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USS George Washington gets captain, set for swap

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The captain slated to guide the aircraft carrier USS George Washington through a crew swap with the USS Ronald Reagan later this summer took command of his ship Friday.

Capt. Timothy Kuehhas, a native of Sayville, N.Y., relieved Capt. Greg Fenton aboard the George Washington's hangar deck in front of Japanese and U.S. dignitaries, as well as several hundred crewmembers.

Navy officials said Friday that the hull swap is scheduled for late summer in San Diego, following a maintenance period and a planned Western Pacific patrol. Most of the George Washington's crew will transfer to the Reagan in San Diego, then continue their patrol before bringing the carrier back to its new Yokosuka homeport.

Kuehhas will remain with George Washington as it transits to Virginia, where it will begin a multibillion-dollar refueling and complex overhaul that is expected to take as long as four years to complete.

"We will basically take the ship down to bare metal," Kuehhas said.

There will be very little gap between George Washington's Western Pacific tour and USS Ronald Reagan's transit toward the region, said a Navy official familiar with the ship's plans.

When the Navy announced the hull swap last year, some media outlets reported that Japanese lawmakers were concerned about a potentially long period with no U.S. aircraft carrier presence in the region.

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Navy abandons 'Global force for good' to broaden appeal

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy is taking a new approach to its recruiting commercials — appealing to people who are already in uniform, have long since left the military and those who never will join.

A slate of new Navy commercials have been developed to appeal not only to traditional recruits but to those already enlisted and to Americans at large as the service seeks to improve retention and better position itself in the public eye in an era of shrinking defense budgets.

The Navy routinely places behind the Army, Air Force and Marines in Gallup surveys when questioned about which branch of the military is most important and the most prestigious, outranking only the Coast Guard in both categories.

Since 2009, the Navy had used the tagline "America's Navy. A global force for good" as part of an effort to appeal to service-minded young people and their parents. While highly successful attracting recruits, the Navy began phasing it out last year after receiving feed-

back that it wasn't popular with active-duty sailors or veterans, who said it didn't capture all they did. The tagline also appeared not to resonate with the American public.

A 2013 survey by Rasmussen Reports found that only 20 percent of respondents felt that the Navy's primary mission should be as a "global force for good," while 70 percent said it should primarily be to "protect and defend the United States."

Navy brass told Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran they wanted a new campaign that spoke to the traditional recruiting audience while also better capturing how sailors, veterans and Americans think about their Navy. The result is that the brand will simply be "America's Navy," with different taglines appearing on different commercials and other marketing materials.

This year's television commercial buy is expected to reach \$30.8 million, up from \$21.5 million the previous year, to better position the Navy in case retention and recruitment take a hit amid an improving economy.

The first commercial in its new campaign aired in December during the Army-Navy football game. It features a wide variety of sailors with different jobs circling around a civilian family to protect them.

It ends with the tagline, "To get to you, they'd have to get past us. America's Navy."

Last month, the second commercial of the new campaign debuted during the X-Games, featuring giant pins placed on a map where sailors in special warfare, fighter planes and submarines, among others, operate around the world. It ends with a narrator saying "Around the world, around the clock, in defense of all we hold dear back home. America's Navy."

The commercials help supplement numerous public outreach efforts conducted by the Navy, such as air shows and fleet weeks.

"In a democracy, it's important that the public writ large understands their Navy and has ways to learn about what we do to keep our country safe," Cmdr. Chris Servello, a spokesman for Moran, said in an email.

Group aims to shift how veterans are portrayed in films, TV shows

A group dedicated to the entertainment industry's realistic representation of veterans announced Friday a new seal of approval for portrayals of military men and women in films and television shows.

Called 6 Certified, after the military term that means "I've got your back," the campaign seeks to shift perception of veterans in pop culture.

Studios, producers and other content creators will be eligible for the certification badge if the work contains "a representative and balanced

depiction of veterans" and fulfills at least one of six pledges: to research or consult with veterans, family members or experts in the subject; to cast a veteran; to hire a veteran as a writer; to portray a veteran character; to tell a veteran story; or to use veterans as resources on set or in writers' rooms.

Studies show that the public can have skewed views of veterans based on what's seen in film or on television, said Chris Marvin, executive director of Got Your 6, the group launching the new program. "They are heroes on one end of the spectrum or broken veterans on the other end of the spectrum," he said.

From news services

Military redefining alcohol as weapon

*The (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
Gazette*

The alcohol — rum, vodka, wine and hard cider — listed in the latest allegation of sexual assault between Air Force Academy cadets is being viewed in a new way by the military and civilian prosecutors.

Alcohol for years has been seen as a contributing factor in rapes, and it is thought to play a role in nearly half of the almost 6,000 sexual assaults reported across the Defense Department last year. The role alcohol plays has been succinctly redefined.

