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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Report: Military facilities 'failing'

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — A quarter of the U.S. military's facilities are falling apart, the Senate Appropriations Committee says.

"According to recent facility condition assessment data, one in four Defense facilities are rated as being in poor or failing condition," the committee wrote in the report that accompanies the fiscal 2017 MILCON-VA spending bill that the panel approved Thursday.

Examples of the deteriorating state of U.S. military infrastructure are scattered throughout that report and a similar one, also produced this week, from the House Appropriations Committee. Both documents are rife with references to crumbling and unsafe U.S. military structures, some of which are riddled with mold and rodents.

The reports come during the same week that the Pentagon reported to Congress that the military has 22 percent excess infrastructure, including a third of the overhead in the Army and Air Force.

The upshot appears to be that the military has about a quarter more infrastructure than it needs and, perhaps not coincidentally, is having serious trouble maintaining about a quarter of its facilities — sometimes with adverse potential effects on safety and mission effectiveness.

To be sure, the claims of facility deterioration should be taken with a grain of salt, given that they are coming from lawmakers angling for more funding for construction projects at bases back home.

But, even factoring in some exaggeration, the picture is still disturbing.

The picture includes:

Nuclear-missile facilities in Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota are seriously in need of repairs, according to the Senate panel.

At the National Maritime Intelligence Center in Suitland, Md., the parking garage serving 3,700 workers has been deemed "unsafe and structurally deficient."

At Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, U.S. military personnel reportedly live in "dangerously contaminated" facilities with "collapsing ceilings, contaminated water, and toxic black mold," Senate appropriators wrote.

In Japan, the Pentagon inspector general office has identified more than 1,000 code violations that, in the auditors' words, "could affect the health, safety, and well-being of warfighters and their families."

Surprise IG audit finds shredding at VA

By DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

Department of Veterans Affairs investigators conducted spot checks at 10 veterans benefits offices around the country and came to a disturbing conclusion: The VA has been systemically shredding documents related to veterans' claims, some potentially affecting their benefits.

The VA Office of Inspector General conducted the surprise audit at 10 regional offices on July 20 after an investigation into inappropriate shredding in Los Angeles found that staff there was destroying veterans' mail related to claims, according to an OIG report released Thursday.

Investigators arrived unannounced at regional offices and sifted through 438,000 documents awaiting destruction as of 11 a.m. Of 155 claims-related documents, 69 were found to have been incorrectly placed in shred bins at six of the regional offices: Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New Orleans, Philadelphia and Reno, Nev. There were none at Baltimore, Oakland, San Juan and St. Petersburg, Fla.

Investigators determined that two of the 69 documents affected benefits directly, nine had the potential to affect benefits, and the rest would not affect benefits but were required to be in the claims folders before destruction.

It was enough, the report said, to conclude that not only were the problems systemic, the impact could be serious.

"The potential effect should not be minimized," the report concluded. The findings were the latest in a stream of mishandling of veterans care and benefits at the beleaguered VA, which has been embroiled in scandal since the spring of 2014.

Afghan forces shield Kunduz

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan forces remained in control of Kunduz Saturday afternoon after the Taliban's first major offensive of the 2016 fighting season attempted to recapture the northern city that they briefly occupied last year.

Provincial police Chief Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh said the Taliban started fighting in six districts Friday morning but were quickly pushed back.

Agence France-Presse, quoting Kunduz governor Asadullah Omarkhil, reported that 30 Taliban members were killed and 20 were wounded within the city limits. According to a statement by the Defense Ministry released Saturday, 39 armed "terrorists" were killed and 53 were wounded since Friday in operations in the Dasht-e-Archi, Khan Abad and Imam Saheb districts and on the outskirts of Kunduz city.

The ministry also said seven Afghan soldiers were killed in different operations throughout the country during the same time period, but it did not specify where. Additional forces were sent to the district to secure the area, Jangalbagh said.

The Afghans recently stepped up operations in the area in response to intelligence that insurgents were planning to attack Kunduz. Earlier this month, Afghan and U.S. military officials told Stars and Stripes that they were changing tactics to prevent the city from falling again.

Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, spokesman for NATO forces in Afghanistan, said Saturday that American troops were in the area in a train, advise and assist capacity but that there were currently no plans to increase foreign troop numbers because of the fighting.

