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Free to Deployed Areas

CRISIS IN IRAQ

More US aid unlikely to break militant hold

Iraq must mend sectarian rifts to turn the tide in fight against Islamic State, analysts say

By JOHN VANDIVER
 AND NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. is poised to ramp up military support for Iraq if a new, inclusive government takes shape. Even that won't be enough to beat back rampaging Islamic militants un-

less something extraordinary happens: Iraq mends age-old sectarian rifts, experts say.

ANALYSIS "A lot of things are going to have to go right to staunch the flow of everything that has gone wrong," said Patrick Skinner, a former CIA case officer with operational

experience in Iraq. "There is a very good chance that the construct of Iraq will fall apart."

So far, it is far from clear that Iraq is capable of overcoming those divisions to field a unified, effective fighting force. U.S. airstrikes can have only limited effect against militants of the Islamic State group, who have

taken control of large swathes of the country, including major cities such as Mosul.

Despite increased U.S. military involvement, the militant group could be an on-the-ground reality in Iraq for years to come, analysts warn.

SEE AID ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

Obama: US broke mountain siege, but airstrikes to continue
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Riots rock heartland

Protesters, police face off in St. Louis suburb; president calls for 'peace and calm'

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DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

A man watches police through a cloud of smoke during a clash with protesters in Ferguson, Mo., on Wednesday night. Riots in the St. Louis suburb rocked by racial unrest over the death of an unarmed black teenager turned violent, with some people lobbing Molotov cocktails and other objects at police who responded with smoke bombs and tear gas.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's not just how much rain fell; it's how fast it fell. We're talking about billions and billions of gallons of water, and it all has to go somewhere."

— Accuweather senior meteorologist Jack Boston on unusually heavy rains that soaked communities across the U.S.

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MILITARY

1st Cav troops headed to Poland, Baltics

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Approximately 600 soldiers from the Army's 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division will deploy to Poland and the Baltic states to help reassure European allies who feel threatened by Russian military moves, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

The troops and their equipment — which includes M-1 Abrams tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers — will go to Europe in October for a three-month series of training exercises.

In addition to ground forces, the U.S. has also sent F-16 combat aircraft to Poland and participated in NATO air policing missions

over the Baltics. The soldiers, based at Fort Hood, Texas, are replacing about 600 paratroopers from the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade, which is based in Vicenza, Italy. The "Sky Soldiers" have been conducting exercises with Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia since April as part of ongoing Operation Atlantic Resolve.

"These land training exercises ... help foster interoperability through small-unit and leader training," Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said.

The exercises came at the request of host nations that fear a resurgent Russia, which annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine earlier this year and continues to support a pro-Russia separatist movement in eastern Ukraine.

For months, the Russian military has massed forces along the border with Ukraine and has provided advanced weaponry and other assistance to the rebels. In recent days, Moscow has announced its intention to send a convoy of trucks into Ukraine to deliver what it says is humanitarian aid to separatist-held areas under pressure from Ukrainian

government forces. The exercises came at the request of host nations that fear a resurgent Russia, which annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine earlier this year and continues to support a pro-Russia separatist movement in eastern Ukraine.

For months, the Russian military has massed forces along the border with Ukraine and has provided advanced weaponry and other assistance to the rebels. In recent days, Moscow has announced its intention to send a convoy of trucks into Ukraine to deliver what it says is humanitarian aid to separatist-held areas under pressure from Ukrainian

government forces. Kiev has said it will allow Russian humanitarian aid into the affected region, but only if it is delivered by the International Red Cross. Russia wants to deliver the supplies directly.

Ukrainian and Western officials are concerned that the alleged humanitarian mission might be a ruse to enable Russia to provide more military help to the separatists.

On Tuesday, Warren warned that Russian aid convoys could be a "Trojan horse."

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Russia, Ukraine play game of chicken over aid convoy

By ALEXANDER ROSLYAKOV
The Associated Press

KAMENSK-KHARTINSKY, Russia — In a diplomatic game of chicken, a large Russian aid convoy rolled toward the Ukrainian border on Thursday — but it was heading toward a crossing controlled by pro-Russia rebels instead of a government post as Ukraine had demanded.

Ukraine's government threatened to block the convoy if the cargo could not be inspected and announced it was organizing its own aid shipment to the war-ravaged separatist region of Luhansk.

The Russian convoy of more than 200 vehicles had been parked at a military depot in the southern Russian city of Voronezh since late Tuesday amid disagreement over how and where the aid could be delivered to eastern Ukraine.



PAVEL GOLOVIN/AP

A convoy of white trucks with purported humanitarian aid travels Thursday about 17 miles from the Ukrainian border in the Rostov-on-Don region, Russia.

where government troops are battling armed separatists.

On Thursday, the white-tarped trucks, some flying the red flag of Moscow and accompanied by military vehicles, drove down a winding highway through sunflower fields and green hills, then turned west toward the rebel-held border crossing of Izvaryne.

The trucks pulled off about 17 miles from the border and parked in a large field where dozens of beige tents had been set up. Drivers in matching delivery outfits got out and relaxed, making it unclear whether the convoy would cross into Ukraine later in the day or spend the night on Russian soil.

The route suggested Russia

was intent on not abiding by a tentative agreement to deliver aid to a government-controlled border checkpoint in the Kharkiv region, where it could more easily be inspected by Ukraine and the Red Cross. Moscow has insisted it coordinated the dispatch of the goods, which it says range from baby food and canned meat to portable generators and sleeping bags, with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said Ukraine would be forced to act if the Russians refused to allow a Red Cross inspection of its cargo. "In this case, movement of the convoy will be blocked with all

the forces available," he said. Although the Izvaryne border crossing remained in rebel hands, areas south of Luhansk have been bitterly fought over and the location of forces is in constant flux. It's unclear whether all the towns and villages from the border to Luhansk are still controlled by rebels.

ICRC spokeswoman Anastasia Isyuk said talks between the organization, Ukraine and Russia were continuing but she could not confirm where the Russian convoy was headed.

"The plans keep changing, the discussions are going ahead and we will not confirm for sure until we know an agreement has been reached," Isyuk said in Geneva.

Russia's Foreign Ministry says the convoy has 262 vehicles, including about 200 trucks carrying aid.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, addressed hundreds of lawmakers Thursday in the Black Sea resort of Yalta in Crimea, which was annexed by Russia from Ukraine in March. He did not speak specifically about the convoy.

In a relatively subdued address, Putin said Russia's goal was "to stop bloodshed in Ukraine as soon as possible." Moscow should improve life in Ukraine "without building a wall from the West," he said, but asserted that Russia would "not allow anyone to treat us with arrogance."

Correction

The story on problems with shipping private vehicles in Thursday's editions should have said that the laid-off workers sharing frustrations were with the previous contractor, American Auto Logistics, and that Sabrina Tunis' vehicle was delayed five weeks.

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MILITARY

Abdullah ally warns of 'one-sided' recount

By PAMELA CONSTABLE

The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful Afghan governor and former militia leader who had threatened mass protests in the wake of the disputed presidential runoff in June warned Wednesday of a "civil uprising" if the ongoing ballot recount proves biased and his candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, is not named the winner.

At the time, Ahmed Noor, 50, had not been seen in public since the election controversy and was rumored to have fled Afghanistan. He came to the capital Wednesday and said he had been away undergoing surgery for shrapnel wounds suffered during the Afghan-Soviet conflict.

Noor immediately issued a blunt chal-

lenge to the costly, high-stakes process undertaken by Afghan and international officials to salvage the country's first democratic transfer of power since the overthrow of the Taliban regime in 2001.

"If the vote recount is one-sided or fraudulent, we will not bow down and accept the results," he said in an interview. "We do not want a crisis, but we will defend the rights of our people. We will have a big civil uprising. ... We will occupy government buildings and institutions. ... We will boycott the process, and we will not recognize the next government because it will have no legitimacy."

His comments came a day after Abdullah's rival, Ashraf Ghani, appeared to back away from a power-sharing relationship

outlined in a joint-governing agreement both sides reached in June at U.S. urging, saying, "Dual authority is not possible."

Noor made similar threats in June after preliminary results showed Abdullah, who came in first in an initial round of voting in April but did not win a majority, losing to Ghani in the runoff. Abdullah alleged massive fraud, and tensions mounted.

Although Noor said he and other members of Abdullah's team want to be "reliable partners" for the international community, he also made it clear that he does not trust the foreign-backed vote audit and that he sees himself as an avenger of the millions of Afghans who voted for Abdullah and feel they have been cheated of victory twice in five years.

In the 2009 presidential election, Abdullah was the main challenger to incumbent Hamid Karzai. As in 2014, Abdullah appeared to be winning, but there were major charges of election fraud. In the end, he agreed to withdraw his candidacy to avoid a volatile runoff, and Karzai was sworn in for his second five-year term.

This time, Noor said, "everyone knew he [Abdullah] won the honorable vote, but the triangle of the government, [Karzai's] palace and election commission did fraud. We accepted the option of the recount, but it must be fair. Otherwise the sacrifice of the voters will have been in vain. If it is not fair, if there is still fraud, we will not accept it."

He did not say how he would gauge the fairness of the audit.

Work finally begins on building Marine Corps runway on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Workers began installing buoys and floats in the waters off Camp Schwab on Thursday, marking the start of construction that will one day facilitate the move of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to the northern part of the island, as well as the relocation of thousands of U.S. Marines to Guam as part of the Pacific realignment.

Small-scale protests occurred in front of the Marine Corps base and at the nearby Henoko fishing port as workers set up the boundary to the planned reclamation project in Oura Bay.

'I will stand firm on my belief that we would never allow to have a new military base, neither on land nor at sea. I am resolved to continue to fight against the government's policy.'

Susumu Inamine
Nago mayor

The landfill for the airfield has been a sore spot for locals who fear damage to the bay's diverse marine ecosystem.

Japanese officials declined to say when the survey would commence, but Japanese media reported it could happen as soon as Monday.

Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine criticized Tokyo for moving forward with the military project.

"Forcibly conducting a survey for landfill work against the will of residents violates both human rights and rich biodiversity of the region," Inamine said in a statement. "I will stand firm on my belief that we would never allow to have a new military base, neither on land nor at sea. I am resolved to continue to fight against the government's policy."

Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima's office declined to comment. Maritime Self-Defense Force and coast guard ships were out in force as work began to install the buoys about 7:30 a.m. Thursday. At the same time, protesters held signs and took refuge from an unrelenting sun under a blue tarp on the sidewalk in front of Camp Schwab.

At Henoko, longtime activists against the move were subdued but vowed to continue the fight, resigned to the fact that they may have lost this particular battle.

"We may not be able to stop the landfill work, but the losers are the mainland and its government," said Osamu Taira, 82, an Okinawa-born pastor who has been involved in protest movement for 18 years. "Construction of a new military base on Okinawa will trigger Okinawa's departure from Japan. Independence will become an option."

The protesters criticized Tokyo for the burden placed upon Okinawa by hosting a disproportionate number of U.S. military forces, the approximate 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan, about 30,000 are located on the small island prefecture, which is the poorest in Japan. They called the runway and planned relocation of the Marine aircraft to their part of the island undemocratic.

Marine Corps officials did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

The issues behind the protest movement on Okinawa are deeply rooted in Okinawan history.

Once an independent kingdom, the island was occupied by the Chinese, the Japanese and the



Kyodo News/AP

Workers set up a no-go zone in the sea off Nago, Okinawa, on Thursday. Japanese officials said buoys are being floated off the southernmost island of Okinawa in one of the first steps in the relocation of an American military base.

U.S. Many still harbor resentment for civilian casualties at the end of World War II and the Japanese decision to abandon the island and fortify the mainland after America's decisive victory there in 1945. Okinawa was reverted back to Japanese control in 1972.

The relocation of Marines from the densely populated center of the island was first advocated in the late 1990s over fears of aircraft crashes. But the plan really gained momentum after the 2004 crash of a CH-53D Sea Stallion into Okinawa International University.

Still, the protesters claim the majority of Okinawans are against keeping the Marine Corps air operations on Okinawa.

"Construction of a new military base is about to start by ignoring the voices of the people of Okinawa who are against it," said protest organizer Takako Shinohara, 50, who moved to Okinawa from

Gifu prefecture. "We may not be able to stop this construction, but Okinawa's voice will certainly reach out to the rest of the world."

The protesters said the November governor's election would act as a referendum on the project and let their voices be known to the world. Nakaima is running against Naha Mayor Takeshi Onaga and former state minister under the Democratic Party-led government Mikio Shimoji.

Nakaima has drawn fire as of late for signing off on the project in December.

Onaga is adamantly against it, and Shimoji has called for preferential referendum.

There is also an ongoing lawsuit in U.S. federal court over the effects the runway would have on the dugong, a large sea mammal that uses the bay as a feeding ground.

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On-base shelters for immigrants are closing

The Associated Press

PORT HUENEME, Calif. — Officials have closed three shelters for unaccompanied immigrant children that were set up temporarily on military bases to cope with a surge of Central Americans illegally crossing the border.

Children were discharged Saturday from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas, and the shelter closed earlier this week, said Krista Pierrera, a spokeswoman for BCFS, a non-profit group contracted to run the shelter.

The shelter at Fort Sill in southwest Oklahoma closed Aug. 6, said Kenneth Wolfe, the spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. The shelter at Naval Base Ventura County in California shut down Aug. 7, Wolfe told the Ventura County Star.

The shelters could be reopened if border crossings spike again, Wolfe previously said.

About 7,700 children were housed at the bases since shelters opened in May and early June. The average stay was 35 days.

Last week, government officials estimated that closing all three shelters would take between two and eight weeks.

From October to June, more than 57,000 unaccompanied children, mostly from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, have illegally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border.

By law, unaccompanied child immigrants from countries that don't have the bases since States must be handed over to the Department of Health and Human Services within 72 hours of being detained. The government is responsible for caring for the children until they are united with a relative sponsor in the U.S. who is waiting for immigration court hearings to proceed.

CRISIS IN IRAQ

Aid: Analyst says 'Iraqis have to come together' to defeat militant group

FROM FRONT PAGE

Without a profound political shift in Iraq, more U.S. aid will do little to alter security conditions in a country that faces the prospect not only of breaking apart, but of having the self-declared Islamic State as an immovable force in the region for the foreseeable future, the experts say.

For nearly a week, the U.S. has been conducting airstrikes on limited Islamic State targets in northern Iraq. A modest number of special operations forces have been dispatched to assess the crisis and advise Iraq's floundering army.

Another small group of Marines and special operations troops was sent to assist Kurdish troops in evacuating Mount Sinjar, where militants, also known as ISIS or ISIL, had trapped thousands of minority Yazidis. The U.S. said late Wednesday that the crisis had been eased by U.S. airstrikes and an offensive by Kurdish fighters.

But U.S. military officials have said limited airstrikes alone will not be enough to turn the tide on the battlefield.

"The effectiveness of airstrikes is overstated," Skinner said. "They're pretty good if you catch someone in the open, but there is a huge issue with unintended damage or innocent people getting killed, so that is not the answer."

Off the table is any plan to commit U.S. ground forces to the fight. The Obama administration has ruled that out and few of his most vocal foreign policy opponents are calling for a major U.S. ground force.

But top U.S. officials say more support could be forthcoming in other areas apart from the semi-autonomous Kurdish region, where airstrikes have enabled its peshmarga forces to keep the Islamic State from advancing on the regional capital, Irbil.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Secretary of State John Kerry say more military and economic assistance is under consideration should Iraq form a more inclusive government once Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki leaves office. That could take time, given al-Maliki's constitutional challenge to the designation of a rival candidate to form a new government and the complexity of reaching a coalition deal with disparate political factions.

Even with a new government in place, reconstituting the heavily Shiite Iraqi army, which is distrustful of Sunnis and Kurds and which has already fled the fight once, could be a slow process.

"Iraqis have to come together," Skinner said. "The army has to pick up the weapons it already dropped."

Should the U.S. eventually commit to military assistance, that could include rearming the Iraqi army, which abandoned stockpiles of weapons when it fled Islamic State fighters in Mosul and western Iraq. Placing U.S. special operations forces closer to the fight to help call in airstrikes also could be an option, as well as an expanded air campaign, analysts say.



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

An Iraqi woman and her daughter from the Yazidi community sleep under a bridge Thursday in Dahuk, 260 miles northwest of Baghdad. The United Nations has announced its highest level of emergency for the humanitarian crisis in Iraq in the wake of the onslaught by Islamic militants who have overrun much of the country's north and west and have driven hundreds of thousands from their homes.

"If we decide we're going to support the Iraq government in re-establishing the territorial integrity of the country, air power could come in," said Karl Mueller, an expert at the Washington-based RAND Corp. "But there's very little to be optimistic about at the moment."

None of those assistance options will eliminate the Islamic State threat without a corresponding ground offensive by Iraqi forces, which face steep obstacles, Skinner said.

The U.S. has already announced it is rearming the Kurds — a step the Baghdad government had been reluctant to see for fear it might encourage the oil-rich Kurdish region to seek full independence.

Mueller acknowledged that arming the Kurds "represents a step in the way of supporting the Kurds as a kind of autonomous, separate entity from Iraq."

Despite the risks, "the Iraqi army is going to have to walk with the Kurds, when just two months ago they were fighting each other over it. It would have to be a remarkable turn of events," Skinner said. "If that doesn't happen, next year, you're probably going to be having discussions with Irbil as a government. If Iraq can't unify to face a mortal threat, then they are doomed."

An alternative scenario that some experts say is more likely to cause the Islamic State group trouble is to reach out to the Sunni populations to rise up against the Islamic State, which they did in 2006 and 2007 against the militants' predecessor, al-Qaida in Iraq.

The "Anbar Awakening," en-

couraged and supported by the U.S. military during the 2007 troop surge, was a turning point in the Iraq War.

"Over the long run, people don't like being governed by psychotic Islamic fundamentalists," Mueller said. "They're better at terrorizing people and seizing territory than holding and governing it. In the long run, there is the possibility that a prolonged jihadist state sort of burns itself out."

Initially, many Sunnis accepted Islamic State fighters in places such as Mosul because they hated the mostly Shiite Iraqi army. If Sunni tribes turn against the Islamic State, its fighters would have their hands full, Skinner said.

"It's not that ISIS is so strong, it's that their opponents have been so weak," Skinner said.

US policy debate

In the U.S., domestic critics say the Iraq crisis is another example of the Obama administration's clumsy response to unrest sweeping the Middle East since the Arab Spring uprisings erupted in Tunisia in December 2010 and spread across the region.

Rather than bring democracy across the Middle East, the wave of unrest has led to chaos in Libya, strongman rule in Egypt and civil war in Syria.

Critics, including former Secretary of State and presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, argue that Obama's refusal to arm moderate Syrian opposition fighters during the early stages of the civil war there helped give

rise to the Islamic State group.

Islamic extremists honed their battle skills in the war against the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad before moving swiftly through parts of Iraq to form a cross-border Islamic State or caliphate.

The Islamic State's battlefield successes have drawn recruits from Europe, the U.S. and, reportedly, members of al-Qaida-linked groups. By some estimates, the Islamic State has up to 15,000 fighters, which critics say has dire implications for U.S. security.

"ISIS is advancing on critical cities in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, nearing our allies in Jordan and Turkey, and threatening our own personnel in northern Iraq, McCain said in a statement Tuesday. "They have created a terrorist sanctuary much larger and richer than that of al-Qaida prior to 9/11 and their leadership has already expressed ambitions to attack the United States."

But some experts on the region believe an early backing of anti-Assad moderates probably would not have blunted the Islamic State's rise.

Jihadists, not moderates, were always the dominant forces in the Syrian uprising, said Dana Allin, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "I find it hard to believe that earlier and more vigorous support (of the moderates) would have made all that much difference," Allin said in a video posted on the IISS website, echoing Obama's own views.

During his time with the CIA, Skinner said programs aimed at arming moderates often failed. "I have some experience with

that and it doesn't work," said Skinner, who now works as an analyst with New York-based Soufan Group, an international security firm. "Give the weapons to the people who are moderate and watch what happens. The extremists, who are savages, come and take them. The savages will out-fight them."

ISIL in perspective

Whether the Islamic State is intent on exporting terror beyond the Middle East isn't at all clear.

"Under the circumstances, it is not obvious there would be an imperative for the U.S. to go to war against a group like that," Mueller said. "We don't go to war with North Korea, though it is horrendous for people inside its borders. I don't know [that] ISIS is a national security imperative."

But the threat to Western interests and America's allies in the region, such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia, shouldn't be overstated, some experts caution.

If the U.S. military can help in one area, it might be in puncturing the aura of invincibility that surrounds the militant group, who gains on the battlefield are unprecedented, Skinner said.

In the world of jihad, signing up with the group is like "going to play for the Yankees," Skinner said.

Airstrikes can't deliver a knockout punch to the group as a whole, but they can damage its mystique, which is luring fighters from around the world.

"The first time they get undeniably crushed and lose, say, 800 fighters, which is a lot for them, that will make a difference, and the U.S. can help with that," Skinner said. "If they stick their head up, hit them hard."

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CRISIS IN IRAQ

Humanitarian teams to leave within days

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Thursday that U.S. humanitarian teams assisting members of the Yazidi sect in northern Iraq will be pulled from the country within days following a successful mission.

While the refugees on Sinjar Mountain appear safe, humanitarian missions and airstrikes to protect United States personnel and facilities from the Islamic State will continue in Iraq, the president said.

