

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## GOP wants to fund troops with war money

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — One big question surrounding this year's defense budget has been how Republicans will pay for the additional soldiers, the troop pay raise and the new hardware they want while staying within the strict limits Congress has imposed on spending.

The answer: Only fund the Islamic State war through next April, instead of a full year.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Thursday that providing only partial funding of the war in 2017 will allow Republicans to spend \$18 billion more than the Pentagon requested for non-war operations. It would also allow the party to stay within the federal spending limits Congress agreed to last fall to ease the political gridlock, which has tangled up the

budget for years.

Thornberry said the next president and Congress will be left to work out a new agreement to fund the war in Iraq and Syria — as well as any continuing operations in Afghanistan — for the remainder of 2017.

"Maybe the new president says President Obama got it just right and maybe the new president says he is not doing enough," he said.

The plan is being rolled into the annual National Defense Authorization Act, which sets defense policy, as the House Armed Services Committee plans to hammer out its version of the massive bill next week.

Thornberry's committee pushed ahead Wednesday with a \$610 billion budget bill that adds 20,000 soldiers to the Army's proposed budget and a 2.1 percent pay raise, the highest increase in years.

It is a shrewd move by Republicans who earlier had at-

tempted to skirt the agreed-to budget caps using the war fund, called Overseas Contingency Operations, by arguing the cap on the fund was actually supposed to be a minimum spending amount.

The short-term war budget also could lead to a new twist on a common problem for a divided Congress that has increasingly struggled with crises created by short-term spending measures — a fiscal cliff for the war effort.

Thornberry laid the blame for the budget maneuvering at Obama's feet, saying the administration did not request enough money in the overseas war fund to cover costs.

"There is not enough OCO left to pay for the activities that the president has asked for [during] the whole fiscal year," he said.

The chairman and his counterpart on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., have decried

what they consider anemic military funding and overall declining readiness in the face of increasing security risks around the world. But Congress has tied its own hands with spending limits, mostly championed by fiscally conservative Republicans.

"Unfortunately, the president's defense budget request for the coming fiscal year does little to nothing to address this problem," McCain said Wednesday on the Senate floor.

Thornberry and McCain have called for reversing the Army's plans to draw down end strength from 492,000 to 450,000 and pumping more money into programs such as Marine Corps aviation maintenance, which is suffering with parts shortages. The Army announced the three-year drawdown last summer as a cost-cutting measure that ultimately will save \$7 billion.

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## Yokosuka base commanding officer fired

BY ERIK SLAVIN

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Yokosuka base commanding officer Capt. David Glenister has been relieved of duty, Navy officials in Japan said Thursday.

Rear Adm. Matthew Carter, head of Navy Region Japan, relieved Glenister on Wednesday afternoon after losing confidence in his ability to command.

"The action resulted from the findings gathered during investigations which determined that Glenister had not performed to the high standards demanded of an installation commanding officer," a Navy statement said.

Glenister's initial misstep

involved an investigation into Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in the summer of 2015, Navy Region Japan officials said.

The investigation completed by the base command was deemed by higher headquarters as "wholly insufficient," Navy Region Japan spokesman Cmdr. Ron Flanders said Thursday.

The regional command later conducted its own investigation, which found and corrected deficiencies in the MWR programs, Flanders said.

This year, Glenister inadequately handled a "very serious" personnel grievance filed by a Yokosuka civilian base employee, Navy Region Japan

officials said. The grievance was not filed against Glenister personally. Officials declined to provide more detail on the grievance because it could be the subject of a lawsuit.

The two incidents, combined with poor initial findings of a command climate survey, led the Navy to determine that Glenister could no longer "handle that complex range of issues that can occur at a major base," Flanders said.

Glenister was not immediately available for comment Thursday.

Glenister assumed command of Yokosuka Naval Base in August 2013 and would have been relieved this summer under a normal rotation process.

Glenister's past commands included the minehunter USS Falcon and the frigate USS Rentz. He has been temporarily reassigned to Navy Region Japan, which is also at Yokosuka.

Capt. Steven Wieman, deputy commander and chief of staff of Navy Region Japan and former commanding officer of Naval Air Facility Atsugi, has been assigned as acting commanding officer.