The Taliban attacked Afghanistan's fifth-largest city in late September, catching government forces by surprise. Within hours, the insurgents were in control as security forces retreated to the airport and an army base south of the city. Residents disappeared without putting up a fight.

It took two weeks of fighting and the help of U.S. special operations forces and air power for the Afghans to retake the city. Kunduz was the first major urban center to fall under Taliban control since they were ousted from power in the 2001 U.S. invasion.

The Taliban said in a statement on their website Friday night that they had captured 50 outposts in different Kunduz districts.

People trapped after Japan quake

Associated Press

MASHIKI, Japan — Army troops and other rescuers rushed Saturday to try to reach trapped residents after a pair of strong earthquakes in southwestern Japan killed at least 41 people and injured about 1,500.

Rain was forecast to pound the area overnight, threatening to set off more mudslides in isolated rural towns.

Police in Kumamoto prefecture said Saturday night that 32 people had died in the magnitude-7.3 quake and aftershocks that shook the Kumamoto region on the island of Kyushu early Saturday. Nine died in a magnitude-6.5 quake that hit the same area Thursday night.

Four people were missing in Minamiaso, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported.

Japanese media reported nearly 200,000 homes had lost power. An estimated 400,000 households were without running water.

Hundreds of people lined up

for rations at shelters before nightfall. Local stores quickly ran out of stock and shuttered their doors, and people said they were worried about running out of food.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said 1,500 people had been injured in the quakes. Kumamoto prefecture official Riho Tajima said 184 were injured seriously, and that more than 91,000 had been evacuated from their homes. More than 200 homes and other buildings were either destroyed or damaged, she said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed concern about secondary disasters, given the forecast for rain and strong winds.

Police received reports of 97 cases of people trapped or buried under collapsed buildings, while 10 people were caught in landslides in three municipalities in the prefecture, Kyodo reported.

TV video showed a collapsed student dormitory at Aso city's

Tokai University. Two students were reported to have died there.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said that the magnitude-7.3 quake early Saturday may have been the main one, with one from Thursday night a precursor.

The epicenters of Thursday's and Saturday's quakes were relatively shallow, about 6 miles, and close to the surface, resulting in more severe shaking and damage.

One massive landslide tore open a mountainside in Kumamoto's Minamiaso village. Another gnawed at a highway, collapsing a house that fell down a ravine. In another part of the village, houses were left hanging precariously at the edge of a huge hole cut open in the earth.

Kyushu island's Mount Aso, the largest active volcano in Japan, erupted for the first time in a month, sending smoke rising about 328 feet into the air, but no damage was reported.

US reviews peacekeeping mission in the Sinai

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense is considering ways it could automate aspects of its peacekeeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula, possibly reducing the number of troops who are deployed to an area struggling with the rise of a faction of the Islamic State group, officials said Tuesday.

Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said Defense Secretary Ash Carter recently notified officials in Israel and Egypt that the U.S. is reviewing its role in the Multinational Force and Observers, or MFO, which monitors compliance with the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty. Davis said the U.S. has about 700 troops there.

Davis said the U.S. has signaled its desire to discuss the mission with Egypt and Israel but is not considering withdrawing entirely. He said the mission has changed very little over the decades, even as new military technologies have come into use that could automate some aspects.

Mark Toner, a State Department spokesman, called the U.S. review "part of an ongoing effort ... to look at how to modernize" the observer mission by using technology or improving efficiency.

"Whether and how significant a force reduction that will entail I can't speak to at this point in time," Toner said. But he added: "In no way does it speak to a lessening in our commitment to the objective of the MFO mission."

Last year, the U.S. strengthened its presence in the Sinai with dozens of additional troops and support equipment to improve protection for the force after a roadside bomb attack that wounded four U.S. soldiers.

Pope brings 12 refugees to Italy

Associated Press

MORIA, Greece — Pope Francis gave Europe a concrete lesson Saturday in how to treat refugees by bringing 12 Syrian Muslims to Italy aboard his charter plane after a visit to the Greek island of Lesbos.

The Vatican said the three families, including six children, would be supported by the Holy See and cared for by Italy's Catholic Sant'Egidio Community. Sant'Egidio worked out a program with the Italian government to grant refugees humanitarian visas to live in Italy while their asylum applications are being processed.

The Vatican said Francis wanted to make a "gesture of welcome" at the end of his five-hour visit to Lesbos.

