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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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More carrier groups in Pacific urged

By **SETH ROBSON**

Stars and Stripes

Despite the challenges, the Navy should double the number of American aircraft carrier strike groups operating in the western Pacific, in part to counter China's aggressive expansionism, analysts say.

Forward-stationing another carrier west of the international dateline was recommended in a Defense Department-commissioned report, "Asia Pacific Rebalance 2025: Capabilities, Presence and Partnerships," published this year by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

China's growing assertiveness and increasingly capable air, naval and missile forces re-

inforce the need for more U.S. naval forces in the region, especially carrier strike groups, the report said.

"A larger demonstration of U.S. will and capability is necessary for deterrence and reassurance purposes," said the report, which added that the Navy should examine the steps needed to move a second carrier strike group to the Far East. One possible location would be Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan.

"There is a unique political opportunity to shift a carrier forward in 2019 because the U.S. fleet is scheduled to add the USS Gerald R. Ford which will deploy to California and would therefore permit movement of an older carrier forward without decrementing home-ported

U.S. carriers," the report said.

Tetsuo Kotani, a research fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs, addressed issues — particularly logistical and political concerns — that would be at play if a second U.S. carrier were taken to Japan. For example, there's a lack of airport capacity in Japan to accommodate planes from a second carrier, he said during a lecture Tuesday just outside Yokosuka, headquarters of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

"We are now transferring a carrier air wing from (Naval Air Facility) Atsugi to (Marine Corps Air Station) Iwakuni. These airports are busy. Misawa (Air Base in northern Japan) is also busy," Kotani said.

The Philippines recently

signed a new basing agreement with the U.S., but it doesn't allow for permanent stationing of U.S. forces there. Australia lacks the maintenance facilities required by a carrier strike group. Guam's infrastructure is outdated and would require massive investment to accommodate a carrier, Kotani said.

"That doesn't mean the U.S. can't maintain a two-carrier posture in the Western Pacific," he said.

In June, the San Diego-based USS John C. Stennis and Yokosuka-based USS Ronald Reagan conducted dual-carrier flight operations in the Philippine Sea — the first time in two years that such an operation has taken place.

Arms theft probed in Germany

By **JOHN VANDIVER**

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Special agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command are investigating the theft of guns and other military equipment from a base arms room in Stuttgart, military officials said.

"Several semi-automatic pistols, one small-caliber automatic rifle and a shotgun were among the items taken," said Chris Grey, a CID spokesman.

The Army did not identify all the items stolen or the unit targeted, citing the active investigation. A possible breach of the base fence is also being probed.

"We are looking at all possibilities as the investigation continues, but at this point in the investigation it does not appear that an outside entity stole the firearms and equipment

or breached the fence line, but we have not completely ruled it out," Grey said.

A military official who was not authorized to speak to the media said that the site was Panzer, which is home to elite units such as Army Green Berets and Navy SEALs, as well as the garrison's headquarters.

The break-in, which occurred last month, comes at a time of heightened security concerns in Germany in the wake of a wave of high-profile terrorist attacks. Those include the July 23 suicide bombing in Ansbach by a Syrian migrant who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and the July 19 attack by an Afghan refugee, also claiming allegiance to the group, on a group of tourists on a train in Wuerzburg.

On July 22, a German with dual German-Iranian citizenship killed nine people in a

shooting rampage in Munich. While no Islamic terrorist link was established, it has fueled a sense of angst in Germany, which has taken in about 1 million migrants in the past year.

The military said the German police were assisting with the incident at the Stuttgart base.

"German authorities were notified and are working with the Army on the investigation," said Ray Johnson, a spokesman for Installation Management Command-Europe. He said no further information would be released during the probe.

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command and the Stuttgart CID Office are offering a \$10,000 reward for information. Contact the local CID office, the military police or the German police, or contact CID headquarters in Virginia at 1-844-276-9243 or Army.CID.Crime.Tips@mail.mil.

Marine killed in crash ID'd

From wire reports

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — The Marine Corps has identified the pilot killed when his F/A-18C fighter jet crashed in the Mojave desert.

The Marines said Maj. Richard Norton, 36, of Arcadia, Calif., was killed Friday.

