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Outrage and a naval officer's actions

Rumors of weapons charge against commander who fired at Chattanooga gunman spur anger

The Washington Post

In the days after the attack on military facilities in Chattanooga, Tenn., last month, a complicated picture of what occurred began to emerge. Among the details: At least one servicemember, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Timothy White, opened fire on the shooter using a personally owned firearm before the shooter was killed by police.

The attack on the Naval Reserve support center in Chattanooga killed four Marines and a Navy sailor and spawned a national debate about whether the U.S. military should arm more servicemembers who work out of small, unguarded facilities like recruiting stations and reserve centers. It also spawned questions about whether White could face discipline for carrying and discharging a privately owned handgun on federal property, where it was not allowed.

On Saturday, conservative columnist Allen B. West addressed the issue, saying that he could “confirm that the United States Navy is bringing charges against Lt. Cmdr. Timothy White for illegally discharging a firearm on federal property.” He did not identify his source but followed by ripping Pentagon leaders, the Navy and President Barack Obama.

“Can you imagine the message this sends to ISIS and all the enemies of America?” West wrote, using an acronym for the Islamic State militant group. “We are going to end his career and court-martial a man who drew his sidearm to protect his command, and the assigned Sailors and Marines.”

Democratic presidential candidate Jim Webb, a Marine war hero and former Navy secretary and U.S. senator, also raised concerns Saturday night on Twitter: “Navy charging

LCDR Tim White w/ a crime for trying to defend our sailors & Marines in #Chattanooga? He deserves a medal, not an indictment.”

Perhaps aware of the questions his tweet raised, Webb followed up with more context Sunday. “Before tweeting last night, we confirmed with a defense official that the Navy was seriously considering charging LCDR Timothy White.” Webb followed up with: “The charge being considered is illegally discharging a firearm on federal property. No on the record comment was offered.”

The Navy responded Sunday on its Facebook page, saying that “stories of Navy personnel being charged with an offense are not true.”

“There is still a long way to go in reviewing the facts of this tragic incident, but at this time we can confirm no servicemember has been charged with

an offense,” the Navy added.

Navy Cmdr. William J. Marks, a service spokesman, said White’s actions remain under review as part of a broader assessment into what occurred in Chattanooga.

“Until the facts of that preliminary inquiry have all been reviewed, it is simply too early to speculate on what may happen with any particular individual,” Marks said.

The situation has continued to raise questions, though. Some have noted that the service said no servicemember has been charged with an offense “at this time,” leaving the possibility it could occur later. Tens of thousands of supporters also have signed an online petition to the White House for White, saying he and anyone else who opened fire on the shooter — Mohamad Youssef Abdulazeez, 24 — deserves a medal for valor rather than a punishment.

At least 1 US-trained Syrian fighter killed, 5 captured

BY TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

At least one member of the U.S.-trained New Syrian Forces has died, and five more have been captured during repeat attacks by an al-Qaida affiliate in northern Syria, a senior defense official confirmed Tuesday.

Just an hour earlier, another Pentagon official backed off claims that all 54 members of the U.S.-trained New Syrian Forces were safe following an attack by the rival Nusra Front.

Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis would only say

that his earlier statement was no longer correct.

“We are both looking into it, and not willing to share details on it,” he said in a briefing Tuesday. “There’s been a lot of tactical developments in the last few days.” Providing further details on the attacks, he said, would “fundamentally put these people at risk.”

Davis said the U.S. had not made attempts to rescue any U.S.-trained fighters.

On Friday, about 50 Syrian rebels from the Nusra Front launched an assault on a compound housing the New Syrian Forces and members of 30 Division, another rebel faction

that has U.S. backing but whose members did not go through training. That attack was repelled when the New Syrian Forces called in air support, Davis said. The Obama administration authorized the Pentagon on Friday to use force to help defend the U.S.-trained group — even if attackers were allied with the Syrian government and President Bashar Assad.