Francis visited Lesbos alongside the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians

and the head of the Church of Greece to thank Greece for its welcome and highlight the plight of refugees.

At a ceremony in Lesbos to thank locals, Francis said he understood Europe's concern about the migrant influx. But he said migrants are first of all human beings "who have faces, names and individual stories" and deserve to have their most basic human rights respected.

Many refugees fell to their knees and wept at Francis' feet as he and the two Orthodox leaders approached them at the Moria refugee detention center. Others chanted "Freedom! Freedom!" as they passed by.

Francis told the refugees they are not alone and shouldn't lose hope. He said he wanted to visit them to hear their stories and bring attention to their plight.

"We hope that the world will heed these scenes of tragic

and indeed desperate need, and respond in a way worthy of our common humanity," he said. "May all our brothers and sisters on this continent, like the Good Samaritan, come to your aid in the spirit of fraternity, solidarity and respect for human dignity that has distinguished its long history."

Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I went to the island's main port to pray together and toss a floral wreath into the sea in memory of those who didn't survive the journey.

Earlier Saturday, Francis met Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and thanked him for the "generosity" shown by the Greek people in welcoming foreigners despite their own economic troubles.

Francis has made the plight of refugees, the poor and down-trodden the focus of his ministry as pope.

NBA playoffs: Plenty of drama

Associated Press

The Golden State Warriors plow into the playoffs with a record 73 wins under their belt and championship rings already on their fingers.

Their domination of the league this season, coupled with the perception that San Antonio and Cleveland are the only real challengers to the Warriors' throne, has cast a feeling of inevitability on this year's NBA playoffs, which begin Saturday.

"I just can't think of a scenario in professional basketball, at least one that I've lived through, in which a team that is this dominant and this complete on both ends of the floor doesn't end up doing what it has set out to do," NBATV analyst Brent Barry said this week.

The league has long fought a perception that the postseason is too predictable, that the best teams always win. Casual fans point to the incredible drama in the win-or-go-home NCAA tournament as the ideal model and lament the perceived lack of upsets in the NBA with its seven-game playoff series that favor the most talented teams.

But a closer look at recent history reveals plenty of surprises along the way. Last year's playoffs were chalky, with the top two seeds in each conference advancing to the conference finals and the top-seeded Warriors beating the Cavaliers — seeded second in the East — in the Finals.

Before that, the sixth-seeded Nets beat No. 3 Toronto in the Eastern quarterfinals,

fifth-seeded Memphis made a run to the Western Conference finals in 2013 and a No. 8 seed has beaten a No. 1 seed in 2012, 2011 and 2007.

LeBron James needs no convincing. His top-seeded Cleveland Cavaliers lost to No. 3 Orlando in the Eastern Conference finals in 2009 and No. 4 Boston in 2010, the infamous series that preceded James' exodus to Miami.

"The regular season doesn't mean anything at this point," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said Friday. "We have two months to play our best basketball and compete and get it done."

So where will the drama come from this time around? Here are some spots to watch:

LeBron vs. Stan: The last person James likely wanted to see in the first round was Detroit Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy, who has the Pistons back in the playoffs in his second season as coach. Van Gundy also has final say in the front office and has constructed a team similar to the Magic squad that stunned James' Cavs in 2009. James has reached another gear in the month leading up to the playoffs, but the top-seeded Cavs did go through some rough patches this season and chemistry continues to be an issue.

Carlisle's wizardry: Dallas Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle is one of the very best in the game, a master tactician who is never afraid to throw out wonky line-ups that can befuddle his opponents. He somehow got a Mavericks team full of flaws to the sixth seed in the West,

where they open the playoffs against No. 3 Oklahoma City and rookie coach Billy Donovan. Carlisle has J.J. Barea looking like the slippery water bug that helped the Mavericks capture the championship in 2011 as a No. 3 seed.

Big-game Dame: The fifth-seeded Portland Trail Blazers have been one of the biggest surprises in the league this season, turning the loss of LaMarcus Aldridge to San Antonio into an exciting young team built around point guard Damian Lillard, who has quickly carved a reputation as one of the league's best clutch players. They face the fourth-seeded Clippers and Chris Paul, who has suffered many frustrating playoff setbacks in his brilliant career, in the quarterfinals.

Grit and grind: Almost no one gives the injury-plagued Grizzlies a chance against No. 2 San Antonio, which won 67 games this season. But coach Dave Joerger, Tony Allen and Matt Barnes will put up a fight and might make the Spurs work a little harder than anyone expects.