Norton was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in the San Diego area.

The Marines said Saturday that Norton's twin-engine Hornet crashed during a close air support mission. It was part of a pre-deployment training exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, east of Los Angeles.

The Washington Post reported that the aircraft broke apart in midair, citing a witness.

Trump attack on speaker rebuked

Associated Press

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Donald Trump sparked bipartisan backlash after the Republican attacked the bereaved parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain who spoke at the Democratic convention last week.

Critics from both parties on Saturday questioned whether Trump had the empathy and understanding to be president, particularly after he questioned why mourning mother Ghazala Khan stayed silent during her husband's Thursday night address.

"He was kind of trying to turn that into some kind of ridicule," Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine said after a campaign event in Pittsburgh. "It just demonstrates again kind of a temperamental unfitness. If you don't have any more sense of empathy than that, then I'm not sure you can learn it."

Former President Bill Clinton, who joined his wife and Kaine at the event, agreed, saying, "I cannot conceive how you can say that about a Gold Star mother."

Lawyer Khizr Khan gave a moving tribute to their son, Hu-

mayun, who received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart after he was killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq in 2004. During the speech, Khan's wife, Ghazala, stood quietly by his side.

"If you look at his wife, she was standing there. She had nothing to say. She probably, maybe she wasn't allowed to have anything to say. You tell me," Trump said, in an interview with ABC's "This Week."

Ghazala Khan has said she didn't speak because she's still overwhelmed by her grief and can't even look at photos of her son without crying.

In an opinion piece in *The Washington Post*, she responded: "Here is my answer to Donald Trump: Because without saying a thing, all the world, all America, felt my pain. I am a Gold Star mother. Whoever saw me felt me in their heart."

Trump also disputed Khan's criticism that the billionaire businessman has "sacrificed nothing and no one" for his country.

"I've made a lot of sacrifices. I work very, very hard. I've created thousands and thousands of jobs, tens of thousands of jobs,

built great structures," Trump said.

Trump's comments sparked immediate outrage on social media, including from Republican strategists, who criticized Trump both for attacking a mourning mother and because many considered his remarks racist and anti-Muslim.

Senior Republican leaders, including House Speaker Paul D. Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, remained silent, as did vice presidential nominee Mike Pence.

But John Kasich, the Ohio governor who sought the GOP presidential nomination, said on Twitter, "There's only one way to talk about Gold Star parents: with honor and respect. Capt. Khan is a hero. Together, we should pray for his family."

Paul Rieckoff, the founder and chief executive of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, told ABC that Trump's comparison of his own sacrifice to that of war veterans is an insult, *The Washington Post* reported.

"For anyone to compare their 'sacrifice' to a Gold Star family member is insulting, foolish and ignorant," he said.

'Pokemon Go' caution in Japan urged

By LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Military officials are urging U.S. personnel to exercise caution when hunting Pokemon characters on military bases in Japan.

Smartphone-wielding servicemembers and their families have been searching for the cute critters on American facilities since "Pokemon Go" — the augmented-reality game in which players explore real-life locations to capture virtual pocket monsters — went live.

That's a concern for officials who don't want Poke-hunters wandering into spots where military vehicles are maneuvering or areas where inattention could put lives at risk.

U.S. Army Garrison Japan at Camp Zama has produced a humorous video that offers tips for prospective Pokemon trainers.

"Do not do stupid stuff," says Sgt. 1st Class Dawn Robinson, a former drill sergeant assigned to the 516th Signal Brigade, who warned people against driving while playing and trespassing into secure areas. "The Pokemon defense does not hold up under the [Uniform Code of Military Justice]," she says.

Yokota Air Base, home of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force in western Tokyo, has its own tips for "Pokemon Go" players. "It is important for Yokota airmen to maintain an active lifestyle, and we can appreciate an app that promotes activity," said Capt. Nathaniel Roesler, a public affairs officer.

Roesler emphasized that traffic laws and regulations haven't changed and are always enforced. "We encourage situational awareness and compliance with all laws and rules while using the application," he said. "As for potential dangers, such as crossing a road, the game allows players to reach in-game items and locations from a distance, some meters away, so players can avoid hazards."