Yokosuka Naval Base is the service's largest overseas installation and headquarters to the 7th Fleet, which includes the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

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# US official urges China to follow laws of sea

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — A U.S. official on Thursday questioned China's intentions with its massive land-reclamation projects in the South China Sea and urged it to follow international laws.

"The United States and Vietnam share an interest in maintaining peace and stability in the region," said Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken. "So does China. But its massive land-reclamation project in the South China Sea and increasing militarization of these outposts fuel regional tension and raise serious questions about China's intentions."

China claims virtually the

entire South China Sea, an area that contains some of the world's busiest sea lanes and is believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits. Its claim is disputed by other countries in the region, including Vietnam and the Philippines.

"The United States will defend our national interest and support our allies and partners in the region. We are not looking for bases, but we will continue to sail, to fly, to operate anywhere that international laws allow," Blinken said in a speech at Vietnam's National University in Hanoi.

Amid tensions over China's reclamation work — including the construction of airstrips, ports and radar stations and

the positioning of surface-to-air missiles on at least one new island — Beijing's Defense Ministry on Thursday appeared to confirm a test of an intercontinental missile.

A three-sentence statement posted on the ministry's website posed the question of whether China had fired an ICBM "in the South China Sea area."

In its response, the ministry said China maintains that "technological research experiments conducted according to plan within China's boundaries are normal and are not aimed at any specific nations or targets" — a standard ministry response to questions about testing of military hardware.

The statement follows a report in the U.S. newspaper Washington Free Beacon that quoted unidentified Pentagon officials as saying China tested its longest-range DF-41 missile with two multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles on Tuesday. The report did not say where the test took place, but referenced recent tensions between China and the U.S. over Beijing's actions to shore up its claims to the South China Sea.

Chinese military analyst Ni Lexiong said the ministry appeared to be seeking to advertise China's capabilities and boldness while leaving room for speculation about its actions and intentions.

## USS Mount Whitney turns 45

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY

*Stars and Stripes*

GAETA, Italy — From a bridge wing of the USS Mount Whitney, executive officer Lt. Cmdr. Chris De Leon pointed out the exterior radar arrays to be swapped out during a coming maintenance period.

"This will change, that will change," he said, indicating large and small domes on the ship's fore and aft. "You won't see two of these anymore," he said, pointing to another. "You'll see one."

Regular face-lifts help keep the 45-year-old Mount Whitney, flagship for the U.S. 6th Fleet, well plugged into the theater it oversees. The aging ship remains an unflashy centerpiece of the fleet, a floating command node that enables admirals to direct American naval power — ships, submarines and aircraft — from international waters.

"Anything and everything that's happening Navy, from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea and over to the Red Sea, is under our purview," said Capt. Carlos Sardiello, the commanding officer.

There's a lot happening in Europe right now, judging by the Mount Whitney's schedule.

It sailed to Scotland in October for a first-of-its-kind multinational ballistic missile demonstration. It will head to the Baltic Sea in a few months for an exercise that will flex U.S. and NATO maritime might in a region increasingly contested

by Russia.

Sandwiched in between are visits to friendly ports and events like this month's "tiger cruise" for family and Navy personnel in the area.

One of only two active, purpose-built command ships commissioned by the Navy, the Mount Whitney arrived in Gaeta in 2005, the same year the Navy moved its European command from London to Naples in a shift of focus toward the Mediterranean. Equipped only with defensive weapons, the ship was designed as a floating maritime operations center, or MOC, that would allow the 6th Fleet to move its staff from headquarters in Naples offshore when necessary.

"All the functions that the MOC does in Naples, they can do here," said De Leon. "We shift the MOC."

The ship wears a NATO hat and has a separate NATO staff, reflecting the 6th Fleet commander's dual role as head of Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO.

After several years in which it was the only permanently stationed American ship in Europe, the Mount Whitney has been joined by four guided-missile destroyers moved to Rota, Spain. Although each is armed with far more weapons, the Mount Whitney calls the shots when the commander is embarked, Sardiello said.

"Everything in the theater is the weapons," he said. "And it's all at the admiral's fingertips here."

## Harriet Tubman to be new face on \$20 bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. paper money is getting a historic makeover.

