

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Army to open all but 13F to females

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Army intends to open all but one field artillery military occupation specialty — 13F fire support specialist — to female soldiers, a move that would cover 21,000 previously male-only jobs, a Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday.

Women could be authorized by late October to serve in the newly opened cannon crew-member and field artillery automated data systems specialist MOSs, according to Army spokesman Paul Prince, who said Defense Secretary Ash Carter sent official notification to Congress last month.

The move comes as the military continues efforts to end prohibitions against women serving in traditionally male combat jobs. In 2013, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta rescinded a 1994 policy barring women from serving in battalion-size or smaller combat units. The goal: to integrate qualified female troops into most, if not all, jobs by 2016.

Each service has until Sept. 30 to provide Carter its recommendations on implementing women into remaining closed positions. Each must provide official waivers to the secretary explaining their reasoning for continuing to bar women from serving in any positions.

The Army has opened more than 75,500 positions to women since 2012, when it began its integration program. The Marine Corps has not opened any positions, waiting until recommendations are made to the defense secretary, a Marine Corps spokesman said. More than 58,000 active-duty Marine Corps jobs remain closed to women.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

## UN reports sharp rise in women, children killed in Afghanistan War

BY JOSH SMITH  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Civilian deaths and injuries in the war between NATO-backed government forces and insurgent groups rose slightly to a new record in the first six months of the year, while the share of women and children among those casualties sharply increased, the United Nations said Wednesday.

In a report reviewing the first six months of 2015, the U.N. said its investigators confirmed 1,592 deaths and 3,329 injuries, for a total of 4,921 casualties among noncombatants in Afghanistan. Of that number, the share of casualties among women increased by 23 percent and that among children rose by 13 percent.

The total number of civilian casualties was up by less than 1 percent over the previous record high of 4,894 recorded during the first six months of last year.

“The rise in the numbers of women and children killed and maimed from conflict-related violence is particularly disturbing,” Danielle Bell, director of human rights for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, said in a statement. “This year, UNAMA recorded the highest number of children and women casualties compared to the same period in previous years.”

The NATO-led coalition and U.S. military forces declared an end to their combat mission at the close of 2014. Fighting has remained at all-time high levels since then as Taliban insurgents have sought to challenge government forces now solely responsible for the country’s security.

Since 2009, when the U.N. started tracking such casualties, more than 52,000 Afghan civilians have been killed or injured in the conflict, a number investigators acknowledge is likely on the low side given their stringent verification standards.

“Afghan civilians have suffered far too long from this destructive conflict,” Nicholas Haysom, head of the U.N. mission, said in a statement. “The devastating consequences of this violence against civilians as documented in this report should serve to strengthen the broad conviction that peace is urgently needed.”

Reflecting their much-reduced military mission, international forces were linked to less than 1 percent, or 55 civilian casualties, almost all caused by drones or other aircraft strikes.

Anti-government forces, including the Taliban, continued to cause the vast majority of civilian casualties, with U.N. officials attributing 70 percent of the deaths and injuries to insurgent groups.

NATO-backed pro-government forces, which include the regular army and police forces, as well as allied militia units, caused 15 percent of the total, but that represents a 60 percent increase over the previous year, according to the U.N.

“No one cares about civilians,” said Mohammad Wali, a farmer in the volatile Sangin district of Helmand province. Wali’s 13-year-old son was killed two months ago when a mortar fired by the Afghan army struck his house.

“The fighting is increasing and innocent people are getting killed every day,” he told Stars and Stripes by phone.

It’s weapons like that mortar that make ground engagements between the various fighting forces the leading cause of civilian casualties, according to the U.N., especially as fighting between the Taliban and government units increasingly pushes into populated areas.

The Defense Ministry could not immediately be reached for comment, but Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid called the report “one-sided.”

“We fully reject this report,” he said in a telephone call, arguing that the report’s goal was only to smear the Taliban. The group regularly releases statements urging its fighters to avoid civilian casualties, but human rights officials say there is a disconnect between what the insurgent group says and what it does.