Pushups promote PTSD awareness

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

Servicemembers worldwide are cranking out millions of pushups and posting videos of their efforts online to raise awareness about military suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder, a campaign that has crossed over into the civilian community.

Texas-based veterans organization 22Kill is asking people to video themselves doing 22 pushups a day for 22 days and nominate others to do the same. The goal is to reach 22 million pushups in honor of the 22 U.S. veterans who commit suicide each day, says the organization's website.

22Kill Director Jacob Schick, a Marine who suffered from PTSD after losing a leg to an improvised explosive device in Iraq in 2004, said the challenge started as a fundraising effort in 2013 and went viral after a video was posted by country music star Brantley Gilbert.

Other celebrities and civilians have jumped onboard, and the challenge has spread overseas, where veterans of foreign militaries are grappling with some of the same issues as their American allies.

"It's been picking up steam, and it has turned into a huge movement that's really helping to raise awareness of this epidemic that's plaguing our war-

rior community," Schick said.

In America, the pushups are helping bridge a gap between the military and civilian communities, he said.

"The fact that we are losing these warriors to this epidemic comes down to one thing: mental health," he said. "And it's not just a warrior issue. A lot of people are walking around with PTSD from being in a car crash or watching a loved one die and probably don't even know it."

The only thing worse than suffering is suffering alone, Schick said.

"There are people and entities out there who can help you get better, and you can get better," he said.

Walker holds onto PGA lead

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. — Jimmy Walker overcame a few wild tee shots with four birdies on the back nine for a 2-under 68 and a one-shot lead over defending champion Jason Day going into the final round of the rain-plagued PGA Championship.

This already was shaping up as a major like no other.

Even as Walker and Day were finishing their rounds, the fourth round already had begun on rain-soaked Baltusrol. The PGA of America chose not to redo pairings for the final round because it was the only chance to finish by Sunday.

Then, the PGA decided to play preferred lies for the final round, which had not happened in a major in more than a half-century. That means players will be able to lift, clean and place their balls anywhere but the rough.

Walker, who was at 11-under 199, was among 10 players who didn't even hit a shot Saturday because of storms that flooded the Lower Course at Baltusrol. He had never contended in a major until this week, and went into the final 18 holes having been at least tied for the lead all three rounds.

"I made a couple of tentative swings early," Walker said. "I just said, 'Trust it man, you're swinging it good. Keep the pedal down.'"

The final round figured to be the toughest, especially with the cast of characters behind him.

Day surged into the lead with a 75-foot birdie putt on No. 7 from the front to the back of the green, and a tee shot to 4 feet on the par-3 ninth.

Walker and Robert Streb, who shot a 63 on Friday to share the 36-hole lead, began to struggle off the tee and on the green, both dropping two shots behind Day at one point.

Day settled into a string of pars on the easier back nine until finishing with a birdie for a 67. It was his seventh straight round of 68 or better in the PGA Championship.

"I went a stretch of eight holes without a birdie and I needed one to get some motivation for the fourth round," Day said. "But I played some nice golf out there."

He is trying to join Tiger Woods as the only players to win the PGA Championship in consecutive years since it went to stroke play in 1958.

"It would be really nice to get that second major under my belt," Day said. "I don't want to win just one for my career."

Unlike the British Open two weeks ago, this is hardly a two-man race.

Henrik Stenson, who won the duel at Royal Troon with a record score in a major, piled up enough birdies on the back nine for a 67 and was two shots behind in his

bid to join Ben Hogan as the only players to win back-to-back majors at age 40.

Brooks Koepka, playing for the first time since the U.S. Open because of an ankle injury, had a bogey-free 66 and was two shots behind. A big week could all but clinch a spot on his first Ryder Cup team.

Streb, meanwhile, didn't make his first birdie until the 17th hole, only to three-putt from just inside 8 feet for bogey on the 18th and a 72. He was four shots behind, along with William McGirt (66) and Hideki Matsuyama (67).

Jordan Spieth finished with eight straight pars, missing good birdie chances along the way, and had to settle for a 69. That left him seven shots behind, which would require a record-tying comeback at the PGA Championship to have any chance.