Harriet Tubman, a black abolitionist born into slavery, will be the new face on the \$20 bill.

The leader of the Underground Railroad is replacing the portrait of Andrew Jackson, the nation's seventh president and a slave owner, who is being pushed to the back of the bill.

And Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first Treasury secretary who's enjoying a revival thanks to a hit Broadway play, will keep his spot on the \$10 note after earlier talk of his removal.

The changes are part of a currency redesign announced Wednesday by Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, with the new \$20 marking two historic milestones: Tubman will become the first black on U.S. paper money and the first woman to be depicted on paper currency in 100 years.

The back of the \$20, which now shows the White House, will be redesigned to include the White House and Jackson, whose statute stands across the street in Lafayette Park.

# After wild week, Rams and Eagles get top 2 draft picks

*The Dallas Morning News*

If you don't have a quarterback in the NFL, you don't have a chance.

That's the premise for the wild trading to the very top of the draft in the past week by the Los Angeles Rams and Philadelphia Eagles.

The Rams, who finished 23rd in the NFL in passing last season, traded six picks to the Tennessee Titans for the first overall selection in the 2016 draft. The Eagles, who ranked 28th in the NFL in passing a year ago, traded five picks to the Cleveland Browns for the second overall choice.

Los Angeles gave Tennessee first-round picks in both 2016 and 2017, a pair of second-rounders in 2016 and a third-rounder in both 2016 and 2017. Philadelphia gave Cleveland first-round picks in 2016 and 2017, a second rounder in 2017 and third- and fourth-rounders, both in 2016.

If a John Elway, Troy Aikman or Peyton Manning was sitting atop a draft board,

the cost of trading up to the top spot would be inconsequential. Franchise quarterbacks are too hard to find. Pay whatever it takes to land one.

But the three quarterbacks sitting at the top of the 2016 draft board — Jared Goff, Carson Wentz and Paxton Lynch — aren't perceived as the slam dunks Elway and Aikman were when they became the first overall picks of their drafts. Goff posted a 15-21 career record at Cal and Lynch a 22-16 mark at Memphis. Wentz is attempting to make the jump from FCS to the NFL.

If you moved Goff, Wentz and Lynch into the 2015 draft, all likely would have been stacked behind quarterbacks Jameis Winston and Marcus Mariota, who went 1-2 last April.

The Rams clearly weren't enamored with Nick Foles and Case Keenum, who combined to throw as many interceptions (11) as touchdowns last season. And the Eagles were not content to enter another season with brittle Sam Bradford. The draft is all about selling hope, and now

the Rams and Eagles have something to sell.

All this is good news for the Dallas Cowboys. Jerry Jones had been rattling the cage about possibly taking a quarterback with the fourth overall pick. But did anyone short of the Eagles take him seriously? If two quarterbacks go to open the draft, the Cowboys will see another blue-chip player on the clock that they didn't otherwise figure to see.

Cornerback Jalen Ramsey, offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil, running back Ezekiel Elliott and pass rusher Joey Bosa all could be there. At least three of them should, anyway. Ramsey, Elliott and Bosa would all address needs, and both Ramsey and Tunsil could become trade chips.

One problem remains for the Cowboys — the team is still in dire need of a quality backup quarterback for Tony Romo. They may still draft a quarterback next week. He just won't be one of the two best on this draft board.

# James, Cavs sink Pistons

*Associated Press*

CLEVELAND — J.R. Smith looked down at the postgame box score and couldn't believe his eyes.

"We shot 38 threes?" he asked. "Damn." Yep, and dropped 20 to sink the Pistons.

LeBron James scored 27 points, Smith made seven of Cleveland's NBA playoff record-tying 20 three-pointers, and the Cavs opened a 2-0 lead in their increasingly testy series with a 107-90 victory over Detroit on Wednesday night.

The top-seeded Cavs put away the up-and-coming Pistons in the third quarter, outscoring them 27-15 to protect home-court advantage. They did it with a flurry of six threes, including two by Smith.

"I'm open, so I shoot the ball," Smith explained. "It's kind of simple for me."

There was nothing easy about their first two wins and the Cavs, favored to win the Eastern Conference and return to the finals, will have their work cut out when the best-of-seven series resumes on Friday night at Detroit.