Heat is on: The playoffs get their fair share of upsets and surprises in the first round, but they are rarer as the rounds progress. Sitting at No. 3 in the East, the Miami Heat may be best positioned to make a deep run, with a potential match-up against the second-seeded Raptors, who only have one playoff series victory in franchise history, looming in the semifinals. And how fun would an Eastern Conference finals between James and the Cavs and Dwyane Wade and the Heat be?

Edwards wins pole in Bristol

Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tennessee — Carl Edwards won his second straight NASCAR Sprint Cup pole Friday, helping Joe Gibbs Racing take four of the top five spots in qualifying Friday at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Edwards, the winner at Bristol in March 2014, earned his third pole at the track and second consecutive No. 1 spot after also topping qualifying last week at Texas.

That could bode well for Edwards, whose previous two Bristol poles yielded a second in March 2011 and one of his three wins in August 2008.

"This one's really special because Bristol is tough," Edwards said. "I feel really good about chances in the race because of the race trim we ran."

Next was teammate and defending race winner Matt Kenseth, with Joey Logano third in a Ford. That duo each has two wins over the past five Bristol races.

Denny Hamlin will start fourth and Kyle Busch fifth in JGR Toyotas. Busch has swept the past two NASCAR weekends.

Edwards stood 10th after the first practice and was second to Logano after the first qualifying round. He fell a spot to third after the second round but turned it on in the final session for his 18th career pole.

"That's pretty cool to run a less than 15-second lap," Edwards said. "It's a real testament to my guys and everybody on this team has been working so hard."

"You see it each week the JGR Toyotas are up front and these cars are really nice to drive. Dave Rogers (crew chief) and everybody did a really nice job."

Martin Truex Jr. qualified eighth to make it five Toyotas in the top 10. Trevor Bayne (10th) was the other Ford driver.

Jimmie Johnson (sixth), Kevin Harvick (seventh) and A.J. Allmendinger (ninth) rounded out the top 10.

Formula One: Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg captured pole position for the Chinese Grand Prix while teammate Lewis Hamilton made an early exit from Saturday's qualifying due to an engine problem and will start at the back of the field for Sunday's race in Shanghai.

Rosberg, who won the season's opening two races, set a time of 1 minute, 35.402 seconds despite using a harder tire than his rivals and qualified a half-second ahead of Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo in a surprise second place.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen and Sebastian Vettel qualified third and fourth respectively after misjudging the final hairpin turn on their last laps.

Hamilton had problems with his engine early in the first segment of qualifying and although he was brought in for repairs and sent back out, the problem was not remedied and he couldn't set a timed lap.

After climbing out of the car in the garage, Hamilton, the two-time defending champion in Shanghai, told Sky Sports it was an "unfortunate" situation but he would still try to make a race of it on Sunday.

LeBron was content to stay in background

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James has been in the shadows, somewhat overlooked.

For months, the Cavaliers' megastar has been slightly under the radar, if that's even possible for one of the world's most recognizable athletes.

While Stephen Curry rained three-pointers as the new face of the NBA, the Golden State Warriors hunted history and Kobe Bryant took his final bows, James remained in the background — waiting.

Well, it's time. Playoff time. His time. James appears more than ready.

"I'm in that mode right now," he said. "I'm where I want to be."

His body feeling as healthy as it has in several seasons, James, who finished the regular season with a focused flourish, is about to take aim at getting the Cavaliers back to the NBA Finals for another chance at slaying the three-sport dragon that is Cleveland's 52-year pro championship drought.

Following a drama-filled 82-game schedule during which they abruptly fired coach David Blatt despite a 30-11 record, James teased fans about his future and toyed with teammates via social media. Cleveland's talented roster too often seemed disinterested, but the Cavs are expected to win the Eastern Conference.

James won't settle for less. He can't

settle for less.

There's only one suitable outcome for James, seeking his sixth straight Finals and third title. He has to win it all.

And when the Cavs open the playoffs Sunday against the Detroit Pistons, James is in an unfamiliar role: underdog. He's not supposed to win it this year, which could even make him more dangerous.

More than anyone, he understands his window of opportunity to win another title is closing. James is on the down slope of his career and knows Father Time is the only one who doesn't get posterized at the rim. The 31-year-old James, too, sees a juggernaut growing in Golden State and would like nothing more than to slow it down.

