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Trump outlines foreign policy strategy

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump outlined his vision for the nation's defense strategy Wednesday in his first major speech on the topic.

The speech centered on the five main weaknesses he sees in President Barack Obama's current foreign policy: that the U.S. military is overextended and under-resourced; that U.S. allies do not pay more toward their own defenses; that negotiating the nuclear arms deal with Iran has alienated allies such as Israel and Saudi Arabia; that competitors such as China and rivals such as North Korea no longer fear or respect U.S. foreign power; and that the U.S. no longer has a coherent foreign policy.

Throughout the speech,

Trump repeated elements of his foreign policy that have surfaced in recent weeks during his campaign, such as his opposition to the Iraq War. Trump said the U.S. decision to go to war in Iraq has strengthened Iran, and in the last decade has further destabilized the Middle East.

"I was totally against the war in Iraq ... very proudly," Trump said. "Our actions in Iraq, Libya and Syria have helped unleash" the Islamic State group.

He said his administration would work on a long-term plan to stop the spread of radical Islam, and noted that plan may require a larger U.S. military presence in countries throughout the world. Trump also repeated his promise to temporarily halt the immigration of Muslims into the U.S. as a way to protect against domes-

tic attacks, such as the one in San Bernardino, Calif., in December that was carried out by Pakistani immigrant Tashfeen Malik and her husband, U.S.-born Syed Rizwan Farook.

Trump also said he would shift the U.S. position with Russia and China to improve those relations and negotiate "from a position of strength only." He said as president he would meet with the Russian government to try to negotiate a new balance of power.

"If we can't make a deal under my administration ... a deal that is great for America ... we will quickly walk from the table," Trump said.

The speech, held at The Mayflower hotel in Washington, was the first in an expected series of policy speeches as Trump closes in on winning enough delegates to become the Re-

publican presidential nominee. Some of Trump's proposed foreign policies run counter to longstanding U.S. policy, including nonproliferation and its commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO. In late March, Trump suggested that Japan and South Korea should develop nuclear weapons, prompting Japan to publicly restate its commitment not to own or develop a nuclear weapon. Trump did not reiterate that message in Wednesday's speech.

Trump repeated his campaign promise that he would require long-time U.S. allies in Asia and Europe to reimburse the U.S. for the defenses it has provided in terms of troops, aircraft carriers and bases, or be prepared to face the possibility that the U.S. will stop providing for their defenses.

House rejects renaming Marine vehicle 'Lima Warrior'

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers rejected a proposal Wednesday to rename a Marine Corps amphibious vehicle after a company hit hard by improvised explosive devices during the Iraq War.

Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., served with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment during 2005 when it lost 22 members — including 14 in a devastating roadside bombing — and sponsored the legislation asking the service to call its Amphibious Assault Vehicle-7 the "Lima Warrior."

But support dissolved for Gallego's proposal among members of the House Armed Services Committee due to opposition from the Marine

Corps commandant. The committee voted against adding the measure to the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act during a marathon debate over the massive policy bill.

"This is something that is extremely personal to me," said Gallego, whose voice appeared to waver with emotion during the hearing. "My unit unfortunately had the same tragedy that many other units had, where we were in ill-equipped vehicles, AAVs, and we lost many men including my best friend in the war."

The AAV has since been upgraded to be more resistant to the type of IEDs that were common in Iraq, improvements at least partly prompted by the deaths in Lima Company, Gallego said.

"I would hope that if any of the Marines who live in the future because of these designs and the sacrifice of these men, that [Lima Company] would actually be recognized in the future for everything that we did in that time in Iraq," he said.

Gallego received sympathy for his service in the war from fellow lawmakers but it was not enough to overcome a message to the committee from Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller.

Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., an Armed Services subcommittee chairman, said he met Tuesday with the commandant to get his take on the proposal.

"His comment was this, that the United States Marine Corps chooses not to single out any unit or individual in the Corps

by naming combat vehicles after them since all of our Marines sacrificed in Iraq and Afghanistan," Forbes said.

Another Iraq veteran and Democrat on the committee, Rep. Seth Moulton, of Massachusetts, said he had previously planned to support Gallego and vote in support of the Lima Warrior naming.