The young Pistons aren't backing down and rookie Stanley Johnson had strong words for the Cavs afterward.

"Their whole team talks," said Johnson, who was also upset with James for bumping him at the end of the first quarter. "All those guys on the bench, they're like cheerleaders. Only 7-8 guys are playing, but they're all talking. They might as well be in the stands."

Kyrie Irving added 22 points for Cleveland, which shares the postseason record for threes with Golden State (2015), Dallas (2011) and Seattle (1996).

Andre Drummond scored 20 for the Pistons, who have lost 10 straight playoff games against Cleveland. Drummond was just 4-for-16 from the line and the Pistons didn't do enough on either end to slow the Cavs.

**Clippers 102, Trail Blazers 81:** Chris Paul and Blake Griffin were in no hurry to go back into the game. The reserves were rolling and again creating some breathing room.

Paul and Griffin urged coach Doc Rivers to let the second unit keep playing. He agreed, and the bench scored 43 points in host Los Angeles' victory over Portland, giving Los Angeles a 2-0 lead in its first-round playoff series.

Jamal Crawford, the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year, led the reserves with 11 points and Jeff Green added 10 on a night when the Clippers' starters weren't their usual dominant selves. The bench opened the second quarter on a 12-2 run, stretching a six-point lead to 15.

**Heat 115, Hornets 103:** Dwyane Wade had 28 points and eight assists, Hassan Whiteside made all eight of his shots and finished with 17 points, helping host Miami beat Charlotte to take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference first-round series.

Goran Dragic scored 18 points, Luol Deng had 16, Josh Richardson finished with 15 and Whiteside grabbed 13 rebounds for Miami.

# Browns' deal gives Eagles No. 2 pick

*Associated Press*

PHILADELPHIA — Desperate for a franchise quarterback, the Philadelphia Eagles can get their man. Soon.

The Cleveland Browns will wait for their guy.

The Eagles acquired the No. 2 overall pick in next week's draft from Cleveland in exchange for five picks on Wednesday. The Browns are getting Philadelphia's first-round pick this year (No. 8), a third-round pick (No. 77) and fourth-rounder (No. 100), plus a first-rounder in 2017 and a second-rounder in 2018.

Cleveland also sends a fourth-round pick in 2017 to the Eagles.

"It's a tough price to pay," said Howie Roseman, Philadelphia's executive vice president of football operations. "We're very sure we're going to get the player we want. We've spent a ton of time investigating these guys and looked at the quarterback market going forward, and this is a rare opportunity we're in."

The trade allows Philadelphia to select one of the top quarterback prospects, Carson Wentz of North Dakota State or Jared Goff of California at No. 2. The Los Angeles Rams already acquired the top overall pick from Tennessee for a slew of picks and have indicated they will take a quarterback.

It is the fourth time the top two selections in the draft have been dealt.

"These guys are pretty even," Eagles coach Doug Pederson said of Wentz and Goff. "From all the physical tools, both of them are extremely gifted. Good arm strength, good mobility. Obviously, Carson is a little bigger, maybe a little

better athlete right now. There's not much separating those two."

The Eagles signed Sam Bradford to a \$35 million, two-year contract in March. Roseman said he'll be the starter. They also signed backup Chase Daniel to a \$21 million, three-year deal. But Roseman couldn't resist an opportunity to move up after acquiring the No. 8 pick from Miami for cornerback Byron Maxwell, linebacker Kiko Alonso and the 13th overall pick.

"We're going to invest in quarterbacks," Roseman said. "The key to being championship caliber over a long period of time is quarterbacks."

The last time the Eagles drafted a quarterback in the first round was 1999 when Andy Reid took Donovan McNabb at No. 2. McNabb led Philadelphia to five NFC championship games and one Super Bowl appearance.

The Browns were in position to finally land a quarterback after more than a decade of futility and failure. Cleveland has had 24 starting quarterbacks since 1999, when it chose Tim Couch ahead of McNabb. But the club's new front office wasn't enthralled with Goff or Wentz and decided to get more picks to help first-year coach Hue Jackson build a winner.

