

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, August 15, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Islamic State likes recruits who know little

Associated Press

PARIS — The jihadi employment form asked the new recruits to rate their knowledge of Islam on a scale of one to three. And the Islamic State group applicants, herded into a hangar somewhere at the Syria-Turkey border, turned out to be overwhelmingly deemed ignorant. The extremist group could hardly have hoped for better.

At the height of the Islamic State group's drive for foot soldiers in 2013 and 2014, typical followers included the group of Frenchmen who went bar-hopping with their recruiter back home, the recent European convert who now hesitantly describes himself as gay, and two Britons who ordered "The Koran for Dummies" from Amazon to prepare for jihad in Syria. They were grouped in safe houses as a stream of Islamic State group imams filled in the gaps, according to court testimony and interviews by The Associated Press.

"I realized that I was in the wrong place when they began to ask me questions on these forms like, 'When you die, who should we call?'" said the 32-year-old European convert, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

He went to Syria in 2014 and said new recruits were shown

Islamic State propaganda videos on Islam, and that the visiting imams repeatedly praised martyrdom. Far from home and unschooled in religion, most of the recruits were in little position to judge.

An AP analysis of thousands of leaked Islamic State group documents reveals most of its recruits from its earliest days knew little about Islam.

According to the documents, which were acquired by the Syrian opposition site Zaman al-Wasl and shared with the AP, 70 percent of recruits were listed as having just "basic" knowledge of Sharia — the lowest possible choice. Around 24 percent were categorized as having an "intermediate" knowledge, and just 5 percent were considered advanced students of Islam.

The group preys on this ignorance, because it allows extremists to impose an interpretation of Islam constructed to suit its goal of maximum territorial expansion and carnage as soon as recruits come under its sway.

Among the documents were forms for nine of the 10 young men from the eastern French city of Strasbourg recruited — like the European convert — by a man named Mourad Fares. One of them, Karim Mohammad-Aggad, described going barhopping with Fares. He told

investigators that Islamic State recruiters used "smooth talk" to persuade him.

He traveled with his younger brother and friends to Syria in late 2013. Seven of them returned to France within a few months and were arrested. Two died in Syria, while his 23-year-old brother, Foued, returned as one of the men who stormed the Bataclan on Nov. 13 in a night of attacks that killed 130 people in Paris.

"My religious beliefs had nothing to do with my departure," Karim Mohammad-Aggad told the court before he was sentenced to nine years in prison. "Islam was used to trap me like a wolf," he said, according to court documents.

When pressed by the judge on his knowledge of Sharia, Islamic law, and how the Islamic State group implements it, Mohammad-Aggad appeared dumbfounded, saying repeatedly, "I don't have the knowledge to answer the question."

Patrick Skinner, a former CIA case officer with experience with Mideast extremist organizations, said most who claim allegiance to the Islamic State group are "reaching for a sense of belonging, a sense of notoriety, a sense of excitement."

"Religion is an afterthought," said Skinner, who now works for the Soufan Group security

consultancy.

Those who truly crave religious immersion would go to Al-Azhar in Cairo, he added, referring to the 1,000-year-old seat of learning for Sharia and Quranic studies among Sunni Muslims.

The Soufan Group has said the Islamic State group's most active supporters often grapple with questions of identity and lack the knowledge about Islam to challenge its ideologues.

Take Mohammed Ahmed and Yusuf Sarwar, friends from the British city of Birmingham who joined the Islamic State group. They were arrested after returning to Britain, and their 2014 trial revealed they had ordered "The Koran for Dummies" and "Islam for Dummies" books in preparation for their trip to Syria.

Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan said that a look at top Islamic State commanders shows that many are not accredited scholars, but instead once held senior positions under Saddam Hussein's secular Baathist government.

Ramadan, who teaches Islamic Studies at Oxford University and has written numerous books on Islam and the integration of Muslims in Europe, said Islamic scholars must challenge the radical discourse of groups such as the Islamic State.

