoing after hundreds of complaints were filed in recent months. The FBI and Department of Justice are also involved, meaning criminal charges are possible.

■ In the run-up to the ethics lapses around scheduling, the VA decided to eliminate its chief ethics officer overseeing the integrated network of health care facilities during a reorganization in 2011.

■ Gaps in the VA's Vista electronic scheduling system, which the IG called "old and cumbersome," were exploited by staff to game wait times. A failed VA project to replace it spent five years and more than \$75 million but "failed to deliver a useable product because of ineffective planning and oversight." A new effort begun in May 2013 has invested more than \$14 million in planning but "to date, no solicitations have been issued for a replacement scheduling system."

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Corrosive culture: the case files

CASE NO. 29

In late summer 2013, a man in his early 60s with heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and hepatitis B and C, had severely depressed cardiac function, indicating heart failure and increased risk for sudden death. He had an implantable defibrillator placed in his heart but it had been removed. A Phoenix cardiologist recommended that he have a similar device implanted in four to five weeks. In early 2014, still without the procedure, the man collapsed in his kitchen and died three days later. According to the report, timely placement of the device "might have forestalled that death."

CASE NO. 12

A man in his 70s with an elevated prostate-specific antigen was scheduled for a urology appointment in three months, but the appointment was canceled with the notation "provider not available." Four months after the initial request, the patient's primary care provider requested non-VA urology care, which the VA denied. After four more months, the VA facility closed out the request. Nearly a year after his initial request, the patient was seen by a non-VA urologist and was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

CASE NO. 35

A man in his late 40s with a history of depression came to the Phoenix VA ER with his parents after reporting paranoid delusions. After being evaluated by a nurse, he declined hospital admission, saying he would report to the hospital the next morning. Instead, he committed suicide. The report concludes that with "depression-induced" psychosis, the patient should have been involuntarily admitted for treatment.

CASE NO. 2

A man in his late 60s with hypertension, diabetes, cirrhosis, congestive heart failure and emphysema came to the Phoenix VA emergency department complaining of weakness and diarrhea. He was put on a list for a consult. After two hospitalizations at non-VA hospitals, the man died. Three months later, Phoenix VA staff called to schedule his appointment.

CASE NO. 16

A man in his mid-30s with a history of hospitalization for suicidal thoughts and anxiety called for an appointment with the Phoenix VA and was placed on a wait list for five weeks, then scheduled for an appointment in an additional four weeks. Three months after his initial contact, he was given a referral to a mental health clinic.

CASE NO. 7

A man in his late 60s was evaluated at the Phoenix VA ER for chest pain. His blood pressure was 180/124, and a test showed a heart abnormality. He was scheduled for a primary care appointment seven months later, but a physician had him come in sooner. Five months after his initial visit, he underwent coronary bypass surgery.



Obama: 'We are focused on this'

President, new VA chief pledge action in speeches to American Legion

By Heath Druzin
Stars and Stripes

On the day a government watchdog issued a damning report on the troubled Veterans Affairs system, President Barack Obama and his new VA chief sought to reassure American veterans that the government is committed to taking care of them.

"What I want you to know directly from me is that we are focused on this at the highest levels," Obama said Tuesday, addressing the national conference of the American Legion, the nation's largest veterans group, in Charlotte, N.C.

In each speech, Obama came just ahead of the release of a report from the VA inspector general that said it is investigating cases at 93 VA health care sites, including some criminal investigations being coordinated with the FBI.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is scrambling to improve health care amid the ongoing scandal, which cost former Secretary Eric Shinseki his job. The department has been under fire since a whistleblower revealed that hundreds of patients at the Phoenix VA Health Care System had been sidetracked from care at VA hospitals, alleging some died while on long wait lists. Administrators had cooked the books to make it appear that patients were getting care more quickly — a problem identified throughout the nationwide VA system.

In response to the revelations, Congress passed a \$17 billion bill last month enabling the VA to hire more doctors and nurses and

making it easier to fire underperforming officials. An aspect of the scandal that brought outrage was that bonuses for VA officials were often based on improvements in patient wait times, creating an incentive to falsify data.

"The systematic underperforming of wait times resulted from many causes, to include the lack of available staff and appointments, increased patient demand for services, and an antiquated scheduling system," according to Tuesday's inspector general's report. "The ethical lapses within VA's senior leaders and mid-managers also contributed to the unreliability of reported access and wait time issues, which went unaddressed by those responsible."

According to the report, investigators could not substantiate the most damning claim at the Phoenix VA — that 40 patients died while waiting for appointments — saying the whistleblower who made the allegation did not present them with names. The report did substantiate claims that facilities had falsified data, sometimes at the behest of management.

"Immediate and substantive changes are needed," the report says. "If headquarters and facility leadership are held accountable for fully implementing VA's action plans for the report's 24 recommendations, VA can begin to regain the trust of veterans and the American public."

In his speech Tuesday, Obama said he will issue 19 executive orders, including automatically enrolling troops leaving the service in a mental health program and expanding research and services

for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, two of the most common injuries for veterans. He affirmed his commitment to root out poor-performing officials, a key demand of veterans groups.

"If you engage in unethical practices or cover up a serious problem, you should be and will be fired," he said.

Obama also laid out five priorities for taking care of troops and veterans that included increasing funding for health care, tackling an epidemic of suicide, eliminating the VA backlog, decreasing veterans homelessness and making it easier for servicemembers to buy homes. The speech came shortly after the VA released numbers saying that homelessness among veterans was down 33 percent since 2010.

"The American people have to know that even as our war in Afghanistan comes to an end our obligation to this generation has just begun," he said.

Newly appointed VA chief Bob McDonald, who has been traveling the country to speak to veterans since starting the job less than one month ago, also took the floor at the American Legion conference. He laid out a multistep plan to improve service at health facilities, including an updated scheduling system and a recruitment drive to fill doctor vacancies, as well as the establishment of a board of medical professionals to advise him on best practices.

McDonald said the VA is committed to removing those responsible for the current crisis. He said that two senior VA officials have

retired or resigned, three have been placed on administrative leave pending investigations, and more than two dozen health care workers were removed.

In a statement, Paul Rieckhoff, the CEO and founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, praised Obama's announced executive actions, but warned that addressing problems with veterans care "can't be just a one-off event or speech filled with more promises."

"These are, however, small steps on the very long road to fully supporting our community and re-establishing trust in the VA," he said. "Announcements and promises are easy, and we've been here many times before."

Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander John Stroud said in a news release he is "hopeful that the initiatives announced by President Obama today will provide the necessary course corrections" to improve VA service.

Stars and Stripes reporter Travis Tritten contributed to this report. druzin.health@stripes.com
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MILITARY

Navy tests bionics for shipyard workers

By ERIC SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

Navy shipyard workers may someday share something in common with Special Operations forces: on-the-job exoskeletons.

The Navy is testing two Fortis exoskeletons through a contract between Lockheed Martin and the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences consortium, according to a Lockheed statement.

The Fortis rig won't have anywhere near the enhancements of the Special Operations Command's TALOS, dubbed the "Iron Man" suit.

But one of the main ideas behind both exoskeletons is reducing injuries. Ergonomic accidents, such as overexertion and repetitive motion injuries, are by far the most common shipyard accidents, according to Naval Sea System Command data.

Fortis includes a metal "arm"



Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin

The Navy is testing two exoskeletons that include a metal "arm" that allows a shipyard worker to use grinders, riveters and other tools weighing as much as 36 pounds as though they were weightless.

that allows a shipyard worker to use grinders, riveters and other tools weighing as much as 36 pounds as though they were weightless, according to Lockheed Martin.

"Those tools take a toll on operators due to the tools' weight and the tight areas where they are sometimes used," Adam Miller, director of new initiatives for fire control and missiles, said in a company statement.

The exoskeleton clips on around the legs and includes shoulder

strap harnesses. It's unpowered and weighs 30 pounds, according to a DefenseTech report.

As for the next big question — how much? — that hasn't been released. Given the current pressure on defense budgets, that could go a long way toward determining whether future shipyards look like Transformers hives or whether exoskeletons become more like specialty items reserved for the toughest jobs.

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Soldiers confined after loss of Army handgun

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — A missing handgun led to a lockdown last week for about 400 soldiers at Fort Wainwright.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported soldiers were confined to the post for two days and a night because of the missing Army-issue 9mm Beretta pistol. A smaller group was confined for five days.

Army Alaska spokesman Lt. Col. Alan Brown said 34 soldiers on Aug. 20 trained at a small arms complex and the gun went missing afterward.

He said there's an immediate concern for all soldiers when a weapon is missing and as a way of mitigating risk, the unit is isolated.

The 34 soldiers spent five days

on lockdown through Sunday. The handgun remains missing. The soldiers are part of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment.

Navy to commission USS Jackson in Miss.

GULFPORT, Miss. — The Navy will commission its newest littoral combat ship in Gulfport next July.

The USS Jackson was christened in March at the Austal USA Shipyard on Mobile Bay. It's the first naval vessel named for Mississippi's state capital.

The Jackson has been undergoing testing since its launch in December, and it is expected to be delivered to the Navy early next year after trials.

From The Associated Press

Mass. guard fighter crashes in Va.

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Massachusetts Air National Guard F-15 en route to a maintenance depot crashed early Wednesday in a national forest in western Virginia, with the status of the pilot unknown.

"We can confirm the 104th Fighter Wing lost an F-15C aircraft around the Shenandoah Valley region of western Virginia," said Maj. Matthew Mutti, spokesman for the wing based in Westfield, Mass. "It was a cross-country mission to do an aircraft upgrade."

Mutti said the aircraft was flying toward the depot when it crashed, but would not provide de-

tails on the destination to avoid inadvertently identifying the pilot.

Base officials learned of the crash at 9:05 a.m., he said, and local first responders were en route to the scene. A Pentagon spokesman later said Air Force first responders were also headed to the scene.

A local newspaper, the News-Leader, reported that an airport in the Washington area told local police that a military jet had crashed in a forest near Deerfield, Va.

"I'm on location, with smoke, and we do have debris," the paper reported an emergency responder radioing at 10:04 a.m. "I got debris everywhere ... I haven't located anybody."

An Augusta County sheriff dis-

patcher confirmed that a military jet had crashed in the Deerfield area. Emergency responders were trying to reach the crash site in a remote area with no cell phone service over an hour later. Officials are unsure whether the pilot ejected.

"A crash site has been visually located due to heavy smoke coming from the side of a nearby mountain," Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes. "State police, with the assistance of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office, are working to reach the crash site at this time."

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report. carroll.chris@stripes.com
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MILITARY

Army weapon destroyed on launch

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A rocket carrying an experimental Army strike weapon that exploded during launch has damaged buildings at the Kodiak Launch Complex, but state officials will wait until after a cleanup to assess what it will cost to make repairs.

Several buildings sustained bent or broken sheet-metal siding, roofs, doors or windows on Monday, Craig Campbell, president and chief executive officer of Alaska Aerospace Corp., told the Alaska Dispatch News.

"It affected the launch tower, the payload processing facility, and the integrated processing facility," Campbell said.



SCOTT WRIGHT/AP

A rocket carrying an experimental Army strike weapon exploded after taking off from a launch pad in Alaska, seen here in the horizon Monday from Cape Greville in Chiniak, Alaska.

"These are all significant buildings — they're what we use to launch a rocket." However, another corporation official downplayed the damage, according to the Kodiak Daily Mirror.

"There isn't a whole lot of damage to anything," chief operating

officer Mark Greby told the newspaper from the site. "I've seen worse-looking after a hurricane."

The target Monday was Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands but Army flight controllers blew up the rocket for safety reasons after detecting an anomaly, according to the Defense Department.

Debris from the three-stage, solid-fuel launch vehicle fell on the state-owned launch facility on Kodiak Island. No one was injured.

The rocket carried the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon, a glider designed to fly at thousands of miles per hour and reach targets anywhere in the world in less than an hour.

Hearing set for GI sentenced to death

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A former U.S. soldier sentenced to death for killing two fellow soldiers and injuring 14 others in an attack in Kuwait will get a hearing before a military appeals court.



Akbar

The United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington scheduled a hearing for Hasan K. Akbar, 43, on Nov. 18.

Akbar was a sergeant with the 326th Engineer Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, Ky., when he was sentenced to death in 2005 for the killing Army Capt. Christopher S. Seifert and Air Force Maj. Gregory L. Stone at Camp Pennsylvania in Kuwait two years earlier.

Akbar is challenging the performance of his trial counsel. Akbar is currently at the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

From The Associated Press

Rally seeks Marines' release from Mexico

By CHRIS MEGERIAN
Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Demonstrators, including a Republican lawmaker, gathered outside the historic Leland Stanford Mansion in Sacramento on Tuesday to protest the jailing of a U.S. Marine in Mexico.

Gov. Jerry Brown is hosting a luncheon for Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto at the mansion, part of Pena's two-day visit to California.

"I refuse to eat with Sgt. Andrew Tahmoore's captors," said Republican Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, who helped organize the protest. "We want him to give us our Marine back."

The Marine reservist, Sgt. Andrew Tahmoore, illegally entered Mexico in March with three firearms and is awaiting trial. Tahmoore says he crossed the border by accident, and his case has become a cause celebre for some conservatives in the United States.

Mexican officials say the judicial system must run its course, and Brown did not publicly address the issue when he was in Mexico City on a four-day trade



CHRIS MEGERIAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, R-Twin Peaks, leads a rally Tuesday in Sacramento, Calif., protesting the jailing of a U.S. Marine in Mexico.

mission last month.

The protesters said they believed Tahmoore's explanation that he crossed into Mexico by accident.

"It was just an honest mistake," said Diane Nye, a mother of four from Fair Oaks, Calif.

Brown, speaking on KNX-AM in Los Angeles on Tuesday morning, declined to answer questions about Tahmoore.

"I think it's the prudent course for me, as the chief executive, not to start opining on factual legal

matters that only a radio host is presenting," he said. Other Republican lawmakers have taken different approaches to the situation. GOP state Sen. Joel Anderson said he won't join the protest, but he won't attend the lunch either.

"I am concerned that our military would feel betrayed if it appeared we condoned the harsh and unfair treatment of Sgt. Andrew Tahmoore," he said in a statement.



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NATION

Police work to reach out to black communities

By NOMAAN MERCHANT AND JIM SALTER
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Some U.S. police departments are renewing efforts to build trust with black communities in the aftermath of the shooting death of an unarmed 18-year-old black man in Missouri.

Police departments are holding public meetings to field questions and let people voice the anger they feel toward officers who patrol their neighborhoods, hoping to avoid the upheaval that followed Michael Brown's Aug. 9 death.

Dallas Police Chief David Brown considers it a preventative step.

"I'd much rather they shout at me at a town hall meeting at a church and get to know me afterward than not have a relationship," Brown said. After a police shooting has already happened, "it's too late to try to establish relationships," he said.

Michael Brown was shot by white police officer Darren Wilson, sparking sometimes violent protests in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson. Police have said a scuffle broke out after Wilson told Brown and a friend to move out of the street and onto a sidewalk.

Police say Wilson was pushed into his squad car and physically assaulted. Some witnesses have reported seeing Brown's arms up in the air before the shooting, an apparent sign of surrender. A grand jury is considering whether or not Wilson should be charged with a crime.

Dallas has had 13 police shootings this year, leading to eight deaths. That follows last year's tally of 22 shootings and six deaths, according to police.

To reassure the public, Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins recently announced he would begin sending two prosecutors to independently investi-



NATHAN HUNSINGER, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Audrey Hays shouts at speakers about not listening to questions during a town hall meeting with Dallas law enforcement officials in Dallas on Aug. 18 to address police shootings.

"I'd much rather they shout at me at a town hall meeting at a church and get to know me afterward than not have a relationship."

Dallas Police Chief David Brown

gate each police shooting.

Both Watkins and David Brown, the police chief, are black and grew up in Dallas. Watkins described his own mistrust of law enforcement as a young man and said more needs to be done to restore public confidence in law enforcement officials, particularly among blacks and Latinos.

"This is a reality that we deal with in this country," Watkins

said. "And until we face it, we're always going to have issues like Ferguson. I don't want to have the same thing happen here."

Two Dallas officers were recently fired and indicted for separate shootings of civilians.

To address the issue, the department is running a pilot program for body cameras and buying more Tasers to give officers a less-lethally option to sub-

due attackers, Brown said.

The fraught relationship between police and black residents was evident last week when a group of black protesters marched through south Dallas chanting the name of Michael Brown. The group calls itself the Huey P. Newton Gun Club, after one of the co-founders of the Black Panthers movement of the civil rights era. About 30 people carried signs and long guns, which are permitted in most public places in Texas. Several protesters said their concerns went beyond Ferguson.