Cleveland may still be able to get a quarterback — possibly Memphis' Paxton Lynch — in the draft, but it won't be one of the top two guys. After the Rams leaped from No. 15 to No. 1, the Browns were no longer going to have their choice of Goff or Wentz.

The Browns recently signed Robert Griffin III, making it easier to trade the second pick. Griffin signed a two-year, \$15 million contract and was viewed as

a "bridge" QB until the team develops a young player.

The Browns' new front office led by Sashi Brown has placed heavy emphasis on analytics in preparing for this year's draft and putting together Cleveland's roster. With so many needs, the Browns chose to accumulate as many picks as possible to fill holes on both sides of the ball.

"These picks will play a major role in building our team for long-term sustained success," Brown said. "We want to assemble a young nucleus of talented players and this trade positions us really well. There is a good depth of talent in the first round and we felt we could make a larger impact to our roster by adding more draft picks and that's why we made the decision to trade down."

Cleveland now has 12 selections in this year's draft, including six of the top 100 picks.

The Eagles host the Browns in the season opener on Sept. 11.

Previous years in which the top two picks were traded, according to STATS:

- 1967, when New Orleans sent the top spot to the Baltimore Colts, who took Bubba Smith, and the Giants sent the second pick to Minnesota, which grabbed Clint Jones.

- 1975, when Atlanta got the No. 1 selection from the Colts and took Steve Bartkowski, while Dallas acquired No. 2 from the Giants to take Randy White.

- 1997, when the Rams got the top spot from the Jets to draft Orlando Pace, and the Saints sent the No. 2 selection to the Raiders, who picked Darrell Russell.



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# Flyers top Capitals, avoid elimination

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Michal Neuvirth skated off the Flyers' ice to a roar he wanted to hear.

Only thunderous cheers came from the fans, not flying objects. With how Neuvirth played, he might have stopped them anyway.

Neuvirth had 31 saves in his first start of the playoff series, helping Philadelphia stave off a sweep with a 2-1 win over the Washington Capitals on Wednesday night.

"We talked about it, let's have some fun and enjoy the moment. We did," Neuvirth said.

The Capitals still lead the series 3-1 headed into Game 5 Friday night in Washington.

Shayne Gostisbehere and Andrew MacDonald each scored for the Flyers in a distraction-free game following Game 3's embarrassing end where fans pelted the ice with souvenir wristbands.

"The fans were a little bit better than last game," Flyers captain Claude Giroux said. "It's good to have them on our side again."

Outstanding play in the net helped the Flyers even more. Neuvirth was sensational in the third after T.J. Oshie scored early in the period to make it 2-1.

The Capitals still have never swept a best-of-seven playoff series.

Flyers rookie coach Dave Hakstol shuffled the lineup for the win-or-else game. He benched No. 1 goalie Steve Mason for Neuvirth and moved Brayden Schenn to the top line and demoted Jake Voracek.

Mason allowed five power-play goals, including four in the third period, in a 6-1 Game 3 loss. Mason's Game 2 gaffe that allowed Jason Chimera's 101-foot tip-in goal has been replayed on an endless blooper reel in Philly.

Exit Mason, enter Neuvirth.

Neuvirth, who played parts of six seasons in Washington, went 18-8-4 with a 2.27 goals against and a .924 save percentage in 32 games.

"He always was pretty clutch, so I'm sure he's going to be fine tonight," Voracek said.

He was clutch, indeed. His only misstep came when Oshie backhanded a rebound off Matt Niskanen's shot from the point just 2:38 into the third.

That was it for the Capitals.

"Every series is about getting the four. We need to get the four," coach Barry Trotz said. "The sooner you get the four, it gives you a couple opportunities to rest guys, heal guys [and get] a little mental break from the pressures of playoff hockey and a little more time to prepare."

**Stars 3, Wild 2:** With a determined victory in Minnesota's deafening arena, Dallas picked up a valuable souvenir for the trip home.

They revived their lagging special teams, too, pushing the Wild to the edge of elimination.

Jason Spezza scored the go-ahead goal with his skate, Ales Hemsley and Patrick Eaves each scored on a second-period power play, and the Stars defeated Minnesota to push their series lead to 3-1.

"It's a typical playoff road win right there," Spezza said. "Just hunker down in the third period and hold a lead, big

saves from our goalie, and good penalty kills."

