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WAR ON TERRORISM

Since Sept. 11, 2001, America has been at war against factions of Islamic militants and terrorists. Thirteen years later, there's still

NO END IN SIGHT

By DAVID CRARY
The Associated Press

Thirteen years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, this was supposed to be a season of relief, with Iraq managing on its own and most U.S. troops finally ending their combat duty in Afghanistan. Instead, Americans are bracing for another upsurge of military engagement in a region where one war blurs into

‘The Cold War took 45 years. It’s certainly plausible that this could be the same.’

Elliott Abrams
top Middle East adviser to President George W. Bush

another. Across the world, a generation has now grown up amid this continuous conflict, and there’s no end in sight.

“The Cold War took 45 years,” said Elliott Abrams, a longtime diplomat who was top Middle East adviser to President George W. Bush. “It’s certainly plausible that this could be the same. ... It’s harder to see how this ends.”

SEE END ON PAGE 6



The towers of the World Trade Center are destroyed Sept. 11, 2001.



Osama bin Laden is seen in a television image broadcast Oct. 7, 2001.



U.S. Marines pull down a statue of Saddam Hussein on April 9, 2003.



Marine Lance Cpl. James Blake Miller is seen in Fallujah, Iraq, in November 2004.



Islamic State fighters march through Raqqa, Syria, on Jan. 14, 2014.

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“Between 2001 and the early Arab Spring, the tentacles became heads in many cases, and those heads were spreading their own tentacles.”

— Walid Phares, an adviser on terrorism to members of Congress, describing al-Qaida's transformation from a centralized terror group to many smaller, like-minded groups

See story on Page 7

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MILITARY

Airstrike cited in civilian deaths

Afghan official: Coalition operation aimed at insurgents killed 11 others

By **JOSH SMITH**
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan officials say nearly a dozen civilians may have been killed by a coalition airstrike during a military operation in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday.

Kunar's provincial governor, Shujauilmulk Jalalah, told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday that reports indicated as many as 11 civilians died and another 12 were wounded in the strike, which he said also killed two suspected insurgents. The reported airstrike occurred during an operation by Afghan security forces in Narang district, an especially volatile area of Kunar province.

Officials with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force said they could only confirm that a strike had taken place in Narang and said they were “currently looking into the circumstances of that operation.” An ISAF statement said no civilian casualties were reported during an airstrike earlier on Tuesday in Dangam district that reportedly killed one insurgent.

At least two children and two women were reported killed in Narang, and Jalalah said women and children were also among the wounded. This information was preliminary, he cautioned, as the area remained too dangerous for investigators.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said in an online statement in Pashto that he “strongly condemned” the attack and had ordered an official delegation to travel to the area to investigate.

Earlier this year, American officials admitted that at least two civilians were killed during a joint U.S.-Afghan operation when ground troops called in airstrikes on buildings used by militants as firing positions. Those strikes occurred on Jan. 15 in Parwan province.

But investigators with the Afghan government released a report accusing the United States of unilaterally carrying out the attack and of covering up additional

civilian casualties caused by both the airstrikes and alleged house-to-house shooting by U.S. troops.

That report sparked more controversy when it was revealed that the Afghans had used some unsubstantiated evidence, as well as two photos taken years earlier, to try to prove their case.

Although deaths caused by foreign forces have decreased as the coalition withdraws its troops, statistics collected by the United Nations show, overall, civilian casualties have spiked as fierce fighting between Afghan forces and insurgents continues.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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House condemns Obama for Bergdahl swap

By **DONNA CASSATA**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled House voted Tuesday to condemn President Barack Obama for failing to give 30-day notice to Congress about the exchange in May of American prisoner Bowe Bergdahl for five Taliban leaders held at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The vote was 249-163, with 22 Democrats — many locked in tough re-election races — breaking ranks and backing the non-binding resolution.

“By setting free five top Taliban commanders from U.S. custody, the Obama administration made Americans less safe,” Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a statement.

The vote castigating Obama came at a crucial moment for the administration as it sought to rally international and congressional support for steps to combat the rising threat of Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. The debate and vote coincided with a White House meeting in which the president discussed his strategy with House and Senate leaders. It also came on the eve of

Obama's address to the nation. “What poor timing for a resolution,” said Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas.

Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., suggested that the vote less than two months before the election was simply an effort to appease core Republican voters.

Republicans insisted that Obama clearly violated a law requiring the administration to notify Congress at least 30 days before transferring prisoners from the Guantanamo Bay prison. A Government Accountability Office report last month also reached that conclusion.

“The administration deprived Congress of the opportunity to consider the national security risk or the repercussions of negotiating with terrorists,” said Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Five senior Taliban were released from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo in exchange for the Army sergeant who had disappeared from his post in eastern Afghanistan on June 30, 2009. The five Taliban are to remain in Qatar for a year.

Republican lawmakers and some Democrats were angry with



Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl

Obama and members of the administration for failing to notify them about the swap even as 80 to 90 members of the government knew of the exchange. The administration has offered a number of explanations for keeping Congress in the dark, including concern that Bergdahl's health and safety required speedy action and concern that lawmakers would divulge details of the deal and scuttle it.

Rep. Adam Smith, of Washington state, the top Democrat on Armed Services, said the president should have notified Congress, but Obama has said his constitutional authority as commander in chief superseded the law to apprise lawmakers.

The resolution was a partisan

attack by a Republican House on a Democratic president, said Smith, who argued that Republican President George W. Bush repeatedly violated the law with post-Sept. 11 warrantless wiretaps and indefinite detentions.

Some in Congress have said Bergdahl was a deserter and the United States gave up too much for his freedom. Several lawmakers have cited intelligence suggesting the high-level Taliban officials could return to the Afghanistan battlefield.

The resolution lacks the force of law but won't be considered in the Senate. It does express relief that Bergdahl has returned safely to the U.S.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff has unanimously supported the exchange, insisting that the U.S. has a sacred commitment to men and women who serve that it will never leave anyone behind on the battlefield. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said the swap in May was “likely our last, best opportunity” to free Bergdahl.

Bergdahl is performing administrative duties at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio while an investigation into how he was captured is conducted.

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MILITARY



The coastal patrol ships USS Hurricane and USS Monsoon arrive at their new homeport of Naval Support Activity Bahrain last month.

Navy boosts its Coastal Patrol fleet

Final 2 ships prepare for Persian Gulf deployment as part of realignment plan

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The U.S. Navy has increased to 10 the number of Coastal Patrol ships permanently based in Bahrain, boosting the capacity of the 5th Fleet, which is based here, to conduct maritime security operations in the Persian Gulf.

Their small size — 79 feet — and versatility make Coastal Patrol ships, known as PCs, ideally suited to operations in the Middle East, officials say.

The addition of the USS Hurricane and USS Monsoon here last month completes a Navy realignment plan, initiated in May of last year, to increase the PC presence in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility from five to 10 ships. Three arrived last summer.

With a crew of roughly 25, a Coastal Patrol ship is capable of conducting coastal surveillance, protecting infrastructure, intelligence collection and supporting special operations missions. They are close in size to the ships of U.S. allies in the region, allowing them to integrate and operate well together with other navies.

However, getting the Monsoon and Hurricane ready for deployment is taking some time. Since they arrived Aug. 13 on a commercial shipping vessel from Norfolk, Va., the crews have been conducting maintenance and bringing systems online.

"It would be lovely to say it's as easy as flipping a switch and the ship comes back on, but ships are meant to be in the water and being operated, so after a period of inactivity you're going to find some stuff that you've developed over time while it was out of the water," said Lt. Hunter Washburn, the Monsoon's commander.

Once fully operational in the



Above: Sailors from the USS Hurricane and USS Monsoon wave to personnel on a pier after being transported by a yacht carrier vessel and arriving in Bahrain on Aug. 10.

Right: Cmdr. Thomas Shultz, commodore of Patrol Coastal Squadron 1, watches the two coastal patrol ships prepare to transit to Naval Support Activity Bahrain last month.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Navy

next few weeks, the two additional ships will help spread the high operational tempo of the PC fleet. With more ships available, the Navy has eliminated "crew swaps." In the past, with few ships, crews would man the PCs in Bahrain on a six-month unaccompanied rotational basis. Now crews are permanently assigned to the ships, allowing them to bring their families to Bahrain on two-year stints.

"I think that's a huge incentive



to bring their families out," Washburn said. "I think it will provide a greater stability for the ships."

For sailors, Bahrain has generally been thought of as a remote location, but that is changing.

"Before I ever came here, I was thinking about desert and camels and stuff like that, but they [Bahrain]

have a lot to offer," said Petty Officer 1st Class Sher Butt, an interior communications technician aboard the Monsoon, noting among other things the variety of restaurant choices. "Bahrain is pretty nice."

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Air Force seeks ruling on the use of 'God' in oath

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force said Tuesday it was awaiting a legal opinion from the Defense Department's top lawyer on whether an enlisted airman who's an atheist can opt out of the phrase "so help me God" in his re-enlistment oath.

The airman, stationed at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, was told in late August that federal law requires those words in the enlistment oath, attorney Monica Miller of the American Humanist Society said. Air Force policy previously allowed airmen to drop the phrase if they wished, but the policy was changed in 2013.

"The opinion that we're seeking will help inform future decisions and the latitude that can be taken with the oath," Air Force spokeswoman Rose Richeson said Tuesday. "But the Air Force has to comply with law."

But Miller said the Air Force must move quickly to follow what she said are clearly established legal requirements. The airman, who has chosen to remain anonymous, is scheduled to leave the Air Force in November if he doesn't re-enlist.

"We still have not received a response," she said Wednesday. "However, I informed the officials yesterday that if they don't take corrective action by September 19th, we will have no choice but to bring this matter to court."

The airman's right to modify the oath to fit his lack of religious belief is not in question outside the Air Force, a defense official who discussed the matter on the condition of anonymity said Tuesday.

"I'll tell you that there is no legal requirement to say 'So help me God' in any federal oath/affirmation by a person taking the oath," the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter, said in an email. "That is, saying 'So help me God' in any federal oath is optional at the discretion of the person taking the oath (not the person administering the oath)."

A host of Supreme Court and lower court cases support the airman's right to opt out of calling on a deity, as does as the text of the U.S. Constitution itself, said military legal expert Eugene Fidell, who teaches military law at Yale University.

According to Article VI of the Constitution, federal officers "shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

But, Fidell said, a religious test is what a requirement to say "so help me God" amounts to.

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MILITARY

AF hasn't evaluated renewed effort to combat sex assault

After spy plane spat, China tells US to stop close reconnaissance

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Air Force has implemented most of the steps recommended two years ago to reduce sexual assault of recruits during basic training but has not evaluated the effectiveness of those actions, according to a report released Tuesday.

All but seven of the 46 recommendations of a 2012 Air Force Commander's report have been fully implemented, the Government Accountability Office, a congressional research agency, found. Their effectiveness remains unknown, however.

"Without fully establishing an oversight framework for evaluating the effectiveness of its actions to prevent sexual assault during basic training, the Air Force will not know whether to sustain the efforts it has implemented or undertake different actions," the report concluded.

The reforms were intended to better prevent, investigate and respond to incidents of sexual assault in basic-training settings.

Since 2011, 34 instructors from the basic training program at Lackland Air Force Base in

Texas have been investigated for alleged sexual assault or sexual misconduct with new recruits, the report said. One of those instructors, Luis Walker, died this month from an apparent suicide at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he was serving 20 years for 28 counts of rape, sexual assault and improper contact with recruits.

The problem of sexual assault, however, has cut across all services, with new recruits particularly vulnerable. Based on a 2012 survey of active-duty service-members across all services, the Department of Defense estimated about 6 percent of women had experienced "unwanted sexual contact." Six percent of those incidents occurred during basic training and another 19 percent happened during early career training.

Among the recommendations only partially implemented by the Air Force were improving surveillance and entry-control procedures; increasing the number of training instructors; shortening instructors' tour length; and ensuring that trainees understand that there would be no negative consequences for re-

porting unwanted sexual contact or behavior.

The Air Force told the GAO that a \$2 million upgrade of surveillance equipment was operational in three facilities and that the system will be expanded to other basic training facilities in 2015.

Although the Air Force had not established performance goals and measures to evaluate the effectiveness of changes, officials maintained that the service had achieved its desired results because there had not been a report of sexual assault against a recruit by an instructor since 2012, the GAO said.

"However, the two Air Force command-directed investigations that focused on basic training revealed that the series of sexual assaults and other incidents of misconduct that were uncovered were not initially reported by trainees to authorities, and were only uncovered by subsequent investigations by Air Force Office of Special Investigations and Security Forces Office of Investigations," the report said.

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By W.J. HENNIGAN
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—A senior Chinese military official in Beijing told President Barack Obama's visiting national security adviser to end "close-in reconnaissance" less than a month after an armed Chinese fighter jet conducted an aggressive midair intercept of a U.S. Navy aircraft.

According to a report Tuesday by China's state-run New China News Service, Chinese official Fan Changlong advised Susan Rice that the U.S. military "should reduce and ultimately stop" its spy missions on China.

The comment, a reflection of an opinion long held by the Chinese government, was made to Rice on the last day of a three-day visit to China to discuss expanding partnership between the two nations.

"We hope the U.S. can promote the healthy development of new China-U.S. military ties with concrete actions," Fan is reported to have said.

Rice, a former U.S. United Nations ambassador, met with Chinese government and military leaders in anticipation of Obama's visit to the country and the Asia-

Pacific Economic Cooperation summit there in November. One subject that came up with the military was a U.S. spy plane encounter Aug. 19.

At the time, the Pentagon said a Chinese twin-engine J-11B fighter intercepted a U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon submarine-hunting aircraft over international waters about 135 miles east of Hainan island in the South China Sea.

The fighter allegedly made three passes dangerously near the U.S. plane, at one point putting their wingtips as close as 30 feet apart. The encounter ended with the Chinese pilot doing a barrel roll over the top of the U.S. plane.

The Obama administration lodged a protest with China through official diplomatic channels. But the Chinese said there was no wrongdoing on its part.

The Pentagon has been resolute that it will not stop carrying out what it calls routine flights.

"We're going to continue to fly in international airspace the way we've been, just like we're going to continue to sail our ships in international waters the way we've been," Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby said last month.

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THE NEW SANNO

MIDEAST



MOHAMMAD HANNON/AP

Libyan military guards check one of the burned buildings of the U.S. consulate in Benghazi following a deadly attack on Sept. 11, 2012, that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Officials: Libya crisis poses increasing Islamist threat

By TRAVIS J. TRITTON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As the nation braced for the possibility of new military action against the Islamic State in Iraq, a House panel heard Wednesday that Libya is also spiraling into a failed state and a potential staging ground for Islamist terrorists.

Militias there have shown interest in the Islamic State and its goal of creating a worldwide caliphate after plunging the country into renewed fighting three years after U.S. airstrikes helped overthrow Moammar Gadhafi, according to testimony by a senior State Department official before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration is deeply concerned that weapons and fighters flowing through the increasingly chaotic North African country could end up on the battlefields in Iraq and Syria, said Ambassador Gerald Feierstein, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs.

The U.S. closed its embassy in Tripoli this summer as Libya's government splintered and the country descended into battles between Islamist-leaning groups and other militias. At the end of a recent NATO summit in Wales, the Obama administration and member countries agreed to press for a cease-fire and a political solution to the crisis.

"It is going to be a long-term problem that is going to require a long-term commitment from the United States," Feierstein said.

So far, he said militias such as the Dawn of Libya, which claimed last month that it had seized a U.S. Embassy residence in Tripoli, have not made any real movement toward joining the Islamic State, which seized large swaths of Iraq in a violent blitz in recent months.

"Some are more secular, some are more Islamist," Feierstein said. "Our view is, primarily it is a fight for power and for resources."

He said there were high hopes within Libya following the end of the Gadhafi regime in 2011 but those hopes have largely been

dashed in recent months.

"Despite the efforts of many brave Libyans as well as the active engagement of the United States and our international partners, too many of Libya's power brokers and militia commanders have rejected principles of dialogue, consensus-building and compromise in favor of narrow-minded interests and a scramble for control of Libya's resources," Feierstein testified.

The events in Libya drew criticism from Republicans on the committee, who blamed the Obama administration for neglecting the country.

"It is an absolute necessity, I think, that the administration lay out a strategy to lead in Libya," said Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., committee chairman.

Royce said the situation is a national security threat and could be an accelerant for conflicts in Iraq and the greater Middle East that President Barack Obama and his administration has been slow to recognize and counter.

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Thursday from 1700 to 2000

Mix your favorite variety of veggies, meats and sauces and be your own personal chef. Limited menu also available.

WAR ON TERRORISM

End: Some say conflict with Islamic militants predates attacks of 9/11

FROM FRONT PAGE

For now, President Barack Obama seems to have bipartisan support as he prepares to outline his plans Wednesday for expanded operations against militants of the so-called Islamic State who have overrun large swaths of Iraq. His administration has cautioned that the effort could take several years.

Short-term, Obama has public opinion with him; a new Washington Post-ABC News poll found 71 percent of Americans supporting airstrikes against the Islamic State fighters, compared to 45 percent in June. Longer-term, a Pew Research Center-USA Today poll last month suggested that most Americans view the world as becoming more dangerous and expect militant forms of Islam to grow in influence rather than subside.

Since the autumn of 2001, America, with its allies, has been at war against factions of Islamic militants and terrorists, including the Taliban and al-Qaida, as well as offshoots in Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere.

Indeed, some analysts say the conflict dates back further, citing such incidents as the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and the 1983 bombing that killed 241 U.S. servicemen at a barracks in Lebanon. Military historian Max Boot suggests the starting point was the Iranian revolution of 1979, when the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was seized and its staff held hostage for 444 days.

"For the first time, we understood the threat by armed Islamist extremism," said Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and former adviser to Republican presidential campaigns. "We didn't face up to



AP photos

Above: Protesters burn an American flag at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, on Dec. 17, 1979. **Below:** U.S. soldiers from B Company, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, lead a blindfolded man suspected of planting a roadside bomb near their patrol in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad on April 23, 2008.



“The United States failed in both Afghanistan and Iraq, but this time round may be different since the Islamic State is posing a serious danger to close U.S. allies in the region who cannot defend themselves on their own.”

Wathiq al-Hashimi
director of the al-Nahrein Center for Strategic Studies in Baghdad

On the cover

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the U.S. and its allies, starting in October 2001, with the aim of dismantling al-Qaida's base of operations and toppling the Taliban regime. The Taliban, though quickly ousted from power, has been waging an insurgency ever since.

In 2003, the U.S. spearheaded an invasion of Iraq, citing various justifications but nonetheless categorizing the conflict as part of "the Global War on Terrorism." Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was captured, tried and executed, yet an insurgency arose against the U.S.-led coalition waged by various factions, including al-Qaida affiliates and Sunni militants who were precursors of the Islamic State group.

Obama's plans for an expanded mission against Islamic State fighters are expected to include intensified airstrikes but no major deployment of ground troops, along with a heavy reliance on allies. The role of Middle East nations could be pivotal, said Wathiq al-Hashimi, director of the al-Nahrein Center for Strategic Studies in Baghdad.

"The United States failed in both Afghanistan and Iraq, but this time round may be different since the Islamic State is posing a serious danger to close U.S. allies

in the region who cannot defend themselves on their own," al-Hashimi said. "The United States will be going in this time with the blessing of regional powers."

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations, contends that much of the Middle East's conflicts could have been avoided or eased if the U.S. government had been less willing to tolerate authoritarian regimes and more willing to criticize Israel's policies toward the Palestinians.

Hooper said the Islamic State group's ascension in Iraq could have been avoided or eased if the U.S. had insisted on a nonsectarian Iraqi government, rather than the one led by recently replaced Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that favored Shiite Muslims over the Sunnis. Similarly, Hooper said the U.S. could have deprived Islamic State of its strongholds in Syria by intervening early in Syria's civil war on behalf of moderate rebels opposing President Bashar Assad.

"Our counterproductive policies have created a political vacuum in which ISIS can flourish," said Hooper, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "Without massive injustices in the region,

they would not exist."

James Jay Carafano, a national security expert with the conservative Heritage Foundation, offered a contrasting analysis, blaming Obama for "taking his foot off the pedal" by withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011 and thereby emboldening Islamic State fighters.

Back in 2003, Carafano published a commentary titled, "The Long War Against Terrorism" in which he urged Americans to brace for a sustained struggle.

"Such a war requires our leaders to understand that our staying power, our will to win, is as important as any weapon in our arsenal," he wrote.

However weary of war, the American public is willing to back aggressive, long-term engagements overseas, Carafano argued in a telephone interview this week.

"All our conflicts start out popular, but only World War II stayed that way," Carafano said. "People gradually get less excited over time."