The continuing violence has led American and NATO leaders to reassess their plans to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. On Tuesday, the coalition’s top commander, Gen. John Campbell, said during a discussion at the Brookings Institution in Washington that he is constantly assessing the situation to determine if international troops will be needed after the end of 2016. Previous plans had called for the U.S. to draw down to 5,500 troops by the end of 2015, but President Barack Obama decided in March to keep nearly 10,000 here through at least the end of this year.

On both sides of the conflict, the U.N. says, there is a lack of accountability for forces that either intentionally or negligently hurt or kill noncombatants.

Zubair Babakarkhail and Stars and Stripes reporter Tara Copp contributed to this report.  
smith.josh@stripes.com  
Twitter: @joshjonsmith

# Obama: Blocking Iran deal could force war

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama launched a blistering denunciation of opposition to his Iran deal Wednesday, arguing that none of the criticism stands up to scrutiny and warning that if Congress blocks the accord it will put the U.S. on the path to another Middle East war.

“The choice we face is ultimately between diplomacy and some form of war,” Obama said in an address at American University. “Maybe not tomorrow, maybe not three months from now, but soon.”

Seeking to isolate his critics, Obama said the rest of the world supports the Iran accord, with the notable exception of Israel. He reaffirmed his support for Israel’s security and said he doesn’t doubt the sincerity of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, one of the fiercest opponents of the agreement.

But he said of Netanyahu, “I believe he is wrong.”

The president’s address was part of an intense summer lobbying campaign by both supporters and opponents of the nuclear deal. Members of Congress will vote next month on a

resolution either approving or disapproving the pact.

Obama drew on history to bolster support, saying the accord builds on an American tradition of “strong, principled diplomacy” with adversaries, including the former Soviet Union. He spoke at the same university where John F. Kennedy called for Cold War diplomacy and nuclear disarmament.

Recalling more recent American history, Obama cast the upcoming vote in Congress as the nation’s most consequential foreign policy debate since the 2002 vote to authorize the Iraq

War. He said many of those who oppose the Iran pact are the same as those who pushed for the war, which is now known to have been based on flawed intelligence.

While Obama was an early opponent of the Iraq War, several of his top foreign policy advisers voted for the 2002 authorization, including Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. They now say the war was a mistake.

## Fox picks 10 for GOP debate

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ten candidates have made the cut for the first Republican presidential debate Thursday, with polling front-runner Donald Trump hoping for a civil evening but ready to pounce if attacked.

The seven others lagging in the polls and relegated to an afternoon forum? Call them the not-ready-for-prime-time players, at least in the eyes of debate organizers.

Sharing the Cleveland stage with the billionaire businessman will be former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Candidates with time to watch that debate are former tech executive Carly Fiorina, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former New York Gov. George Pataki and former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore.

The largest field of contenders in modern memory challenged debate organizers. Fox News relied on an average of five national polls to decide the lineups for the prime-time debate and the forum four hours earlier.

“We never ever envisioned we’d have 17 major candidates,” said Steve Duprey, New Hampshire’s representative to the Republican National Committee who helped craft the debate plan. “There’s no perfect solution.”

## Experts: Wing fragment from missing MH370

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Experts have confirmed that the debris found on the French territory of Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean last week was that of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Wednesday.

The Boeing 777 jetliner disappeared 515 days ago while traveling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board. It is believed to have crashed in the ocean, but the reason remains a mystery.

From The Associated Press

## US launches drone strike on militants from Incirlik

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has conducted its first strike on an Islamic State group target by a drone flown out of a Turkish air base, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

The strike Tuesday occurred after the U.S. began flying armed, unmanned aerial systems over the weekend out of Incirlik Air Base, a post in southern Turkey that was opened last week in an agreement between the countries’ governments to expand their cooperation in the fight against the Islamic State. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, could not say where the strike was conducted or whether it was successful.