"A lot of people today are talking about Mike Brown," one of the group's organizers, Charles Goodson, told Dallas television station WFAA. "Mike Brown is not an isolated incident. We have many Mike Browns in the city of Dallas."

In Nashville, Tenn., Police Chief Steve Anderson and several other law enforcement and political leaders were part of a meeting last week that drew several hundred people, most of them black, to a Baptist church. Kansas City, Mo., police have also begun a series of community forums where residents can meet with officers.

Among the police departments planning changes is Ferguson's.

The city said in a statement that it would "learn from this tragedy."

The statement outlined a range of actions being explored, including hiring more black officers, raising money to buy dashboard and body cameras, working more closely with schools to provide better resources for young people and rebuilding the business district affected by rioting.

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Police: 'Serial killer' behind 4 slayings

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man who authorities are now calling a serial killer opened fire on Los Angeles-area streets for five straight days until he was finally arrested, police said.

By then, four people and two dogs were dead, three people were critically injured and Alexander Hernandez, 34, was in police custody, Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese said at a Tuesday night news conference.

Prosecutors have charged Hernandez with one count of capital murder, two counts of attempted murder and three counts of animal cruelty. He was expected to be arraigned Wednesday, and charges in the other shootings were expected.

"This man is here and is a serial killer," said Bill McSweeney, Los Angeles County Sheriff's chief of detectives.

Police gave a chronological outline of the shootings investigators believe Hernandez is responsible

for. They were apparently random and there was no known link between the victims or motives

■ On Aug. 20 at 6 a.m., a 42-year-old woman was shot and wounded in northeast Los Angeles by a lone man in an SUV as she exited a freeway.

■ On Aug. 21 at 5 a.m., Gildardo Morales, 48, was shot and killed by a man alone in an SUV in the Pacoima area. It's the only death with which Hernandez has been charged.

■ On Aug. 22 at 11 p.m., a man fired at a couple in a pickup truck in West Hollywood. They escaped without injury.

■ On Aug. 23 at 11:30 a.m., a lone man shot three dogs in Pacoima, injuring two of them.

■ On Aug. 24 at 5:50 a.m. a man in an SUV fired on five family members, killing a 23-year-old woman. Within an hour, another 29-year-old man and a 59-year-old woman were each shot and killed before Hernandez was arrested by SWAT officers.

Police said Hernandez had a pistol-grip shotgun in his possession that investigators believe was used in the attacks. He has not been cooperative with officers, Albanese said.

Police believe Hernandez worked alone and is the sole suspect in the shootings. Detectives pieced together the incidents because of the timing, weapon used and descriptions of the vehicle, McSweeney said.

Investigators will be reviewing unsolved shootings dating back several years that involve similar descriptions of a tan or gold SUV and shotgun.

Hernandez has served prison time and has four prior convictions, including possession for sale of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance with a firearm, and possession of a firearm by a felon, authorities said.

The charges against Hernandez carry a potential death penalty, and prosecutors plan to ask that he be held without bail.

NATION

Stage is set for a Fla. showdown

By SEAN SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

Florida Gov. Rick Scott, a Republican, and former Gov. Charlie Crist, a Democrat, easily won their primary elections Tuesday, and will advance to a general-election showdown that is expected to be one of the nastiest and most expensive campaigns in recent history.

Faced with only nominal competitors, both were declared victorious not long after the polls closed Tuesday. Crist had no trouble getting past Nan Rich, a former state senator. Scott breezed by Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder, who founded the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Florida, and pharmacist Yinka Adeshina.

With 10 weeks to go until the election, Scott and Crist officially began a bitter confrontation that effectively has been underway for months. Republicans have been trying to cast Crist, a former Republican and independent, as a shape-shifting opportunist. Democrats have portrayed Scott as an extremist and ineffective leader. Scott's campaign spending could top \$100 million.

Florida was one of four states where voters went to the polls Tuesday. In Arizona, they pored down the field in the first open gubernatorial race in 12 years. In Oklahoma and Vermont, lower-profile contests were being settled.

Arizona Treasurer Doug Ducey won the GOP nomination to succeed outgoing Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican. Ducey defeated former Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, former GoDaddy executive Christine Jones and three others. He will be favored to defeat Democrat Fred DuVal, who was unopposed.

Ducey, a former Cold Stone Creamery chief executive, was backed by numerous national tea party leaders, including former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. Smith, a more moderate Republican, had Brewer's support.

A handful of primaries in House districts in Arizona also were under close watch by national political strategists.

In the 1st District, where Democratic Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick is vulnerable, state House Speaker Andy Tobin, a member of the GOP establishment, was running slightly ahead of rancher Gary Kiehne and state Rep. Adam Kwasman. Most strategists considered Kiehne and Kwasman less electable choices.

In the heavily Democratic 7th District, where Democratic Rep. Ed Pastor is retiring, former state representative Ruben Gallego led former Maricopa County supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox in the Democratic primary, early returns showed. The winner will be a near sure winner in November, as Republicans did not field a candidate.

Meanwhile, in the 2nd District, where Rep. Ron Barber, a Democrat, is one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the country, retired Air Force Col. Martin McSally won the Republican nomination,



Left: Former Republican Gov. Charlie Crist hugs running mate Annette Taddeo at a victory party after Florida's primary election Tuesday in Fort Lauderdale. Right: Florida Gov. Rick Scott and his wife, Ann, greet supporters in Orlando on Tuesday. Crist and Scott will face off in the race for governor.

setting up a rematch. Barber barely defeated McSally in 2012. Oklahoma held runoff elections to settle primaries in which no candidate received a majority of the vote. The marquee contest was the Republican race in the 5th

District, safe GOP territory where Republican Rep. James Lankford is leaving to run for the Senate. Former state senator Steve Russell defeated Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas. He will be an overwhelming fa-

vorite in November. In Florida's 26th District, where Republicans think they can unseat Democratic Rep. Joe Garcia, Miami-Dade School Board member Carlos Curbelo won the GOP nomination.



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NATION



Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, shown in 2012, planned to file a lawsuit on Wednesday against the Obama administration over Common Core, which encourages states to adopt uniform education standards.

La. governor to sue federal government

By MELINDA DESLATTE
The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal planned to file a lawsuit Wednesday against the Obama administration, accusing it of illegally manipulating federal grant money and regulations to force states to adopt educational standards known as the Common Core.

The legal challenge puts Jindal, who is considering a 2016 presidential bid, at the forefront of a dispute between conservatives and President Barack Obama, bolstering the governor's profile on the issue as he's trying to court conservative voters nationwide.

The U.S. Department of Education has used a \$4.3 billion grant program and federal policy waivers to encourage states to adopt uniform education standards and testing. The Republican governor says that "effectively forces states down a path toward a national curriculum" in violation of the state sovereignty clause in the Constitution and federal laws that prohibit national control of education content.

A draft copy of the lawsuit was provided to The Associated Press by the governor's office. Jindal planned to file it Wednesday in the federal court based in Baton Rouge, the Louisiana capital.

"The federal government has

hijacked and destroyed the Common Core initiative," Jindal said in a statement. "Common Core is the latest effort by big government disciples to strip away state rights and put Washington, D.C., in control of everything."

The Common Core standards are math and English benchmarks describing what students should know after completing each grade. They were developed by states to allow comparison of students' performance. More than 40 states, including Louisiana, have adopted them.

When the state education board adopted the standards in 2010, Jindal supported them, saying they would help students to better prepare for college and careers. He reversed course earlier this year, however, and now says he opposes the standards because they are an effort by the Obama administration to meddle in state education policy.

The governor's change of heart is not shared by lawmakers, the state education board and his hand-picked education superintendent, all of whom refuse to jettison Common Core from Louisiana's classrooms. Jindal tried to derail use of the standards by suspending testing contracts, but a state judge lifted that suspension, calling the governor's actions harmful to parents, teachers and students.

Seawater rises in Calif. town as new surge nears

SEAL BEACH, Calif. — A low-lying street in the Southern California shore community of Seal Beach was inundated by rising seawater early Wednesday while authorities along the coast braced for an even bigger storm surge brought on by Hurricane Marie spinning off Mexico's Pacific coast.

Several homes and garages were flooded after water cleared a 2½-foot wall along several blocks of an oceanfront street,

police Sgt. John Scott said. Resident Blanca Dubonbrown told City News Service she woke up late Tuesday to find her first-floor apartment bedroom under 3 inches of water. Several of her neighbors in ground-floor apartments also experienced flooding.

"I was getting ready with the sandbags, but it was too late when I tried to put them up," she said.

Another breach was reported less than a mile to the north, in the Peninsula neighborhood of Long Beach, where a sand berm was overtopped by the storm surge.

From The Associated Press

Bound bodies found in Pa. river

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The bound bodies of two people were found in a Philadelphia river Wednesday, and a third man who said he managed to free himself was taken to a hospital for treatment of stab wounds, police said.

The bodies were found in the Schuylkill River in Fairmount Park just before 4 a.m. Wednesday, Chief Inspector Scott Small said.

"Both of the dead bodies had duct tape wrapped around their face," Small said. "They also both appeared to be bound, their wrists and ankles. They also appeared to be tied or tethered to some piece of debris, some sort of weight used as an anchor to take them under water."

Small said police were alerted to the presence of the bodies after finding a partially dressed 20-year-old man walking along the

road with his wrists bound and duct tape around his face and ankles.

"He was wet, and he told us he managed to get out of the river," Small said.

He was taken to a hospital in stable condition with about nine stab wounds to his torso and both legs.

Small said the surviving victim reported that he was thrown into the back of a van in another part of Philadelphia by four or five people, and the other two victims were already in the van. Small said it was unclear whether the other two were alive or dead at the time. The man said he was robbed and stabbed before all three were tossed into the river, but he was able to free himself and climb out of the river.

"At this point, the only motive we have for the abduction and stabbing of our 20-year-old victim who's alive is robbery,"

Small said. "He claims when he was thrown in the back of the van and tied up and stabbed he was robbed of an undisclosed amount of money. He further states that the two other victims were already in the back of the van — he was not with the two other victims — so we don't know if the two other victims were related to the robbery."

Small said the other two victims were pronounced dead at the scene, and both remained unidentified.

"We're not even certain if they're males," he said, adding that police did not begin recovering the bodies until after daylight to allow investigation of the scene.

Small said he would not disclose the place where the surviving victim was abducted, but police hoped to use surveillance video from that location to identify the van.

Girl accidentally kills instructor with Uzi

The Associated Press

DOLAN SPRINGS, Ariz. — A 9-year-old girl accidentally killed an Arizona shooting instructor as he was showing her how to use an automatic Uzi, authorities said Tuesday.

Charles Vacca, 39, died Monday shortly after being airlifted to University Medical Center in Las Vegas, Mohave County sheriff's officials said.

Vacca was standing next to the girl at the Last Stop outdoor shooting range when she pulled the trigger and the recoil sent the gun over her head, investigators said.

Authorities said the girl was at the shooting range with her parents. Her name was not released.

A woman who answered the phone at the shooting range said it had no comment. She did not provide her name.

It is not known if the range had an age limit on shooting or if the girl was going through a safety class.

Ronald Scott, a Phoenix-based firearms safety expert, said most shooting ranges have an age limit and strict safety rules when teaching children to shoot. He said instructors usually have their hands on guns when children are firing such weapons.

"You can't give a 9-year-old an Uzi and expect her to control it," Scott said.

SALE

AUGUST 30

NAF

PROPERTY

SCHWEINFURT

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Conn Barracks
Bradley Inn, Bldg. 89
NAF Warehouse, Bldg. 1175
DSN 354.6762 CIV 09721966762

BAMBERG

12.4 p.m. - Warner Barracks
Bldg. 7085 & Hotel Bldg. 7677
Warner Barracks
DSN 469.8880 CIV 0951.300.8880

WORLD

Gaza cease-fire holds as sides weigh gains

By PETER ENAV
AND IBRAHIM BARZAK
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — An open-ended cease-fire between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip was holding Wednesday as many people on both sides wondered what was gained during 50 days of fighting.

The Gaza war — the third round of fighting since the Islamic militant group Hamas seized power in 2007 — left more than 2,200 people dead, caused widespread destruction in the densely

populated coastal territory and paralyzed large parts of southern Israel during much of the summer.

After more than seven weeks of fighting, the sides settled for an ambiguous interim agreement in exchange for a period of calm. Hamas, although badly battered, remains in control of Gaza with part of its military arsenal intact. Israel and Egypt will maintain a blockade tightened seven years ago, despite Hamas' long-running demand that the border restrictions be lifted.

On Wednesday, the Israeli mili-

tary said there were no reports of violations since the cease-fire went into effect Tuesday.

Hamas declared victory, even though it had little to show for a war that killed 2,143 Palestinians, wounded more than 11,000 and left some 100,000 homeless. On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers and six civilians were killed, including two by Palestinian mortar fire shortly before the cease-fire was announced.

Thousands of residents of southern Israeli communities in range of Hamas rocket and mortar fire fled their homes in favor

of safer areas as criticism grew over the government's conduct of the war.

Israeli media reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had deliberately not put the cease-fire to a vote in his security Cabinet because of opposition from ministers who wanted to continue the fighting.

Tourism Minister Uzi Landau, a longstanding security hawk, lambasted the Israeli leadership in comments to Israel Radio early Wednesday for "wanting peace at any price," an approach that he said would undermine Israel's

ability to deter militants. Netanyahu came in for particularly piercing criticism from veteran political commentator Nahum Barnea, whose columns tend to reflect mainstream public opinion.

"Israelis expected a leader, a statesman who knows what he wants to achieve, someone who makes decisions and engages in a sincere and real dialogue with his public," he wrote in the mass circulation Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper. "Instead they received a slick spokesman and very little else."



SEVI HERVE GREKIDE/AP

Liberian artist Israel Yoroba carries bars of soap at his office building in the city of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on Monday. Yoroba is helping to spread the message about Ebola prevention with a video for his reggae-inspired song "Stop Ebola," while West Africans are using many methods — including a "Lather Against Ebola" challenge to do the same.

W. Africans get creative with Ebola awareness

By MARC-ANDRE BOISVERT
The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — A young man on camera names the person who's challenged him to dump the contents of a bucket over his head. But in a twist on the ice bucket challenge, this man is soon drenched in frothy, soapy water — part of a campaign to raise awareness about Ebola prevention in West Africa.

Ivory Coast's "Lather Against Ebola" campaign, catchy songs and comedy are being used by West Africans to educate people on how to avoid getting the deadly disease, which has infected more than 2,600 people and killed more than 1,400 in four countries across the region, according to the World Health Organization.

From Nigeria to Sierra Leone, songs and sketches have supplemented traditional media and government campaigns to educate the public about Ebola, which is spread through contact with the bodily fluids of infected people and can be partly contained by simple measures like regular hand-washing.

The "Lather Against Ebola" campaign was inspired by the ice bucket challenge that has generated tens of millions of dollars for the ALS Association, which raises money for Lou Gehrig's disease research.

Ivorian blogger Edith Brou knew the ice bucket campaign was getting lots of attention and wanted to make it more relevant in her home country. Despite bordering Guinea and Liberia, two countries that have been hit hard by the Ebola outbreak, Ivory Coast has yet to record a case, and Brou wants to keep it that way.

"Our greatest threat right now is Ebola," she said.

Those who accept the "Lather Against Ebola" challenge — searchable on Twitter using its French name, #MousserContreEbola — are expected to douse themselves

with soapy water and hand out three bottles of hand sanitizer. Those who reject the soaking are expected to distribute nine. Since its Aug. 18 launch, dozens of participants have posted clips to social media.

"Ivorians take the drama out of everything through humor," Brou said. "But in spite of the funny aspect of it, the message is forwarded on and listened to."

Liberian rappers Shadow and D-12 recorded several Ebola-related tunes. Their hit song, "Ebola in Town," was intended to counter early skepticism of the threat posed by the disease, which has infected more than 1,000 people in Liberia and killed at least 624. The disease has also hit Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Liberian soccer star and former presidential candidate George Weah added his own song, "Ebola is Real," to the lineup.

In Ivory Coast, the video for Israel Yoroba's new reggae-inspired song "Stop Ebola" enlists children, market women and a coconut seller to get out the simple message while the singer dances in the streets of downtown Abidjan.

Mayor says rebels enter key town in SE Ukraine

By PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

NOVOAZOVSK, Ukraine — Pro-Russia rebels entered a key town in southeastern Ukraine on Wednesday after three days of heavy shelling, the town's mayor said, capturing new territory far from most of their battles with government troops.