"But Americans are relatively practical people," he added. "If you're doing the right thing and it's working, they'll be with you." Looking ahead, experts familiar with the Middle East say it's

“It's clear that the Americans have made up their minds to get involved in what is likely to be an open-ended war. The Americans know how to start a war, but not to end one.”

Hilal Khashan
professor of political science at the American University of Beirut

hard to foresee a total victory for the U.S. and its allies any time soon. Elliott Abrams, for example, noted that many hundreds of young people from the West were eager to join the Islamic State group, enabling it to replenish its ranks and gird for a long struggle.

"It's clear that the Americans have made up their minds to get involved in what is likely to be an open-ended war," said Hilal Khashan, professor of political science at the American University of Beirut. "The Americans know how to start a war, but not to end one."

"The Americans' intervention is selective: They invaded Iraq but left Iran alone, they are leaving Israel to do as it pleases in Gaza, they are leaving the Syrian regime to kill its people," Khashan added. "And whenever they intervene, they just make things worse. They may destroy the Islamic State, but what happens to the problems in Iraq and Syria?"

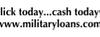
Daniel Byman, research director at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy, said he prefers the term "manageable" over "winnable" as a goal in trying to counter threats from the region's extremists and terrorists.

"There's no clear victory point when the enemy gives up," Byman said. "There's likely to be some level of terrorism, but it can't be to the point where it disrupts our lives in some fundamental way."

Max Boot suggested the overall conflict was winnable — but only through a long-term struggle comparable to the Cold War.

"This radical, armed Islamism will burn itself out," he said. "The problem is an awful lot of people who will die between now and then."

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Al-Qaida movement splintered since 9/11

By OREN DORELL
USA Today

The al-Qaida that attacked the USA on 9/11 is not the same al-Qaida the United States fights today. Once based in Afghanistan with a strong leader who ordered attacks on Western capitals, it has become a diffuse movement with offshoots that threaten nations across the Muslim world.

Al-Qaida's leadership has been driven out of its former safe haven in Afghanistan and weakened by U.S. drone attacks in neighboring Pakistan. It has taken advantage of chaos created by the Arab Spring revolutions that began in 2011 and joined insurgencies that control territory across North Africa and the Middle East — in Nigeria, Mali, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

"Al-Qaida has become weaker, and its affiliates have become stronger," said Patrick Johnston, a terrorism analyst at RAND Corp. Some examples:

■ **Egypt is fighting al-Qaida and Islamist insurgents** in its Sinai Peninsula.

■ **The United Arab Emirates and Egypt sent fighter jets** to Libya to bomb Islamist militias seeking to overthrow government, which operates in exile.

■ **Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula**, which was fighting in Yemen, has spread throughout the Arab Peninsula into Jordan and linked with al-Qaida elements spreading through Syria and Iraq. An al-Qaida offshoot, the Islamic State, which broke with its parent organization, has emerged as the U.S.' top terror concern in the Middle East.

■ **Somalia's al-Qaida affiliate, al-Shabab**, has spread into Uganda and Kenya.

■ **Boko Haram**, an affiliate in Nigeria, has spread from one city, Kano, through much of northeastern Nigeria, Cameroon and Niger.

The Obama administration has claimed credit for weakening "core al-Qaida" but acknowledges that offshoots and affiliated groups remain a threat.

"What we continue to face are elements that are either sympathetic to al-Qaida or associate themselves with the ideology of al-Qaida in other remote areas of the world that do pose a threat to the United States and our inter-



MOHAMMAD HANNON/AP

Al-Qaida-linked preacher Abu Qatada speaks to prison guards in Amman, Jordan, on Sunday. A decision on the charges against the cleric, who is accused of a 2000 plot to attack Israelis, Americans and other Westerners, was expected Sunday, but judges at the Jordanian military court said it will now be issued Sept. 24.

ests and our allies," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said this summer.

Analysts say the multiple insurgencies pose a greater danger to U.S. allies in the region and nearby Europe, but they disagree on the threat they pose to the U.S. homeland.

Insurgencies linked to al-Qaida threaten important allies "and our ability to secure ourselves and engage in commerce with the rest of the world," said Juan Zarate, a terrorism adviser to President George W. Bush. The danger to the U.S. homeland grows when terrorist groups have sanctuaries and resources from which to operate, he said.

Though that's true, U.S. intelligence and aviation security measures implemented since 9/11 make most planned attacks on the USA "hard to pull off," said William McCants, a terrorism analyst at the Brookings Institution.

The 9/11 attacks were ordered by al-Qaida's leader, Osama bin Laden, who had ordered suicide attacks on American targets in Yemen, Tanzania and Kenya. His goal: to foment a U.S. response that would provoke anti-Western sentiments and create a movement that replaced U.S.-aligned Arab regimes with an Islamic empire.

The attacks with four hijacked jetliners brought down the twin

towers of the World Trade Center and left craters in the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000 people. They prompted Bush to order the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan that ousted the Taliban from power and took away the sanctuary the Islamic extremist group provided bin Laden and his followers.

Since then, hundreds of U.S. special operations and drone strikes have decimated the ranks of al-Qaida's leadership in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. Bin Laden was killed in a raid by Navy SEALs ordered by President Barack Obama in 2011.

Al-Qaida survived because it had tentacles reaching into other Muslim countries, where the group spread its ideology, fighters and tactics.

"Between 2001 and the early Arab Spring, the tentacles became heads in many cases, and those heads were spreading their own tentacles," said Walid Phares, an adviser on terrorism to members of Congress. "The U.S. government was hitting the old head in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but the new heads were still growing."

The pro-democracy Arab Spring in 2011 brought the fall of dictators in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Libya. The protests and revolts led to prison breaks or amnesty to jihadists (holy

warriors) imprisoned for years, providing new leaders and soldiers for the Islamist cause. All that turmoil helped "revive the fortune of the global jihadi movement," McCants said.

In addition, civil wars in Libya and Syria placed massive arsenals of weapons into the hands of the militant groups, McCants said. "Before they were fighting to oppose the U.S. presence in the region and overthrow governments. Now they are fighting to establish control of territory in a security vacuum."

The rapid development of militants who control territory in countries such as Mali, Yemen,

Syria and Iraq since 2011 mark a difference from al-Qaida, which hid in the caves of Afghanistan and ordered terrorist attacks from the shadows. By 2013, new groups operating under the al-Qaida mantle were stronger than the old al-Qaida and "local jihadi commanders in those countries felt they became the new leaders of al-Qaida," Phares said.

Today, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon have all mobilized troops to counter the threat to their countries and elsewhere, because "they got scared," he said. "They know they have their own jihadists within their own borders."

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WAR ON TERRORISM

President laying groundwork for mission against militants

By Julie Pace
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hours before President Barack Obama's press conference on a strategy for fighting Islamic State militants, elements of his plans were already under fire.

Obama's plan involves a broad expansion of the U.S. military role in combating extremists in Iraq and Syria, including a call for arming Syrian opposition forces and potentially launching airstrikes in both countries.

Obama has told congressional lawmakers that he has the authority to proceed with much of his plan without their formal approval. However, he is seeking authorization from Congress for the train-and-equip operation for Syrian rebels, a request he first made earlier this summer.

House Republicans threw a potential roadblock in front of those plans Wednesday by not including the measure in temporary funding legislation. It was unclear whether Republicans were rejecting the request completely or would leave open another avenue.

Underlining the White House's urgency, Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were calling lawmakers Wednesday, pressing them to include the authorization in the funding bill. Lisa Monaco, Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, was also briefing lawmakers on Capitol Hill about the train-and-equip measure, administration officials said.

On the Senate floor, Democratic leader Harry Reid urged quick authorization of the president's request to help arm moderate opposition forces in Syria. He also backed another key element of Obama's proposal: the formation of a coalition of countries in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere that would also contribute military and political assistance.

"Going it alone is not going to work," Reid said. "We must have the support of the international community if we're to rid the world of ISIS" — an acronym for the Islamic State group.

‘After the beheadings of two American citizens, they don't want an explanation of what's happening. They want a plan.’

Sen. Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican leader

France's foreign minister said Wednesday that his country was ready to take part in airstrikes against extremist fighters in Iraq if needed. And the German government announced that it was sending assault rifles, ammunition, anti-tank weapons and armored vehicles to Kurdish forces in Iraq fighting, breaking with Berlin's previous reluctance to send weapons into conflict.

For Obama, a sustained U.S. intervention in the Middle East is at odds with the vision he had for the region when he ran for president on a pledge to end the war in Iraq, where the role of American fighting forces drew to a close nearly three years ago. The timing of his announcement Wednesday night was all the more striking, just hours before anniversary commemorations of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Earlier Wednesday, Obama met with his national security advisers. He also spoke by phone with Saudi King Abdullah, ahead of a gathering of Arab leaders on their contributions to a global coalition against the Islamic State.

Secretary of State John Kerry was traveling to Saudi Arabia and Jordan this week. He first made a stop in Baghdad to meet with Iraq's new leaders and pledge U.S. support for eliminating the extremist group and the threat it poses.

Republicans have pressed Obama to be specific about his plans.

Senate Republican leader

Mitch McConnell called Obama "a rather reluctant commander in chief" and urged him to outline a military strategy to defeat the terrorists and any funding and authorization he needs.

"It's pretty clear to me at least that the American people fully appreciate the nature of this threat," McConnell said. "After the beheadings of two American citizens, they don't want an explanation of what's happening. They want a plan. They want some presidential leadership."

Meanwhile, Francis Taylor, the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for intelligence and analysis, told lawmakers U.S. officials are currently unaware of any credible threat of a potential attack in the United States by the Islamic State. But Taylor testified that the militants are a serious threat to the Middle East and could attack U.S. targets overseas with little or no warning.

Obama has long resisted deepening U.S. involvement in Syria. But recent events, including the Islamic State's beheading of two American journalists, has changed his calculus, putting him on the brink of launching airstrikes in Syria.

The U.S. is already launching airstrikes against Islamic State targets inside Iraq, undertaken at the invitation of the Iraqi government and without formal authorization from Congress. But the mission has been limited to strikes that help protect American interests in the region and prevent humanitarian crises.

U.S. officials said Obama was expected to loosen those limitations and open a broader counterterrorism campaign against the militants in Iraq. Obama also told foreign policy experts at a private dinner Monday that the Islamic State must be viewed as one organization, not two groups separated by a border — raising expectations that he would press into Syria.

Even as he ramps up airstrikes, Obama has continued to rule out sending U.S. troops into ground combat operations in the Middle



CHARLES DHARAPAN/AP

In this image made through a window of the Oval Office, President Barack Obama speaks on the phone to Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah from his desk at the White House on Wednesday.

East. Instead, the administration is focused on bolstering the capacity of the Iraqi security forces and Syrian opposition.

The U.S. already has been running a smaller CIA program to train the rebels, but Obama is seeking approval for a more overt military effort that could involve staging training locations in countries near Syria.

Following a meeting between Obama and congressional leaders Tuesday, an aide to House Speaker John Boehner said the Ohio Republican expressed support for efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Iraqi security

forces and for equipping the Syrian opposition. Boehner also said he would support the deployment of U.S. military personnel to Iraq in a training and advisory role and to "assist with lethal targeting" of Islamic State leadership.

In a shift for a war-weary nation, new polls suggest the American people would support a sustained air campaign. A Washington Post-ABC News poll released Monday showed 71 percent of Americans support airstrikes in Iraq, up from 54 percent just three weeks ago. And 65 percent say they support extending airstrikes into Syria.

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NATION



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Larry Miller holds up his hands after speaking during a public comments portion of a meeting of the city council on Tuesday in Ferguson, Mo.

Anger prevails in Ferguson

The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — Elected leaders in the St. Louis suburb where an unarmed black 18-year-old was fatally shot by a white police officer hoped to use their first public meeting since Michael Brown's death as a chance to promote community healing.

Instead, they were greeted Tuesday night with anger, outrage and warnings of voter retribution at the ballot box. Proposals to overhaul the municipal courts and create a citizen police review board were greeted warily, if not with outright skepticism.

"You've lost your authority to govern this community," said St. Louis activist John Chasnoff. "You're going to have to step aside peacefully if this community is going to heal."

The shooting last month ex-

"I heard the mayor say Ferguson doesn't have a race problem. There must be two Fergusons."

Taurean Russell
on the Ferguson, Mo., City Council

posed an undercurrent of racial unrest in Ferguson and other mostly black communities of north St. Louis County, and prompted days of sometimes violent protests.

Officials have pledged to boost minority hiring in Ferguson's 53-person police force, which has just three black officers, and to meet informally in city neighborhoods to promote a public dialogue.

But within minutes of the start of the City Council meeting, where the proposals were briefly discussed, several demonstrators stood up and shouted as the council tried to cover some routine business. Later, others stood and chanted, "Shut it down!" while raising their hands in the air. Several witnesses say Brown raised his hands as officer Darren Wilson shot him.

The first person to take the microphone during the public comment period said he was there for the mayor's job. It was a theme echoed throughout, as speaker after speaker expressed doubt about planned reforms — and anger at the government officials on the stage.

"I heard the mayor say Ferguson doesn't have a race problem," said Taurean Russell, 30. "There must be two Fergusons."

Missouri executes man for killing 2 in robbery

BONNE TERRE, Mo. — A Missouri inmate convicted in a 1998 robbery and double murder was put to death Wednesday, the eighth execution in the state this year and the 10th since November.

Earl Ringo Jr. and an accomplice killed delivery driver Dennis Poyser and manager trainee JoAnna Baysinger at a Ruby Tuesday in Columbia in the early hours of July 4, 1998. Poyser and Baysinger were shot to death at point-blank range.

Ringo's last words were a quote from the Quran that expresses belief and wishes for after death. He wiggled his feet as the process began, breathed deeply a few times, then closed his eyes, all in a matter of seconds. The Department of Corrections said Ringo was executed by lethal injection and pronounced dead at 12:31 a.m.

Courts and Gov. Jay Nixon had refused to halt the execution over concerns raised by Ringo's attorneys, who, among other things, questioned Missouri's use of a pre-execution sedative, midazolam. Attorneys argued that the drug could dull Ringo's senses and leave him unable to express any pain or suffering during the process.

Ringo declined to take any sedative, including midazolam, the Corrections Department said.

Midazolam has come under scrutiny after it was used in problematic executions earlier this year in Ohio, Oklahoma and Arizona. In each case, witnesses said the inmates gasped after their executions began and continued to labor for air before being pronounced dead.

A clemency petition to Nixon had also cited concerns about the fact that Ringo was convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury.

From The Associated Press

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5 children found dead; father detained

The Associated Press

CAMDEN, Ala. — A man is suspected of killing his five children and then driving for hours before dumping their bodies, wrapped in individual garbage bags, on a rural dirt road, authorities said.

Timothy Ray Jones Jr., 32, led investigators to the site where the bodies of the children were found, off a two-lane highway, said Alabama Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Steve Jarrett on Tuesday.

Jones, of South Carolina, has been charged with child neglect and police expect to lodge additional charges against him in connection with the children's deaths, authorities in South Carolina and Mississippi said.

The children ranged from 1 to 8 years old and were reported

missing by their mother on Sept. 3, authorities said.

Jones is suspected of killing the children in South Carolina before bringing their bodies to Alabama, Wilcox County, Alabama, District Attorney Michael Jackson told The Associated Press.

"This is a very tragic situation," Jackson said. "These kids' lives were snuffed out before they had a chance to enjoy life. Justice will be served."

Police have not released details on how the children died. Lexington County Coroner Earl Wells was arranging for the children's bodies to be taken back to South Carolina for autopsies and identification Tuesday night, sheriff's officials said.

Jones was being held in Smith County, Miss., awaiting extradi-

tion to South Carolina, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation said in a news release.

Jones was detained in Smith County on Saturday after being stopped at a motor vehicle checkpoint near Raleigh, Miss., and charged with drunken driving, Smith County Sheriff Charlie Crumpton said in a news release.

Crumpton said Jones became agitated when a deputy questioned him about an odor of chemicals coming from the Cadillac Escalade he was driving.

During a background check, police discovered that Jones was wanted in South Carolina "regarding a welfare concern of his children," who were on a national missing persons list, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation said in a statement.

NATION

Highlights of US primary elections

By The Associated Press

Highlights from Tuesday's primary elections in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island.

Iraq vet defeats longtime lawmaker

U.S. Rep. John Tierney conceded defeat to former Marine and Iraq War veteran Seth Moulton, bringing an end to his congressional career after 18 years in office.

Tierney, who prides himself on his constituent service and his record on education, barely survived the 2012 election. He edged out Richard Tisei, a former state senator and openly gay Republican, by just 4,330 votes.

Moulton will face Tisei, again the Republican nominee, in November.

Moulton spent about a half-million dollars on campaign ads introducing himself to voters in the district, while VoteVets, a group dedicated to electing veterans to Congress, spent slightly more than that on an ad in which a World War II veteran praises Moulton.

The 35-year-old businessman and Harvard graduate credited his win Tuesday in part to voter frustration with Congress.

Top of the ticket

Former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, a front-runner since he announced his bid in April, glided to an easy win Tuesday in the Republican primary for Senate in neighboring New Hampshire.

Brown was one of 10 candidates on the Republican ballot seeking to challenge first-term Democratic incumbent Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in November. That race is among those expected to decide control of the Senate for the final two years of President Barack Obama's term.

Brown won a special election in 2010 in Massachusetts to finish the term of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, but he lost his bid for a full term two years later to Democrat Elizabeth Warren. Late last year, he moved to New Hampshire and won praise for not taking this primary campaign for granted.

Cuomo challenged from the left

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo didn't end up having much to worry about when it came to winning his Democratic primary against Zephyr Teachout, a largely unknown liberal activist.

But Teachout's presence on the ballot nonetheless served as a referendum on Cuomo among liberals, highlighting his uneasy relationship with the party base. Cuomo won the race with ease, but he fell far shy of posting the kind of overwhelming victory that might have been expected from a popular incumbent aiming to win a second term in November.

Three more races for governor

Three other states picked nominees for governor:

■ **New Hampshire:** Retired defense industry executive Walt Havenstein secured the support of the Republican establishment early and beat tea party activist Andrew Hemingway and two others.

Havenstein said his leadership at defense contractors BAE Systems and SAIC gives him the experience to run a state and manage multibillion-dollar budgets. He now faces first-term incumbent Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan.

■ **Massachusetts:** Coakley won some measure of political redemption after her loss to Brown, a defeat that ended the Democrats' supermajority in the U.S. Senate. She beat state Treasurer Steven Grossman and Donald Berwick, a former federal health care administrator to win the Democratic nomination for governor.

Gov. Deval Patrick didn't endorse any of the candidates. In the Republican primary, Charlie Baker, chief executive of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, beat tea party-backed candidate Mark Fisher. Baker lost his bid to unseat Patrick four years ago, but he hopes a well-financed campaign and sharpened message can lead to a win in solidly Democratic Massachusetts.

■ **Rhode Island:** Gina Raimondo beat Providence Mayor Angel Taveras and newcomer Clay Pell, husband of Olympic figure skater Michelle Kwan, to win the Democratic nomination for governor in Rhode Island.

The state's general treasurer trumpeted her leadership in overhauling the state's troubled pension system, and in the process outtraced and outspent both of her opponents, shelling out more than \$5 million.

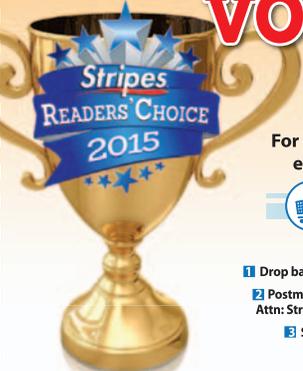
Raimondo will face Cranston Mayor Allan Fun, who beat businessman Ken Block, founder of the Moderate Party, on the Republican side of the ballot.

Buddy Cianci, Part III

Law professor and former judge Jorge Elorza will face former Providence, Rhode Island, mayor and twice-convicted felon Buddy Cianci in November after winning the Democratic primary. Cianci, running as an independent, last held office in 2002 before being sent to prison for presiding over widespread corruption at City Hall.

The mayoral race has centered on who can beat Cianci. Despite his criminal record, he is a formidable political force and has a network of supporters who credit him with revitalizing Providence during his 21 years in office.

Republican Dan Harrop will also appear on the ballot in November.



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WORLD

Ukraine pledges more autonomy to rebellious east

By LAURA MILLS
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's president promised Wednesday to introduce a bill as early as next week that would offer greater autonomy to rebellious regions in the pro-Russia east, where separatists have been battling government troops for almost five months.

But President Petro Poroshenko said the regions would remain part of Ukraine and rejected the idea of federalization, something

both Russia and the Russian-backed separatists are still pushing for even after a cease-fire that began Friday.