The ability to fly armed aircraft out of Incirlik allows the U.S. and its Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve partners “to effectively and efficiently get more aircraft over targets in a timely fashion,” Davis said, especially against Islamic State strongholds along the Turkey-Syria border.

Preparations have already begun to fly manned aircraft, including fighter jets, out of In-

cirlik. Davis said those operations could begin “in the near future,” once additional aircraft and troops are in place.

“The U.S., Turkey and other coalition nations in the region are committed in the fight against ISIL and pursuit of peace and stability in the region,” Davis said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. “Basing aircraft in Turkey to support CJTF-OIR gives the coalition another strategic location from which to conduct operations.”

Davis said the U.S. will conduct offensive strikes only against the Islamic State out of Incirlik, but could also provide defensive strikes against other forces if they target the New Syrian Forces, a group of fighters who went through an extensive U.S. vetting, training and equipping program. Those forces have repeatedly been attacked by al-Qaida affiliate the Nusra Front in northern Syria in recent days. The Pentagon did not address reports confirmed by a senior defense official Tuesday that at least one member of the New Syrian Forces was killed and five were captured in those attacks.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

# Cards' Peterson has diabetes under control, feeling 'great'

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — A handful of games into last season, Arizona Cardinals Pro Bowl cornerback Patrick Peterson was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes.

He never mentioned it to reporters, word never leaked out of the locker room. Even now, he's hesitant to blame the illness for his subpar 2014.

But coach Bruce Arians has no doubt it affected his play.

"He was heavier than he'd been and it was hard to control his weight," Arians said. "So I think that had a lot to do with it, early on."

A noticeably slimmed-down Peterson said the illness is under control.

"I still have to watch what I eat, my sugar level, take my blood pressure and things like that," he said.

Although he said he doesn't want to use diabetes as an excuse for what he termed a "disappointing" season, Peterson acknowledged that it affected his play.

"I was just a step behind from making those plays, and that was due to my weight," he said. "That was due to sluggish movements and things like that. Now all of that is under control. That's all behind me and it won't happen again."

Peterson, listed at 219 pounds, won't

say how much weight he lost.

"I lost a lot," he said. "I lost enough."

Before last season, Peterson signed a five-year, \$70 million contract, with \$48 million guaranteed. Failing to show he was worth it last year, diabetes or not, has him highly motivated.

"I think that everything he went through last year, getting a big payday and not really playing well, he definitely took this offseason to get healthy and get into the film room, and it's really showing in practice," teammate and friend Tyrann Mathieu said.

Mathieu said he thought the illness "played a big part" in Peterson's difficulties.

"Just his confidence and things like that," Mathieu said.

Not that the season was a total disaster.

Peterson held Dez Bryant to two catches for 15 yards in Arizona's 28-17 win at Dallas last Nov. 2. Playing without Tony Romo, backup Brandon Weeden targeted Bryant on 10 passes but didn't complete one to him until less than two minutes remained in the game. The following week against St. Louis, Peterson intercepted two passes, returning one 30 yards for a touchdown. But he had only one other interception all season.

Still, he made the Pro Bowl for the fourth time in his four NFL seasons. He's the fourth player in NFL history to appear in four Pro Bowls before the age of 25. The others: Jim Brown, Barry Sanders and Emmitt Smith.

But, as Peterson said, "Enough about last year."

This year, he said, "I feel great."

"My technique feels unbelievable," he said.

Peterson and Mathieu, who's coming off a season slowed by injuries, have been energized and dominant players so far in camp.

"Me and Pat had a talk after the season," Mathieu said. "You know, for me and him, we're two playmakers in our secondary. We have to perform at a high level and kind of raise the level of play for our entire defense. We really want to put that pressure on our shoulders and really perform how we're supposed to."

Peterson called the secondary "the heart and soul of the defense."

"Everything runs through us," he said. "The linebackers, the d-line can make a mistake all day. No one will ever see it. But as soon as we make a mistake, someone gets behind us, the band's playing, it's a top 10 play on ESPN."