The New Syrian Forces — 54 fighters who went through an extensive U.S. vetting, training and equipping program — represent the first fighters to complete a massive \$500 million effort to train about 5,000 local

forces a year to fight the Islamic State. To date, 7,000 fighters have applied for the program, which has only fully trained this first group of 54 fighters and to date cost \$36 million. A second group of fighters is reportedly in the U.S. training pipeline. The Pentagon did not release specific numbers but said hundreds of fighters have been considered. However, the majority have not made it through the vetting process or left to join the fight against Assad’s forces.

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VA could cover more illnesses tied to Camp Lejeune water

BY HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After a decadeslong fight by troops and family members sickened by toxic water at Camp Lejeune, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced a major step toward covering more illnesses connected to exposure at the North Carolina base.

The decision Monday to review its disability coverage paves the way to adding more conditions with a presumption of service connection for those who spent at least 30 days at the Marine Corps base between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. The VA already considers 15 conditions connected to the tainted water.

For years, former Marines and family members have said deaths and illnesses were connected to chemicals in the water, including industrial solvents and fuel.

“This is what we’ve been fighting for,” said Mike Partain, who developed rare male breast cancer that he believes was linked to the water at Camp Lejeune, where he was born in 1968. “It’s vindication that what we’ve been saying is true.”

The VA has faced harsh criticism for what former Lejeune residents and lawmakers say was a reluctance to acknowledge the connection, and several senators recently pressured the agency to make it easier for vets to get disability benefits and care.

Work on Okinawa runway suspended

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Japanese government plans to temporarily suspend ongoing preparations for a new runway at Camp Schwab in Okinawa’s remote north after Gov. Takeshi Onaga threatened to revoke the authorization for landfill work.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Tuesday the work will cease Aug. 10-Sept. 9. During that time, the Japanese government will allow prefectural authorities to enter the restricted construction area and inspect damage caused to coral by heavy concrete blocks placed at the site. Government officials then will meet again with Onaga for “intensive discussions.”

Although the suspension would appear to be a major victory for the island prefecture’s protest movement, which has held vigils at the site and grown increasingly vitriolic in recent months, Suga said the Japanese position on the runway has not changed. The runway will facilitate closing and relocating Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from a densely populated urban area in central Okinawa.

“The government will once again explain to Okinawa the position where the government stands,” Suga said. “During the intensive discussions, the government would thoroughly explain to Okinawa the need for removal of danger posed at Futenma air station, as well as visible reduction in the burden of Okinawa related to the presence of the military.”

Suga said he would also listen to Okinawan authorities on the matter.

Onaga said the decision was a positive step forward.

Study: Managing stress helps with PTSD

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

Therapies that teach coping skills like stress management are nearly as effective as those that confront traumatic memories in reducing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder in servicemembers and veterans, according to a study released Tuesday.

The findings, published in this month’s *Journal of the American Medical Association* by researchers with the Cohen Veterans Center at New York

University, suggest a wider variety of therapies can be offered to PTSD sufferers such as combat veterans and victims of sexual assault with little difference in effect.

Giving patients more alternatives in their treatment could reduce the number who drop out of treatment, the study’s authors suggest. Roughly a quarter of all patients in trauma-focused psychotherapy programs currently drop out of treatment.

Almost 13 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and 10 percent of Gulf War veter-

ans are believed to have PTSD, according to studies.

The study found that two psychotherapies embraced in 2008 by the Department of Veterans Affairs were little better than nontrauma-focused therapies that emphasize coping skills.

Cognitive-processing therapy, or CPT, attempts to reframe negative feelings surrounding a traumatic memory, while prolonged exposure therapy aims to blunt the power of a traumatic event by having patients recount such an event repeatedly.

Calif. manhunt narrows in on rugged area

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A manhunt linked to a killing, kidnapping and the wounding of two deputies is focused in a rugged, five-square-mile California area.

Investigators haven’t confirmed the crimes were committed by the same man, said Kern County sheriff’s spokesman Ray Pruitt.

Dozens of deputies and helicopters combed the high desert area 30 miles from Bakersfield in 100-degree heat on Monday.

The manhunt began Tuesday after a squatter in a remote cabin was approached by three young men — two 20-year-olds and a 19-year-old from Bakersfield. They were greeted by a man who asked why they were on his property.

