

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Saturday, August 29, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## AF standards, women's roles under review

*The Washington Post*

The Air Force is close to deciding how it will alter the physical requirements for its most grueling combat jobs at the same time that it considers how to integrate women into them, Air Force officials said.

The work comes following a landmark January 2013 decision by the Pentagon to open all jobs to women in coming years. The services have until this fall to petition Defense Secretary Ash Carter to keep certain jobs closed and hand over research backing the request, but the bar is expected to be set high for Carter to grant any exception to the new policy favoring gender integration. Carter will rule on each request by January.

Air Force Secretary Deborah James addressed the issue last week, telling reporters at the Pentagon that she and Air

Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh have not yet received recommendations from her commanders about how they should proceed. She anticipates making her recommendations to Carter by Oct. 1.

"The key thing is we don't want to lower standards," she said.

But the Air Force is looking at changing physical standards, drawing concern from those who believe it leaves the door open to access to the elite jobs being granted more easily in the name of being more inclusive. The current standards include push-ups, sit-ups, running, swimming and other exercises required to show fitness for combat. James said in a statement to *The Washington Post* that the service took the research called for by the Pentagon in 2013 — known as the Women in Service Review — as

an opportunity to make sure it has the right standards in place for both men and women.

"I look at this matter in this way: What I want to know is, are you capable of doing the job laid out by the standards and are you living the core values?" she said. "At the end of the day, that's what counts."

Numerous defense officials suggest they are willing to open virtually all jobs to women, including in Special Operations units. Retiring Navy Adm. Jonathan Greenert was among the latest to signal a willingness to do so, telling the independent *Navy Times* and *Defense News* newspapers in a joint interview last week that he and Rear Adm. Brian Losey, the top officer in Naval Special Warfare Command, are open to letting women serve in Navy SEAL teams if they can meet

the requirements.

Research carried out by the Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas this summer concluded at the beginning of August, and is currently under review by Air Force officials, Capt. Brooke Brzozowske, an Air Force spokeswoman, said Thursday. Recommendations will be submitted to James, who will then in turn make recommendations to Carter. James will coordinate with U.S. Special Operations Command and the other services before making her recommendations to Carter, Brzozowske said.

More than 99 percent of all Air Force jobs already are open to women, but seven job fields with a combined 4,300 positions remain closed, service officials said.

## 10th anniversary of Katrina marked in Gulf states

*Associated Press*

NEW ORLEANS — Churches along coastal Mississippi tolled their bells in unison Saturday morning to mark the 10th anniversary of the day that Hurricane Katrina — one of the deadliest storms in U.S. history — made landfall.

Residents in Mississippi and Louisiana were marking the somber anniversary by paying homage to those who died in Katrina, to thank those who came to rebuild and celebrate how far the region has come since the hurricane struck.

In Bay St. Louis, Miss., the ringing of church bells provoked sadness and tears.

Eloise Allen, 80, wept softly into a tissue and leaned against her rusting Oldsmobile as bells

chimed at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church just across a two-lane street from a sun-drenched beach at Bay St. Louis.

She said her home, farther inland, was damaged but livable. Her daughter lost her home in nearby Waveland. Many of her friends and neighbors suffered similarly.

"I feel guilty," she said. "I didn't go through what all the other people did."

In Biloxi, clergy and community leaders were to gather at MGM Park for a memorial to Katrina's victims, and later that evening, the park will host a concert celebrating the recovery.

The hurricane's force and flooding ultimately caused more than 1,800 deaths and roughly

\$151 billion in damages across the region. Wide-scale failures of the levee system protecting New Orleans left 80 percent of the city under water.

Katrina's force caused a massive storm surge that scoured the Mississippi coast, pushed boats far inland and wiped houses off the map, leaving only concrete front steps to nowhere.

Glitzy casinos and condominium towers have been rebuilt. But overgrown lots and empty slabs speak to the slow recovery in some communities.

In New Orleans, officials laid wreaths at the hurricane memorial and at the levee that ruptured in the Lower 9th Ward.

The neighborhood was one of the bastions of black homeownership in America when

water burst through floodwalls on one side, pushing houses passed down through generations off their foundations and trapping residents on rooftops pleading for help from passing helicopters.