Antti Niemi assumed the net from Kari Lehtonen, who started the first three games, and stopped 28 shots for the Stars. They'll host Game 5 in Dallas on Friday.

"That's a luxury that we've had all year. You're starting to see the benefits of having fresh goalies all the time," Spezza said.

Jason Pominville and Charlie Coyle both gave the Wild the lead with second-period goals, but they weren't able to sustain the momentum from that spirited comeback in Game 3 for the entire night.

"I liked our game. Hey, you know what? We've just got to go win a game in their building. That's the bottom line," Wild coach John Torchetti said.

The Wild finished the game with a 6-on-4 advantage after a high-sticking penalty on Antoine Roussel with goalie Devan Dubnyk pulled, but the Stars tightened and allowed only one shot on target over the 84-second two-man advantage. In fact, the Dallas defense was sound from start to finish, clogging the seams and steering many of Minnesota's shots to the outside for bad-angle attempts.

"When we made a few mistakes," Pominville said, "they made us pay right away."

After acquiring Niemi in a trade with San Jose last summer to pair him with Lehtonen, the Stars carefully rotated the 32-year-olds throughout the season, with each goalie getting exactly 25 wins. Lehtonen posted a shut-out in Game 1, but he wasn't as sharp in Game 3, making the transition a natural one for Ruff.

# Greinke outduels Bumgarner for first win

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Zack Greinke's body has caught up with his delivery and he's pitching better every out, a good sign for a team getting on a roll heading into a long homestand.

Greinke and Madison Bumgarner both pitched well in a showdown of NL West aces, but Wellington Castillo hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning to help the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the San Francisco Giants 2-1 on Wednesday night.

"This was definitely the best I've felt all season," Greinke said. "It worked out pretty good."

Greinke (1-2) got his first win with Arizona and remained undefeated against the Giants — he's 8-0 in 11 starts against San Francisco and 3-0 against Bumgarner. He gave up a run on six hits over 62/3 innings, walking one and striking out seven.

"I've been working on getting things right," he said. "Everything is smoother. My body is starting to do things it's supposed to do instead of doing things wrong."

Brandon Drury added two hits for the Diamondbacks, who won their fourth straight and have taken 11 of their last 13 in San Francisco.

Bumgarner (1-2) went seven innings, giving up the two runs on five hits. He walked one and struck out eight as the Giants lost their fourth straight and seventh of eight.

Castillo hit his second home run of the series and his third of the season, taking Bumgarner deep on an 0-2 pitch. He's driven in four runs during the series and hit .325 (14-for-44) at AT&T Park in his career.

"Both pitchers were spot on," Diamondbacks manager Chip Hale said. "It took one pitch that Bumgarner left in the zone for us to hit. For a while I thought we might be going 20 innings."

Gregor Blanco hit a one-out triple and Angel Pagan followed with an RBI single in the seventh to end an 18-inning scoreless streak for the Giants against Arizona. Blanco had two hits.

"We got a great pitching effort, we're just missing some timely hits," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "We finally got one late in the game but we had a couple chances early."

Tyler Clippard worked the eighth for his career-best seventh scoreless outing to start a season.

**Tigers 3, Royals 2:** There were plenty of superlatives to go around in the Detroit clubhouse.

Jordan Zimmermann extending his impressive scoreless innings streak to start the season. Victor Martinez reaching 1,000 RBIs for his career. Francisco Rodriguez surviving a dicey ninth inning for his 390th save, matching Dennis Eckersley for sixth on baseball's career list.

The fact that the Tigers beat Kansas City was hardly an afterthought, though.

"The most important part of tonight," Martinez said, "is we were able to win."

It came down to the wire when Rodriguez served up back-to-back homers to Alex Gordon and Salvador Perez in the ninth. But the veteran closer bounced back to strike out Mike Moustakas and leave runners on first and second, recoiling off the mound after notching the save that evened the series.

"It was his to save or lose," Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said.

Zimmermann (3-0) scattered seven hits and a walk over 6 1/3 innings, striking out eight, in another sharp performance. He has yet to allow a run over 19 1/3 innings, a stretch that is beginning to make the \$110 million, five-year contract he signed in November look like a bargain.

