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Leadership change at 7th Fleet

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — As Rear Adm. John Nowell Jr. relinquished command of the 7th Fleet's amphibious force to Rear Adm. Marc Dalton on Wednesday, he took a moment to show the incoming Task Force 76 commander what truly makes America's "fight tonight" Pacific naval force great.

Nowell — who is heading to the Pentagon, where he has been selected for promotion to rear admiral, upper half, and named director of military personnel, plans and policy division — surrounded the dais with enlisted sailors and a Marine who had overcome significant challenges to contribute immeasurably to the mission.

Nowell also described efforts to reinvigorate amphibious warfare capabilities during his tenure. He touted the integral partnerships between the Navy and Marine Corps and America's Japanese and Korean allies, and how preparation can translate into success in humanitarian disaster-relief response.

Dalton said he was humbled with the appointment, and that he looks forward to learning from and getting to know the sailors and Marines under the CTF-76 umbrella.

Dalton has a nuclear background and came to CTF-76 from the U.S. European Command.

Task Force 76 is headquartered in Okinawa, where it often loads Marines and their equipment onto ships for deployment; however, most of its ships are permanently anchored in Sasebo.

Should military, politics mix?

The Washington Post

During the 1992 presidential race, retired Navy Adm. William Crowe surprised many fellow officers by announcing that he was endorsing Bill Clinton as the best-qualified candidate to take over the White House. The decision was especially remarkable because Crowe, the Pentagon's top officer from fall 1985 to fall 1989, had recently served directly under Clinton's incumbent opponent in the general election, George H.W. Bush.

Retired military officers wading into presidential politics are back again this year, with speeches from retired Marine Gen. John Allen and retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn at the conventions.

Allen, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan from summer 2011 to February 2013, gave a full-throated endorsement of Hillary Clinton at the Demo-

cratic National Convention on Thursday.

Flynn, the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency from July 2012 to August 2014, did the same a week earlier for Donald Trump at the Republican National Convention, and has become one of his most vocal surrogates.

Both generals have retired. But some of their peers nonetheless recoiled at their appearances, saying they are politicizing the military. Most notably, recently retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from fall 2011 to fall 2015, penned a letter to *The Washington Post* published Sunday that said politicians should take advice from senior military leaders, but not have them speak at conventions.

"As generals, they have an obligation to uphold our apolitical traditions," Dempsey wrote. "They have just made the task

of their successors — who continue to serve in uniform and are accountable for our security — more complicated."

Dempsey expanded his points in an opinion piece published late Monday by *Defense One*, saying that "generals and admirals are generals and admirals for life," and that it is "near impossible" for them to speak exclusively for themselves because they are part of a profession.

Some servicemembers think that endorsing political candidates breaks the spirit of a Defense Department directive: No partisan politics allowed while on active duty.

The current Joint Chiefs chairman, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, has declined to express an opinion on whether retired senior officials can get involved, but has underscored the need for active-duty troops to remain quiet.

Osprey flies with 'essential' part created by 3-D printer

Stars and Stripes

The Navy recently conducted its first successful flight using a "safety-critical" aircraft component built using 3-D printing technology.

An MV-22B Osprey flown out of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., completed a test Friday while outfitted with a titanium, 3-D printed assembly in the compartment that houses the engine, Naval Air Systems Command said in a statement Tuesday.

"The flight went great. I

never would have known that we had anything different on board," Maj. Travis Stephenson, the project officer who piloted the flight, said in the statement.

The 3-D printed assembly is one of four that secures an Osprey's engine housing to the primary wing structure, the Navy said. It will remain on the aircraft for further evaluation.

The 3-D printing process creates physical objects from three-dimensional digital models, layering a plethora of thin layers of material to create the

final object. Metal, plastic and other materials can be used.

The Osprey components, made of metal, were printed at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Lakehurst, N.J.

Multiple Osprey components were built and tested by the Lakehurst center and by Penn State Applied Research Laboratory prior to Friday's flight.