The cease-fire agreement, reached in Belarus, "envisages the restoration and preservation of Ukrainian sovereignty over the entire territory of Donbas, including the part that is temporarily under control of the rebels," Poroshenko said during a televised Cabinet meeting. "Ukraine has made no concessions with regards to its territorial integrity." Ukraine and the West have

repeatedly accused Russia of fueling the separatists with arms, expertise and even its own troops, something Russia denies. In late August, NATO estimated that more than 1,000 Russian troops were operating on Ukrainian soil, helping to turn the tide of the war in the rebels' favor.

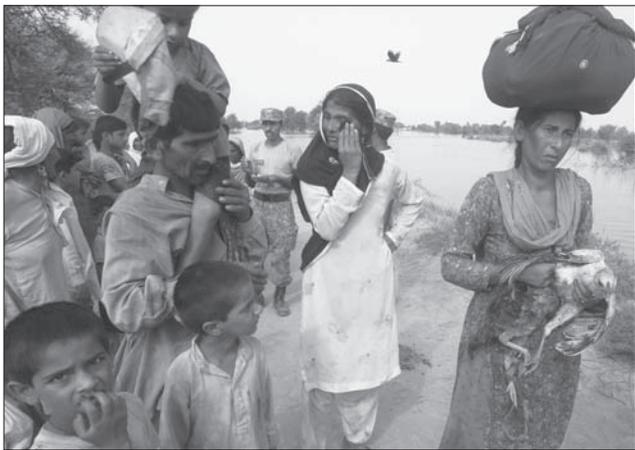
Poroshenko has struggled to paint the Minsk cease-fire agreement — reached as the rebels waged a major counteroffensive that pushed back the Ukrainian troops who had encircled them — as a victory rather than a de-

feat. Poroshenko says since the agreement, 70 percent of the Russian troops in Ukraine had been withdrawn.

He also said 700 Ukrainian prisoners had been freed from rebel captivity and expressed hope that another 500 would be freed by the end of the week. Poroshenko was vague on the specifics of his bill. But a previous peace plan laid out in June envisaged protection for the Russian language, joint patrols of federal and local police and letting local representatives give their

approval for governors, who are appointed by the central government in Kiev.

All of those concessions are minor in comparison to what the separatists want. At various times, they have demanded full independence from Kiev or union with Russia, something that Russian President Vladimir Putin has ignored. But even their concessions to having Ukraine become federalized would require local control over security forces and elections for governors.



K.M. CHAUDHARY/AP

Pakistani villagers wait for boats to evacuate flooded areas along the Chenab River, in Jhang, Pakistan, on Wednesday as monsoon flooding forced thousands to flee their homes.

Thousands flee Pakistan floods

The Associated Press

JHANG, Pakistan — Thousands of people fled their homes in Pakistan on Wednesday as monsoon flooding that has already inundated the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir coursed down onto the plains, causing a major river to breach its banks.

The flooding began earlier this month in Kashmir, where it has caused landslides and submerged much of the main city of Srinagar, on the Indian-administered side. The death toll from the flooding

in both countries has climbed to at least 457.

The rains have washed away houses, bridges, communication equipment and crops. Pakistani and Indian troops say they have evacuated nearly 75,000 people. The floods are the worst to hit Pakistan since 2010, when some 1,700 people died.

Survivors have waded through waist-deep water to escape the floods, with many carrying children and household items on their shoulders as others drag their livestock along behind

them. Hundreds of others remain stranded on rooftops, waving for help to passing helicopters.

The Chenab River breached an embankment in Jhang early Wednesday following a warning the day before, said Ahmad Kamal, the spokesman for Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority. The minister for water and power, Khwaja Mohammad Asif, told parliament on Tuesday that such a breach could force nearly 700,000 people from their homes.

Haiti prisons scrutinized following mass breakout

By DANICA COTO
The Associated Press

CROIX-DES-BOUQUETS, Haiti — The sudden gunfire rattled the morning routine outside the Croix-des-Bouquets Civil Prison and soon inmates, many barefoot and shirtless, dashed frantically from the maximum-security facility, startling street vendors as they looted their wares and fled through the un-paved streets.

One month after the prison break, only about 75 of the 329 escapees have been recaptured, some found across the border in the Dominican Republic, and at least three in the Bahamas. About 255 of the men, many accused of serious crimes such as kidnapping and rape, remain at large, leaving residents in the greater Port-au-Prince area worried and frustrated.

"I feel fear in my heart when I'm walking," Bency Dorvil, 47, said as he trudged past cinder-block homes in Petionville, a hillside city that lies roughly 10 miles southwest of the prison. "The guys have guns and I don't have any."

While crime long has troubled Haiti, the Aug. 10 breakout exposed serious flaws in the country's justice system. Lax security, overcrowding and deep-seated corruption have made the prison system among the worst run in the Western Hemisphere. Repeated governments have lacked the resources or will to change it.

Details about what led to the escape are still emerging.

"According to some reports, gunmen pulled up to the prison in two SUVs, opening fire and quickly overwhelming the poorly equipped guards. The official ac-

count, however, says the shooting erupted from within, with inmates using smuggled guns to overtake their captors.

"We ran to save our lives," recalled Mimose St. Louis, 32, who sells rice and beans from a small wooden stall near the prison and recalled that inmates were brandishing weapons as they stole her money and food.

At least 10 vendors sought cover in the yard of Marlene Rencus, 35, who said she sheltered the terrified people behind her gate. "I didn't want people to get killed."

Some suspect the attack was designed to free Clifford Brandt, the son of a prominent businessman, who had been imprisoned since 2012 for allegedly kidnapping the adult children of a rival businessman. Brandt was captured two days later in the Dominican Republic border.

Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe said United Nations officials and the U.S. Marshals Service are helping in the ongoing hunt for escaped prisoners. Haiti, a country of more than 10 million people, has only about 11,000 police officers.

"We will not rest until all of them are back where they belong, which is jail," Lamothe told The Associated Press in a recent interview at his office in Port-au-Prince.

Some Haitians wonder what additional steps police will take, if any, to protect them and their children.

Justice Minister Jean Renel Samon told the AP he believes most of the escaped prisoners remain in Haiti, noting that police have found several of them walking on the streets.

Lufthansa cancels 140 flights in pilots' strike

BERLIN — Lufthansa has canceled 140 flights after pilots walked off the job at Munich airport — their fourth strike in five months in a dispute that has cost Germany's largest airline tens of millions of dollars.

The dpa news agency reported that Lufthansa said Wednesday's eight-hour strike by the Vereini-

gung Cockpit union at Germany's second-busiest airport affected some 15,300 passengers.

A three-day strike in April already cost the airline 60 million euros and Lufthansa said this stoppage will cost millions more.

The two sides are locked in a dispute over the pilots' demand that Lufthansa keep paying a transition payment for those wanting to retire early.

The Associated Press

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WORLD

Lifeline

Deported Mexicans finding work, hope at call centers

By **ELLIOT SPAGAT**
and **OMAR MILLAN**
The Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — Henry Monterroso is a foreigner in his own country. Raised in California from the age of 5, he was deported to Mexico in 2011 and found himself in a land he barely knew.

But the 34-year-old Tijuana native feels right at home as soon as gets to work at Call Center Services International, where workers are greeted in English. Monterroso supervises five employees amid rows of small cubicles who spend eight hours a day dialing numbers across the United States.

Jonathan Arce, Firstkontakt Center employee

He is among thousands of deported Mexicans who are finding refuge in call centers in Tijuana and other border cities. In perfect English — some hardly speak Spanish — they converse with American consumers who buy gadgets, have questions about warranties or complain about

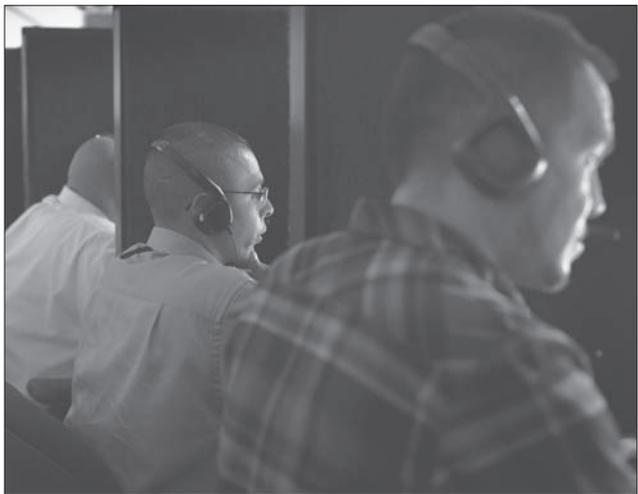
overdue deliveries. At Monterroso's office in one of Tijuana's tallest buildings, managers bring meals from Taco Bell in nearby San Diego to reward employees because the fast-food chain has no outlets in Mexico. Workers are off for the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving but labor on Mexican holidays.

"The end of your shift comes at 6 and you get hit by reality out there: You're not in the U.S.," Monterroso said above the din of buzzing phones. "While you're here, you still get a sense that you're back home, which I like very much."

Many workers spent nearly all their lives in the U.S. and still have family there, which is a major selling point for Mexico over English-language industry leaders like India and the Philippines. They can chat comfortably about the U.S. housing market and Super Bowl contenders. They know slang.

Still, the sudden change is a shock. Monterroso's weekly pay of less than \$300 is a humbling drop from the \$2,400 he made in San Diego real estate at the peak of the U.S. housing boom in the mid-2000s. And back in Mexico, the deportees are often ostracized for off-kilter Spanish or seen as outsiders.

By the end of the year, Mexico's outsourced call centers will have more than 85,000 workstations, which may be staffed two or three shifts a day, while there are nearly 490,000 in India and 250,000 in the Philippines, according to Frost & Sullivan. The industry



Jonathan Arce, 29, center, works the phones in his cubicle next to other workers at the Firstkontakt Center. Arce came to the U.S. when he was 6 months old, was hooked on methamphetamine and marijuana as a teenager, and was in and out of jail for stealing cars in Merced, Calif. He enrolled in rehab after being deported to Tijuana in 2001, quit crime and gangs, and joined Firstkontakt three years ago.

consultant estimates Mexico will surpass 110,000 workstations in 2020, fueled partly by a large pool of bilingual workers and proximity to the U.S.

Baja California state, which includes Tijuana, has about 35 call centers that employ nearly 10,000 people. An estimated 45 percent are deportees, said Oros, who leads a local industry group. Callers typically start below \$150 a week, more than twice what they would likely make on a graveyard shift in one of the city's assembly plants.

The industry has prospered in Mexican border cities as deportations spiked under President Barack Obama. The Mexican government says there were 332,865 deportations from the U.S. last year and more than 1.8 million the previous four years.

"What's goin' on here?" 29-year-old Jonathan Arce asks a fisherman from Cecil, Wisconsin, from his cubical at the Firstkontakt Center in Tijuana, Mexico, where about 200 of nearly 500 employees were deported.

Arce is an example of how the centers often give a fresh start to people with checkered histories. Many came to U.S. immigration officials after getting drunk behind the wheel, peddling drugs or committing another crime. Some wear tattoos they got while in U.S. street gangs.

"We have employees who, unfortunately, fell in with the wrong crowds and pursued lives of crime but, oddly enough, many of them are very loyal," said Alvaro Bello, Firstkontakt's marketing director, who co-founded the company in 2008. "The majority of them have learned that shortcuts are not good."

Arce came to the U.S. when he was 6 months old, was hooked on methamphetamine and marijuana as a teenager, and was in



A man stands in the middle of the Firstkontakt Center, a call center in the northern border city of Tijuana, Mexico. Many Mexicans deported under President Barack Obama are finding employment in call centers in Tijuana and other border cities.

and out of jail for stealing cars in Merced, California. He enrolled in rehab after being deported to Tijuana in 2001, quit crime and gangs, and joined Firstkontakt about three years ago after a stint as a dishwasher.

Arce, whose button-down shirts partly cover a California gang tattoo on the left side of his neck, makes \$150 a week, enough to cover rent for a simple one-bedroom apartment that he shares with his wife and their 1-year-old son. He bought a 1994 Toyota Camry with a shattered windshield for \$900.

"If you're deported, more than likely you're going to get a job at a call center," he said. "The wages ain't much, but it's good enough for

where we're at right now. You can't compare it to the United States."

Many workers have battled depression and culture shock. They complain about being harassed by police for not having Mexican identification documents, sometimes landing in jail.

"When you're first deported, you're not coming down with an open mind," said Antonio Rivera, 37, a Tijuana native who went to the U.S. as a baby, was expelled to Mexico in 2001 and now supervises 13 agents selling auto parts at Firstkontakt. "You're coming down here with an attitude, 'Oh, I don't deserve this.' With a negative attitude, you don't see things the way you're supposed to — that they're giving you a new chance."



Henry Monterroso, 34, works at a call center in Tijuana, Mexico. Monterroso is a foreigner in his own country, he was raised in California after he entered the U.S. illegally with his mother when he was 5 years old and was later deported to Mexico in 2011.

ALEX COSSIO/AP

ALEX COSSIO/AP

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Numerical datum, for short
- 5 Ali —
- 9 Tarzan's son
- 12 Met melody
- 13 Related
- 14 Lawyers' org.
- 15 International financial institution
- 17 Neither mate
- 18 Block
- 19 Approved of
- 21 2009 Pixar movie
- 22 Transparent
- 24 Audubon subject
- 27 Court
- 28 Daybreak
- 31 Commotion
- 32 Embrace
- 33 Whopper
- 34 Part of an egg
- 36 Navy newbie (Abbr.)
- 37 Huff and puff
- 38 Tilted
- 40 Greeting
- 41 Thanksgiving parade sponsor
- 43 Supermarket sections
- 47 Can. neighbor
- 48 Filming schedule
- 51 Solidify
- 52 Quite some time
- 53 Lecherous look
- 54 "Erie Canal" mule

DOWN

- 1 Lumberjacks' tools
- 2 Jog
- 3 Ethereal
- 4 Synagogue text
- 5 Infant
- 6 Alias abbr.
- 7 Crib
- 8 Bracelet site
- 9 Wad of bills
- 10 Reed instrument
- 11 Play area
- 16 Party bowlful
- 20 Cartesian conclusion
- 22 Masher
- 23 Yule fuel
- 24 Howl at the moon
- 25 Bachelorette's final answer?
- 26 Attendance check
- 27 A question of time
- 29 Carnival city
- 30 Fresh
- 31 Chess piece
- 37 Songwriters' org.
- 40 Not hers
- 41 Cocoa holders
- 42 On the briny
- 43 Additionally
- 44 Toy block name
- 45 Congers, e.g.
- 46 Undo a dele
- 49 Earlier
- 50 Journey segment

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

9-11

CRYPTOQUIP

M KCU'W YPTGG ACK LPJA MW
 ICGWG WC BPU Z UZWMCUZD
 GHZIT HBCYBZL, FPW MW
 LPGW FT ZGWBCUCLMIZD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE COURIER DRIVES A SMALL VOLKSWAGEN WHILE WORKING, HE'LL SEND A MESSAGE IN A BEETLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

PACIFIC

New Hirohito history dodges controversy

Official account of Japanese emperor leaves some gaps

By MARI YAMAAGUCHI
AND KEN MORITSUGU
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A 12,000-page history of Emperor Hirohito released in Japan on Tuesday includes childhood letters to his parents but steps gingerly around what many want to know: his thinking on issues such as his responsibility for World War II. The record took 24 years to create, but scholars and journalists say it is still incomplete.

The official annals released by the Imperial Household Agency, a tradition dating back 14 centuries, provide a detailed timeline of Hirohito's life but don't appear to shed much new light on a 62-year reign that spanned Japan's brutal invasion of much of Asia and its reconstruction and emergence as a global economic power in the postwar years.

The 61-volume record "hardly contained anything new that reverses conventional wisdom and history," the liberal-leaning

Mainichi newspaper said in an editorial. "We must keep asking ourselves why that catastrophic war could not be avoided. ... The question is hardly resolved."

The conservative Yomiuri newspaper noted that the annals left out Hirohito's own words on Yasukuni Shrine, where war dead are deified, and criticized the palace for attempting to avoid trouble.

Instead, the official history cites a 2006 scoop by the Nikkei newspaper, which obtained a memo written by a former head of the Imperial Household Agency that quoted Hirohito as expressing displeasure over the shrine's decision to include Class-A war criminals. The memo itself, which some researchers and journalists were hoping to see, was left out of the record, according to Japanese media reports.

Chris Winkler, a senior research fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo, said giving an official imprimatur to

Hirohito's remarks would have risked enraging Japan's vocal right wing.

"They don't want any trouble," he said of the Imperial Household Agency. "They just want the emperor or the imperial institution to stay out of trouble. That's their primary concern."

The record conveys some of the frustrations Hirohito felt early in his reign through some of the 10,000 "waka" poems he is believed to have written. Only about 900 of the poems are known, including three new ones discovered during the project.

In one, written a few years after ascending the throne in 1926, he lamented that his ideas were not being reflected in palace policies, according to Japanese media reports. Two other poems from 1929 refer to "a missing fruit," an allusion to the frugal life at the palace during the global economic slump.

The history says Hirohito was first notified of the U.S. atomic



Japanese Emperor Hirohito waves as Crown Prince Akihito, left, looks on during the imperial garden party at the Akasaka Imperial Gardens in Tokyo.

bombing of the city of Hiroshima nearly 12 hours after the blast on Aug. 6, 1945, according to Japanese media reports.

It says Hirohito judged on the evening of Aug. 8 that it had "become impossible to continue the war" and expressed hope that

the war would be concluded "as swiftly as possible," according to the reports.

The United States dropped another atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki the next day, and Hirohito announced Japan's surrender on Aug. 15.

High-speed train races to its place in Japanese culture

The Yomiuri Shimbun

TOKYO — On Oct. 1, Japan will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the Shinkansen service, when a superexpress train first connected Tokyo and Osaka in four hours.

Over the past half-century, a number of quiet dramas have taken place around the Shinkansen. Here are some highlights of the era.

'Restaurants on rails'

The first dining car debuted on the Tokaido Shinkansen line in 1975, 11 years after the bullet-train line opened. But after an illustrious career of more than 20 years, the "restaurants on rails" disappeared, a casualty of the never-ending quest for speed.

The dining cars were the eighth car on 16-car trains and boasted the opportunity to gaze at Mount Fuji while having a meal.

A bastion of luxury, "the quality of our ingredients never suffered," even amid the severe shortages during the second oil crisis of 1979, recalled Terunobu Utsunomiya, 64, who was a Shinkansen dining car chef for almost 20 years.

Dining cars became even grander in the 1980s, when double-deck cars were introduced. Bolstered by the bubble economy, the Tokaido Shinkansen logged 130 million passengers in 1991, swamping dining cars with customers.

More passengers on the Tokaido line was one reason for the demise of the dining car. The arrival in 1992 of the Nozomi, whose maximum speed was 31 miles per hour faster than previous trains, greatly shortened travel times, but the eighth car was converted to a passenger car to make room for more people.

Songs, toys celebrate trains

The first children's song about the Tokaido Shinkansen line was "Hashire, Chotokuyu" (Run, Superexpress).

Appearing in 1967, the Shinkansen had



A crane lifts a Shinkansen Fuji at the factory in Hamamatsu, Japan, on July 26 as an enthusiastic crowd looks on.

already captured the hearts of children just three years after the bullet-train line opened. Bullet trains can make anybody feel like a child again. Crowds of parents with their children attended an event at Central Japan Railway Co.'s Hamamatsu factory on the first weekend of summer vacation in July.

Everybody in the crowd got excited when a crane picked up a streamlined Shinkansen car.

"Wow, that's amazing!" people shouted. Even the adults were wide-eyed. "It's simple why kids love Shinkansen. To be blunt, they're fast and cool," said Shin-ichiro Higaki, who manages Tomy Co.'s Pirall line of toy trains.

'7-minute miracle' of cleaning

Technological prowess is not the only thing supporting the speed of the Shinkansen.

Operating on an extremely tight schedule, Tokaido Shinkansen trains pullling into Tokyo Station head back to Shin-Osaka Sta-

tion near Osaka in 16 minutes on average.

Cleaning the cars in such a short time frame requires "superexpress" efforts.

Once passengers have detrained, pink-tiled cleaning staff rush in to wipe down tables and windows and change the seat covers.

After politely excusing themselves with a bow to passengers and a "Thank you for waiting," they are out the doors in less than 10 minutes.

East Japan Railway Co., which operates the Tohoku Shinkansen line, is 3 minutes faster. The Shinkansen cleaning staff has been featured by overseas media outlets. U.S. news broadcaster CNN said the crews perform "seven-minute miracles."

A class on the cleaning of Shinkansen cars is to be a required subject at Harvard Business School starting this autumn. The chairman of France's SNCF, which runs the TGV high-speed railway that is increasingly in competition with the Shinkansen and has boasted of being its equal technologically, even tipped his hat to the

Shinkansen's cleaning staff.