When one of the men said it was his cabin, the squatter pulled a shotgun and ordered them into the cabin where he held them for more than an hour and threatened to kill them. The three men escaped and hiked

several miles to a road.

Meanwhile, the suspect left in their car, which was found abandoned on Wednesday two miles away.

On Thursday, 64-year-old David Louis Markiewitz’s worried family found him fatally shot to death in his cabin about 10 miles from the first dwelling.

“It appears he’s been breaking into homes in the area that are unoccupied and gaining access to firearms,” Pruitt said of the fugitive.

Chiefs' Charles finally healthy

Associated Press

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Jamaal Charles had holes in his shoes on the first day of training camp.

The Chiefs running back was trying out a new pair, and they apparently were a bit tight in the toes. So Charles made incisions on each shoe that allowed his big toe to poke through.

Entering his eighth year in the league, they might be the only holes in his game.

Charles is coming off his third consecutive 1,000-yard season, despite battling nagging injuries all year. He also had at least 35 receptions for the third straight year, even though he was the constant focus of opposing defenses on a team with few offensive weapons.

"It's a compliment," Charles said of the attention. "As long as I play in this league, and play on a high level, I always feel like a team is going to have to stop me. I feel like sometimes I'm the LeBron (James) of football, especially at my position, because I can do so much."

Provided Charles is healthy, of course. He missed most of the 2011 season after tearing his ACL, then dealt with one injury after another last season, even if he never let on to them.

It began during the offseason program when he first picked up some bumps and bruises. It continued in training camp, when he bruised a foot while carrying a box out of Scanlon Hall when the team

was wrapping up workouts at Missouri Western. And then when the season began, it seemed like just about every week there was a new ailment, some more serious than others.

They never caused him to miss a game, but they certainly curtailed his production. He carried just seven times for 19 yards in the season opener against Tennessee, then carried twice for 4 yards the following week against Denver, when he had to leave with an ankle injury.

"Last OTAs, I hurt my heel. I wasn't showing anybody that I was hurt. Then I hurt myself before the preseason game. Then I got hurt in the second game. It was a struggle up and down," he said, "right from the beginning of the season."

It certainly wasn't the way Charles, a two-time All-Pro, intended to celebrate his two-year contract extension that will earn him an additional \$18.1 million through the 2017 season.

The Chiefs understand how important Charles is to a successful season. Nobody else on the roster can change a game as quickly. So to ensure he's on the field late in the year, when Kansas City hopes to be in the playoff hunt, the team's brain trust spent much of the offseason dreaming up ways to keep him healthy, not only in training camp but beyond.

"You want to make sure he is healthy late in the season," offensive coordinator Doug Pederson said, "so if that means giving a guy like Knile Davis some reps

— whatever you have to do, number one, to keep him healthy for 16 games, and you do that each week."

Pederson said one of the biggest challenges is noticing when Charles is operating at less than 100 percent. The former Texas standout hates to take time off, even from practice.

"We have to be smart and work with our training staff and our medical staff to just stay in tune," he said. "Communication is obviously the utmost importance when it comes to those kinds of situations. We have to be smart and give him that proper rest, you know? And he has to communicate with us and tell us when he may be a little banged-up or maybe can't go here or there."

For now, Charles feels the best he has in a year, maybe even longer.

As for those new shoes? Well, the star running back doesn't seem to be taking any chances with so much as a blister. Two days later, he was in a better-fitting pair.

Notes: The Chiefs waived DE Jerel Worthy and signed former Missouri WR L'Damian Washington. ... Practice was moved indoors Tuesday because of lightning in the area. ... WR Jeremy Maclin and CB Phillip Gaines briefly left practice with minor injuries. Both returned. ... First-round pick Marcus Peters is shining at CB, picking off three passes in practice. He's competing for a starting job with Sean Smith suspended the first three weeks.

Wilfork learning from Watt

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Vince Wilfork bristled when asked what he could teach J.J. Watt.