The town of Novoazovsk lies in a strategically significant location — on the Azov Sea and on the road linking Russia to the Russian-annexed Crimean Peninsula. It was the first time in the four-month-long conflict that fighting has reached as far south as the coast and suggests that the rebels, who Ukraine says are being supported by Russia, are emboldened and reinforced.

The new southeastern front has raised fears the separatists are seeking to create a land link between Russia and Crimea. If so, that could also give the rebels or Russia control over the entire Azov Sea and any oil or mineral riches it contains.

In a brief phone call Wednesday, mayor Oleg Sidorkin told The Associated Press that rebels had penetrated into the town. There were no immediate details on the size of the rebel force.

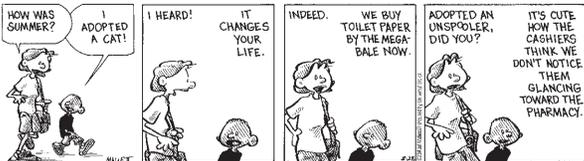
More than 20 shells were fired at the government-held town of Novoazovsk in one hour Wednesday morning. Plumes of black smoke rose above the town, which was also hit repeatedly by shelling Tuesday that damaged a hospital and wounded four people inside, Sidorkin said.

Ukrainian security officials said villages around Novoazovsk have also come under shelling. The assault on the town has forced government troops to spread their ranks thinner along the Russian border.

"Novoazovsk is being shelled both from Russia and from positions on Ukrainian territory," Ukrainian National Security Council spokesman Col. Andriy Lysenko told reporters in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

Sidorkin said the rebel forces were positioned near the southernmost border with Russia. It was not immediately clear how the rebels could travel to the area, which is distant from the main front line further north.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



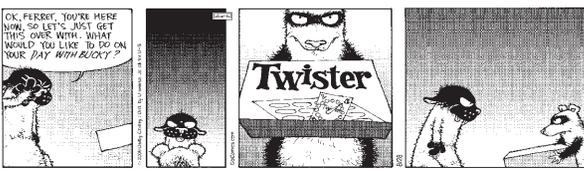
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13					14			
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46	47	48										
51						52		53			54	55
56											58	
59											61	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tiny tale
 - 4 Coloring agents
 - 8 Low voice
 - 12 Expert
 - 13 Royal of India
 - 14 Carbon compound
 - 15 \$1.00 bill, slangily
 - 17 Old portico
 - 18 Pooch
 - 19 Discarding unceremoniously
 - 21 Moon of Mars
 - 24 Witness
 - 25 Gun the engine
 - 26 Enthusiast
 - 28 Hydrophobic
 - 32 Dunkable treat
 - 34 Jazz style
 - 36 Gambling game
 - 37 Talkative
 - 39 Chart
 - 41 Profit
 - 42 Slight touch
 - 44 Breathe laboriously
 - 46 "Song of Hiawatha" tribe
 - 50 Antique
 - 51 Caffeine source
 - 52 Fundraising events
 - 56 Bar
 - 57 Bedouin
 - 58 Upper limit
 - 59 -retentive
 - 60 Anger
 - 61 Attempt
- DOWN**
- 1 "Great!"
 - 2 "Rocks"
 - 3 Start to touch your toes
 - 4 St. George's victim
 - 5 Thanksgiving veggie
 - 6 Oklahoma city
 - 7 Kind of headache
 - 8 Signify
 - 9 Con
 - 10 Any minute now
 - 11 Ore refine
 - 12 Occupation
 - 20 Mal de —
 - 21 Ship's front
 - 22 Brave one
 - 23 Long lunch
 - 27 Cruise or Hanks
 - 29 Eggs —
 - 30 Powerful hurricane of 1966
 - 31 Overindulge, with "on"
 - 33 Kook
 - 35 Manhandle
 - 38 Deviate off course
 - 40 Pal of Rachel and Monica
 - 43 Kid-lit pachyderm
 - 45 Sprite
 - 46 Gumbo need
 - 47 Lunden or Baez
 - 48 Pelvic bones
 - 49 Antioxins
 - 53 Gripe repeatedly
 - 54 Pitch
 - 55 Agent

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-28 CRYPTOQUIP

UK N X K T W A D H H T Q A

N Y M G D W X Q I T W H D D H I H X

V J S S H I D U G S X W D Y H X A D H D I Y .

T H ' W M W H X V - A M V U D M W J Y D .

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: OLD SITCOM ABOUT AN ADVERTISING COMPANY PRODUCING THE VERY BEST MOTTOES: "SLOGAN'S HEROES."

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: H equals T

MIDEAST

Sources: US mulls new relief mission in Iraq

Humanitarian operation under consideration to aid besieged Shiite Turkmen minorities

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is considering launching a humanitarian relief operation for Shiite Turkmen in northern Iraq who have been under siege for weeks by Islamic State militants, U.S. defense officials said Wednesday.

The mission, if it went forward, would be the second recent U.S. military humanitarian intervention in Iraq. U.S. cargo planes dropped tons of food and water to displaced Yazidis on Mount Sinjar in northern Iraq earlier this month, supported by U.S. airstrikes on nearby Islamic State fighting positions.

The administration is now focused on the

imperted town of Amrili, which is about 105 miles north of Baghdad and just a few miles from Kurdish territory. Roughly 12,000 to 15,000 people are estimated to have no access to food or water.

The head of the United Nation's assistance mission in Iraq, Nickolay Mladenov, earlier this week called for urgent action in Amrili and described the situation as desperate.

Three U.S. defense officials said a humanitarian mission is under consideration. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they could not discuss internal administration deliberations by name. The timetable for a decision on whether and

how to go ahead with the mission was not immediately clear.

Separately, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East, Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, met Wednesday in Baghdad with Iraq's premier-designate, Haider al-Abadi, to discuss cooperation in the fight against the Islamic State, according to a statement issued by al-Abadi's office. The statement said Austin expressed the U.S. government's willingness to provide more counterterrorism training for Iraqi security forces.

The U.S. has several hundred military personnel in Iraq providing security for American facilities, including the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and the U.S. Consulate in

Irbil, and coordinating with Iraqi security forces.

Amrili residents have put up fierce resistance since the siege began, preventing the Sunni militants from successfully taking over the town.

The militants have, in turn, cut off the town, leaving thousands without access to food, water and medicine despite recent aid drops by the Iraqi military.

David Pallock, a former State Department official and now a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said Tuesday the U.S. military could assist in opening a land corridor into Kurdish territory for the besieged Turkmen.

More countries join effort to arm Kurds

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The international effort to help Iraqis fight Islamic militants is heating up, with seven additional countries agreeing to provide arms to the Kurdish peshmerga forces.

Albania, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, France, Italy and the U.K. have committed to giving weapons and equipment to the embattled Kurds, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

The announcement comes about two weeks after Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel set up a working group to find ways to accelerate arms deliveries to the Kurds.

The Defense Department said the materiel is "urgently needed" as the Kurds take on the militant group known as the Islamic State, which has taken over much of Iraq and Syria.

The supply efforts "have already begun and will accelerate in the coming days with more nations also expected to contribute," Hagel said in a statement.

He did not indicate which additional countries he anticipates will join the coalition.

Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said the U.K. and Albania have already started delivering additional military gear to the Kurds.

"This multinational effort, which is being coordinated with the Government of Iraq in Baghdad, will greatly assist Kurdish forces in repelling the brutal terrorist threat they face from [the Islamic State]," Hagel said.

"The determination of the Iraqi people and the international community to counter the threat posed by [the Islamic State] is only growing, and the United States looks forward to working with our friends from around the world to assist this effort," he said.

The U.S. and the Iraqi central government in Baghdad have already been rearming the Kurds, but officials said other countries can provide things that the Pentagon can't.

"What's great about this effort is so many of these partner nations have in their stocks more than we do the kinds of equipment that the Kurdish forces use, which isn't necessarily just American-made materiel," Kirby told reporters.

Kirby said the additional gear that has already begun to flow to the Kurds covers a "full range" of small arms ammunition and "other personnel-served weaponry."

In addition to helping the Kurds get weapons, the U.S. military has been bombing Islamic State targets inside Iraq to protect American personnel and Iraqi civilians, as well as to assist Kurdish and Iraqi military ground force operations against the militants.

The latest strikes, carried out Tuesday, destroyed two Islamic State armed vehicles and damaged another near the city of Irbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region, where 90 U.S. troops are also manning a joint operations center, according to U.S. Central Command.

The U.S. has conducted 98 airstrikes in Iraq since the air campaign against the Islamic State was launched at President Barack Obama's direction on Aug. 8, according to CENTCOM.

Last week Hagel raised the possibility of launching airstrikes against militants in neighboring Syria, where the Islamic State has a support base that helps it conduct operations in Iraq. At a press conference Tuesday, Kirby would not confirm news reports that the U.S. military had begun conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance flights over Syria to prepare for a potential expanded bombing campaign.

When asked if the White House had ordered ISR flights over Syria, Kirby said he would not discuss intelligence matters, but added: "We're a planning organization here. We have to be prepared for all kinds of options. And, with respect to providing military options, we're going to be ready to do that."

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Twitter: @JHarperStripes



RAOQA MEDIA CENTER/AP

An Islamic State militant, armed with a knife and an automatic weapon, guards captured Syrian army soldiers and officers following the battle for the Taqba air base in Raqqa, Syria, on Wednesday.

Obama weighs risks of attacking Islamic State militants in Syria

By NANCY A. YOUSSEF,
JONATHAN S. LANDRY
AND LESLEY CLARK
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Amid growing pressure to act, President Barack Obama on Tuesday cautioned that defeating the Islamic State would take time, even as some Pentagon officials expressed frustration with what they decried as White House foot-dragging on striking the militant group's Syria sanctuaries.

With U.S. aircraft pressing attacks on Islamic State fighters in Iraq, the administration confronted mounting questions about how it would deal with the Islamic State's presence on Syria's side of the border. That is a far more complex goal because any setback dealt the group in Syria could benefit Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose

ouster is official U.S. policy.

Senior Pentagon officials have been conferring with the White House on hitting Islamic State targets just inside eastern Syria, from where the group launched an atrocity-filled offensive in mid-June that overran roughly half of Iraq and brought it to the outskirts of Baghdad, said two U.S. defense officials.

The White House has yet to request a formal proposal, said the defense officials, who expressed frustration over what both separately called the administration's "dithering." They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

"The targets would be similar to the ones we struck in Iraq," said one of the officials, referring to the Islamic State combat vehicles, artillery positions and checkpoints that the U.S. has hit

in nearly 100 airstrikes in northern Iraq since Aug. 8.

The officials compared the current situation to Obama's hesitancy nearly one year ago to make good on a threat to attack Assad's chemical weapons arsenal after what the United States and its allies charged were regime nerve gas attacks that killed hundreds of civilians.

The administration contends that by withholding those strikes, the United States and Russia were able to broker a deal under which Assad surrendered nearly all of his chemical weapons stocks. Critics portrayed Obama's decision as a retreat that made the United States look weak, boosted Assad's international standing, hurt the moderate Syrian rebel movement and spurred new recruits and funding for the Islamic State and other Islamist groups fighting the Syrian leader.

MIDEAST

American killed in Syria linked to Islamic State

By PAUL WALSH
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — A former Minnesotan linked to the terrorist group the Islamic State has been killed in Syria.

Douglas McCain had lived in San Diego in recent years and was a 1999 graduate of Robbinsdale Cooper High School in New Hope, said two cousins who still live in the Minneapolis area and are roughly his age.

Kenyata McCain and another first cousin said Tuesday that McCain's mother received a call Monday from the State Department reporting that her 33-year-old son was killed over the weekend.

The New York Times reported Tuesday night that a senior U.S. official said McCain died fighting for the Islamic State and that a human rights group that monitors the fighting in Syria said he was killed in a battle in Marea, a city in northern Syria near the Turkish border.

"We were aware of U.S. citi-

zen Douglas McCauthur McCain's presence in Syria and can confirm his death," U.S. National Security Council spokesman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement released Tuesday evening. "We continue to use every tool we possess to disrupt and dissuade individuals from traveling abroad for violent jihad and to track and engage those who return."

NBC News was the first to report McCain's death and also said he was fighting on behalf of the Islamic State, attributing its information to the Free Syrian Army. NBC said McCain was one of three "foreign jihadists" killed in a battle, according to an activist linked to the Free Syrian Army. The network added that it has seen McCain's passport and his body, both featuring a distinctive neck tattoo.

State Department spokesman Jen Psaki said during a briefing in Washington before the NSC's confirmation that her agency was aware of the reports, and was in contact with the fam-



A photo taken from the Facebook page of a man calling himself "Duale ThaslaveoAllah" has been identified by NBC News as Douglas McCauthur McCain, 33, an American who was killed over the weekend in Syria fighting alongside Islamic State jihadists.

ily but did not release the American's identity.

"We are in contact with the family and are providing all possible consular assistance," Psaki said. "As you know, there's typically a process that needs to be gone through before any confirmation can be made."

The network said McCain called himself "Duale ThaslaveoAllah" on Facebook, and his Twitter bio read, "It's Islam over everything." As news spread Tuesday of McCain's death, someone was making changes to the page and then it was no longer accessible.

Kenyata McCain said she was in touch with Douglas McCain as recently as Friday, and "he was telling all of us he was in Turkey."

She noted that his Facebook page had a posting that "said [the Islamic State] and he was in support of it."

"I know that he had strong Muslim beliefs, but I didn't know that he was in support of [the Islamic State]. I didn't think he would be."

The other cousin, who asked that his name be withheld, said

that while "I don't know what he went over there for, I don't want people to get the idea that he was some kind of monster."

He added that Douglas McCain had been working in the San Diego area as a caregiver to clients with special needs and raising a daughter, who is nearing her first birthday.

He described his cousin as "a Muslim, but he's not a radical. People get the words mixed up."

A sister of Douglas McCain's, Delecia, eulogized her brother in a Facebook posting, writing: "I really don't understand why and how and I have no words, I never thought this will be the way we say goodbye. ... This is absolutely unreal to me I love you big brother."

McCain had a few scrapes with the law while in Minnesota, according to court records. He has convictions for a minor drug possession, theft, disorderly conduct and driving after his license was revoked.

US relies on Persian Gulf bases for strikes in Iraq

By CRAIG WHITLOCK
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is relying on bases in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere in the Middle East to carry out airstrikes in Iraq, but is masking the locations and the details about the units and aircraft involved to avoid embarrassing partners in the region.

The Persian Gulf monarchies have long hosted U.S. forces to bolster their own security. But most have shied from acknowledging the American presence and are even more reluctant now with U.S. warplanes bombing Iraq.

The arrangement is especially delicate given long-standing accusations from Washington that wealthy donors in the Gulf underwrite terrorist groups, including Islamic militants.

Public records and U.S. military statements about the types of U.S. aircraft deployed over Iraq indicate they are primarily drawn from two main bases in the Gulf: al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, Ali al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, and al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. In addition, Predator drones and possibly other U.S. aircraft are flying from the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, a NATO ally.

Those bases are responsible for launching about two-thirds of the airstrikes in Iraq since Aug. 8, as well as a similar proportion of the thousands of surveillance sorties that have been conducted since June, according to U.S. military commanders.

The remainder have been launched from the USS George H.W. Bush, an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf, and other ships in the carrier's strike group, according to Navy commanders.

Targeting Iraq from next door

The U.S. military has conducted hundreds of airstrikes in Iraq against the Islamic State, with the majority of air missions originating with the USS George H.W. Bush carrier strike group. The U.S. Navy's warplanes, along with the other warplanes being deployed over Iraq are based, citing political sensitivities, The Pentagon has relied on several large air bases it has built up in the region.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Fear of backlash

The Pentagon has become increasingly dependent on the tiny Gulf states to host the bulk of its forces in the Middle East since it withdrew from Iraq in 2011 and vacated several large bases there. Mustafa Alani, director of security and defense studies at the Gulf Research Center in Geneva, said that Gulf countries generally support U.S. military action against the Islamic State, the jihadi movement that has taken over large parts of Iraq and Syria. But he said Gulf rulers are wary of directly linking themselves to

U.S. military operations, fearful of a popular backlash should airstrikes result in civilian casualties. "These countries try to protect themselves by not knowing and not asking," Alani said.

Washington has its own reasons to cloak the extent of its military presence in the region, he added. "It is an ambiguity that both sides think they have an interest to maintain."