"This is a difficult call," he said.

Moulton, who was a Marine infantry officer during the war, said he has "tremendous respect" for Lima Company's sacrifice in Iraq.

"But I do find the commandant's comments compelling and, as difficult as it is to say, I think the Marine Corps has established this precedent for good reason," he said.

3rd Fleet deploying to Western Pacific

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Three guided-missile destroyers will deploy from Hawaii to the Western Pacific on Wednesday, the first group of ships to set sail under an initiative giving the 3rd Fleet greater autonomy west of the International Date Line.

The change will allow the fleet to continue commanding in the Western Pacific — authority that usually shifts to the 7th Fleet past the date line.

The 3rd Fleet, headquartered in San Diego, is responsible for a large portion of the Pacific off the U.S. West Coast, but the Japan-based 7th Fleet takes on an even bigger area that includes Oceania, Southeast Asia, China and the Korean Peninsula.

Arleigh Burke-class destroy-

ers the USS Spruance, USS Decatur and USS Momsen arrived in Hawaii a week ago from the West Coast and will deploy for seven months as a surface-action group under the 3rd Fleet Forward initiative, which is the brainchild of Adm. Scott Swift, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander.

“I never understood from the whole time I’ve been in the Pacific why we were so allegiant to the International Date Line as a separation between 3rd Fleet and 7th Fleet,” Swift said Tuesday during an all-hands call on the Momsen for crewmembers of all three ships.

Since taking charge in May, Swift — a former 7th Fleet commander — said he’d quickly learned that when Navy personnel talked about “the power of the Pacific Fleet,” they were talking about the 7th Fleet.

“The 3rd Fleet was the forgotten fleet in the Pacific,” said

Swift, who reminded his sailors the fleet spent World War II in the Western Pacific under the command of Adm. William Halsey. “So this is a little bit of returning to your roots, our roots.”

While the Navy faces many challenges in the Pacific, Swift singled out the threat posed by North Korea, particularly in light of its ballistic missile launch last month. The U.S. might need the three-ship group to defend Japan, or the United States, Swift said.

The initiative does not have “direct application” to the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, where the Navy has been conducting freedom-of-navigation operations near islands claimed by China. The U.S. says China has been militarizing reefs that were expanding through sand dredging.

“We’re not stretched from a

capacity and capability perspective with the challenges that the region faces in the South China Sea,” Swift said.

The initiative’s biggest drivers are the frequent disasters, such as earthquakes, typhoons and tsunamis, in the Pacific, after which the U.S. military is often called upon for help. If a disaster or crisis is small, the 7th Fleet has the capacity to handle it.

“But I’ve got over 200 ships,” Swift said of the Pacific Fleet. “I’ve got over 1,000 aircraft, 140,000 sailors. If all of those resources need to be applied to one specific task, 7th Fleet can’t do that. They don’t have the staff size, the capacity to do that.”

“The power of Pacific Fleet is really the combined power of 7th and 3rd fleets, and we just haven’t thought of 3rd Fleet in that context,” he said.

30-nation monthlong naval exercise ends in Mideast

BY CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Navies from 30 nations on Tuesday wrapped up a monthlong exercise aimed at keeping international waterways in the Middle East region safe.

Though not related to any specific threat, the International Mine Countermeasures Exercise, led by U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, addressed real-world threats, such as a sea mines and improvised explosive devices in a major sea lane.

The Middle East is home to three major choke points for international shipping, including the Suez Canal, Bab al-Mandab strait and the Strait of Hormuz, where nearly a fifth of the world’s oil transits.

Vice Adm. Kevin Donegan, head of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, lauded the ex-

ercise’s realism.

“You couldn’t just show up and declare success,” Donegan said in a statement. “You actually had to get in the water.”

More than 4,000 civilian and military personnel participated in the exercise, which took place in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Red Sea. Participants focused on defensive operations, including mine countermeasures, maritime security and maritime infrastructure protection.

“What was showcased was a new level of interoperability, coordination and resolve on an international stage that has not been seen before,” Lt. Ian McConnaughey, a NAVCENT spokesman said. “All participants came together to face myriad threats, to include state and nonstate actors that present themselves in this unique and dynamic region of the world.”