The neighborhood still has some of the lowest rates of people who've returned after the storm, but they planned a daylong celebration to mark the progress they have made.

Across the city, volunteers also spread out in a day of service working on various projects.

Other neighborhoods, such as Broadmoor and Lakeview — both recognized as post-Katrina comeback stories — also held events Saturday.

# Rival Taliban factions clash

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Gunbattles between rival Taliban factions left at least five dead in southern Afghanistan, a top official with the insurgent group said Saturday as its members meet in Pakistan to resolve a leadership crisis following the death of former leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

It was the first confirmed report of deadly Taliban infighting after an announcement last month that Mullah Omar had been dead for more than two years. Mullah Omar's family objected after his former deputy, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, was named the new Taliban leader and rivalries have spilled into violence, said Ahmad Rabbani, head of a committee trying to reunify the group.

Rabbani spoke from the Pakistani city of Quetta, where hundreds of Taliban loyalists are meeting in an effort to resolve the split.

The five deaths came after Taliban commander Mullah Mansoor Dadullah, loyal to Mullah Omar's family, led hundreds of gunmen against Mansoor supporters in the southern Afghan province of Zabul, where the Taliban have long had a fighting presence, Rabbani said.

Rabbani said his committee hoped to reach a decision on who should lead the Taliban — whose leaders have been based in Pakistan since their regime was overthrown in a U.S.-led invasion in 2001 — by Tuesday.

Meanwhile, at least 13 police were reported killed in separate attacks in eastern and southern Afghanistan.

Col. Asadullah Ensafi, the deputy police chief in eastern Ghazni province, said at least eight officers were killed and 15 were wounded in separate Taliban attacks on police checkpoints Friday in Andar and Qarabagh districts.

# Al-Jazeera reporters get 3 years in prison

Associated Press

CAIRO — An Egyptian court on Saturday sentenced three Al-Jazeera English journalists to three years in prison, the latest twist in a long-running trial criticized worldwide by press freedom advocates and human rights activists.

The case against Canadian national Mohammed Fahmy, Australian journalist Peter Grete and Egyptian producer Baher Mohammed embroiled their journalism into the wider conflict between Egypt and Qatar following the 2013 military ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

It wasn't immediately clear how the sentence would affect the three men. Grete, earlier deported in February, spoke to Al-Jazeera from Sydney and said he believed an Egyptian appeals court would overturn the verdict. Fahmy and Mohammed, both on hand for Saturday's hearing, were immediately taken away by police after the hearing.

Mostefa Souag, Al-Jazeera English acting director-general, also criticized the verdict, saying it "defies logic and common sense."

Judge Hassan Farid, in his ruling, said he sentenced the men to prison because they had not registered with the country's journalist syndicate. He also said the men brought in equipment without security officials' approval, had broadcast "false news" on Al-Jazeera and used a hotel as a broadcasting point without permission.

# Turkish jets join US-led coalition in airstrike attacks on Islamic State

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish fighter jets have carried out their first airstrikes as part of the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group in Syria, Turkey announced on Saturday.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the jets began attacking Islamic State targets late Friday across the border in Syria that were deemed to be threats to Turkey.

After months of hesitance, Turkey agreed last month to take on a more active role in the fight against the Islamic State. Turkish jets used smart bombs to attack Islamic State positions in Syria, without crossing into Syrian airspace, and later Turkey granted U.S. jets access to a key air base

close to the Syrian border.

The Turkish attacks that began Friday were the first launched as part of the U.S.-led campaign and came after Turkish and U.S. officials announced they had reached agreement "on the procedures and technical details" of their cooperation, which calls for Turkey to be fully integrated into the coalition air campaign.

"Our fighter aircraft together with warplanes belonging to the coalition began as of yesterday evening to jointly carry out air operations against Daesh targets that also constitute a threat against the security of our country," the Foreign Ministry said, using the Arabic acronym for Islamic State. "The fight against the

terrorist organization is a priority for Turkey."

The statement did not provide further detail on the targets nor say how many jets were involved.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency, reporting from Aleppo and citing unnamed local sources, said the coalition forces have raided Islamic State targets in the Islamic State-held town of Manbij in Aleppo province. It said the raids destroyed Islamic State positions but said there was no information on any casualties.