Patrick Reed wasted a good opportunity, making double bogey on the sixth hole and shooting 70 to finish six shots behind.

The PGA Championship was trying to avoid its second straight Monday finish at Baltusrol. Phil Mickelson won on a Monday in 2005.

Rain began to fall as the leaders finished the third round, though play kept going. Any stoppage in play was sure to mean one more day before the Wanamaker Trophy is handed out.

Hamilton increases F1 title lead

Associated Press

HOCKENHEIM, Germany — Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton surged ahead at the start of the German Grand Prix on Sunday and held on to win the last race before the summer break and increase his championship lead.

Hamilton, second on the grid, was faster off the mark than teammate and title rival Nico Rosberg, who started from pole but dropped to fourth before the first corner. Hamilton, a three-time Formula One champion who has won the title the last two seasons, now takes a 19-point lead over Rosberg into the four-week break, after trailing Rosberg by 43 points earlier in the season.

Hamilton has won six of the past seven races and now has 49 career victories.

"What a race, what a fantastic start. It was just about keeping it cool and looking after the engine," Hamilton said after his third German GP win.

Daniel Ricciardo was second, ahead of Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen, the first time these two Red Bull drivers shared the podium. Red Bull pushed past Ferrari into second place in the constructors' standings.

Rosberg also picked up a five-second penalty for pushing Verstappen off the course and had to settle for fourth, after winning the Hockenheim race two years ago from pole, and said the punishment cost him a podium place.

"It is a tough one, really difficult," Rosberg said. "The start went completely wrong, none of it was good," said Rosberg, who swept the first four races of the season but has won only one since.

"Without the penalty I was in front of the Red Bulls; with the penalty I couldn't challenge them. Finishing fourth was down to the penalty. I was very surprised by the penalty, I didn't expect it at all. I thought the battle with Max was good, that's about it," Rosberg said.

Sebastian Vettel finished fifth Sunday, ahead of Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen.

NASCAR Xfinity: Erik Jones retook the lead from Ty Dillon with 16 laps to go and won the NASCAR Xfinity race Saturday night at Iowa Speedway for his third victory of the season.

Jones led a race-high 154 of 250 laps, but it took a late inside move for Jones to overcome Dillon for his first victory since at Dover in May.

Dillon, seeking his first victory since Indianapolis in 2014, finished second. He's winless in 66 races.

Elliott Sadler was third, followed by Brennan Poole and Dakoda Armstrong.

Brad Keselowski, the only Sprint Cup driver in the field, finished eighth. Keselowski will start seventh Sunday in Pocono in Pennsylvania in the Cup race. Daniel Suarez, the series leader entering the race, failed to finish because of damage to the No. 19 car.

Woodley tops Lawler for title

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Tyron Woodley took the welterweight championship from Robbie Lawler on Saturday night, stopping him with 2:12 left in the first round at UFC 201 at Philips Arena.

The former All-American wrestler at Missouri dropped Lawler with a devastating right hand — after an effective fake — and scored several strikes while Lawler was on the mat and against the cage, leading referee Dan Miragliotta to call the bout.

The 34-year-old Woodley — who waited some 18 months for a title shot — improved to 16-3. Lawler, also 34, fell to 27-11. He was making his third title defense.

Woodley had not appeared in the Octagon since January 2015, when he defeated Kelvin Gastelum.

The day before UFC presented its first event since being purchased by Hollywood entertainment conglomerate WME-IMG, Lawler — who earned fight of the night honors in his first two title defenses — said he was looking for a knockout, but it wasn't the outcome he was anticipating. Woodley's victory was the fastest in UFC welterweight title history.

Woodley spent some alone time in the Octagon on Saturday afternoon and said he visualized himself with the championship belt at the end of the night.

"I was just nervous that I wasn't nervous," he said. "Something told me that you've just got to enjoy this moment. I've been in this sport for 10 years and I'd never enjoyed the moment. I felt confident to enjoy this moment because I knew I'd be the world champion. ... I saw myself several times knocking him out in several different rounds."

Although Lawler let his guard down at an inopportune time, Woodley said he did not see a particular weakness that he could exploit so early in the bout.