Obama broke from his vacation on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts to warn Americans that the situation there remains dire overall and that the U.S. still has a role — without having combat troops on the ground — in combating the Islamic State, which has taken over large swaths of the country, slaughtered members of religious minorities and sought to impose a fundamentalist religious state.

"The situation remains dire for Iraqis subject to [Islamic State's] terror around the country," Obama said. "We will continue airstrikes to protect our people and facilities in Iraq."

The administration has been hoping for a nonmilitary solu-

tion where Baghdad counters the advance of Islamic State by bringing Sunni Muslims into the government and strengthening national security. On Thursday, Obama endorsed newly named Iraq Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and said Abadi is in agreement on how to solve Iraq's security crisis.

"We spoke about the need for the kind of inclusive government, the kind of government that speaks to all the people of Iraq, that is needed right now," he said.

Meanwhile, Obama said Americans should be proud of the efforts over the past week to assist the Yazidis. Airstrikes pushed back Islamic State forces threatening the refugees, and U.S. air-drops delivered 114,000 meals.

"Without food or water, they faced a terrible choice — starve on the mountain or be slaughtered on the ground," Obama said.

The Pentagon said Thursday that it saw little if any need to airdrop more food and water to Iraqis atop Sinjar because most of the stranded have left and the remainder are in less dire need, a spokesman said Thursday.

Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said U.S. officials believe the number on Sinjar is now "in the neighbor-

hood of 4,000," and that between 1,500 and 2,000 of those are local residents who live there and have no plans to leave.

"We believe based on our assessment of conditions on the mountain that it is much less likely that we'll need to continue to airdrop any more food and water," Kirby said. The last airdrop was Wednesday.

A U.S. assessment team that spent Wednesday on the mountaintop reported numbers far smaller and circumstances less dire than feared. Two officials said they estimated that roughly 4,500 were atop the mountain, half of which were local herders.

That makes it less likely that U.S. troops will need to conduct a major rescue effort, but it does not substantially change the big picture in Iraq, which is in crisis with a failing government and an aggressive Sunni insurgency.

The Obama administration has been airdropping food on the mountain and contemplating a military-led rescue of civilians who fled there to escape the militant group known as the Islamic State. But it had been unclear how many people might need evacuation. Some had reported them to number in the tens of thousands.

After being briefed on the assessment team's trip to Sinjar

Mountain, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Wednesday called the assessment a bit of good news. Of the U.S. effort in Iraq, he said: "It's not over. It's not complete."

Attacks across Iraq's north and west by the Islamic State and its Sunni militant allies this summer have displaced members of the minority Christian and Yazidi religious communities and threatened neighboring Iraqi Kurds in the autonomous region.

Thousands of Yazidis on the mountain were able to leave each night over the last several days, Kirby said in a statement Wednesday.

The U.S. troops and U.S. Agency for International Development staff who conducted the assessment on Sinjar — fewer than 20 people — did not engage in combat operations and all returned safely to Irbil by military aircraft, he said.

"The Yazidis who remain are in better condition than previously believed and continue to have access to the food and water that we have dropped," Kirby said. "We will continue to provide humanitarian assistance as needed and will protect U.S. personnel and facilities."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Iraqi army, militants clash west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Clashes between Iraqi troops and Sunni militants west of Baghdad killed at least four children Thursday as the United Nations announced its highest level of emergency for the Arab country's humanitarian crisis in the wake of the onslaught by the extremist Islamic State group.

The U.N. on Wednesday declared the situation in Iraq a "Level 3 Emergency" — a development that will trigger additional goods, funds and assets to respond to the needs of the displaced, said U.N. special representative Nickolay Mladenov, pointing to the "scale and complexity of the current humanitarian catastrophe."

The Security Council also said it was backing a newly nominated premier-designate in the hope that he can swiftly form an "inclusive government" that could counter the insurgent threat.

Fighting erupted early Thursday in the militant-held city of Fallujah, about 40 miles west of Baghdad. The clashes on the city's northern outskirts killed four children, along with a woman and at least 10 militants, said Fallujah hospital director Ahmed Shami.

It was difficult to gauge the situation in Fallujah, which has been in the hands of the Islamic State since early January, when the militants seized much of the province.

From The Associated Press

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MILITARY

Civilian doctors to back up VA primary care

By TOM PHILPOTT

More than two decades ago, when a sinking military health care system saw patient demand exceed its capacity to deliver timely care, particularly for a burgeoning retiree population, the Department of Defense contracted with the private sector to provide alternative networks of civilian physicians to deliver managed care to military beneficiaries.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is moving down a similar path of contracting for civilian provider networks. For the VA, however, the networks are to handle only an overflow of needed care, not to offer an alternative enrollment option to the VA's integrated health care system.

The networks also are helping to address an access-to-care crisis that in recent months shredded VA credibility and forced leadership changes.

On Wednesday, less than a week after President Barack Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 to mandate that the VA offer more timely and convenient to veterans, the VA announced expansion of its new Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) contracts so they also deliver primary care to veterans when and where the VA cannot.

The PC3 networks started operating in January as a backstop to provide specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care and also limited newborn care to infants of female veterans. With their new responsibility to deliver primary care, these PC3 networks clearly have gained im-

MILITARY UPDATE

portance as tools VA will routinely use during the next several years to restore timely access to care.

Those provider networks will be familiar to many veterans whose families relied on them for Tricare services while members still served on active duty. The TriWest Healthcare Alliance, headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz., was support contractor for the Tricare West Region until two years ago. Now it will backstop VA care in 28 states and U.S. Pacific territories.

HealthNet Federal Services of Arlington, Va., still manages patient care for Tricare North Region. It now will provide both primary and specialty backstop care to veterans in the other 22 states when the VA decides it own facilities and staff can't deliver timely or convenient care.

The addition of primary care to PC3 contracts is "another example of how we are working to ensure veterans get the care they need, when they need it and where they want to be seen," new VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald said in a statement announcing the change.

The statement also said the VA continues to review how PC3 "may be used to help implement the new law. It also emphasized, however, that all PC3 care to veterans will be "coordinated with their VA providers."

That's a critical point for veterans' service organizations. They favor the VA hiring more staff and building more VA clinics over any migration of health services into the private sector. The fear is that could degrade the VA's capacity over time to provide veterans, including those catastrophically injured in war, with full-spectrum health care they will need for a lifetime.

In an interview Wednesday, David McIntyre, president and chief executive officer of TriWest, was sensitive to that, emphasizing that PC3 networks will differ in a critical way from Tricare networks.

Tricare providers offer beneficiaries a "stand-alone, parallel plan" of enrollment to using military health care on base. By contrast, veterans who need occasional care through the PC3 networks will remain enrolled and will have its care monitored by the VA health care system, McIntyre said.

"That's the core of what the VA PC3 is," he said. "It's not to serve as a threat, frankly, to the VA system. It's really a wraparound network."

McIntyre also touted the value to the VA of having consolidated networks of providers ready to serve as a "relief valve" when veterans can't get timely, convenient care from inside the VA. He noted that discovery of thousands of veterans awaiting care through the Phoenix VA Health Care System "lit off the furnace" of the crisis over veterans facing long wait times for care.

Yet last month, McIntyre said, civilian providers working under the TriWest PC3 network provided specialty care to about 3000 veterans in the Phoenix area as part of an aggressive VA effort to end patient backlogs.

"Today," he said, "every veteran who cannot be seen in the [Phoenix] VA on the specialty side gets care within standards downtown. ... The backlog in spe-

cialty care has been worked off and 4400 providers in Maricopa County surrounding the [Phoenix] VA medical center are that safety net."

Starting this month, under newly modified contracts, TriWest and HealthNet will begin to backstop VA on primary care appointments at select locations. By December, primary care will be available in "all of the areas in which we operate," McIntyre said. PC3 contracts also were changed to aligned networks to tighter "drive times" for care access set in the new law.

McIntyre and Thomas Carro, president of HealthNet Federal Services, testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee in June, and each of them suggested expanding PC3 contracts into primary care.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

Sailor to be punished over rape threat on social media

By JAMES QEALY

Los Angeles Times

A sailor based in Washington state has been found guilty of threatening in a social media posting to rape a California naval recruit and will face internal discipline, Navy officials told the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday.

Nicholas Lord, a sailor aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz, stationed in Bremerton, Wash., was accused of making the lewd comments last month after the woman posted a picture of herself and said she was joining the Navy.

"If I could and I knew you I'd hold you down and rape you," Lord wrote, authorities say.

Cmdr. Jeannie Groeneveld, public affairs officer for Naval Air Force Pacific, told The Times that Lord had been found guilty of using indecent language and would face an undisclosed punishment.

He has not been removed from the Navy, according to Groeneveld, who said possible punishments include demotion or a reduction in salary. Privacy

laws bar the Navy from releasing specific details about an internal inquiry.

Lord, who joined the Navy in 2008 and served as a petty officer second class and electrician's mate aboard the Nimitz, did not respond to messages seeking comment. Attempts to contact the woman at whom the comment was aimed have been unsuccessful.

The Navy does not have a general social media policy for its sailors, according to Groeneveld.

"For personal social media sites for Navy sailors, there isn't an overarching policy, because our servicemembers have a right to free speech," she said. "They are held accountable for their actions when their comments fall outside of good order and discipline."

The initial comment, made last month, immediately went viral, sparking controversy on Web pages for naval recruits and a page for the Nimitz.

It remains unclear whether the woman, who once lived in Sausalito, Calif., has reported for basic training.

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MILITARY

MV Cape Ray has neutralized 580 tons of sarin ingredients

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. ship in the Mediterranean Sea has neutralized more than 580 tons of chemical ingredients for the nerve agent sarin as part of the international effort to destroy Syria's chemical weapons program, according to the U.N. organization running the effort.

The MV Cape Ray, a former merchant ship loaded with Syria's most dangerous chemical precursors in early July to dilute them at sea, will now begin work on almost 20 tons of sulfur mustard, a blistering agent, according to the Organization for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons. Once finished, it will deliver the diluted solutions to land-based facilities in Finland and Germany for disposal.

Two large hydrolysis systems installed on the ship detoxify chemicals by pumping in fresh water and heating the solution. The remaining, less-toxic effluents are kept on board.

The international effort to destroy Syria's stockpile, which was estimated at more than 1,000 tons of chemical ingredients, as well as armaments and production facilities, began last fall in the wake of a suspected chemical weapons

attack by the Syrian government against the rebel-held town of Ghouta nearly a year ago. Hundreds of civilians were killed in the attack, which employed sarin-filled rockets.

Russia and the U.S. brokered a deal to dismantle the program to avert possible U.S. missile strikes against the regime. Under the deal, Syria renounced its program, joined the 1992 Chemical Weapons Convention and agreed to transfer chemicals for destruction. Tons of less-toxic chemicals have been taken to Germany, the U.K. and U.S. for destruction, while the most dangerous,



DESMOND PARKS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The MV Cape Ray enters the Medcenter Container Terminal Italian port on July 1 to receive Syrian chemical materials.

or "priority one," chemicals were loaded at the port of Latakia for transport to the Cape Ray.

As of last week, 60 percent of the country's chemical weapons program had been destroyed, according to an Associated Press story citing a report made to the U.N. Security Council by the head of the joint OPCW-U.N. mission.

Remaining challenges include

destroying 12 production facilities in Syria. The OPCW is also investigating claims that the Syrian government used chlorine gas against rebels. Some Western officials, meanwhile, have questioned whether the regime of Bashar Assad turned over its full chemical stockpile for destruction.

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CALEB BARRIEAU/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army Brig. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, right, commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command, hands the guidon to Col. Thomas Mackey, incoming commander of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, on Thursday during an assumption-of-command ceremony at Hohenfels, Germany.

Mackey takes over for Norris at JMRC

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Col. Thomas Mackey assumed command of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels during a ceremony Thursday.

Mackey, a career infantry officer of 25 years, is replacing Col. John Norris, who was reassigned to the Joint Planning Support Element in Norfolk, Va., in June.

Hohenfels underwent substantial changes during Norris' tenure, including a mass restructuring of manpower and the dissolution of the garrison's individual command. Mackey hopes to bring a measure of stability to one of Europe's largest proving grounds.

"I think for ... what we're doing here at JMRC, it's making sure that we really maintain the standards that have been set here, in terms of providing a world-class training experience, both the U.S. brigades, but also our multinational partners," he said.

The JMRC coordinates training on the 40,000-acre Hohenfels Training Area.

Mackey previously served as commander of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Besides maintaining the operational standards, Mackey said, family welfare will be his other command priority, ensuring there is a good local support network.

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PACIFIC

Singapore gives US Navy lessons on traffic at sea

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Navy crews have been picking up valuable lessons from their Singapore counterparts on how to maneuver in the sea version of heavy traffic — a mix of civilian and military vessels, sometimes spiced up with pirates.

Singapore's sailors spend much of their time in the Strait of Malacca, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. It is constantly transited by countless vessels carrying oil and other cargo between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

That knowledge and experience have been passed on this month to Navy servicemembers deployed to Singapore for the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise.

"There is a page in their play-book that we need to be stealing," Navy Capt. Fred Kacher said Monday, shortly after returning from a cruise on the RSS Formidable, a Singaporean navy frigate.

Kacher, the Destroyer Squadron 7 commodore, led a 1,000-strong U.S. force, two destroyers, a nuclear submarine, a fuel ship and a P-8 Poseidon aircraft during the exercise. He said there was a lot to learn from watching the Singaporeans navigate the busy shipping lanes.

Ian Chong, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the National University of Singapore, said the operational environment around Singapore is different from that in most other parts of the world.

"Naval vessels need to be concerned with heavy civilian traffic," he said.

Piracy is also an issue, and military personnel must be ready to support law enforcement and other agencies in an emergency. That requires cooperation across national boundaries, which makes planning and coordination more complex, Chong said.

The heavy ship traffic presents "a challenging acoustic environment" for sonar operators, and weather can also disrupt operations in the Strait of Malacca, said Lt. Lauryr Dempsey, Destroyer Squadron 7 spokeswoman.

During gunnery exercises with the Americans, the Singaporeans used their local knowledge to maneuver and to avoid bad weather and civilian shipping, she added.

The U.S. has been conducting CARAT exercises in Singapore for 20 years. Singapore is also home to Task Force 73 and Command Logistics Group Western Pacific — logistics organizations that arm, fuel, feed and support the 7th Fleet's operations in the region.

American engagement there is expanding.

The USS Freedom — one of several new fast, shallow-water vessels known as littoral combat ships — recently completed an eight-month deployment to Singapore. It will be replaced by another LCS, the USS Fort Worth, later this year, according to the Navy.

The U.S. and Singapore have agreed to deploy up to four littoral combat ships to Singapore for a year or more at a time with San Diego-based crews changing out



Photo courtesy of Defense Department

Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Jones loads a torpedo onto an SH-60B Seahawk helicopter aboard the USS Wayne E. Meyer in the South China Sea in preparation for a torpedo training exercise, during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2014 Singapore.



GILBERT A. BOUBOU/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. Marines assigned to 1st Battalion 8th Marine Regiment, Bravo Company, conduct a joint amphibious landing exercise with marines from the Philippines during the joint exercise.

every four months, Kacher said.

Singapore is the base for other CARAT exercises in nine Southeast Asian nations, along with a similar engagement in Vietnam, he said.

During the at-sea portion of the exercise, U.S. and Singaporean vessels practiced surface engage-

ments, air defense and submarine operations, Kacher said.

"Rather than focus on who a potential adversary might be, it is better to focus on how our navies work together at sea," he said.

Singapore is close to several potential flash points in the South China Sea, where numerous small

islands and the resource-rich waters around them are subject to competing claims from China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Singapore isn't among the claims, but freedom of navigation, maritime safety and overflights are extremely important for the country, Chong said.

"Any act by claimants that might endanger those things would be of serious concern to Singapore," he said.

The Singapore government's strategy in allowing U.S. forces to operate from its territory is to foster greater engagement in the region with a major power. The goal is to give powerful nations a stake in the region's stability and a stake in Singapore's stability, he said.

The advantage for the U.S. in having a logistics hub there is that it can resupply ships headed to the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, Chong said.

"If Singapore is seen to be an important jumping-off point for U.S. deployments, the U.S. might want to keep that," he said.

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Dempsey most senior officer to visit Vietnam since war

USA Today

HANOI — Army Gen. Martin Dempsey landed here Wednesday, the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to visit Vietnam since 1971 when nearly 300,000 U.S. troops continued to fight in the bloody, costly war here.

Dempsey's visit represents a further thawing in the relationship between the former foes. The two countries normalized relations in 1995 under President Bill Clinton.

Dempsey's arrival was a low-key affair. A small delegation met him at the airport and whisked him through a fast-moving river of commuters on scooters navigating rain-slickened streets.

Dempsey referred to events in "other parts of the world" that vied for his attention, no doubt a reference to the crisis in Iraq. But he told Vietnamese defense officials he wasn't going to miss his trip here. President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel insisted on it, he said.

They told him: "The place for you right now is Vietnam," Dempsey said.

His visit comes as Vietnam and China, its often-quarrelsome neighbor to the north, continue to spar over such issues as offshore mineral rights. China has asserted its claims in recent months, shifting a massive oil-exploration rig to disputed waters in the South

China Sea. The trip's purpose is to build relations with senior Vietnamese military officials and to discuss regional security concerns, according to Air Force Col. Ed Thomas, Dempsey's spokesman. The visit is one more step in building a normal relationship.

A generation ago, that was almost unthinkable. The war had claimed the lives of 58,000 U.S. troops, altered American views about its role in the world and ravaged Vietnam. Today, although it continues under Communist rule, Vietnam appears open for business.



Dempsey

Major US-S. Korean exercise starts Monday

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. Forces Korea and the South Korean military will kick off their annual late summer Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill beginning Monday, according to a spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, along with Key Resolve and Foal Eagle in the spring, are the largest joint drills held each year in the South, usually involving tens of thousands of troops.

This year's UFG will run Aug. 18 through Aug. 28 or 29, the JCS

spokesman said Thursday. USFK has not announced the dates for the computer-simulated war games yet. The spokesman said an official announcement from the U.S. and South Korea would likely be issued Monday.

North Korea, which views the exercise as preparation for an invasion, typically responds with some sort of threat or warning.

The North fired rockets off its coast Thursday, although the JCS spokesman said the reason was unclear.

There is some speculation that the rockets might have been in response to Pope Francis' arrival in South Korea.

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PACIFIC

US military in S. Korea eager for pope's visit

By **ASHLEY ROWLAND**
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Some 300 members of the U.S. military community will attend Pope Francis' open-air Mass on Saturday, a key event in his five-day visit to South Korea that many here will promote peace on the bitterly divided peninsula.

Approximately 240 Catholics from U.S. Army Garrison Yongson and 50 from Osan Air Base, along with five military chaplains, will attend the 10 a.m. Mass at Gwanghwannun Square in central Seoul.

"This is a special treat for us," said Col. Austin Coe, Catholic chaplain for Yongson. Of the 1 million people projected to attend the Mass, only 200,000 — including the Yongson and Osan members — will be allowed inside a security barricade granting closer access to the pope.

The crowd is expected to stretch from historic Gyeongbok Palace to Seoul City Hall. While most

in the audience will be seated on the ground, the U.S. military attendees will have chairs near the altar.

"This is very special consideration in recognition of what we do here on the peninsula," Coe said.

The pope's visit comes as the U.S. and South Korea prepare for annual military drills, scheduled to begin Monday, that are viewed by North Korea as preparation for war.

Shortly before Francis' arrival in Seoul on Thursday morning, North Korea launched three short-range projectiles from Wonsan into the East Sea, officials said. A spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Pyongyang may have been trying to distract from the pope's visit. Two more projectiles were fired around noon.

The North earlier rejected a proposal to allow 10 North Korean Catholics to attend a Mass with the pope, according to the Archdiocese of Seoul.

This is the first papal visit in



A construction crew builds a stage in Gwanghwannun Square in front of the Gyeongbok Palace where Pope Francis will hold Mass for an estimated crowd of 1 million Saturday in Seoul, South Korea.

ASHLEY ROWLAND/
Stars and Stripes

25 years to South Korea, whose 5.5 million Catholics make up about 11 percent of the country's population.

Sun Park, acting chief of Osan's Airman and Family Readiness Center, is helping coordinate military attendance at the upcoming Mass. He said Catholicism holds a special place in South Korea's history because it was the first foreign religion introduced into the country, and many believers were persecuted.

Francis' visit is particularly meaningful because of the increased tensions with Pyongyang, Park said, and some believe his presence could increase momentum for reunification. Park said he wouldn't be surprised if the pope makes a surprise trip to Panmunjom or another border town in a push for peace.

Many also are hoping Francis will help draw international attention to the former sex slaves known as "comfort women" who were forced into prostitution during the Japanese occupation of the peninsula that ended in 1945.

Coe said Francis is extremely popular among Catholics "because of his low and humble attitude, and his approach to the marginalized." He is expected to ride to the Mass in a small Korean-made Kia instead of a more stately vehicle.

Attendees from Yongson and Osan underwent a rigorous security clearance process that began months ago to get passes to sit inside the barricades.

Some who didn't sign up in time will watch from outside the security zone.

"It's a huge deal. It's not something you get to experience every day," said Staff Sgt. Traci Keller, of the 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, who will leave Osan with two busloads of Catholics at 5 a.m. Saturday to travel to the Mass. "It was definitely one of those things on my bucket list. I didn't think it would be happen here, of all places."