"We have nothing on this. I want to bring the cleaning staff home with me," he said after watching the team work during a visit to Japan.

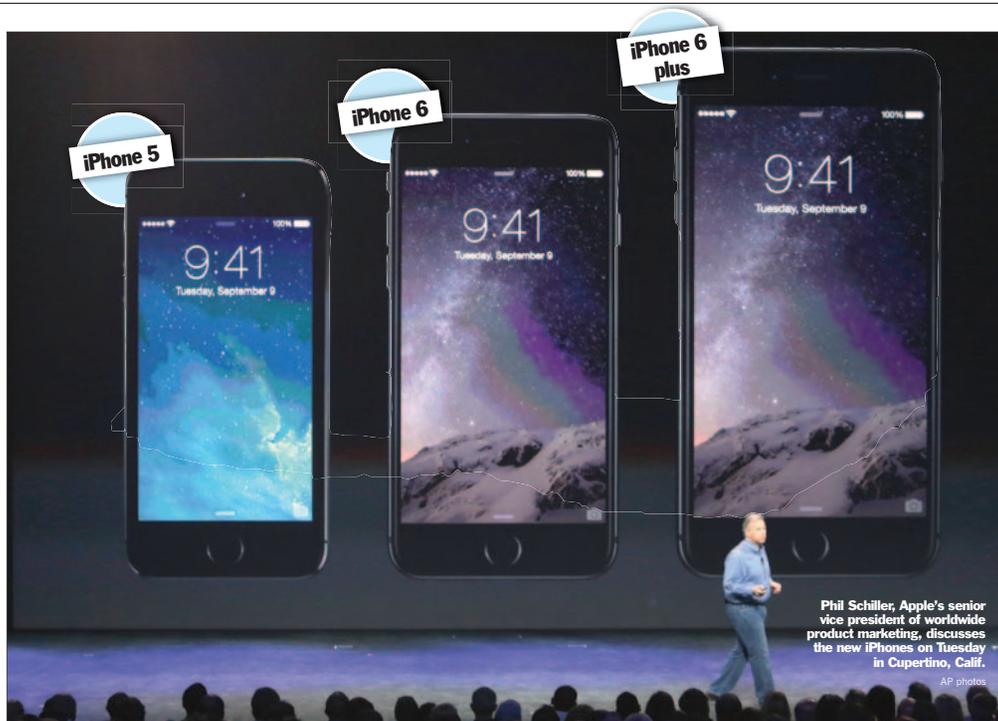
The competition

Why does the "dream superexpress" need such dedication to speed, even down to the cleaning staff? The primary reason is competition from its main rival — the airlines.

The Tokyo-Osaka route, frequented heavily by business travelers, is a cash cow the two have tussled over for half a century. A Shinkansen cannot match an airplane in terms of speed, but airports lie far from city centers, while Shinkansen stations are usually right downtown, meaning there is little difference in time between them.

When the Tokaido Shinkansen opened in 1964, 1.3 million people traveled between Tokyo and Osaka by air. The very next year, that figure had dropped by 200,000.

GADGETS



Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide product marketing, discusses the new iPhones on Tuesday in Cupertino, Calif.

AP photos

Larger iPhones, smartwatch unveiled

By MICHAEL LIETKE
AND ANICK JESDANUN
The Associated Press

CUPERTINO, Calif. — For the first time in years, Apple's iPhones aren't the star of the show. Apple unveiled a smartwatch called the Apple Watch on Tuesday, a wearable device that marks the company's first major entry in a new product category since the iPad's debut in 2010.

The move is significant because of recent questions about whether Apple still has a knack for innovating following the 2011 death of co-founder Steve Jobs.

The device's introduction upstaged the company's two new, larger iPhones, which won't just have bigger screens; they'll have a new, horizontal viewing mode to take advantage of the larger display.

Here's what came out of the Tuesday unveiling.

Larger iPhone

The iPhone 6 will have a 4.7-inch screen, while the iPhone 6 Plus will be 5.5 inches. The screen resolution on the Plus version will be sharper than on previous iPhones, at 401 pixels per inch rather than 326.

With the larger screen comes a new horizontal view of the home screen.

The new phones aren't as big as Samsung's latest flagship phones — 5.1 inches for the Galaxy S5 and 5.7 inches for the Note 4 — but they will be large enough to neutralize a key advantage Samsung and other Android manufacturers have had.

Apple says the new phones will be faster and have better battery life than previous versions. The phones will also have a new sensor, the barometer, to estimate how much you've climbed stairs, not just how far you've walked or run.

Of course, some people still use their phones to actually make calls. When there's poor cellular reception, people will be able to make regular calls over Wi-Fi. The handoff between the two networks will be seamless. In the U.S., that feature will initially be available through T-Mobile.

The resolution on the camera is staying at 8 megapixels, while rival Android and Windows phones have been boosting that. The S5, for instance, is at 16 megapixels.

The new phones will start shipping in the U.S. on Sept. 19, with advance orders to begin Friday. Starting prices will be comparable to those in the past — \$199 with a two-year contract for the iPhone 6 with 16 gigabytes of storage.

However, the step-up models will have double the memory than before — \$299 for 64 gigabytes and \$399 for 128 gigabytes. The iPhone 6 Plus phones will cost \$100 more at each configuration.

Mobile payments

Apple is calling its new payment system Apple Pay.

You'll be able to use your phone's camera to capture a photo of your card. Apple will verify it behind the scenes and add it to your phone's Passbook account so you

can make payments at a retailer. Apple announced several merchants that will accept the system, including Macy's, Whole Foods, Walgreens and Disney stores and of course, Apple stores.

New software

Though much of the attention has been on new gadgets, the software powering those gadgets is getting its annual refresh. Apple considers iOS 8 to be its biggest update since the introduction of the app store in 2008.

Existing iPhone and iPad users will be eligible for the free upgrade, too. Among other things, iOS 8 will let devices work better in sync. For instance, it'll be possible to start a message on an iPhone and finish it on an iPad. With an upcoming Mac upgrade called Yosemite, it'll be possible to continue working on that same message on a Mac computer as well.

The new iOS software will also let people do more things without jumping from app to app.

The new software will be available to existing users on Sept. 17.

Homes and health

Apple is rolling out the HomeKit and HealthKit systems. The idea is to turn Apple's products into a suite of digital servants that do everything from monitoring a person's eating habits and exercise routines to turning on the coffee maker in the morning.



iWatch

Apple's new gadget is called the Apple Watch, rather than the iWatch that many people had been speculating. Apple CEO Tim Cook said Apple had to invent a new interface because simply shrinking a phone wouldn't work. Much of the interaction would be through the dial on the watch. You use that to zoom in and out of a map, for instance, so you're not blocking the screen, which would have occurred if you were pinching in and out to zoom.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

12-year-old boy in wheelchair robbed

DE NEWARK — New Castle County Police are looking for two youths who assaulted and robbed a 12-year-old boy in a wheelchair.

It happened about 2:45 p.m. Monday on Buchanan Circle in Newark. Officers said the victim was outside exercising when two youths about 12 to 14 years old ran up behind the boy.

Police said the youths pushed the wheelchair, causing it to get stuck in a storm grate. The youths then assaulted the boy and ran off with a lanyard and key.

Officers say the same suspects had assaulted and threatened the boy days earlier.

Man hurt after jump off 3,300-foot-high rock

WA RANDLE — A 38-year-old Portland man was injured BASE jumping off 3,300-foot Tower Rock in Randle.

The Lewis County Sheriff's Office said two friends successfully made the jump Monday before the man hit the rock wall several times before his parachute fully deployed.

He suffered multiple broken bones in his legs. He was picked up by a Navy helicopter from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station and transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle in critical condition.

State's law gives DUI defendants a break

PA PHILADELPHIA — People who are repeatedly caught driving under the influence in Pennsylvania are more likely than those in many other states to remain behind the wheel, a newspaper reported.

The Philadelphia Inquirer said Sunday that Pennsylvania doesn't mandate ignition interlock devices for first-time DUI cases and doesn't immediately suspend licenses of defendants who fail sobriety tests.

The paper said a 5-year-old court opinion means drivers must be convicted of DUI before being charged as a repeat offender.

Police can sometimes fail to charge driving suspended along with DUI, a change that can significantly increase jail time.

The paper said Philadelphia prosecutors and judges are comparatively lenient with repeat offenders. The Inquirer said somewhere between 2,000 and 6,000 people in Pennsylvania have four or more drunken driving convictions over the past 20 years.

Sleepwalking camper wanders off cliff

KY SLADE — Rescue crews said an Ohio man who was camping with friends in central Kentucky's Red River Gorge is recovering after falling from a cliff while sleepwalking.

Dwight County Emergency Management told WKYT-TV that the group had set up camp near

THE CENSUS

23 The number of bats killed by turbines at a wind farm in Nebraska this year, a significant decline from last year's numbers, federal land managers said. Paul Podborry, of the federal Bureau of Land Management, said 103 bats were killed at Spring Valley Wind Farm in White Pine County over the same time period last year. He said 533 bats in all were killed by the farm's wind turbines in 2013, triple the number allowed by federal regulators. He attributes this year's decrease in bat deaths to Pattern Energy's move to increase the wind speed required to spin a turbine from 7 mph to 11 mph. Mexican free-tail bats migrate through Spring Valley each year.



MARK SAUER, MESABI (VIRGINIA, MINN.) DAILY NEWS/PA

Eyeing a clean finish

Rebecca Redwine, from Grandma's in the Park Bar and Grill, has one eye visible from between nearly 100 towels as she competes in the towel-carrying contest during the 10th annual Iron Range Housekeeping Olympics on Monday at Americinn in Virginia, Minn. Teams from 14 motels across the region took part in the contest and competed in events ranging from handcuffed bed making to towel folding to bathroom cleaning obstacle courses.

Grey's Arch Trail and the man's friends called for help after realizing that he was missing in the middle of the night.

Wolfe County rope technician John May told the station the Cincinnati man, whose name wasn't released, fell about 60 feet early Thursday and landed in an area with several large boulders.

He called it a "miracle" that the man survived. May said the camper suffered a head injury, a dislocated shoulder and a fractured leg, but he's expected to make a full recovery.

2 killed when plane crashes into rail car

NY BETHLEHEM — Authorities said a student pilot and an instructor died after their small plane crashed into a freight train at an Albany-area railroad yard.

Officials in the town of Bethle-

hem said the single-engine Cessna 172 Skyhawk took off from South Albany Airport at 4:50 p.m. Monday and soon afterward crashed into a rail car at the nearby CSX yard just south of Albany.

One person on the plane was pronounced dead at the scene and the other died on the way to an Albany hospital. Their names haven't been released.

No one on the ground was injured.

The rail car struck by the plane was carrying automobiles. The train wasn't moving at the time of the crash.

Man charged in cutting board attack

IL SPRINGFIELD — A Springfield man was charged with attempted murder after police said he attacked his ex-girlfriend and another man with a marble cutting board.

Maurice King, 41, was arrested after the incident Saturday at the ex-girlfriend's house, the State Journal-Register reported. County officials said his bond was set at \$250,000. He is also facing charges of domestic battery and unlawful use of a weapon.

The 34-year-old male victim suffered serious head injuries and was taken to an area hospital, Springfield police said. The woman wasn't as badly injured and was able to leave the hospital after treatment.

King entered the woman's home around 1:40 a.m. and found the other man giving her a tattoo, police said. She was able to flee during the attack.

Prisoner slips off cuffs, crashes police car

CT HARTFORD — Authorities said a man being transported to prison in

a Connecticut police cruiser slipped out of his handcuffs and attacked the state trooper behind the wheel, causing the vehicle to crash.

State police said Chad Nadeau, 24, was en route to the Hartford Correctional Center on Friday night on domestic violence charges.

Police spokesman Lt. Paul Vance said Nadeau was in the passenger seat when he freed his hands and assaulted the trooper, causing the cruiser to swerve and eventually crash into the median on Interstate 91.

Police said Nadeau fled on foot but was soon apprehended. The trooper and Nadeau had minor injuries.

Nadeau is being held on \$100,000 bond. He was scheduled to appear in court to face charges from his original arrest and the escape attempt.

From wire reports

FACES

U2 drops surprise album at Apple unveiling

The Associated Press

Surprise! U2 just put out a new album, and the renowned rock band is giving it away for free to iTunes users.

U2 made the unexpected announcement Tuesday at Apple's unveiling event in Cupertino, Calif. All customers with iTunes accounts could download the 11-song "Songs of Innocence" for free Tuesday afternoon.

There was much speculation over whether the band would release an album earlier this year when news leaked about the band potentially postponing the highly anticipated new

LP's release to 2015.

The Irish band played at Apple's event and CEO Tim Cook announced the new album would be given to the company's 500 million iTunes users. A news release says the album will be released to everyone else Oct. 14.

Surprise albums are unusual and free albums even more so, but there are recent examples of both.

A news release says "Songs of Innocence" is an exploration of U2's influences from the 1970s and '80s with themes of home and family, relationships and discovery.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Apple CEO Tim Cook, left, greets Bono from the band U2 after the band performed at the Apple event Tuesday in Cupertino, Calif.



DAN HALLMAN, INVISION/AP

Nick Carter, left, and Jordan Knight released an album, "Nick & Knight," last week.

Carter, Knight team up for album, tour

Jordan Knight says being in a duo with fellow boy band veteran Nick Carter is less stressful than being part of New Kids on the Block. "When you're in a really big group like New Kids or Backstreet Boys, you kind of feel the pressure of having to do stuff, music, whatever it is and have it geared towards a mass, mass audience, and it puts a lot of pressure on the group and the creative process," Knight said in a recent interview. "And I think with us, we have a little more freedom, you know, to just explore and do something different than what would be expected."

Knight and Carter released the album "Nick & Knight" last week. They are currently on a tour that wraps in November.

The idea of a duo came up when the Backstreet Boys and New Kids toured together in 2011. "We were talking about music all the time and joking around and just had a really cool relationship, and then the whole 'Nick & Knight' thing came up," Carter said. "We decided, 'Hey, let's explore it,' and then it just kept evolving and evolving, and eventually it turned into an entire album."

From The Associated Press

In voices sharp & soft, Tom Hardy sounds off

BY JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

Think of Tom Hardy and what likely first comes to mind is his steely physical presence, his muscled mixed-martial arts fighter in "Warrior" or his hulking Batman villain, Bane, in "The Dark Rises."

But Hardy is, first and foremost, a talker. As he's developed as an actor, it's become increasingly clear how much voice plays a central role for Hardy. His characters are a richly varied assortment of vocalization. His verbal virtuosity is especially on display in two films this year: the New York crime film "The Drop," which opens stateside Friday, and the earlier-released "Locke," a drama almost entirely composed of Hardy talking on the phone while driving.

One is a mumbling mutterer, the other speaks with methodical precision. They couldn't sound more different, but in both cases, their speech entirely informs their character.

"The voice is a key silhouette, an audio silhouette," Hardy said in an interview shortly after "The Drop" premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Hardy, himself, is a theatrical torrent of words, a London native who speaks with a colorful, refined accent that fluctuates in pitch and often breaks into heavy chuckles or squeals. "I'm full of beans!" a chipper and caffeinated Hardy greets a reporter.

"I'm actually not a big, muscly guy," the 36-year-old actor explains. "I'm only 150 pounds, wet through, bricks in my pocket. But it's funny. Like Bane or Bronson the title-character criminal of his 2008 breakthrough), that's not who I am. The articulation of sensitivity is closer to who I am."

Articulation and its many forms have dotted Hardy's movies, often with very specific inspirations. For his masked, elaborately articulated Bane, he drew from the Irish bare-knuckle brawler Barley Gorman, who was docu-



MARION CURTIS, STARPIX/AP

Actor Tom Hardy is licked by a Pit Bull puppy at a special screening of his latest movie, "The Drop," on Sept. 8 in New York. "I play characters that I am not, that I am frightened of," Hardy says.

mented in a 1995 film, "King of the Gypsies."

In Steven Wright's "Locke," now out on DVD, Hardy plays construction foreman Ivan

Locke, who calls his wife to admit he once cheated on her, and that on that night, the woman he slept with is having his baby. Simultaneously, he's directing the biggest

concrete pour of his career — all over the phone.

It's a remarkable feat of dramatization almost purely through audio. Locke faces his problems head on with meticulousness. Though the film is about the fallout from confessing a marriage-ruining indiscretion, Locke is heroic, in a way: "He's brave enough to say it," Hardy says.

Hardy based him on a Welshman who guided him on a 2011 visit to Afghanistan.

"When we were in certain places, he was calm," Hardy says. "That's what you want to hear. You want to be with someone who says, 'It's OK. It's all (expletive), but it's going to be OK.' No matter how bad it gets, there's always a practical solution."

Adapted from a Dennis Lehane short story, "The Drop" is about a Brooklyn bar used as a money-laundering bank. Hardy plays a seemingly meek and innocent bartender named Bob who keeps his head down while bigger players — his boss (James Gandolfini, in his final performance), a police detective (John Ortiz), a neighborhood thug (Matthias Schoenaerts) — overlook him.

"We're dealing with low wisps of eliciting information without giving away where the fire is," Hardy says of Bob's speech. "In order to survive, you must be invisible. Bob is finding his voice."

It's a thick Brooklyn accent of almost monosyllabic, "Neanderthal sounds," Hardy says.

"What he can do with his voice is incredible," says director Michael Koskam. "The first time I heard Bob's voice was the first day on set."

Hardy will soon start shooting Alejandro Inarritu's "The Revenant," a thriller set on the 1820s frontier. "I play characters that I am not, that I am frightened of," Hardy says. "It's easier to mimic that which frightens me than it is that which comforts me. As I get older, people like Locke are more enticing because I feel safe enough to try that. I'm allowed to be here, as an actor. I've made inroads, certainly, to say, 'Now can I play something else?'"

LaBeouf pleads guilty to disorderly conduct

Actor Shia LaBeouf has pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct stemming from an incident at a Broadway show in New York City. The plea was entered Wednesday before a Manhattan judge. If LaBeouf remains in treatment for three months and stays out of trouble for six months, he'll be able to withdraw the plea and the case will be dismissed.

From The Associated Press



SCOTT ROTH, INVISION/AP

Fashion rocks

Jennifer Hudson performed at Fashion Rocks Tuesday at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.J. Other performers included Luke Bryan and Nicki Minaj.

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OPINION

Flight 17 report clear in what it rules out

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY
 Bloomberg News

At first glance, the preliminary report on the July 17 crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine is pretty thin gruel. It does, however, rule out most explanations except the one that involves a ground-to-air missile. At the same time, it ends hopes that flight data might somehow reveal who shot down the plane, killing its 283 passengers and 15 crewmembers.

The Dutch Safety Board's dispassionate technical report describes an ordinary flight. The Malaysian Boeing 777-200 was manned by a double crew, each of the captains boasting more than 10,000 hours of flight experience on similar aircraft. It had arrived uneventfully in Amsterdam from Kuala Lumpur. One engine needed oil during the turnaround, but the Dutch service crew noted that oil consumption was normal. The Ukrainian government had restricted airspace access over the conflict zone to an altitude of 32,000 feet, but Flight 17 flew at 33,000 feet.

It was a rainy day over eastern Ukraine, with occasional flashes of lightning. Some 27 minutes before the crash, the air traffic controller in Dnipropetrovsk asked the pilots if they could go higher — to 35,000 feet — to avert a conflict with another plane. The pilots replied they would rather maintain altitude, the dispatcher got the other aircraft to ascend, and the chance that could have saved Flight 17 was missed. Seven minutes later, the pilot asked if he could divert the plane 20 nautical miles (23 miles) to the left to avoid bad weather, and

that wish was granted, setting up the Boeing's meeting with the report term "a large number of high-energy objects" that would destroy it at 1:20 p.m. Amsterdam time.

Nothing untoward was happening to the plane. The cockpit voice recorder, found by the separatists and delivered to British experts at Farnborough, hadn't been tampered with and contained nothing except normal conversation. The flight data recorder showed only normal operations. This should, once and for all, neutralize Russian suggestions that a Ukrainian fighter plane was near the Boeing at about the same altitude shortly before the crash. The pilots would have surely seen it — visibility was good above the clouds — and remarked upon it.

The "black boxes" gave no indication of what caused the crash. When the crew stopped answering, the Ukrainian traffic controllers got in touch with Russian colleagues in Kostov-on-Don to check if their radars still displayed Flight 17. The exchange, quoted in the Dutch report, shows no animosity:

Ukrainian traffic controller: 'Rostov, do you observe the Malaysian by ... by the response?' Russian traffic controller: 'No, it seems that its target started falling apart.'