The private Dogan news agency, meanwhile, said two Turkish warplanes hit four Islamic State targets north of Aleppo. It did not cite a source for the report nor provide any more information.

## European officials tighten train security

PARIS — France's interior minister said European countries will increase ID and baggage checks on trains after American passengers thwarted

an attack on a high-speed train from Amsterdam to Paris.

Bernard Cazeneuve said the checks would be carried out "everywhere it is necessary," but did not give other details. He also called for better coordination on intelligence and

security across Europe's border-free travel zone.

The suspect in last week's attempted attack had been on the radar of European surveillance but bought his ticket in cash and showed no ID before bringing an automatic rifle and a handgun

onboard the train unnoticed.

Officials are also talking about giving train security staff more powers, and increasing the number of mixed patrols of international police teams on cross-border trains.

From The Associated Press



# Williams eyes first Grand Slam since '88

Associated Press

Ask Serena Williams what could prevent her from completing tennis' first true Grand Slam in more than a quarter-century at the U.S. Open, and the response will not include the name of a single possible opponent.

"Well," she began when that question was posed, "I'm always one of my biggest competitors. I can always stop myself. So that's why I kind of just try to stay positive on the court and stay really focused and stay as calm as I can."

What else?

"I have to make sure I'm good physically," Williams said.

Anything more to worry about?

"Fear and doubt can stop me, too," she continued. "If I step out on the court and I'm a little nervous or I'm fearful, then that's never a really good sign."

Really? That happens?

"It does happen. But I just embrace it and I bottle it up and I throw that bottle away," Williams said. "And I just go for it."

Already considered by many the greatest women's tennis player and among the greatest athletes ever — no matter the gender, sport or era — the 33-year-

old American has become quite adept at discarding that fear and doubt. When the U.S. Open begins Monday, the No. 1-seeded Williams will embark on a bid to become the first tennis player since Steffi Graf in 1988 to win the sport's four most prestigious tournaments in a single season.

Only five players have pulled off a calendar-year Grand Slam; the last man to do it was Rod Laver in 1969.

"Just the fact that she's gotten herself into that position is an achievement on its own," said Maria Sharapova, who is seeded No. 3 and could face Williams in the semifinals in New York. "Her consistency and her level of play throughout this year, and in previous years and her career, have spoken for itself."

Just to add to the stakes, there's also this on the line at the U.S. Open, where Williams has won the past three championships and a half-dozen in all: She can equal Graf's professional-era record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles (13 of Margaret Court's 24 came against amateur competition).

"What Serena's doing just now is incredible," said two-time major champion Andy Murray, who joins No. 1 Novak Djokovic and No. 2 Roger Federer as the favorites for the men's title.

Williams' pursuit figures to garner the greatest attention at Flushing Meadows.

There is, after all, history in the offing. She can become the first player in the Open era with seven U.S. Open trophies, and the first woman since Chris Evert nearly 40 years ago with four in a row.

Mostly, there is the Grand Slam to chase.

"When I was younger, that was definitely a goal of mine, to win a Grand Slam," Williams said. "It's become more of, like, a distant dream, fable, kind of thing. ... I've never been this close, so we'll see."

At Wimbledon, she capped a second self-styled "Serena Slam" of four major titles in a row, dating to last year's U.S. Open; she also won four straight in 2002-03. But there is a difference between that and what Williams now will try to achieve: claiming the championship at the Australian Open on hard courts in January, the French Open on clay courts in June, Wimbledon on grass courts in July, and the U.S. Open on hard courts in September, all within the same year.

"There's no doubt winning four in a row almost never happens. It's arguably as impressive, but not quite, because of the pressure factor of what's building now towards the U.S. Open. There's no doubt that Serena's feeling that," said former

U.S. Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe, an ESPN tennis analyst. "And there's also no doubt in my mind that she can certainly handle it."

Williams is 48-2 with a tour-leading five titles in 2015. What might be most remarkable is the way she can seem down and out yet turn things around, no matter the foe or deficit.