The most strategically important U.S. base in the region is al Udeid in Qatar, home of the Air Force's command center for all air operations in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

An outgrowth of the war in Afghanistan and the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, al Udeid is home to about 9,000 U.S. troops and contractors. Its principal unit is the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, which has more than 90 combat aircraft and support planes.

Even though the existence of the base is an open secret, for years the U.S. military would refrain from uttering its name, saying only that aircraft and personnel there were stationed somewhere in "Southwest Asia."

That changed, briefly, in December when Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel visited Qatar to sign a 10-year lease extension for the base and publicly acknowledged the presence of U.S. troops. Base officials began issuing statements and press releases mentioning al Udeid.

Since June, however, when President Barack Obama ordered troops to return to Iraq in small numbers and the skies over the country became thick with U.S. warplanes, military officials have imposed a blackout on information about where those forces are coming from.

Political leverage

While the stationing of American troops in the Persian Gulf and Turkey has given the Obama administration flexibility, it has also given governments in the region political leverage over U.S. policy.

For instance, the administration has often leveraged its military intervention in Iraq on the removal of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite leader who resigned this month under pressure. His resignation made the U.S. airstrike campaign against the Islamic State more politically palatable for the Sunni rulers of

the Gulf states and Turkey, who didn't want Washington to take any action that might help al-Maliki in power.

"From a Gulf perspective, there are good interventions and bad interventions," said Shadi Hamid, a Middle East scholar with the Brookings Institution in Washington. "[Al-Maliki was anathema to them and seen as distinctly sectarian."

At the same time, Hamid said leaders in the Gulf are unlikely to acknowledge their military cooperation with Washington even if they favor the mission.

"There will continue to be strong suspicion of anything the U.S. does in terms of intentions and motive," he said. "It also would be admitting a kind of dependence on the U.S. that would not sit well with the public."

The suspicion can be mutual. Many officials in Washington and Europe have accused Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of turning a blind eye to fundraising in their countries by clerics and others who support extremist groups.

Last week, a German government minister, Gerd Mueller, accused Qatar of financing Islamic State militants and helping to arm them. Although the Qatari Foreign Ministry denied the charge and the German government apologized, some in Washington have questioned whether the Qataris have accumulated outside influence because of its military cooperation.

In Kuwait, even as Ali al Salem Air Base has taken on added importance for U.S. military operations, other branches of the U.S. government have expressed concern about local support for extremist groups.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Anti-pot 'lab rat' campaign hits snag

CO BOULDER — A provocative anti-marijuana campaign aimed at Colorado youths has angered marijuana activists for its tag line. "Don't Be a Lab Rat." Now, a Colorado city is holding off on displaying a human-size cage used in the campaign after a school district raised concerns.

The city of Boulder said Tuesday it is putting off the campaign. The city is delaying installation after the Boulder Valley School District said the display was a bad prop for 12- to 15-year-olds, The Daily Camera reported.

"We had concerns about the use of human-scale rat cages being an effective tool for getting 12- to 15-year-olds to understand the risks involved with their developing brains," school district spokesman Briggs Gamblin said.

Subway train takes off wrong way on tracks

NY NEW YORK — New York City transit officials said a subway operator and conductor have been taken out of service while they investigate how a train ended up going the wrong way.

Officials said the uptown "A" train pulled out of the Canal Street hub onto downtown tracks on Aug. 11.

The crew apparently did not hear a dispatcher's radio warning.

The operator stopped after seeing another train's headlights at West 4th Street. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority said there was no danger because the oncoming train had been halted.

The MTA said there had been signal problems, and the operator had been told to back up and switch to the other track. Instead, she kept going.

The MTA said a wrong-way train is "extremely uncommon."

Man drives an hour to save injured bear

AZ PHOENIX — An Arizona man who thought he found a dead dog along an Arizona highway ended up saving a bear cub by driving 80 miles.

KTAR-FM reported that Christopher Merritt, of Payson, recently saved the injured baby bear after he discovering it was still alive and without a mom. He said he called several places in the Payson area to take the bear but none had space.

He then contacted the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center in Sedona and drove the bear around a hour away.

Tests showed the 4-month-old cub had a fractured leg but was otherwise in good health.

Police ID man who died after sunroof stunt

NE LINCOLN — Authorities have released the name of a 27-year-old man who died after falling from the top of a semi-trailer vehicle in Lincoln. The accident occurred around

THE CENSUS

4,000

The number of postcards supporters of Fort Carson have sent to the Pentagon in an effort to prevent deep cuts in the number of troops at the post near Colorado Springs, Colo. The Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance shipped the cards before the midnight Monday deadline to submit public comments. The Army is considering cutting up to 16,000 troops at Fort Carson and 29 other installations across the country. The alliance's chief of defense industries, Andy Merritt, said the public support for Fort Carson could give it an edge over other posts "if we get down to those tie-breaking factors." The Army isn't expected to announce its proposed cuts until 2015.



ROBERT WILLETTS, THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Holy crossing guard!

Myrtle Underwood Elementary School crossing guard Jeffrey "JR" Richardson, wearing a Batman costume, greets a student as he crosses the street on the first day of school Monday in Raleigh, N.C. Richardson said he wanted to bring a smile to the children and their families as they arrived for the new school year.

12:30 a.m. Sunday. Police said James Rubio was a passenger in the SUV.

An accident report said Rubio told the driver it would be fun to climb out of the SUV's sunroof while the SUV was still moving. Rubio did so and then fell. Police said he died at the scene.

Blood tests were performed on the driver, Lindsey McCallister, 34, and an autopsy was ordered for Rubio's body.

Town repeals an old ban on fortunetellers

VA FRONT ROYAL — Tarot card readings and magic are no longer illegal in Front Royal.

The Town Council voted Monday to repeal a decades-old ban on fortunetellers. The ordinance also banned the practice of "magic arts" and roving "gypsies." The Northern Virginia Daily reported.

Monday's vote followed a public comment period that drew nearly 30 speakers. More than half the speakers asked the council to repeal the ordinance. Opponents said the ban should remain on the books.

State tourism campaign shows up in tattoos

MI LANSING — The state's Pure Michigan tourism campaign is getting a little ink — on people's bodies.

Michigan Economic Development Corp. spokeswoman Michelle Grinnell told MLive.com that a colleague spotted a nearly exact rendering of the Pure Michigan logo as a tattoo. It features a blue "M," signifying the tourism brand.

Grinnell said she thinks it's "kind of a signal of how passionate our fans are and how passionate people are about the state of Michigan."

Tattoo artists say others have tattoos incorporating the words "Pure Michigan."

New condo's name gets tainted by extremists

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A planned South Florida condo that shared its name with a group of Islamic extremists is getting a new identity.

ISIS Downtown is a major development being built in West

Palm Beach. ISIS is also one of the names for the Islamic State group behind the recent beheading of American journalist James Foley.

The Palm Beach Post reported the new building is now being called 3 Thirty Three Downtown. The developers haven't commented on the change. Tim Harris, the past president of the Palm Beaches, said the prior name had become "scarily negative."

Jail guard accused of spraying Mace on pizza

MO UNION — A Franklin County jail guard is under investigation after four inmates said they became ill from eating pizza tainted with pepper spray.

KTVI-TV reported that a unidentified deputy has been suspended with pay pending an internal investigation.

Franklin County Sheriff Gary Toelke said the guard told him that he accidentally sprayed Mace on the pizza after test-firing a tear gas canister in a janitor's closet sink. The deputy said that inmate Ricky Walton entered the supply closet to get a roll of toilet paper

and took the pizza on his own. Walton's sister questioned the deputy's explanation, given the tight jail security she's observed.

Appeals court upholds ear-biting conviction

MA BOSTON — The Massachusetts Appeals Court has refused to throw out the mayhem conviction of a Springfield man who bit off part of a youth basketball coach's ear.

Timothy Forbes was sentenced to up to four years in jail after being found guilty of mayhem and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury.

Prosecutors said Forbes attacked the coach of the team his two sons were playing against after a championship game in 2012. Forbes argued that he didn't act with "malicious intent to maim or disfigure," as required under the mayhem law. The Appeals Court rejected that argument Tuesday, saying Forbes pinned the coach's arms so he could not fend him off when Forbes put his mouth on the coach's ear.

From wire reports

FACES

Kurylenko shows off her skills in her latest movie

By JOSEPH V. AMODIO
Newsday

Olga Kurylenko's rise is like the American dream — except East European style.

Born and raised in Ukraine (then part of the Soviet Union), her parents divorced when she was 3, and Mom (an art teacher) struggled to put bread on the table during the shortages after the Soviet Union collapsed. She did scrape together enough money to take her daughter, then 13, on a vacation to Moscow — where the pretty young thing was discovered by a modeling scout. Kurylenko was soon living in Paris, gracing runways and magazine covers, and eventually broke into film.

Now 34, she's recently hit it big — cast as Daniel Craig's Bond girl in "Quantum of Solace," and Tom Cruise's love interest in "Oblivion." Not bad, though Kurylenko seems almost aggressively modest about it all. Perhaps a background of some hardship makes her cautious about future success.

This month she's running with former 007 himself Pierce Brosnan and up-and-comer Luke Bracey in the gritty, action-packed spy thriller "The November Man."

Newsday: You're really working in this film — you act, play piano and stay standing in those crazy-high Louboutin stilettos they had you wear.

Kurylenko: Oh, God. They look great, but gee ... it's hard to walk.

Did you learn piano for the movie?

Actually ... to my shame, I have to say, I studied piano as a child for seven years, so I should be playing like a concert pianist. I'm always very hard on myself. But I think after seven years ... I should be playing more. But I stopped. Still, you never forget — it's like riding a bike.

What was Pierce Brosnan like? I've been lucky enough to interview him twice, and he's always been ... so classy. And respectful.

He's very gentle. And calm, but at the same time, he's funny. He's just very ... he's chill, you know? I never saw him stressed. A real gentleman. He has this kind of velvety feeling. He's a great guy. And, of course, an amazing actor.

Did you hang out?

Not much. I flew straight from the set of "The Vampire Academy," which shot in London, the next morning to Belgrade for this. And I shot every day for like three weeks. So it was hectic. But we went to dinner a few times with the crew. There was one dinner where we were invited by, um, the minister of culture or something, and we all sang karaoke. I was so embarrassed. Actually, Luke sang amazingly well. I regretted it, regretted it right away. (She laughs.)

What's your go-to karaoke song?

I was trying to sing a Russian song. That was very funny.

You sang in Russian? How many languages do you speak?

Oh, you know, fluently, just English, French and Russian.

Oh ... just three, huh?

And then I speak less-fluent Spanish. I'm in "The Water Diviner," which comes out later this year, directed by Russell Crowe. When he called, he said, "How fast can you learn Turkish?" I said, "Easy." Not because I think so highly of myself — actually, it's the opposite — but if there's one thing I know about myself, I really can learn languages. You want me to learn Chinese tomorrow? I'll learn it. I love it. I have a passion for it.

Olga Kurylenko stars in the movie "The November Man."

RELATIVITY MEDIA/AP

All-women sports show 'We Need to Talk' coming to CBS Sports Network

The Associated Press

CBS officials talked about an all-women sports show for more than a year, and now they're set to make television history.

The network announced Tuesday that "We Need to Talk" will premiere Sept. 30 on CBS Sports Network. The weekly, hour-long, prime-time program on the cable channel will be the first of its kind. The panel will feature a core of CBS Sports announcers: Lesley Visser, Amy Trask, Tracy Wolfson, Dana Jacobson and Allie LaForce. Other contributors include Andrea Kremer and former athletes Laila Ali, Lisa Leslie, Dara Torres, Swin Cash and Summer Sanders.

"I think it's long overdue," CBS Sports president David Berson said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "We're excited to be the home for it, and all these women have such meaningful roles already within CBS or in various other places. I

know they're all excited."

"CBS This Morning" co-hosts Norah O'Donnell and Gayle King will appear as guests.

Visser, who started covering sports in 1974, considers the show "a cultural pivot point." "There are many shows that have a woman on, but not one that has a table filled with women," Visser said in a release.

Trask was the first female chief executive officer in the NFL and worked for the Oakland Raiders for nearly 30 years.

15.6 million tune into Emmys

NBC says the Emmys thrived despite a Monday airing in the dog days of August.

Broadcast on a nontraditional night prior to Labor Day, the television awards show nonetheless logged 15.6 million viewers. It was the second biggest audience for an Emmys broadcast in eight years, NBC said Tuesday.

The viewership was exceeded only by last year's airing by CBS, when it drew 17.8 million viewers on a Sunday in September, with an NFL game as lead-in.

The 15.6-million audience makes this the most-watched night on any network since ABC's Academy Awards on March 2, when 35.2 million viewers tuned in.

Spacey set for 1-night concert

Two-time Academy Award winner Kevin Spacey will take time out from filming the third season of the Netflix hit series to show off his vocal talents at a one-night-only gala concert Sept. 29 at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. The concert will benefit scholarships and grants for emerging artists.

Spacey promises some Billy Joel songs, a bit of Sinatra, plenty of swing, a few stories and a surprise guest or two, all backed by a 40-piece orchestra.

"You never know what I might come up with," he said. Tickets, still available, are \$104. Proceeds from the show will help fund the Kevin Spacey Foundation, which recently chose Pace University in New York to be the first institution of higher education in the U.S. to receive its scholarships and funding support. "

Cyrus' date wanted by police

The young homeless man who accompanied Miley Cyrus to the MTV Video Music Awards has a warrant out for his arrest in Oregon. Jesse Helt, 22, was arrested on charges of criminal mischief, criminal trespass and burglary in 2010.

According to court records, he broke into an apartment. Helt, who was 18 at the time, pleaded guilty to criminal mischief and criminal trespass, both misdemeanors, and was sentenced to 30 days in jail and probation.

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OPINION

Why is Phoenix VA official still employed?

By PETE HEGSETH

In April, I wrote about the urgent need for reform at the Department of Veterans Affairs. That call followed revelations of a nationwide patient care scandal, in which veterans were denied care while VA officials falsified wait lists and then collected generous "performance" bonuses based on the fraudulent numbers.

Exhibit A in that case was Sharon Helman, the director of the Phoenix VA, where the scandal broke. She oversaw the fraudulent scheduling scheme intended to make Phoenix VA executives look good while veterans waited and suffered.

It wasn't the first time Helman has been at the center of a VA administrative controversy. In 2009, she was implicated in a separate falsification of records scheme in Washington state, where VA officials systematically underreported suicides of veterans.

She also has a record of punishing employees who cross her. One VA public affairs official who blew the whistle on mismanagement at the Phoenix facility soon found herself stripped of her duties and moved to a remote basement office, on Helman's orders.

You might think Helman's history of corrupting VA posts has an antidivinity would put her out of the job. Wrong. Since I wrote about Helman's shoddy record four months ago, she's been placed on "administrative leave," meaning she's still collecting a paycheck.

For the veterans under Helman's purview, the last four months have been a time of uncertainty and anger as they seek answers to how this scandal happened. For Helman, those same four months have

Terminating Helman's employment would send a clear signal that the department leadership will not tolerate fraud and other forms of malfeasance.

been a paid vacation.

And an extremely well-paid vacation: Helman's annual base pay of \$170,000 comes out to a monthly salary of just over \$14,000 a month. (This a good place to note that Helman received a reported \$57,000 in bonuses in 2013, according to The Arizona Republic, bringing her total compensation last year to more than \$237,000.)

Let's say this for the VA bureaucracy: Even if they've abandoned their mission of service to veterans, they certainly do know how to take care of their own. A May 24 CNN report included this telling detail:

The director had parked in an "emergency vehicles only" space outside the facility's ER entrance. She left the building surrounded by armed police who held the CNN team back. She climbed into her Mercedes sports coupe and drove off without saying a word.

For veterans, it's endless waiting and shoddy care. For VA insiders like Sharon Helman, it's armed security protection spiriting her to her (legally parked) German luxury car. It's difficult to imagine a more infuriating portrait of the sense of entitlement and unearned privilege found among top layers of today's so-called "public servants."

If Helman were a private-sector employ-

Ensure Navy is 'where it matters when it matters'

By GEORGE F. WILL

Russia's ongoing dismemberment of Ukraine and the Islamic State's erasing of Middle Eastern borders have distracted attention from the harassment of U.S. Navy aircraft by Chinese fighter jets over the South China Sea. Beijing calls this sea, and the Yellow and East China seas, the "near seas" meaning China's seas. The episodes involving aircraft flying from one of Adm. Jonathan Greenert's multiplying preoccupations — CUES, meaning Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea.