US admiral lauds China’s ‘professional interactions’

Bloomberg

Standing on a nuclear-powered U.S. aircraft carrier the length of more than three football fields as it plows through one of the world’s most contested seas, Rear Adm. Marcus Hitchcock has only high praise for the navy of his biggest military rival: China.

Around 125 nautical miles from the Malaysian coast in the South China Sea, Hitchcock, the newly minted commander of the carrier strike group led by the USS John C. Stennis, says his ships have been engaged on almost a “twenty four-seven basis” with a “completely professional” People’s Liberation Army Navy.

“We have had nothing but professional interactions,” he said on the flag deck of the John C. Stennis, over the near-constant roar of fighter jets taking off and landing. “The ocean is a very connected environ-

ment, and the sailors that are on it, the navies that are on it are very connected, no matter what their nations are going through diplomatically.”

Those diplomatic issues are, however, bleeding into the military sphere, amid accusations by the U.S. and China that the other is militarizing the South China Sea. The deployment of the carrier comes against the backdrop of tensions over China’s land reclamation that has enabled it to build airstrips and base missiles in the area.

The two countries’ navies have been abiding by a code they set up for unplanned encounters at sea, Hitchcock said. The code is “going very well.”

But it doesn’t extend to the coast guard, and with China increasingly using its coast guard in the South China Sea as a de facto navy, security analysts have warned of the increased risk of a clash.

Tunsil playing waiting game

Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Former Mississippi left tackle Laremy Tunsil spent his final Saturday before the NFL Draft a couple miles from his college home, signing footballs, miniature blue helmets and T-shirts while talking and posing for pictures at a local apparel store.

As a middle-aged man wrapped up his short conversation with Tunsil, he repeated a sentiment expressed by about a dozen other fans over the previous few hours.

"I'll support you wherever you go," he said. "But it sure would have been fun to make that short drive and watch you play in Nashville. I thought that was going to happen."

Tunsil nodded and flashed a wide smile as he handed a signed football back to the man.

The 6-foot-5, 310-pound left tackle isn't going to sugarcoat it: He thought he was going to end up in Nashville, too.

But last week, Tunsil received a crash course in the business of the NFL.

The Tennessee Titans traded the No. 1 pick to the Los Angeles Rams, who will almost certainly want a quarterback with the top pick. The Philadelphia Eagles also moved up in a likely search for a quarterback, grabbing the No. 2 pick in a trade with Cleveland.

Suddenly, Tunsil's future became a lot more uncertain.

"I'm human — it hurt," Tunsil said. "Because [Nashville's] the place you

thought you would be going. Plus, it's the No. 1 pick and they needed a left tackle. Your goal growing up is to be the first pick, so when they traded it, it hurts. But hey, it's football.

"I just want to play football and I just want to get picked."

That's probably going to happen fairly soon on Thursday night when the NFL Draft begins in Chicago. San Diego might want a left tackle with the No. 3 pick. The Jacksonville Jaguars at No. 5 or the Baltimore Ravens, picking at No. 6, are other possible landing spots.

Tunsil said he's trying not to think too much about his future and just embrace whatever happens over the next week. Ole Miss offensive line coach Matt Luke says whoever drafts Tunsil is getting a potential franchise-changing player.

"He's a good mixture of exactly how you would want to build an offensive lineman," Luke said. "He's not loud and he's not cocky, but he's extremely confident and thrives on competition."

And then there's his uncanny athleticism. It's what made Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze comfortable calling a memorable play during this year's Sugar Bowl, when quarterback Chad Kelly faked right and then turned to throw a lateral to Tunsil in the open field.

The 310-pounder deftly adjusted to the ball's flight and caught it with ease, trotting into the end zone just before halftime as his teammates went nuts. It was a satisfying ending after a difficult season — Tunsil had to sit out the season's first seven games after the NCAA ruled he

received improper benefits, including the use of three loaner cars over a six-month period.

"That's certainly the only touchdown I've ever thrown to my left tackle," Kelly said. "But we had practiced that play so many times we were almost bored with it. I've watched him make one-handed catches in practice. He's just an athletic freak."

Tunsil said his ability to move laterally and keep up with defensive ends dates back to his high school days in Lake City, Fla. He was a post player on his basketball team and said he averaged about 15 points per game.