“It’s a weapon,” said Katharina Booth, chief trial deputy and chief of the Boulder District Attorney’s sexual assault unit.

Booth said the change comes from the realization that perpetrators are more likely to use alcohol to subdue their sexual assault victims than guns, threats and fists.

Alcohol’s ties to sexual assault came into focus again in January with the arrest of Air

Force Academy junior Cadet Daniel Ryerson. He’s charged in state court with sexually assaulting an inebriated female classmate after a night of party-hopping in Boulder, Colo., on Nov. 1. Ryerson, 21, who police say is linked to the case by DNA evidence, is due in court later this month.

In a December Pentagon report, the military calls alcohol a weapon in its latest sexual assault prevention guidance for commanders, echoing a statement made by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in May.

Hagel ordered a review of alcohol policies in a bid to quell sexual assaults.

“They include a department-wide review of institutional alcohol policies, which will be revised where necessary to address risks that alcohol poses to others, including the risk that alcohol is used as a weapon against victims in a predatory way,” Hagel said.

At the Air Force Academy and other military bases, workers who serve alcohol in clubs

are being told to watch for those who would use booze as a weapon, said Lt. Col. Kirstin Reimann, an Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon.

Another step requires commanders to “work with community partners on responsible alcohol sales practices and bystander intervention training for alcohol servers,” Reimann wrote in an email to *The Gazette*.

A 2013 Pentagon report on sexual assaults at service academies showed alcohol played a role in at least a third of incidents.

“However, alcohol likely plays a much larger role than what is depicted in reported incidents,” the report said.

A newer report on military academy sexual assaults is due out this month after an unexplained monthlong delay.

Last week, academy leaders sat through a presentation on sexual assault and the new view of alcohol’s role, according to the academy website.

The speaker, Anne Munch,

co-developer of the Air Force’s new bystander intervention program to prevent sexual assault, told the academy brass that old views of alcohol put too much focus on the victims of sexual assault.

“For the same reason that a robber chooses a drunk victim (over a sober victim), a rapist will also choose a drunk victim,” she said, according to the academy’s website.

Colorado Springs Police Sgt. John Koch said the sex assaults his detectives investigate frequently involve drunken victims.

Under military and Colorado law, victims who have passed out or are too drunk to render judgment cannot consent to sex — which is a common defense in cases involving booze.

While Koch advises responsible drinking, he tells victims that a mistake with a bottle can never justify rape.

“No matter what you did, it doesn’t excuse someone victimizing you,” he said.

Life sentence in AFN broadcaster’s murder

BY MATT MILLHAM

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver was sentenced Friday to life in prison with the possibility of parole for the 2013 killing of Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov.

Oliver, who was found guilty Wednesday of murder with intent to kill, was also reduced to the lowest enlisted grade and given a dishonorable discharge and will have to forfeit all pay and allowances.

The prosecution had asked for the maximum sentence of life without parole, arguing that the airman had “no rehabilitative potential.” Oliver’s defense sought a 25-year prison term.

A panel of four officers and six enlisted deliberated for less than three hours before returning the sentence.

The same panel, similar to a civilian jury, deliberated for about five hours before finding Oliver guilty of strangling Chepusov after a night out drinking in December 2013.

Both men worked for American Forces Network — Oliver as a broadcast technician, Chepusov as a broadcaster in charge of the network’s European news division.

Oliver testified at his court-martial that he’d choked Chepusov to knock him out during an altercation at the apartment of another AFN colleague, but he didn’t plan to kill him. He said he was driving to dump the sailor’s body when he was pulled over by German police early on Dec. 14, 2013.

“There are some things about that night that we will never know,” Capt. Grethe Hahn said in closing the prosecution’s case in the trial’s sentencing

phase. Prosecutors hadn’t resolved the origin of a deep laceration on Chepusov’s ear, and medical experts were unable to determine how long he’d been strangled, Hahn said.

But they do know that “the accused is a killer,” she said.

Even with a life sentence, Hahn said, Oliver will get to see and speak with his three children.

“Where does Dmitry’s family go when they want to visit him?” she said. “A cemetery in New Jersey.”

After the sentencing, Chepusov’s mother and two brothers, who were in the courtroom for the three-week trial, placed flowers and lit candles outside the apartment where Chepusov was strangled in the early hours of Dec. 14, 2013.

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Obama’s \$4T budget challenges GOP agenda

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama’s \$4 trillion budget spells out a policy agenda that will distinguish him from the Republicans who now control Congress. It also will contain opening bids for some long-shot compromises.

Republicans already have dismissed much of Obama’s initiatives — including his plans for more taxes on the rich to pay for free community college and to expand child care. But Obama is releasing his budget Monday as the federal deficit drops and as his popularity numbers inch higher.