And then, all the Dutch investigators had to go on were photos from the crash site, taken by Ukrainian investigators. They, the report said, showed the plane had come apart in the air after being hit with those "high-energy objects." The investigators avoid the word "missile," which is professional of them; it couldn't have been any-

thing else. The separatists had no aviation, the Ukrainian military had nothing airborne to shoot at. So the missile was likely fired by rebels who had got their hands on advanced anti-aircraft weaponry, or even by a Russian crew, as some reports have suggested. Apportioning blame, however, lies outside the scope of the Dutch technical investigation. Flight 17 was collateral damage in the senseless, brutal, Russia-inspired conflict in eastern Ukraine that has already killed more than 3,000 people, according to the United Nations, and in which 56 noncombatants were dying every day beside the constant shaky cease-fire was established on Sept. 5.

The truce in the Donbas is holding, despite isolated incidents of shelling and gunfire. Prisoners have been exchanged. Hopefully no more innocent victims will suffer; the clearest lesson of the crash is that civilian aircraft should not fly over conflict zones, at any altitude, under any conditions.

Air France and Emirates stopped flying over Iraq in late July. Other airlines should have followed, but they only stopped when the U.S. banned its carriers from entering Iraq's airspace. In fact, carriers should voluntarily change their routes to avoid all fighting zones, no matter what the cost, simply because they don't know what kind of hardware is out there, in the hands of often badly trained, angry people. As the Ukrainian restrictions showed, guessing about safe altitude limits can prove lethal.

Leonid Bershidsky is a Bloomberg View contributor. He is a Berlin-based writer, author of three novels and two nonfiction books.

Americans missed out on \$5.4B by not refinancing

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN
 Bloomberg News

Suppose you learned that during the recent recession the national government adopted a policy that cost American homeowners \$5.4 billion. Or that the nation's banks adopted a policy that had exactly the same effect. You'd probably be outraged. Fortunately, that didn't quite happen, but something similar did. Whether or not it's outrageous, we should do something about it.

For many people, buying a home is the most important financial decision they ever make. Interest rates rise and fall, and when they fall, many homeowners have an opportunity to refinance and to save a lot of money. From 2010 to 2012, rates dropped significantly. In late 2012, they reached an all-time low, falling well below 4 percent. Someone whose original loan came with a rate of 6.5 percent could, by refinancing, save more than \$100,000 over the life of the loan.

The standard economic assumption is that homeowners consider such benefits and make rational decisions about whether and when to refinance. But behavioral economists suspect this isn't what really happens — that lots of people fail to refinance even when they stand to save many thousands of dollars. Some procrastinate, thinking that they will refinance tomorrow — and tomorrow never comes. Some focus on the upfront expense of refinancing, and the inconvenience of the process, discounting the long-term economic gains. (This is

known as "present bias.") Anecdotal evidence supports this speculation, but there has been a lack of systemic research.

Until now. Economists Benjamin Keys and David Pope of the University of Chicago, with Jason Pope of Brigham Young University, studied a nationally representative sample of about 1 million residential mortgages that were active in December 2010. Keys and his colleagues were able to obtain a lot of information about these loans, including the interest rate, the payment history, any second liens and the existing balance. As a result, they could make reasonable judgments about which homeowners were unable to refinance (because of their economic circumstances) and which would benefit from doing so.

Of the many who stood to save tens of thousands of dollars by refinancing, 20 percent sat on their hands. Nationwide, the researchers concluded from these findings, Americans mortgage-holders who neglected to refinance passed up a total of \$5.4 billion in savings — and that is a conservative estimate.

What happened to that 20 percent by late December 2012, when interest rates bottomed out? Two in 5 of them had still neglected to refinance, even though their potential savings grew.

The homeowners who failed to refinance tended to be the ones with relatively less wealth and less education. In other words, the people most in need of saving money were the least likely to do so. It follows that poor refinancing decisions exacerbate eco-

nomical inequality.

Keys and his colleagues went a step further. Working with a nonprofit corporation, they wrote letters to mortgage holders in lower-income communities offering to reduce their loans at a lower rate. These pre-approved offers promised potentially substantial savings, and yet 84 percent of recipients didn't respond. A follow-up survey found that 25 percent of the nonresponders didn't even open the letter, and 33 percent planned to call the loan officer but never did so.

Obviously, we can't blame banks for people's poor decisions. Yet there are many ways that banks could help to promote refinancing — for instance by making it easier or even automatic (when rates decline by a certain amount), or by providing clear, simple, accessible information. And with appropriate incentives, government policy could encourage banks to do these things.

If one of our goals is to help struggling homeowners, we could do a great deal by encouraging and simplifying refinancing. A number of homeowners continue to have mortgages with rates significantly above those now available (which recently dropped to a low for the year). And the new research raises an intriguing question: In what other contexts are low take-up rates leading people to leave a lot of money on the table?

Cass R. Sunstein, the former administrator of the White House Office of Information Security Affairs, is a professor at Harvard Law School and a Bloomberg View columnist.

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OPINION

Obama stepping warily onto the battlefield

By DAVID IGNATIUS

For President Barack Obama, this is gut-check time on Iraq. He is moving the nation back onto a pitiless battlefield, with a war plan that is long on good intentions and short on clarity about the ultimate mission.

It's a wrenching moment: A president who for several years seemed allergic to American involvement in the Iraqi and Syrian wars is being drawn into this conflict by circumstances that even the skeptics agree require American action. Obama kept his distance despite the deaths of 200,000 Syrians, but apparently can't do so any longer after the beheading of two Americans.

"We have to do it," says Zbigniew Brzezinski, a former national security adviser and the dean of a group of strategists who met with Obama on Monday night. But he cautions that "because the conflict is likely to spread to other countries, and to last longer than we are likely to avoid the mistakes we made after September 11, 2001," of seeming to launch a global war on terror. This time, argues Brzezinski, the U.S. needs to rely on its Muslim allies, such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan, rather than making it America's fight.

Obama has come gradually and reluctantly to his conclusion that U.S. military action is necessary against the self-described Islamic State that has taken root in Iraq and Syria. But there are some obstacles and potential dangers that are hidden in the fog of policy. These aren't arguments against strong policy so much as warnings of potential unintended consequences.

What's the exit strategy? As Obama be-

gins his effort to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the Islamic State, his aides told *The New York Times* the campaign could take three years. How will the U.S. and its allies know when they have "won"? Or will this be more like the Cold War, a decades-long ideological battle punctuated by periods of intense local combat? If so, are the American people ready for such a long and patient struggle?

If Obama is serious about using U.S. military power against the Islamic State, why has he initially been so tentative? Militarily, a sudden, sharp attack makes more sense than a drizzle of airstrikes. There may be sound political reasons for the cautious U.S. approach, to force countries in the region to step up and make commitments themselves, but this goes against military logic.

The U.S. may begin with the limited goal of helping allies fight the Islamic State, but what if the campaign goes badly, or it spreads more widely to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, or the U.S. homeland is hit in retaliation? We may plan a restrained campaign, but the enemy gets a vote. What if the U.S. inevitably have to escalate if it seems to be losing?

What about the jihadists' safe haven in Syria? The U.S. learned in Vietnam and Afghanistan that it's almost impossible to stop an insurgency that maintains a strong local base of support. If the U.S. intends to strike targets in Syria eventually, how does it avoid becoming the air force of Syrian President Bashar Assad?

Isn't America implicitly allying with Iran, no matter what the two countries may publicly say? I think the answer is yes, and that this implicit cooperation is actual-



ly one of the potentially beneficial features of the campaign. But at a time when Iranian-backed extremists in Hezbollah also threaten regional stability, this is a strange brew, indeed. What needs to be de-conflicted aren't just the two nations' drones, but their regional policies.

Who is going to take this fight door-to-door in the densely populated Iraqi cities of Mosul, Ramadi and Fallujah — to say nothing of Raqqa and Aleppo in Syria? The U.S. Joint Special Operations Command perfected a new kind of killing machine against al-Qaida in Iraq. Who will be JSOC's successors in the battle against the Islamic State? I suspect that U.S. Spe-

cial Forces will have to join this fight, too, as "advisers," or wearing different hats as CIA covert operators.

And, finally, the hardest question: Is America walking into a trap that has been constructed by the Islamic State — launching attacks that will rally jihadists around the world? From everything the jihadists proclaim in their propaganda, we can sense that they have been dreaming of this showdown. This is why America needs to make sure that, with every step it takes, it is surrounded by Muslim friends and allies.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Chillin' with the badass boys of the Islamic State

By SIMON COTTEE

In his 1988 book "Seductions of Crime" UCLA sociologist Jack Katz devotes an entire chapter to what he calls the "ways of the badass." "In many youthful circles," he writes, "to be 'bad,' to be a 'badass' or otherwise overtly to embrace symbols of deviance is regarded as a good thing."

According to Katz, there are three elements to being a badass. First, he is cold, "not easily influenced," indifferent to others, unmoved by emotion. Second, he is alien, embracing "ways of living that appear hostile to any form of civilization." And third, he is mean, engaging in violence "without the limiting influence of utilitarian considerations or a concern for self-preservation."

"Seductions of Crime" has an exotic cast of criminal characters, including novice shoplifters, gangbanging street elites, stickup men, righteous killers and cold-blooded murderers. But it is the badasses who most fascinates us, who draws us in and shakes us to our cores. We like Tony Soprano, Keyser Söze and Walter White's alter-ego Heisenberg, to name just a few, albeit fictional, folk devils. They are strange, awe-inspiring, larger than life. And this is precisely why we like them — and why they terrify us.

"Seductions of Crime" published 13 years before 9/11, was written for a very different world from the one we inhabit today. But the paradigmatic badass is still with us, only now he doesn't have a gangster face; now he has a jihadi face. For the ultimate badasses are the caliphate-invoking, kafir-hating, sword-wielding men in black Islamic State fighters who try to glamorize the group. But it may be the key

to understanding why some young men from the West give up everything to join it or affiliated groups.

Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, a 23-year-old British rapper from London, is a case in point. This is the man British officials suspect may be the killer of U.S. journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff. The killer, masked and dressed like a ninja, was seen in the shocking videos of Foley's and Sotloff's beheadings. Abdel Bary — aka Lyricist Jinn aka I Jinny — recently tweeted a picture of himself apparently holding up a severed head. The caption read, "Chillin' with my homie and what's left of 'im."

Last year *Vice* magazine published an article on the use of social media among British jihadists in Syria. In countless "selfies" you can see these young men proudly posing in military apparel with guns at the ready. There are loving, close-up shots of personal hardware, including a chrome AK-47 with the caption "Rolling wit d chrome homie." These jihadists seem more like frustrated high school actors, desperate for attention, than bona fide badasses.

Who, really, are these young men? We still know surprisingly little about them. But we do know something about the jihadi groups they are joining. Despite the divisions and fractures within their ranks, their goal is to seize political power. They want to establish an Islamic state or, more ambitiously, a caliphate incorporating many Muslims around what these groups demand.

And for all their ideological differences, these groups are united in what they're against: America, Jews, apostates, gays, women's rights, religious freedom, materialism, free speech, secular democracy, alcohol, pork and on and on. We also know something about what these groups demand of their members: discipline, physi-

cal courage, piety, murderous violence and self-immolation.

In his research on jihadi terrorist attacks and plots in Europe from September 2001 to October 2006, Edwin Bakker found that of the 242 jihadi terrorists involved in 31 incidents, a clear majority were first-, second- or third-generation immigrants from Arab countries in North Africa or with roots in Pakistan. Many had come from the lower strata of society, and, significantly, less than a quarter had a criminal record. Almost all were male and most were "born again" Muslims, discovering religion later in life.

It may be that the Western Europeans who reportedly represent up to 18 percent of the 11,000 foreign fighters in Syria share similar backgrounds. What little we do know, from news reports and social media, seems to confirm this, although there are some notable exceptions, including Abdel Bary himself, who scarcely grew up in hardship.

The attractions of jihadi groups to such men are clear. They directly answer to what is existentially missing from their lives: a sense of identity, belonging and purpose.

Furthermore, and as Quintan Wiktorowicz, former member of President Barack Obama's National Security Council, has convincingly argued, jihadi groups offer the promise of spiritual redemption. Join us and purge yourself of your sins. Join us and become a hero to your people. Join us and guarantee your place in paradise. This has a special resonance for gang members with a guilt complex, which perhaps explains why so many Western jihadists are former gang members and why Islamic State is directly targeting this group in its recruitment videos.

At the same time, jihadi groups emphatically answer to altogether more visceral desires: They promise excitement, adventure and unrestrained violence. Join us and strike terror into the hearts of infidels everywhere. Join us and prove your worth. Join us and become a martyr. Join us, in other words, and become the ultimate badass.

Islamic State's propaganda — especially its notorious execution videos — is saturated in badass iconography. Look at this material — if you dare — and you will see unspeakably terrible things. Men brandishing AK-47s, hand-held rocket launchers or large, curved machetes, glistening with intent. Men gunning down defenseless victims or holding aloft decapitated heads. And you will see the look of frenzied delight as they go about their work. Unquestionably, these men project — in Katz's phrasing — the "awesome, ominous presence" so integral to the aura of the badass.

The former CIA operations officer and terrorism scholar Marc Sageman coined the phrase "jihadi cool." But "jihadi cool" isn't quite right. Jihadi groups are not cool; they are bad. But they are also cloaked in a mythology of righteousness. They are good, fighting the forces of evil, or so their adherents believe. It is this combination that explains the Islamic State's seductive appeal, especially for Western gang members in search of redemption and more spectacular forms of violence and excitement.

Simon Cotee is a senior lecturer in criminology at University of Kent in Britain. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. His book "The Apostates: When Muslims Leave Islam" will be published in November. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

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SCOREBOARD

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Pro football

NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	19	0
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	19	14
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	23	0
New England	1	0	0	1.000	30	0

NFL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	14	0
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	17	0
Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	20	0
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	14	35

NFL AFC EAST

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	14	0
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	17	0
Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	20	0
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	14	35

NFL AFC NORTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	34	37
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	20	14

NFL AFC SOUTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	34	6
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	16	36

NFL AFC WEST

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	36	17
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	18	17
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	18	17
St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000	6	34

NFL NFC EAST

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	36	17
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	18	17
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	18	17
St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000	6	34

NFL NFC NORTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	34	6
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	16	36

NFL NFC SOUTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	34	37
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	20	14

NFL NFC WEST

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	36	17
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	18	17
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	18	17
St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000	6	34

NFL AFC NORTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	34	37
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	20	14

NFL AFC SOUTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	34	6
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	16	36

College football

Schedule Thursday, Sept. 11

SOUTH
 Campbell (0-2) at Charleston Southern (2-0)
 Indiana (0-1) at Sanford (0-1)
 Cumberland (1-0) at UT-Martin (0-2)

SCHEDULE Friday, Sept. 12

SOUTH
 Louisiana Tech (1-1) at North Texas (1-1)
EAST
 Baylor (2-0) at Buffalo (1-1)
 Toledo (1-1) at Cincinnati (0-0)

SCHEDULE Saturday, Sept. 13

EAST
 Dayton (1-0) at Duquesne (0-2)
 Rose State (1-1) at UConn (1-1)
 Maine (1-0) at Bryant (2-0)
 Robert Morris (0-2) at Penn State (1-1)
 Wagner (1-1) at Monmouth (NJ) (1-0)
 Ohio State (1-1) at Wake Forest (1-1)
 Lehigh (1-0) at New Hampshire (0-1)
 Colgate (0-1) at Delaware (1-1)
 Robert Morris (0-2) at Lafayette (0-1)
 Georgetown (0-2) at Marist (0-2)
 Assumption (0-1) at Sacred Heart (0-2)
 American International (1-0) at Stony Brook (0-2)
 Southern Cal (2-0) at Boston College (1-1)
 Penn St. (2-0) at Rutgers (2-0)

SCHEDULE Sunday, Sept. 14

SOUTH
 Pittsburgh (2-0) at FIU (1-1)
 Georgia Southern (1-1) at Georgia Tech (2-0)
 Clemson (1-1) at Marshall (2-0)
 West Virginia (1-1) at Maryland (2-0)
 North Carolina (2-0) at Virginia Tech (1-1)
 East Carolina (1-1) at Virginia Tech (2-0)
 Virginia Tech (1-1) at Virginia Tech (2-0)
 San Diego State (0-1) at Jacksonville (0-1)
 Jacksonville State (0-1) at Jacksonville (0-1)
 Davidson (1-1) at VMI (0-2)
 Towson (0-2) at Delaware St. (0-2)
 North Carolina (2-0) at Georgia Tech (1-1)
 Louisiana College (1-0) at Alcorn St. (1-1)
 Middle Tennessee (1-1) at Duke (2-0)
 Morehouse (1-0) at Howard (0-2)
 North Carolina (2-0) at Virginia Tech (1-1)
 Alabama (0-1) at South Carolina (1-1)
 North Carolina (2-0) at Virginia Tech (1-1)
 Georgia A&M (0-2) at UAB (1-1)
 Catawba (1-0) at W. Carolina (1-1)
 Tennessee State (0-2) at Bethune-Cookman (1-1)
 Francis (Pa.) (1-1) at James Madison (1-1)
 Louisiana (1-1) at Mississippi (2-0)
 Mississippi State (2-0) at South Alabama (1-0)
 Texas Southern (2-0) at Central St. (Ohio) (1-0)
 Old Nassau, Bahamas
 North Carolina (2-0) at Austin Peay (1-1)
 Charlotte (2-0) at NC Central (1-1)
 Georgia Southern (1-1) at Georgia Tech (1-1)
 MVSU (0-1) at Alabama St. (1-0)
 North Carolina (2-0) at Georgia Tech (1-1)
 Morehead St. (1-1) at E. Kentucky (2-0)
 Kent State (1-1) at Eastern Mich. (1-1)
 Va. Lynchburg (2-0) at Gardner-Webb (0-1)
 E. Michigan (1-1) at Old Dominion (1-1)
 Hampton (0-2) at Richmond (1-1)
 North Carolina (2-0) at Savannah St. (0-2)
 Mercer (1-1) at Stonewall (1-1)
 Kansas (1-1) at FAU (0-2)
 Tennessee State (1-1) at Jackson St. (2-0)
 at Tennessee State (1-1)
 Louisiana-Monroe (2-0) at LSU (2-0)
 Kansas (1-1) at Eastern Mich. (1-1)
 Prairie View (0-1) at McNeese St. (0-1)
 W. Kentucky (1-1) at Middle Tennessee (2-0)
 Henderson St. (1-0) at Nicholls St. (0-2)
 North Carolina (2-0) at Presbyterian (1-1)
 North Western St. (0-2) at Southern U. (1-1)

Tennis

Bell Challenge

At Club Avantage Multi-Sports
Quebec City
 Purse: \$250,000 (T) **Surface: Hard-Indoor**
Singles
 Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic, def. Michelle Larcher de Brito, Portugal, 7-6 (4), 6-1.
 Melanie Oudin, United States, def. Agnieszka Radwanska, Poland, 6-2, 6-2.
 Olga Savchenko, Ukraine, def. Gabriela Dobrowolska, Canada, 6-2, 6-2.
 Victoria Ljubicic, Croatia, def. Veronika Kapteva, Russia, 6-3, 6-1.
 Melanie Oudin, United States, def. Alize Lim, France, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.
 Venus Williams (1), United States, def. Venus Williams (2), United States, 6-2, 6-2.
 Francoise Abanda, Canada, 7-5, 6-3.
 Ajla Tomljanovic (2), Croatia, def. Irina Falconi, United States, 6-4, 6-1.