Friday's demonstration was the first time a Navy aircraft flew with a printed part deemed "essential" for a safe flight, the Navy said.

Trump taunts GOP leaders amid rift

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump is openly taunting the leaders of his own party by refusing to endorse House Speaker Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, and Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, in their GOP primaries. Yet, McCain, Ryan and other Republicans who've reluctantly declared they plan to back Trump for president appear to be sticking with him.

Trump's stunning slap at two of the nation's most prominent Republicans dramatically escalated GOP turmoil barely a week after a convention intended to promote party unity. With the general election campaign squarely underway, Republicans found themselves once again forced to answer questions about the latest boundary-defying pronouncement from Trump at a moment when most would rather be talking about Hillary Clinton's record.

Trump made his declarations in an interview with The Washington Post in which he also lit into New Hampshire GOP Sen.

Kelly Ayotte. All three lawmakers are facing primary challenges from the right in coming weeks, though all are expected to prevail, and each had criticized Trump's attacks on the Muslim American parents of an Army captain killed in Iraq.

Trump's rebuke to Ryan carried particular derision.

"I'm just not there yet," Trump said, closely echoing Ryan's own demurrals before eventually endorsing Trump, when he told CNN on May 6, "I'm not there right now."

"I like Paul, but these are horrible times for our country. We need very strong leadership. We need very, very strong leadership. And I'm just not quite there yet," Trump told the Post, offering praise for Ryan's longshot opponent, Paul Nehlen, for running "a very good campaign."

Trump also claimed Ryan had asked for his support, something Ryan's aides denied.

"Neither Speaker Ryan nor anyone on his team has ever asked for Donald Trump's endorsement," said Zack Roday,

Ryan's campaign spokesman. "And we are confident in a victory next week, regardless."

Of McCain, whom he'd previously criticized for being taken captive in Vietnam, Trump said, "I've never been there with John McCain because I've always felt that he should have done a much better job for the vets."

Binging up Ayotte, he said: "I don't know Kelly Ayotte. I know she's given me no support — zero support — and yet I'm leading her in the polls. I'm doing very well in New Hampshire. We need loyal people in this country. We need fighters in this country. We don't need weak people."

Trump's comments appeared to represent the most dramatic break yet with a Republican establishment whose support for their presidential nominee has been reluctant at best. It came on the same day that President Barack Obama declared Trump unfit to serve as president and questioned why McCain, Ryan and other GOP leaders continued to support him.

North Korea fires 2 more missiles

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired two intermediate-range ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan on Wednesday, the U.S. Strategic Command said, adding that one exploded immediately after launch.

The test came two weeks after the North test-fired a salvo of three missiles, highlighting the country's growing anger over U.S. plans to deploy an advanced missile defense system on the peninsula and upcoming joint exercises with South Korea.

Wednesday's missiles — confirmed to be Rodongs by South Korea's Ministry of Defense — were fired simultaneously from the western city of Hwangju, STRATCOM said.

"Initial indications reveal one of the missiles exploded immediately after launch, while the second was tracked over North Korea and into the Sea of Japan," it said in a statement.

The successful missile flew 630 miles before coming down in the Sea of Japan, the Ministry of Defense said. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff earlier reported that one missile was launched and landed in the sea.

North Korea has conducted a series of missile tests, defying a new round of toughened U.N. sanctions that were imposed after its fourth underground nuclear test in January and a long-range missile launch a month later.

Pyongyang has expressed increasing anger over U.S. sanctions imposed against its leader, Kim Jong Un, as well as the U.S.-South Korean agreement to station a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, on the peninsula.

North Korea also has ratcheted up its propaganda campaign ahead of annual U.S.-South Korea war games planned for later this month, which it considers a rehearsal for an invasion.

Turkish lawyer accuses US in coup try

The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — Barely a day after the Pentagon's top official arrived in Turkey in a bid to cool growing tensions between Ankara and Washington, a Turkish lawyer filed a criminal complaint against him and two other senior U.S. officials.