Obama wants a \$38 billion increase for the Pentagon that Republicans probably will want to match. But his demand for a nearly equal amount for domestic programs sets up a showdown.

From The Associated Press

Seau headlines '15 HOF class

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — One by one, the newest members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame stepped onto the stage as their names were called. When the eighth man elected Saturday, the late Junior Seau, was announced, his two sons stood with the group.

"I wish," 25-year-old Tyler Seau said later, "he was here in person with us."

A field-covering, hard-hitting linebacker, the charismatic Seau, who committed suicide at age 43 in 2012, was the only first-time eligible candidate in the Hall's class of 2015. Also getting in Saturday, a day before the Super Bowl, were modern-day players Jerome Bettis, Tim Brown, Charles Haley and Will Shields, contributors Bill Polian and Ron Wolf, and senior selection Mick Tingelhoff.

"It's hard when you come into a group of men that have done what they've done, at their caliber, and they're sharing stories and memories that they had together and playing against each other," Tyler Seau said. "It makes you emotional."

Researchers who studied Junior Seau's brain said it showed signs of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a disease connected to repeated head injuries, including concussions.

His death, less than 2½ years after the end of his playing career, resonated among players in the league, raising worry about the physical and emotional toll the sport takes.

Junior Seau played in the NFL for 20 seasons, the first 13 with the San Diego

Chargers, followed by three with Miami and four with New England. He was Defensive Player of the Year for San Diego in 1992, made six All-Pro teams, and was a member of the league's All-Decade team of the 1990s.

"He never really needed an award to solidify how good he was. This kind of stuff was more for his family, for his mom, his dad, his brothers. Just to make them proud, make his family proud," Tyler Seau said. "For him, he knew what work he put in. So he knew where he was and where he stood amongst these men. And he's rightfully in."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said this week he "loved" having Seau on his roster.

"I can't imagine having a Professional Football Hall of Fame without Junior Seau in it," said Belichick, whose team plays the Seattle Seahawks in Sunday's Super Bowl. "I'd say the one word that comes to me when I think about Junior and football is 'passion.'"

Bettis was a burly running back nicknamed The Bus who began a 13-season career by earning Rookie of the Year honors for the Rams. He capped it by winning the 2006 Super Bowl with the Steelers in a game played in his hometown of Detroit.

His 13,662 yards rushing rank fifth in history.

"To think a little fat kid who had never played football until high school," Bettis said, "to think I can ascend to this level, this is something I never thought of, never dreamed of."

When Brown retired after the 2004

season, he ranked No. 2 in NFL history with 14,934 yards receiving, No. 3 with 1,094 catches, and No. 3 with 100 touchdown catches. This was his sixth year of eligibility.

"You know you have to wait your turn," the 1987 Heisman Trophy winner said. "I came in this year hoping for better things."

Haley, a defensive end and linebacker, needed to wait 11 years to get in after becoming the first player in NFL history to play on five Super Bowl-winning teams. He called the late 49ers coach Bill Walsh "a father figure to me."

Shields was a guard for Kansas City from 1993-2006, never missing a game in his 14 seasons. He was a first-team All-Pro three times, a second-team All-Pro four times, and was a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

Polian and Wolf were general managers who built Super Bowl champions. Tingelhoff retired in 1978 after starting all 240 games of his career as the center for the Minnesota Vikings.

Five nominees were eliminated in Saturday's final vote: Tony Dungy, Kevin Greene, Marvin Harrison, Orlando Pace and Kurt Warner. Earlier in the day, the 46 members on the selection committee reduced the list of 15 modern-day finalists by cutting players Morten Andersen, Terrell Davis and John Lynch, and coaches Don Coryell and Jimmy Johnson.

A candidate needs 80 percent of the vote to get in.

The induction ceremony is in August in Canton, Ohio.

Djokovic now 5-0 in Australian Open finals

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Novak Djokovic won his fifth Australian Open title and his eighth career Grand Slam while extending Andy Murray's misery at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic beat Murray 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-0 in Sunday's final, relegating the Scotsman to runner-up status for the fourth time in four tries in the Australian Open final. Murray had lost twice previously to Djokovic — in 2011 and 2013 — and to Roger Federer in 2010.

The No. 1-ranked Djokovic, meanwhile, is a perfect 5-for-5 in Australian Open finals.

"There were a lot of turning points in the match," Djokovic said. "Regardless of the record I have here, we both knew we had equal chances to win. It was a cat-and-mouse fight, it always is with us."

Djokovic swung momentum in a close match with a service break in the eighth game of the third set, winning four straight points. When he took a 4-0 lead in the last set, he smacked his fist hard against his chest in celebration.

At the end of the match, Djokovic threw his racket into the crowd at Rod Laver Arena.