In 11 matches this season, Williams won despite dropping the first set. At the French Open, she had four such reversals. At Wimbledon, she was two points from losing in the third round before getting past three consecutive former No. 1s — older sister Venus, Victoria Azarenka and Sharapova — to reach the final.

"When she's playing good, her level is above the other players, which everybody agrees on. You have to be able to maintain consistency during all four Grand Slams, every single match, because all the girls play her so hard, every single time. She has to dig deep," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "Even though you're dominant, you have to overcome a lot of things to win one Grand Slam, so four in a row says much about how incredible she is mentally."

## Confidence key vs. Serena

Associated Press

So here's the question 127 of the 128 women in the U.S. Open's main draw will ask themselves: How do you beat Serena Williams?

A solid return helps, of course. As can the occasional free point off a big serve. And an ability to hang in there at the baseline on extended groundstroke exchanges.

Still, women who have managed to pick up rare victories over Williams pointed not to any particular stroke but rather to a positive mindset as the key to defeating the woman seeded No. 1 and chasing a calendar-year Grand Slam at Flushing Meadows, where play begins Monday.

"If you want to beat her," two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova said, "you have to believe that you can."

As Alize Cornet, who is seeded 27th at the U.S. Open, summed it up: "You need to go on court and 'know' you can win."

The No. 5-seeded Kvitova is responsible for one of Williams' two losses in 50 matches in 2015, on red clay at Madrid in early May. The other came against 12th-seeded Swiss teenager Belinda Bencic on a hard court at Toronto this month.

"If you see her on the other side of the net, you know you have to play great to beat her," Kvitova said. "Even if she is not playing well, we've seen her come back. Opponents know it's not (over), even if you are leading."

Eleven of Williams' 48 victories this season came despite dropping the opening set.

As for what general advice she would

give someone facing Williams, Kvitova laughed and responded: "I'm going to keep it to myself."

Then Kvitova, who could meet Williams only in the U.S. Open final, offered this tidbit: "Try to play aggressively against her serve."

Williams' serve is as good as it gets in women's tennis. When it breaks down, though, that can provide an opening.

Against Bencic, for example, Williams put in only 50 percent of first serves and double-faulted 12 times.

"Obviously she wasn't serving as great as she normally does," acknowledged Bencic, who could face Williams in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

Williams' self-assessment after losing in Toronto?

"I played like an amateur, to be honest," she said.

Clearly, it helps to have an off-target performance from Williams, who has been dealing with a problematic right elbow.

And yet, when the stage is biggest and spotlight the brightest — in other words, at Grand Slam tournaments, particularly in the latter rounds — Williams plays her best.

She has won the last four major championships overall, and the past three U.S. Opens.

"She might have a bit of a shock loss here and there," said Sam Stosur, the last woman to beat Williams at Flushing Meadows, in the 2011 final, "but when she needs to turn it on, she can absolutely do that."

## Bolt races to gold in 4x100

Associated Press

BEIJING — Usain Bolt is perfect yet again.

Dispelling two years of injury doubts, the Jamaican won three sprint gold medals this week for an overall world championship record of 11. The last of them came Saturday when he anchored the 4x100-meter relay team with free-flowing, giant strides that have made him an icon for the sport.

Behind him, the United States was far back in second place. But Justin Gatlin, who had been unbeaten in two seasons of sprinting, lost the chance for a third silver when the American team was disqualified for a bad exchange on the anchor leg.

"I saw the mess after 300 meters and was happy we were not in it," Bolt said.

To the delight of the tens of thousands of fans in the Bird's Nest, China moved up to silver and Canada took bronze.

It was Bolt's third sprint triple in a row, starting at the London Olympics and continuing through the 2013 worlds in Moscow, and fifth overall.

The Americans got solace from Ashton Eaton's world-record performance in the decathlon. The Olympic champion beat his own mark with a stirring run in the closing 1,500 meters.

Eaton was around world-record pace throughout the 10 events over two days and, with exhaustion hanging heavy in the Bird's Nest, he pushed through pain to total 9,045 points, six better than his previous best.

His chest heaving, he crumpled to the track. Once he got up, he only had one thing

on his mind: seeking out his wife, heptathlon silver medalist Brianna Theisen-Eaton, for an emotional embrace in the stands.