This is designed to prevent incendiary accidents, a topic of special interest during this month's centennial commemorations of the beginning of a war that, ignited by miscalculations, rained the 20th century. Greenert, chief of naval operations, has carrier-based aircraft flying from the Persian Gulf to targets in Iraq. He is, however, always thinking about the far side of the largest ocean.

One hundred years ago, the principal challenge of world diplomacy, which failed spectacularly, was to peacefully integrate a rising, restless power — Germany — into the international system. Today's comparable challenge is China. Greenert, who knows well his Chinese counterpart, Adm. Wu Shengli, radiates a serene patience about China.

Today the Chinese have one primitive aircraft carrier built from a hull bought from Ukraine. Greenert says China is about 10 years away from beginning to construct a seriously large and capable carrier with excellent aircraft. By which time, optimists hope, China will accept the need for orderliness on the seas over which

pass 90 percent of the world's trade (by volume) and beneath which, through cables, pass 95 percent of international phone and Internet traffic.

Greenert's Navy, which has fewer (290) but much more capable ships than the Navy had during the Reagan buildup (594), can still move nimbly to put anti-missile ships near North Korea or F/A-18s over the Islamic State. But cascading dangers are compelling Americans to think afresh about something they prefer not to think about at all — foreign policy. What they decide that they want will define the kind of nation they want America to be. This abstract question entails a concrete one: What kind of Navy do Americans want? The answer will determine whether U.S. power can, in Greenert's formulation, "be where it matters when it matters."

China's naval buildup is eliciting countervailing forces, including Japan's naval expansion, which Greenert says includes ships as capable as ours. Japan's constitution restricts the nation's Self-Defense Forces to just that — defensive activities — but the constitution can be construed permissively to allow, for example, defenses against ballistic missiles and protection of allies. This is one reason Greenert says it is reasonable to speak of a 1,000-ship naval force encompassing the assets of nations — such as India, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea and the Philippines — that have no agendas beyond maintaining the maritime order on which world commerce depends.

The most momentous naval event in world history, an event more important than the developments of sail and steam power, was the Jan. 17, 1955, signal from the USS Nautilus: "Underway on nuclear

power," a nuclear Navy can stay on station. Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., who chairs the Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on seapower and projection forces, notes that with America having fewer land bases overseas, aircraft carriers effectively "move U.S. soil anywhere in the world."

China's intellectual superiority, which has an "outward-leaning economy," China's economic dynamism, and hence its political stability and geopolitical weight, depends on seaborne imports of natural resources and seaborne exports to distant markets. China, which has territorial disputes in common waters with its neighbors, worries, Forbes says, primarily about America's Navy.

Forbes worries about China's development of "carrier-buster" anti-ship missiles that "will back our carriers away from Chinese territory," including those seas that China considers its own. A carrier can cost approximately \$13 billion, but that is, Forbes says, acceptable for a product that will project national power for 50 years. The Navy, with embarked Marines, is the primary instrument for the use of military power.

The question, however, is: Do Americans, demoralized by squandered valor in Iraq and Afghanistan, and dismayed in dramatically different ways by two consecutive generations in chief — the recklessness of one and the lassitude of his successor — want U.S. power projected? They will answer that question with the Navy their representatives configure. The representatives should act on the assumption that every generation lives either in war years or in what subsequent historians will call "interwar years."

Will McDonald and the Obama administration pass this pressing accountability test? They had better. Veterans and their advocates are watching closely, and we expect results.

Pete Hegseth is the CEO of Concerned Veterans for America and a Fox News contributor. He is an infantry officer in the Army National Guard, and served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

OPINION

In Ferguson, armor did not keep crowd calm

By ROBERT BRUCE WARE

Night had just fallen in Ferguson, Mo., as I watched a standoff from on the town's main thoroughfare. Approximately 150 protesters stood on West Florissant Avenue, their hands held up to symbolize nonviolent compliance. A hundred yards south, the six-lane avenue was blocked by a line of police vehicles, including armored SWAT carriers. The officers held assault rifles, bled riot gear, and — absurdly in a suburban setting — wore full camouflage. The scene was surreal and terrifying.

I had gone up to Ferguson from my home nearby in St. Louis County to witness the clashes that had erupted after a white police officer killed an unarmed black teenager a week earlier. As a university researcher, I've traveled to study the brutality and violence in Russia's North Caucasus, and I was stuck by the irony of driving along a familiar road to observe the chaos only a few miles away.

In Ferguson on Aug. 17, I didn't see authorities make efforts to restore calm. Instead, they made aggressive attempts to intimidate and draw battle lines. The two sides were unevenly matched — one was dressed in police uniforms and hymns prepared for war; Ferguson has shown us how militarization of local law enforcement does more to stir chaos than to bring order.

Before the standoff, the protesters had been marching peacefully. A local church gamelan played traditional hymns and handing out fliers that quoted the Bible on justice and mercy. Near the burnt-out Quik-Trip, now an icon of the Ferguson protests, adults and children stood along the sidewalk watching the demonstration. An old woman in a wheelchair rolled slowly by. The march passed several county police who paid little attention to the non-violent protest.

But soon, I saw dozens of people streaming back northward. Some were crying. Several said police were firing tear gas and rubber bullets further down the street. Protesters ran around white fabric facial-filtration masks.

I moved to the front line of the protest, which now faced the array of military-styled police vehicles. Over a loudspeaker,

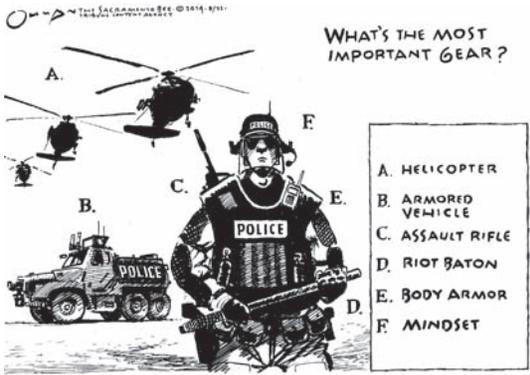
The only violence I witnessed resulted from a disproportionate and relentless assault by an unnecessarily militarized police force.

an officer ordered the crowd to "leave the area." The people near me began backing away, but almost immediately, police launched tear gas canisters toward us. A flash-bang grenade flew past my head and detonated just in front of me, interrupting my retreat. The line of police vehicles began rolling toward us and more gas was fired into the retreating crowd.

Chaos ensued. I started running to escape the sounds of shooting behind me. A protester with a loudspeaker told us to move to a nearby park, and several young people wearing shirts that said "PEACE-KEEPERS" ran across the street shouting unintelligible instructions. Lost in the terrified crowd, they seemed to go unnoticed.

As I retreated northward, back up Florissant Avenue, I saw chaos and looting in those blocks that had been quiet and calm only half an hour earlier. Struggling to stay ahead of the police advance, I was rescued by a family with three children fleeing in their SUV. We were in the last car rolling through the tear gas ahead of the police. As we reached the municipal line where Florissant Avenue crosses into the city of Dellwood, the scene suddenly changed. I saw four St. Louis County Police cruisers, several county officers (in ordinary uniforms, instead of military fatigues), and dozens of protesters calmly standing side by side, watching the chaos down the street in Ferguson.

No one there understood why the police attacked. Before then, police hadn't discouraged protesters from walking down Florissant Avenue. The midnight curfew was hours away. Prior to the police attack, neither I, nor anyone with whom I spoke had seen any violation of the law. The only violence I witnessed resulted from a disproportionate and relentless assault by an



unnecessarily militarized police force.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the federal government has spent billions of dollars on military equipment for state and local police. In addition to Defense Department giveaways, the State Homeland Security Program — which provides funding to states for planning and training to respond to terrorism and other threats — has budgeted about \$4 million for Missouri and a separate \$3 million specifically for the St. Louis area. The federal Urban Areas Security Initiative, which provides funding to metro areas for the same purpose, distributed \$81 million to the St. Louis area from 2003 to 2012.

And it's not just Missouri. Since 1997, the Defense Department has given more than \$4.3 billion in military equipment to local law enforcement agencies — nearly a half-billion worth last year alone. Counties across America — from Maricopa, Ariz., to Richland, S.C. — now possess tanks with 360-degree rotating machine gun turrets. Their .50-caliber bullets can penetrate buildings several city blocks away. Richland County's sheriff dubbed his tank "The

Peacemaker."

On Saturday, President Barack Obama rightly ordered a review of the federal programs that give local police departments easy access to this kind of military equipment. This is a good first step. Law enforcement officials may mistake their battlefield pose for community protection, but to Ferguson residents, military hardware on neighborhood streets signaled a sharp escalation of violence. Peaceful residents resented being treated indiscriminately as threats in their own neighborhoods. Welding weapons typically used for occupation and oppression — not protection — served only to inflame the crowds.

As we rushed away from the police line that Sunday night, a black man succinctly explained to me the problem that America faces:

"It's not a racial thing," he said. "It's a police thing. It's America against the police."

Robert Bruce Ware resides in St. Louis County and serves as a professor of philosophy at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Signs of possible healing for a deserving community

By JAY AMBROSE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

We've had plenty of rhetorical villains since the fatal police shooting of a black teen in Ferguson, Mo., grandstanders stirring up fear in vengeful tones, and we've had violence and looting, mostly by nonresidents taking advantage of a tragedy to enrich themselves. But we've had heroes, too, and, at the young man's funeral, we had calls for engaged citizenship and a stop to community disruption.

Healing may be on the way. "Show up at the voting booths," said Eric Davis, a cousin of the slain Michael Brown, addressing Ferguson's black residents at the funeral. He said more voting would thus let others know "we have had enough," there is another way of looking at it, namely that it is a mode of self-governance, not just observer-governance, of assuming responsibility, of cooperatively sharing in decisions that matter.

It hasn't been happening. While blacks constitute 67 percent of Ferguson's population, just 7 percent bother to vote in local elections, and so it's no wonder that the

mayor and most members of the city council and school board are white. A funeral oration is not enough to change that. There need to be numerous energetic organizers out there, and some note that it would help to have the local elections coincide with national elections when the turnout is many times higher.

Even with all of that, it's the quality of candidates that counts, not just skin color, and there's not enough to change that. There need to be more people willing to hold them accountable by paying attention to what they do and speaking up when there's good reason. If the police department needs changing, citizens can then make it happen.

Another topic at the funeral was the looting and rioting. Bishop Edwin Bass of the Church of God in Christ has been quoted as saying he would like to see a group that powerfully explaining that now was a time "to immerse the family in the warm affection and abiding peace of the beloved community."

What ought to be mentioned, too, is that the Ferguson riots afflicted blacks themselves. African-American poverty activist Robert Woodson has pointed out that the damage has included lost equity in homes,

Seeing Missouri Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson makes you understand that the Ferguson story has brought us heroes others should do their best to learn from.

closed businesses, interruptions in bus services and thousands of children missing school for two weeks.

It could have been worse. Someone who has kept the situation more in hand than it might have been is Capt. Ron Johnson of the Missouri Highway Patrol, a black commander assigned by Gov. Jay Nixon to restore order to Ferguson after the shooting. He has done such an impressive job that The New York Times proclaimed that "he has redefined leadership in crisis: equal parts police official, preacher, mediator and neighbor, unafraid to convey his inner conflict, unafraid to cry." Just seeing him

interviewed on TV makes you understand that the Ferguson story has brought us heroes others should do their best to learn from.

For still another heroic healer, look to Gail Babcock, a retired white Ferguson resident who in one sense is not retired at all. Mentioned in several news accounts, she is hard at work with a nonprofit organization that serves young people of all groups by teaching them, helping them have fun, involving them in community life and assisting with such issues as paying off court fines. She is especially concerned at the moment with locating counselors to assist them in coping with the shock of recent events that she herself finds disturbing.

It is through such factors as all of these — political awakening, spiritual calm, character showing itself and civic responsibility — that communities cohere and ultimately thrive. Ferguson and similar communities may need still more, such as anti-poverty programs empowering the poor to self-serve, but it is worth our attention that something dreadful has already been followed by signs of hope.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East	West	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	2	1.0	667	55
New England	1	0.0	667	68
N.Y. Jets	2	0.0	667	62
Buffalo	1	0.0	250	63
South				
Houston	2	1.0	667	56
Tennessee	2	0.0	667	64
Jacksonville	1	0.0	333	47
Indianapolis	0	0.0	400	53
North				
Baltimore	0	0.0	1,000	83
Pittsburgh	1	0.0	333	67
Cincinnati	1	0.0	333	75
Cleveland	3	0.0	400	69
West				
Denver	2	0.0	667	72
San Diego	1	0.0	333	48
Kansas City	1	0.0	333	69
Oakland	1	0.0	333	67

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

N.Y. Giants	4	0.0	1,000	99
Washington	2	0.0	667	64
Philadelphia	1	0.0	333	67
Dallas	3	0.0	400	57
South				
New Orleans	3	0.0	1,000	80
Atlanta	1	0.0	333	65
Carolina	1	0.0	333	63
Tampa Bay	1	0.0	333	50
West				
Minnesota	3	0.0	1,000	70
Chicago	2	0.0	667	68
Detroit	2	0.0	667	51
Green Bay	2	0.0	667	48
East				
Seattle	2	1.0	667	91
Arizona	1	0.0	333	49
St. Louis	1	0.0	333	64
San Francisco	2	0.0	333	24

Saturday's games

Tampa Bay	27	Buffalo	14
Miami	25	Dallas	20
Tennessee	24	Atlanta	17
Washington	23	Washington	17
Minnesota	13	Kansas City	17
New Orleans	23	Indianapolis	17
St. Louis	23	Cleveland	14
Houston	18	Denver	1
Sunday's games			
San Francisco	21	San Diego	7
Cincinnati	19	Arizona	10
Thursday, Aug. 28			
Atlanta at Jacksonville			
Chicago at Green Bay			
Detroit at Buffalo			
Philadelphia at Cincinnati			
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia			
St. Louis at Miami			
New England at N.Y. Giants			
Carolina at Pittsburgh			
Washington at Tampa Bay			
San Francisco at Houston			
Baltimore at New Orleans			
Denver at Dallas			
Chicago at Cleveland			
Arizona at San Diego			
Seattle at Oakland			

Pro basketball

WNBA playoffs

(If necessary)
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-3)

EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Chicago 1, Atlanta 1	Indiana 1, Atlanta 1
Chicago 90, Atlanta 83	Chicago 82, Indiana 83
Indiana 76, Chicago 81	Atlanta 88, Chicago 81

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Phoenix 2, Los Angeles 0	
Phoenix 75, Los Angeles 72	
Phoenix 89, Los Angeles 83	

MINNESOTA 2, SAN ANTONIO 0

Minnesota 88, San Antonio 84
San Antonio 84, Minnesota 94

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-5)

EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Indiana vs. Chicago	Phoenix vs. Los Angeles
Indiana 89, Chicago 80	Phoenix 89, Los Angeles 83
Chicago 82, Indiana 83	Los Angeles 83, Phoenix 75

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Phoenix vs. Los Angeles	
Phoenix 89, Los Angeles 83	
Los Angeles 83, Phoenix 75	

MINNESOTA 2, SAN ANTONIO 0

Minnesota 88, San Antonio 84
San Antonio 84, Minnesota 94

Tennis

US Open

Thursday
At the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

New York

Purse: \$38.3 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard

First Round

Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (29), Spain, def. Yen-Hsun Lu, Taiwan, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2
Kei Nishikori (10), Japan, def. Wayne Odesnik, United States, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2
Ivo Karlovic (25), Croatia, def. Jarko Nieminen, Finland, 6-1, 6-3, 6-4
Marcel Granollers, Spain, def. Jürgen Metzler, Germany, 7-6 (1), 6-3, 6-2
Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Noah Rubin, United States, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0
Sam Querrey, U.S., def. Maximiliano Gonzalez, Argentina, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, 6-6, 6-3
Paulo Andujar, Spain, def. Jack Sock, United States, 6-4, 4-5, 6-1, retired
Fabio Fognini (15), Italy, def. Andrew Golubev, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2
John Isner (11), United States, def. Marcos Giron, U.S., 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (2)
Victor Estrella Burgos, Dominican Republic, def. Siyoning Nijssen, Netherlands, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2
Borna Coric, Croatia, def. Lukas Rosol (29), Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2
Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, def. Yoshitomo Nishikane, Japan, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Mitchell Krueger, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3
Adrian Panaru, France, def. Pere Riba, Spain, 7-5, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2
Richard Gasquet (12), France, def. Denis Istiaek, Uzbekistan, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-4
Gilles Simon (26), France, def. Radu Albot, Romania, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2
Federico Ferrer (4), Spain, def. Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, 6-1
Tim Smyczek, United States, def. Filip Krstic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2
Mateo Pechnic, United States, def. Roberto Gattuso, Australia, def. Albert Ramos, Spain, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (5)
Santo Brancato Auger (17), Spain, def. Antonio Gonzalez, Mexico, 5-7, 7-6 (1), 1-6, 7-5, 6-1
Alejandro Gonzalez, Colombia, def. Dmitriy Bogdanov, Russia, 6-4, 6-4
Gael Monfils (20), France, def. Dustin Brown, United States, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4
Bernard Tomic, Australia, def. Jason Brundage, 7-6 (1), 6-3, 6-2
Roger Federer (2), Switz, def. Marinko Matosevic, Australia, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (4)