Freeze said that versatility has served Tunsil well.

"I don't know that I've ever seen anyone who can bend and move like he does," Freeze said.

Tunsil's pass blocking has been universally praised during his time at Ole Miss — he gave up just two sacks over a 28-game career. But there were some concerns about his upper body strength and ability to push people around in the running game.

Then he went out on Ole Miss pro day and did 34 repetitions of 225 pounds on the bench press — even surprising his coaches in the process. That mark would have tied for the top spot at the NFL combine in February.

Tunsil admits it was a proud moment. "That's the good thing about this sport — there's always a chance to prove people wrong," Tunsil said. "I love doing that."

Stars say close call will help

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Jason Spezza and the Dallas Stars believe that frenzied 15-minute finish when they barely hung on to close out their first-round series will come in handy moving forward in the playoffs.

They know the St. Louis Blues will certainly be able to charge at them like Minnesota did.

"If anything, it's a great period for us because we survived it and now get to learn from it," Spezza said Tuesday after the Stars returned from a day off. "If we'd cruised to a 4-0 win, I don't know if we'd get as much out of that game. ... But when you survive something like that, I think it can be an advantage for us now to live through a situation like that and not just talk about it. You know kind of how it feels when teams put on that kind of pressure."

Dallas, the top seed in the Western Conference, opens the second round Friday night at home against St. Louis. The Blues outlasted the Chicago Blackhawks, last year's Stanley Cup champs, in a seven-game first-round series that ended Monday night.

The Stars finished their first-round series in six games. They led 4-0 going into the third period on the road Sunday and held on to win 5-4 after the Wild came within a fraction of an inch of tying the game in the final minute.

"I think if it would have been on the other side, they would have been devastated," coach Lindy Ruff said. "But to get through it, the desperation at the end of the game, even in the last few minutes, I thought was tremendous. ... I loved our desperation. We've just got to put that desperation in the right place."

When the Stars got back together Tuesday, they watched video from that wild game.

"Well, we were relaxed because we knew we were already in the second round," Radek Faksa said. "When we were on the bench, it wasn't that much fun. ... But it was a good experience for our future."

Dallas won only once in five games in the season series against the Blues, who got three of their four wins in overtime.

The second-round series provides another playoff rematch between Ruff and Blues coach Ken Hitchcock, who was coach of the Stars in 1999 when they won their only Stanley Cup, clinching it with a triple-overtime victory in Game 6 over Ruff's Buffalo Sabres. Hitchcock's Philadelphia Flyers were eliminated by Buffalo in a first-round Eastern Conference series in 2006.

Left wing Patrick Sharp thinks Dallas can be better off for the close third period Sunday.

"I think you flush out the bad, but there's a lot of positives that we can take from that game," Sharp said.

Rams confident with No. 1 draft pick

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rams general manager Les Snead and coach Jeff Fisher are about to make the biggest choice of their careers, and they figure they can't get wrong.

When the Rams make the top selection in the NFL Draft on Thursday, either Jared Goff or Carson Wentz will become their franchise quarterback for their return season in Los Angeles.

Although the Rams certainly appeared to know their choice Tuesday, Snead claimed the Rams' bold trade to the top of the draft gave them two can't-miss options.

"I do think both of the players are very good, and both are going to have very good careers," Snead said.

"But I can tell you that we wanted to get to No. 1 so that we would have a choice, and be able to pick one of the two. But in terms of pressure, just because there's two (candidates), I don't think that's anything added. We wanted to get there to have that choice."

The trade cost the Rams six picks while returning three. They don't currently have another pick this weekend until Saturday's fourth round.

But Snead and Fisher, who make the Rams' decisions together, have spent

their four losing seasons building a franchise that was ready to take this leap, with its core of young talent now experienced enough to support a star rookie quarterback into a playoff race.

With just two days to go, the Rams appeared confident they've got their man.

"We've spent a great deal of time," Fisher said. "Probably three visits with each quarterback, hours and hours and hours. We've done our research and studied and talked to dozens and dozens of people that are close to both candidates. We've done our work. They're both going to play in this league, and they're both going to be very good players."