Then the 12-year veteran and first-year Houston Texan let out a hearty chuckle.

"Teach him what?" he bellowed. "What am I going to teach J.J.?"

The big nose tackle has joined Watt, last year's Defensive Player of the Year, in Houston after spending the first 11 years of his career with the New England Patriots. While he isn't expecting to serve as a teacher to Watt, he thinks he could learn a thing or two from the 26-year old.

"He's a prime example of what the NFL is looking for when they talk about guys that know how to play this game and be a professional and be a human being," Wilfork said. "He's a perfect person, so that's what I'm going to learn from him. We're going to compete every day."

When asked what lesson he could learn from Wilfork, Watt joked about the 325-pounder's notorious love of food.

"I'm sure he can teach me how to barbecue, that's for sure," Watt deadpanned.

Watt and Wilfork have already developed a close relationship and are often seen talking and playing around together before and during practice. Watt said he sees Wilfork, who won two Super Bowl titles with the Patriots, as an older brother. Though Watt is one of the faces of the NFL and most likable guys in the league, the 33-year-old Wilfork sometimes grows tired of his antics.

"[Sunday] he told me: 'Why are you messing around all the time, man?' I felt, at that moment, like the little brother that's like: 'Hey, you want to play? Come on, let's go outside and play,'" Watt said. "He had had enough of it. He was like: 'I just want to work.'"

It's clear that Wilfork is fitting in nicely with his new team. But he's careful to let his teammates come to him and not try to push himself on them as they get to know him.

"This is my 12th year in the league, but I'm new here," Wilfork said. "Just get a chance to let guys understand how I am, who I am, and what I'm here for. I'm all ears and I'm a sponge. You can sit and talk to me about anything in the locker room. They know that."

Wilfork, a five-time Pro Bowler, joins a defense in Houston that not only has Watt, but also features last year's top overall pick Jadeveon Clowney. The outside linebacker is recovering from microfracture surgery, but is expected to return to practice on Aug. 17.

Watt has enjoyed watching Wilfork work so far and is looking forward to what he can bring to this team, which is trying to return to the postseason after a two-year absence.

"For a big guy, Vince moves so well. He's so fluid," Watt said. "He's so effective with what he does."

"You look at a guy his size and you would think there is no way he can do what he does but he's incredible and he works extremely hard at it."

SEC contenders need injured players back

Associated Press

The fortunes of several potential Southeastern Conference contenders could hinge largely on players returning from serious injuries.

Two of Mississippi's — and the SEC's — top players, left tackle Laremy Tunsil and receiver Laquon Treadwell, are returning from broken legs. Alabama is getting back versatile tailback Kenyan Drake, who also had a broken leg, and Auburn has defensive end Carl Lawson and guard Alex Kozan in the lineup again after they missed all of the 2014 season.

Auburn likely wouldn't be the trendy pick to win the SEC title without the return of Lawson and Kozan, starters who missed last season after playing significant roles in the Tigers' league championship season as freshmen.

Lawson's absence in particular was felt by the Tigers, who struggled to muster much of a pass rush without him.

"Both of the guys had an impact on leading us to that SEC championship and the national championship game, and both of them were big blows," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said. "Especially Carl, a guy that can really rush the passer. You saw that the second half of last season, we had trouble putting pressure on the quarterback. To have him back is a very good thing."

Lawson had knee surgery in spring 2014 and Kozan had back surgery after a weightlifting injury sustained while at

home in Colorado last summer.

"We ran behind him and [then-left tackle] Greg Robinson probably the last five or six games of 2013, when everybody in the country knew we were going to do it," Malzahn said.

The injuries to Treadwell, Tunsil and Drake were captured on national television. Tunsil was hurt during the Rebels' bowl game while Treadwell went down on a pivotal play during a loss to Auburn in a matchup of Top-5 teams in the College Football Playoff rankings.

Ole Miss tight end Evan Engram has an upbeat prognosis on Treadwell's return.

"Honestly he looks bigger, stronger and faster than he did before he got hurt last year," Engram said. "I'm looking forward to him having a big year."