"There wasn't a chink in his armor, but I knew he'd be thinking about my wrestling and I knew he'd be thinking about my right hand, so we had several different plays, as we call them, to use that right hand and get to that powerful punch," Woodley said.

Lawler, who made his UFC debut in 2002 but left the sport for several years before returning in 2013, was philosophical about

losing the championship.

"It is what it is," Lawler said. "He feinted me and my hand went down, he threw a punch over the top and caught me with the old T-Wood bomb and I was sitting back too much and he took advantage of it."

When asked if he felt he deserved a rematch, Lawler said, "Deserve and actually getting are actually two different things, but I feel I deserve something and we'll see if I get it."

In the semi-main event, Karolina Kowalkiewicz struck repeatedly with her knees through three rounds and gained a split decision over Rose Namajunas in a victory that moved the winner closer to a shot at UFC Strawweight champion Joanna Jedrejczyk.

"Joanna is a very good fighter and I respect her very much; she's the best in the world," Kowalkiewicz said. "I may not be the best but I can beat the best."

Kowalkiewicz remained undefeated at 10-0 and relied on her Muay Thai training to dispatch the 24-year-old Namajunas (6-3), who sustained a bloody nose in the first round but gave Kowalkiewicz with a bloody nose in the second round.

Two judges scored the fight 29-28 for Kowalkiewicz while the other had it 29-28 for Namajunas. Kowalkiewicz posted 131 strikes to Namajunas' 79.

The card opened with flyweight Ryan Benoit (9-4) taking a judges' split decision over former Colombian Olympic wrestler Fredy Serrano (3-1), handing Serrano his first UFC loss. Bantamweight Erik Perez (16-6) defeated Francisco Rivera (11-7) by unanimous decision in a bloody battle. Welterweight Jake Ellenberger (31-11) posted a TKO victory over Matt Brown (22-15) at the 1:46 mark of the first round.

In preliminary bouts, Damien Brown (16-9) dropped Cesar Arzamendia (7-4) twice in the first round and at the 2:27 mark was declared the winner via knockout in a lightweight battle; welterweights Mike Graves and Bojan Velickovic (14-3-1) fought to a majority draw; Wilson Reis (21-6) scored a submission over Hector Sandoval (12-3); 260-pound Anthony Hamilton (15-5) dropped 241-pound Damian Grabowski (20-4) with a knockout; and Jorge Masvidal had a unanimous decision over Ross Pearson.



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Tribe land Miller from Yanks

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Serious about winning it all this season, the Cleveland Indians acquired left-handed reliever Andrew Miller from the New York Yankees on Sunday for four players.

The stunning trade came less than 12 hours after the AL Central leaders agreed with Milwaukee on a deal to send Brewers All-Star catcher Jonathan Lucroy to Cleveland.

However, that trade was stopped by Lucroy, who refused to waive his no-trade clause, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

Still, the Indians did land Miller, one of baseball's best setup men. Cleveland sent four minor leaguers, including highly touted outfielder Clint Frazier, to New York for the 31-year-old. The Indians have been lacking a quality lefty in the seventh and eighth innings, and Miller fills that void.

Cleveland had been interested in Miller for weeks, but the club was reluctant to part with any of its top prospects, especially Frazier, a 21-year-old who can hit

with power and was recently promoted to Triple-A Columbus.

But with the Indians holding a 4½-game lead in the AL Central over Detroit on Sunday, Indians owner Paul Dolan and president Chris Antonetti felt the time was right to go all in and see if they can win their first World Series since 1948.

"He's the perfect guy to have and we got him," Indians closer Cody Allen said before the club's series finale with Oakland. "It breathes a lot of life into this clubhouse. We're in first place with the guys we have, but to get a game-changer like Miller, that lets us know everybody in the front office wants to win as badly as we do right now. We're not thinking about two years from now, we're thinking about winning in 2016."

Miller's name had swirled in trade rumors for weeks. He was not shocked by the deal but admitted it won't be easy leaving the Yankees.

"I loved my time here. I enjoyed playing in New York. I liked living in New York," he said before the Yankees game Sunday in Tampa. "I like the guys here. I'm going to miss that. It's a time I'm going to look back at fondly. For me now, it's a chance to go to a team that's in the thick of it and has big plans for this year. So, you have

to look at the positives and helping those guys reach their goals."