"The result is awesome," Eaton said.

For the Jamaicans, the women's 4x100 relay team made Saturday's sprint party complete.

They brought a smile to Bolt's face ahead of his race when they won gold, beating the U.S. team with a championship record and the second fastest time in history at 41.07. It also was the second gold for Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, whose performances were again as flashy as her green hairdo.

The Jamaican win denied Allyson Felix a 10th world title, but the American veteran will get another chance in Sunday's 4x400 relay.

"This is not the end for me," Felix said.

Veronica Campbell-Brown, however, got another sprint relay gold 11 years after winning the 4x100 title at the 2004 Athens Olympics. At 33, she was the lead-off runner.

Earlier, Mo Farah joined Bolt with a third straight double in individual events at global competitions since winning the 5,000 and 10,000 meters at the London Olympics. After defending the 10,000 world title on the opening day last weekend, he had a relatively easy race in the 5,000 on Saturday.

Hanging back in last place for the first two kilometers, Farah then quickly moved up. When Caleb Ndiku sought to sprint away over the last lap, Farah kept the Kenyan in check and beat him in the finishing straight.

"It felt amazing," Farah said. "Incredible."



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# Watson leads, Spieth misses cut

The Associated Press

EDISON, N.J. — Jordan Spieth lost out on a chance to play the weekend at The Barclays.

He also lost his No. 1 ranking.

Bubba Watson, momentarily distracted by a rare warning for taking too long to play a shot, recovered with a birdie on the 18th hole at Plainfield Country Club for a 2-under 68 and a one-shot lead going into the weekend at the opening FedEx Cup playoff event.

On an otherwise sleepy afternoon at a course where no one could get some separation, two peculiar moments stood out — a bad time for Watson, bad golf from Spieth.

Trying to rally to make the cut, Spieth hit into a hazard on the 12th hole, and a bogey later became a double bogey when he was penalized one shot for stepping on his ball during the search. He had a 73, the first time since the Tour Championship last year that he had consecutive rounds over par.

He missed the cut by five shots. That means Rory McIlroy, who isn't playing this week, returns to No. 1.

"I've reached that peak already and I know it's going to be close enough to where if I just get the job done next week, I'll be back in that ranking," Spieth said. "But again, that ranking, it's great once you reach it but it's not something that

I'm going to live or die on each week."

McIlroy becomes the 14th player since the world ranking began in 1986 to get to No. 1 without playing that week.

Watson is in good shape through 36 holes to claim his own No. 1 ranking — a victory would move him to the top of the FedEx Cup. Much like the world ranking right now, that figures to change by the week.

Ultimately, what matters to Watson, Spieth and others is winning the Tour Championship to capture the \$10 million bonus.

Halfway through this event, no telling what else will happen over the next two days.

PGA Tour rookie Justin Thomas had a few late bogeys for a 69 and shrugged when asked if he was happy with his score. He was seven shots back.

"This is a course where if you make the cut, you have a chance to win," Thomas said.

Watson was at 7-under 133.

British Open champion Zach Johnson made five birdies to go with four par-saving putts from outside 8 feet for a 65. He was one shot out of the lead, along with Henrik Stenson (66), Tony Finau (69) and Jason Dufner (68).

Watson typically struggles on courses with blind shots, and Plainfield has plenty of them. But he's picking out targets, smashing his driver close to the green on

the shorter holes and getting by just fine.

The bad time came on No. 16 with a difficult pin position, made even tougher by the fact Watson watched Spieth's shot roll back some 100 feet off the green. Watson took longer than 40 seconds — 1 minutes, 2 seconds to be exact — and was given the bad time. One more bad time would have led to a one-shot penalty. Watson said he rushed his next shot from the fairway and came up 30 yards short of the green, leading to bogey.

Asked about his round, the first thing he brought up was the bad time, which he thought was "hilarious." He spoke to the rules official after the round.

"I told them, 'I'm not mad at anybody about the bad time.' I went over the time, which is the right ruling," he said. "It's just on a hole like that, one of the toughest holes we've ever played besides 2011 when we played the same pin placement, it's very difficult.