First Round

Julia Goerges, Germany, and Andrea Hlavackova (2), Czech Republic, def. Louisa Chirico and Sanaz Marand, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Doubles

Julia Goerges, Germany, and Andrea Hlavackova (2), Czech Republic, def. Louisa Chirico and Sanaz Marand, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

At The Olympic Tennis School

Taskinet, Uzbekistan
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
 Irina-Cristina Begu (2), Romania, def. Katerina Kozlova, Russia, 6-3, 6-2.
 Karim Knop (3), Italy, def. Cagla Buyukakcikli, Turkey, 6-2, 6-2.
 Nisim Abdurajovic, Uzbekistan, def. Armin Demmer, Austria, 6-2, 6-2.
 Donika Vekic (5), Croatia, def. Mandy Kujawa, Germany, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
 Misaki Doi (6), Japan, def. Katerina Sinikova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-3.
 Ksenia Lykina (7), Russia, def. Anna Lena Friesdorf (7), Germany, 7-6 (4), 6-0.
 Ksenia Lykina (7), Russia, def. Anna Lena Kramic, Serbia, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.
 Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Margarita Gasparjan, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Anna-Lena Freixas, Latvia, def. Shuang Pei, Israel, 6-3, 7-5.
 Kristina Kudrykova, Slovakia, 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Doubles

Katerina Dzhabelidze and Aleksandra Savchenko, Belarus, def. Victoria Barvova and Arina Foltis, Uzbekistan, 6-3, 6-2.
 Darja Jurak, Croatia, and Megan Moulton-Lewis, Canada, def. Erika Ertz and Hiroko Kuwata, Japan, 6-1, 6-2.
 Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, and Danka Kovinic, Montenegro, def. Elena Bogdan, Romania, and Olivia Rogowska, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.
 Agneta Amanmuradova, Uzbekistan, and Katerina Bondarenko, Ukraine, def. Mariam Balachadze, Georgia, 6-3, 6-2.
 Ukraine, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

Hong Kong Open

At Victoria Park Tennis Stadium

Purse: \$250,000 (T) Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
 Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1.
 Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Alena Dancikova, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.
 def. Polona Hercog, Slovenia, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.
 Francesca Schiavone, Italy, def. Christy Waloff, United States, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.
 Zheng Jie (5), China, def. Miya Eguchi, Japan, 6-1, 7-6 (5).
 Yarina Wickmayer (6), Belgium, def. Ekaterina Kulichova, Russia, 6-4, 6-4.
 Yarina Wickmayer (6), Belgium, def. Yana Golovinova (7), Slovakia, def. Yana Golovinova (7), Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.
 Armina Gadsova, Australia, def. Lukasz Kurumhan, Thailand, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
 Zheng Jie (5), China, def. Miya Eguchi, Japan, 6-1, 7-6 (5).
 Yarina Wickmayer (6), Belgium, def. Ekaterina Kulichova, Russia, 6-4, 6-4.
 Yarina Wickmayer (6), Belgium, def. Yana Golovinova (7), Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.
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SPORTS BRIEFS/HIGH SCHOOL

Briefly

Harden, Curry spark US in second half

The Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — James Harden and Stephen Curry went into halftime with no points and no panic.

“We just stick to the program. We know it’s tough for any team to run with us for 40 minutes because of how deep we are and how hard we work on the floor,” Curry said. “I think we understand we didn’t make many shots in the first half but our defense was pretty solid and if we kept the pressure on them, things would open up.”

They did. Quickly. Klay Thompson scored 20 points and Harden had 12 of his 14 in the third quarter, helping the U.S. turn a close game into a 119-76 rout of Slovenia on Tuesday in the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

Kenneth Faried added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Americans, who will play Lithuania on Thursday in Barcelona for a spot in Sunday’s gold-medal game in Madrid. Lithuania beat Turkey 73-61 earlier Tuesday.

The U.S. led 49-42 at halftime despite shooting just 36 percent, with Harden and Curry, two of the NBA’s top seven scorers, combining to miss all 12 shots.

“I said, ‘I don’t think that’ll happen in the second half’ and it didn’t,” U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Mercury crush Sky, take 2-0 lead in WNBA Finals

PHOENIX — Chicago scratched Brittney Griner across the eyelid, chipped one of her teeth and bloodied her lip.

Staggered by the blows, Phoenix’s lanky center fought back the best way she knows how: by scoring and swatting shots.

Now the Mercury are on the verge of delivering the knockout blow after finishing off the most lopsided game in WNBA Finals history.

Griner shook off two blows to the face to finish with 19 points, Diana Taurasi added 18 and the Mercury made it two straight routs in the WNBA Finals with a 97-68 win over the Chicago Sky on Tuesday night.

That’s pretty amazing how mature Brittney is to handle something like that because she

did get pretty hurt,” Taurasi said. “For her to keep her focus and not let herself get rattled and consumed by that, shows a lot of maturity. I know I couldn’t have done that.”

NFL player reps delay vote on drug proposal

NEW YORK — The 32 player representatives to the union have delayed a vote on the NFL’s proposal for changes to the drug policy that potentially could implement HGH testing.

After a conference call of about one hour Tuesday night during which the proposal was discussed, the player reps opted to take no action.

The sides have discussed changes to the policy on substance abuse and driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol. A potential hang-up on that issue was the league’s desire to immediately discipline players — as well as NFL owners, executives, officials, coaches and league office personnel — arrested for DUIs. NFLPA President Eric Winston told The Associated Press last week that ignoring a player’s rights to due process would not be considered by the union.

In other NFL news:

■ The Philadelphia Eagles have placed offensive lineman Allen Barbre and linebacker Najee Goode on season-ending injured reserve, and put All-Pro guard Evan Mathis on injured reserve designated for return.

■ The Cincinnati Bengals placed tight end Tyler Eifert on the injured reserve list with a chance to return at midseason from an elbow injury.

■ The Washington Redskins have placed nose tackle Barry Coffield on short-term injured reserve, ruling him out for at least eight games.

Baylor coach says QB Petty will play Friday

WACO, Texas — Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty will return to the lineup when the eighth-ranked Bears play at Buffalo on Friday night.

Coach Art Briles says Petty should be able to go after missing Baylor’s last game with two cracked small bones in his back.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden’s Jade Sullivan slices a return on her way to beating ISB’s Anouchka Laurent Josi in last year’s girls singles final at the DODDS-Europe championships. Sullivan will try to defend her crown.

DODDS-Europe tennis

Wiesbaden’s Sullivan returns; boys champ not back to defend

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

A well-entrenched girls champion and a pair of rising boys contenders headline the deep roster of competitors in action as the 2014 DODDS-Europe tennis season begins this weekend. Here’s a look at who might be in the mix when champions are crowned Oct. 23-25 at Wiesbaden:

Girls

Powerful Wiesbaden ace Jade Sullivan grew stronger as her eventual coronation grew more and more certain over the course of her dominant sophomore season last fall. As she returns for her junior year, only one question remains: how good can she be?

A semifinalist as a freshman, Sullivan didn’t drop so much as a single set in the first month of her sophomore campaign, capably cruised through the European championship bracket and claimed the title in straight-set style.

Sullivan is a natural athlete, a year-round tennis player and a rapidly-improving prospect who is still refining her craft as she enters her third year of DODDS-Europe competition. It’s safe to say she won’t regress; the rest of the girls’ field will have to catch up to her. And as good as Sullivan is, that’s not entirely out of the question.

Foremost among threats to Sullivan’s reign is a familiar foe, Patch’s Marina Fortun. The Oc-

At a glance

Key dates: This weekend’s opening slate includes 11 matches across four countries: Div. I powers Wiesbaden and Ramstein clash Sept. 26; Benelux contenders ISB and SHAPE meet Oct. 11; Patch closes its regular season with a visit from tough Black Forest Academy on Oct. 18; Wiesbaden hosts the European championships Oct. 23-25.

Boys players to watch: Fabian Sandrup Selvik, ISB, 2013 European runner-up; George Shaffer, Naples, 2013 European semifinalist; Andrew Smith, Ramstein, stateside transfer; Blaise Vanderploeg, Ankara, incoming freshman; Peyton Fritz, Patch, 2013 European quarterfinalist.

Girls players to watch: Jade Sullivan, Wiesbaden, defending European singles champion; Marina Fortun, Patch, 2013 third-place European finisher and 2012 European doubles champion; Hannah Herring, Ramstein, defending European doubles champ; Anna Langholz, Kaiserslautern, 2013 European quarterfinalist; Alexia Landenberger, Bitburg, rising sophomore.

tobor regular-season match between the two was an immediate classic that held up as arguably the best match of last season even after the European tournament unfolded. Sullivan won that match 7-5, 5-7, 6-2, and Fortun’s upset semifinal loss to young International School of Brussels phenom Anouchka Laurent Josi kept her out of top from meeting at the tournament. But a long-delayed rematch with Fortun would certainly test Sullivan’s newfound supremacy.

The upstart Josi, meanwhile, continues to lurk as a potential game-changing enigma after disrupting the organization’s power structure as a freshman phenom last fall. ISB coach Bernard DeConinck said he’s not sure if Josi

will return to the program this season.

Boys

Recent years have seen a growing trend of DODDS-Europe boys tennis stars departing as underclassmen and leaving brilliant but truncated careers in their wake. Now reigning European singles champion Peter Kovats has joined their ranks, transferring from Lakenheath to Florida’s esteemed IMG Academy.

But just as Kovats was among the pack of contenders eager to occupy last year’s vacant throne, a new set of potential champions is lining up.

That lists starts, conveniently enough, with 2013 singles runner-up Fabian Sandrup Selvik of ISB, and continues with Naples ace George Shaffer, who fell to Kovats in the semifinal round last fall.

Though Selvik advanced a round deeper, Selvik and Shaffer are almost indistinguishably qualified to take over as European champion. Both sailed into the semifinals without losing a set, and they lost to Kovats by nearly identical scores: Shaffer fell 6-2, 6-2; Selvik lost 6-2, 6-3. The geographically distant rivals didn’t play head-to-head in the regular season or in either of the last two European tournaments. If and when the two finally share a court, a European title might hang in the balance.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC VOLLEYBALL

Team capsules

Division I

SOUTH KOREA SEOU AMERICAN FALCONS

Coach: Randall Sangalli, first season.
Key performers: Giemesha Berryman, Sr., OH; Connor McFadden, Sr., setter; Sarah McFadden, Sr., OH, libero; Latisha Sofford, Jr., MB; OH.
Overview: Rebuilding-reloading. Sangalli is the Falcons' fourth coach in five seasons, after more than three decades of stardom at that post. Berryman is the last connection to the successful Falcons teams of the early part of the decade.

OKINAWA

Coach: Delma Bernier, first season.
Key performers: Mia Savoy, Sr., MB; Justi Flowers, Jr., OH; Brian Wyche, Jr., setter; OH (transfer, Daegu), Raleigh Hart, Sr., OH-libero; Victoria Cardiel-Santos, Sr., def. (transfer, California); Kayla Harrison, Sr., libero (transfer, Florida).
Overview: Rebuilding, with yet another new coach. A young bunch, and because so many rookies came out, the school created a freshman team with an eye toward the future. Players got lucky with experience and veteran savvy in five seasons; Wyche played for Far East Division II champion Daegu last fall.

KUBASAKI DRAGONS

Coach: Mike Hogen, 6th season.
Key performers: Crystal Sieber, Sr., RS; Sara Frazier, Sr., RS; Lianna Bourdoux, Sr., OH-libero; Josie Daffin, Jr., MS; Keahyn Francis, Jr., OH-MB; Kelsey Rogers, Sr., MS; Nelson Gaertero, Sr., def.; Maddie Trumble, Sr., OH; Chloe Stevens, Sr., Libero Mia Mendez, Sr., libero.
Overview: Contending. Hogen calls this team the country's best, and it's hard to argue with him: First six has potential to play at the highest, provided they get all a unit to play with a team-first mentality. Good a shot as any to reach the Far East Division I Final Four for first time since 2005.

JAPAN

Coach: Anthony San Nicolas, second season.
Key performers: Charla Johnson, Jr., setter; Noblee Wainwright, Sr., MB; Auri Salter, Sr., MB; Rhyssa Hizon, Sr., OH; Shakita Samuels, Sr., OH; Katrina Reid, Sr., MB (transferred from Zama).

Overview: Reloading-contending. Red Devils have dominated DODDS Japan and finished second the past three years at Far East. Kinnick has the height, speed and jumps; it's the skills that need developing. San Nicolas says Reid one of the nation's best players in the transfer round.

YOKOTA PANTHERS

Coach: Rachel Alcorn Wood, first season.
Key performers: Langley Sonnenberg, Jr., OH; Kristiane Sonnenberg, Sr., OH; Sarah Claypool, Sr., MB; Sarah Cronin, Jr., OH; Kristi Coleman, Sr., setter; Christina White, Jr., OH; Caitlyn Rowan, Jr., MB.
Overview: Reloading. Wood, who played at Ball State, is the Panthers' fourth coach in four seasons. The tools are there for a good run, but overcoming Kinnick's dominance of recent years might be asking a lot. Panthers have not reached the Far East Division I Final Four since 2004.

Division II

JAPAN

Coach: Verza Jordan, first season.
Key performers: Destiny Howze, Jr. (sat out last season); Lauren Jones, Jr.; Kaci Sanders, Sr.; Natasha Hunter, Sr.; Alli Chiranza, Sr.
Overview: The mother of all rebuilding jobs. Jordan, with assistant Chrisnaga, must depend on how well and quickly the new players can develop.

KIBO

Coach: Steve Selby, first season.
Key performers: Jazmin Jones, Jr., OH-MB; Gabrielle Hidalgo, Jr., OH-MB; Angel Bronder, Jr., OH; Saori Yoshioka, Jr., libero; Shinoo Lonsky, Sr., setter; OH; Eliana Salinas, Sr., OH; Azaria Fowler, Sr., MB; OH; Anjanette Natividad, Sr., libero; Samantha Beaudet, Sr., def.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kinnick returner Charla Johnson takes over setting duties for the Red Devils this season.

Overview: Rebuilding-reloading. Cobras get their fourth coach in four seasons in Selby. Numbers are rising and Cobras also have a handful of freshmen who show promise. Not much height.

PERRY SAMURAI

Coach: Patricia Swiderski, second season.
Key performers: Dina Roman, Sr., OH-libero; Ani Erhart, Jr., MB; Lebet Erhart, Sr., OH-MB; Tenacity Clayton, Sr., OH; Angel Cadavos, Jr., setter.
Overview: Rebuilding-reloading. Key to the Samurai's fortunes will be how quickly Cadavos can fill the shoes of graduated setter Lakeya Brown; plenty of freshmen, but the potential is there. No question the Samurai possess the height in the Erharts. Won first four matches to open season.

ENDREN EAGLES

Coach: Sarah Richardson, 23rd season.
Key performers: Kalean Middleton, Jr., OH; Madeline Mattingly, Sr., MB; Coco Magby, Sr., MS; Estera Prince, Sr., OH; Naomi Montanez, Sr., MB; Nicole Marquez, Sr., setter.
Overview: Potentially the best team on coach Sarah Richardson's 23-season watch. Replacing departed middle blocker Natalie Gammell will be tough. Middleton ready to step up and lead. Richardson says. Much will depend on how quickly Marquez develops at setter.

SOUTH KOREA

Coach: Caylen Dakin, fourth season.
Key performers: Michele Thompson, Jr., OH; Andrea Garandano, Jr., OH; Sarah Colthart, Jr., OH; Martha Smith, Sr., def.; Kelsey Williams, Sr., MB; Jade Carrine, Sr., MB; Haeley Deoney, Jr., setter.
Overview: Reloading-contending. For the first time in 12 years, the Cougars have multiple players with height in Ramer and Carrine to go with their complement of small outside hitters.

DAEGU WARRIORS

Coach: Fari Mendez, first season.
Key performers: Taylor Myatt, Jr., OH; Mikyla Tavares, Jr., def.; Ariyana Canterbury, Jr., MB; AnaMae Tia, Jr., setter.
Overview: Rebuilding. New coach and precious few components left from team that won the Far East D-II title last year.

KUMHVEYS BLACK WOLVES

Coach: Rammecca Rasun, Sr., MB; Sophia Norcia, Sr., def.; Ariyana Spellman, Sr., OH; Timi Ward, Sr., setter; Jesse Ellsworth, Sr., transfer from Germany; Gabriella Garcia, Sr., setter (transfer from San Antonio).
Overview: Continuing to build under second coach in school's two seasons, hopes to become a Far East contender.

— Dave Ornauer

Kinnick takes aim at ASIJ

Far East MVP returns for Mustangs as Red Devils look to solve rival

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — They've won seven straight DODDS Japan championships. They've finished in the top eight of the Far East Division I Tournament the past six seasons, including runner-up finishes the last three straight years.

And there lies the rub. For all their successes since 2007, the Kinnick girls volleyball team simply hasn't overcome its biggest nemesis, the American School In Japan.

The Mustang Express isn't showing any signs of slowing, if their roster is an indicator. ASIJ lost two seniors last year, brings back three quality hitters, including Far East MVP Mia Weiland.

"With two teams which are that skilled, especially ASIJ, it becomes a mental competition," Red Devils coach Tony San Nicolas said. "Whichever team is the better prepared and the one that can overcome challenges in the game will be the successful one."

It's easier said than done, San Nicolas said, although he does possess what he feels are the necessary components for at least an eighth straight DODDS Japan title and another deep run at Far East.

Middle blockers Auri Salter and Noblee Wainwright, each seniors, return as do senior outside hitters Shakita Samuels and Rhyssa Hizon. Charla Johnson, younger sister of former Kinnick star Kaile Johnson, will set.

And the Red Devils got lucky in the transfer round, as former Zama middle blocker Katrina Reid joined the team for her senior season.

"I'm excited," Reid said. "It's a bit different, a different division, different to be on the other side." Still, they have to climb the last rung of that ladder. Defense, two of the players say, is key, as well as hard serving.

"They're an offensive team," Hizon said. "If we work defense and serves, we'll be OK." "Be annoyingly defensive. Don't let it hit the ground," Reid added.

Kinnick might not be alone among DODDS teams chasing



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kinnick senior returner Rhyssa Hizon said good defense and hard serving are keys in competing with three-time Far East Division I champion American School In Japan.

the D-I prize. Kubasaki of Okinawa brings back six solid starters and a strong bench on what coach Michael Hogen said is the best team he's coached in his six seasons on Okinawa.

"All we're thinking about is ASIJ," Hogen said. Kubasaki hasn't been to the D-I Final Four in nine years.

In Division II, the teams that played for the Far East title last year said, "If we haven't virtually cleaned out Champion Daegu last year's coach, Joanna Wyche, and her volleyball-playing daughters Rheaigan and Ramsey, to transfer, while all of runner-up Zama's players left.

"Very excited to put our skills to the test," won Warriors coach Fari Mendez said.

Japan-based teams that may challenge for the D-II title include Perry, which brings back its setter hitting tandem of Ani and Lebet Erhart and has handed the setting keys to freshman Angel Cadavos, younger sister of Samurai soccer stars Sam and Jon Cadavos.

Edgren is also breaking in a new setter, Nicole Marquez, but has enough components, including sisters Kalean and Sanae Middleton, to contend, like Perry and Zama, for a school-first D-II banner.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE FOOTBALL

Wiesbaden aims for D-I repeat

By Gregory Broome
Stars and Stripes

When a team wins a championship, its players often declare the desire for the same glory to return and do it again the next season. But in football, and particularly in DODDS Europe, that's nearly impossible.

The Wiesbaden Warriors, however, are not your usual team.

The group of Warriors that will begin defense of its European Division I championship this weekend will look an awful lot like the one that ran off it in triumph last November. This isn't a case of an established coach, a well-known set of principles and a historically successful program reconfiguring for another title shot. This is, by and large, the same core of standout players back for another run at a championship.

Check out the numbers. Wiesbaden coach Steve Jewell has 14 returnees from last year's varsity squad, two more than any other Division I team. Further, 11 of the 14 were regular starters a year ago, another DODDS Europe high.

Speedster Anthony Little, the break-out (and breakout) star of last year's title-game win over Ramstein, returns to the backfield with his speed and rapidly-growing skills as a linebacker.

Sturdy Tim Cuthbert will slide in at quarterback while maintaining his spot as an All-Europe defensive end.

Game-changing athlete CJ Pridgen is back to wreak havoc on both sides of the ball; he's a receiver his quarterback can't miss and a safety the opposing quarterback would be wise to avoid.

Offensive linemen Hunter Lunasin and Jack Tone, meanwhile, are back to anchor the unit that helped make Wiesbaden's offensive go last fall.

But just as the Warriors' reign started a year sooner than many might have thought, a tough field of contenders exists to end it prematurely.

Last year, Ramstein was coming off a 2012 European title and on the verge of capping off an undefeated season when the Warriors brought stunned the Royals to win the championship. Now a challenger rather than a champion, the Royals enter the season as underdogs.

Coach Carlos Amponin has eight players from last year's squad, including just one offensive playmaker in All-Europe wideout Cabe Moreno.

While the Warriors can rely on proven championship players, the Royals will lean largely on the promise of fresh talent.

Ramstein's offense will get a boost from transfer Ben Ciero, who will con-



JOSHUA L. DEMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden players celebrate after defeating Ramstein in the DODDS Europe Division I football championship game last November. The Warriors could be the ones celebrating again this year, returning 14 players from last year's squad.

clude his productive rushing career after starring at Lakenheath. Junior varsity call-up Tyler Dotson also has a shot to have an immediate effect as the team's new starting quarterback.

Returning starter Clesson Allman and Tyler Peoples, back in the lineup after missing the 2013 season because of injury, give the Royals a pair of two-way linemen.

The uncertainty in Ramstein reads as an opportunity for neighbor and arch-rival Kaiserslautern.

The Raiders' improvement began to show last season with a winning record and a playoff berth after years of futility. Kaiserslautern has loftier goals in mind this year and might have the roster to reach them.