# Brady 'Deflategate' testimony released

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tom Brady denied under oath to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell that he tampered with footballs before the AFC title game, and investigator Ted Wells said in a transcript that he never warned the New England Patriots quarterback he would be punished if he didn't turn over his cellphone.

In a 457-page transcript released on Tuesday, Brady maintained his innocence in the NFL scandal known as "Deflategate." He denied discussing air level with the ballboys or even thinking about how inflated the footballs were when he selected them. He also said he's never asked anyone from the Patriots to tamper with footballs.

Brady was suspended for four games and the team was docked \$1 million and two draft picks after an NFL-sanctioned investigation by Wells found the Patriots supplied improperly inflated footballs for the conference championship game against the Indianapolis Colts, which New England won 45-7.

Brady appealed the punishment. Goodell decided to hear the appeal himself and upheld the penalty. Both sides went to federal court, and U.S. District Judge Richard Berman told the sides to work out a settlement. To encourage them, he ordered Brady and Goodell to appear in court in person during the NFL preseason.

The transcript filed by the NFL Players Association included the appeal testimony from Brady and Wells on June 23. Wells explained that he did not believe Brady had nothing to do with the ball deflation because the quarterback refused to provide all of the documents that were requested.

"In my almost 40 years of practice, I think that was one of the most ill-advised decisions I have ever seen because it hurt how I viewed his credibility," Wells testified. "It hurt my assessment of his credibility for him to begin his interview by telling me he declined to give me the documents."

Wells' investigation found text messages between Brady and a pair of equipment managers — one of whom referred to himself as "the Deflator" — discussing the preparation of footballs for the Jan. 18 game. The Patriots advanced to the Super Bowl and beat the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 for Brady's fourth NFL title.

Although Wells asked repeatedly for Brady's cellphone, the investigator also testified: "I did not tell Mr. Brady at any time that he would be subject to punishment for not giving — not turning over the documents. I did not say anything like that."

Brady's lawyers have said that the league made up its rules without proper notice to Brady, and that it didn't follow its rules at all in some cases. They have also questioned whether Goodell was independent enough to conduct a fair hearing, even though the collective bargaining agreement gives him that authority.

# Colts turn to Gore to boost running game

Associated Press

ANDERSON, Ind. — Frank Gore came to Indianapolis to win a championship.

The Colts needed him to get their running game off the ground.

Now it's time for this seemingly perfect combination to start producing results.

"I am happy to be here. I wanted to be here as a free agent. I'm here to come and do the best that I can and be the best player that I can be in every phase of the game: blocking, catching and running," Gore said after Tuesday morning's workout. "I want to do some good things here."

While the 32-year-old Gore may not possess the upside of younger, cheaper running backs, he certainly provides the Colts with something they've been lacking — a known commodity.

Coach Chuck Pagano has preached the importance of power football from the moment he arrived in 2012.

But while Gore excelled as the lynchpin in San Francisco, the Colts kept going through players. Donald Brown left in free agency, Vick Ballard and Ahmad Bradshaw finished the past two seasons on injured reserve and Trent Richardson flamed out.

The results didn't change much, either. Indy still hasn't produced a 1,000-yard

runner since 2007, the year after it won the Super Bowl. And Ballard's 814-yard season in 2012 is the only time a Colts runner has topped 700 yards since their 2009 AFC championship season.

Now the Colts are asking the stocky, steady Gore to solve the problem.

"He's got great vision. He makes great decisions, great reads and he's very decisive," Pagano said. "When he puts a foot in the ground he gets north and south and he can jump cut and do all those kinds of things."

It shows.

Since winning San Francisco's starting job in 2006, Gore has topped the 1,000-yard mark eight times, been selected to five Pro Bowls and helped the 49ers reach three NFC championship games. He finished his time there as the 49ers career rushing leader (11,073) and second in franchise history in rushing touchdowns (64).

While some questioned whether Gore might be running out of steam, the Colts didn't. Instead, after Gore initially agreed to sign with Philadelphia, Indy welcomed his change of mind.