"But yeah, I'm very happy about my round," he said. "I'm excited where I'm at. I made the cut and I'm in the last group."

Spieth made 10 bogeys and two double bogeys over 36 holes. He had one stretch on the front nine of four bogeys in five holes. The exception was a birdie. But after starting the back nine with back-to-back birdies to get within two shots of the cut line, his long approach on the par-5 12th found a hazard of thick grass.

# IndyCar gets back on track

Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — IndyCar drivers got back to work Friday, climbing into their cars as a distraction — albeit a temporary one — from their grief over Justin Wilson's death.

Wilson died Monday of a head injury suffered a day earlier when he was stuck by debris from another car at Pocono Raceway. The 37-year-old British driver left behind a wife and two young daughters.

The loss of one of the most popular drivers in the paddock has been difficult for his peers, but many said Wilson would have wanted Sunday's season finale at Sonoma Raceway to go on.

"People don't realize for us, we've been doing this a long time. It's our most comfortable position," said three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves. "We've still got to remember it's racing. There is the unfortunate danger factor of it. I do feel it's the best place ever where I'm in control, that I feel I can do whatever I want. That's why it's the best way to be here today."

Castroneves is one of six drivers in mathematical contention for the championship, although Team Penske teammate Juan Pablo Montoya has the title within his reach. Montoya takes a 34-point lead over Graham Rahal into the race, which is worth double points.

Even if Rahal wins, Montoya only has to finish third to deny the American his first major championship.

Although the championship contenders tried Friday to put the focus on the title race, Wilson's death hung heavy on the paddock.

Decals honoring Wilson have been distributed to teams to place on the cars, and T-Shirts were creating with the same logo with 100 percent of the sales proceeds going to a fund for Wilson's daughters.

Both Honda and Firestone have made results-based pledges for the weekend, with a combined \$95,000 potentially going to the fund.

Oriol Servia will drive Wilson's car at his family's request in Sunday's season finale at Sonoma Raceway. The family initially wanted NASCAR driver AJ Allmendinger, one of Wilson's closest friends and a former teammate, but car owner Michael Andretti said Allmendinger passed.

"I have known and raced Justin for more than 10 years," said Servia. "I have an enormous amount of respect for him as a racer, but his qualities as a human were definitely an inspiration to anyone who ever met him.

"I truly feel he was one of those souls who has evolved a lot more than the rest of us. He will be greatly missed."

The drivers will do their best to honor Wilson's memory, and the return to the track was cathartic in their healing process. The last fatality was Dan Wheldon in the 2011 season finale, and the drivers had nothing but idle time on their hands to mourn the two-time Indianapolis 500 winner.

A race this weekend, with a championship on the line, is exactly what most of them need.

"The best thing we can do is get back in the car," said championship contender Josef Newgarden. "It's the tough part about the sport, it almost seems wrong, but it's the right thing to do. You've got to keep going. That's what Justin would want."

# Red Sox halt Mets' winning streak at 7

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Blake Swihart hit an inside-the-park home run in the 10th inning and the Boston Red Sox stopped the New York Mets' seven-game winning streak, holding on for a 6-4 victory Friday night.

The Red Sox, visiting the Mets for the first time since 2001, scored three times in the 10th. Swihart led off with a drive that appeared to clear the center-field wall and bounce back into play, but the ball was ruled in play.

The NL East-leading Mets rallied in the bottom half when reliever Junichi Tazawa walked four straight batters with two outs to force home a run. Craig Breslow replaced Tazawa and retired Yoenis Cespedes on a fly ball for his first save.

Tommy Layne (1-1) got the win. Carlos Torre (5-6) took the loss.

David Ortiz and Jackie Bradley Jr. homered off Logan Verrett in Boston's three-run seventh.

**Marlins 4, Nationals 3:** Martin Prado and Marcell Ozuna homered off Max Scherzer (11-11), and visiting Miami beat Washington.

The Nationals remained 6 1/2 games behind the Mets in the NL East.

**Giants 5, Cardinals 4:** Rookie Kelby Tomlinson lined a bases-loaded single up the middle with one out in the ninth against previously unbeaten Kevin Siegrist (5-1), and host San Francisco snapped St. Louis' five-game winning streak.