Trump to call for new test on ideology for admission to US

Associated Press

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Donald Trump on Monday was to call for a new ideological test for admission to the United States, vetting applicants on their stance on issues like religious freedom, gender equality and gay rights. The policy would represent a significant

shift in how the U.S. manages entry into the country.

In a speech in swing state Ohio, Trump also planned to call for "foreign policy realism" and an end to nation-building, and he was to argue that the United States needs to work with anyone who shares the mission of destroying the Islamic State group and other extremist or-

ganizations, regardless of other disagreements.

"Mr. Trump's speech will explain that while we can't choose our friends, we must always recognize our enemies," Trump senior policy adviser Stephen Miller said before the speech.

The Republican nominee's foreign policy address comes

during a rocky stretch for his campaign. He's struggled to stay on message and has consistently overshadowed his policy rollouts, including an economic speech last week, with provocative statements including falsely declaring that President Barack Obama was the "founder" of the Islamic State group.

Sailor compares case to Clinton's

BY ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — A sailor who pleaded guilty to photographing classified submarine systems hopes to receive leniency by comparing his case to Hillary Clinton's ongoing email controversy, his lawyers said in a court document.

Petty Officer 1st Class Kristian M. Saucier, 29, will be sentenced Friday for a felony charge of retaining national defense information. He pleaded guilty in May on the charge that he photographed classified workings of the propulsion sys-

tem of the USS Alexandria.

The photos taken in 2009 showed parts of the reactor configuration, according to the memo filed last week by Saucier's lawyer, Derrick Hogan.

Hogan argues for leniency by making comparisons to the high-profile investigation into Clinton's use of a private computer server as secretary of state. During Clinton's tenure, she possessed 110 classified emails, FBI Director James Comey said in July following an investigation.

Hogan seeks to exploit the appearance of a double standard: leniency for high-ranking of-

ficials and harsh punishments for junior servicemembers.

The comparison with Clinton's case is bolstered by examples of leniency, including a case in which a Defense Department contractor retained secret documents. The contractor received probation after a judge determined there was no intent of harm or dissemination of the documents to a foreign agent, according to the filing.

Saucier is facing more than five years in prison, which both legal teams agree is an appropriate length of sentencing in this kind of crime, according to court documents.

Japan to develop new missile system

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan has decided to develop and deploy a land-to-sea missile system designed to enhance defense in the East China Sea while it is embroiled in a tense standoff with China over the disputed Senkaku Islands, according to Japanese media reports.

Vehicle-mounted, GPS-guided missiles with a range of about 186 miles will be deployed to major southern islands such as Miyako in Okinawa Prefecture, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported Sunday, citing unnamed sources, which is customary in Japan. The system's cost will be proposed in the fiscal 2017 defense budget request slated for release in mid-September.

The missile system is aimed at enhancing Japanese deterrence by upgrading long-distance offensive capabilities, said the Yomiuri Shimbun, which added that the missiles could be trained on foreign vessels in the East China Sea if activities expand in that area.

News of the move comes at a precarious time in the Asia-Pacific, with China repeatedly challenging Japanese sovereignty in the area surrounding the resource-rich Senkaku island chain. Last week, Japan summoned the Chinese ambassador to protest as a standoff involving Chinese government ships in waters claimed by Japan entered its second week.

Meanwhile, the joint staff office of Japan's defense ministry declined to confirm or deny that a Japan Air Self-Defense Force jet was scrambled in response to Chinese military fighters flying within 30 miles of Japan's territorial airspace near the Senkakus.

Female Marine dropped from course

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A female Marine Corps officer was dropped from infantry training last month after failing the course for a second time since all military jobs were opened to women, a Marine spokesman said Monday.

The female officer was reassigned to a different Military Occupation Specialty on July 18 after she failed two conditioning hikes, said Capt. Joshua Pena, a spokesman for Marine Corps Training and Education

Command.

There are no female officers enrolled in the Infantry Officer Course, Pena said.

The woman who failed out of infantry training last month was dropped initially from the 84-day course after 11 days in April after she was unable to complete two hikes.

She began her second attempt July 6, but was cut after her second failed conditioning hike. Thirty-four of 97 officers have been dropped from that class, so far, Pena said.