Gore looks like he hasn't lost a step.

During the first three days of training camp, he's broken long runs, caught long passes, plowed through hopeful tacklers and, perhaps most important, protected

Andrew Luck against the blitz.

But the Colts also realize that most teams in today's game need multiple backs to be successful, so they've worked on the depth.

Daniel "Boom" Herron, who replaced Richardson as the starter late last season, is back.

Ballard has been cleared to practice after missing 15 games in 2013 with a torn ACL in his right knee and all of 2014 with a torn left Achilles tendon. But Ballard left Tuesday afternoon's practice after his left hamstring tightened up.

Indy also drafted Josh Robinson in the sixth round and still has Zurlon Tipton from last year's team, too.

Add the new weapons in the passing game and what they hope will be an improved offensive line, and the Colts believe they can alleviate some of the burden Luck's had to carry without a ground game — if Gore is indeed the missing piece.

"We did the numbers, we crunched all that stuff and took a good look at it, but tape doesn't lie," Pagano said. "He has taken great care of himself so there was enough there, and the type of player that he is, how he is wired, his competitive nature. All those kind of things. He looks great."



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# Tigers fire GM Dombrowski

Associated Press

DETROIT — The end of Dave Dombrowski's tenure in Detroit came suddenly and unexpectedly — like many of the moves he made to build the Tigers into a powerhouse.

Dombrowski is out after nearly 14 seasons as president and general manager of the Tigers. The four-time champions of the AL Central announced the move Tuesday, catching people in Detroit and beyond by surprise. Dombrowski was fresh off making several big trades last week, and his exit set off rampant speculation about where he would next work.

Dombrowski was in the last season of his contract and overseeing a struggling team, so there was already speculation about whether he'd be back in 2016. But his abrupt exit — accompanied by a somewhat cryptic explanation from the team — was unusual.

He is being replaced by Al Avila, who has served as his top assistant since 2002. Avila's son, Alex, catches for the Tigers.

"I've decided to release Dave from his contract in order to afford him the time to pursue other career opportunities," owner Mike Ilitch said in a statement. "I feel this is the right time for the Tigers to move forward under new leadership."

About an hour after announcing Dombrowski's departure, the Tigers introduced Avila as their new general manager at a news conference. Avila said Ilitch hired him Saturday, a day after Dombrowski completed the last of his trade-deadline deals.

Detroit has won four straight division titles, a streak that seems certain to end this year. The Tigers lost Tuesday to fall 12½ games behind the first-place Royals.

Dombrowski, 59, was the general manager for the Montreal Expos and Florida Marlins before moving to Detroit, and is

likely to draw interest from teams around the league.

Dombrowski joined the Tigers as team president in November 2001, with Detroit coming off a 96-loss season. He became general manager the following April.

He presided over Detroit's American League-record 119 losses in 2003, but he eventually built one of the most star-studded rosters in Major League Baseball. The Tigers drafted Justin Verlander, traded for Miguel Cabrera and Max Scherzer and signed several key free agents.

Detroit won the American League pennant in 2006 and 2012, but the Tigers' last World Series title was in 1984.

"Obviously it's tough. I've been with Dave since the beginning of my career," Verlander said. "I know him and us that have been here since Day One are disappointed that we weren't able to win a championship, but he definitely left a legacy with this organization."

# AAC has plan for exposure

Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — The American Athletic Conference is not one of the nation's power conferences.

Its commissioner wants to change that. Mike Aresco said Tuesday his league will not accept the status quo in which the Big 12, Big Ten, Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference and Pac-12 are perceived to be on a different level from the AAC.

Speaking during his conference's annual football media days, Aresco called his conference a "challenger brand."

"If we look and act like the so-called Power Five, we will be in the conversation and eventually 'Power Six' will enter the media and public lexicon and perceptions," he said.

Aresco acknowledged the AAC, which is entering its third season since rising out of the breakup of the old Big East, cannot make the NCAA give it the level of autonomy in rulemaking it has bestowed on the Power Five.