Excitement is high among Osan attendees, Park said, because for many, seeing the pope in person is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"He's a direct representative of God, as far as Catholics are concerned," he said.

After landing, the pope attended a welcome ceremony with President Park Geun-hye at the Blue House, the president's office and residence. His itinerary for the rest of the trip includes celebrating a Mass in Daejeon that will be attended by family members of the Sewol ferry disaster and a meeting with Catholic youth in Dangiin.

Construction crews worked Thursday morning to erect a stage, backed by a cross, in front of the palace for Saturday's Mass, during which the pope will be accompanied by 124 South Korean Catholic martyrs.

Groups of riot police stood guard throughout the plaza, while onlookers snapped photos of banners bearing the pontiff's picture. A few people walked toward the stage with arms held aloft in worship.

Stars and Stripes staffer Yoo Kyong Chan contributed to this story. rowland.ashley@stripes.com

Guided-missile destroyers call Hawaii new homeport

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Two guided-missile destroyers will arrive in Hawaii this week, making Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam their new homeport.

The USS Preble is expected on Thursday, with the USS John Paul Jones pulling in on Friday.

The Preble's shift from San Diego will allow it to provide increased security and a greater forward presence in the Pacific Ocean. Robert T. Bryans, Jr., the ship's commander, said in a statement released by Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, the command in charge of surface ships home-ported at Pearl Harbor.

The Preble replaces the USS Reuben James, which was decommissioned in July 2013, as a middle Pacific surface combatant. As a Flight 2A-type destroyer, the Preble can carry helicopters, the statement said.

The John Paul Jones will replace the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie, which will stay in San Diego after undergoing extended repairs there.

The John Paul Jones brings updated advanced Aegis missile capabilities to the surface group. It replaces the Lake Erie in Hawaii

as a rotational ballistic missile defense deployer and as a testing ship as part of a long-range U.S. commitment to the security of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, the statement said.

John Paul Jones Commander Andrew Thomson said his crew was ready to assume the role as the Navy's Integrated Air and Missile Defense test ship. In the coming years, the ship is expected to test newer and more advanced systems that will be used to defend the nation and allied forces overseas, Thomson said.

The John Paul Jones was commissioned Dec. 18, 1993, and is named after the famed American Revolutionary War naval captain. Commissioned Nov. 9, 2002, the Preble is the sixth U.S. Navy ship named after U.S. naval hero Commodore Edward Preble, who battled the Barbary pirates off the coast of North Africa in the early 1800s. Preble led a naval blockade of Tripoli, Libya, and oversaw an officer corps that would later lead the U.S. Navy in the War of 1812.

Deployments by both ships in the future are expected to extend the Navy's forward presence in the western Pacific and beef up maritime security, Williams said.

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MILITARY

Air Force fighter pilot convicted of 2005 rape

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force fighter pilot was convicted of rape last week, nine years after he committed the crime against a young airman.

Lt. Col. Michael J. Briggs, an F-16 pilot who was the 52nd Fighter Wing chief of safety at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, was convicted on Aug. 7 after a weeklong court-martial before a military judge, according to Air Force officials.

The judge sentenced Briggs, 40, to five months in jail, dismissal from the Air Force and a reprimand.

The rape occurred in 2005 while Briggs was on a temporary duty assignment at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, officials said.

"This was a violent rape that left (the victim) bleeding and bruised," said an Air Force official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the case.

The victim informed her supervisor at the time, but the supervisor suggested she and Briggs "work things out" without involving law enforcement, the official said. The woman also confided in a couple of friends, but no official report was filed.

Last year, the woman, but now

a staff sergeant, decided to report her rape again after she attended an Air Force sexual assault briefing, the official said.

"This was a case of us having a program in place, and her feeling empowered," said Capt. Bryon McGarry, a Spangdahlem spokesman.

The staff sergeant contacted Air Force criminal investigators. Investigators taped a phone call she made to Briggs, discussing the long-age event, according to the official familiar with the case.

"I'm sorry I raped you and will always be sorry that I raped you," he told her, according to the Air Force official.

At his trial, however, Briggs testified that the sex had been consensual, admitting only to adultery, McGarry said.

Briggs, a Texas native, had served 18 years in the Air Force, McGarry said. He arrived at Spangdahlem a year ago.

Before that he was stationed in the Pacific. In 2008, while stationed at Misawa Air Base, he served as an F-16 demonstration pilot, performing aerial stunts for audiences at a dozen shows a year.

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Air Force Academy coaches told to help curb sex assaults

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy said Wednesday that she has told athletic coaches to take a bigger role in preventing sexual assaults, pulling them into the yearslong campaign at the school to stem abuse.

Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson, who took charge of the school a year ago, said coaches had not been fully involved in what she called the "broader conversation about school standards."

Johnson said she has spoken with them twice about her expectations and told them to talk to athletes about sexual assault.

"I was frank about the need for them to help the institution enforce our standards," she said in an interview. "I was frank about what happens, the complexity of sexual assault prevention."

Congress and the Pentagon are closely monitoring sexual assaults at the Air Force, Army and Navy academies. A Department of Defense report in January said a cul-

ture of disrespect permeates the schools and contributes to sexual harassment and assaults. The report identified sports and club teams as an area where the academies needed to expand training.

The Air Force Academy took the unusual step of offering back-to-back interviews with Johnson and other leaders and cadets on Wednesday after recent news reports about allegations of sexual abuse and other misconduct by athletes and lax oversight of sports there.

Academy officials have said the allegations were investigated, and where warranted, cadets were court-martialed, expelled or given other punishments.

The academy's inspector general is about to launch a review of the athletic department, which will include its culture — a term the Air Force often uses when discussing whether the atmosphere is conducive to sexual assaults and other misconduct.

The review is expected to be completed by late September or early October.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Six soldiers from the 7th Joint Multinational Readiness Command tackle an obstacle course Tuesday during the first leg of the U.S. Army in Europe's Best Warrior competition.

3 JMTC soldiers head to next round in Best Warrior contest

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Twelve men volunteered, six men passed the initial cuts, but only three of the Joint Multinational Training Command's soldiers are moving on to the next level in the U.S. Army's Best Warrior competition.

Pvt. Benjamin Ranew, Staff Sgt. William Chavis and 1st Lt. Mitchell Messick conquered three days of physical and mental challenges and will now compete against troops from across Europe at the U.S. Army in Europe level.

Out of the pool of contenders, only two — one junior enlisted soldier and one noncommissioned officer — will be selected to represent the USAREUR at the 13th annual all-Army competition at Fort Lee, Va., later this year. Messick, now the 7th Army JMTC Officer of the Year, will have to be content fighting to be recognized as the top junior officer at the USAREUR level, as there is no officer category at the all-Army competition. He'll also be the JMTC team leader at the USAREUR.

Ranew, Chavis and Messick will be joined by representatives from each of the 12 major Army commands, including the National Guard and Special Operations Command. The winners of that all-Army competition will receive accolades, awards and invitations to big-ticket social events.

"You always got to do things that set yourself apart from your peers," Chavis, the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, said on the opening day of the JMTC competition. "Whoever wins, it doesn't really matter —



Staff Sgt. William Chavis fires an M240G machine gun during a live-fire exercise during the competition.

you still get the training value."

The initial six competitors ran through a rapid succession of events, including simulated medical evacuation battlefield scenarios, a sergeants major inspection board, an early morning 8-mile march and a bevy of live-fire drills designed to test their knowledge of weapons systems. "The events themselves altogether were challenging but isolated and on their own," Messick said. "It was great because for everything we worked as a team. So you always had other guys you could fall back on to help push you, and you could help push them when it looked like they were struggling."

The trio now face some of Europe's finest soldiers at the USAREUR-level event to be held Sept. 15-19 in Grafenwöhr.

The most recent winner from the USAREUR was Staff Sgt. Matthew Senna, who took home top honors in the NCO category in 2012.

Sgt. Maj. Tony Tuck, the JMTC operations and training sergeant major, said his soldiers have a real shot at bringing the title back to the USAREUR.

"They have the mentality that they can go into the European Best Warrior competition and accomplish whatever task they throw at them," he said.

Last year, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Manella, from U.S. Army Reserve Command, and Spc. Adam Christensen, from U.S. Army Pacific Command, took home the top honors as noncommissioned officer of the year and soldier of the year, respectively.

"I don't know much about the USAREUR level of competition," Ranew said. "I know there is a lot more competitors from all over the place who have been training probably a lot more than I have, so I'm going to go up there, give what I got and, hopefully, it's enough."

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NATION

Obama urges 'peace and calm' in Ferguson

The Associated Press

President Barack Obama on Thursday appealed for "peace and calm" on the streets of a St. Louis suburb besieged by violent clashes between police and crowds protesting the shooting death of an unarmed teenager.

Obama said there was no excuse for excessive force by police in the aftermath of Saturday's shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown. He said he had asked the Justice Department and FBI to investigate the incident.

"Let's remember that we're all part of one American family, we are united in common values and that includes the belief in equality under the law, respect for public order and the right to peaceful, public protests," said Obama, speaking from the Massachusetts island where he's on a two-week vacation.

Also on Thursday, police defended the use of tear gas and smoke bombs to repel protesters after another night of chaos in the St. Louis suburb.

St. Louis County police spokesman Brian Schellman said officers on Wednesday night tossed tear gas to disperse a large crowd of protesters after some threw Molotov cocktails and rocks at officers. More than 10 people were arrested in Ferguson.

"In talking to these guys, it is scary," Schellman said of officers on the front lines of the protest. "They hear gunshots going off, and they don't know where they're coming from."

But the police response is drawing criticism from many circles. Civil rights activist Al Sharpton called Thursday for the Justice Department to monitor Ferguson and the way police are handling the crisis.

"Even if we disagree, this climate is not good for anyone and is dangerous for everyone," Sharpton said in a statement.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon said "operational shifts" are ahead for law enforcement in Ferguson.

Nixon spoke Thursday at a meeting of clergy and community members to discuss law enforcement's response to the demonstrations. The governor told the audience that "you all will see a different tone."

He did not elaborate on the changes ahead, but they were likely to be explained at a news conference planned for later in the day.

The police chiefs of Ferguson and St. Louis County said Wednesday that race relations were the top priority in the town, where a white police officer fatally shot the black teen. Authorities have vowed to reach across the racial, economic and generational divide in a community in search of answers. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday between civil rights leaders and police.

Officers from multiple departments in riot gear and in military equipment have clashed nightly with protesters, who chant, "Hands up, don't shoot." Protesters faced heavily armed police



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

A protester kicks a smoke grenade deployed by police back in the direction of police Wednesday in Ferguson, Mo.



DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

Terrell Williams El hugs his daughter, Sharell, 9, while standing with his wife, Shamika Williams, and daughters Tamika, 6, and Sharell, 2, on Wednesday in Ferguson. They were overcome with emotion after Williams El confronted police.

who at times trained weapons on them from armored trucks.

Two reporters said they were detained by police for not clearing out quickly enough from a McDonald's where they were working, near the protests but away from the more volatile areas. The two, who work for The Washington Post and The Huffington Post, were released without any charges. Both say they were assaulted but not seriously hurt.

Among those arrested was St. Louis Alderman Antonio French, who has been chronicling the protests on social media.

"I think the heavy-handed approach by police is escalating the situation and more people are going to get hurt if this keeps up,"

French told KMOX Radio.

Residents in Ferguson have complained about the police response that began with the use of dogs for crowd control soon after Brown's shooting — a tactic that



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Police walk through a cloud of smoke Wednesday as they clash with protesters in Ferguson.

for some invoked the civil rights protests from a half-century ago. The county police force took over, leading both the investigation of Brown's shooting and the subsequent attempts to keep the peace at the smaller city's request.

County Police Chief Jon Belmar said his officers have responded with "an incredible amount of restraint" as they've had rocks and bottles thrown at them, have been shot at and had two dozen patrol vehicles destroyed.

Police had asked people to assemble in "an organized and respectful" manner and to disperse before evening.

The city and the county are also under criticism for refusing to release the name of the officer who shot Brown, citing threats against that officer and others. The hacker group anonymous released a name purported to be the officer's on Thursday, but The Associated Press could not immediately verify that the name was correct.

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STARS AND STRIPES

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Gaza truce extension fans hope of a deal

By **MUHAMMAD DARAGHMH**
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A five-day extension of a Gaza truce appeared to be holding despite a rocky start on Thursday, fanning cautious optimism of progress in the indirect negotiations underway in Cairo between Israel and major Palestinian factions, including Hamas.

It's the longest cease-fire yet since the war broke out last month in the Gaza Strip. The fighting has so far killed more than 1,900 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. Israel has lost 67 people, all but three of them soldiers.

Violence briefly spiked as the extension of a previous, 72-hour truce was announced shortly before midnight on Wednesday. The extension is to last until midnight Monday.

‘We are not interested in more destruction for our people. We are not interested in more bloodshed.’

Khalil al-Haya
Hamas negotiator

on rockets and rocket-launching sites in Gaza, the military said.

Gaza police said it recorded 17 Israeli strikes but that no casualties were reported.

Palestinian negotiators in Cairo expressed optimism that a deal to create a sustainable road map for the war-torn territory could soon be achieved.

“There is a real opportunity to reach an agreement, but (Israel) must stop the maneuvers and playing with words,” said senior Hamas negotiator Khalil al-Haya. “We are not interested in more destruction for our people. We are not interested in more bloodshed.”

Hamas is seeking an end to a crippling blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt in 2007. The blockade has greatly impeded the movement of Palestinians in and out of the territory of 1.8 million people. It has also restricted the flow of goods into Gaza and blocked virtually all exports.

Israel says the closure is necessary to prevent Hamas from using officials are reluctant to make any concessions that would allow Hamas to declare victory.

Israel wants Hamas to disarm, or at least be prevented from rearming. Hamas has been barred from previous rounds of violence with Israel, including a major three-week ground operation in January 2009 and another week-long air offensive in 2012. It now controls an arsenal of several thousand rockets, some with long ranges and heavy payloads.



MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS/AP

A driver chances floodwaters below an Interstate 94 overpass where several cars were already stranded near Melvindale, Mich., on Tuesday.

Communities across US recovering after floods

The Associated Press

NORTH BABYLON, N.Y. — Communities across the U.S. are drying out after unusually heavy rains swamped highways, flooded basements and were blamed for at least four deaths.

Long Island residents were urged to remain off the road Wednesday as a round-the-clock recovery continued after a record 13.26 inches of rain fell between midnight and 9:30 a.m.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder issued a disaster declaration for the Detroit area after rain sent mud cascading down embankments, closing stretches of freeways as of Tuesday and part of Wednesday.

Officials at a Nebraska hospital said Wednesday its public

cafeteria could stay shuttered for months after it was inundated by floodwater over the weekend.

The latest iteration of wild weather hit the northeast Tuesday night and lingered through Wednesday. A slow-moving system, powered by tropical moisture and clouds soaring far higher than in usual summer storms, lashed communities from Maryland to New England.

The hardest hit areas, Long Island's Suffolk County and the towns of Islip and Brookhaven there, declared states of emergency after what County Executive Steve Bellone called an “unprecedented” deluge.

“It’s not just how much rain fell; it’s how fast it fell,” Accuweather senior meteorologist Jack Bos-

ton said, calling the storm a once every 50 years event. “We’re talking about billions and billions of gallons of water and it all has to go somewhere?”

The storm formed Tuesday south of Baltimore, according to Accuweather's Boston, and hit that city with its highest rainfall total in 81 years. Roads were flooded, forcing several water rescues, and a sinkhole formed on an Anne Arundel County street.

From there it swept across New Jersey — following a track similar to a typical winter storm — and dumped nearly 9 inches of rain in Millville, where a woman suffered broken ribs and a punctured lung when the walls of her basement collapsed due to flooding.

Kerry eyes China partnership despite tension

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Improving U.S. cooperation with China is critical to maintaining stability and security in the Asia-Pacific as well as combating the effects of climate change, Secretary of State John Kerry said.

Wrapping up an eight-day, around-the-world diplomatic trip and his sixth visit to Asia as America's top diplomat, Kerry on Wednesday outlined renewed priorities for much of the Obama administration's much-touted “pivot to Asia” during its final 2½ years, including a focus on strengthening U.S.-Chinese partnership in areas of agreement and bridging gaps in areas of contention.

“One thing I know will contribute to maintaining regional peace and stability is a constructive relationship between the United States and China,” Kerry said in an address to the East-West Cen-

ter think tank in Honolulu. “The United States welcomes the rise of a peaceful, prosperous and stable China, one that plays a responsible role in Asia and the world and supports rules and norms on economic and security issues.”

“We are committed to avoiding the trap of strategic rivalry and intent on forging a relationship in which we broaden our cooperation on common interests and constructively manage our differences and disagreements.”

Kerry arrived in Hawaii after stops in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Australia and the Solomon Islands during which tensions between China and its smaller neighbors over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea were a major subject of discussion. At a Southeast Asia regional security forum in Myanmar over the weekend, Kerry formally unveiled a U.S. proposal for a voluntary freeze on provocative

actions by all claimants, including the Chinese.

The U.S. says it has no position on the competing claims but does regard stability in the South China Sea as a national security issue, given the region's role as one of the world's busiest maritime shipping zones.

“We do care about how those questions are resolved. We care about behavior,” Kerry said. “We firmly oppose the use of intimidation, coercion or force to assert a territorial or maritime claim by anyone. And we firmly oppose any suggestion that freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea and airspace are privileges granted by big states to small ones.”

“All claimants must work together to solve the claims through peaceful means,” he said. “These principles bind all nations equally, and all nations have a responsibility to uphold them.”

Clinton and White House try to shrug off disparity

By **NEDRA PICKLER**
The Associated Press

VINEYARD HAVEN, Massachusetts — Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Barack Obama did their best to shrug off their differences as they gathered together on Martha's Vineyard following a foreign policy split.

Obama's spokesman said Wednesday the White House “is looking onwards and upwards,” while Clinton joked she was planning on hugging it off with her former boss at a birthday party for a mutual friend on the island getaway where Obama is vacationing.

“We have disagreements as any partners and friends, as we are, might very well have,” Clinton told reporters crowded into a bookstore signing of her memoir “Hard Choices.” “But I’m proud that I served with him and for him, and I’m looking forward to seeing him tonight.”

Clinton, Obama and their spouses sat together later in the evening for a surf and turf dinner celebration for 150 people at the Farm Neck Golf Club. The White House said the Obamas were happy to have time with the Clintons, and noted that Obama and Clinton were among those who delivered 80th birthday toasts to guest of honor Ann Jordan, wife of Democratic adviser Vernon Jordan.

The media were not allowed in to see whether Clinton delivered her promised makeup hug after an interview with The Atlantic magazine in which she seemed to try to set herself apart from the unpopular Obama as she heads toward a possible 2016 White House bid.

“Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle,” she had said in the interview, referring to a version of the phrase Obama and his advisers have used privately to describe his approach to foreign policy.

Pilot's artificial arm detaches while landing

A British air accident report has recounted how a pilot lost control of a passenger plane after his artificial arm became detached during landing.

The report says the incident took place as the Flybe flight from Birmingham, carrying 47 passengers, was approaching Belfast City Airport in gusty conditions in February. The 46-year-old pilot had shortly before checked that his prosthetic lower left arm was securely attached to the yoke clamp, but as he performed a maneuver just before touchdown the limb became detached.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch said Thursday he had “moved his right hand to the yoke to regain control.” Winds caused the plane to land heavily with a bounce. No one was hurt.

WORLD



PHOTOS BY NG HAN GUA/AP

Zhang Kaisheng, 16, studies near advertisements for overseas schools at Focus Education, a tutoring and consulting agency in Beijing, on June 26. Zhang plans to join hundreds of thousands of other Chinese students when he enrolls this fall in a private U.S. high school.

Chinese students flocking to US schools

Seize opportunity to broaden their studies

By DIDI TANG
The Associated Press

After getting a glimpse of the endless cramming for China's grueling college entrance exams from the seniors in his high school, 16-year-old Zhang Kaisheng decided to take a different path.

Like a growing number of Chinese teenagers, Zhang plans to enroll this fall in a private U.S. high school where he and his parents hope he will get a more well-rounded — if far more expensive — education. Tuition, room and board can cost around \$40,000 — three to four times more than an elite private school in China.

"I feel like the U.S. education fits me better and will allow me to do things I like to do," said Zhang, who loves playing basketball.

With more than 333,000 of its students in U.S. colleges and graduate schools, China has long been the top feeder of international students in America. Now Chinese high school students are following suit in astonishing fashion. Last year U.S. schools welcomed 50 times more of them than they did just eight years earlier.

The high schoolers want to escape the rat race at home, where students often study late into the night with little opportunity for extracurricular activities. They also believe studying in the U.S. will help them snag coveted spots at more prestigious American colleges.

"The competition has grown fiercer, and there has been pressure to go to U.S. high schools to gain an edge," said Xu Yi, who runs a tutoring and consulting agency for Chinese students called Focus Education.



Zhang Kaisheng poses for a photo near national flags of China and the U.S. at the lobby of Focus Education.

Though international surveys have shown that Chinese students perform well ahead of their American peers in subjects such as math and reading, top-level U.S. schools remain highly regarded among educated Chinese for developing critical thinking and communication skills.

Seeking 'innovation'

"China boasts solid elementary and secondary education, especially in math, but it lacks innovation," said Wang Huiyao, president of the Beijing-based Center for China and Globalization. "Chinese students may be able to memorize formulas but they lack 'soft skills' such as people skills and the ability to communicate with global language and culture."