Fisher and Snead won't inform the quarterback they've chosen until right before head equipment manager Jim Lake takes the card to the commissioner in Chicago.

"There's only a few things better in life than this phone call," Fisher said. "It's a great experience for them, so we don't want to deny our pick that opportunity to experience that."

The Rams began a monumental week in franchise history with a news conference at the downtown hotel serving as their headquarters for both the draft and their reintroduction to the nation's second-largest media market.

The team is hosting a large fan party Thursday in the LA Live entertainment

district to celebrate the No. 1 pick, who will fly to Los Angeles on Friday. He'll be at next weekend's rookie minicamp in coastal Oxnard, the Rams' home until training camp in Orange County.

Even with everything riding on the new quarterback, Fisher and Snead don't necessarily expect him to play Sept. 12 when the Rams begin the regular season in Santa Clara, Calif., against the 49ers.

"As far as when and how soon he plays ... we can't put a timetable on that," Fisher said. "We'll play him when he's ready. We have the philosophy not to ask him to do something he can't do and subject him to failure."

But Snead acknowledges most NFL Draft picks must play "sooner than later." He declined to say whether he has begun trade discussions around veteran quarterbacks Nick Foles, Case Keenum and Sean Mannion, but the conversations likely will heat up after the draft.

Fisher and Snead also realize a quarterback is only one piece of the fix for the NFL's least productive offense last season. Fisher is confident his young offensive line will continue to grow after giving up just 18 sacks last season.

"We feel really good about the group that's going to start the season," Fisher said. "There's tremendous depth. They all have experience."



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Raptors' rally stuns Pacers

Associated Press

TORONTO — DeMar DeRozan finally turned in the All-Star effort Toronto has been waiting for in the playoffs.

DeRozan's big game, and an even bigger Raptors comeback, put Toronto on the brink of a second-round berth.

DeRozan scored 34 points and the Raptors held on for a 102-99 victory over the Indiana Pacers and a 3-2 lead in their first-round series Tuesday night when Solomon Hill's three-pointer was ruled after the buzzer.

"I just felt like my normal self," said DeRozan, who came in shooting 29.6 percent (21-for-71) over the first four games of the series but connected on 10 of 22 shots in this one.

"It's all about patience," DeRozan added. "You can't get flustered, you can't get frustrated. You've got to stay the course. That's what we're going to continue to do."

The Raptors overcame 39 points from Paul George and a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter, getting 14 points from Kyle Lowry.

Bismack Biyombo had 10 points and 16 rebounds for the second-seeded Raptors, who can clinch the first seven-game playoff series victory in franchise history by beating the Pacers in Indiana on Friday night.

"If we don't come in (Friday) with the mentality like we had in the fourth quarter, it's going to be a long game," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said.

George Hill had 15 points and Myles Turner 14 for the Pacers, who led by as many as 17 and never trailed through the first three quarters before coming un-

glued in the fourth.

"It's awful to have had a chance to win on the road, go up 3-2, and come back home," George said. "Once again, we failed to live up to that moment."

Jonas Valanciunas scored 11 and rookie Norman Powell had 10 for Toronto.

The Pacers made 13 of 29 from three-point range but struggled from all over the floor in the fourth, making four of 15 shots and scoring just nine points in the period.

Trailing 90-77 to begin the fourth, the Raptors tied the game with a 15-2 run. Powell stole the ball from Monta Ellis and made a fast-break dunk to knot it at 92-all with 6:31 remaining, sending the sellout crowd of 19,800 into a frenzy.

"I think the crowd, the intensity, it took away from us being in attack mode and being confident," George said. "I thought we played a little nervous, a little tight, on our heels."

Toronto's first six points of the fourth came with George on the bench. He checked back in with 8:36 left.

Pacers coach Frank Vogel said he considered leaving George in to start the fourth, but decided to stick with his reserves.

"[George] looked pretty gassed at the end of the third," Vogel said. "We had a decent lead that I thought we could hold up. I chose to trust those guys, those guys have been good for us. They had a tough stretch there."

After Powell's basket, neither team scored again until DeRozan hit a tie-breaking three with 4:15 remaining. After a missed three by Ellis, Cory Joseph hit another 3 for Toronto, putting the Raptors

up 98-92 with 3:26 left.