He said the American can instead force open that door with its play on the field and by providing student-athletes with an equal level of support off of it.

He noted the AAC already has joined the Power Five in instituting reforms such as full cost-of-attendance scholarships and strict concussion protocols.

But not everyone believes the league can keep pace.

"We can do that for a couple of years," UCF coach George O'Leary said. "We obviously can't sustain. When you are not getting a \$35 million check, it's hard to have that cost of attendance and keep up with everything."

On the field, the American went just 4-22 against Power Five schools in 2014. The league's out-of-conference schedule this season includes 19 games against Power Five schools. Navy and Temple also will play Notre Dame.

"As those Power Five schools go to nine conference games and are mandated to play one from the other four Power Five conferences, it limits their ability to play our teams," Aresco said.

"On the other hand, some conferences have said they won't play FCS schools, which means they will potentially play us. I believe if we play them, we can compete with them."

The AAC has added Navy for football this season. With a 12-team league it will have its first conference championship game on Dec. 5 at the home site of the division champion with the best conference record.

Cincinnati was picked as the favorite in the annual media poll. The Bearcats return 15 seniors from a team that went 9-4 last season and won a share of the conference title with a 7-1 mark in the league. They received 22 of 30 first-place votes.

Cincinnati quarterback Gunner Kiel, whose team is used to living in the shadow of Ohio State, said one of his goals is to show the nation that his team and his conference deserve both a little more respect and a little more attention.

The Bearcats have been placed in the East Division of the conference, and are picked to finish ahead of UCF, Temple, East Carolina, South Florida and UConn.

Memphis, which went 10-3 last season, is the choice to win the West Division ahead of Houston, Navy, Tulane, SMU and Tulsa.

# Perez leads Royals past Verlander, Tigers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Salvador Perez homered and drove in three runs as the Kansas City Royals beat the Detroit Tigers 5-1 Tuesday night.

The game was overshadowed by an afternoon announcement that Dave Dombrowski was being replaced as Detroit's general manager by his top assistant, Al Avila. In 14 years with the Tigers, Dombrowski took one of the worst franchises in the game and took it to six postseason appearances including World Series losses in 2006 and 2012.

Detroit came into the season looking for a fifth straight AL Central title, but now trail the Royals by 12½ games.

Danny Duffy (5-5) allowed one run on five hits and four walks in seven innings, only striking out two.

Justin Verlander (1-4) struggled in his ninth start of the season, allowing five runs on 10 hits in seven innings.

**Mets 5, Marlins 1:** Eric Campbell's tie-breaking pinch single and Juan Lagares' two-run triple highlighted a four-run eighth inning that helped send visiting New York to a win over Miami.

Jonathan Niese (6-9) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings for the NL East-leading Mets, who won their fifth consecutive game.

**Nationals 5, Diamondbacks 4:** Wilson Ramos blooped a two-run single to right with one out in the bottom of the eighth that helped host Washington to a victory over Arizona.

Ryan Zimmerman led off the eighth with a walk off David Hernandez (0-2) and went to third on Jayson Werth's double. One out later, Ramos sliced his single that snapped a 3-3 tie and scored both Zimmerman and Werth.

**Rangers 4, Astros 3:** Relievers Sam Freeman and Shawn Tolleson pitched out of trouble and host Texas held off Houston.

Freeman relieved Yovani Gallardo (8-9) in the sixth inning, and allowed a single and a walk to load the bases with one out. Freeman then retired Luis Valbuena and Marwin Gonzalez.

**Reds 3, Cardinals 2:** Anthony DeSclafani (7-7) handled visiting St. Louis for the second straight start, striking out a career-high nine, and Cincinnati turned a big first inning off John Lackey (9-7) into a victory.

DeSclafani, the most experienced member of Cincinnati's all-rookie rotation, gave up seven hits and two runs in six innings. It was his second straight impressive start over the NL Central leaders.