Last month, the Army announced two female officers

had been selected to attempt initial Special Forces training later this year. Last year, two female Army officers graduated the service's grueling Ranger School course. One of those officers, Capt. Kristen Griest, later become the first female soldier to join the infantry.

The Army has said Griest and other women attempting traditionally all-male jobs have been held to the same standards as male soldiers. Women in the Marines also will be held to the same physical standards as their male counterparts, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has said.

More than 20,000 rescued from La. flood

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Thousands of people in southern Louisiana hunkered down in shelters Monday, forced out of their homes by intense flooding that took many people by surprise.

At least six people were killed. The weather had improved from torrential downpours that began Friday, but rivers and creeks in many areas were still above flood stage.

Residents have been scrambling to get to safety as rivers and creeks burst their banks, swollen from heavy rain that, in some areas, came close to 2 feet over a 48-hour period. Rescuers evacuated more than 20,000 people.

In high-water vehicles, boats and helicopters, emergency crews hurried to rescue scores of people, and the governor warned it was not over.

From the air, homes looked like little islands surrounded by flooded fields. Farmland was covered, streets descended into impassable pools of water, and shopping centers were inundated with only roofs of cars peeking above the water.

Rivers in the Baton Rouge area have started to fall but still remained above flood stage, setting record levels over the weekend, the National Weather Service said Monday.

Six people have died, Devin George, the state registrar for vital records, said Monday.

Piscotty helps Cards rally past Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The St. Louis Cardinals are further down than usual in the NL Central standings. Still, they may see the major league-leading Chicago Cubs in October, and they're coming out of a four-game series at Wrigley Field with some extra confidence.

Stephen Piscotty hit a three-run homer, Brandon Moss followed with a solo shot one out later and the Cardinals used a five-run eighth inning to beat the Cubs 6-4 on Sunday night.

The Cardinals split a four-game series with Chicago, which dropped its second straight following an 11-game winning streak. St. Louis trails Chicago by 12 games in the division but also has a half-game lead on Miami for the second wild-card spot, keeping the Cards in line for a sixth straight playoff appearance.

Red Sox 16, Diamondbacks 2: Mookie Betts hit three home runs and drove in a career-best eight runs, joining Hall of Famer Ted Williams as the

only Red Sox players in over 100 years with a pair of three-homer games in a season and powering Boston over visiting Arizona.

Rick Porcello (16-3) became the first Red Sox pitcher in 70 years to open a season 12-0 at Fenway Park.

Pirates 11, Dodgers 3: Josh Harrison and Adam Frazier each had four hits, Sean Rodriguez homered and had four RBIs and Pittsburgh spoiled Brett Anderson's return for host Los Angeles with a five-run first inning.

Orioles 8, Giants 7: Jonathan Schoop hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning and Baltimore overcame a six-run deficit to hand struggling host San Francisco another deflating loss.

Mets 5, Padres 1: Steven Matz carried a no-hit bid into the eighth inning and host New York won consecutive games for the first time in more than a month, beating San Diego.

Rays 12, Yankees 3: Corey Dickerson hit a three-run homer off Luis Severino, Evan

Longoria added a three-run double against Luis Cessa to cap a six-run fourth inning for visiting Tampa Bay against New York, which started eight players 26 years old or younger for the first time in 49 years.

Blue Jays 9, Astros 2: Troy Tulowitzki and Russell Martin hit back-to-back home runs, Marcus Stroman pitched 6¹/₃ innings to win for the first time in four starts for host Toronto.

Nationals 9, Braves 1: Bryce Harper hit an RBI double in his return to the lineup, Tanner Roark won his fourth straight start and host Washington topped Atlanta.

Indians 5, Angels 4: Abraham Almonte singled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning and host Cleveland sent Los Angeles to its 10th straight loss.

Tigers 7, Rangers 0: Michael Fulmer pitched a four-hitter in Detroit's second straight shutout of host Texas, and Victor Martinez and J.D. Martinez homered for the Tigers.

Fulmer (10-3) became the first Detroit rookie to throw a

shutout since Justin Verlander 10 years ago. The 23-year-old right-hander retired 16 of the last 17 hitters he faced.