First Round

Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 6-1, 6-1
Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Yvonne Meusburger, Austria, 6-2, 6-2
Wang Qiang, China, def. Paula Korda, Poland, 6-4, 6-4, 6-1
Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Zhang Shuai (23), China, 6-1, 6-0
Ana Ivanovic (9), Serbia, def. Alison Riske, United States, 6-3, 6-6
Sam Stosur (24), Australia, def. Lauren Davis, United States, 6-1, 6-4
Casey Dellacqua (25), Australia, def. Patricia Mayr-Achleitner, Austria, 7-5, 6-3
Lucy Konecny (19), U.S., def. Alison Van Uytvenck, Belgium, 7-5, 6-2
Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, def. Pauline Parmentier, France, 6-3, 6-2
Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, def. Svetlana Kuznetsov, Russia, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (3)
Vera Zvonareva, Russia, def. Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan, 6-0, 7-5
Flavia Pennetta (11), Italy, def. Julia Goerges, Germany, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1
Olga Rogozhina, Slovenia, def. Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, 6-2, 7-6 (2)
Petra Kvitova (3), Czech Republic, def. Petra Marozik, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-1
Christina McHale, United States, def. Coco Vandeweghe, United States, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (5)
Lucy Brown, United States, def. Dominika Cibulkova (12), Slovakia, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5
Ekaterina Makarovic, Romania, def. Yaroana Ivanova, Canada, 6-3, 6-2
Petra Cetkovic, Czech Republic, def. Klara Kouckova, C.R. Republic, 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2
Svetlana Kuznetsov, Russia, def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 6-1, 6-2
Ekaterina Makarovic (17), Russia, def. Victoria Azarenka (6), Belarus, 6-2, 6-3
Melinda Melnikovic, Australia, def. Coco Vandeweghe, United States, def. Jamie Gorelick, Spain, 6-7, 6-10, 6-3
Madison Keys (27), United States, def. Jamie Gorelick, Spain, 6-3, 6-2
Karla Suarez Navarro (5), Spain, def. Alicia Tornago, Australia, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1
Victoria Azarenka (6), Belarus, def. Francesca Schiavone, Italy, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3
Lucy Konecny (19), U.S., def. Svetlana Kuznetsov, Russia, 6-2, 6-3
Teiana Pereira, Brazil, def. Katarzyna Piter, Poland, 6-4, 6-1
Olga Rogozhina, Slovenia, def. Caroline Garcia, France, 6-3, 6-2
Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, 6-3, 6-2

College football

This week's schedule

Wednesday, Aug. 27

Auburn Christian at Georgia Tech	
Thursday, Aug. 28	
E. Kentucky at Robert Morris	BYU at Utah
Bryant at Stony Brook	Texas A&M at South Carolina
Charlotte at Campbell	Wake Forest at Louisiana-Monroe
Missouri St. at Northwestern St.	Boise St. vs. Mississippi at Atlanta
Union (N.C.) at Murray St.	Kentucky Christian at Tennessee Tech
Howard at Akron	North Carolina at Miami
Chattanooga at U.S. Military	I. Illinois at Minnesota
North Carolina at Cent. Michigan	Valparaiso at W. Illinois
Tulane at Tulane	W. Illinois vs. Illinois
Idaho State at Idaho	Cal Poly at New Mexico State
North Dakota at San Jose St.	UIC at Washington
Weber St. at Arizona St.	

Friday, Aug. 29

BYU at Utah	SOUTH
Villanova at Syracuse	Bowling Green at W. Kentucky
Missouri St. at Northwestern St.	Jacksonville St. at Tennessee Tech
Boise St. vs. Mississippi at Atlanta	UTSA at Houston
Union (N.C.) at Murray St.	
Howard at Akron	
North Carolina at Miami	
Chattanooga at U.S. Military	
I. Illinois at Minnesota	
North Carolina at Cent. Michigan	
Valparaiso at W. Illinois	
Tulane at Tulane	
Idaho State at Idaho	
Cal Poly at New Mexico State	
North Dakota at San Jose St.	
UIC at Washington	
Weber St. at Arizona St.	

Saturday, Aug. 30

BYU at Utah	SOUTH
Villanova at Syracuse	Bowling Green at W. Kentucky
Missouri St. at Northwestern St.	Jacksonville St. at Tennessee Tech
Boise St. vs. Mississippi at Atlanta	UTSA at Houston
Union (N.C.) at Murray St.	
Howard at Akron	
North Carolina at Miami	
Chattanooga at U.S. Military	
I. Illinois at Minnesota	
North Carolina at Cent. Michigan	
Valparaiso at W. Illinois	
Tulane at Tulane	
Idaho State at Idaho	
Cal Poly at New Mexico State	
North Dakota at San Jose St.	
UIC at Washington	
Weber St. at Arizona St.	

Sunday, Aug. 31

BYU at Utah	SOUTH
Villanova at Syracuse	Bowling Green at W. Kentucky
Missouri St. at Northwestern St.	Jacksonville St. at Tennessee Tech
Boise St. vs. Mississippi at Atlanta	UTSA at Houston
Union (N.C.) at Murray St.	
Howard at Akron	
North Carolina at Miami	
Chattanooga at U.S. Military	
I. Illinois at Minnesota	
North Carolina at Cent. Michigan	
Valparaiso at W. Illinois	
Tulane at Tulane	
Idaho State at Idaho	
Cal Poly at New Mexico State	
North Dakota at San Jose St.	
UIC at Washington	
Weber St. at Arizona St.	

Baseball

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

Reinstated by Adam Eaton from the 15-day DL. Designated OF Kevin Pillar from Buffalo (IL). Designated OF Nolan Reimold for assignment.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

ATLANTA HAWKS

Re-signed F Mike Miller. Waived D LHP Wade LeBlanc for assignment. Selected the contract of J.J. Herrera from Salt Lake (PCL).

TEXAS RANGERS

Extended its player development agreement with Spokane (WV). Reinstated INF Logan Knepper from Tulsa (PCL).

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Recalled OF Kevin Pillar from Buffalo (IL). Designated OF Nolan Reimold for assignment.

CHICAGO CUBS

Reinstated INF Starlin Castro from the bereavement list. Options INF Logan Knepper to Tulsa (PCL).

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MLB

Davis' homer lifts Pirates past Cards

By Will Graves
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ike Davis didn't complain when the Pittsburgh Pirates told him they were going to eat into his playing time by experimenting with Pedro Alvarez at first base. Call it the byproduct of spending four-plus seasons with the New York Mets.

"You kind of get immune to stuff after a while," Davis said. "Kind of my career has been starting, not starting, so I'm used to it."

Davis is simply happy to be in a pennant race at the moment. He provided a needed jolt in a pinch-hit appearance Tuesday, connecting for a tiebreaking three-run homer off St. Louis reliever Seth Maness in the eighth inning of a potentially costly 5-2 victory.

Pirates star Andrew McCutchen left in the fifth inning because of discomfort in his left ribs. Recently on the disabled list because of a rib problem, the center fielder ran into the wall earlier in the game.

"Today caught up to him in a couple of different ways," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said of the reigning NL MVP. "Tonight got to be a point where we didn't think we needed to push any farther than he did."

It's uncertain if McCutchen will be available on Wednesday, but Pittsburgh survived for a few innings without the four-time All-Star thanks in large part to Davis. The Pirates squandered six brilliant innings by Gerrit Cole when Tony Watson (9-1) couldn't get out of a two-on, no-out jam in the seventh that allowed the Cardinals to tie the game.

No matter. Watson recovered to get out of the jam and retired the side in the eighth, and the Pirates wasted little time getting to Maness in the bottom of the inning. Gaby Sanchez singled with one out and Starling Marte followed with his second hit of the night.

The Cardinals decided to stick with Maness (5-3) after a brief conference. It didn't work.

Davis shook off a called strike that appeared to be below his knees and delivered a towering shot to right-center that landed in the last row of seats.

"We got into a good count, had a couple real nice pitches and left one up in the middle," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "That's not going to turn out well."

Josh Harrison also homered for the Pirates, and Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his 23rd save.

Jon Jay and Randal Grichuk each drove in a run for the Cardinals. Lance Lynn gave up two runs over six innings in a bid for his fourth consecutive win.

Pittsburgh, trying desperately to stay in the hunt for a wild-card slot, appeared in danger of a second straight disheartening defeat after a brilliant effort by Cole vanished.

The 23-year-old overwhelmed the Cardinals for long stretches in his second start since returning from the disabled list after being sidelined by right lat soreness. St. Louis didn't get a hit until a two-out double just inside the first base bag by Kolten Wong in the sixth. Cole responded by fanning Matt Holliday for his ninth strikeout of the game.



KEITH SRANOCIC/AP

Pittsburgh Pirates' pinch-hitter Ike Davis hits the game-winning three-run homer in the seventh inning against the St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday in Pittsburgh. The Pirates won 5-2.



Ben Maroo/AP

San Francisco's Madison Bumgarner struck out a career-high 13 batters and pitched a one-hit shutout as the Giants beat the Colorado Rockies 3-0 on Tuesday in San Francisco.

Roundup

Bumgarner loses perfect game in 8th, settles for 1-hit shutout

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner wanted to waste a two-strike curveball in front of Rockies cleanup hitter Justin Morneau.

He left the ball up just enough for Morneau to get a piece of it — the only mistake on an otherwise memorable night for the San Francisco left-hander.

Bumgarner pitched a one-hitter and matched his career high of 13 strikeouts and Buster Posey hit two home runs as the Giants beat the Rockies 3-0 on Tuesday to snap a three-game losing streak.

The two-time All-Star retired the first 21 batters before Morneau doubled down the right field line to end the bid for perfection. That was the only baserunner Bumgarner (15-9) gave up. He fanned the next three hitters.

"I was going to try to bounce a curveball," Bumgarner said. "I think it would have probably bounced if he (wouldn't have) hit it. He's a good hitter and he was in there being aggressive."

San Francisco's husky left-hander was attempting to follow Tim Lincecum's no-hitter at AT&T Park on June 25 against

San Diego with another milestone for a sellout crowd of 41,050 on a pristine Bay Area evening.

Phillies 3, Nationals 2: Freddy Galvis and Darin Ruf homered and Carlos Ruiz drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly as host Philadelphia beat NL East-leading Washington.

Mets 3, Braves 2: Juan Lagares hit a two-run homer, sending Dillon Gee and host New York to the win over Atlanta.

Cubs 3, Reds 0: Travis Wood pitched six innings of two-hit ball against his former team for his first win in two months, leading visiting Chicago past Johnny Cueto and Cincinnati.

Royals 2, Twins 1: Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning, helping the Royals avoid their first three-game skid since mid-July.

Astros 4, Athletics 2: Chris Carter hit his 32nd homer, a three-run drive in the eighth inning, as host Houston beat Oakland.

Orioles 4, Rays 2: Jonathan Schoop singled in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning and Caleb Joseph had two RBIs as host Baltimore beat fading Tampa Bay.

Tigers 5, Yankees 2: Rick Porcello (15-8) pitched eight im-

pressive innings to set a career high for victories as host Detroit snapped New York's five-game winning streak.

Red Sox 11, Blue Jays 7 (11): Mike Napoli and Allen Craig both homered in a seven-run 11th inning. Dustin Pedroia homered and had four RBIs as visiting Boston beat Toronto.

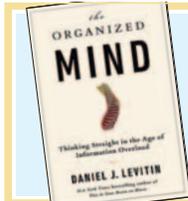
Indians 8, White Sox 6 (10): Zach Walters hit a two-run home run in the 10th inning to lift visiting Cleveland to a come-from-behind victory over Chicago.

Mariners 5, Rangers 0: James Paxton pitched into the seventh in a bounce-back start and Robinson Cano hit his 12th home run as host Seattle shut out Texas.

Angels 8, Marlins 2: Mike Trout had an RBI double and Albert Pujols added a two-run single as Los Angeles beat visiting Miami.

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 5: Matt Kemp homered and visiting Los Angeles scored six runs in the fourth inning to beat Arizona.

Padres 4, Brewers 1: Tyson Ross pitched 6½ innings. Abraham Almonte had two RBIs as host San Diego snapped Milwaukee's five-game road winning streak.



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SPORTS BRIEFS

Browns WR Gordon suspended for season

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Browns star wide receiver Josh Gordon has been suspended by the NFL one year for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

Gordon's suspension is effective immediately and he will miss the entire 2014 season. He will have to apply for reinstatement following the season.

Gordon had appealed his year-long suspension and met with a league arbitrator in New York on Aug. 4. Arbitrator Harold Henderson upheld the suspension.

The Browns have been waiting four months for a resolution on Gordon's case. The 23-year-old led the league with 1,646 yards receiving last season despite being suspended the first two games for a failed drug test. He became the first player in league history to record consecutive 200-yard games.

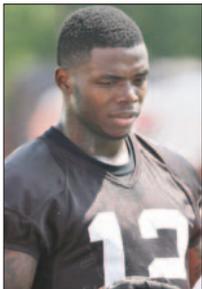
Gordon's loss is a crippling blow to Cleveland's offense, depriving the Browns of their best big-play threat. He averaged 18.9 yards per catch in 2013.

In other NFL news:

■ The Tampa Bay Buccaneers upgraded their struggling offensive line, trading for six-time Pro Bowl guard Logan Mankins in exchange for second-year tight end Tim Wright and an undisclosed draft pick on Tuesday, coach Lovie Smith and general manager Jason Licht said.

Incognito remains an "option" if he decides to make more changes to an overhauled line that will begin the regular season with four new starters.

The deal came less than 24 hours after the Bucs met with Incognito to try to determine if the 31-year-old who's coming off serving a suspension for his role in last season's bullying scandal might be an answer to their problems at guard.



MARK DUNCAN/AP

The NFL suspended Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon for one year on Wednesday for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

■ Washington Redskins safety Brandon Meriwether will appeal the two-game suspension for his latest helmet-to-helmet blow, a hit his coach called a "legitimate football play" while teammates stood up for him with much stronger words.

■ The New York Jets have suspended cornerback Dimitri Patterson for the rest of the preseason after he left the team last week for 48 hours without speaking to anyone in the organization. The team announced Tuesday night that additional terms of discipline would not be disclosed. However, Patterson is likely facing a fine.

■ Quarterback Brady Quinn was released by the Miami Dolphins on Tuesday, about an hour before the team had to meet an NFL deadline and officially pare their roster down to 75 players.

■ The New York Giants traded first-year kicker Brandon McManus to the Denver Broncos for a conditional draft pick next year.

■ Oakland Raiders cornerback DJ Hayden will miss at least the first six weeks of the season after being placed on the physically unable to perform list Tuesday with a stress fracture in his right foot.

Bucks get Dudley from Clippers for 3 players

MILWAUKEE — The Los Angeles Clippers traded small forward Jared Dudley the Milwaukee Bucks in exchange for forward Carlos Delfino, backup center Miroslav Raduljica and a

2015 second-round draft pick. The Bucks are also receiving a conditional 2017 first-round pick.

Dudley averaged 6.9 points last year in his only season with the Clippers. The former Boston College star is averaging 8.7 points a game in his career.

In other NBA news: ■ The Oklahoma City Thunder traded center Hasheem Thabeet and cash to the Philadelphia 76ers for a protected second-round draft pick in 2015 and a trade exception on Tuesday. The Thunder have a year to use the trade exception.

■ The New Orleans Pelicans signed veteran small forward John Salmons to a free agent contract.

■ The Atlanta Hawks have re-signed Mike Scott, who improved his three-point shot in his second season and almost doubled his scoring average.

■ Prosecutors say former Chicago Bulls forward Ronnie Brewer has been sentenced to probation after pleading no contest to driving drunk in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Delle Donne's jumper rallies Sky past Dream

ATLANTA — Elena Delle Donne scored 17 of her 34 points in the fourth quarter, including the winning jumper with 8.4 seconds left, as the Chicago Sky rallied from 20 points down to beat the Atlanta Dream 81-80 on Tuesday night to advance to the Eastern Conference finals.