Young Chinese with U.S. college degrees usually can expect broader career prospects, as China has become increasingly globally minded, with more opportunities for foreign-educated youth.

Last fall, the U.S. issued 31,889 F-1 student visas to Chinese youth planning to attend American high schools, up from just 639 in 2005. China also has overtaken South Korea as the No. 1 origin country of

students to U.S. high schools, with its elite families leading the way as their children are vying for spots in prestigious U.S. preparatory schools.

China's rising financial might is fueling the rise.

"Chinese families did not have the choices in the past, and they did not have the financial means, but with the rise of the middle class, Chinese families now can scour worldwide for schools," Wang said.

A worthy investment

Chinese parents see the hefty cost of private U.S. high schools as a worthy investment. "If he can develop a multitude of skills and be a well-rounded person, it would be money well spent," said Zhang Kaisheng's mother, Wang Lihong, the president of a state bank branch in Beijing.

For many students, the chance to study in the U.S. opens up new opportunities. Kiley Peng, the daughter of a successful entrepreneur, disliked the emphasis on rote memorization in China, and now is engaged in a variety of classes and extracurricular activities at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Conn., including running on the cross-country team.

"There are many things I now get to experiment with," she said.

Peng's friend Lisa Li, who attends Lawrence Academy in Groton, Mass., said she felt like a failure if she didn't get the top test score in her class in Beijing. Her academic work in the U.S. is also rigorous, but she said she doesn't feel the same kind of pressure, and is now encouraged to explore other interests — like music composition.

"It is so worth it, although it is highly challenging," Li said. "U.S. prep schools are demanding intellectually, but they also emphasize creativity. It has helped me find my direction — turning the impossible into possibilities."

Her mother, Jin Min, is pleased. "Now she has creativity, instead of being a copying machine of knowledge, or an encyclo-

pedia," she said.

It helps that teens from affluent Chinese families are often well versed in English and American culture. Chinese students usually are required to demonstrate English proficiency before attending American high schools, although some U.S. schools offer remedial courses.

In any case, it's a big adjustment to study far from home. Experts warn parents to think twice before sending their children abroad and urge them to find proper guardianship or choose reputable boarding schools.

Keith Hernandez, vice president of the consulting company Duester Education, also cautions that an American high school education might not help Chinese students get into the top U.S. universities. Sometimes, too much U.S. experience could hurt an applicant's chances if admissions officers are seeking more diverse backgrounds, he said. "They are better prepared, but it's not going to be easier."

Opportunities for schools

Still, the rising demand is creating new opportunities for American schools and enterprising educators.

In Pennsylvania, Chinese investor Jiang Bairong has bought the grounds of an old school and opened the new Princeton International School of Mathematics and Science — miles away from Princeton University — in a partnership with the High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, an elite school in Beijing.

Principal Max McGee said he had about 30 students last fall and that the goal is to have 250 students in five years. Half would be international students — mostly from China.

"The students are immersed in English, and they learn how to write better," McGee said. "Even after one year, they have become accomplished writers, and they can present with eloquence, power and self-confidence."

FAITH



Changing Islam

PHOTOS BY DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Openly gay American Muslim Omar Akersim, 26, sits on his prayer rug Aug. 1 at his home in Los Angeles.

Progressive Muslim movement in America accepts once-taboo causes

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Omar Akersim prays regularly and observes the dawn-to-dusk Ramadan fast. He is also openly gay.

Akersim, 26, is part of a small but growing number of American Muslims challenging the long-standing interpretations of Islam that defined their parents' world. They believe that one can be gay and Muslim; that the sexes can pray shoulder-to-shoulder; that females can preach; and that Muslim women can marry outside the faith — and they point to Quran passages to back them up.

The shift comes as young American Muslims work to reshape the faith they grew up with so it fits better with their complex, dual identity, with one foot in the world of their parents' immigrant beliefs and one foot in the ever-shifting cultural landscape of America. The result has been a growing internal dialogue about what it means to be Muslim, as well as a scholarly effort to re-examine the Quran for new interpretations that challenge rules that had seemed set in stone.

"Islam in America is being forced to kind of change and to re-evaluate its positions on things like homosexuality because of how we're moving forward culturally as a nation," said Akersim, who leads a Los Angeles-based support group for gay Muslims. "It's striving to make itself seen

and known in the cultural fabric and to do that, it does have to evolve. Ten or 15 years ago, that would have been impossible."

The shift doesn't end with breaking obvious taboos, either. Young American Muslims are making forays into fashion and music and stirring things up with unorthodox takes on staples of American pop culture. A recent controversial YouTube video, for example, shows Muslim hipsters — or "Mipsterz" — skateboarding in head scarves and skinny jeans as Jay-Z's "Somewhere in America" blasts in the background.

Nearly 40 percent of the estimated 2.75 million Muslims in the U.S. are American-born and the number is growing, with the Muslim population skewing younger than the U.S. population at large, according to a 2011 Pew Research Center survey.

Advocates for a more tolerant Islam say the constraints on interfaith marriage and homosexuality aren't in the Quran, but are based on conservative interpretations of Islamic law that have no place in the U.S. Historically, in many Muslim countries, there are instances of unsegregated prayers and interfaith marriage.

"I think it's fair to say the traditional Islam that we experienced excluded a lot of Muslims that were on the margins," said Tanzila Ahmed, 35, who published an anthology of love stories by Muslim American women in 2012



The book "Progressive Muslims" is placed next to the Quran, the Muslim holy book, at the home of Omar Akersim.

called "Love Inshallah." "I always felt not very welcomed by the type of Islam my parents practiced."

Many second-generation American Muslims still practice their faith in traditional ways, but others are starting to see the Islam of their parents as more of a cultural identity, said Dr. Yvonne Haddad, a Georgetown University professor who has written extensively about Islam's integration into U.S. society.

As a result, there's a new emphasis on meeting for prayer and socializing in neutral spaces, such as community centers instead of mosques, and on universal inclusion.

"Some of them still want a

mosque, they still want to belong and to pray and others are shifting and they are very comfortable being nonreligious," Haddad said. "These people feel that they can get rid of the hang-ups of what the culture has defined as Muslim and maintain the beliefs and values, the spiritual values, and feel very comfortable by shedding all the other restrictions that society has put on them."

In Los Angeles, a religious group called Muslims for Progressive Values has been pushing the boundaries with a female imam who performs same-sex and interfaith marriages, support groups for gay Muslims and a worship style that includes

women giving sermons and men and women praying together. The group has chapters in half a dozen major U.S. cities and at least six foreign countries and last year was recognized by the United Nations as an official non-governmental organization.

Founder Ani Zonneveld, a Muslim singer and songwriter of Malaysian descent, started the group in 2007 after she recorded some Islamic pop music that generated a backlash because it featured a Muslim woman singing.

"For us, the interpretation of Islam is egalitarian values — and by egalitarian it's not just words that we speak. It's practice," she said. "It's freedom of religion and from religion, too."

Akersim, the gay Muslim, knows first-hand how hard that shift will be.

Last year, he fled his parents' home in the middle of the night after they called him at work and demanded to know when he was going to get married. He stays in touch with his mother, but hasn't spoken to his father in a year and a half.

Now, he avoids mosques but prays privately. He has no regrets about coming out, he said.

"All these struggles that I've had to endure have only brought me closer to God," Akersim said. "Within that storm, I feel like I've been able to persevere because of my faith because of this strength from God."

NATION

Autistic adults find success as entrepreneurs

By **JOYCE M. ROSENBERG**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Matt Cottle asked his boss to let him work in the supermarket's bakery, she told him he'd never do anything more than collect grocery carts.

After six years of bagging groceries and pushing carts, Cottle wanted more. He had already learned how to do some baking.

Cottle is autistic. And today he's an entrepreneur, the owner of Stuttering King Bakery, turning out batches of cookies, brownies and scones for cafes and businesses and groups that need catering.

"I was like, OK, I am destined to do something greater than that," Cottle said in the kitchen of his family's Arizona, home, where he spends hours each day filling orders. He generates \$1,200 monthly.

Cottle is one of a few known small business owners with autism, a brain disorder that affects a person's ability to comprehend, communicate and interact socially. There are varying degrees of autism, but even autistic people with the greatest capabilities can find it impossible to get a job because they take longer to read or process information, or because they struggle to hold conversa-



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Matt Cottle, owner of Stuttering King Bakery, smiles as he holds a tray of his scones in his parents' kitchen in Scottsdale, Ariz., in July.

tions. One in 68 people have some form of autism, according to government figures.

There is a growing movement to help autistic adults find jobs, but for Cottle and his family, the answer was a business of his own.

Cottle had taken training to do search-and-rescue operations. And he tried working in a bakery.

Both times, he encountered people who didn't understand him, and who ended up yelling at and insulting him, his mother, Peg Cottle, said.

He wanted to enroll in a culinary school, but an administrator gently told him and his parents it wouldn't work out. Four years ago, the Southwest Autism Re-

search and Research Center, or SAARC, connected Cottle with a pastry chef who mentored him. In August 2012, he unexpectedly got an order from a cafe operated by Phoenix-based SAARC. At that point, Cottle told his parents he was starting his own baking business.

"I'm happy as an angel," he said.

Many autistic people can run businesses if they're given the chance to discover something they like and develop skills around their interests, said Temple Grandin, one of the best-known advocates for people with autism. "If you get them exposed to something, they can get a career," said Grandin, author of "The Autistic Brain."

Grandin, who has autism, didn't speak until she was 4 years old. In her teens, Grandin was exposed to horses at a boarding school and cattle on her aunt's ranch, and she began working with farm animals. She eventually created a business designing equipment for handling livestock.

People with the most severe autism aren't able to work because their disabilities limit their ability to learn. But it's only in the last two decades that society has come to realize that many people with disabilities including autism can

work, said Paul Pizzutello, principal of Reach Academy, a school whose students include some who are autistic.

"With many people with autism, it's not their intellect that a problem; it's their ability to engage with their environment and manage social contacts," he said.

When Cottle's parents tried to help him get a job, they explained to prospective bosses that because he is autistic, he needs more time to understand instructions. The companies either didn't want to take the time to learn how to work with him or they assumed Cottle might do or say inappropriate things. He grew frustrated.

"He was at a brick wall before he started his bakery," Peg Cottle said.

Soon after starting, Cottle and his mother attended entrepreneurship training classes offered by Seed Spot, an organization that helps socially responsible businesses.

"He's legitimate. The product he produces is the real deal. His disability doesn't even come into play as far as I'm concerned," said Chris Norcross, general manager of building company and Stuttering King customer Mortenson Construction. He orders as many as 300 cookies at a time.

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NATION



PHOTOS BY CATLIN SEAVIEW SURVEY/AP

Above: Catlin Seaview Survey's Manuel Gonzalez surveys an area underwater in Key Largo, Fla. U.S. government scientists hope people will soon be able to go online and get a 360-degree view of reefs and other underwater wonders, much like Google Map's "street view" lets people look at homes.

Street view is going undersea

Mapping project aims to offer online images of nation's marine sanctuaries

The Associated Press

ISLAMORADA, Fla. — It's easy to go online and get a 360-degree, ground-level view of almost any street in the United States and throughout the world. Soon, scientists hope people will be able to do the same with coral reefs and other underwater wonders.

U.S. government scientists are learning to use specialized fisheye lenses underwater in the Florida Keys in hopes of applying "street view" mapping to research and management plans in marine sanctuaries nationwide. Some of the rotating and panoramic images will be available online as early as this week, including a selection on Google Maps, giving the public a window into ecosystems still difficult and costly to explore for long stretches of time.

It will be like scuba diving from your computer.

About 400,000 images have been produced so far of reefs off Australia and in the Caribbean, but this is the first time the technology is being used in U.S. waters.

The images in the U.S. will add scale and details to data that has already been collected, and illustrate the successes and failures of coral restoration. They will also help scientists study the effects of warming ocean temperatures, pollution and hurricanes on reefs, officials said.

"This allows people who can't get

underwater to understand what we mean by putting up a special preservation area around this particular spot," said Mitchell Tartt, chief of the conservation science division at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

The basketball-shaped, triple-lens SVII cameras use the same technology that's used to produce Google Street View images of neighborhoods on land. Instead of being placed on top of a car, the 143-pound riggings are tethered to scuba divers and powered through the water by small motors. Smaller versions mounted on tripods also are being tested in the Keys.

In images previewed Monday by project director Richard Vevers, endangered elkhorn coral, bleached fields of dead coral and coral nurseries suspended like hanging plants in the Keys' blue waters were in sharp focus as they rotated on screen.

The cameras and training in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for six NOAA officials are being paid for as part of a partnership with the Catlin Seaview Survey, funded by the global insurance company Catlin. Google also is a sponsor.

The images that have been produced so far from other Catlin surveys are being uploaded online to the Catlin Global Reef Record. The project moves next into Southeast Asia, Vevers said.



"Christ of the Abyss" is surveyed with cameras off Key Largo on Aug. 6. Scientists are using a specialized fisheye lenses to produce underwater images of the Florida Keys. Some of the photos will be available online this week.



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FACES

TV

It's not like it used to be

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

Manjula Stokes has twice sworn off television, once throwing a set off her deck in a fit over an ex-husband's sports obsession. Now she's a devotee of programs like "Downton Abbey," "Mad Men," "Survivor" and "Masters of Sex."

The teacher from Santa Cruz, Calif., illustrates a subtle change in society's attitude toward television. The medium is growing in stature, propelled by both art and technology. More worthy programs are available at a time when viewers are becoming more comfortable setting up their own schedules to watch.

"I feel it's more like reading a good book," Stokes said. "The acting is better, the direction is better. I think it's more serious as an art form."

A CBS survey of 700 people in the U.S. with Internet and television connections last year found that 28 percent said they're watching more television than they did a year ago. Seventeen percent say they're watching less, with the remainder indicating their habits are unchanged.

That might not seem like much, but there's a long history of people saying they are watching, or plan to watch, less TV — even as Nielsen measurements proved the opposite is true.

In other words, liking television is becoming more socially acceptable.

"You can go to a sophisticated party in New York City now and people will be talking about television programming, not the latest art film or the latest play," said David Poltrack, CBS' veteran chief researcher. "You can go to a bar in a lower

People are watching more programming but in different ways

socio-economic neighborhood and they'll be talking about television. They may be talking about different programs, but they'll still be talking about television."

Now, for every award-winning drama there's a series about botched plastic surgeries, naked dating or Kardashians. But the push among cable networks during the past decade to make their own original series has significantly increased the amount of quality programs.

For years, polls uncovered a certain shameful attitude toward watching television. When asked in 2000 how much time they spent watching TV the previous day, 84 percent of respondents told the Pew Research Center it was less than four hours. That didn't jibe with the Nielsen company's finding that the average American that year watched four hours, 15 minutes of television a day. A Gallup poll in 1990 found 49 percent of people said they spent too much time watching television. Only 19 percent said they watched too little. Nine years ago when CBS began its annual survey, more people said they were cutting back on TV time.

This year, Nielsen estimates the average American watches four hours, 50 minutes of TV a day.

"I think the quality is better," said Yael Chanoff, a 25-year-old writer from San

Francisco. She's a fan of smart comedies such as NBC's "Parks & Recreation." "Many older shows Chanoff has seen, even hits like "Friends," strike her as cliché-ridden.

Some better shows now have an attention to detail that reminds Stokes, who is 59, of work done by the MGM movie studio during the last century.

Cory Phare, a 33-year-old academic conference director from Denver, said he grew up watching a lot of television but drifted away. The ability to binge on well-written dramas such as "Breaking Bad," "The Americans" and "Dexter" through Netflix drew him back in. He just finished going back to watch the entire run of "The West Wing."

"Even when I'm on a lunch break, I pull it up on my smartphone," he said.

That's another key to television's resurgence. Viewers no longer depend on prime-time schedules set up in Hollywood boardrooms; they don't even have to depend on television. Stokes, Chanoff and Phare all consider themselves fans of modern-day TV, and none of them have cable or satellite subscriptions. "My friends all watch it on computer," Chanoff said. She finds a friend with cable to watch "Parks & Recreation," the only show she cares to watch live.

Television continues on firm footing financially despite the rise of digital video outlets like Netflix and YouTube. The research firm eMarketer Inc. predicted TV ad spending will hit \$78.6 billion in 2018, up from \$66.4 billion last year.

Fears of so-called cord-cutting, in which people drop their TV subscriptions and rely on online video services, was "surprisingly benign" in the second quarter, with just 305,000 households — less than one-tenth of a percent — quitting pay TV, according to financial advisory firm MoffettNathanson LLC.

Music award shows announce nominees

■ The Boxcars, Blue Highway and The Del McCoury Band are the leading nominees in the 2014 International Bluegrass Music Awards. The nominations were announced Wednesday in Nashville, by the International Bluegrass Music Association, which will hold the award show on Oct. 2 in Raleigh, N.C. Individually and as a five-piece group, The Boxcars received 10 nominations, including album of the year and two for song of the year. Members Ron Stewart and Adam Steffey also drew individual nominations for performance and musicianship. Blue Highway received nine nominations, including entertainer of the year and album of the year, as well as nominations for band members Tim Stafford and Rob Ickes. The Del McCoury Band has six nominations with individual nominations for members Del McCoury and Jason Carter.

■ Hillsong United, Lecrae, Mandisa and Matt Maher lead the 45th annual Dove Awards nominations for artists with five apiece for gospel and Christian music excellence. The nominations were announced Wednesday at Lipscomb University in Nashville, where the award show will be held Oct. 7. Producer and songwriter Wayne Haun leads all nominees with 12 nominations overall. Hillsong United's Lecrae and Mandisa are all up for artist of the year along with NEEDTOBREATHE, Casting Crowns and Switchfoot. Maher, Hillsong United and Mandisa also are nominated for contemporary Christian performance of the year, along with for KING & COUNTRY and Natalie Grant.

Other news

■ "Today" host Savannah Guthrie has a new daughter. Vale Guthrie Feldman was born Wednesday morning at a New York hospital. Husband Mike Feldman was by Guthrie's side.

■ A judge says Chris Brown has been doing well and following his probation rules since his release from jail in June. The singer appeared in a Los Angeles court Wednesday for a progress report. Judge James Brandin reduced Brown's drug test requirement from three times to twice a week and said he's been in compliance with his probation officer and cooperating with his therapist.

■ Kings of Leon is putting the band's tour plans on ice for the rest of August to allow drummer Nathan Followill to recover from a broken rib.

■ Justin Bieber's guilty plea to charges of careless driving and resisting arrest puts an end to a legal saga that began seven months ago inside a rented Lamborghini at what police called an illegal drag race. The judge who accepted Bieber's plea Wednesday said it's time for the 20-year-old singer to stop his misbehavior — especially for his millions of fans.

■ David Letterman is a finalist for this year's Thurber Prize for American Humor. Letterman and illustrator Bruce McCall have been nominated for the satirical picture book "This Land Was Made for You and Me (But Mostly Me)."



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Chicken crossing road blocks traffic — no joke

OR PORTLAND — Portland police were told there was a chicken — and it was attempting to cross the road.

In the city, the citizen who called the police nonemergency line on Monday evening reported that the chicken's efforts to cross a road in a north Portland neighborhood were bringing traffic nearly to a standstill.

He assured the dispatcher he was not joking.

The dispatcher chuckled — and asked a clarifying question.

"It's just the one chicken?" The caller said yes.

Sgt. Pete Simpson said police "were unable to determine the chicken's intent."

Artists: We switched Brooklyn Bridge flags

NY NEW YORK — Two German artists have claimed responsibility for replacing American flags on the Brooklyn Bridge with faded white versions last month in an urban mystery that exposed holes in security at one of the city's most enduring landmarks.

Berlin-based Mischa Leinkauf and Mattias Wermke said Tuesday that they hoisted the hand-sewn white flags onto the 131-year-old bridge's neo-gothic stone towers as a celebration of public art in "the global center of creativity."

They said they switched the flags early on July 22 to commemorate the 145th anniversary of German-born Brooklyn Bridge architect John August Roebling's death.

Hoax report: Cougar escaped from pet store

SC AIKEN — Officers in South Carolina spent hours searching for a mountain lion on the loose from a pet store — but police now say the threat was based on a false report.

Police said Bill Lunford, 55, reported the escaped animal about 1 a.m. Sunday in Aiken. He said a burglar broke into a pet store and let the animal loose. Police warned residents that the domesticated, declawed mountain lion was 3 feet tall and 100 pounds, wearing a dog harness.

Aiken Police told WRDQ-TV that about a dozen officers looked for the cat for up to 18 hours.

Police now say the report was a hoax. Lunford was charged with filing a false police report.

Deaths of 3 in car are blamed on overheating

MD HAGERSTOWN — A woman and her two young daughters found dead in their car in a middle school parking lot in June died from accidental overheating, the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner said Tuesday.

The formal cause of death was hyperthermia and environmental heat exposure, Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner spokesman Bruce Goldfarb said. He said the autopsy reports won't be out for at least a month.

Guyanese immigrant Allison

THE CENSUS

\$102K

The value of whiskey allegedly drank by John Saunders, 63, of Irwin, Pa., who was supposed to be safeguarding the liquor. A district judge last year ordered Saunders to stand trial on criminal charges, but the Tribune-Review reported Saunders died July 21, ending the case. Patricia Hill, owner of the South Broadway Manor Bed and Breakfast, told police she found nine 12-bottle cases of whiskey hidden in the century-old mansion built by industrialist J.P. Brennan after she bought it in 2011. According to court records, Hill hired Saunders to care for the property. When Hill went to have the pre-Prohibition Old Farm Pure Rye Whiskey appraised in March 2012 she discovered 52 empty bottles.