The Raiders have 10 starters back from last year's group, a return rate second only to Wiesbaden. Foremost among the 10 is wide receiver Antwan Haynes, who emerged as one of DODDS Europe most explosive players in a breakout junior season.

Haynes will be paired this year with new quarterback Bridger Hawkins, a strong-armed, 6-foot-3 senior. That duo, along with senior wideout Kilian Knight and junior running back David Zaryzny, has the potential to develop into an offense that could outduel Wiesbaden in a shootout similar to the one the two teams engaged in last October, which Wiesbaden won 42-34.

While Wiesbaden, Ramstein and Kaiserslautern represent the top tier of Di-

vision I football, the rest of the six-team field aren't far behind.

Longtime DODDS Europe coach Bill Ratcliff takes over at Patch and is bringing back 12 players from last year's team that reached the semifinals. A set of seniors, led by linemen Brian Mogavero and Josh Puentes, represent Patch's best chance to get back to the level that took them to the 2012 championship game.

Lakenheath, too, is under new leadership after former coach and athletic director Matt Martinez made the move to Baumholder. The Lancers are coming off a winless season, but were competitive, losing twice in October by a combined four points.

New coach Josh Kueter has five returning varsity starters to work with, including wideout Elmer Ramos and quarterback Bailey Babiniaux, and a promising set of newcomers including seniors Casey Fairchild and Hunter Novotny.

Wiselek, meanwhile, proved it was a team nobody wanted to play. The Falcons' defense gave up just 77 points in five games a year ago, second only to Ramstein in points allowed, and recorded a 14-13 win over eventual champion Wiesbaden.

Two-way standouts junior Andrew Pinckney and sophomore Austin Archangel are among the program's primary sources of optimism.

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Team capsules

Division I KAISERSLAUTERN RAIDERS

Last year: 3-2 (lost semifinal)
Coach: Aaron Scallie (fourth year)
Returning talent: 10 players, 10 starters
Projected top players: QB Bridger Hawkins (Sr.); WR/Antwan Haynes (Sr.); WR Kilian Knight (Sr.); RB David Zaryzny (Jr.); LB Brady Lemon (Sr.)

Key games: Sept. 19 vs. Wiesbaden; Oct. 4 at Ramstein
Bad news: The program erased a seasons-long winless streak and launched into contention last season in October, falling in their playoff opener. Was that their peak, or can the Raiders take another step?
Good news: In addition to a moniker fit for a buddy-cop flick, the quarterback-receiver duo of Hawkins and Haynes has the potential to face DODDS Europe's best airborne offensive attack.

LAKENHEATH LANCERS

Last year: 0-6 (no postseason)
Coach: Josh Kueter (first season)
Returning talent: Seven players, five starters
Projected top players: RB/LB Zach Adamson (Sr.); OL/DL Sam Gail (Sr.); RB/DB Nick Mills (Sr.); WR/E Elmer Ramos (Sr.); QB/DB Bailey Babiniaux (Sr.); QB/DB Hunter Novotny (Sr.)

Key games: Sept. 13 vs. Wiesbaden; Oct. 18 vs. Kaiserslautern
Bad news: With a first-year head coach, an inexperienced roster and the lingering sting of a winless season, the situation is cloudy in the UK.

Good news: The schedule is as favorable as possible for the hopeful Lancers; they'll tackle Wiesbaden, Ramstein and Kaiserslautern on Lakenheath turf and will cross the Channel just twice.

PATCH PANTHERS

Last year: 2-3 (lost semifinal)
Coach: Bill Ratcliff (first season)
Returning talent: 12 players, seven starters
Projected top players: QB Brian Mogavero (Sr.); OL Josh Puentes (Sr.); QB Bryce Hill (Sr.); LB Jeremy Nixon (Jr.); DB Jay Deal (Sr.)

Key games: Oct. 4 at Wiselek; Oct. 18 vs. Wiesbaden
Bad news: Two years removed from a title-game appearance, the Panthers find themselves at a crossroads in 2014. Can they hover around the playoffs and championship contention, or sink into the doldrums?

Good news: Ratcliff is new to this particular job, but he's a former head coach at Wiselek and Seoul American and a linchpin of Panther athletics. His young team should respond.

RAMSTEIN ROYALS

Last year: 6-0 (lost championship game)
Coach: Carlos Amponin (sixth season)
Returning talent: Eight players, four starters
Projected top players: WR/DB Cabe Moreno (Sr.); RB/LB Ben Ciero (Sr.); OL/DL Tyler Peoples (Sr.); RB/LB Antonio Ortiz (Sr.); OL/DL Clesson Allman.

Key games: Oct. 4 vs. Kaiserslautern; Oct. 11 at Wiesbaden
Bad news: Roster attrition and low preseason turnout have left the Royals as thin as they've been in recent memory, a problem exacerbated by the ongoing talent boom in Wiesbaden.

Good news: Reinforcements are coming in from all angles: transfer Lakenheath All-European Ciero, IV callup (new quarterback Tyler Dotson) and in-house return (Peoples) missed the entire 2013 season with a shoulder injury.

WISELEK FALCONS

Last year: 2-0 (no postseason)
Coach: Jim Hall (seventh season)
Returning talent: 12 players, six starters
Projected top players: WR/DB Johnathan Wade (Sr.); RB/LB Terran Callaghan (Sr.); RB/LB Andrew Pickney (Jr.); QB/DB Austin Archangel (Soph.); RB/DB Desmond Flanagan (Sr.)

Key games: Oct. 4 vs. Patch; Oct. 18 vs. Ramstein
Bad news: A shrinking talent base is making it harder all the time for DODDS Europe's second-smallest Division I school to compete with its larger rivals.

Good news: The gritty Falcons faced similar challenges last season and acquitted themselves well; they allowed the second-fewest points in Division I and earned a regular-season win over eventual champ Wiesbaden.

WIESBADEN WARRIORS

Last year: 4-2 (European champion)
Coach: Steve Jewell (12th season)
Returning talent: 14 players, 10 starters
Projected top players: WR/DB CJ Pridgen (Sr.); QB/DE Tim Cuthbert (Sr.); RB/DB Elmer Ramos (Sr.); OL Hunter Lunasin (Sr.); OL Jack Tone (Sr.); DL Donovan Edwards (Sr.)

Key games: Sept. 19 at Kaiserslautern; Oct. 11 vs. Ramstein

Bad news: It takes some effort to find reasons for pessimism in Wiesbaden, but from the usual defending-champ concerns about complacency and the like, a relatively young group of players might create issues if they fail to develop as expected.

Good news: Again, almost everything. The skill positions are set, the lines are strong, the team's speed runs circles around DODDS Europe. Jewell's system plays to his roster's strengths, and most fans had last year's starting lineup returns to provide guidance and leadership.

— Gregory Broome

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MLB



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Detroit's Rajai Davis swings on a two-run home run off Kansas City starting pitcher Jason Vargas during the second inning of Tuesday's game in Detroit. J.D. Martinez also homered in Tigers' 4-2 victory.

Tigers narrow gap

Detroit trims KC's lead to percentage points

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Max Scherzer figured he had squandered another lead when Alex Gordon's fifth-inning drive sailed down the line in right field.

"When that came off the bat, I was sure that thing was gone, and I was stunned when I turned around and realized it had gone foul," Scherzer said.

After that reprieve, Scherzer walked Gordon and retired the next two batters to escape a bases-loaded jam, and the Detroit Tigers went on to beat Kansas City 4-2 on Tuesday night to pull within percentage points of the Royals atop the AL Central.

Rajai Davis and J.D. Martinez homered for the Tigers, who can

sweep the three-game series with a win Wednesday night.

Scherzer (16-5) allowed a run and seven hits in 6½ innings. Kansas City was down 3-1 in the fifth when Gordon's deep fly to right went just foul with two on. Gordon walked to load the bases with one out, but Salvador Perez lined out and Eric Hosmer struck out.

Joe Nathan worked out of another jam in the ninth to earn his 30th save in 36 chances. He allowed two infield singles to start the inning before closing out the game with two strikeouts sandwiched around a picked-off runner.

Pinch-runner Jarrod Dyson was the man who was picked off second.

"The hardest part about that play was not getting too fired up and throwing the ball away," Nathan said. "We so clearly had him that the only way it was going to get messed up was if I didn't get the ball to (second baseman Ian Kinsler). As it turned out, I didn't even need to make a great throw, but I made a pretty good one anyway."

Kansas City's Jason Vargas (11-8) allowed four runs and six hits in 5½ innings. He struck out six and walked three.

Scherzer had allowed 14 earned runs over his previous four starts — not terrible, but below his standards as the reigning American League Cy Young Award winner. He's had a hard time protecting leads lately.

Rule: New guidelines immediately put to test

FROM BACK PAGE

said. "If you're out by 40 feet ... let's not call that guy safe because of that."

The new guidelines were tested immediately when Tampa Bay left fielder Matt Joyce threw out the New York Yankees' Stephen Drew trying to score in the fifth inning Tuesday night. Ryan Hanigan gave Drew no lane to the plate as the Rays' catcher waited for the throw, which arrived in plenty of time.

Hanigan tagged the sliding runner and Drew was called out by plate umpire Vic Carapazza. The ruling was upheld following a replay review, leaving the Rays with a 4-3 lead that wound up being the final score.

Overtimed calls led to tying runs for the home team in the late innings at Cincinnati on July 31 and at San Francisco on Aug. 13. In both cases, the hosts went on to score more runs in the inning and win.

"There's been a few plays this year where it looks like the guy's been out by 10 feet and they call him safe because he felt like the catcher — he took the plate away," Colorado manager Walt Weiss said. "You've got to add some common sense to the rule."

On July 31 at Cincinnati, Miami led 1-0 in the eighth when Todd Frazier flied out to right fielder Giancarlo Stanton, who

threw home as Zack Cozart tried to score from third. Catcher Jeff Mathis tagged Cozart, who trotted in without a slide, and the runner was called out by umpire Mike Winters.

After a 6-minute, 10-second review, the call was overturned, and Ryan Ludwick followed with a two-run single that sent the Reds to a 3-1 win. Marlins manager Mike Redmond was ejected after throwing his hat to the ground and arguing with umpires. Then he kicked his hat on his way back to the dugout.

San Francisco trailed the visiting White Sox 1-0 in the seventh inning on Aug. 13 when Chicago first baseman Jose Abreu fielded Joe Panik's broken-bat grounder and threw out a sliding Gregor Blanco by about 10 feet. The runner was called out by plate umpire Chris Segal, but after a video review that lasted 4 minutes, 55 seconds, replay umpires in New York ruled Blanco safe, citing catcher Tyler Flowers for blocking the plate with his left leg in violation of the new rule.

In Game 5 of last year's AL championship series, Detroit backstop Alex Avila was pulled a couple of innings after being run over at the plate by Boston's David Ross, a fellow catcher.

AP Sports Writers Howie Rumberg and Andrew Seligman, and AP freelance writer Harvey Valentine contributed to this report.



MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Detroit catcher Alex Avila, left, hangs on to the ball as Boston's David Ross crashes into him during Game 5 of the American League Championship Series on Oct. 17, 2013.

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Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Top Scores for Week 1

238	CWill	Ramstein
236	Mace	Camp Butler
236	lamaramSamlam	Tinker AFB, OK
228	Stripes2014AU	NAF Atsugi
226	yinzer2116	Ft. Gordon
224	Illinois Pack Fan	Scott AFB, IL
224	rawdog24	FT KNOX
222	miamishoe	Fort Drum
220	dabrownhorne72	wiesbaden
220	Minuteman	Dover Air Force Base

Top 10 Overall Scores

238	CWill	Ramstein
236	Mace	Camp Butler
236	lamaramSamlam	Tinker AFB, OK
228	Stripes2014AU	NAF Atsugi
226	yinzer2116	Ft. Gordon
224	Illinois Pack Fan	Scott AFB, IL
224	rawdog24	FT KNOX
222	miamishoe	Fort Drum
220	dabrownhorne72	wiesbaden
220	Minuteman	Dover Air Force Base

MLB ROUNDUP

Nats pulling away from Braves in NL East

Washington now 9 games ahead of fading Atlanta

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mathematicians will say the Washington Nationals can't clinch the NL East until next week. Practically says they essentially wrapped it up Tuesday night when they sent nine hitters to the plate against Ervin Santana in the first inning of another win over the Atlanta Braves.

The Nationals beat their division nemesis for the second time in two nights, winning 6-4 to push their lead to nine games with 19 to play. Atlanta had been a thorn in Washington's plans for about a year and a half, but the Nationals have put the kibosh on that trend by winning five of the last seven meetings.

"It feels like we're just that much closer," first baseman Adam LaRoche said. "Not to take anything for granted until this thing is sewn up, but these are big. This time of year, playing the team chasing you, to be able to win a couple."

LaRoche's kept up his torrid stretch with two hits and two RBIs, and Jordan Zimmermann (11-5) allowed four runs (two earned) with seven strikeouts and no walks in six innings. Zimmermann hasn't lost a decision since July 11 and is 5-0 — and the Nationals are 8-0 — in his last eight starts.

LaRoche is 9-for-19 with four home runs and 12 RBIs in his last six games, a run that started when he overcame back and elbow injuries and a stomach virus to punch in five RBIs as a late sub against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He singled in a run off Santana (14-8) in the Nationals' four-run first inning and added another RBI single in the second. Both were hitting works of art: He held back just enough to get the end of the bat on a high changeup and poke a soft line drive up the middle, and lifted a low two-strike changeup into a line-drive hit to right.

Yet LaRoche says he isn't really in his best groove.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The Washington Nationals' Anthony Rendon slides safely into home as Atlanta Braves catcher Christian Bethancourt jumps to make the catch during the fourth inning of Tuesday's game in Washington.

"You know, it feels good; it doesn't feel great," he said. "I don't know how to explain that, other than just from experience. I know when it feels really good, but again, it feels good. I feel like I'm slowing things down, going a little deeper in counts and getting some pitches to hit."

Santana settled down somewhat after his long first inning and stuck around through five. He gave up five runs, eight hits and four walks to fall to 7-2 since the All-Star break for the Braves, who remain in a crowded race for a wild card berth.

"You can't fully give up. We still have a chance," Atlanta first baseman Freddie Freeman said. "Once we're fully eliminated from the division race, then we'll worry about the wild card."

Angels 9, Rangers 3: Kole Calhoun hit a leadoff homer, Colin Cowling had a big eighth inning and visiting Los Angeles stretched its winning streak to six by beating Texas.

The Angels, with the best record in the majors at 89-55, matched their longest winning streak of the season. The AL West leaders have won 12 of 14 overall.

Hector Santiago (5-7) allowed only a solo home in five innings. **Athletics 11, White Sox 2:** Josh Donaldson had a career-high five hits while driving in four runs, helping Jon Lester and Oakland to the road win over Chicago.

Donaldson also scored two runs as Oakland got just its third win in 12 games. Lester (14-10) gave up two runs over eight innings, and the A's took advantage of a season-high five errors by Chicago.

Orioles 4, Red Sox 1: Alejandro De Aza hit two homers, Adam Jones added another and Baltimore beat host Boston to win for the 10th time in 13 games.

Chris Tillman (12-5) gave up one run in five innings, the 18th straight start in which he allowed three earned runs or fewer. Zach Britton pitched the ninth for his 34th save in 38 opportunities.

The first-place Orioles maintained their 10-game lead in the AL East over Toronto. Last-place Boston is a season-high 22½ games out of first one year after winning the World Series.

Rays 4, Yankees 3: Left fielder Matt Joyce threw out Stephen Drew in the fifth inning when catcher Ryan Hanigan blocked the sliding runner as visiting Tampa Bay held on to beat fading New York.

Reds 9, Cardinals 5: Devin Mesoraco homered and drove in three runs and Mike Leake pitched into the seventh inning and doubled home a run as host Cincinnati snapped a six-game losing streak against St. Louis.

The NL Central-leading Cardinals lost for only the second time in 11 games and maintained their 4½-game lead over Pittsburgh.

Phillies 4, Pirates 3: Maikel Franco hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning to lift host Philadelphia over Pittsburgh. Freddy Galvis homered, dou-

bled and scored the go-ahead run after an infield single and a stolen base. Justin De Fratus (2-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Jonathan Papelbon finished for his 36th save in 39 chances.

Astros 2, Mariners 1: Jonathan Villar hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning to lift Collin McHugh and visiting Houston over Seattle. Logan Morrison homered off McHugh in the eighth to tie it, but the Mariners fell a half-game out in the race for the second AL wild card.

Padres 6, Dodgers 3: Andrew Cashner pitched seven strong innings to win for the first time since mid-April. Jed Gyorko hit a two-run homer and visiting San Diego ended a six-game skid by beating Los Angeles.

The Dodgers had their four-game winning streak snapped, and their NL West lead was cut to 2½ games over San Francisco.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 1: Yusei Kano pitched a four-hitter for his second career complete game, leading host San Francisco past Arizona.

Marlins 6, Brewers 3: Casey McGehee and Marcell Ozuna hit back-to-back home runs with two outs in the ninth inning, breaking open a tie game and leading visiting Miami over fading Milwaukee.

Mets 2, Rockies 0: Jacob deGrom burnished his rookie of the year credentials by pitching three-hit ball for eight dominant innings as host New York held on to beat Colorado for its sixth win in seven games.

The win came after the Mets learned captain David Wright would be shut down for the rest of the season because of inflammation in his left shoulder.

Twins 4, Indians 3: Oswaldo Arcia's two-run homer capped his team's four-run fourth inning on four consecutive hits with two outs against Trevor Bauer as visiting Minnesota denied Cleveland's playoff hopes.

Blue Jays 9, Cubs 2: Jose Bautista hit a go-ahead, three-run double in the seventh inning, and Toronto rallied for the win.

Mark Buehrle (12-9) allowed two runs and 10 hits in seven innings to stop a six-start winless streak, helping the Blue Jays improve to 6-2 in September.

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NFL

Show of hands

Broncos tight end not relaxing after 3 TDs in opener

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Julius Thomas' dad likes to remind his son where he got his great hands.

Greg Thomas was a 6-foot-6 wide receiver at Pacific University in the early 1980s when his own NFL dreams were dashed by a career-ending knee injury.

He was in the stands Sunday night when his son tied Shannon Sharpe's franchise record for a tight end by hauling in three TD passes in Denver's 31-24 win over Indianapolis.

Dad showed he's still got it, too. He made his way into the stands in the south end zone, where Thomas scored his trio of touchdowns in the second quarter.

After the Broncos' 6-foot-5, 250-pound tight end scored his first TD, his father hollered for the football.

"My dad, he's no small guy. It doesn't matter where he's at, he's easy to find," Thomas said. "He makes it down to that rail some-how, I give it to him. He's got his arms open, I see it. He's over there every time I throw a pass over there."

The throw was so low Thomas feared his father might topple over the rail.

"I threw a bad ball, and he made a good catch," Thomas said. "Maybe that's where I get it from."

Growing up, he had seen those grainy beta tapes of his father that "were part instructional video, part showoff time. But Thomas didn't inherit a strong arm — leave that to the Manning bloodlines — so he didn't want to risk another throw again after his first loss went so awry.

"Yeah, second and third touchdown, he was waving for me," Thomas said. "I was like, 'I'm tired. I barely got the first one to you. I can give it to you next week if you want it.'"

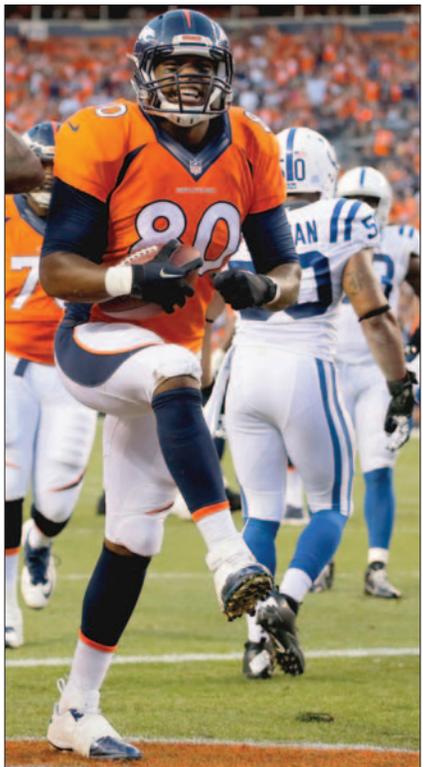
Thomas's size and speed, along with his power forward DNA — he led Portland State to the NCAA basketball tournament twice — makes him a prime target for Peyton Manning, especially near the goal line.

He set a franchise record for tight ends with a dozen TD grabs last season, and then was Manning's safety valve in wins over San Diego and New England in the playoffs.

The Colts had no answer for Thomas, who finished with seven catches for 104 yards in the Broncos' 31-24 win. His trio of touchdowns came in single coverage against two linebackers and a safety.