Tamera Young scored 16 points and Sylvia Fowles added 13 points and 15 rebounds as the Sky won a playoff series for the first time in franchise history.

Ewing, Falk give \$3.3M to Georgetown center

WASHINGTON — Hall of Fame center Patrick Ewing and sports agent David Falk are donating \$3.3 million to Georgetown's new athletics center.

The school said Monday the amount of the gift reflects the uniform No. 33 that Ewing wore at Georgetown and in the NBA.

Ewing played on the Georgetown's only NCAA championship team in 1984. The center will be named for his coach at Georgetown, John Thompson Jr., who led the Hoyas for 27 years.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the \$62 million project is scheduled for September. It will include practice courts, meeting rooms, coaches' offices and weight rooms.

Davis, US beat Slovenia in basketball exhibition

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands — Anthony Davis scored 18 points and teamed with forward Kenneth Faried to dominate the inside, leading the U.S. national team to a 101-71 victory over Slovenia on Tuesday in its final exhibition game before the FIBA World Cup of Basketball.

Faried finished with 14 points for the Americans, who next head to Bilbao, Spain for their tournament opener Saturday against Finland.

NASCAR going back to Darlington on Labor Day

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Darlington Raceway will return to its traditional Labor Day weekend date next season in one of the few significant changes to NASCAR's 2015 Sprint Cup Series schedule. To get Darlington back to Labor

Day weekend after an 11-year absence, Atlanta Motor Speedway gave up the date. Atlanta now goes to the second race of the season on March 1.

NASCAR goes from Atlanta to a West Coast swing through Phoenix, Las Vegas and Fontana, Calif. The season will still open at Daytona International Speedway with the Daytona 500 on Feb. 22. Daytona's second race date moves from its traditional Saturday night slot to Sunday, July 5.

Klitschko-Pulev fight rescheduled for Nov. 15

FRANKFURT, Germany — Wladimir Klitschko's management says his heavyweight title defense against mandatory IBF challenger Kubrat Pulev has been rescheduled for Nov. 15 in Hamburg. The fight was originally slated for Sept. 6, but had to be postponed after Klitschko tore a bicep in sparring and was forced to miss four weeks of training.

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US OPEN



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Catherine "CICI" Bellis reacts after a point against Dominika Cibulkova during their first-round match at the U.S. Open on Tuesday at Flushing Meadow, N.Y. The 15-year-old Bellis upset last season's Australian Open finalist 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

US teen pulls off a stunner

Bellis, 15, becomes youngest winner at Open since '96

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — While 15-year-old American CICI Bellis was in the process of stunning a Grand Slam finalist to become the youngest player to win a U.S. Open match since 1996, her father did his best to conceal his emotions courtside.

Like many a teen, CICI has strict rules for Dad in public — even if his 1,208th-ranked daughter is pulling out a back-and-forth 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 victory Tuesday over 12th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova in the first round at Flushing Meadows.

"I'm told I cannot sigh and I cannot move or say anything (because) that distracts her, so I just have to sit there like a Sphinx and just smile and pray," the elder Bellis, Gordon, explained with a deadpan delivery. "She hears me when I sigh. So I can't sigh."

Her victory was part of a 9-4 showing by American women Tuesday, including 8-0 against unseeded opponents. In an all-American match at night, another teen, Taylor Townsend, lost quickly to two-time defending champion Serena Williams 6-3, 6-1.

"Neither did her parents. Her mother, Lori, wasn't there because she gets too nervous watching in person, Gordon Bellis said. So Lori stayed at their hotel, getting updates via text from Gordon.

Her win came after Roger Federer beat Mariniko Matosevic 6-

3, 6-4, 7-6 (4) with Michael Jordan sitting in Federer's guest box in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Aside from the Williams sisters, American tennis fans have not had much reason to cheer for their own in the latter stages of major tournaments in recent years. That's why the occasional run by a young U.S. player stirs interest at Flushing Meadows.

"Believing was the No. 1 thing that I had to do today," said Bellis, whose nickname CICI is derived from the initials of her first and middle names, Catherine Cartan.

Bellis plans on playing in the U.S. Open junior tournament. She lost in the third round of that event last year; she lost in the first round of the Wimbledon juniors last month.

But on Tuesday, there she was in front of a supportive, overflowing crowd on Court 6 at Flushing Meadows, taking it to Cibulkova, the Australian Open runner-up.

"I went into the match thinking it was going to be such a great experience," said Bellis, whose rapid-fire sentences tend to finish with a gurgle of laughter, "but I never thought I would come out on top winning."

Neither did her parents. Her mother, Lori, wasn't there because she gets too nervous watching in person, Gordon Bellis said. So Lori stayed at their hotel, getting updates via text from Gordon.

"She asked how bad it was going in the first set. And so I told her [CICI] actually won the first set. She couldn't believe that," Gordon said. "We were just thankful that she didn't get double-bagelged."

After trailing 3-1 in the third set — "kind of a hummer," Bellis would say later — she came back to even things, and then broke Cibulkova, 25, in the final game. When it ended, Bellis crouched at the baseline and pumped her fists, then ran over to the stands for congratulatory hugs.

"I didn't expect her to play so aggressive today. I thought she's kind of a player who's just putting the ball back and running around," Cibulkova said. "That didn't happen today. She was really aggressive on the court and that maybe surprised me in the first set."

Bellis was making her main-draw tour-level debut, having earned a wild-card invitation from the U.S. Tennis Association by winning the USTA Girls' 18s National Championship, the youngest to do since Lindsay Davenport also won it at 15 in 1991.

Not since Anna Kournikova was 15 in 1996 had someone so young won a match at the U.S. Open. And not since Mary Joe Fernandez was that age in 1986 had an American done it.

Next up for Bellis is a second-round match against 48th-ranked Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan.

Serena begins bid for 3rd straight title with win

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After a rough-her Grand Slam season, Serena Williams came into the U.S. Open with a new approach.

So far, so good.

Unable to make it past the fourth round at any of the first three major tournaments in 2014, Williams began her bid for a third consecutive U.S. Open title with a 6-3, 6-1 win over American teen Taylor Townsend on Tuesday.

Afterward, Williams was asked whether she changed anything about her preparation for this

tournament, which she has won five times overall.

"I've decided I'm not going to overthink it. I think I've overthought every Grand Slam so far this year. It didn't really work out great for me," Williams said. "So worst-case scenario, I'm just going to stay positive and do the best I can. That's all I can do."

The No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Williams' best was pretty good in the all-American match-up against Townsend, an 18-year-old who is ranked 103rd and was given a wild card into the draw.

Williams made only eight unforced errors and needed only 55

minutes to wrap up the victory.

She is trying to become the first woman to win the U.S. Open three years in a row since Chris Evert took four straight trophies from 1975-78.

Not since 2006 has Williams failed to reach at least one final at a year's four Grand Slam tournaments. But she lost in the fourth round at the Australian Open, the second round at the French Open, and the third round at Wimbledon.

She'll face another American, Vania King, in the second round at Flushing Meadows.

Townsend acknowledged after-

ward she was a tad overwhelmed by the occasion. Not only was this her U.S. Open debut, but she was facing a 17-time major champion under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium, the largest arena in Grand Slam tennis.

"It was just a lot of different emotions and feelings that were coming. It was hard to deal with," said the gregarious Townsend, who beat a seeded player en route to reaching the third round at the French Open in her Grand Slam debut this year.

After losing Tuesday, Townsend referred to the 32-year-old Williams as one of her "tennis idols."



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Serena Williams serves to Taylor Townsend during the first round of the U.S. Open on Tuesday in Flushing Meadow, N.Y.

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NEX X EXCHANGE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ROQUELO V. SOLIS/AP

Mississippi quarterback Bo Wallace passes during the team's final open practice on Aug. 9 in Oxford Miss. Wallace, now in his third year as the starter will be counted on to lead his team as the Rebels face Boise State in their season opener on Thursday at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Rebel with a cause

Wallace set for final season with No. 18 Mississippi

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

NOXFORD, Miss. — Nobody is going to confuse Bo Wallace with Eli Manning. Manning is royalty in the Ole Miss football universe, still loved in Oxford for his clean-cut looks, family pedigree and two Super Bowl rings.

Wallace is known more for his shaggy hair, gunslinger mentality and long road to the Southeastern Conference that started at Arkansas State, moved to a junior college and ended with the Rebels.

But both have one thing in common: They're successful college quarterbacks. And if Wallace has a good senior season, he might pass Manning for several Ole Miss career passing records.

"I'm thrilled that we have him," Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze said on Monday. "I like the demeanor he has right now. I like the leadership he's trying to show, the way he's studying film. It's his last chance and he could do something special."

The 18th-ranked Rebels open their season against Boise State on Thursday night at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Wallace said he's aware of his place in the Ole Miss record books and the records he could have with a productive fall. He also has a chance to be among the top 10 in SEC history in career passing yards.

"It definitely motivates me," Wallace said. "I feel like I have the guys around me. If I just give them the ball — they'll make big plays."



Boise State vs. Mississippi
AFN-Xtra
2 a.m. Friday CET
9 a.m. Friday JKT

But Wallace said individual numbers are secondary to the one goal that really matters: Leading the Rebels to their first SEC championship since 1963.

That, of course, will be a monumental task. The Rebels are the only team from the SEC Western Division that has never played in the championship game since the league split into two divisions in 1992.

"We're all ready to go," Wallace said. "We're tired of playing against each other — against the scouts. We're ready to go against some competition and see what we have this year."

Wallace has always been someone who shows his emotions. He made it clear he was upset when the league's media selected him as the third-team preseason All-SEC quarterback in July.

The 6-foot-4, 217-pounder is the active career leader in just about every league passing category. Freeze said he has no problem with Wallace's anger if it's channeled in the proper direction.

"I just think he's hungry to go out and prove that he can have a better year than he did in the last

one and the one before that, and he's had two pretty good ones," Freeze said.

Freeze didn't always have such good things to say about Wallace during his first two years with the program — and his ire rarely had much to do with his performance on the field.

There were no serious behavior problems, but the coach often said that his quarterback needed to make sure his priorities were in the right spot. Wallace said those criticisms have finally made a mark.

"I just think I've matured," Wallace said. "It's crazy — you see your last year coming and you see the goals that you want to accomplish. You kind of self-reflect and look at the things in the past that might have held you back from those things."

Wallace also hopes a return to full health will increase his production.

He played nearly his entire sophomore season in 2012 with an injury to his throwing shoulder that required offseason surgery. He was able to return for his junior season in 2013 and started all 13 games, but acknowledges that some of his deep throws lacked the usual zip.

Now after a full offseason of weightlifting and other strength drills, his arm feels normal.

"I have a lot more confidence this year," Wallace said. "I had a great camp. Last year I didn't have a good camp at all. It took me two or three weeks just to get back in the groove. But from day one (this year), I've felt good and I still feel good."

A&M, S. Carolina debut new starters

By PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina and Texas A&M find out this week what life's like minus two of college football's most transcendent, attention-grabbing stars of recent years.

There will no Jadeveon Clowney-Johnny Manziel matchup in this one.

Had this game been played last year fans would've cleared their schedules to watch the helmet-popping defensive end chase the reigning Heisman Trophy winner around Williams-Brice Stadium. With Clowney and Manziel in the NFL, those viewing the SEC Network's first football broadcast might need rosters and slo-mo replays Thursday night to catch all the new faces.

"They are probably a little bit like us that they haven't had a bunch of superstars to talk about this preseason," said Steve Spurrier, the Gamecocks' 10th-year coach. "Their players are anxious to earn their way, just like our guys."

Sophomore Darius English takes over Clowney's starting spot for No. 9 South Carolina after backup duty last season. Kenny Hill, also a sophomore, replaces Johnny Football in the No. 21 Aggies' huddle. Hill passed for 183 yards and a TD in four games last fall.

The 6-foot-6 English got a chance to start against Kentucky when Clowney, also 6-6, pulled himself from the game shortly before kickoff. English finished the season with 19 tackles and a forced fumble against North Carolina.

"Darius has had a really great camp and a great spring," defensive line coach Deke Adams said. "Hopefully, he'll get a chance to show it on Thursday night."

English was named a Georgia state defensive player of the year after notching 21 sacks his senior season at McEachern High in Powder Springs, Ga. But he was a lanky, easily pushed around 205 pounds when he arrived on campus. English has added about 40 pounds since and feels like he's able to hold his ground and push back when challenged.

English has a quick first-step and a wing span of 7 feet that



Texas A&M at South Carolina
AFN-Sports
Midnight Thursday CET
7 a.m. Friday JKT

helps sweep past offensive lineman, according to Adams.

"I can get in there and bang with those guys," English said. "The good news for Gamecocks' fans is he won't be chasing Manziel."

The guy with the target on his back will be Hill, who won the Texas A&M quarterback competition over five-star freshman Kyle Allen. The two competed after longtime backup Matt Joeckel transferred to TCU in April.

Hill, the son of long time major leaguer Ken Hill Sr., showed more polish and experience and will start against the Gamecocks, offensive coordinator Jake Spavital said.

"The experience of being here and watching how we do [things] offensively and seeing Johnny play has helped him," Texas A&M offensive coordinator Jake Spavital said. "He's seen more than Kyle (Allen) has right now and that was important."

Hill passed for 183 yards and a touchdown in four games last season.

English and Hill won't be the only newcomers on the field.

South Carolina will have several new faces on defense, and a new quarterback in Dylan Thompson. He was the backup the past three years as Connor Shaw led the team to a 33-6 record.

But don't expect the Aggies to feel sorry for the Gamecocks; Texas A&M also lost several starters to the NFL.

Along with Manziel's selection by Cleveland, standout receiver Mike Evans was taken by Tampa Bay and guard Jake Matthews went to Atlanta.

Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin said to expect a heavy rotation of players as the Aggies look to see what this new group can do.



Richard W. RODRIGUEZ, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Texas A&M head coach Kevin Sumlin chooses sophomore Kenny Hill to run the Aggies' offense as the replacement for Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel, now with the Cleveland Browns.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Irish want to be in 'national conversation'

By Tom Coyne
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame has four straight winning seasons for the first time this century, played a key role in deciding the national championship for two straight seasons and reclaimed the title of winningest football program it lost to Michigan in 2003.

That's still not enough to satisfy Fighting Irish fans who measure success by national championships and have been waiting since 1988 for the school to win another.

The Irish slipped to 9-4 last season and finished the season ranked No. 21.

They went 12-0 in the regular season in 2012 before an embarrassing 42-14 loss to Alabama in the title game. The highlight of last season was a 17-13 victory over Michigan State, a lone loss that cost the Spartans a shot at the national championship.

Coach Brian Kelly acknowledged that isn't good enough.

"You don't want to have an undefeated season and then have just winning seasons. You want to be part of the national conversation," he said. "At Notre Dame, that's where we want to be."

Kelly enters this season in a position like few Irish coaches — without a national championship after four seasons and without his job in jeopardy. The only Notre Dame coach who lasted more than five seasons without winning a national championship was Elmer Layden, who coached the Irish for seven seasons from 1934-40.

The 2014 season brings artificial turf for the first time at Notre Dame Stadium, new Under Armour uniforms, four games against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents and a fan base



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Everett Golson has reclaimed the job as Notre Dame's starting quarterback after being suspended last semester for academic impropriety. Coach Brian Kelly said Golson would start against Rice on Saturday and said he hopes he will be the starter for the entire season.

eager for some old-style success. Here are five things to know about the Irish:

1 Scoring points: Kelly arrived at Notre Dame with a reputation as an offensive-minded coach, keeping defenses off-balance with a no-huddle, hurry-up spread attack.

In his final season at Cincinnati in 2009, the Bearcats finished fourth in the nation in scoring at 38.6 points a game. In four seasons at Notre Dame the Irish haven't averaged better than 26.3 points a game.

Kelly hopes having an experienced, mobile quarterback in Everett Golson, who is back after serving a semester academic sus-

pension, will allow the Irish to score more points by using the read option and running a no-huddle, hurry-up spread attack.

2 Attacking defenses: Irish enjoyed a lot of success using former defensive coordinator Bob Diaco's read-and-reat style, finishing in the top 27 in scoring defense nationally four straight years.