It accused Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Gen. Joseph Votel, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East; and National Intelligence Director James Clapper of conspiring with the plotters behind the failed July 15 coup attempt, which ended only after a rebellious faction of the military had bombed parliament and turned the weapons on civilian protesters in Istanbul and Ankara.

Local media reports identify the lawyer as Mert Yilmaz and

say that part of the evidence Yilmaz presents against the American officials includes the White House's supposedly delayed condemnation of the coup plot as well as the presence of pro-coup commentary on American TV outlets such as Fox News.

While it's unclear whether prosecutors in Ankara will take on the case, it's a sign of the heated atmospherics surrounding U.S.-Turkish relations since last month.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other officials in the government pin the blame for the coup on Fethullah Gulen, an imam living in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania who presides over a vast network of schools, charities and businesses around the world. Gulen's critics say his supporters — dubbed "Gulenists"

— have infiltrated various institutions, including the military, and were simply biding their time to strike.

Turkey is in the grips of an unprecedented purge of its government and society, which has seen tens of thousands of soldiers, lawyers, journalists, academics and others with alleged links to Gulen's organization arrested, detained or suspended from their jobs. A Wednesday statement from Human Rights Watch deemed the scale of the round-up to be "an affront to democracy."

Meanwhile, Turkish officials insist upon Gulen's extradition from the United States and have submitted a series of legal documents to American authorities. U.S. officials say they are waiting for specific evidence directly linking Gulen to the failed coup attempt.

Swimmer Phelps to carry flag for US

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Unlike the last four Olympics, Michael Phelps will be taking part in the Opening Ceremony for the Rio Games.

And he'll have something to carry.

Phelps will be the bearer of the U.S. flag during the Friday night ceremony at Maracana Stadium, selected in a vote by all members of the American Olympic team.

The decision announced Wednesday makes Phelps, the most decorated athlete in Olympic history, only the second swimmer to lead the U.S. delegation in the Opening Ceremony. Gary Hall was the first at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

"I'm honored to be chosen, proud to represent the U.S., and humbled by the significance of carrying the flag and all it stands for," Phelps said.

His selection was an obvious choice. Phelps has captured 18 golds and 22 medals overall, far more than any other athlete in Olympic history, and he is the first

American male swimmer to qualify for five Olympics.

But this will be the first time Phelps has participated in the Opening Ceremony, which can be a grueling experience in which the athletes spend hours on their feet. As a 15-year-old in Sydney, his handlers thought it best that he not participate even though he qualified in only one event for the 2000 Summer Games.

At the last three Olympics, Phelps skipped the ceremony to rest up for his first event, the 400-meter individual medley, which was held the next day.

With the 400 IM no longer part of his program, he was available to lead the team in Friday's ceremony.

"For Sydney, I just wanted to make the team. For Athens, I wanted to win gold for my country. For Beijing, I wanted to do something nobody else had done (breaking Mark Spitz's record with eight gold medals). In London, I wanted to make history," Phelps said.

"And now," he added, "I want to walk in

the Opening Ceremony, take it all in, represent America in the best possible way and make my family proud."

Phelps will compete in three individual events at Rio and could be a member of all three relay teams, giving him a good chance to take his already-staggering medal haul even higher.

Phelps conceded he wasn't at his best for the London Games and didn't really want to be there. After taking a yearlong break, he rediscovered his love of training and competing, sparking a desire to close his career the right way.

Then there's his personal life, which has included a series of missteps including a second drunken-driving arrest in 2014. Since then, Phelps went through six weeks of inpatient therapy, gave up alcohol, reconnected with his estranged father, got engaged and became a father for the first time with the birth of his son, Boomer.

"This time around," Phelps said, "it's about so much more than medals."

US hoops team shoots for more gold in Rio

Associated Press

HOUSTON — They have crisscrossed the country, delivering basketball blowouts from coast to coast.

Now the U.S. Olympic teams could finally take the only flight they really want.

They departed together Tuesday night for Brazil and arrived Wednesday on a trip that's expected to lead to gold.