If his play over the past few weeks is any indication, and as long as he gets some help from Kyrie Irving, Kevin Love and others, James could add a fourth crown to his résumé.

After declaring he had shifted into "playoff mode" earlier than usual, James averaged 28.4 points on 63 percent shooting — 52 percent on three-pointers — with 8.0 assists and 8.5 rebounds in his last 10 games. Because those numbers are attached to James they lose some meaning as he has established a personal standard unlike almost any player in league history.

"I hope he can keep it up," said coach Tyronn Lue. "If he plays like this, man,

we're going to be tough to beat."

Perhaps most stunning about the way he closed out is that it came in the aftermath of a strange chapter in a most unusual season.

On March 19, James and the Cavs were drubbed by Miami, a team capable of re-routing Cleveland's presumed path to the Finals. As his teammates warmed up during halftime that night, James spent several minutes chatting with former teammate and dear friend Dwyane Wade.

It wasn't a good look for James, who later created more commotion by unfollowing the Cavs' Twitter account and being quoted that he wanted to someday play again with Wade, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul. His behavior, and the fact that he has continued to sign one-year contracts with Cleveland, led to speculation he was planning an escape.

Something was going on, and both Lue and general manager David Griffin met with James to sort it out.

Since then, he's been on a tear, playing with a vengeance that has softened some critics and made others think that the Cavs might actually have a chance against the Warriors or whichever team survives the steel-cage match that figures to be the Western Conference playoffs.

"I'm just in a good rhythm," James explained after scoring 34 points in his final regular-season game.



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Forsberg’s late goal propels Predators

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — On his first shift of the playoffs, James Neal pounced on an unattended puck in the slot in front of the Anaheim Ducks’ net.

Neal didn’t waste his earliest opportunity to get the postseason off to a stellar start, and neither did the rest of the Nashville Predators.

Filip Forsberg got credit for the tie-breaking goal with 9:35 to play, and the Predators opened their first-round series with a 3-2 victory Friday night.

Pekka Rinne made 27 saves for the Predators, who knocked off the Pacific Division champion Ducks with a gritty road effort. Five years after Nashville eliminated Anaheim in six games for the franchise’s first playoff series victory, the Predators again took away home-ice advantage from the Ducks in a series opener.

“In the playoffs, you’ve got to be ready for any opportunity,” said Neal, who scored 35 seconds in. “I think you need to have a mindset that you’re going to have a chance like that (on any shift).”

Game 2 is Sunday night in Anaheim.

After Colin Wilson scored in the second period, Forsberg got the go-ahead goal when his cross-ice pass to Craig Smith hit defenseman Shea Theodore’s skate and trickled past John Gibson.

“I thought (Smith) got a stick on it, but it doesn’t really matter,” said Forsberg, who has seven points in seven career

playoff games.

Forsberg was dangerous all night, and not just with the puck: His open-ice hit on Josh Manson at the first-period buzzer knocked the Anaheim defenseman out of the game. The Ducks declined to provide a postgame prognosis on Manson’s upper-body injury.

“We know they have a lot of skill players, so you’ve got to play them as tight as possible,” Forsberg said. “I was just trying to get in front of (Manson). He had a pretty good scoring chance there.”

Captain Ryan Getzlaf and Ryan Kesler scored for the Ducks, who lost an opener for just the second time in seven playoff series under coach Bruce Boudreau.

“(The Predators) pushed it to the limit, but that’s the way they play,” Boudreau said. “We play a lot of big, heavy teams out here in the West, and they’re no different. ... We can do better in the physical department.”

Gibson stopped 30 shots, but Nashville’s speed repeatedly hurt the NHL’s stingiest regular-season defense. Neal tied the Nashville postseason record with nine shots, while defenseman Ryan Ellis had an assist and several big plays.

“A couple of mental mistakes ended up in the back of our net, but we expected a tough series from them,” Getzlaf said.

Anaheim had a raucous crowd for its first home game since claiming its fourth straight division title. The Ducks rallied from a putrid start to this season and made the playoffs with a dominant run

since Christmas.

The Ducks have advanced an extra round in the past two postseasons, only to drop a Game 7 at home every year, culminating in last summer’s Western Conference finals loss to Chicago.

Now they’ll have to play Game 2 with a series deficit for the first time since their second-round loss to Los Angeles in 2014.