Phillies 7, Rockies 6: Jimmy Paredes singled, doubled, homered and drove in three runs and host Philadelphia held on to complete a three-game sweep of Colorado.

Mariners 8, Athletics 4: Kyle Seager doubled twice and drove in four runs to help visiting Seattle beat Oakland for its eighth victory in nine games.

Brewers 7, Reds 3: Ryan Braun hit two homers, doubled and drove in six runs Sunday in host Milwaukee's victory over Cincinnati.

Royals 11, Twins 4: Paulo Orlando and Lorenzo Cain each had four hits and three RBIs and Kansas City won a road series for the first time since late June.

Marlins 5, White Sox 4: Left fielder Christian Yelich threw out pinch-runner Carlos Sanchez trying to score from second base on a two-out single in the ninth inning, and host Miami beat Chicago.

With Stanton out, could be A-Rod in for Marlins?

Associated Press

MIAMI — Alex Rodriguez may soon get a call from his hometown team.

The Miami Marlins are in the market for a power hitter to replace injured slugger Giancarlo Stanton, who will likely miss the rest of the regular season. They're discussing whether to reach out to Rodriguez, president of baseball operations Michael Hill said on Sunday after the Marlins beat the Chicago White Sox 5-4.

Stanton strained his groin Saturday and is expected to be sidelined at least six weeks. Rodriguez, who grew up in South Florida and still lives here, played his final game for the New York Yankees on Friday.

"We're going to look at everything," Hill

said. "There has been information out there about his situation. I have no idea what his interest level is to continue playing. He has something set up to move into the Yankees front office; I don't know where his head is on that."

Stanton, this year's Home Run Derby winner, leads the Marlins with 25 homers and 70 RBIs while batting .244. Justin Bour, who has 15 home runs, is sidelined with an ankle injury, creating a void at first base that Rodriguez could help fill.

The Marlins are contending for their first playoff berth since 2003. To overcome the loss of Stanton, Hill said, the front office will consider all options — including Rodriguez.

"This team has played too well for too long," Hill said. "We're right in the thick

of this thing, and we're going to do everything in our power to help in any way we can. If it's him, if it's someone else, we're going to try to find a way to make it happen.

"We're putting together our list of options. He's an available player, so he'll be on that list, and we'll see where it goes."

Rodriguez, 41, was unconditionally released Saturday by the Yankees. He was batting .200 and said he's unsure whether he'll play again.

He needs only four homers to become the fourth player to hit 700, and the looming milestone might be a lure to continue his 22-year career. But he has played little in the field since 2013, complicating any role he might have with an NL team.



Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

Bolt claims 3rd straight 100M title

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Usain Bolt sauntered onto the track, stretched out his arms and waved his hands, signaling for more applause.

He knew how this night was going to go.

Bolt's swan song in the Olympic 100 meters Sunday night was a no-doubter — a pedestrian-by-his-standards 9.81-second sprint down the straightaway, but not so slow that he couldn't take time to point at his own chest with his thumb a step before he crossed the finish line.

"It was brilliant," Bolt said. "I didn't go so fast but I'm so happy I won. I told you guys I was going to do it."

He won his record-setting third straight title in track's featured event and his seventh Olympic gold.

Bolt beat American Justin Gatlin, who was greeted by the fans with raucous boos, by 0.08 seconds. Andre de Grasse of Canada won the bronze.

Bolt has a chance for two more golds — in his favorite race, the 200 final Thursday, then in the 4x100 relay Saturday night.

He wasn't the only one to put

on a show Sunday.

A few minutes before his race, world champion Wayde van Niekerk of South Africa eclipsed what many thought was the most-unbreakable record in the book — Michael Johnson's 17-year-old mark of 43.18 seconds in 400 meters.

Running out of Lane 8, where the lag puts him well in front of the rest of the field, van Niekerk never saw a soul — crossing in 43.03 and only glancing to his left when he approached the line to peer at the clock, which showed him what he had done.