Diaco is head coach at Connecticut now, replaced by Brian VanGorder, who prefers a more attacking scheme. The Irish are inexperienced up in the front seven, with former walk-on Joe Schmidt expected to start at middle linebacker. The Irish have a difference-maker in linebacker

Jaylon Smith, though, and a lot of experience in the backfield, especially at corner with KeiVarae Russell and Cody Riggs, a transfer from Florida who was fourth on the Gators in tackles last season.

3 Special teams: Irish coaches spent part of the offseason visiting NFL and other college teams looking for ways they could improve Notre Dame's not-so-special teams, whose play Kelly has described as "unacceptable."

The Irish last season ranked 120th out of 123 teams on kick-off return coverage, 84th in punt return coverage and 80th in punt returns and haven't been much better the previous years.

2014 Irish schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30	Rice
Sept. 6	Michigan
Sept. 13	Purdue
Sept. 20	Open date
Sept. 27	at Syracuse*
Oct. 4	Stanford
Oct. 11	North Carolina
Oct. 18	at Florida State
Oct. 25	Open date
Nov. 1	at Navy**
Nov. 8	at Arizona State
Nov. 15	Northwestern
Nov. 22	Louisville
Nov. 29	at Southern Cal

*at Met Life Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.
**at Fed Ex Field, Landover, Md.

4 Golden Army: The Irish freshman class gave itself the nickname during the recruiting process and now is expected to contribute immediately, especially to the front seven of the defense. Kelly already has defensive end Andrew Trumbetti listed as a starter at defensive end and is expecting contributions from defensive linemen Jonathan Bonner, Johnny Williams, Daniel Cage, linebackers Nyles Morgan and Kolin Hill, wide receiver Justin Brent and tight end Tyler Luatua.

5 Rivalries end: This season marks the end of some rivalry games because Notre Dame agreed to play a batch of games against the ACC, the conference of most Irish sports. The four games this season include an Oct. 18 game at defending national champion Florida State. The Irish have played Michigan all but six seasons since 1978, but that rivalry ends Sept. 6. The annual game with Purdue, started in 1946, ends Sept. 13 in Indianapolis. Michigan State, on the schedule all but four seasons since 1948, doesn't play the Irish again until 2016. Traditional games against Navy, Stanford and Southern California remain.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



RON T. ENNIS, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Navy QB Keenan Reynolds is being talked about with reverence usually reserved for Heisman Trophy-winner Roger Staubach. Reynolds directs an offense that ranked second nationally in rushing last year.

Reynolds at the center of Navy's high hopes

GENE WANG
The Washington Post

No player in the history of Navy athletics invokes as much reverence at the academy as Roger Staubach. The 1963 Heisman Trophy winner was a national phenomenon during one of the program's most prosperous eras, and the NFL Hall of Famer has his own trophy case in Ricketts Hall around the corner from the auditorium where the football team conducts meetings.

It's an indication, then, of the Midshipmen's hopes for this season when junior quarterback Keenan Reynolds is mentioned in the same breath.

"Like I've said before, I'm sure the offensive linemen who blocked for Roger Staubach remember playing for him," senior right guard Jake Zuzek said when asked about Reynolds's special qualities. "This is something all of us guys are never going to forget."

Navy is taking aim at perhaps a season for the ages as well in its final year as an independent before joining the American Athletic Conference. Reynolds's record-setting 2013 has elevated him to a dark-horse candidate for the Heisman, and he and his team have the opportunity to open the campaign with a bang Saturday against fifth-ranked Ohio State in Baltimore.

The Midshipmen received votes in the preseason Top 25, underscoring the program's foray into the sport's national landscape with what Coach Ken Niumatalolo calls the most talented team he's been around in 17 years in Annapolis.

Niumatalolo's optimism stems from the many players back from last year, when Navy won nine games, beat Army, claimed the Commander in Chief's Trophy and won a bowl game for the fourth time in Navy's 132 years of football. No service academy team has been able to check off all those accomplishments in



Ohio State vs. Navy
AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Saturday CET
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

consecutive years, but this group has an eye toward history.

"Talent-wise, I know we're as skilled as we've ever been," said Niumatalolo, who enters his seventh full season as head coach needing seven wins to become the school's all-time leader. "But that doesn't mean anything unless you produce on the field. We like our pieces, and hopefully they fit together."

It all starts with Reynolds, who has been unflappable in the face of long odds from the first time he stepped onto the field as a freshman. Inserted in the fourth quarter on the road against Air Force that season, Navy's most indispensable player directed a rally from an eight-point deficit to force overtime before an eventual 28-21 victory.

Reynolds orchestrated three fourth-quarter comebacks in 2012 and began elbowing his way into the conversation of greatest players in Navy history last year by piling up wins while setting multiple records. Among the most notable were seven rushing touchdowns in a 58-52 overtime win against San Jose State and 31 rushing touchdowns overall to establish an NCAA single-season record for quarterbacks.

Reynolds is the centerpiece of an offense that ranked second nationally in rushing last season. The Midshipmen (9-4 last season) averaged their most rushing yards per game (325.4) since 2007, and their 50 rushing touchdowns were the most in the country. Navy also ran for 300 yards in

six straight games, including 366 during a 24-6 win against Middle Tennessee State in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Six of Navy's top seven rushers from last year are back with the team. Three of those are full-backs, and the Midshipmen have a rotation of four regular slotbacks, leading with senior Geoffrey Whiteside and junior DeBrandon Sanders.

"I think the sky's the limit when it comes to our season," said senior safety Parrish Gaines, whose 65 tackles were fourth on the team. "It's really in our hands and how we take it, how we listen to coaches, how we respond to adversity."

It's not just the Midshipmen's prolific rushing attack that has the campus buzzing. Navy's defense held nine of 13 opponents last year below their regulation scoring average, and two of those were Bowl Championship Series schools Indiana and Pittsburgh.

Seven starters are back for a unit that ranked 37th out of 123 FBS teams in fewest passing yards allowed and 40th in fewest points. Gaines in particular was a major contributor after starting at cornerback for the first six games and playing the final seven at safety.

Teammates so respected Gaines for his on-field moxie and locker room presence that they voted him one of two captains, the highest honor a Navy football player can receive. The other captain is senior starting fullback Noah Copeland, who along with Reynolds and many other teammates has embraced the historical achievements this year has to offer.

"I mean that's on us," Reynolds said. "We're got to come out here, and we've got to grind in the weight room, we've got to grind in the meeting room. If we do that all, then we can have that season, but if we become complacent and we lose that humble and hungry attitude, then we'll have problems."

STAR PLAYERS ON STRUGGLING TEAMS

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

The next time you turn on the television and see a couple of sub-500 teams slogging along, desperately hoping to simply get bowl eligible, don't turn it off.

There is bound to be at least a few players out there worth watching. Here are five star players who will be trying to lead their struggling programs to a bowl game.



BUTCH DILL/AP

Arkansas running back Alex Collins ran for 1,026 yards last year as a freshman. While the Razorbacks might struggle to reach .500, Collins, perhaps Arkansas' best back since Darren McFadden, is worth watching.

Alex Collins, RB, Arkansas
The Razorbacks are rebuilding behind coach Bret Bielema, who wants to mimic the ground-and-pound style he won with at Wisconsin. Well, he has the backs to do it, even if the rest of the Hogs still need a lot of work. Collins ran for 1,026 yards as a freshman in 2013, and the only thing likely to keep him from surpassing that total in 2014 is Arkansas' depth in the backfield. Junior Jonathan Williams is a bruiser and sophomore Korliss Marshall is a burner. Collins (5-foot-11, 218 pounds) is the whole package, and maybe the program's most talented back since Darren McFadden.

Anthony Harris, S, Virginia
The senior had eight interceptions and made 80 tackles last season as the Cavaliers limped to a 2-10 season. He was one of the best defensive backs in the country, but didn't rake in as many postseason honors as he probably deserved. Excellent safeties were in abundance in 2013, many on top teams. The Cavaliers might not be all that much better in 2014, but if Harris is as good as he was last season he won't lack for recognition.

Tevin Coleman, RB, Indiana

Simply put, Coleman was one of the most explosive players in the nation last season. He averaged 7.3 yards per carry and scored 12 touchdowns in the Hoosiers' high octane offense. He also led the nation in runs of 40 yards or more, and would have easily surpassed 1,000 yards if an ankle injury didn't sideline him for three games. If Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon is the undisputed best back in the Big Ten, Coleman makes a good case for being No. 2. And if Indiana, which went 5-7 last season, can make it to a bowl game for the first time since 2007, Coleman's star will shine even beyond the Big Ten's newly expanded footprint.

Ben Heeney, LB, Kansas

The senior middle linebacker is the leader of defense that just might be good enough to drag Kansas to bowl eligibility after four wins in two seasons under coach Charlie Weeny. Heeny had more tackles per game (8.8) last season than any player returning to the Big 12. The former high school safety and running back fits the mold of the smaller (6-foot, 230 pounds), sideline-to-sideline linebackers that are so vital to stopping all those Big 12 spread offenses.

Martin Fedi, DE, Memphis

One of the best pass rushers in the country last season with 11 ½ sacks for a 3-9 team. If the Tigers can make the jump to bowl eligibility in the third year under coach Justin Fuente, a strong defensive line should lead the way.



ALAN PETERS/IM/AP

Indiana's Tevin Coleman can turn a game into a personal highlight reel. Last year against Illinois, he ran for 215 yards and had TD runs of 64 and 75 yards. He had runs of at least 43 yards in six games.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Time: Rushing officials put defenses at disadvantage

FROM BACK PAGE

"It's not revolutionary, but it sort of calls attention to the need for the officials not to make the ball ready for play until all the officials are in position," said Redding, a referee in the SEC from 1994-2004. "That may mean cleaning up the sideline before, but having the umpire sort of crisply jog but don't sprint, hustle but don't hurry in getting the ball ready for play."

The officials had control of a game's pace when college football had a 25-second clock. They stopped the clock at the end of a play and started it again before the next one through an orchestration of hand signals to the clock operator.

Switching to a running 40-second play clock in 2008 changed everything.

Under the new system, the play clock for the next play starts immediately after the previous one ends.

That put the pace of a game into the hands of the offense; the faster they lined up to the ball, the faster they could snap it.

As is usually the case, it didn't take teams long to figure a way to use the new rule to their advantage. By playing at a 2-minute drill pace the entire game, they realized they could wear opposing defenses down and limit their ability to make substitutions.

Once a few teams had success with it, more piled on, some running up to 100 plays a game.

With coaches and players screaming in their ears to spot the ball quickly, the officials found themselves rushing — and putting defenses at a disadvantage in the process.

"There was a sense of urgency because it was something new to us, especially the teams that wanted to go at that fast pace," said Gerald Austin, coordinator of officials for Conference USA. "Across the country, we pretty much said, wait a minute, there's no obligation to speed up how we get the ball spotted during the normal portion of the game."

The officials are trying to do what the NCAA has been unable to so far.

With defenses backpedaling to keep up with the up-tempo offenses, the NCAA looked into the possibility of prohibiting teams from snapping the ball until at least 10 seconds had run off the 40-second play clock.

Supporters of the rule, like Arkansas' Bret Bielema and Alabama's Nick Saban, argued it was needed to allow teams to substitute for fatigued players and prevent injuries.

Coaches of fast-paced offenses vehemently opposed the proposed rule and the NCAA shelved it, but will likely have more discussions about pace of play in the coming years.

"It is a trend in the game that a lot of people on the offensive side of the ball love, but if you're on the defensive side, you're concerned about it," Redding said. "I really believe the pace of play debate is going to continue for some time."

How the officials handle the game isn't the only thing that has changed with the increase in up-tempo offenses.

The officials themselves have changed.

Used to be, officiating crews had a few older guys who had trouble keeping up with fleet receivers and a beefy guy in the middle — usually a former offensive or defensive lineman — working as the umpire. They would run a bit in the weeks before the season, but that would be it.

Over the past decade or so, officials have spent much more time on their conditioning, running and working out year-round so they'll be ready for the rigors of the new fast-paced game. The annual camps they attend often have a trainer or doctor on site to talk about conditioning and nutrition, and overall fitness is also something conferences now look at when hiring new officials.

"You very seldom see an official at the college level anymore who appears to be out of shape," said Austin, a former NFL official. "Even those who appear to be big boned and bulkier, they're in shape and ready to go for a full 60 minutes."

They need to be at this pace.

TEAMS HIT WITH KEY INJURIES



SHANE KEYSER, KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

Kansas took a big hit when they lost their top two tailbacks Brandon Bourbon, left, and Taylor Cox in a 24-hour span earlier this month.

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Braxton Miller's season-ending shoulder injury has the potential to shake up the national title race, leaving a loaded Ohio State team without one of the country's most dynamic quarterbacks.

While Miller's injury has drawn the most attention this preseason, the Buckeyes aren't the only ones trying to replace a key player who went down with an injury.

These teams have also been stung by the injury bug in a big way.

Auburn

The defending Southeastern Conference champions lost two key linemen before camp in started. On defense, and Carl Lawson, the team's best returning outside pass rusher, had knee surgery in May. The Tigers haven't ruled out his return. On offense, the loss of guard Alex Kozan (back surgery) for the season leaves the Tigers' powerful running game without one of its best blockers.

Oregon

The Ducks' offensive line took a hit when left tackle Tyler Johnstone re-tore the ACL in his right knee during practice. The first injury happened during last season's Astro Bowl victory against Texas. Johnstone is out for the season, leaving the Ducks vulnerable on Marcus Mariota's blind side. The loss of Johnstone comes on top of the injury to receiver Bralon Addison, who went down with a knee injury in the spring. Addison hopes to play this season.

Duke

The Blue Devils will be defending their ACC Coastal Division title without two key players. Linebacker Kelby Brown went down with a left knee injury during the first preseason scrimmage. Brown made 114 tackles and had two interceptions last season. A few days later, the Blue Devils lost tight end Braxton Deaver, who had 46 catches last season, to another knee injury.

Kansas

The Jayhawks' chances for a turnaround in Year 3 under coach Charlie Weis took a major hit in about a 24-hour span earlier this month. Tailbacks Brandon Bourbon (knee) and Taylor Cox (Achilles), who occupied the top two spots on the depth chart, are both gone for the season.



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Louisville

The Cardinals will enter the Atlantic Coast Conference without their most accomplished playmaker. Receiver Devante Parker broke his foot at practice late last week and is expected to miss at least six weeks. Parker set a school record with 12 TD catches last season and has first-round draft pick talent. Louisville is deep at receiver, but it would have been nice to have Parker around while breaking in new starting quarterback Will Gardner.

Nebraska

Early in camp, the Cornhuskers seemed to be on about an injury-a-day clip. The worst hits came on the defensive side, where both nickel back Charles Jackson and linebacker Michael Rose are out with season-ending knee injuries. The Huskers also lost tailback Adam Taylor to a broken ankle, which eats into their depth behind star Ameer Abdullah. The losses on defense are compounded by the season-long suspension of safety LeRoy Alexander and the departure of defensive tackle Aaron Curry, who transferred.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Alabama head coach Nick Saban argues with an official in the first half of the Sugar Bowl this year. The NCAA rules committee, with support from Saban, looked at prohibiting teams from snapping the ball until at least 10 seconds had run off the 40-second play clock.



Brown

SPORTS



Suspension upheld
Browns WR Gordon to miss
entire season | **Sports briefs, Page 26**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Referees to control pace of game, finding balance between high-speed offenses, setting up defenses

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The quarterback throws toward the sideline, where a receiver hauls the pass in, gets two feet down and flips the ball to the official.

What follows is a chaotic dance between an up-tempo offense and the defense trying to stop it.

Offensive players stream off the field, crossing paths with their replacements. The defense makes substitutions, players scramble to get into position.

Caught in the middle are the officials, who have to find a balance between spotting the ball quickly for the offense and allowing the defense time to set up — something that's increasingly been a problem since fast-paced offenses have cropped up more frequently in college football.

"From the officiating standpoint, we kind of got caught up in this thing and allowed ourselves to sort of get overwhelmed by it," NCAA coordinator of officials Rogers Redding said. "Too much rushing around, hurrying and trying to be speedy about getting the ball in play and it sort of put the defense at a disadvantage."

Now, the officials are taking the pace back.

Formalizing ideas they've discussed among themselves over the past few seasons, the officials have added pace-of-play procedures in the football officiating mechanics manual.

It's not specific rules, but more of an outline on how to appease the up-tempo offenses while keeping the defenses relatively happy.

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L.G. PATTERSON/AP

Several teams coping with
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QB Reynolds | **Page 30**

Notre Dame wants to be back
in national picture | **Page 29**

American teen surprises in first round | US Open, Page 27