Left fielder Brandon Moss grabbed another glove from the dugout and moved in to make a five-man infield, then Tomlinson found a hole against Siegrist.

**Dodgers 4, Cubs 1:** Clayton Kershaw (11-6) struck out a season high-tying 14 to win for the first time in three outings and NL West-leading Los Angeles beat visiting Chicago.

Kershaw allowed one run and three hits in eight innings. He walked one in the Dodgers' first home game in two weeks.

**Blue Jays 5, Tigers 3:** Josh Donaldson and Troy Tulowitzki hit back-to-back homers. Jose Bautista also connected and host Toronto won for the eighth time in 10 games, beating Detroit. Ian Kinsler and Anthony Gose homered for the slumping Tigers, who have lost seven of eight.

R.A. Dickey (9-10) pitched 6 2/3 innings to win his sixth straight decision for the AL East leaders. Roberto Osuna struck out the side in the ninth for his 16th save.

**Yankees 15, Braves 4:** Didi Gregorius drove in a career-high six runs, Brian McCann hit a three-run homer in his return to Atlanta and the New York Yankees shook off a scoring slump.

The Yankees scored a total of seven runs in losing three of their last four games to fall 1 1/2 games behind first-place Toronto in the AL East.

**Rangers 4, Orioles 1:** Cole Hamels (2-1) delivered his best performance yet for host Texas, striking out 10 in eight innings to beat Baltimore.

Star outfielder Adam Jones started for the Orioles, a day after he ran into a wall and was forced to leave, but Baltimore lost for the eighth time in nine games.

**Twins 3, Astros 0:** Eduardo Nunez homered and Kyle Gibson (9-9) pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings to help host Minnesota top AL West-leading Houston.

Gibson gave up four hits, struck out four and walked three. Kevin Jepsen picked up his ninth save, giving the Twins their seventh win in their last eight games to surge back into wild card contention.

**Royals 3, Rays 2:** Kendrys Morales hit his 15th homer, Edinson Volquez (12-7) pitched into the seventh inning and AL Central-leading Kansas City beat host Tampa Bay.

Morales put the Royals up 3-1 with a two-run shot in the third off Erasmo Ramirez (10-5) that struck an overhanging catwalk. He has 89 RBIs this season, including a majors-best 46 with two outs.

**Pirates 5, Rockies 3:** Pinch-hitter Josh Harrison singled home Francisco Cervelli

with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Pittsburgh bullpen continued its hot streak in a win over visiting Colorado.

Tony Watson (3-1) earned the win with a scoreless inning. Mark Melancon worked a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 42nd save. Pittsburgh relievers haven't lost a decision since June 25, strengthening their grip on the top NL wild-card spot.

**Indians 3, Angels 1:** Trevor Bauer (10-10), starting in place of an ill Danny Salazar, allowed one run in eight innings and host Cleveland defeated Los Angeles.

Bauer won for the second time in nine starts. He replaced Salazar, who was scratched because of a virus. Bauer allowed five hits and struck out seven.

**Mariners 2, White Sox 0:** Kyle Seager and Franklin Gutierrez both had three hits and a homer and Taijuan Walker (10-7) allowed three hits before leaving with an injury in the seventh inning as visiting Seattle beat Chicago.

Walker suffered a cramp in his right hip flexor after working 6 1/3 innings.

**Brewers 5, Reds 0:** Taylor Jungmann (8-5) pitched six strong innings and fellow rookie Domingo Santana homered to lead host Milwaukee over Cincinnati.

Jungmann limited the Reds to three hits and three walks while striking out five.

**Phillies 7, Padres 1:** Rookie Aaron Nola (5-1) pitched seven strong innings and Cameron Rupp homered and drove in four runs, leading hoar Philadelphia past San Diego.

Rookie Aaron Altherr had an RBI triple as the Phillies ended their four-game losing streak. He has seven hits in the majors, all for extra bases.

**Diamondbacks 6, Athletics 4:** Pinch hitter Aaron Hill doubled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, Paul Goldschmidt homered and host Arizona downed Oakland.

The A's lost their third straight and are 4-12 over their last 16 games.