PATRICK DODSON, THE (SCHENECTADY, N.Y.) GAZETTE/AP

World War II charm

A commemorative World War II B-17 Flying Fortress stands at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum at Schenectady County Airport in Glenville, N.Y., on Tuesday. Guided tours of the airplane are available during events marking the 30th anniversary of the museum.

Keyonda Pluck, formerly Allison Lancaster, 32, was found dead in her silver Nissan sedan June 16 along with the bodies of Shanika Gill, 18 months, and Shameka Gill, 6 months. The mother was reclined in the driver's seat and the girls were strapped in their child seats in the back with the windows closed, the ignition off and the doors unlocked, police said.

So far no one has paid capital's marijuana fine

DC WASHINGTON — Nearly three dozen civil citations have been issued in the District of Columbia since marijuana possession was decriminalized, but so far none of the fines has been paid.

Violators have 14 days from the time a ticket is issued to pay the \$25 fine or contest the ticket, so some of those fines could be paid in coming days.

So far, though, the city's Office of Administrative Hearings said none of the 35 tickets issued between July 17 and Aug. 8 have

been paid.

USS Arizona shrine wall to be replaced

HI HONOLULU — A marble wall with the names of the 1,177 sailors and Marines killed on the USS Arizona will be replaced during the next two months.

National Park Service spokesman Amanda Carona told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser that the shrine room at the Arizona Memorial will be closed off but will be visible to visitors. She said most of the work will be done after hours.

The original wall was replaced in 1984. The current wall has become stained and eroded from salt water.

2 dead, 3 wounded in violent rampage

GA CARTERSVILLE — Northwest Georgia authorities are trying to untangle the details of a violent rampage that left two people dead and three

wounded Tuesday when a gunman shot multiple victims at one house, crashed a car into another house, shot the occupant, committed a carjacking, crashed the vehicle and shot himself in the head.

Bartow County Sheriff Clark Millsap said the gunman fled the initial scene and crashed a car into a house where he kicked in the door and shot an occupant in the hand.

Millsap said the shooter then carjacked an elderly man and his grandson and crashed their vehicle into a truck. The impact caused a fire and the gunman then killed himself. Neither the man nor child was injured in the carjacking.

Growing wine industry poised for harvest

KS WICHITA — It's grape harvest time in Kansas, and the state's growing wine industry is expecting a big crop this year.

The Kansas Grape Growers & Winemakers Association said the state has 35 registered wineries

and vineyards. Most are small, with two to five acres of grapes, rather than large-scale farms.

The Wichita Eagle reported the state's climate doesn't allow wineries to grow well-known grapes such as Cabernet or Merlot. They grow hybrids that include part of the heartier native American grapes.

Frat house to become upscale student housing

AZ TUCSON — A University of Arizona building that housed a now-disgraced fraternity is being converted into high-end student housing.

The Arizona Daily Star reported that the university is remodeling the \$1.8 million Greek Row house to fit approximately 62 students along with two residence advisers.

The house was formerly occupied by Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, which has been investigated for hazing and serving alcohol to minors.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Report: Retail sales stagnant in July

By REBECCA ROBBINS

The Washington Post

The stars were supposed to be aligning for the retail industry. With more Americans working and a key measure of consumer confidence at its highest level in nearly seven years, many economists predicted that retail sales would rise modestly for the sixth straight month.

But on Wednesday, the Commerce Department reported that

retail sales stayed flat in July, a sobering reminder that stagnant growth in retail is keeping consumers cautious.

Growth of retail and food services sales saw virtually no change in July compared with June, and showed just 0.1 percent change excluding automobiles and gas. The July figures marked the retail industry's worst performance since bad weather kept shoppers home in January.

"It's a bit of a head-scratcher, given all the positive news we've been seeing on the labor front," Ken Perkins, president of Retail Metrics, said of the unexpectedly low July sales figures.

July's numbers were pulled down in part by weak department store sales, which fell 0.7 percent. That performance was highlighted by retail giant Macy's, which posted weak second quarter financial results on Wednesday. Macy's saw its sales for the quar-

ter rise by 3.3 percent year over year, falling short of analysts' predictions.

The news was so disappointing that Macy's downgraded its same-store sales outlook for the year to 1.5 to 2 percent, down from its previous forecast of 2.5 to 3 percent growth.

Same-store sales, which do not include stores opened or closed in the past 12 months, are considered a key measure of a retailer's health.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 15)	\$1.3742
Dollar buys (Aug. 15)	€0.7277
British pound (Aug. 15)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (Aug. 15)	100.00
South Korean won (Aug. 15)	999.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6687/0.593
Canada (dollar)	1.0902
China (Yuan)	6.1553
Denmark (Krone)	5.5422
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3404/0.7461
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7263
Hungary (Forint)	232.83
Israel (Shekel)	3.4622
Japan (Yen)	102.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2833
Norway (Krone)	6.1425
Philippines (Peso)	43.58
Poland (Zloty)	3.12
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2447
South Korea (Won)	1,020.25
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9038
Thailand (Baht)	31.85
Turkey (New Lira)	1,4486

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

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.088	\$2.987	\$4.153	\$4.146
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.7 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.6 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.788	\$5.073	\$4.999
Change in price	---	-5.4 cents	-5.5 cents	-1.4 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.957	\$4.123	\$4.116
Change in price	---	-1.7 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.0 cents
Azores	---	---	\$4.099	---
Change in price	---	---	-1.6 cents	---
Belgium	---	\$3.980	\$4.180	\$4.240
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$4.248	\$4.993
Change in price	---	---	-1.1 cents	no change
Italy	---	---	\$4.256	---
Change in price	---	---	no change	---

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$5.870	---	\$3.829
Change in price	---	+19.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.639	---	---	\$3.829
Change in price	-3.0 cents	---	---	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.629	---	\$3.979	\$3.969
Change in price	-1.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents	---
Guam	\$3.619*	\$3.799	\$3.969	---
Change in price	-1.0 cents*	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents	---

* Diesel EFD ** Mildgrade
For the week of Aug. 16-22

MARKET WATCH

	Aug. 13, 2014
Dow Jones Industrials	+91.26 16,651.80
Nasdaq composite	+44.87 4,434.13
Standard & Poor's 500	+12.97 1,946.72
Russell 2000	+8.75 1,141.78

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.09
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.25

WEATHER OUTLOOK



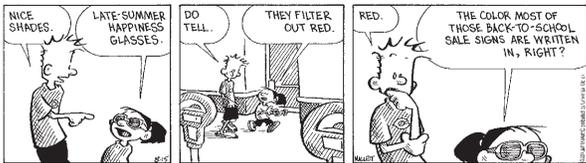
Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	98	71	Cld	Chatanooga	88	63	Cir	Fort Wayne	78	47	Cir	Louisville	83	61	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	74	50	Cir	Cheyenne	81	60	Pcldy	Fresno	96	68	Cir	Lubbock	96	68	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	70	54	Cldy	Chicago	81	57	Pcldy	Goodland	93	64	Pcldy	Macon	91	66	Cir
Albuquerque	90	66	Pcldy	Cincinnati	78	53	Cir	Grand Junction	81	54	Pcldy	Madison	82	52	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	77	53	Pcldy	Cleveland	73	52	Cir	Grand Rapids	77	50	Pcldy	Medford	91	60	Cir
Amarillo	93	66	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	86	58	Pcldy	Great Falls	85	59	Cldy	Memphis	90	67	Cir
Anchorage	64	55	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	91	67	Cir	Green Bay	81	54	Pcldy	Miami Beach	91	80	Cir
Ashville	80	58	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	92	69	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	84	60	Cir	Midland-Odessa	98	72	Cir
Atlanta	88	66	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	72	51	Cldy	Hartford	77	57	Pcldy	Milwaukee	87	56	Pcldy
Atlantic City	81	58	Cir	Corpus Christi	97	78	Cir	Helena	87	58	Cir	Missoula	82	53	Rain
Austin	81	58	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	96	73	Cir	Honolulu	99	75	Pcldy	Mobile	93	67	Pcldy
Baltimore	80	54	Cir	Dayton	75	48	Cir	Houston	96	75	Cldy	Montgomery	94	65	Cir
Baton Rouge	93	70	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	91	76	Rain	Indianapolis	90	61	Cir	Nashville	89	63	Pcldy
Birmingham	90	62	Cldy	Denver	86	61	Pcldy	Indianspolis	85	59	Cir	St. Petersburg	92	75	Pcldy
Bismark	88	65	Cldy	Des Moines	86	65	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	63	Cir	St. Thomas	92	80	Cir
Boise	89	62	Pcldy	Detroit	77	51	Cldy	Jacksonville	91	74	Rain	St. Louis	88	81	Rain
Boston	75	61	Pcldy	Duluth	80	57	Cldy	Janeau	63	54	Rain	St. Paul	79	69	Cir
Bridgport	78	58	Pcldy	El Paso	94	74	Cir	Kansas City	86	67	Pcldy	North Platte	89	64	Cldy
Brownsville	96	78	Pcldy	Elkins	73	45	Cir	Key West	90	63	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	95	68	Pcldy
Buffalo	71	54	Pcldy	Erie	71	54	Pcldy	Knoxville	86	62	Cir	Omaha	85	64	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	66	53	Cldy	Fargo	88	56	Pcldy	Lake Charles	91	72	Pcldy	Orlando	93	76	Rain
Caribou, Maine	68	56	Cldy	Flagstaff	76	51	Pcldy	Lansing	76	46	Cir	Pendleton	83	61	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	92	72	Pcldy	Fort Smith	91	67	Cir	Las Vegas	101	80	Rain	Piedmont	83	61	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	80	51	Cir	Fort Worth	88	56	Pcldy	Lexington	81	58	Pcldy	Phoenix	83	59	Pcldy
Charlotte, N.C.	86	65	Pcldy	Fort Worth	88	56	Pcldy	Lincoln	86	66	Cldy	Philadelphia	80	61	Cir
								Little Rock	89	64	Cir	Phoenix	104	85	Cir
								Los Angeles	84	65	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	74	50	Cir

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 114, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 34, Bodie State Park, Calif.

Frazz



Dilbert



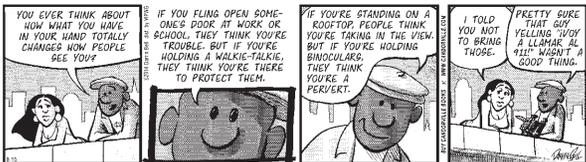
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12			13					14				
15		16						17				
18							19	20				
		21					22		23	24	25	
26	27	28				29			30			
31						32			33			
34					35			36				
37								39				
			40					41		42	43	44
45	46	47					48	49				
50								51			52	
53											54	55

ACROSS

- 1 TV waitress
- 4 Stroller, in London
- 8 "— of Our Lives"
- 12 Manmade seat?
- 13 Luau entertainment
- 14 Bread spread
- 15 Saint of Hollywood
- 17 Piquancy
- 18 Polish president, 1990-95
- 19 Away from NNW
- 21 Slithery fish
- 22 Tuna holder
- 26 Metal fasteners
- 29 Pioneer of Dadaism
- 30 Poker player's "bullet"
- 31 Wading bird
- 32 Pair
- 33 Fairy tale baddie
- 34 "That's show —"
- 35 Formal garb
- 36 Reeves/Bullock movie
- 37 Radio interference
- 39 That girl
- 40 Blond shade
- 41 County, in Louisiana
- 45 Pinnacle
- 48 Rosary recitation
- 50 Site of great activity

DOWN

- 54 Margarine servings
- 55 Witness
- 1 Soared
- 2 Kilauea outflow
- 3 October birthstone
- 4 Aspects
- 5 Countrified
- 6 "The Greatest"
- 7 Baton wielder
- 8 Flower shop amount
- 9 Head quaff
- 10 "Of course"
- 11 Drunkard
- 16 Bumps into
- 20 Try the tea
- 23 Zoo structure
- 24 Farm fraction
- 25 Requirement
- 27 Last write-up?
- 28 Joel's "Cabaret" co-star
- 29 Verb type (Abbr.)
- 32 "Nude Descending a Staircase" painter
- 33 Met show
- 35 "— the season ..."
- 36 Embarrassment
- 38 One of Franklin's certainties
- 39 Exhausted
- 42 Eye part
- 43 Trigonometry function
- 44 Cod cousin
- 45 — moment
- 46 Glutton
- 47 Night before
- 49 By way of

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-15

CRYPTOQUIP

DOVB QFLGM XFL QVGG BOR
YRWHFM WHNOB PREFWR
CFURPFMX CFDC CFUR YGVIBC?

BOR YWR-CRRMHIN MVX.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A HAPPY FELLOW'S FACE LIGHTS UP AT THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION, HE'S A VERY EASY-GLOWING GUY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Y

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Crises won't let 'Pacific pivot' take root

By GARY SCHMITT

What do President Barack Obama's decision to authorize airstrikes against the Sunni militants of Islamic State and his previous commitment to send American military advisers and trainers back into Iraq have to do with his "pivot" to Asia? Everything and nothing.

Nothing in the sense that the battle in Iraq has little bearing today on what China might do in the South China Sea tomorrow. But everything in the sense that the underlying assumption that drove Obama to pivot away from the Middle East toward Asia — to "rebalance," as it was later called — is very much in question.

When the rebalance toward Asia was officially confirmed as administration policy in January 2012, the Pentagon's release of a new strategic policy guidance, the underlying impetus was clear: Defense resources could no longer support the long-standing U.S. strategy of maintaining the capability to fight two major conflicts at the same time — the "two-war standard." With no apparent political prospects for closing the gap in military resources, the administration made a strategic decision to stabilize an increasingly problematic situation in Asia.

The logic for paying more attention to Asia was apparent. The region was seen as a key area of expansion for the American economy. Politically, it was home to populous liberal democracies, India and Indonesia; a newly vibrant South Korea; and long-standing friends and allies such as Taiwan and Japan.

It was also home, of course, to a rising China. Initially, the Obama team had hoped to create a new synthesis of "strategic patience" and "strategic engagement" concerning such as China's human rights record, the plan was to develop a virtual smorgasbord of agenda items that would reflect overlapping interests between the two countries.

The administration was doubling down on a policy of engagement.

As Obama's strategy unfolded, however, the delegation of his efforts to salvage the 2009 Copenhagen climate change summit, overlapping interests are not the same thing as having the same priorities. China's leaders were undoubtedly concerned about the country's environmental problems, but their more pressing concern was making sure that the country continues to grow economically. More stringent carbon emission standards were, they believed, at odds with that more immediate need.

As the Obama team also discovered, its attempts to engage more deeply with Beijing were complicated by the government's reaction. Beijing read these efforts as an implicit signal that a war-weary and recession-ridden Washington was scrambling to make the best of its declining global position. Instead of accepting the administration's offer of a new "G-2" condominium, China's ambitions seemed to grow no recede — as it continued a military buildup and became even more assertive with neighboring states.

It was principally that deteriorating state of affairs that the administration rightly wanted to address with the rebalance.

It also coincided with the administration's perspective that continuing to draw down military forces in Europe was reasonable in the absence of any perceived security problem facing the continent. It also squared with the president's own determination to end, as much as possible, military involvement in the Middle East and North Africa. Two-war capability isn't needed if your focus is really on only half the globe.

But that does not take into account a key strategic reason for maintaining two-war capability. According to the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review, as possible military policy and spending plan, having "a core capability is central ... to avoiding a situation in which an aggressor in one region might be tempted to take advantage when

U.S. forces are heavily engaged elsewhere." This broader military capacity also allowed the Pentagon to argue for "continued engagement in shaping the international environment to reduce the chances that such threats will develop in the first place." In other words, power does abhor a vacuum. If the U.S. is not there to deter, would-be aggressors will probably take advantage.

Isn't this the situation the country faces today? As the administration pivoted away from Europe and the Middle East, our adversaries — be they Russia, Iran or the jihadists — have become emboldened and more than willing to fill the vacuum we have left. Ironically, the Obama team harshly criticized the previous administration for foreign policies it viewed as off target — they accused the Bush administration of spending too much time focused on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and far too little on American diplomatic, economic and security interests in Asia. Yet today the very hot spots that are consuming the current administration's attention and dominating Secretary of State John Kerry's travel schedule are precisely those areas the Obama White House has wanted to disengage from militarily.

Without question, giving greater attention to Asia is called for, but if it comes at the expense of other key parts of the globe, it probably will be counterproductive. As the president is discovering, America's resources and attention will continue to be drawn back into those areas as the security situation worsens.

A true rebalancing is neither possible, given the state of today's U.S. military, nor likely to be sustainable if planned defense cuts are not reversed. The reality is that the United States cannot rebalance on the cheap.

Gary Schmitt is director of the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. He has also appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Airstrikes on Islamic State will lose effectiveness

By ROBERT H. SCALES

In the winter of 1951, President Dwight Eisenhower reluctantly allowed the French army to employ American napalm against the Viet Minh at the Battle of Vinh Yen. The effect was electric. Enemy soldiers were petrified.

"The bomb falls closely behind us, and I feel its fiery breath," a Viet Minh officer recounted in a history passage quoted in *The Vietnam War* by Fred Wittman and Joy. "The men are now fleeing in all directions. ... I stop at the platoon commander ... his eyes were wide with terror. 'What is this? The atom bomb?'"

In a short time, however, the psychological impact of the pyrotechnics of burning gel waned. To the Vietnamese, napalm became just another kind of bomb, deadly and destructive to be sure, but no more frightening than any other air-delivered weapon. The French increased the use of napalm in subsequent battles, but by the time the French army surrendered in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu, Wittman had learned that napalm, like all airstrikes, could be avoided through concealment, dispersion and entrenchment.

Right now, the Islamic State is going through this same evolutionary process along the western border of Kurdistan. As one can see from the grainy black-and-white "gun camera" tapes released by the Pentagon, the U.S. airstrikes of the past week have mostly succeeded. Lazy and overconfident Islamic State forces positioned their artillery and mortars in the open. Their convoys were bunched together and tended to travel along established

highways, where they could easily be spotted by drones. As planes approached, fighters cowered in fear or ran away.

Expect them to learn quickly from these mistakes. Many Islamic State commanders are former Baathist officers who have seen U.S. firepower in action and understand how to respond to it. Some are veterans of almost 30 years of Syrian bomb strikes and are comfortable with quickly taking cover at the first sight of aircraft overhead. Recent images show they are dispersing from their newly acquired U.S. tanks, Humvees and artillery. They also are beginning to hide their command posts in villages and along the borders. First, Syrian bomb strikes are being stuffed into houses, where they cannot be spotted from the air. It's an old tactic that works. Just ask the Israelis.

Recent history suggests there will be strategic consequences from seeking to blunt the Islamic State advance through airpower. First, Syrian bomb strikes will generally take only a few weeks for a disciplined force to become inured to the psychological effects of such firepower.

Second, as the enemy becomes harder to kill, a greater investment will be needed to get the same results. Soon "targeted" strikes by one or two Syrian bomb strikes are meaningless, and more bombs will be needed. This will require a proper campaign, which will increase the density of aircraft overhead and the risk to pilots. We saw this happen in the Balkans in 1999.

Third, as reconnaissance get located from 100 miles, it will become necessary to push ground retargeting units for-

ward to find and flush Islamic State units into the open. This task will involve greater risk not just to Kurdish peshmarga fighters, but also to U.S. Special Forces units that must accompany them.

Fourth, as we increase our killing power and the Islamic State retreats into towns and cities, images of dead children — and possibly of their parents — will continue to emerge in the global media. Eventually, terrible as it is, the Islamic State narrative will begin to trump the U.S. narrative. When that moment arrives, we will have no other option but to turn the aircraft carriers around and go home.

Finally, the fighting, would be the terrible consequences of the Islamic State's managing to shoot down a piloted U.S. aircraft. Remember, these are clever and well-equipped soldiers who have downed many Syrian fighter jets over the past three years. Terrible images of a captured U.S. flier on an Islamic State website would inflame the conflict.

The bottom line is simple. In a firepower approach to war, escalation and mission creep are both inevitable and necessary. As the enemy grows more skilled, we will be left with two unattractive alternatives: escalate until tragedy occurs or accept defeatist status until the American people tire of these "targeted strikes." And when we fly away with the Islamic State still dominant on the battlefield, the terrorists will proclaim that the U.S. is a cowardly country that has been beaten again.

Robert H. Scales, a retired Army major general, is a former commander of the U.S. Army War College. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editors are provided to the Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Illegal crossing not only crime The (Bowling Green, Ky.) Daily News

It's no secret our southern border is in chaos with all of the illegal immigrants coming into this country and not nearly enough is being done about it.

President Barack Obama has done nothing but turn a blind eye to the situation. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said with a straight face that our southern border is secure. The only person who has shown any type of leadership on the issue is Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has sent 1,000 National Guard troops to the border.

Individuals are subject to arrest, prosecution and jail time when they commit crimes while being in our country illegally. Some serve their time before they're deported and pay a minimal fine. Others just vanish into the population only to defy our laws again.

Once these lawbreakers serve time, they cause a major problem by coming back — illegally — again. Some commit violent crimes when they return.