It's the longest scoreless streak to begin a season by a Detroit pitcher since at least 1913.

Ian Kinsler drove the other two runs for Detroit, which did just enough against Ian Kennedy (2-1) and the Kansas City bullpen. Kennedy allowed two runs on six hits and two walks while striking out seven, while Chien-Ming Wang allowed the decisive run in the ninth.

"I figured it was going to be a pitcher's duel," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

**White Sox 2, Angels 1:** Chris Sale be-

came the major leagues' first four-game winner, allowing two hits in seven innings to lead host Chicago.

Sale (4-0) allowed a pair of singles by Mike Trout and an unearned run. David Robertson got four outs for his sixth save in as many attempts, allowing Trout's third hit and completing a fourth-hitter.

**Rangers 2, Astros 1:** Cole Hamels extended his career-best winning streak to 10 games, Rougned Odor had a two-run homer and host Texas beat Houston.

Hamels hit the first two batters of the game, gave up three straight singles to start the second and surrendered a lead-off hit in the third. But the Astros couldn't score, helping Hamels (3-0) by making an out on the bases in each inning.

**Reds 6, Rockies 5:** Tucker Barnhart hit a game-ending single off Christian Bergman (0-3) over a five-man infield in the ninth as host Cincinnati overcame a bullpen meltdown and took advantage of a Colorado baserunning blunder.

Colorado appeared to tie the score 3-3 in the seventh when Dustin Garneau doubled with two outs and pinch-hitter Ryan Raburn singled to right. But Raburn was called out on appeal by umpire Adrian Johnson for missing third base.

**Cardinals 5, Cubs 3:** Matt Holliday homered, Carlos Martinez (0-3) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings and host St. Louis avoided getting swept in the three-game series.

**Athletics 5, Yankees 2:** Kendall Graveman (1-1) tossed three-hit ball for 6 1/3 innings and struck out eight for visiting Oakland, 5-0 in the road this season. Slumping New York (5-8) has lost six of seven and is last in the AL East.

Yankee Aaron Hicks' rocket throw from medium-deep left field in the fourth inning was clocked at 105.5 mph by Statcast, the fastest the system has recorded by an outfielder, according to Major League Baseball.

**Red Sox 7, Rays 3:** Mookie Betts hit a two-run homer and David Ortiz drove in three runs with a pair of doubles to back Rick Porcello as host Boston stopped a three-game skid.

**Dodgers 5, Braves 3 (10):** Justin Turner gave Los Angeles the lead with a 10th-inning double to snap host Atlanta's four-game winning streak.

The Braves failed in a bid to become the first team to win five straight games after starting a season 0-9, according to STATS.

**Mariners 2, Indians 1:** Taijuan Walker (1-0) allowed just an unearned run and three hits over six innings for visiting Seattle, and Norichika Aoki had a two-run triple in the second.

**Nationals 3, Marlins 1:** Bryce Harper doubled in a run and Yusmeiro Petit (1-0) allowed one run in four innings of relief after starter Joe Ross departed in the third inning because of a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand.

Harper, who began the night leading the majors with 20 RBIs, hit a two-out double in the third to score Ross from first base for a 2-0 lead for visiting Washington.

**Orioles 4, Blue Jays 3:** Caleb Joseph doubled off Joe Biagini (0-1) with two outs in the 10th inning and scored on Josh Thole's passed ball for host Baltimore.

**Phillies 5, Mets 4 (11):** Peter Bourjos drove in the winning run on an infield single with two outs in the 11th inning to lift host Philadelphia over New York.

Yoenis Cespedes and Lucas Duda hit consecutive homers and Neil Walker had four hits for the Mets.

**Padres 8, Pirates 2:** Drew Pomeranz struck out a career-high 10 and held Pittsburgh to four singles and Matt Kemp homered to lead host San Diego.

The Padres have taken the first two of three games against the Pirates for their first home series win this season.

**Brewers 10, Twins 5:** Aaron Hill, Chris Carter and Domingo Santana each hit home runs to help Jimmy Nelson and host Milwaukee beat Minnesota.

Nelson, who had never faced the Twins, allowed four runs on 10 hits. He struck out six and walked one to keep the Twins winless in seven games on the road.