"He's a monster. A really, really good player," Colts coach Chuck Pagano said. "He is a match-up nightmare."

Thomas' first touchdown came with Jerrell Freeman draped on



Jack Dempsey/AP

Broncos tight end Julius Thomas celebrates one of his three touchdowns against the Colts in Sunday's season opener. After a breakout season, Thomas spent the summer fine-tuning his game.

him. He outaced D'Quell Jackson on his second score. And he jukebated safety LaRon Landry at the line on a 5-yard TD.

"It's like backyard football with your little brother or cousins. I don't believe you should be [successfully] covered 1-on-1," Thomas said.

Thomas also had a big opener a year ago, when he caught five passes for 110 yards and two TDs in a wallpopping of Baltimore that sent fantasy football players scrambling for their laptops to pick him up.

After catching just one pass in his first two NFL seasons, Thomas had 65 receptions for 788 yards.

After earning his first Pro Bowl honor, he spent time in the offseason with Tony Gonzalez to work on fine-tuning his game, especially his run-blocking.

"That work shows. "His feet for the game" is better," coach John Fox said. "He's been in a lot more situations now,

whether it's in the blocking element or in the passing game. He's improved, and I'm sure he's a lot more confident."

He will soon be a lot richer, too. He is making \$645,000 this season in the final year of his rookie contract. The Broncos wanted to get long-term deals done with both Thomas and wide receiver Demaryius Thomas during training camp but failed to reach agreement with either.

Thomas is never one to relax, though, and he noted after his three-TD game that he needs to clean up some things. He had a second-half fumble and failed to corral an onside kick.

"Eric Decker did that for us a year ago. Julius was the backup. And so that's his first live one," Fox said. "Obviously, that'll be something we work on a little bit this week."

Thomas might also want to work on those throws when he gets the chance.

Statistics

AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks				
Player	Att	Com	Yds TD Int	
P. Manning, DEN	24	258	0	
Locker, TEN	23	266	2	
Fitzpatrick, HOU	22	148	266	1
Roethlisberger, PIT	34	235	1	
Dalton, CIN	38	25	301	1
G. Smith, NYJ	28	23	221	1
Hoyle, CLE	31	19	230	1
D. Carr, OAK	22	16	173	1
Manuel, BUF	22	24	266	2
Herne, JAX	24	266	2	
Rushers				
Player	Att	Yds	LG TD	
Morero, MIA	24	154	58	0
L. Bell, PIT	21	109	51	98
A. Foster, HOU	20	102	102	71
Ivory, NYJ	10	102	102	71
West, CLE	16	100	62	29
S. Greene, TEN	15	71	47	18
Forsett, BAL	11	70	63	13
Chr. Johnson, NYJ	18	68	51	11
Mo. Ball, DEN	23	67	2	15
F. Jackson, BUF	7	61	87	38
Receivers				
Player	No	Yds	LG TD	
Pitta, BAL	10	83	83	23
Wayne, IND	9	98	10	22
A. Hawkins, CLE	8	87	10	25
Smith Sr., BAL	7	118	16	88
Ju. Thomas, DEN	7	104	14	93
Awery, KAN	7	84	24	25
M. Wallace, MIA	6	71	11	27
A. Green, CIN	6	131	21	77
Wheaton, PIT	6	97	42	40
Edelman, NWE	6	95	15	44
Punters				
Player	No	Yds	LG Avg	
Lechler, HOU	6	306	60	51.0
Kerros, TEN	4	104	53	50.7
M. Afee, IND	4	109	59	48.9
R. Allen, NWE	4	114	57	49.8
B. Colquitt, DEN	5	234	53	46.8
Anger, JAX	8	372	61	46.5
Lanning, CLE	8	314	57	44.9
King, OAK	9	401	61	44.5
Quigley, NYJ	9	251	56	44.2
Wing, PIT	6	262	56	43.7
Punt Returners				
Player	No	Yds	LG TD	
An. Brown, PIT	3	46	15	36
Hammond Jr., KAN	4	47	11	18
M. Brown, JAX	3	28	9	13
Royal, SFO	2	17	11	17
J. Landry, MIA	3	24	8	16
Edelman, NWE	2	15	7	13
Saunders, NYJ	2	15	7	12
Dam. Johnson, HOU	4	28	7	10
Wilaixi, IND	5	24	18	10
Burk, DEN	4	3	1	3
Kickoff Returners				
Player	No	Yds	LG TD	
Hakim, NYJ	2	65	32	4
K. Davis, KAN	2	57	32	0
J. Landry, MIA	2	65	28	20
Jac. Jones, BAL	4	109	27	4
Chung, WFO	2	50	28	3
L. Murray, OAK	3	67	22	38
T. Benjamin, CLE	8	85	21	28
Scoring				
Player	Touchdowns	TD Rush	Rec TD Pts	
Ju. Thomas, DEN	3	0	3	18
Crowell, DEN	2	0	0	12
Harris, JAX	2	0	0	12
D. Allen, IND	1	0	0	6
Lanning, CLE	1	0	0	6
L. Bell, PIT	1	0	0	6
T. Benjamin, CLE	1	0	0	6
Blount, PIT	1	0	0	6
Blue, HOU	1	0	0	6
Ansbrown, PIT	1	0	0	6
Kicking				
Player	PAT	FG	LG Pts	
Nugent, CIN	0	0	5	49
Sherman, TEN	0	0	9	20
S. Sunjig, MIA	2	2	4	14
Slugh, PIT	3	3	3	14
R. Kelly, BUF	2	2	2	12
Cundiff, CLE	3	3	2	9
Gotsdiner, NWE	2	2	2	8
Folk, NYJ	1	1	2	4
M. McNus, DEN	4	4	1	21
Vinattieri, PIT	3	3	2	15

NFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks				
Player	Att	Com	Yds TD Int	
M. Ryan, ATL	22	118	538	10
Kaepernick, SF	23	16	201	2
M. Stafford, DET	22	14	246	1
Cassel, MIN	25	17	170	2
R. Wilson, SEA	28	19	210	2
A. Peterson, CAR	24	15	230	1
C. Palmer, ARI	37	24	304	2
W. Smith III, WAS	27	17	171	1
Brees, NOR	42	29	333	1
Foles, PHI	45	27	322	1
Rushers				
Player	Att	Yds	LG TD	
D. Murray, DAL	20	118	50	21
M. Lynch, SEA	20	110	50	21
C. Patterson, MIN	3	102	49	67
A. Morris, WAS	3	87	103	18
Forde, CHI	17	82	42	14
A. Peterson, MIN	24	75	37	17
L. McCoy, PHI	21	74	35	19
De. Williams, CAR	14	72	51	17
Sproull, CHI	11	71	64	49
Gore, SF	16	66	41	20
Receivers				
Player	No	Yds	LG TD	
Garcos, WAS	10	77	7	15
N. Nelson, GBY	9	83	9	16
Boldin, SF	8	89	12	37
Forde, CHI	8	87	103	18
Olsen, CAR	8	83	10	21
J. Graham, NOR	8	82	10	37
S. Marshall, HOU	7	71	8	15
M. Bennett, CHI	8	70	8	17
De. Williams, CAR	9	67	42	40
Cal. Johnson, DEN	9	164	23	46
Punters				
Player	No	Yds	LG Avg	
R. Butler, ARI	4	218	61	54.5
Boether, ATL	4	156	57	48.0
Way, WAS	5	246	61	49.2
Locke, MIA	6	282	54	47.4
Nortman, CAR	6	279	57	46.5
Hekker, ST. LOUIS	6	279	57	46.5
W. Smith III, WAS	6	279	57	46.5
Koenen, TAM	5	220	56	44.0
Weatherford, NYG	5	201	56	40.2
O'Donnell, CHI	4	160	49	40.0
Punt Returners				
Player	No	Yds	LG TD	
Roberts, WAS	2	36	18	25
Sproull, PHI	2	62	15	22
P. Smith, NYJ	3	30	15	18
S. Patton, TAM	4	56	14	20
Oh. Brown, CAR	2	36	12	15
T. Austin, ST. LOUIS	5	24	4	19
J. Ross, DET	2	11	3	16
C. Thomas, SEA	2	3	1	3
Dw. Harris, DAL	2	0	0	0
Kickoff Returners				
Player	No	Yds	LG TD	
Dw. Harris, DAL	2	66	30	0
Roberts, WAS	2	56	28	20
S. Patton, TAM	2	52	26	20
Oh. Brown, CAR	2	43	25	0
C. Patterson, MIN	2	48	24	19
Du. Harris, GBY	3	60	21	0
T. Benjamin, CLE	3	60	20	1
Scoring				
Player	Touchdowns	TD Rush	Rec TD Pts	
Ve. Davis, SFO	2	2	0	12
Ma. Ingram, NOR	2	0	0	12
Cal. Johnson, DET	2	0	0	12
M. Lynch, SEA	2	0	0	12
J. Bell, DET	1	0	0	6
K. Benjamin, CAR	1	0	0	6
M. Bennett, CHI	1	0	0	6
Jr. Brown, ARI	1	0	0	6
Cobb, GBY	1	0	0	6
De. Coleman, SEA	1	0	0	6
Kicking				
Player	PAT	FG	LG Pts	
Mat. Bryant, ATL	4	4	3	52
St. Louis, NOR	4	4	2	50
Hauschka, SEA	4	2	2	35
Parsons, CAR	4	2	2	35
Walsh, MIN	4	2	2	35
Freese, DET	3	3	3	28
De. Garb, WAS	3	3	2	28
Gould, CHI	2	2	2	14
Ch. Johnson, ARI	2	2	2	14
Zuerlein, ST. LOUIS	0	2	3	56

AFC team statistics

Team	Offense	Yards	Rush	Pass
Pittsburgh	490	1270	3630	300
San Diego	320	920	2280	300
Indianapolis	408	540	3540	340
Tennessee	405	1620	2430	300
N.Y. Jets	402	210	1900	100
Cleveland	389	1830	2060	260
Atlanta	357	780	3010	260
Denver	361	1020	2590	290
Buffalo	360	1930	1670	160
Minnesota	351	1910	1690	160
Houston	316	1150	2010	200
New England	349	990	2280	260
Jacksonville	306	640	2420	300
San Diego	272	520	2280	260
Arizona City	254	670	1780	180
Oakland	588	250	1330	300

NFC team statistics

Team	Offense	Yards	Rush	Pass
Pittsburgh	568	1230	4450	330
New Orleans	427	860	3410	340
Philadelphia	445	1450	2750	300
Detroit	410	760	3410	290
Arizona	403	1090	2940	290
San Francisco	388	207	1910	260
Dallas	382	1270	2550	260
Washington	372	1270	2550	260
Minnesota	345	1850	1650	160
Carolina	334	1130	2210	260
Tampa Bay	329	1520	1920	190
St. Louis	318	720	2460	260
San Francisco	264	1070	1750	170
Green Bay	257	800	1750	170
N.Y. Giants	190	530	1440	140
Defense				
Team	Yards	Rush	Pass	
Seattle	1440	180	1260	
Detroit	2550	800	1750	
Atlanta	2640	1020	1620	
San Diego	3280	520	2800	
Philadelphia	3060	640	2420	
San Francisco	3180	1120	2060	
Minnesota	3180	1270	1920	
Tampa Bay	3280	1180	2100	
St. Louis	3450	1850	1650	
Chicago	3590	1670	1920	
San Francisco	3820	1270	2550	
Green Bay	3980	2070	1910	
Atlanta	4120	1390	2730	
New Orleans	5680	1230	4450	

NFL

Goodell: Didn't see video before this week

Commissioner says 'sickening' footage was not turned over by law enforcement, casino

By ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — As questions arose about how the NFL investigated domestic violence allegations against Ray Rice, Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday the league asked for, but was not given, video showing the ex-Ravens running back punching his then-fiancée on an elevator.

Goodell told CBS that "no one in the NFL, to my knowledge" had seen a new video of what happened on the elevator until it was posted online.

"We assumed that there was a video. We asked for video. But we were never granted that opportunity," Goodell said.

Two videos, one released by TMZ Sports and another shown later to The Associated Press by a law enforcement official, show Rice punching Janay Palmer — who is now his wife — at an Atlantic City casino in February. They are graphic, and show

more detail than an initial video released in July that showed him dragging her from an elevator.

After the latest TMZ video made its way around the Internet, the Ravens cut Rice and the league barred him indefinitely. But the video renewed criticism about the NFL's decision to initially suspend Rice for just two games, and raised questions about how strenuously the case was investigated.

Goodell has previously said he "didn't get it right" with Rice and the league set up new penalties for domestic violence: a six-game suspension for a first offense, at least a year for a second.

"I would tell you that what we saw in the first video was troubling to us, in and of itself," Goodell said. "But what we saw yesterday was extremely clear, is extremely graphic, and it was sickening. And that's why we took the action we took yesterday."

In the videos that surfaced Monday, Rice and Palmer are seen hitting each other before he knocks her off her feet and into a railing.

The higher-quality video shown to the AP shows Rice made no attempt to cover up what happened. After Palmer collapses, he drags her out of the elevator and is met

by some hotel staff. Someone is heard saying, "She's drunk, right?" And then, "No cops." Rice didn't respond.

The video was shown to the AP on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to release it.

Palmer defended her husband on her Instagram account Tuesday, saying that barring Rice from playing football is "horrific" and that making the couple "relive a moment in our lives that we regret every day is a horrible thing."

Goodell did not rule out the possibility of former Ravens running back Ray Rice returning to play in the league after serving a suspension for domestic violence.

"But he would have to make sure that we are fully confident that he is addressing this issue clearly, he has paid a price for the actions that he's already taken," he said.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh said he met with owner Steve Bisciotti, team president Dick Ciss and general manager Ozzie Newsome after they saw the TMZ video, and they made the decision to let Rice go.

The action represented a complete reversal for the team, which had initially supported Rice. He had been charged with felony aggravated assault in the case, but in May he was accepted into a pretrial inter-

vention program that allowed him to avoid jail time and could lead to the charge being purged from his record. A prominent New Jersey lawmaker called Tuesday for that decision to be reviewed.

In a letter to fans, Bisciotti said the team should have done more to get the video as the investigation continued, and it was a "mistake" not to. He said the team tried to get the video from both the casino and law enforcement, but the casino wouldn't share it and that authorities refused. It is common for law enforcement to decline to release evidence when an investigation is ongoing.

"We should have seen it earlier. We should have pursued our own investigation more vigorously," the letter said. "We didn't and we were wrong."

In a brief telephone interview with ESPN, Rice said: "I have to be strong for my wife. She is so strong. ... We are in good spirits. We have a lot of people praying for us and we'll continue to support each other."

Rice stood to make \$4 million this year. In addition to his salary, he'll also lose income from canceled endorsement deals. Nike announced it has severed its business ties with him and video game publisher Electronic Arts said it would scrub Rice's image from their latest Madden '15 release.

Team, fans adjust to life minus Rice

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Welcome to Baltimore — no longer the football home of Ray Rice.

Restaurants are offering free pizza in exchange for Rice jerseys, several fans are saying good riddance to the scorned running back and on the field the Ravens are turning to unproven players to fill the void.

The Ravens are offering an exchange for Rice jerseys, and several stores are clearing their shelves of Rice memorabilia that once was a best seller. One local tavern offered a \$10 bar tab in exchange for a No. 27 Rice jersey.

Once a fan favorite in Charm City, Rice is now a pariah. "He got what he deserved," 49-year-old Kim Huffman said Tuesday. "I have his jersey, it's the only Ravens jersey I have, and I'll never wear it again."

With Rice out of the picture, the top three running backs on the depth chart have a combined two NFL starts since 2010.

"Obviously it's a little different not having Ray here and realizing we're not going to have him here," quarterback Joe Flacco said. "Having said that, we have to move on."

Baltimore entered the season thinking it would be without Rice for only two games, the length of his original suspension by the NFL for domestic violence.

Now that he is not coming back, the Ravens are focusing on playing the entire season without and the three-time Pro Bowler and



Pittsburgh Steelers (1-0)
at Baltimore Ravens (0-1)

AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Friday CET
9:30 a.m. Friday JKT

franchise leader in yards from scrimmage.

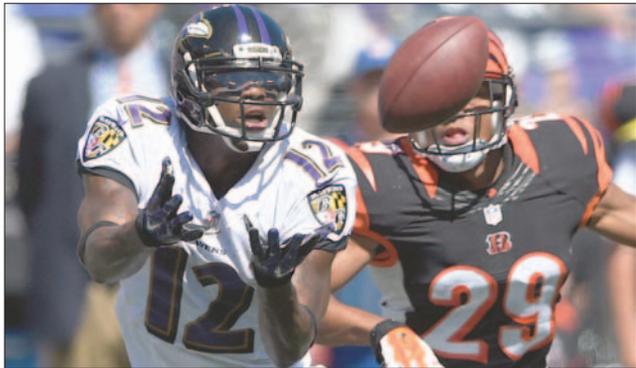
"We lost one of our best players here, and he was a great Raven," wide receiver Torrey Smith said. "It feels worse to even say that. It's way worse for him than it is for us. We just have to get ready for the next one."

Flacco said, "Obviously it doesn't paint a good picture of who Ray is as a person. Sometimes good people make bad decisions and put themselves in a bad light. Really, my heart just goes out to him and his family. As far as us, we've got a big game this week."

The Ravens will face their most hated rivals, the Pittsburgh Steelers, on Thursday night. Coach John Harbaugh has not named his starting running back, in part, perhaps, because there's not much to choose from.

Bernard Pierce made his second NFL start Sunday in a season-opening 23-16 loss to Cincinnati and was benched after losing a fumble.

Justin Forsett gained 70 yards,



Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Jacoby Jones, left, reaches for a pass under pressure from Cincinnati Bengals cornerback Terence Newman on Sunday. Ravens receivers struggled in the 23-16 loss.

nearly twice the 31 yards he had on the ground all last season with Jacksonville.

Rookie Lorenzo Taliaferro didn't carry the ball, but caught one pass for 10 yards.

"We have the guys that we have," Harbaugh said, hardly a ringing endorsement for the current stable of running backs.

Flacco threw a career-high tying 62 passes Sunday, mostly because he got little support from the running game.

"Last week obviously wasn't a great example of what we're going to be doing all year," Flacco said. "But we have total confidence in our running backs and our line."

Flacco also was sacked three times, threw an interception and was betrayed by his receivers, who often failed to find the han-

dle on some decent tosses.

Jacoby Jones and Steve Smith were the main culprits. Although Smith's 80-yard touchdown catch in the fourth quarter was truly a thing of beauty, he couldn't help but shake his head over the mishandled throws.

"We dropped all the gimmies, but we caught all the hard ones," Smith said. "We've just got to play better, but things can happen and you've got to take responsibility. This receiver group has a lot of opportunities to be great, and I think we overthought things and ran before we had the ball. We've just got to play better."

The same applies to Flacco, whose decision-making on the final play of the first half was bewildering. The Ravens were in easy field goal range with 8 sec-

onds left when Flacco dived in the pocket, rolled to his right and was sacked as time expired.

"That was probably the stupidest play I've ever made in football," he said. "I kind of just got caught up in the play and forgot about the situation. There's no excuse for it. Can't happen."

A day after the Ravens cut Rice, some fans remained stunned by the move. Although no one defended Rice's actions, some wondered about the severity of the penalty. "I'm torn, I really am," said 60-year-old Alexander Doose. "I think it's wrong that he got fired. He should have been suspended for six games, they should have taken money away from him, made him go to counseling forever. But they took away his livelihood. He'll never find work again."

SPORTS



Fallout continues

Goodell: NFL asked for Rice video, but it wasn't made available | Page 31

MLB

Disputed calls push baseball to clarify rule on plate collisions

Forced at home

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball sent a memo to teams and umpires clarifying this year's new rule intended to limit collisions at home plate, saying runners should not be called safe if the ball clearly beats them.

The rule, announced in February, says a catcher can't block the plate if he doesn't have the ball. There have been several disputed calls, including a pair of decisions in the last 5½ weeks that led to runners being called safe after video review.

The guidelines sent to teams Tuesday say

'You've got to add some common sense to the rule.'

Walt Weiss
Rockies manager

the catcher's positioning shouldn't change the call when the throw clearly arrives ahead of the runner. They also say if the catcher is entirely in fair territory, he should not be considered to have blocked the plate. Photo examples were included.

"It's basically the same thing, but the officials in New York got to use a little bit of common sense," Atlanta Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez **SEE RULE ON PAGE 27**



White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers, right, reaches to tag Giants baserunner Gregor Blanco on Aug. 13. Blanco was ruled out, but a review reversed the call because Flowers blocked the plate without the ball.

JEFF CHIU/AP

Nationals stretch NL East lead to nine games ■ Tigers tighten race in AL Central

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