"This is the exciting part, knowing that we're about to go to Rio," men's star Carmelo Anthony said. "We're about to just lock in in just one location, and we can just really focus on playing basketball and getting better individually and as a group."

Anthony, at 32 the old man of the U.S. team, wasn't a fan of the early morning flights

that the Americans took during their exhibition tour, as evidenced by DeMar DeRozan's Instagram video of a team sing-along during one trip.

Now the teams can drop anchor and stick around in one spot — they're staying on a cruise ship along one of Brazil's beautiful beaches.

The men finished off their exhibition tour here Monday with a 110-66 rout of Nigeria.

After unveiling their team in New York in late June, the men reported three weeks later to training camp in Las Vegas and also played exhibition games in Los Angeles, Oakland and Chicago.

They went 5-0, averaged 102.8 points and overwhelmed their opponents by 43 per game.

The road to Rio was easy, but coach Mike Krzyzewski insists the Olympics won't be.

"The competition is going to get better. I mean, really good," Krzyzewski said.

"We play two games against teams that we've beaten, but they'll be a little bit different, in China and Venezuela. And then we play Australia, who is very good. They'll probably start five NBA players. And then you play Serbia, and we know them from the world championships, with (Milos) Teodosic and their big guys. And then you play France, who will probably have eight or nine NBA players. So it goes up. It goes up, and we have to react accordingly."

The women played higher-caliber opponents during their

tour, which started in Los Angeles before moving to the Northeast for victories over France, Canada and Australia. They are a heavy favorite to win a sixth consecutive gold medal in Rio and have won 41 consecutive Olympic contests, with the last loss coming in the 1992 semifinals.

They gathered July 23 and coach Geno Auriemma said Tuesday was the first real practice they've had. He planned another Wednesday after they arrive in Rio.

"So we're not as good as we're going to be, and that's kind of the way it's been for us at the Olympics," Auriemma said. "We get better as the week goes on and that's certainly been the case since the 23rd."



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Earnhardt to miss at least 2 more races

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. will miss at least two more races while he recovers from a concussion.

Earnhardt, who skipped the last three races, will sit out at Watkins Glen International on Sunday and at Bristol Motor Speedway on Aug. 20.

Four-time series champion Jeff Gordon, who came out of retirement to fill in for Earnhardt the last two weeks, will remain behind the wheel in the No. 88 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports.

The team made the announcement Tuesday, saying

Earnhardt hasn't been cleared to race.

"We have a break in the schedule after Watkins Glen, so the extra week of recovery time will certainly be a benefit," team owner Rick Hendrick said in a statement. "Dale will be back when he's ready, and we're looking forward to that happening, but the priority continues to be his health and well-being. We'll keep our focus on that and let the doctors guide us."

Earnhardt underwent further evaluation Monday at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Sports Medi-

cine Concussion Program. The driver said on his weekly podcast that he continues to experience issues with balance and gaze stabilization — the ability to focus on an object while he moves his head.

Earnhardt gave no timetable for his return and said doctors have told him his concussion occurred June 12 at Michigan International Speedway. He drove three races after that one.

"I'd love to race more," Earnhardt said on his "Dirty Mo Radio" internet network. "In my mind, my plan is to race more. I have plans to keep

going. I'll worry about that when I'm well.

"I'll talk to my doctors and say, 'What do I have left as far as the racing?' My doctors are confident that they can make me stronger than I was before this event."

Gordon subbed for Earnhardt at Indianapolis and Pocono, finishing 13th and 27th. His next start will be the 800th of his Cup career.

Gordon, who turns 45 this week, is NASCAR's all-time leader in road-course victories with nine, including four at Watkins Glen. He has five wins at Bristol.

Bundy, long balls lift Orioles over Rangers

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Dylan Bundy wasn't going to go past the seventh inning, no matter what.

So, quite unintentionally, the rookie gave up a hit to make life easier for manager Buck Showalter.