Roy Emerson, the only other man with five or more Australian titles, was in the crowd and Djokovic acknowledged the presence of the six-time champion.

"I'm so grateful to be standing here as a champion for the fifth time, and to be in the elite group of players," Djokovic said.

Murray sat slumped over in his chair after the match, awaiting the presentations, and once again received the runner-up plate instead of the trophy.

Djokovic appeared to be troubled by a leg ailment in the third set, and it distracted Murray.

Djokovic served for the first set after breaking Murray in the eighth game, but Murray broke back. After that game, Djokovic had a trainer attend to this right thumb.

He double-faulted to open the tiebreaker but then, after Murray took a 2-1 lead, won five of the next six points to regain control. He clinched the set when Murray netted a backhand service return.

In the second set, Djokovic saved a set point in the 10th game and Murray saved three break points in the 11th before it went to the tiebreaker. Sixth-seeded Murray dominated the breaker to lead 6-2, securing four set points before clinching it on Djokovic's serve.

The second set was delayed for about five minutes after the seventh game when a court invader protesting Australia's refugee policies was removed by security after stepping on to the court. Other spectators in the stadium unfurled a political banner. Organizers said two people were arrested, and the court invasion was dealt with swiftly.

Packers QB Rodgers wins 2nd MVP

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Just living the dream. And looking for more.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers won his second MVP award Saturday night, and J.J. Watt swept away the voters the way he sweeps quarterbacks off their feet to take top defensive honors.

Rodgers, also the 2011 Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award winner, took this one in somewhat surprisingly easy fashion over Watt. The Packers quarterback received 31 votes for the 2014 award from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league. Houston's Watt, seeking to become the first defensive player to win MVP since 1986, got 13 votes.

Rodgers threw for 38 touchdowns and a league-low five interceptions; he has thrown 512 passes at home without a pick. He led the Packers to two victories at season's end despite playing with a severe calf injury.

"I feel so fortunate to live out my dreams, year after year," Rodgers said Saturday night. "It can't help but sink in when you play for the Packers. When you live in Green Bay you know about the Lombardi years, Bart Starr and all the guys who made those teams special. You like to be part of something special yourself."

Watt, the ultra-energetic and versatile Texans end, is the first unanimous choice for an AP award since Tom Brady won Most Valuable Player in 2007, and the first for top defensive player under the current voting setup.

"I'm always trying to raise the bar," he said. "The moment you get complacent is the moment you begin your decline. When you start to feel like you've made it, when you feel like you're doing pretty good, that's when you start to fall back."

NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray of Dallas won Offensive Player, while the Arizona Cardinals swept coaching honors. Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski took the Comeback Player award, but was not on hand because, well, New England has a rather important date with Seattle on Sunday in the Super Bowl.

Murray, who ran away with the rushing title with 1,845 yards — nearly 500 more than any other player — also topped the NFL with 2,261 yards from scrimmage. He scored 13 touchdowns in helping the Cowboys win the NFC East.

That overwhelming performance earned him 26 votes as Murray easily outdistanced Rodgers (15 votes).

"I want to say thank you to the Jones family for taking a chance on me four years ago out of Oklahoma," Murray said. "It's been a privilege to play there. Hopefully we can continue that."

Murray's contract is up.

"I don't think it's any surprise or any secret where I want to play next year," he said.

Arians took his second Coach of the Year award in three seasons after leading his injury-ravaged Cardinals to an 11-5 record and a wild-card playoff berth. He was the top coach in 2012 as an interim, stepping in for the ill Chuck Pagano and leading the Colts to the postseason.

His defensive coordinator in Arizona, Todd Bowles, won the first Assistant Coach of the Year award. Bowles has parlayed his work with the Cardinals into a head coaching job with the Jets.

Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who made the play of the year against the Cowboys with a one-handed snag of a touchdown pass while falling backward, was voted top offensive rookie. Beckham tied Michael Irvin's NFL mark with nine consecutive games of 90 yards receiving and finished with 91 receptions for 1,305 yards and 12 TDs.

Rams Pro Bowl tackle Aaron Donald won top defensive rookie honors. Donald had 37 tackles, nine assists, and led all rookies with nine sacks.

Bears defensive end Jared Allen won the Salute to Service Award. USAA will contribute \$25,000 in Allen's honor to the official aid societies representing all five military branches.



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The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Max Pacioretty scored 3:08 into overtime, Carey Price made 36 saves and the Montreal Canadiens edged the Washington Capitals 1-0 Saturday for their fifth straight win.

Price posted his second shutout in a row. He stopped the New York Rangers 1-0 Thursday night, with Pacioretty scoring late in the third period.

Price showed his form early with a glove save from in close on Brooks Laich durinf8.7(o)-.4(i)-424.7-32.u32.64tp1