Gatlin finished with silver to go with his 2004 gold and 2012

bronze and, at 34, became the oldest man to win a medal in a non-relay sprint. And while Bolt was celebrating with anyone he could find, Gatlin was parading the American flag around the track virtually alone. The boos from the Brazilian crowd were the latest ugly chapter in Gatlin's saga. He's been caught for doping twice. His last ban ended in 2010. But fans in the stadium bought into the "Good vs. Evil" story line that's been pitched by the media for all these years, and they let the American have it.

Rose wins first golf event in 112 years

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — From the top step of the podium, Justin Rose bowed his head as the Olympic gold medal was placed around his neck, and he stared at it for the longest time.

Even for a major champion, this was more than he ever imagined.

"It's a moment you've seen in many other sports," Rose said. "The medal ceremony is what it's all about, really."

This was why the 36-year-old Englishman circled the Rio Games on his calendar all along, even as some of the biggest names in golf began pulling out. Rose came to Rio to watch, and to win.

And when his turn came Sunday, he delivered a gold-medal performance worthy of a 112-year wait.

The final round was so tense that no one led by more than one shot until Rose hit a 40-yard pitch to 3 feet, a shot every bit as significant as the 4-iron from 229 yards on the 18th hole at Merion when he won the 2013 U.S. Open.

The birdie gave him a 4-under 67 and a two-shot victory over Henrik Stenson to win golf's first gold medal since 1904 in St. Louis.

Matt Kuchar of the United States closed with a 63 to win

the bronze.

"I've never been so happy with a third-place finish in my life," Kuchar said.

And then there was Rose.

As the final putt fell into the cup, he thrust his fist into the air and popped the British crest on his shirt before turning to embrace Stenson. He raised both arms, pumped his fist again and took a bow.

Tennis: Andy Murray is making a habit of accomplishing things that hadn't been done in a while.

Or ever.

Murray became the first tennis player in Olympic history with two singles gold medals, winning his second in a row by wearing down Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 at the Rio de Janeiro Games in a back-and-forth 4-hour final Sunday.

On Sunday, the No. 2-seeded Murray stopped the resurgent run of the 141st-ranked del Potro, who knocked off No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the first round then beating No. 3 Rafael Nadal in the semifinals.

Gymnastics: Simone Biles' golden run in Rio is picking up steam.

The 19-year-old superstar added a third gold medal to her haul on Sunday, easily capturing the women's vault

final. Biles, who helped the "Final Five" to team gold and also dominated the all-around competition last week, averaged 15.966 on her two vaults on Sunday to become the first American woman to win the event at the Olympics.

Russia's Maria Paseka edged Switzerland's Giulia Steingruber for silver, more than 0.7 behind Biles, showcasing the gap between Biles and the rest of the world.

Open water swimming: In the sewage-filled waters off one of the world's most famous beaches, Sharon van Rouwendaal claimed gold for the Netherlands in the Olympic women's open water race Monday at Copacabana.

The winning margin was a staggering 17.4 seconds, far more than the 0.4 difference four years ago and the 1.4 spread at the inaugural open water competition in 2008.

Aurelie Muller of France touched next, but then it was announced she had been disqualified for an incident at the finish of the rough-and-tumble sport. That moved Italy's Rachele Bruni up to silver, while Poliana Okimoto went from just off the podium to bronze — the first swimming medal ever won by a Brazilian woman, either in the pool or open water.

Klishina wins appeal, will compete

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The lone Russian track and field athlete at the Olympics has won her appeal to compete at the Rio de Janeiro Games.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled early Monday that long jumper Darya Klishina is eligible to take part in Tuesday's qualifying because she has been based outside of Russia for the last three years and has been subjected to regular drug testing.

Klishina was the only one of 68 Russians cleared to participate in Rio by the IAAF, the sport's governing body. It tried to ban her from the Olympics last week, however, after receiving what it said was new information from World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren.

The IAAF has not disclosed what new information it has.

CAS, however, concluded that Klishina "complied with the relevant criteria because of her permanent residence outside Russia ... despite the additional information provided by Prof. McLaren."

The long jump final is scheduled for Wednesday.