The Rebels, and whoever emerges as their starting quarterback, are counting on it.

At Alabama, Drake is expected to play multiple roles teaming up with Derrick Henry in the backfield and also lining up at wideout after catching four touchdown passes before his injury.

Losing those players especially had an impact on teams contending much of the season for spots in the College Football Playoff. Alabama still made it in after losing Drake but lost the Ole Miss game in which he was injured and barely squeaked by Arkansas the following week before regrouping.

Ole Miss went 2-2 after Treadwell's injury. The Rebels were outscored 72-3 in

losses to Arkansas and then TCU in the Peach Bowl, where Tunsil went down with a similar injury.

Rebels coach Hugh Freeze said "all signs point to" Treadwell being 100 percent for the Sept. 5 opener against Tennessee-Martin. Losing him was tough to overcome.

"For it to happen like it did — adversity is certainly a teaching tool, but that next week, I don't know," Freeze said. "I tried everything in the world, but I didn't sense that we could rebound from it."

Other players returning from injury in the SEC include Tennessee wide receivers Josh Smith (high ankle sprain) and Marquez North (torn labrum), who both had their seasons cut short. Florida tight end Jake McGee, a graduate transfer from Virginia, received a sixth year of eligibility after a broken leg in the opener ended his 2014 campaign.

Gators leading tackler Antonio Morrison missed the spring after injuring his left knee in the bowl game against East Carolina. Texas A&M center Mike Matthews missed the Aggies' bowl game and spring practice with a broken foot.

LSU safety Corey Thompson is back after missing last season with a knee injury.

The SEC players returning from injury are hoping for good fortune after all the rehab work and time watching their teammates play.

"It's definitely been a hard road," Drake said.



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Beltre cycle keys Rangers' win

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Adrian Beltre came to bat in the fifth inning looking for a pitch he could hit over the wall. He got one for an impressive modern-day record.

Beltre homered in his fourth at-bat to complete his third career cycle, becoming the first player since the 1930s to accomplish that, in the Texas Rangers' wild 12-9 victory over the AL West-leading Houston Astros on Monday night.

"Not going to lie, I was looking for a home run," said Beltre, who lined a fast-ball into the seats in left field.

A two-run triple by Beltre in the first inning put the Rangers ahead to stay at 3-2. He had a double in the second on another ball hit into the left-center gap, but he suddenly put on the brakes after rounding the base hard instead of going for another triple.

"I thought I might, but I changed my mind last second," said Beltre, who rapidly circled both of his arms like he was trying to reverse his momentum.

Asked if he was thinking then about

preserving the chance for a cycle, Beltre paused briefly before responding, "Maybe."

Beltre had a single in the third before his ninth homer of the season completed the cycle against the third Astros pitcher. He was one of five Texas players with multiple RBIs in the game.

The last major leaguer with three career cycles was Babe Herman, who had two in 1931 and one in 1933, according to research provided by the Elias Sports Bureau to the Rangers. The only other big leaguers with three career cycles are Bob Meusel (1921, 1922 and 1928) and John Reilly (twice in 1883 and 1890).

"He's our leader, and it's just another testament, another story, another chapter in his book," Rangers starting pitcher Colby Lewis said of Beltre, the 36-year-old third baseman in his 18th major league season.

"What an incredible feat for him," manager Jeff Banister said. "Truly amazing."

All three of Beltre's cycles have come at the Rangers' ballpark, two for the home team and one as a visitor when he

was playing for Seattle on Sept. 1, 2008. His other cycle for Texas was Aug. 24, 2012, against Minnesota — and he's the first player to have more than one in the Rangers' 55-season franchise history.

Lewis (12-4) had to work hard over six innings for his fourth consecutive victory, giving up seven runs and 10 hits — three of those home runs. The right-hander is 8-1 in 14 career games against Astros, who previously scored only 17 runs in 75 1/3 innings off Lewis.

Shawn Tolleson worked the ninth for his 19th save in 20 chances.

Lance McCullers (5-4), at 21 the youngest starting pitcher in the majors, allowed six runs and seven hits while getting only one out. That came five days after he gave up only one run in seven innings to beat the Los Angeles Angels.