Getzlaf scored during a 5-on-3 advantage in the first period, and Kesler put the Ducks ahead 48 seconds into the second with a shot through Jakob Silfverberg’s screen.

Wilson evened it later in the period with a remarkable one-handed poke of Ellis’ pass.

Manson made his playoff debut for the Ducks, but didn’t return after Forsberg’s hit. Theodore also made his playoff debut on the Ducks’ already short-handed defense in the absence of Kevin Bieksa, who missed his 10th straight game.

Lightning 5, Red Wings 2: Tyler Johnson scored a pair of third-period goals, helping host Tampa Bay beat Detroit in Game 2 of their first-round playoff series.

Ben Bishop had 30 saves for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who took the first two games at home despite playing without injured leading goal scorer Steven Stamkos and defenseman Anton Stralman.

A bloody brawl involving several players capped this one, with 14 penalties called — including a game misconduct on Justin

Abdelkader — with 54 seconds left.

Game 3 is Sunday in Detroit, where the Red Wings won both regular-season meetings between the teams.

Panthers 3, Islanders 1: Roberto Luongo made 41 saves for his first playoff win in five years, and host Florida evened its Eastern Conference quarterfinal series by beating New York.

Reilly Smith and Nick Bjugstad each had a goal and an assist for Florida, which salvaged a split in the series-opening back-to-back. Dmitry Kulikov added an empty-netter with 9.3 seconds left to clinch the win. Game 3 is in Brooklyn on Sunday.

John Tavares scored with 3:33 left for New York, and Thomas Greiss stopped 28 shots for the Islanders.

Blackhawks 3, Blues 2: Andrew Shaw stuffed home a rebound on a power play with 4:19 remaining, minutes after visiting Chicago won a coach’s challenge to negate a goal, and the defending Stanley Cup champions pulled even with St. Louis in their first-round series.

Corey Crawford had a strong game in net and Duncan Keith also scored for Chicago in his first game back from a six-game suspension for a dangerous high stick to Minnesota’s Charlie Coyle. Keith assisted on Artemi Panarin’s clinching empty-net goal with 1:34 to go. The series shifts to Chicago with Game 3 on Sunday.

Vladimir Tarasenko and Kevin Shattenkirk scored for St. Louis.

Twins, Braves finally win, snap 9-game skids

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins became the last team in the major leagues to win this season, after Byung Ho Park drove in the go-ahead run with a double in the eighth inning for a 5-4 victory Friday night over the Los Angeles Angels.

Both Minnesota and Atlanta stopped nine-game losing streaks Friday. The Braves beat Miami earlier in the night. That left the 2002 Detroit Tigers with the dishonor of being the last team to start a season 0-10 or worse.

Albert Pujols and Kole Calhoun homered for the Angels, whose four-game winning streak ended.

Miguel Sano and Trevor Plouffe hit consecutive RBI doubles in the sixth off Angels starter Garrett Richards, the third multi-run inning for the Twins this season. This was the first time they topped three runs in a game, but they’re still last in the majors with 19 runs.

Braves 6, Marlins 3: Adonis Garcia drove in three runs in the final three innings and visiting Atlanta rallied for its first victory of the year after nine consecutive losses, beating Miami.

The Braves managed just one hit in the first six innings, trailed 3-0 in the seventh and appeared on the verge of falling to 0-10, which would have matched the worst start in franchise history in 1988.

White Sox 1, Rays 0: Chris Sale tossed a two-hitter, Melky Cabrera singled in Jimmy Rollins in the ninth and visiting Chicago beat Tampa Bay.

Sale (3-0), from nearby Lakeland, struck out nine for his best start to a season since going 5-0 in 2014. He retired 16 straight between singles by Desmond Jennings in the second and Steve Pearce in the seventh.

The game was delayed for about 10 minutes after the seventh so a woman struck by a foul ball in the bottom of the inning

could get treatment.

The fan, sitting in box seats next to the Tampa Bay dugout on the first-base side, was taken off on a stretcher. The ball came off the bat of Rays designated hitter Steven Souza Jr.

Dodgers 7, Giants 3: Kike Hernandez homered his first two times up against Madison Bumgarner, drove in four runs and prevented two more with a diving catch in left field, leading Clayton Kershaw and host Los Angeles over San Francisco.