The latest such example involves the murder of a U.S. border agent in Texas. So far, the immigrants, Gustavo Tjerrina, 30, and Ismael Hernandez, 40, are charged with the first-degree murder of border patrol agent Javier Vega Jr.

They have confessed to killing Vega, who was off-duty when he was murdered by these two thugs. ... They wouldn't have been in our country had our country had secure borders as Reid attests.

What is so outrageous about this case, besides the murder of a U.S. citizen, is the fact that the men have extensive records of being deported and again illegally entering our country. ...

It is quite clear these two men have no respect for our laws or human life. Those who respect our laws and want to come to this country to reside ... go through the proper legal channels to enter our country.

The U.S. public still hasn't received adequate answers on that tragedy from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. Obama, Holder and Reid obviously don't care what is occurring on our southern border. Their inaction is proof of that.

US backing a butcher in Egypt The Washington Post

President Barack Obama insists that it is in the U.S. interest to maintain a strategic partnership with Egypt's new authoritarian government, while Secretary of State John Kerry insists that the "world's largest killings of demonstrators in a single day in recent history" and deserves prosecution by Human Rights Watch this week is particularly worthy of attention. According to a meticulous, yearlong investigation carried out by the group, the administration's attorney is guilty of the "world's largest killings of demonstrators in a single day in recent history" and deserves prosecution for crimes against humanity.

Don't expect the U.N. Human Rights Council or the Europeans marching against Israel to notice, but the massacre staged by Egyptian security forces on Aug. 14, 2013, in Cairo's Rabaa Square far exceeds, in its wanton use of force and calculated slaughter of women and children, any action by Israel during the recent fighting in Gaza. According to the Human Rights Watch investigation, at least 817 people, and probably more than 1,000, were killed when police and army troops advanced into the



square from each of its five main entrances, backed by armored personnel carriers, bulldozers and snipers on rooftops.

Tens of thousands of people, including many women and children, were camped in the square in protest of the military's July 3 coup against the elected government of Mohamed Morsi. Twelve hours later the area was littered with bodies and its mosque and hospital were on fire. In addition, security forces detained more than 800 people, whom they beat, tortured and in some cases summarily executed, according to witnesses interviewed by Human Rights Watch.

Perhaps the most shocking finding of the report is that senior Egyptian leaders anticipated and planned on the mass casualties. Interior Ministry officials told human rights workers nine days before the operation that they expected up to 3,500 deaths. A year later, authorities deny any wrongdoing and have not charged a single officer in connection with the killings. On the contrary, a monument celebrating the security forces has been erected in Rabaa Square. Human Rights Watch's lawyers believe that more than a dozen senior officials who ordered or oversaw the operation should be investigated for crimes against humanity, including el-Sissi.

More people died on Aug. 14 in Rabaa Square than in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 or in any mass killing of protesters since then, the human rights group reckons. In the last 12 months the most repressive regime seen in Egypt in decades has taken hold. ...

The White House seems to believe that its unprincipled embrace of the regime and cynical promotion of the falsehood that it is "restoring democracy" will advance broader U.S. interests in the Middle East. It's a bad bet.

From pain can come progress The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

The scenes and reports coming out of Ferguson, Mo., and some of the other hard-scrapable parts of north St. Louis County are ugly and surreal, like something happening in another time or a different part of the world.

This urban swath of Missouri has suddenly come to resemble a military zone, as heavily armed riot police face off against civilians, many of whom stand their ground with hands in the air and rage on their faces.

The fury that began on Saturday when a Ferguson police officer shot an unarmed teenager, 18-year-old Michael Brown, has manifested itself in demonstrations in the days since.

Some looting and vandalism have occurred, which serve only to detract from the urgent need to find out what happened.

But police must not make a bad situation worse. Reports of officers using tear gas and rubber bullets on citizens who were doing nothing more than trying to make

their way home are extremely concerning. Police in Ferguson and north St. Louis County ... need to keep the peace and protect people's property but with the least show of force required.

Also very worrisome are continued demands to name the police officer who shot Brown. An Internet vigilante group on Tuesday threatened to release information about the whereabouts of family members of the Ferguson police chief if the name of the officer continued to be withheld.

It is true that Michael Brown had no choice but to be named as the latest unarmed young black man to be killed by a law enforcement officer. But the quest for justice in his name will not be served by further violence. The identity of the police officer will come out in due course; right now the volatility of the situation justifies the decision to withhold it. ...

Based on reflections by people who knew him, there is little in Brown's background to square with the accusation offered by Ferguson police that he reached into a police cruiser and struggled for the officer's gun. Brown's companion has offered a disturbing version of events that portrays the officer as the aggressor. Whatever the truth, it is safe to say that Brown should not have died on Saturday. ...

Attorneys with the civil rights division of the U.S. Justice Department are working with the FBI on an investigation separate from a probe underway by the St. Louis County police. If Brown's death was as unprompted as his companion's account suggests, the officer must be brought to trial.

Meanwhile, we must listen to the people who have raised their hands in solidarity with Michael Brown. He is not an isolated incident but yet another symbol of the indignities and dangers that black people continue to face in America. The nation ignores those voices at its peril.

More jobs, but they pay less Orange County (Calif.) Register

Two new reports are one of the best taken together, provide a pretty good picture of how the U.S. labor force has fared since the economic recovery began in June 2009.

On Monday, the U.S. Conference of Mayors released a report, prepared by IHS Global Insight, noting that U.S. payroll employment reached an all-time high this past spring, finally surpassing the pre-recession peak of 138.4 million jobs, reached in the first quarter of 2008. Then the Labor Department reported Tuesday that there were 4.7 million job openings on the last business day of the month, a slight uptick from May, but also the highest number of openings in 13 years.

If the reports stopped there, it would be cause for celebration, from Orange County, Calif., to Orange County, Fla. But, as a wise man famously advised, all that glitters is not gold. Indeed, the Conference of Mayors report laments that jobs gained during the

economic recovery pay an average 23 percent less than jobs lost during the so-called Great Recession.

The annual wage was \$61,637 in sectors where jobs were lost in the economic downturn, which began in December 2007, while the average wage of new jobs gained through the second quarter of this year was only \$47,171. ...

As to the Labor Department's monthly report on Job Openings and Labor Turnover — known as JOLTS — it has been held out by Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen as an important barometer of the state of the nation's job market.

Continued strength in the next several JOLTS reports could portend a move by the Fed to ratchet up short-term interest rates. ... But Yellen and the Fed's board of governors are not strictly looking at job openings. They also are looking at the number of workers who voluntarily quit jobs and the number of workers hired.

Indeed, when workers voluntarily leave their employers, it usually means they have found better — usually higher-paying — jobs. That's a sign of a dynamic labor market. Similarly, when that nation's employers are competing with each other to hire workers to fill job openings, it's a sign of robust economic growth.

In June, some 2.53 million workers quit a job, the most since June 2008. Meanwhile, some 4.8 million Americans were hired in June.

Regrettably, that quit rate was a mere 1.8 percent in June, which is trending somewhat upward, but remains at a historically low level.

So, American workers are to be forgiven if they are not especially bullish about the nation's labor market. After five years of putative economic recovery, they almost certainly expected more.

CIA lawlessness long allowed The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger

The forthcoming release of the Senate committee report on the CIA's pointless use of torture will likely accomplish two things: It will illuminate how the agency is even more lawless than its reputation, and it will put its beleaguered director in the cross hairs of reformers.

And what happens after the nation gasps and turns to Jimmy Kimmel?

John Brennan, who has served the last three presidents, apologized last week for five CIA operations he had on the computer of Senate staffers investigating the agency — after he had denied the charge for six months. Yet even if that skullduggery was done with the CIA director's approval, it should be noted that such deceit isn't as serious as the torture the detainees and years of lying about it, but it would be a mild surprise if Congress focuses on the felony.

Indeed, the hacking matter is something the Justice Department must explore. But the larger issue is whether an oversight authority will allow a deranged blob of the intelligence community — all 17 agencies — to spy on the United States and carry on with the same impunity it enjoyed when it treated humans with the regard normally reserved for lab rats.

President Barack Obama, who banned torture on his second day in office, says he understood why it happened in the aftermath of 9/11. He understood it to carry on as a moral contingency, and misses the point. The practice went on throughout the Bush years, with no consequences for those responsible.

Will there even be an outcry when the 6,300-page report reveals how CIA brutality yielded nothing? ...

It is time to demand that probe into CIA activity had it right in 1975: "Intelligence agencies have undermined the constitutional rights of citizens," it concluded, "primarily because checks and balances designed by the framers of the Constitution to assure accountability have not been applied." Four decades later, we're still waiting.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

myafn.net

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
MLB — Suspended New York Mets minor league RHP Derrick Bereng for performance of a prohibited substance for 62 days without pay. Bereng was suspended for a metabolite of Nandrolone, a performance-enhancing substance in violation of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

American League
BALTIMORE Orioles — Placed INF Manny Sanguan on the 15-day DL retroactive to Tuesday. Transferred C Matt Winters from Norfolk (ACL). Selected the contract of INF Doc Phelps from Norfolk (IL).

LOUSTON Astros — Options Of Domingo Santana to Oklahoma City (PCL). Reinstated Of Doctor Fowler from the 15-day DL.

KANSAS CITY Royals — Placed LHP Scott Downs on the 15-day DL retroactive to Tuesday.

LOS ANGELES Angels — Options RHP Caleb Calk to Salt Lake (PCL). Recalled RHP Kyle Hynes from Norfolk (ACL).

NEW YORK Yankees — Designated RHP Raul Michael Pineda from the 60-day DL.

TEXAS Rangers — Placed RHP Yu Darvish on the 15-day DL retroactive to Aug. 10. Purchased the contract of LHP Alex Claudio from Round Rock (ACL).

TORONTO Blue Jays — Designated LHP Brad Mills for assignment. Claimed RHP Kyle Hynes off waivers from the Dodgers and assigned him to Buffalo.

National League
CHICAGO Cubs — Released LHP Felix Doubrnik on 10 days (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

LOS ANGELES Dodgers — Released 3B Chase Utley.

PITTSBURGH Pirates — Claimed C Ramon Cabrera off waivers from Detroit. Reinstated RHP Will Little on the assignment.

LOUIS Cardinals — Extended their player development contract with New York College (NYP) through the 2016 season.

SAN DIEGO Padres — Agreed to terms with Neko Gallardo on a minor league contract.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
DALLAS Cowboys — Released OL Andre Carter. Signed OL Stephen Gordin all.

MINNESOTA Vikings — Named E.J. Henderson your football manager. Released TE Tommy Donnell.

PITTSBURGH Steelers — Placed P Adam Podziemski on the reserve/did not report list.

HOCKEY League
National Hockey League
DALLAS Stars — Reinstated their affiliation with Idaho (ECHL) for the 2014-15 season.

MOTORSPORTS
NASCAR — Fined Kevin Harvick's crew chief Rodney Childers \$25,000 for unapproved weight in fuel during Sunday's race.

LOCCER
Major League Soccer
MLS — Suspended D.C. United's Eddie Johnson for one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for violent conduct during Sunday's game.

SEATTLE Sounders — Agreed to terms with Andy Sturges for the 2005 season (English Premier League) at the conclusion of the current MLS season.

Pro basketball

WNBA		EASTERN CONFERENCE	
W	L	Pct	GB
xAtlanta	18	14	563
Chicago	15	14	469
Washington	15	17	469
San Antonio	12	18	469
New York	13	18	419
Connecticut	12	19	419

WESTERN CONFERENCE		EASTERN CONFERENCE	
W	L	Pct	GB
xPhoenix	24	8	750
xMinnesota	24	8	750
San Antonio	18	14	438
Seattle	12	20	15

x-chlined playing spot
Wednesday's games
 Chicago 72, Washington 69
 Atlanta 78, Detroit 71
Thursday's games
 New York at Atlanta
 Washington at Connecticut
 Miami at Atlanta
 Minnesota at San Antonio
 Seattle at Los Angeles

Pro football

NFL preseason		AMERICAN CONFERENCE	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
N.Y. Jets	1	0	1.000 13 10
Buffalo	0	1	0.000 35 30
Kansas City	0	1	0.000 35 30
New England	0	0	0.000 6 23

NFC		AFC	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Jacksonville	1	0	1.000 16 10
Tennessee	1	0	1.000 16 10
Houston	1	0	1.000 32 32
Indianapolis	1	0	1.000 10 13

NFC East		AFC East	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0.000 37 29
Washington	1	0	1.000 23 13
Dallas	1	0	1.000 7 27
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000 16 10

NFC South		AFC South	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Atlanta	1	0	1.000 16 10
New Orleans	1	0	1.000 26 24
Carolina	1	0	1.000 18 20
Tampa Bay	1	0	1.000 28 34

NFC North		AFC North	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Chicago	1	0	1.000 34 28
Minnesota	1	0	1.000 10 16
Green Bay	1	0	1.000 16 20

NFC West		AFC West	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Arizona	1	0	1.000 32 30
San Francisco	0	1	0.000 33 23
Oakland	1	0	1.000 24 26

NFC East		AFC East	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Atlanta 16	Miami 10	Buffalo 20	Carolina 18
Jacksonville 16	Tampa Bay 10	Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28
Arizona 16	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28
Detroit 13	Cleveland 12	N.Y. Giants 20	Pittsburgh 16
N.Y. Jets 20	Pittsburgh 16	Arizona 32	Houston 0
Philadelphia 16	Tennessee 16	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Carolina 18	Buffalo 20	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
San Diego 28	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28

NFC South		AFC South	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Atlanta 16	Miami 10	Buffalo 20	Carolina 18
Jacksonville 16	Tampa Bay 10	Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28
Arizona 16	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28
Detroit 13	Cleveland 12	N.Y. Giants 20	Pittsburgh 16
N.Y. Jets 20	Pittsburgh 16	Arizona 32	Houston 0
Philadelphia 16	Tennessee 16	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Carolina 18	Buffalo 20	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
San Diego 28	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28

NFC North		AFC North	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Chicago 16	Minnesota 10	Green Bay 16	Carolina 18
San Francisco 16	Arizona 16	San Antonio 16	Seattle 12
Atlanta 16	Miami 10	Buffalo 20	Carolina 18
Jacksonville 16	Tampa Bay 10	Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28
Arizona 16	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28
Detroit 13	Cleveland 12	N.Y. Giants 20	Pittsburgh 16
N.Y. Jets 20	Pittsburgh 16	Arizona 32	Houston 0
Philadelphia 16	Tennessee 16	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Carolina 18	Buffalo 20	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
San Diego 28	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28

NFC West		AFC West	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
Arizona 16	San Francisco 16	Oakland 16	Seattle 12
Atlanta 16	Miami 10	Buffalo 20	Carolina 18
Jacksonville 16	Tampa Bay 10	Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28
Arizona 16	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28
Detroit 13	Cleveland 12	N.Y. Giants 20	Pittsburgh 16
N.Y. Jets 20	Pittsburgh 16	Arizona 32	Houston 0
Philadelphia 16	Tennessee 16	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Carolina 18	Buffalo 20	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
San Diego 28	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28

NFC East		AFC East	
W	L	Pct	PF PA
N.Y. Jets 20	Pittsburgh 16	Arizona 32	Houston 0
Philadelphia 16	Tennessee 16	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Carolina 18	Buffalo 20	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
Chicago 24	Philadelphia 28	Atlanta 16	Miami 10
San Diego 28	New Orleans 25	St. Louis 24	San Diego 28

Pro soccer

MLS		EASTERN CONFERENCE		
W	L	T	Pts GF GA	
Sporting KC	11	7	4	37 32 24
D.C.	9	7	4	37 32 24
Toronto FC	9	7	4	37 32 24
New York	8	8	2	36 37 29
Philadelphia	6	8	2	27 36 37
San Jose	6	8	2	26 35 35
New England	6	8	2	26 35 35
Chicago	6	8	2	26 35 35
Houston	6	12	4	22 23 42
Montreal	6	12	4	22 23 42

WESTERN CONFERENCE		EASTERN CONFERENCE		
W	L	T	Pts GF GA	
Seattle	10	4	9	39 36 27
Real Salt Lake	10	4	9	39 36 27
FC Dallas	9	6	6	37 29
Los Angeles	9	4	7	34 19 19
Vancouver	7	4	11	33 29 29
Portland	7	4	11	33 29 29
Portland	7	7	9	30 38 38
San Jose	7	7	9	30 38 38
Chivas USA	6	11	5	23 21 36

Notes: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Wednesday, Aug. 6
 MLS All-Stars vs Bayern Munich II
Friday, Aug. 6
 Los Angeles at San Diego, tie
Saturday, Aug. 9
 Philadelphia 2, Montreal 2, tie
 Chicago 2, Columbus 2
 FC Dallas 3, Colorado 2
 Real Salt Lake 2, San Jose 2, United 0
 Portland 2, Chivas USA 0
Sunday, Aug. 10
 Chicago 1, New York 0
 Seattle 2, Sporting Kansas City 2
 Philadelphia 2, Houston 0
Friday's games
Saturday's games
 Seattle at Columbus
 Chicago at Montreal
 Los Angeles at Colorado
 Portland at New York
 Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City
 FC Dallas at San Jose

NWSL		EASTERN CONFERENCE		
W	L	T	Pts GF GA	
Seattle	16	1	6	54 50 19
Washington Spirit	10	8	5	35 42 22
Portland	8	8	6	33 38 35
Portland	8	8	6	33 38 35
Seattle Sounders	7	8	7	28 37 27
San Jose	7	8	7	28 37 27
Houston	5	14	3	18 23 42
Chicago	5	14	3	18 23 42

Notes: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Wednesday's games
 Seattle Sounders vs Western New York 2
 Chicago 2, Boston
Saturday's games
 Seattle Sounders vs Western New York at Chicago
 Seattle FC at Portland
 Houston at Boston

AP spotlight
Aug. 15
 1914 — The United States beats Australia 3-2 in matches to take the Davis Cup.
1948 — Babe Didrikson Zaharias wins the U.S. Women's Open golf title over Betty Hicks.
1950 — Ezzard Charles knocks out Freddie Beshore in the 14th round to retain his world heavyweight title.
1965 — Dave Mackay and Billie Jean King defeat Billie Jean King and Billy Casper to take the PGA Championship.
1966 — Jose Torres retains his world light-heavyweight title with a unanimous 10-0 decision over Hernando Hernandez.
1993 — Greg Norman licks his putt on the 18th hole to win the 1993 PGA Championship, giving Paul Azinger the title and the PGA Championship to the unheralded career of Grand Slam playoff losses, Norman, despite winning his second British Open in 1989.
1999 — Tiger Woods makes a crucial putt to win the 1999 PGA Championship, giving him the PGA Championship by one stroke over 19-year-old Sergio Garcia. The 23-year-old Woods had held the youngest player to win two majors since Seve Ballesteros in 1989.
2004 — In Athens, Greece, the U.S. men's basketball team won its second Olympic medal, the third Olympic defeat for the Americans and first since a disappointing 1992 loss to the Soviets, 24-0 since the professional Olympic era began in 1992 with the 1992 Barcelona Olympic team record was 109-2, entering the 2004 Athens Olympics.

2005 — Phil Mickelson delivers another dramatic finish in a major, flopping a chip out of deep to couple 2 feet for a birdie on the final hole and a one-shot victory over Tiger Woods in the 2005 PGA Championship.
2007 — Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy is charged with tampering with bets for taking cash payoffs from gamblers and betting on games he officiated in the NBA. Donaghy is charged with raising questions about the integrity of the sport.

LPGA Tour statistics		Through Aug. 10	
Player	Strokes	Putts	Greens in Regulation
1. Stacy Lewis, 69,271	2, Michelle Wie, 69,707	3. Inbee Park, 69,875	4. Suzann Pettersen, 70,019
5. Cristie Kerr, 70,123	6. Lydia Ko, 70,182	7. So Yeon Ryu, 70,228	8. Charley Hull, 70,444
9. Jiyon Han, 70,460	10. Li Na, 70,527	11. Michelle Wie, 70,542	12. Suzann Pettersen, 70,542

Tennis

Western & Southern Open
A U.S. Open Series event
Wednesday
At The Linderoth Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio
Purse: Men, \$4.02 million (Masters 1000); Women, \$2.5 million (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Men
First Round
 Andy Murray (8), Britain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-3, 6-5.
 Jerzy Janowicz, Poland, def. Grigor Dimitrov (7), Bulgaria, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
 John Isner (11), United States, def. Tomas Berdych (4), Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Second Round
 Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 6-3, 6-4.
 Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Mariniko Matosovic, Australia, 6-3, 7-6 (1).
 Tommy Robredo (16), Spain, def. Sam Querrey, United States, 6-2, 6-4.
 John Bennetou, France, def. James Ward, Britain, 6-2, 6-2.
 Nicolas Pietrangeli (2), Switzerland, def. Vasek Pospisil, Canada, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-2.
 Gilles Simon (15), Italy, def. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 6-1, 6-4.
 David Ferrer (6), Spain, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4).
 Milos Raonic (4), Croatia, def. Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5).
 David Ferrer (6), Spain, def. Ernests Gulbis (9), Latvia, 6-4, 6-4.
 Milos Raonic (4), Canada, def. Roberto Bautista Agut (12), Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
United States, def. Roberto Bautista Agut (12), Spain, 6-4, 6-4.