"It's kind of frustrating," he said. "I was watching the film, and I had two strikes on two different batters and they both fouled off curveballs that hit the dirt before they hit their bat."

Aussies rule backstroke; Ledecky lowers mark

Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Australia dominated the 100-meter backstroke events at the world swimming championships Tuesday, winning the men's title and going 1-2 in the women's final.

Two more world records fell on the third night of swimming at Kazan Arena, where a cool breeze swept through the soccer stadium.

Mitchell Larkin won the men's 100 back in 52.40 seconds.

He came into the championships with the top time in the world this year, having emerged at last year's Commonwealth Games, where he earned silver in the 100 and gold in the 200 back.

Camille Lacourt of France was second in 52.48 and current Olympic champion Matt Grevers of the United States finished third in 52.66. Grevers won the world title two years ago.

Emily Seebohm led a 1-2 finish for the Aussies in the women's final, with all eight swimmers going under 1 minute. She won in 58.26 to earn her first individual gold at worlds, having finished second to American Missy Franklin in two years ago in Barcelona.

Seebohm's teammate, Madison Wilson, was second in 58.75 and Mie Oe Nielsen of Denmark was third in 58.86.

Franklin finished fifth in 59.40. Britain enjoyed a banner night in the pool, too.

James Guy defeated a strong field to win the 200 freestyle, outstripping his idol Sun Yang of China to the finish.

Guy, the youngest swimmer in the final at age 19, touched first in 1 minute, 45.14 seconds.

Sun settled for silver in 1:45.20 and world record holder Paul Biedermann of Germany earned bronze in 1:45.38.

American Ryan Lochte, the 2011 world champion, finished fourth in the first of his two individual events.

Another Brit, Adam Peaty, set a world record in the 50 breaststroke, winning the first semifinal heat in 26.42. He bettered the mark of 26.62 set by Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa in the morning preliminaries.

It was the second men's world record to fall at the worlds. Katie Ledecky of the United States made it five world records on the women's side after taking down her own mark in winning the 1,500 free-style final.

Ledecky lowered her own world record by 2.23 seconds in defending her 1,500 free title. She touched in 15:25.48, improving her mark of 15:27.71 set in the preliminaries of the non-Olympic event on Monday.

She and Franklin had tight turnarounds, with both women coming back to swim the 200 free semifinals. Franklin qualified second-fastest and Ledecky was sixth for Wednesday's final.

"It did hurt a lot but I got the job done and it feels really, really good right now," Ledecky said. "I've always kind of had that mental toughness. I just wanted to race them both and see what I can do."

Lauren Boyle of New Zealand finished second in 15:40.14. Boglarka Kapas of Hungary took third in 15:47.09.

The loudest cheers of the night were reserved for Yulia Efimova, who gave the host country its first gold of these championships in the 100 breast.

Efimova won in 1:05.66 to beat Ruta Meilutyte of Lithuania in a reversal of their results two years ago, when Efimova finished second.

Price dominant in Blue Jays debut

Associated Press

TORONTO — David Price was blown away by the reception he got in his Toronto debut.

Then he blew away the Minnesota Twins.

Price struck out 11 in eight innings to win his first Blue Jays start, Josh Donaldson hit a tiebreaking home run and Toronto beat Minnesota 5-1 in the opener of a four-game series between AL wild-card contenders.

Acquired from Detroit last Thursday for a trio of minor league left-handers, Price received a standing ovation from the sell-out crowd of 45,766 as he walked in from the bullpen before the game.

"That was the best atmosphere I've ever been in," Price said. "I've never experienced anything like that."

Price (10-4) allowed one run and three hits. He threw 119 pitches, two shy of his season high.

Price's 11 strikeouts were the most by any pitcher in his Blue Jays debut.

The lefty retired the last 15 batters he faced. He tipped his cap as he walked to the dugout after the eighth.

Mets 12, Marlins 1: Yoenis Cespedes hit three doubles and New York took over first place in the NL East by routing host Miami.