Indians manager Terry Francona applauded the team's bold move in getting Miller.

"We're getting one of the very elite relievers in all of baseball," he said. "Chris and the guys just went and got the very best guy there was. If you don't think other teams wanted him, you're crazy. They didn't go halfway. They went and got the best there is. There's no better message."

New York's decision to move Miller comes after the team traded closer Aroldis Chapman to the Chicago Cubs.

Possessing a nearly unhittable slider, Miller is 6-1 with a 1.39 ERA. He is signed through the 2018 season at \$9 million per year. He's averaging an astounding 15.3 strikeouts per nine innings and has allowed runs in just eight of 44 appearances.

Miller owns a career ERA of 2.72 with Detroit, Florida, Boston, Baltimore and New York.

In addition to Frazier, the Yankees are getting minor league pitchers Justus Sheffield, Ben Heller and J.P. Feyereisen. Sheffield is a left-hander.

Braves get OF Kemp, \$10.5M

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Braves general manager John Coppolella is sick of watching his team plummet to the bottom of the major leagues.

Trading for pricey slugger Matt Kemp might be a good way to send a message to disappointed Atlanta fans.

The Braves acquired Kemp, a two-time All-Star outfielder, and \$10.5 million from San Diego for troubled outfielder Hector Olivera on Saturday night.

"It's a sign that we aren't happy losing," Coppolella said. "We aren't trying to finish with the worst record ever so we can get the first (draft) pick. We want to win every night and making this trade now is a big deal to us because it helps us get better this year and the next three years after that."

Kemp is expected to make his Atlanta debut on Tuesday when the Braves begin a three-game home series with Pittsburgh. President of Baseball Operations John Hart said there was no need for Kemp to hurry to Turner Field with an off day Monday.

Atlanta had tried for several months to deal Olivera following his April 13 arrest on domestic violence charges. He is eligible to play again in the major leagues on Tuesday following his 82-game domestic violence suspension.

The Padres plan to designate Olivera for assignment when he comes off the restricted list Tuesday, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision had not been announced.

Despite arthritis in both hips, Kemp could boost the weakest offense in the major leagues. Atlanta has baseball's worst record and ranks last in runs scored and homers.

Kemp has a \$21.5 million salary this year and is owed the same amount in each of the next three seasons.

Pirates trade Melancon to Nationals

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — When Mike Rizzo and Dusty Baker called Mark Melancon on Saturday from the visiting clubhouse at AT&T Park, one thing that impressed them right away about their new All-Star closer is that he planned to immediately check in with Jonathan Papelbon.

"It says a lot about his character and makeup, and that was a big reason why he was such an attractive target to us," said Rizzo, Washington's general manager. "His performance level is great but his makeup and character are a lot of the reason that we went out and got him. That tells me he's team-first and Mark Melancon second."

Washington sent reliever Felipe Rivero

and pitching prospect Taylor Hearn to the Pirates to acquire Melancon, who supplants the struggling Papelbon as Washington's closer. Rizzo and Baker also spoke to Papelbon, who made it clear he "wants to win," Baker said.

Melancon was expected to join the Nationals on Sunday for their series finale at San Francisco.

Pittsburgh general manager Neal Huntington tried to tell Melancon he had been traded. And tried. And tried.

"I felt bad because I missed his call three times because my phone was on silent, so I woke up to that," the reliever said after he awakened from his nap and learned of the deal.

A 31-year-old right-hander, Melancon has converted 30 of 33 saves with a 1.51 ERA this season and joins his fifth orga-

nization in eight years. He is making \$9.65 million and is eligible for free agency after the World Series; as part of the swap, the Pirates will pay Washington \$500,000 on Sept. 1.

Rivero is under team control through 2021 and hit 100 mph on the radar gun regularly during an extended relief appearance against the Pirates this month. If Melancon left as a free agent, Pittsburgh would have received a high draft pick as compensation.

"We knew full well that holding Mark Melancon would have been a good return, but at the end of the day we felt this was a better return for us," Huntington said.