Solomon Hill's three with 15.9 seconds cut it to 100-99, but DeRozan answered with a pair of free throws.

Indiana had the ball under Toronto's basket with 2.7 seconds left. Ellis in-bounded to George, who fed Solomon Hill, and Pacers players threw their arms up in celebration when his shot from the left side went through the net. But video replay confirmed that the shot came too late.

Hawks 110, Celtics 83: Kent Bazemore sparked a stunning turnaround with three straight three-pointers in the second quarter, and host Atlanta reclaimed the upper hand against Boston.

The Hawks are up 3-2 in the series and positioned to close it out Thursday in Boston.

This one started out horribly for Atlanta, which couldn't make a shot and trailed 29-19 midway through the second quarter. Then, suddenly, the Hawks looked like an entirely different team.

Led by Bazemore, Atlanta ripped off a 28-8 run to take control before halftime. The Hawks totally blew it open with a 42-point third quarter, heading to the final period up 89-62.

Mike Scott led the Hawks with 17 points, while Bazemore and Jeff Teague added 16 apiece. Evan Turner topped Boston with 15 points.

The Hawks made only six of their first 34 shots, the sellout crowd's groans and moans growing louder with each miss. But Boston wasn't exactly lighting it up, either, missing a chance to build a bigger cushion.

LA loses Griffin for playoffs

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Blake Griffin is out for the rest of the playoffs after aggravating his left quadriceps tendon and Chris Paul had right hand surgery Tuesday, leaving the stunned Los Angeles Clippers without their top two players for the remainder of their first-round series against Portland.

The team said Griffin had an MRI that revealed no further structural damage to the quad that he originally injured in a game on Dec. 25. He missed 41 games and an additional four as punishment for punching the team's assistant equipment manager, returning on April 3. He's expected to be ready for training camp in September. Griffin wasn't made available to reporters.

"You feel bad for Chris, you feel bad for Blake," said guard J.J. Redick, who is dealing with his own nagging left heel injury.

Paul had surgery to repair a hand fracture sustained in the third quarter of Monday night's 98-84 loss in Game 4 that allowed Portland to tie the best-of-seven series 2-2. He appeared to catch his hand on Gerald Henderson's jersey.

"C.P. is a reacher. He probably has the best hands in the league. At that time it got caught in the wrong place," coach Doc Rivers said. "It's amazing how things change for you."

Griffin averaged 15.0 points, 8.8 rebounds and 4.0 assists, while Paul averaged 23.8 points, 7.3 assists and 4.0 rebounds in the series.

Game 5 is Wednesday night at Staples Center.

"We still have home court. No one has won a road game yet in this series," Rivers said. "Now we have to find a way of winning tomorrow and that's as far as we can think right now. My job with the guys is to make sure that they're ready and focused. It's easy when you have the injuries we have to think all kinds of other stuff."

Rivers had not yet decided who will start in place of Griffin and Paul.

"We've had 10 different lineups on the board," he said. "Most likely it will be a pretty big lineup."

The Clippers are 25-21 in regular-season games and 1-1 in the playoffs without Paul, who missed two games against Houston in last year's Western Conference semifinals.

"We have a very competitive basketball team and they have proven that all year," Rivers said. "We have won games before without key guys and we can win games in the future without key guys."

In the final two weeks of the regular season, the Clippers won by two points at Oklahoma City and by three points in overtime at Utah without Griffin and Paul.

Now in his 10th season, Paul has yet to win a championship.

"Chris is one of the great competitors that the league has ever seen," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "For him to go down right now it's brutal. He's worked his whole life to get here."

Paul controls the Clippers' offense like few others in the NBA. However, they installed a motion offense for when Paul wasn't on the floor this season, freeing up scoring guards Jamal Crawford and Austin Rivers while letting anyone else get the ball moving.

"We were very effective at it," Doc Rivers said. "Thank God we did that because now playing without him we'll be in motion for 48 minutes."

McCutchen lifts Pirates with three HRs

Associated Press

DENVER — Slumping outfielder Andrew McCutchen hit three homers and drove in five runs to help the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Colorado Rockies 9-4 on Tuesday night.