Fresh off sweeping Washington, the Mets won their fourth in a row and moved a game ahead of the Nationals for the division lead.

Cespedes, acquired last week from Detroit, played for the third time with the Mets and tied the team record for doubles in a game. He drove in four runs.

Diamondbacks 6, Nationals 4: Rookie Zack Godley pitched six scoreless innings to continue a stellar start to his career, and Arizona homered four times to send host Washington to a fourth straight loss.

Nick Ahmed homered and had four hits as the Diamondbacks improved to 5-2 on their 10-game, bi-coastal road trip.

Braves 9, Giants 8 (12): Adonis Garcia hit a two-run homer in the 12th inning off Ryan Vogelsong and host Atlanta completed its final comeback of the game to beat San Francisco.

Down 6-0 against Matt Cain going into the sixth, the Braves rallied. A.J. Pierzynski tied the game at 7 with a two-

run homer with two outs in the ninth.

Mariners 8, Rockies 7: At Denver, Felix Hernandez pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Nelson Cruz homered in a fourth consecutive game to reach 30 for the season, and Seattle beat Colorado.

Rays 5, White Sox 4: Mikie Mahtook singled with two outs in the top of the ninth inning to drive in Logan Forsythe and give Tampa Bay a win over Chicago.

Jose Abreu and Carlos Sanchez each had a two-run home run for Chicago, which has dropped four of five following a hot streak.

Padres 13, Brewers 5: Yangervis Solarte hit two home runs and Tyson Ross pitched six effective innings to help visiting San Diego rout Milwaukee.

Orioles 9, Athletics 2: Chris Davis hit a three-run shot in the first inning for his 27th homer to back rookie Tyler Wilson's impressive spot start, and visiting Baltimore beat Oakland.

Angels 5, Indians 4: Conor Gillaspie hit a go-ahead home run off Corey Kluber and the Los Angeles Angels snapped a six-game losing streak, beating visiting Cleveland.

Teams bolster bullpens for stretch run

Associated Press

The Kansas City Royals made it look all so easy in 2014. With their bullpen trio of Kelvin Herrera, Wade Davis and Greg Holland, the Royals were almost unbeatable when they had the lead in the seventh inning or later.

It's no surprise that a number of teams have sought to emulate that success. Even this past week, as the days and hours ticked down to the trade deadline, some contenders clearly felt one capable closer wasn't enough. The Washington Nationals added Jonathan Papelbon to a bullpen that already included Drew Storen. Joakim Soria was traded to the Pirates, where he'll join Mark Melancon in the late innings.

That's the new trend — teams hoping to assemble such outstanding bullpens that

the opposing offense is in trouble from about the seventh inning on. Here's a look at a few teams — besides Kansas City — that now look pretty tough in relief:

New York Yankees: Closer Andrew Miller missed about a month with a forearm problem, but he's back now, and 6-foot-8 right-hander Dellin Betances has struck out 87 in 54 2/3 innings.

Baltimore: Zach Britton has 27 saves in 28 chances, and Darren O'Day is holding right-handers to a .152 average. Brian Matusz is similarly tough on lefties, although he's had control issues this year.

Los Angeles Dodgers: Depth has been an issue for the Dodgers, whose bullpen ERA ranks among the worst in the National League. But with starters like Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke, Los Angeles might not need to use too many

of its relievers in the biggest games. Kenley Jansen remains one of the game's top closers, while J.P. Howell and Pedro Baez have had fine seasons. The Dodgers also added Luis Avilan and Jim Johnson in their flurry of deadline activity.

St. Louis: The Cardinals, on the other hand, lead the NL in bullpen ERA by a wide margin. Trevor Rosenthal is the most familiar name, but Kevin Siegrist, Miguel Socolovich, and Carlos Villanueva also have ERAs less than 2.00. Jordan Walden hasn't pitched since April because of a bicep problem, but he's now on a rehab assignment.

Houston: The AL West-leading Astros are chasing their first postseason appearance in a decade, and relievers Luke Gregerson, Will Harris, Josh Fields and Pat Neshek are a big reason why.