Women
First Round
 Elena Svitolina, Ukraine, def. Petra Kvitová (3), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2.
 Anastasia Pavluchenko (6), Germany, def. Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, 6-4, 6-1.
 Sara Errani, Italy, def. United States, def. Sam Stosur, Australia, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (7).
 Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Sara Errani (14), Italy, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (5).
 Anastasia Pavluchenko (6), Germany, def. Pauline Parmentier, France, 6-3, 7-5.
 Anastasia Pavluchenko (6), Russia, def. Karina Knapp, Italy, 6-1, 6-3.
 Sara Errani, Italy, def. United States, def. Barbara Zahlavova Strycova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-1.
 Sara Errani, Italy, def. United States, def. Zina Jiricova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.
 Kurumi Nara, Japan, 6-2, 6-2.

Wrestling
Friday's games
 Seattle at Columbus
 Chicago at Montreal
 Los Angeles at Colorado
 Portland at New York
 Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City
 FC Dallas at San Jose

Wrestling
Friday's games
 Seattle at Columbus
 Chicago at Montreal
 Los Angeles at Colorado
 Portland at New York
 Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City
 FC Dallas at San Jose

Wrestling
Friday's games
 Seattle at Columbus
 Chicago at Montreal
 Los Angeles at Colorado
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Friday's games
 Seattle at Columbus
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 Los Angeles at Colorado
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Friday's games
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Champions Tour

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ducks' Loyd makes transition from hoops

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Johnathan Loyd has the basics of being a wide receiver down: He can catch and run, no problem.

It's the mental part that's hard.

After four years as a point guard on Oregon's basketball team, Loyd is making the transition to receiver for the Ducks, taking advantage of an NCAA rule that allows a player a fifth year of eligibility — in a different sport.

Loyd is doing this partly for fun, and partly because he's the consummate competitor. He's already gotten his degree in applied economics and is working on another.

"I'd been curious to see if I could play at this level," he said. "I love the University of Oregon, and I love to see the Ducks win. So if I can't do it in basketball anymore, I wanted to try another sport, to see if I could contribute."

Loyd unexpectedly made the jump to football the second week of spring practice. While he played back in high school in Las Vegas, his move was seen as something of a stunt and most figured he wouldn't last.

But the 5-foot-8 guard won many of the naysayers over when he donned pads for the annual Spring Game and had a catch for four yards and saw time as a punt returner on special teams.

"The guy had a great attitude in the spring — but you could tell he hadn't played football for five years," coach Mark Helfrich said. "It's not like he's showing up and playing intramural flag football. He's playing elite-level Division I football. There's rust. There's uncertainty."

Loyd admits it was a weird adjustment.

"When I first started in the spring I was still in basketball mode. I came off the line and wasn't going as hard as I could, trying to find my way. That kind of hurt me, I think," he said. "But I'm out of that now."

Loyd thinks he has a place on the offense and on special teams for the Ducks, who went 11-2 last season and have been picked to finish atop the Pac-12 North and win the league championship game.

"I've got a lot of confidence in myself," he said. "I don't know how I'll be used, I'm just trying to be the best I can be and go as hard as I can."

Loyd was the starting point guard for the Ducks basketball team that went 24-10 and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the second straight year. Oregon's season ended with a third-round tournament loss to Wisconsin.

Loyd averaged seven points and 4.7 assists per game his senior year. The first player recruited by coach Dana Altman, he played in a school-record 144 career games and 97 Oregon wins.

Football is a whole different mindset.

"I've got nothing but respect for these guys," he said. "A lot of people can say this or that when they're sitting in the stands, but they have no idea what it's really like."

Loyd's good friend Keanon Lowe is expected to be Oregon's top receiver now that Josh Huff has moved on. The Ducks were hit this spring with the loss of Bralon Addison, the top returner with 61 catches for 890 yards and seven touchdowns, because of a torn ACL. But Addison is hoping to return later this season.

Another receiver in the mix is speedy redshirt freshman Devon Allen. After recovering from injuries he sustained during fall camp last year, Allen joined the Ducks track team and won the 110-meter hurdles title at the NCAA track and field championships in 13.16, a meet record and the second-best collegiate time ever.

Fac Helfrich likes what he's seeing from Loyd.

"Great, positive attitude out there," Helfrich said. "He's a guy you can see everybody likes to be around and work with."

Loyd laughed at the suggestion that in addition to football he could also still run track — following in the lead of some of the other Ducks, including Allen.

"That's a whole different level of speed," he said.



JOE RAYMOND/AP

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly, right, talks with quarterback Everett Golson during practice in South Bend, Ind., last week. Golson has reclaimed the job as Notre Dame's starter after being suspended last semester for academic inpropriety.

Golson back as ND starter

By TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Everett Golson is Notre Dame's starting quarterback again.

The senior has reclaimed the post he held while leading the Fighting Irish to the national championship game two years ago, and before being suspended last season for academic inpropriety.

The move was widely expected even though coach Brian Kelly said repeatedly that sophomore Malik Zaire was competing for the job. Kelly said Wednesday that Golson won the position because of his overall understanding of the offense, how he's handled himself with the team and his leadership.

"He's put himself in that position to get that opportunity to be our starter against Rice," Kelly said. "There was competition and there will be competition. Everett's the starter for Rice and we hope he's the starter for the entire year. But we're all in this merit-based situation. We've got to win."

The Irish did that with Golson in 2012, posting their first undefeated regular season since winning the national championship in 1988 and being ranked No.

1 for the first time in 19 years. But defense, not offense, was the impetus behind that team. Kelly even spoke of that two weeks ago when he said "I would argue that Everett rode the bus to the championship."

With a young, inexperienced defense, Kelly has said the Irish need to put up more points this season. He's hoping Golson's running ability will help the Irish to do that, something they were missing last season with Tommy Rees at quarterback. Kelly said the Irish won't have to switch plays as often along the line of scrimmage with Golson at quarterback.

"Tommy needed to check a lot of plays. We won't have to block that end for Everett on every play. We had to for Tommy. He wasn't going to make the end miss," Kelly said.

Golson said he didn't feel a sense of relief when Kelly gave him the news.

"I think it's a heightened responsibility on my part now that everything is pretty set. It's my job to get these guys right and just try to lead this team," he said.

Golson was 187 of 318 passing in 2012, a 58.8 completion rate, with 12 touchdown passes and six interceptions. He had a pass ef-

iciency rating of 131.01, placing him 62nd among quarterbacks nationwide. He also ran for 298 yards on 94 carries.

Golson said he struggled a bit in the spring with a new quarterbacks coach and facing a Notre Dame defense that is playing a more aggressive style. He said it all started coming together after spring practice was over.

"I think now I'm in a position to hold everyone else responsible because I'm comfortable with what I'm supposed to do," he said.

He said he has been focusing on trying to take control of the offense, which he struggled with at times in 2012. He was replaced by Rees for the final game-winning drive against Purdue in the second game and was pulled for poor play two weeks later against Michigan. But his play improved steadily as the season wore on.

The Irish finished that season ranked 71st in the nation in passing in 2012, finishing in 110th at 167 yards a game in 2007, when Notre Dame finished 3-9.

Golson said he is better prepared this time.

"I understand the job and the task at hand and what I have to do next," he said.



MORRY GASH/AP

After completing his eligibility with the Oregon basketball team, guard Johnathan Loyd surprised many by trying out for the school's football team.

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MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	Pct	GB
Baltimore	69	580
Boston	53	516
New York	61	513
Tampa Bay	59	484
Seattle	59	484

Central Division

East Division	Pct	GB
Kansas City	64	546
Cleveland	60	529
Chicago	57	471
Minnesota	57	471

West Division

East Division	Pct	GB
Oakland	73	477
Pittsburgh	65	542
Seattle	65	542
Los Angeles	63	423
Texas	47	392

National League

East Division	Pct	GB
Washington	W	53
Atlanta	61	508
Miami	59	492
New York	57	471
Philadelphia	53	438

West Division

East Division	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	66	545
St. Louis	65	523
St. Louis	63	529
Cincinnati	60	500
Arizona	58	457
Colorado	52	433

Wednesday's games

Baltimore vs Cleveland (Clayton Kershaw) at Cleveland (Kluber 13-6)
 Baltimore (Raxton 2-0) at Detroit (Porcello 13-6)
 Houston (Keuchel 10-8) at Boston (Bullinger 10-7)
 N.Y. Yankees (McCarthy 4-1) at Tampa Bay (Lester 10-7)
 L.A. Angels (Richards 12-4) at Texas Rangers (Lester 10-7)
 Kansas City (Duffy 7-10) at Minnesota (Nolasco 5-7)
 Oakland (Stroman 7-7) at Chicago White Sox (Nesni 6-6)
 Pittsburgh (Morison 5-11) at Washington (Roark 11-7)
 Arizona (Cahill 2-8) at Miami (Hand 2-4)
 Chicago Cubs (Wood 7-9) at N.Y. Mets (Lincecum 10-7)
 Oakland (Ramos 11-4) at Atlanta (Florencia 5-6)
 San Diego (Hammel 11-10) at St. Louis (Molina 10-7)
 Cincinnati (Cotton 14-6) at Colorado (Florencia 5-6)
 Houston (Lyles 11-10) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 13-9)

Wednesday Nationals 3, Mets 2

Washington	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
MTaylor	1	0	0	0	0	0
ACarar	2	1	1	0	0	0
Rendon	2	0	1	0	0	0
Black	1	1	0	0	0	0
Dsmad	3	1	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
WRams	4	0	2	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Span	1	0	0	0	0	0
zmppm	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clipp	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	0	0	0	0	0	0
RSorip	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	0	0	0	0	0	0

Washington

New York	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
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Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0

New York

Washington	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0
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Washington

Washington	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Washington

Washington	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Washington

Washington	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Wright	1	0	0	0	0	0

Tigers 8, Pirates 4

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
JHrnsn	5	1	1	0	0	0
GPonicr	4	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	3	0	0	0	0	0
LDavis	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	2	0	0	0	0	0
Palvz	4	1	1	0	0	0
Wright	3	0	0	0	0	0
Snider	1	3	1	2	0	0
Nix	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	3	1	0	0	0	0

Pittsburgh

at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
Wright	2	0	0	0	0
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Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Pittsburgh

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Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
Wright	2	0	0	0	0	0
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Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
Wright	2	0	0	0	0	0
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Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
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Wright	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	2	0	0	0	0	0

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh	at h	bi	h	rb	h	bi
Wright	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	2	0	0			

MLB

Martinez, Detroit top Pittsburgh

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Victor Martinez drove in three runs to help Detroit to a much-needed win, then offered a bit of a plea to Tigers fans who have been losing patience with the AL Central favorites.

"It's not fair when people out there are thinking that we've got to win this division by 10, 15, 20 games," Martinez said. "We're not playing Little League teams. We're trying. It's too long of a season. At some point you're going to struggle. Every team struggles at some point.

"As a fan, if you're going to be with us when we're doing good, we really need the fans when we're struggling, too."

Martinez had three hits, and Nick Castellanos homered and tripled to lead the Tigers to an 8-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Wednesday night.

Detroit rallied from a 4-1 deficit and snapped a four-game losing streak, but the Tigers remained a half-game behind first-place Kansas City.

The Tigers are suddenly facing adversity amid mounting injuries. They had to send Buck Farmer to the mound to make his major league debut, and he allowed four runs in five innings.

Blaine Hardy (2-1) followed with two scoreless innings of relief, lowering his ERA to 2.05. He's been a rare bright spot in a bullpen that has been unreliable.

"He's done an excellent job, really," manager Brad Ausmus said. "He's not strictly a lefty-lefty guy. He's got the ability to get right-handed hitters out, which gives me a lot of flexibility in the middle innings."

Castellanos put Detroit ahead 5-4 with a solo homer off Vance Worley (5-2) in the sixth. Martinez added a bases-loaded single in the seventh.

The Tigers returned home after going 2-7 on a road trip against the New York Yankees, Toronto and Pittsburgh. A 19-inning loss to the Blue Jays stretched the pitching staff thin, and Anibal Sanchez and Justin Verlander are nursing injuries.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Detroit's Nick Castellanos looks skyward as he crosses home plate after hitting a solo home run during the sixth inning of Wednesday's game against Pittsburgh.



JEFF CHIU/AP

Chicago White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers, right, reaches to tag San Francisco's Gregor Blanco — who was originally ruled out at home but then ruled safe after review — during the seventh inning Wednesday's game in San Francisco.

Roundup

Replay helps Giants win

Controversial call at home proves costly for White Sox

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Giants scored seven runs in the seventh inning after a video review led umpires to overturn an out call at home because Chicago catcher Tyler Flowers illegally blocked Gregor Blanco as San Francisco went on to beat the White Sox 7-1 on Wednesday.

With one out in the seventh, Chicago first baseman Jose Abreu fielded Joe Panik's broken-bat groundout to easily throw out Blanco. Giants manager Bruce Bochy challenged the play, and umpires ruled Flowers' left leg was illegally blocking the plate before the ball arrived.

White Sox manager Robin Ventura argued the call and was immediately ejected, setting off an epic protest in which he repeatedly kicked dirt on the plate.

San Francisco snapped a five-game losing streak and Jake Peavy (1-3) won for the first time since April 25 with Boston. Peavy had lost 12 consecutive decisions, the longest skid of his career.

Jose Quintana (6-9) took the loss.

Indians 3-0, Diamondbacks 2-1: Tuffy Goswisch's RBI single with one out in the 12th inning lifted visiting Arizona over Cleveland for a doubleheader split.

Five Arizona pitchers combined on the shutout as the Diamondbacks avoided a sweep after Zach Walters' walkoff homer in the ninth gave the Indians a victory in the opener.

Red Sox 5, Reds 4: At Cincinnati, Mike Napoli hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs to help Boston wrap up its first winning road trip of more than three games this season.

Anthony Ranaudo became the first Boston rookie to start his career 2-0 since Justin Masterson won his first three in 2008 and the Red Sox finished their eight-game trip with five wins.

Angels 4, Phillies 3: Howie Kendrick delivered a go-ahead, two-run single in the sixth inning, and Jered Weaver pitched six resilient innings for host Los Angeles.

Brennan Boesch drove in two runs for the Angels, who salvaged a 3-4 homestand by sweeping a two-game series from the last-place Phillies. Los Angeles (70-49) pulled within 2½ games of Oakland atop the overall major league standings.

Padres 5, Rockies 3: Rymer Liriano's first big league homer was a two-run shot in the fourth inning and Abraham Almonte also went deep to help host San Diego equal its season high with five straight wins.

Jedd Gyorko tied his career-high with four hits for the Padres, who are 16-8 since the All-Star break, including winning 11 of 14. The Padres swept a series for the third time this year, all at home.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 2: At Miami, Justin Masterson pitched seven scoreless innings in his best outing since joining St. Louis to avert a series sweep.

Masterson, acquired in a trade with Cleveland on July 30, allowed three hits — all singles — and no walks and threw only 91 pitches.

Nationals 3, Mets 2: Asdrubal Cabrera hit his first home run for his new team and tumbled over a retaining wall to make a terrific catch, leading Washington to its 10th straight victory at Citi Field.

Rafael Soriano held on in the ninth inning following Travis d'Arnaud's leadoff homer, getting the final two outs after the Mets put a pair of runners in scoring position.

Cubs 4, Brewers 2: Javier Baez and Anthony Rizzo hit back-to-back home runs as host Chicago roughed up Kyle Lohse and Milwaukee.

Starlin Castro, Rizzo and Baez, the nucleus of Theo Epstein's rebuilding effort, drove in all four runs against the NL-leading Brewers.

Mariners 2, Blue Jays 0: Kendrys Morales hit a two-run home run in the first inning and starter Hisashi Iwakuma pitched into the seventh to help host Seattle complete a three-game sweep.

Twins 3, Astros 1: At Houston, Joe Mauer homered to break a scoreless deadlock and Kyle Gibson gave up one run in 7½ innings for Minnesota.

Rays 10, Rangers 1: Chris Archer had a career-high 12 strikeouts in seven innings and Matt Joyce hit the first of visiting Tampa Bay's three early home runs.

MLB



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

The Orioles' Chris Davis, left, greets teammate Adam Jones at home plate after Davis and Nick Markakis scored on Jones' home run in the eighth inning Wednesday against the New York Yankees in Baltimore. The Orioles won 3-2.

Vargas, KC shut down Oakland

By Dave Skretta
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The crowd roared as Jason Vargas emerged from the dugout for the ninth inning, the Kansas City Royals trying to hold onto a 3-0 lead over the Oakland Athletics in a matchup of playoff hopefuls.

Five pitches later, the crowd roared even louder.

Vargas finished off his three-hitter with a flourish, breezing through the A's for his sixth career shutout. It was the second shutout by Kansas City starters in the past week and the third complete game over that stretch, a big reason why the Royals are leading the AL Central.

"That's what we want to do if we want to keep playing," said Vargas, who was making just his third start since going on the disabled list for an emergency appendectomy.

Vargas (9-5) retired the final 23 batters he faced, helping the Royals bounce back from having an eight-game winning streak snapped. They maintained their half-game lead over Detroit.

"If it's the first pitch or sixth pitch, you've got to be ready to contact for a pitch that shows up in your area," said Josh Donaldson, who had one of the A's three hits. "He did a good job of keeping us off balance all night."

Omar Infante hit a two-run homer and Salvador Perez drove in the other run off Scott Kazmir (13-5), who lost to Kansas City for the second time in 10 days.

Vargas allowed four runs over 4 1/3 innings against Oakland in his first start off the disabled list, and two runs over five innings against San Francisco his last time out. But on a mild evening at the K, he looked like the dominant left-hander of earlier this season.

Mixing his pitches and catching the corners, Vargas wiggled out of a jam in the first inning and gave up a single leading to the second before muzzling Oakland.

Vargas needed only 92 pitches over eight innings, so manager Ned Yost sent him out for the ninth rather than turn it over to closer Greg Holland. Five pitches later, he had his first shutout since last September, when he beat Oakland 3-0 with the Angels.



Vargas

O's rally past Yankees with HRs

By David Ginsburg
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Limited to three hits over seven innings, the Baltimore Orioles turned to their reliable, standard weapon — the home run — to pull out a comeback victory over the New York Yankees.

Jonathan Schoop and Adam Jones connected in a four-run eighth inning, and Baltimore completed a two-game sweep of the rain-shortened series with a 5-3 win Wednesday night.

The Orioles lead the majors with 152 home runs, are 35-10 when hitting more than one and 58-25 when going deep at least once.

After Schoop tied it with a drive off Dellin Betances, Shawn Kelley (2-4) gave up a single and a walk before Jones hit a shot into the bullpen area beyond the center-field wall.

"When we're down by one we always feel we're just one pitch away," Jones said. "So that happened, and once we tie the game all the marbles are up. First one to score one wins."

Jones made it happen. As the ball

dropped over the fence for his 23rd home run, he raised his right arm in triumph as he rounded first base.

"Big spot, big home run," Jones said. "Nothing wrong with showing a little emotion here and there."

Darren O'Day (4-1) worked the eighth and Zach Britton gave up a run in the ninth en route to his 25th save.

It was the eighth straight series win for the AL East-leading Orioles, who increased their margin over the fading third-place Yankees to eight games. Baltimore is 8-3 against New York this season, outscoring the Yankees 60-31.

"It's tough right now because they are hitting very good," New York's Francisco Cervelli said. "They've got a couple of hitters who are really hot right now."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi missed the finish after being ejected in the seventh inning by home plate umpire Gerry Davis. Girardi was furious after Davis called New York's Stephen Drew out for running in the baseline on his way to first base.

Girardi's second ejection of the year came with New York ahead 2-1 on the strength of Cervelli's second home run of

the year, a two-run drive in the third inning off Chris Tillman.

The lead didn't stand up, and now the Yankees are stuck in a four-game skid and scrambling to stay in the playoff hunt.

"We've got to start winning series again," Girardi said. "We have not won the last two series and we put ourselves in a little bit of a hole."

Making his first appearance in the big leagues since April 23, New York starter Michael Pineda retired the first 12 batters he faced before Nelson Cruz doubled to open the fifth.

Pineda allowed one run and two hits over five innings. After being suspended for 10 games for using a foreign substance on the mound in April, the right-hander went on the disabled list with a shoulder muscle injury. He left after throwing 67 pitches.

Baltimore played without its two starters on the left side of the infield. Third baseman Manny Machado was placed on the 15-day disabled list with a sprained right knee ligament and shortstop J.J. Hardy missed a third straight game with a sprained left thumb.

Braves snap two-game skid with victory over Dodgers

By George Henry
The Associated Press



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Braves relief pitcher Craig Kimbrel celebrates getting the final out Wednesday against the Dodgers. The Braves won 3-2.

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves needed six tries to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers this season.

Justin Upton thinks the Braves took too long.

"We've battled them hard and we've let some games get away late," Upton said. "It's nice to get a win. We had to work for this one, so it was nice to see."

Ervin Santana won his sixth straight start at Turner Field. Upton drove in the go-ahead run in the fifth inning and the Atlanta

Braves snapped a two-game skid with a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday.

Andrelton Simmons returned to the lineup after missing six games with a sprained left ankle and had two RBIs for the Braves, who had lost 11 of 13.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (13-6) left the game with a right gluteus muscle injury after allowing six hits and three runs with two walks and seven strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings.

"I don't think it's something serious right now," Ryu said through a translator. "It's not like my arm blew out. I think I can jump right

back on the mound. I just want to be cautious of it as well."

The victory allowed second-place Atlanta to stay five games behind Washington in the NL East.