Bundy took a no-hitter into the sixth inning for the second game in a row, Pedro Alvarez hit two of Baltimore's four solo homers and the Orioles beat the Texas Rangers 5-1 on Tuesday night in a duel between AL division leaders.

Making his fourth career start, Bundy allowed one hit and a walk over seven sparkling innings against a potent lineup featuring newcomers Carlos Beltran and Jonathan Lucroy.

Bundy (4-3) retired the first 10 batters before issuing a fourth-inning walk to Ian Desmond, who was thrown out trying to steal as Beltran struck out. Elvis Andrus ended the rookie's no-hit bid with a clean line drive up the middle with two outs in the sixth.

Texas closed to 4-1 in the eighth against Brad Brach before Darren O'Day struck out Desmond with the bases loaded and two outs. O'Day came back

in the ninth to earn his third save.

Bundy outpitched Yu Darvish (2-3), who allowed three homers for only the second time in 90 major league appearances. Alvarez connected in the fifth and seventh innings, and Adam Jones went deep on an 0-2 pitch in the sixth.

Darvish was pulled after Alvarez's second homer made it 3-0, and Matt Wieters greeted reliever Dario Alvarez with a shot to right.

The loss snapped the AL West-leading Rangers' four-game winning streak. Playing with Texas for the first time since being obtained Monday in separate trades, Beltran went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts, and Lucroy was hitless with a walk but scored the Rangers' lone run.

Mariners 5, Red Sox 4: Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run eighth inning, Edwin Diaz got his first major league save and host Seattle overcame a four-run deficit to beat Boston.

Cano capped the comeback with his 24th homer to right field off newly acquired Red Sox reliever Fernando Abad (1-5).

Top Red Sox prospect Andrew Benintendi entered as

a pinch-hitter for his major league debut and went 0-for-2, striking out to end the game.

Tigers 11, White Sox 5: Miguel Cabrera hit his third home run in two games, Victor Martinez also went deep and host Detroit won its seventh straight.

Cubs 3, Marlins 2: Jason Hammel threw six scoreless innings, Dexter Fowler had three hits and host Chicago beat Miami ace Jose Fernandez.

Aroldis Chapman hit 104.4 mph in a perfect ninth as the Cubs won for the sixth time in seven games.

Phillies 13, Giants 8: Aaron Altherr had a homer and five RBIs, Maikel Franco homered and went 4-for-4 and Philadelphia used a five-run eighth inning to beat visiting San Francisco in a wild game.

Reds 7, Cardinals 5: Scott Schebler's three-run homer in the ninth inning rallied host Cincinnati over St. Louis.

Mets 7, Yankees 1: Jacob deGrom pitched seven scoreless innings, Alejandro De Aza and Travis d'Arnaud homered off Masahiro Tanaka and the host Mets' offense woke up in a Subway Series win.

Blue Jays 2, Astros 1: R.A. Dickey threw seven solid innings and Jose Bautista and

Edwin Encarnacion homered for visiting Toronto.

Royals 3, Rays 2: Salvador Perez hit a two-run home run in the seventh inning that carried visiting Kansas City.

Nationals 10, Diamondbacks 4: Wilson Ramos hit a three-run homer to break a fifth-inning tie, leading Washington over host Arizona.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 3: Carlos Gonzalez had four RBIs and three hits, Jon Gray labored through five shutout innings and surging Colorado beat visiting Los Angeles.

Pirates 5, Braves 3: Jung Ho Kang doubled in the tie-breaking run in a four-run sixth inning to lead Gerrit Cole and visiting Pittsburgh.

Twins 10, Indians 6: Rookie Max Kepler homered for the fourth time in two games and Minnesota beat host Cleveland after nearly blowing an eight-run lead.

Angels 5, Athletics 4: Matt Shoemaker pitched seven solid innings and Jett Bandy and Jefry Marte hit home runs for host Los Angeles.

Brewers 3, Padres 2: Ryan Braun hit a tiebreaking homer in his return to the lineup, Zach Davies won for the ninth time in 10 decisions and visiting Milwaukee beat San Diego.