This was the second time McCutchen has gone deep three times in a game. He also accomplished the feat on Aug. 1, 2009, against Washington.

The perennial All-Star entered the game in a 3-for-23 funk on this road trip but rediscovered his swing. McCutchen hit solo shots in the first and second innings off starter Jorge De La Rosa (1-3). He also lined a three-run homer off reliever Christian Bergman in the sixth.

The major league record for homers in a game is four, which has been done 16 times and last by Josh Hamilton in 2012. McCutchen had a chance to equal the mark in the eighth, but grounded out.

White Sox 10, Blue Jays 1: Chris Sale won again, pitching eight sharp innings and leading Chicago over host Toronto for its fifth straight win.

Sale (5-0) has won all of his starts this season and leads the majors in victories. The lefty ace has a 1.66 ERA.

Cubs 4, Brewers 3: Addison Russell's two-out, two-run triple in the sixth inning snapped a tie and host Chicago held off Milwaukee to secure its best 20-game start since 1907.

Anthony Rizzo added an RBI single in the seventh and Adam Warren (2-0) struck out three in two scoreless innings as the Cubs improved to 15-5, surpassing the 1969 club's 14-6 start.

Twins 6, Indians 5: Miguel Sano singled in a run with one out in the ninth inning, giving host Minnesota a walk-off

win over Cleveland.

Minnesota rallied after Mike Napoli homered off Kevin Jepsen (2-3) in the top of the ninth to tie the game 5-5.

Red Sox 11, Braves 4: David Price matched his career high with 14 strikeouts, Travis Shaw homered and drove in five runs and Boston beat Atlanta as the Braves' staggering home-run drought reached 15 games.

The Braves, who opened the season with nine straight losses, have lost seven straight.

The homer drought is the longest for the Braves in their 51 years in Atlanta. It's the franchise's longest span since a 16-game streak in September, 1946, when the Braves were based in Boston. Atlanta is 1-12 at home.

Marlins 6, Dodgers 3: Giancarlo Stanton homered for the third straight game, hitting a go-ahead, three-run shot off Clayton Kershaw, and visiting Miami rallied to beat Los Angeles for its third straight victory.

Kershaw's five earned runs allowed in the inning were as many as he allowed in his first 35 innings to start this season. He hadn't allowed five runs in an entire game in his last 30 starts.

Mets 4, Reds 3: Yoenis Cespedes returned from a leg injury to line a tying, three-run homer as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning off Brandon Finnegan, slumping David Wright had a go-ahead single later in the inning and host New York rallied past Cincinnati for its 10th straight win against the Reds.

Athletics 5, Tigers 1: Rich Hill allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings, and Oakland beat host Detroit.

Rays 3, Orioles 1: Kevin Kiermaier hit a two-run homer and host Tampa Bay

beat Baltimore.

Giants 1, Padres 0: Johnny Cueto pitched a seven-hitter for his seventh career shutout to outwork James Shields, and host San Francisco beat San Diego.

Cueto (4-1) struck out a season-high 11 batters, walked one and repeatedly pitched out of trouble to help the Giants to their seventh straight home win against the Padres. It was his 13th career complete game.

Mariners 11, Astros 1: Robinson Cano hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, Nathan Karns threw seven shutout innings and host Seattle beat Houston.

Cano reached 1,000 RBIs in his career with a two-run single in the fifth and then crushed his seventh-inning grand slam.

Rangers 10, Yankees 1: A.J. Griffin pitched eight strong innings, Mitch Moreland hit a bases-loaded two-run single during a five-run third and host Texas beat New York.

The Rangers ended a four-game skid, during which they totaled five runs.

Angels 9, Royals 4: Johnny Giavotella drove in three runs with his first homer of the season, Mike Trout and Carlos Perez had two-run singles and host Los Angeles beat Kansas City.

Phillies 4, Nationals 3: Andres Blanco's three hits included a two-run homer and he scored the go-ahead run on Maikel Franco's seventh-inning double, helping visiting Philadelphia edge Bryce Harper and Washington.

Cardinals 8, Diamondbacks 2: Carlos Martinez gave up three hits in eight scoreless innings, Brandon Moss and Stephen Piscotty homered and St. Louis beat Arizona.