Los Angeles, which leads San Francisco by five games in the NL West, was trying to earn a sixth straight win over the Braves for the first time since Sept. 20, 1987-April 16, 1988.

Santana (12-6) improved to 5-0 with a 2.70 ERA in his last six starts overall, giving up eight hits, two runs and two walks with nine strikeouts in six innings. The right-hander improved to 8-2

with a 3.48 ERA at Turner Field this year.

Atlanta closer Craig Kimbrel got the last three outs to earn his 35th save in 39 chances. He walked the first batter he faced, pinch-hitter Andre Ethier, and the next batter, Dee Gordon, reached on a bunt single.

Kimbrel struck out Yasiel Puig for the first out and gave up a single to Adrian Gonzalez to load the bases before Matt Kemp grounded into a double play to end the game.

Puig went 0-for-4 with four strikeouts and one walk.

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

LeBron to spend Christmas in Miami

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — LeBron James will play his first game since rejoining the Cleveland Cavaliers at home Oct. 30 against New York, then return to Miami for the first time on Christmas.

The NBA regular season will open Oct. 28, with the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs hosting the Dallas Mavericks in one of the three games that night.

The league released its schedule, featuring a lengthened All-Star break, on Wednesday night during an NBA TV special, with James' return to his original NBA team putting the Cavaliers in a number of prime positions.

That includes the game at Miami in the third spot on the five-game Christmas schedule, traditionally a highlight of the NBA season. James led the Heat to two championships and four NBA Finals appearances in four years before deciding to return to his native Ohio.

The other Christmas day games are: Washington at New York; Oklahoma City at San Antonio in a rematch of the Western Conference finals; the Los Angeles Lakers at Chicago; and Golden State at the Los Angeles Clippers.

The nightcap is a rematch of a testy Christmas night matchup from last season that featured multiple ejections. The Clippers then went on to beat the Warriors in seven games in the first round of the playoffs.

The last game before the All-Star break in New York is Feb. 12, when the Cavaliers visit the Bulls. The regular season doesn't resume until the following Thursday, two days later than usual, with a doubleheader on TNT.

The three-game opening night closes with Houston visiting the Lakers, which should feature Kobe Bryant's return from an injury-shortened 2013-14 season. Derrick Rose's first regular-season game since season-ending knee surgery early last season should come the next night, when Chicago visits the Knicks on the first full night of action.

Other items of note:

■ A 12-game Martin Luther King Jr. Day, four televised nationally, is highlighted by another Cleveland-Chicago matchup.

■ The NBA Finals rematches between the Spurs and Heat are scheduled for Feb. 6 in San Antonio and March 31 in Miami.

■ If a Kevin Love trade to Cleveland is completed, his return to Minnesota would be Jan. 31.

■ James' first game in San Antonio since his final one in a Miami uniform is March 12.

■ Pau Gasol heads back to Los Angeles for the first time since leaving the Lakers for Chicago on Jan. 29.

■ Jason Kidd's first visit to Brooklyn since leaving the Nets to coach Milwaukee is Nov. 19.

■ International games scheduled for Mexico City (Houston-Minnesota on Nov. 12) and London (New York-Milwaukee on Jan. 15).

■ TNT will televise 53 regular-season games, including an opening night doubleheader and 19 Thursday night doubleheaders, along with the Feb. 13-15 All-Star festivities.

■ ESPN has 75 games in the regular season and ABC will show 15. NBA TV will televise 97 games.

The regular season ends April 15.



TONY DEZAK/AP

LeBron James will play his first game since rejoining the Cavaliers in Cleveland against the New York Knicks on Oct. 30. The NBA schedule announced Wednesday also has James heading back to Miami, where he played four years, for one of the five NBA game on Christmas day.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Tiger Woods wins after his tee shot on the sixth hole during last Friday's second round of the PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky. Woods removed himself from consideration for the Ryder Cup team Wednesday with a clear message that he is not healthy enough to play.

Briefly

Woods takes himself out of Ryder Cup consideration

The Associated Press

Tiger Woods removed himself from consideration for the Ryder Cup team Wednesday evening with a clear message that he is not healthy enough to play.

One day after U.S. captain Tom Watson said he trusted Woods to give him the "straight skinny" on the condition of his back injury and his game, Woods said he called the 64-year-old captain to say he would not be available.

The decision spares Watson from having to leave Woods off the team, and it eliminates a distraction over the next three weeks before Watson announces his three captain's picks for the Sept. 26-28 matches against Europe at Gleneagles.

"I have already spoken to Tom about the Ryder Cup, and while I greatly appreciate his thinking about me for a possible captain's pick, I took myself out of consideration," Woods said in a statement on his website. "The U.S. team and the Ryder Cup mean too much to me not to be able to give it my best."

That he was even under consideration was mildly surprising.

Woods' best finish this year was a tie for 25th because of nagging back issues at the start of the year that led him to have surgery on March 31. He missed two majors, including the Masters for the first time, and did not return for three months. In the four events he played upon his return, he missed the cut twice, withdrew during the final round at Firestone and finished 69th in the British Open for his worst 72-hole result in a major.

"My primary wish is for Tiger to be healthy and competitive, and I hope that he'll return to the game very soon," Watson said in a statement released by the PGA of America. "Of course, I'm dis-

appointed that Tiger Woods has asked not to be considered for the U.S. Ryder Cup team, and that his health is not where he would like it to be. However, I think we can all agree that we need Tiger Woods in this great sport, and he has taken the high road by informing me early on in the selection process.

"My focus will remain on identifying three players to join the U.S. team and give us the best chance for success at Gleneagles."

Woods said his recent back trouble was not related to the impinging nerve that led to surgery.

He missed the cut by five shots at Valhalla, and he grimaced for the final three hours of the second round at the PGA Championship.

"I've been told by my doctors and trainer that my back muscles need to be rehabilitated and healed," Woods said. "They've advised me not to play or practice now. I was fortunate that my recent back injury was not related to my surgery and was muscular only."

Woods said he would not return until his World Challenge in Orlando, Florida, the first week of December.

This will be only the second Ryder Cup that Woods does not play. He missed the 2008 Ryder Cup at Valhalla while sitting out the second half of the season following reconstructive knee surgery. That was the last time the Americans won the Ryder Cup.

Arizona State OL tells magazine he's gay

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona State offensive lineman Edward Sarafin has told a local magazine he is gay, making him the first active Division I football player to come out.

A fifth-year senior, Sarafin told

Phoenix-based *Compete*, a magazine for gay sports, that he began telling teammates of his sexual orientation last spring.

"It was really personal to me, and it benefited my peace of mind greatly," he said in the magazine's August issue.

The walk-on lineman, who goes by the nickname Chip, follows the precedent set by St. Louis Rams linebacker Michael Sam. Sam told teammates he was gay during his playing days, but did not come out publicly until after finishing his career at Missouri.

"The entire athletics department is extremely proud of Chip and is unequivocally supportive of him," Arizona State athletic director Ray Anderson said in a statement.

A 6-foot-6, 320-pound lineman from Gilbert, Ariz., Sarafin graduated with a degree in biomedical engineering last spring and is currently in Arizona State's master's program. He has yet to play in a game, working as a scout-team player early in his career and providing depth on the Sun Devils' offensive line last season.

Sterling loses appeal to block Clippers sale

LOS ANGELES — Donald Sterling's latest effort to block the \$2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer was rejected Wednesday by a California appeals court.

The 2nd Appellate District Court issued a brief ruling Wednesday saying it couldn't halt a sale that had been completed.

"The evidence before this court indicates the sale of the Los Angeles Clippers to Steven Ballmer has closed," the court wrote. "Thus, there is nothing for this court to stay."

NFL

Uphill: Some come back successfully, while others just aren't the same



WILL VRAGOVIC, TAMPA BAY TIMES/MCT

After playing just five games with the Green Bay Packers in 2008, linebacker Danny Hagan last played in the United Football League and worked helping troubled teens. He ended up with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for one game last season, and is listed as a backup this year.

FROM BACK PAGE

Meanwhile, his older brother Hamza — who had been a backup defensive back in Arizona — never received another opportunity to catch on with a team.

"The biggest thing is putting in the work, proving you want to be there," Husain Abdullah said. "You can't lose faith, and you have to be confident in yourself."

Joe McKnight was released by the Jets last season, spent a year away, and now is trying to catch on in Kansas City. Brandon Lloyd was cut by the Patriots and is trying to make it with the 49ers, the team that originally drafted him. Fellow wide receiver Derek Hagan spent a year away doing radio work and is trying to earn a job with the Titans.

"I put the same amount of pressure on myself as I did when I was younger," said Lloyd, who dabbled in acting during his hiatus. "There's always been a couple things that I say to myself — not to let the playbook defeat me, to give maximum effort every time and to make the plays."

Danny Lansanah played five games for Green Bay in 2008. After spending time in the UFL, he began working for a rehabilitation program for troubled teens, and had nearly given up on playing in the NFL again. When the Jets called out of the blue last season, he gave it a shot.

It didn't work out in New York, but he was signed by Tampa Bay and appeared in one game last season. Now, he's listed as the Buccaneers' second-team linebacker.

"When I got that second chance, I just made the best of my opportunity. Now I'm here," he said. "I'm just enjoying the game of football, enjoying my teammates. They're all great guys. I'm coming out here and giving my all every day."

Packers defensive tackle Johnny Jolly also made the most of a second chance. After serving a prison term for narcotics possession, he managed to earn a job in training camp after three full seasons away. He started eight times and played in 12 games last season before getting hurt.

Not all comebacks work out nearly as well, though.

After playing for three teams in 2010, former All-Pro wide receiver Randy Moss was out of the league for a year. He came back in 2012 with San Francisco but was hardly the same player, playing in 16 games but catching only 28 passes for 434 yards.

"Truth, it's a case-by-case basis," Chiefs general manager John Dorsey said. "Once you know athletically where they are, can they get to where they were? That's what you have to ask."

"There's so much, 'What-have-you-done-for-me-lately,'" Dorsey said, "but if you're fine with them, you're comfortable with the person, you did the research, then I think that's the ultimate deciding factor. How much does he really have left?"

WR looking to move from booth back to field

By TERESA M. WALKER
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Derek Hagan sat around last season hoping for a call from an NFL team. His phone never rang.

This offseason, the receiver only heard from one team and not until mid-June. Now he is in training camp with the Tennessee Titans hoping to earn a roster spot that keeps him in the league for his eighth season.

"Obviously being out two years is really not a good look for me," Hagan said. "I was already branching off doing other things. Now I'm here, and I'm glad I stayed in shape and stayed into the game. I'm happy and I'm thankful and I'm here."

He was in training camp this time last year with Tampa Bay only to be released in late August. He returned home to Southern California where he worked out all fall, staying in shape just in case a team called. But he also started working as an analyst for a Fox Sports Radio show in case his career indeed was over.

"It was one of those things that was difficult just because I'd been playing for so long," Hagan said. "I just started thinking about, 'OK, what am I going to do if I don't play next year?'"

Hagan, a third-round draft pick by Miami out of Arizona State in 2006, kept working



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Derek Hagan wasn't called by any teams last season, so he went to work for Fox Sports Radio. This year, Hagan is trying to win a spot with the Tennessee Titans.

out in case some team called needing a receiver in a hurry. He finally took a break in November but returned to his usual offseason workout in February.

By the time the Titans called Hagan, they only had a three-day minicamp left in their offseason program. Hagan came in, got an iPad loaded with the playbook and started learning the offense. That proved fairly

easy for a veteran with 129 catches for 1,480 yards and six touchdowns with Miami, the Giants, Oakland and Buffalo.

"I had that whole month off to learn the playbook," Hagan said. "I learned it, and now it's pretty easy. Once they call a play, I know where I'm going and I don't have to think about it too much."

Hagan has looked good in training camp. The Titans have Kendall Wright, Justin Hunter and Nate Washington as their top three receivers with Hagan competing against Marc Mariani, Michael Preston and Brian Robiskie for either two or three spots depending on how many receivers the team keeps.

At 6-foot-2 and 210 pounds, Hagan also brings some size with his experience.

Sitting out a season can be tougher on a receiver because of how much running is required. Titans coach Ken Whisenhunt says Hagan is in good shape and has worked hard in training camp.

"He's really been impressive," Whisenhunt said. "I wasn't sure what to expect from that standpoint, but he's learned very well and we've been able to move him in different spots and he's made a lot of plays. So it's an impressive camp so far for him."

Hagan is just working as hard as he can. "I'm very thankful to have another chance," Hagan said.

NFL

Best in the business?

Cardinals DE Campbell tired of being 'underrated'

By BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals coach Bruce Arians calls Calais Campbell one of the most underrated players in the NFL.

It's a description the big defensive end doesn't really like.

"To me it's a term that you don't want because you'd rather be viewed as one of the best in the game," he said, "but it's nice that if you're not getting the top accolades, at least people know that you're working hard and they recognize you a little bit. So it's better than nothing."

An imposing 6-foot-8 and 300 pounds, Campbell is widely lauded for his talents by coaches and players around the league.

Yet he has never made it to the Pro Bowl, something that Arians says "baffles" him.

One reason is the 3-4 defensive scheme the Cardinals use. That leaves Campbell inside to fight off double teams while others make the play. In the 4-3 system, defensive ends rush the passer and accumulate the kind of sack totals that result in a Pro Bowl invitation.

"When you start getting guys with all the sacks and stuff as rush ends in a 4-3, they're going to get the hype to go to the Pro Bowl," Arians said.

Last year, at least, he was a Pro Bowl alternate.

Campbell toils in the trenches and, as far as responsibilities go, his duties often are nearly the same as a defensive tackle.

"Me and (Darnell) Dockett pretty much do the exact same thing but he is considered a D-tackle and me a D-end," Campbell said, "but that's a good thing because when I got the franchise tag I got the defensive end money."

Campbell spent a mere two months as a franchise player in early 2012 before signing a five-year, \$51 million contract, with \$31 million guaranteed.

The defensive tackle-defensive end confusion even spread to quarterback Carson Palmer, who called Campbell "probably one of the more underrated D-tackles in the league."

By the numbers

9

Sacks accumulated last season by Cardinals DE Calais Campbell, a career high. He also had 27 QB pressures.

58

Tackles by Campbell last season. He also had 8 tackles for a loss, tied for second-most on the team with LB Karlos Dansby.

4

Consecutive seasons in which the versatile Campbell has had at least 50 tackles and six sacks.

6th

Overall rank of the Cardinals' defense last season. Arizona was ranked first in the NFL against the run.

SOURCE: Pro-football-reference.com

In reality, Campbell plays all along the defensive line, depending on what set is employed by defensive coordinator Todd Bowles.

"I move around a lot," he said. "I play nose tackle sometimes ... and even outside on the tight end sometimes."

That versatility is a tribute to Campbell's athleticism, Arians said.

"He's got great extension and length. Also he bats a lot of balls down," the coach said. "It (his height) is an advantage as long as he can bend. Some tall guys can't



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

The Cardinals' Calais Campbell is tired of being known as one of the NFL's most 'underrated' players. Arizona's versatile 3-4 defensive end would prefer to be simply known as one of the best in the game.

bend, they have to stay out on the edge. He can bend so he can play all four positions across the front. His athletic ability allows him to do that."

"It's a team effort," Campbell said. "It comes down to playing well with your team and motivating the guys around you.

The good players make the ones around them better. Those are the guys who really are the top of the game, the ones that go

out there and command double teams and don't get any stats but make the team around them better. The linebackers and other linemen are able to make big-time plays."

Two and a half weeks shy of his 28th birthday, he is in the prime of his career.

Despite the persistent double-teams, Campbell had a career-high nine sacks last season and 58 tackles. His 8 tackles for loss tied for second-most on the team. Campbell also forced a fumble, recovered two fumbles and had 27 quarterback pressures. It was

the fourth straight season he had at least 50 tackles and six sacks.

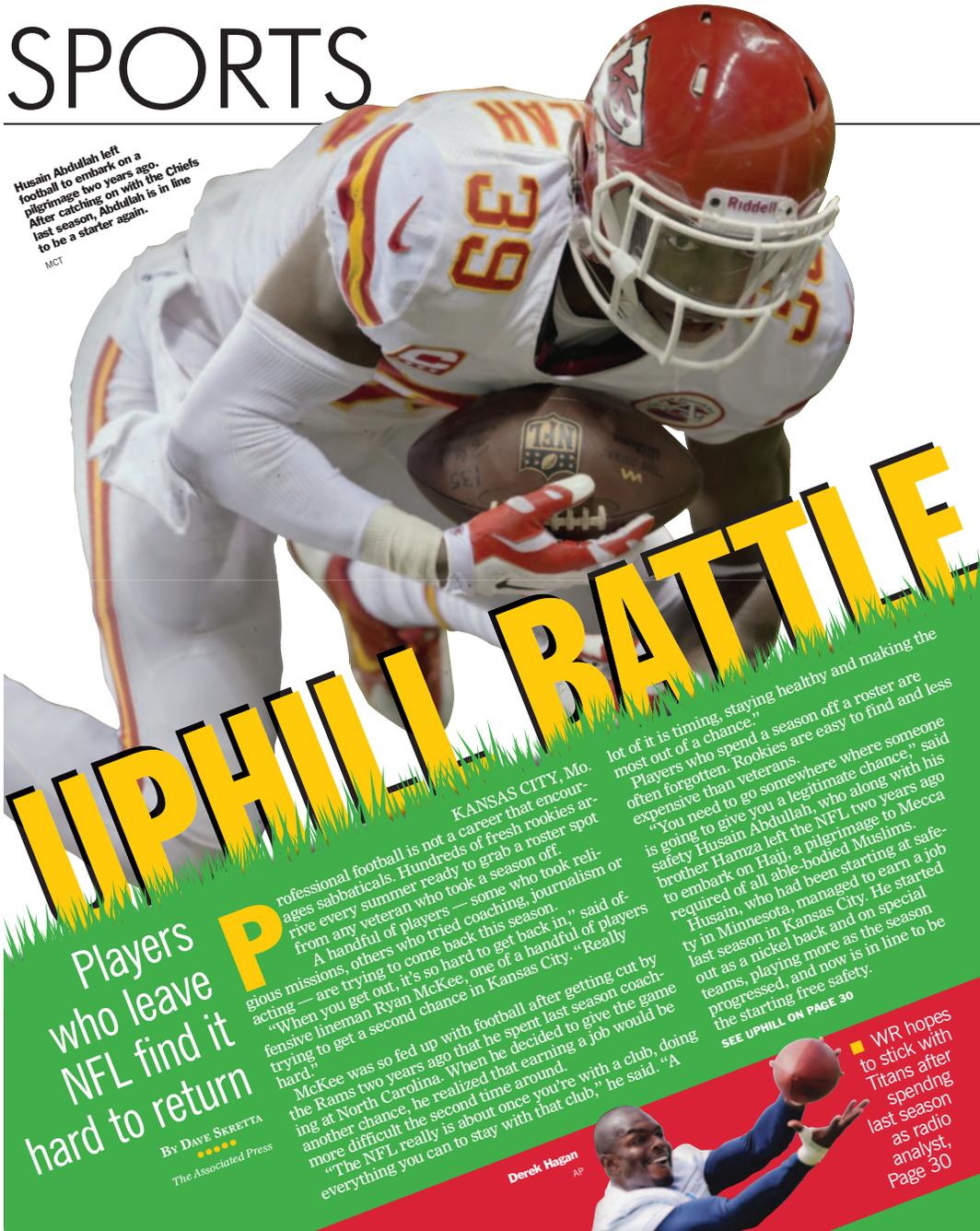
And, no matter what anyone says, Campbell is a defensive end.

"I've always been a D-end growing up and I feel like a D-end," he said. "I want to compete against the best and I want to be considered the best just from hard work and dedication. Right now there's a lot of good players in this league. It feels good to be amongst them, but when it's all said and done I want to be the best in the game. That's always been the motivation."

SPORTS

Husain Abdullah left football to embark on a pilgrimage two years ago. After catching on with the Chiefs last season, Abdullah is in line to be a starter again.

MCT



UPHILL BATTLE

Players who leave NFL find it hard to return

By DAVE SKRETTA
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 The Associated Press

Professional football is not a career that encourages sabbaticals. Hundreds of fresh rookies arrive every summer ready to grab a roster spot from any veteran who took a season off.

A handful of players — some who took religious missions, others who tried coaching, journalism or acting — are trying to come back this season.

“When you get out, it’s so hard to get back in,” said offensive lineman Ryan McKee, one of a handful of players trying to get a second chance in Kansas City. “Really hard.”

McKee was so fed up with football after getting cut by the Rams two years ago that he spent last season coaching at North Carolina. When he decided to give the game another chance, he realized that earning a job would be more difficult the second time around.

“The NFL really is about once you’re with a club, doing everything you can to stay with that club,” he said. “A

lot of it is timing, staying healthy and making the most out of a chance.”

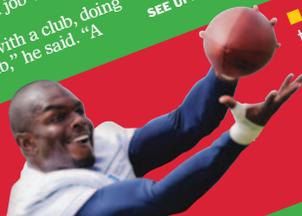
Players who spend a season off a roster are often forgotten. Rookies are easy to find and less expensive than veterans.

“You need to give you a legitimate chance,” said safety Husain Abdullah, who along with his brother Hamza left the NFL two years ago to embark on Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca required of all able-bodied Muslims.

Husain, who had been starting at safety last season in Kansas City. He started out as a nickel back and on special teams, playing more as the season progressed, and now is in line to be the starting free safety.

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Derek Hagan AP



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