Kershaw (2-0) was charged with three runs — two earned — and five hits over seven innings with six strikeouts and no walks. The Giants scored their first two runs on the left-hander’s first two wild pitches of the season.

Bumgarner (1-1) gave up seven runs — four earned — and five hits in five-plus innings. He struck out seven, but his teammates committed three errors behind him. The 2014 World Series and NLCS MVP was 3-0 with a 1.23 ERA in his other three head-to-head showdowns with Kershaw at Dodger Stadium.

This was the sixth time in Kershaw’s last seven starts against the Giants that his mound opponent was Bumgarner. Neither got a decision last Saturday in San Francisco.

Mets 6, Indians 5: Yoenis Cespedes and Neil Walker each hit a two-run homer in a five-run fifth inning, and visiting New York held off Cleveland.

Michael Conforto and Alejandro De Aza also went deep for the Mets, who entered with 20 runs and a major league-low two homers in their first eight games.

De Aza had a leadoff homer in the fifth and finished with three hits from the No. 9 spot in the batting order. Cespedes also had three of New York’s 14 hits.

Cleveland scored three times in the ninth before Jeury’s Familia retired Jose

Ramirez with two on for his third save.

Bartolo Colon (1-1) allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out five and earned his 219th win, tying Pedro Martinez for second-most by a Dominican-born pitcher behind Juan Marichal (243).

Rockies 6, Cubs 1: Chad Bettis pitched six scoreless innings, Ben Paulsen had an RBI single and threw out a runner at the plate, and visiting Colorado took advantage of Chicago’s shaky defense for a victory.

The Cubs, who had won eight of nine in their best start in 47 years, managed only four singles and made four errors. Third baseman Kris Bryant committed two of the errors, including a wild throw on a bunt that scored a run in the seventh.

Bettis (2-0) was sharp in first career start against the Cubs. The 26-year-old right-hander allowed three hits, struck out four and walked three.

Chicago right-hander Kyle Hendricks (1-1) was charged with four runs, two earned, and seven hits in six innings. The Cubs had won five in a row.

Astros 1, Tigers 0: Dallas Keuchel pitched eight scoreless innings, Colby Rasmus provided the offense with an RBI single and host Houston snapped a three-game skid with a win over Detroit.

Luke Gregerson pitched a perfect ninth to complete the shutout and earn his third save.

Keuchel (2-1), who was last year’s American League Cy Young winner, has won a franchise-record 17 straight regular-season games at home. He hasn’t lost in Houston since Aug. 10, 2014.

On Friday he allowed five hits and struck out four with one walk for his second win this season.

Mariners 7, Yankees 1: Robinson Cano got two more hits to celebrate his special connection to Jackie Robinson Day as visiting Seattle sent New York to

its third straight loss.

Cano’s father, a former major league pitcher, named his son for the Brooklyn Dodgers great. Cano improved to 14-for-38 (.368) on the day all major leaguers honor the late Hall of Famer by wearing his No. 42.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 3: Rick Porcello pitched 6 1/3 solid innings and Travis Shaw hit a two-run double to lead host Boston to a victory over Toronto.

David Ortiz added a run-scoring double for Boston, moving him one RBI behind Hall of Famer Tony Perez (1,652) for 26th all time. Big Papi also stole a base, joining Ted Williams, Cy Young and Rickey Henderson as the only four Red Sox players with a steal at 40-years-old.

Nationals 9, Phillies 1: Bryce Harper had three hits, including a home run, and drove in three runs, and Joe Ross allowed three hits in 7 2/3 shutout innings to help visiting Washington to its best start in club history.

Brewers 8, Pirates 4: Ryan Braun hit two long two-run home runs and Jimmy Nelson took a shutout into the seventh inning as visiting Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Orioles 11, Rangers 5: Mark Trumbo hit two of his team’s four home runs in a nine-run seventh inning and visiting Baltimore beat Texas.

Cardinals 14, Reds 3: Matt Holliday had two of host St. Louis’ six home runs in a rout of Cincinnati.

Royals 4, Athletics 2: Kendrys Morales had three hits and got his 500th career RBI to help visiting Kansas City win its fourth straight by beating Oakland.

Diamondbacks 3, Padres 2: Jake Lamb dashed home with the go-ahead run on a soft infield single by pinch-hitter Phil Gosselin with one out in the ninth inning, lifting visiting Arizona over San Diego.