Rivero, a 25-year-old lefty, is 0-3 with a 4.53 ERA this season. Hearn is a 21-year-old lefty who was the Nationals' fifth-round pick in the 2015 amateur draft.

Blue Jays rout Orioles, take AL East lead

Associated Press

TORONTO — With one big inning and another strong start from J.A. Happ, the Blue Jays moved into the AL East lead.

Happ won his eighth straight decision, Devon Travis homered and Toronto used a seven-run fifth to beat the Baltimore Orioles 9-1 Saturday, taking sole possession of first place for the first time since early April.

"There's still a lot of baseball left, but I feel we're starting to play good ball," Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin said.

Toronto, which won for the 16th time in 22 games, had not been alone atop its division since a 2-0 start. The Blue Jays have scored seven or more runs in an inning three times this season.

Kevin Pillar had two hits and drove in four runs to match his career high. Major league RBIs leader Edwin Encarnacion drove in his 89th run.

Pedro Alvarez hit a solo homer for the Orioles, who matched a season-high by losing their fifth straight and fell a half-game behind the Blue Jays.

Mariners 4, Cubs 1: Leonys Martin

hit a go-ahead, two-run double off new Chicago closer Aroldis Chapman in the eighth inning, lifting visiting Seattle past the Cubs.

Wade Miley (7-8) took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning before allowing Kris Bryant's single and Javier Baez's RBI groundout.

Jake Arrieta (12-5) walked Mike Zunino and Shawn O'Malley starting the eighth, pinch-hitter Luis Sardinas sacrificed against Hector Rondon, and Nori Aoki grounded to third, where Bryant threw out pinch-runner Guillermo Heredia at the plate, a call upheld in a video review.

Giants 5, Nationals 3: Joe Panik hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh inning and host San Francisco beat Washington to snap a three-game losing streak.

Rockies 7, Mets 2: Jorge De La Rosa earned his 100th career victory and Colorado eventually caught up with Bartolo Colon, beating host New York in the rain for their fifth straight win.

Angels 5, Red Sox 2: Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer, Hector Santiago survived a rocky five innings to win his sixth

consecutive start, and Los Angeles beat visiting Boston.

Rays 6, Yankees 3: Drew Smyly struck out Alex Rodriguez three times en route to stopping an 11-start winless streak, and host Tampa Bay sent New York to its third straight loss.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 2: Braden Shipley pitched six scoreless innings for his first major league victory and Jean Segura hit a leadoff home run to help Arizona beat host Los Angeles.

Marlins 11, Cardinals 0: Christian Yelich and Jeff Mathis each had three hits and drove in two runs in Miami's victory over visiting St. Louis.

Miami outfielder Ichiro Suzuki remained at 2,998 hits, going 0-for-2 after entering as a defensive replacement in the sixth inning.

Rangers 2, Royals 1: Mitch Moreland homered with two outs in the ninth inning to lift host Texas past Kansas City.

Padres 2, Reds 1 (10): Adam Rosales homered leading off the 10th inning to give San Diego the victory over visiting Cincinnati.

Tigers 3, Astros 2: Jose Iglesias drove

in the winning run with an infield single with two outs in the ninth inning to lift host Detroit past Houston.

Brewers 5, Pirates 3: Hernan Perez drove in three runs with a two-run homer and an RBI single, lifting the Milwaukee past visiting Pittsburgh after the Pirates dealt closer Mark Melancon to Washington.

Phillies 9, Braves 5: Jeremy Hellickson pitched into the sixth inning and drove in the go-ahead run with a two-run double to help Philadelphia beat host Atlanta.

Atlanta, the majors' worst team, put on a clinic of bad baseball in the eighth while Philadelphia scored four runs without a hit. Hunter Cervenka issued four walks, Ryan Weber hit a batter and two infielders committed an error to bring a chorus of boos from the fans.

Indians 6, Athletics 3: Jason Kipnis, Jose Ramirez, Abraham Almonte and Mike Napoli homered in Cleveland's victory over visiting Oakland.

White Sox 6, Twins 5 (10): Dioner Navarro hit a tiebreaking double in the 10th inning to drive in Avisail Garcia and lift Chicago past host Minnesota.