**Phillies 6, Dodgers 2:** Maikel Franco hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the seventh inning to spoil Jimmy Rollins' return and lead host Philadelphia to a victory over NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Rollins got a prolonged standing ovation in his first game in front of a crowd that rooted for the shortstop his first 15 seasons. The 2007 NL MVP finished 2 for 5.

**Blue Jays 3, Twins 1:** Josh Donaldson and Troy Tulowitzki hit solo home runs, Marco Estrada (9-6) pitched 6-plus innings to win consecutive starts and host Toronto beat Minnesota.

Toronto's sixth win in seven games moved the Blue Jays ahead of the Twins and into the second AL wild-card spot.

Minnesota has been held to just one run in four of its past five games, losing all four. The Twins are 5-12 since the All-Star break.

**Yankees 13, Red Sox 3:** Brian McCann and Chris Young hit three-run homers during a nine-run burst in the seventh inning and host New York broke loose once again, romping past Boston.

Down 2-1 and held to three singles going into the sixth, the Yankees suddenly struck. The AL East leaders wound up scoring in double figures for the fourth time in seven games — they'd gone more than a month without doing it until a 21-5 rout at Texas last week.

**Cubs 5, Pirates 0:** Jake Arrieta (12-6) pitched seven strong innings, Anthony Rizzo tied a career high with four hits and visiting Chicago beat Pittsburgh for its sixth straight win. Arrieta allowed two singles — Andrew McCutchen in the fourth and Starling Marte in the seventh — while striking out five and walking three.

Tommy Hunter and Justin Grimm completed the three-hitter with one inning each as the Cubs (58-47) matched their longest winning streak of the season from May 11-16 and moved 11 games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2008 season.

**Giants 8, Braves 3:** Hunter Pence hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the eighth inning and visiting San Francisco bounced back from a deflating loss with a win over Atlanta.

Braves starter Shelby Miller saw his frustrating winless streak extend to 14 starts when the Braves bullpen failed to protect a 3-2 lead in the eighth inning. Miller has a 3.14 ERA during the streak, which started after he lost a no-hitter with two outs in the ninth inning on May 17.

**Rays 11, White Sox 3:** Chris Archer (10-8) pitched seven strong innings, and visiting Tampa Bay backed him with a season-high four homers while pounding Chris Sale (9-7) and Chicago.

Archer allowed two runs and six hits for his first win since June 23, and the Rays matched their highest home run total since Sept. 7.

**Mariners 10, Rockies 4:** Nelson Cruz homered for the fifth consecutive game and visiting Seattle spoiled Jon Gray's major league debut with a victory over Colorado.

It is the second time this season Cruz has gone deep in five straight games. He also singled to extend his hitting streak to 15 games.

**Brewers 4, Padres 1:** Jimmy Nelson (9-9) scattered three hits over 6-plus solid innings, Kris Davis drove in two runs and host Milwaukee snapped a six-game losing streak with a win over San Diego.

The Padres scored an unearned run off Nelson in the fourth, but the big right-hander, who threw a season-high 112 pitches, allowed nothing more. He walked one and struck out four before leaving with a 2-1 lead and two out in the seventh. Jeremy Jeffress retired pinch-hitter Brett Wallace to end the inning.

**Indians 2, Angels 0 (12):** Rookie Giovanni Urshela hit a two-run homer in the 12th inning after teammate Carlos Carrasco pitched one-hit ball through the first nine, and visiting Cleveland beat Los Angeles.

Lonnie Chisenhall led off the 12th with a single against Jose Alvarez (2-3), who was working his third inning of relief. Cam Bedrosian replaced him and got two outs before Urshela — the Indians' No. 9 hitter, drove a 1-0 pitch into the lower seats in the left field corner for his fourth homer after starting the road trip 1 for 20.

**Athletics 5, Orioles 0:** Marcus Semien hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning to help Chris Bassitt (1-4) earn his first win this season and host Oakland beat Baltimore.

Brett Lawrie added an RBI triple and Eric Sogard scored twice as Oakland won for only the third time in 12 games.