

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## GI killed by IED in Afghanistan

BY TARA COPP  
AND CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An American servicemember was killed and one other was injured Tuesday just a day after the U.S. said it sent troops to aid Afghan forces in its fight against the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

About 100 additional U.S. troops were dispatched to Lashkar Gah, the capital city of Helmand province, to help Afghan police secure the city from Taliban forces surrounding it.

Six Afghans were also injured, according to a statement from Resolute Support, the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan.

“On behalf of all of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, as well as Resolute Support, our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of those involved,” said Gen. John W. Nicholson, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Resolute Support. “We are deeply saddened by this loss, but remain committed to helping our Afghan partners provide a brighter future for themselves and their children.”

The U.S. forces were on a foot patrol with Afghan troops near Lashkar Gah when they hit an improvised explosive device, according to Col. Michael Lawhorn, the Kabul-based spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve.

The identity of the killed servicemember was being withheld pending notification to the family. The servicemember was not part of the 100 troops sent to Lashkar Gah, Lawhorn said.

The servicemember is the third American to die in Afghanistan this year, and the second in Helmand.

Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Wilbur, 36, of Granite City, Ill., died Aug. 12 in Kandahar from a non-combat-related injury. The cause of death was not released and the Pentagon said at the time that the incident was under investigation.

In January, Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Q. McClintock, 30, a Special Forces engineer originally from Albuquerque, N.M., was killed in a firefight in the Marjah district of Helmand province.

Since U.S. Forces in Afghanistan formally ended its combat

mission in December 2014, 23 U.S. servicemembers have died in Afghanistan and 118 have been wounded, according to the Defense Department.

There are now about 700 U.S. forces in and around Lashkar Gah, Lawhorn said. The forces are conducting train, advise and assist missions with the Afghan army and police forces. They are based at Camp Shorab with the Afghan army, Lawhorn said.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in Helmand, said U.S. forces have been carrying out operations with Afghans in the Chah Anjir area of Nad-e-Ali district and the Babaji area, which is close to Lashkar Gah. However, Zwak said he did not know whether it was in either of these areas where the IED blast occurred.

An investigation is being conducted to determine the exact circumstances of the event, according to the Resolute Support statement.

In February, the Army deployed a battalion-sized unit to help train and advise Afghan units facing a particularly virulent uprising in the province.

Helmand’s annual \$3 billion opium crop produces most of the world’s heroin and is used to fund the insurgency. Its population is mainly Pashtun, the ethnic group from which the Taliban derive most of their support, and the province borders Kandahar, where the Taliban’s government was based from 1996 until the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

Helmand has been the site of some of the most intense fighting in the 15-year war in Afghanistan. Nearly 1,000 foreign troops have died fighting to secure the province since 2001.

The insurgents have stepped up attacks in other parts of the country as well, taking advantage of the warm weather to wage war against the government in Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital.

The Taliban’s goal is to take a major urban center, Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, a Resolute Support spokesman, told reporters Monday. The Taliban will continue to “do their best” to threaten the provincial capitals in Kunduz and Helmand, he said.

## Turkey says Russia could use Incirlik for airstrikes

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTT GART, Germany — Could U.S. warplanes soon be sharing the runway at Turkey’s Incirlik Air Base with Russian bombers?

That’s up to Moscow, according to a top Turkish official, whose comments on possibly opening the strategic Turkish facility to Russian personnel comes ahead of a damage con-

trol visit by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden on Wednesday.

When asked on Saturday whether Russia could use Incirlik for airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim answered in the affirmative. “If necessary, the Incirlik base can be used (by the Russians),” Yildirim told reporters.

The prospect of opening Incirlik to Russia, a move that

would likely infuriate NATO allies, would put the U.S. military in the awkward position of working and possibly living side by side with an adversary. In addition to being home to about 2,500 U.S. troops, Incirlik also houses about 50 U.S. nuclear weapons, according to various watchdog groups.

For Russia, Incirlik is unlikely to offer much tactical value, since its fighter-bombers and attack helicopters already op-

erate from bases in Syria closer to the actual battlefields, and Yildirim made clear that Moscow hadn’t requested use of the air base. Still, a move into Incirlik could offer Russia an opportunity to chip at NATO unity.

Whether Yildirim was serious about the Incirlik offer to Moscow or floating the idea as a sign of leverage against the United States isn’t clear

## Typhoon displaces 300 military families in Japan

BY AARON KIDD  
AND JAMES KIMBER  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — More than 300 families living at a western Tokyo air base were displaced Tuesday after a typhoon caused flooding that knocked out power and water service to their homes.

Buildings 4300, 4301, 4302, 4303 and 4305 on Yokota Air Base's east side lost electricity after Mindulle — the first typhoon to roar ashore in the metropolitan area in 16 years — made landfall Monday afternoon south of Tokyo. The storm triggered floods, disrupted travel and kept some U.S. military bases, including Yokota, on lockdown before being downgraded to a tropical depression Tuesday morning.

Yokota received just under 10 inches of rain — 4 more inches than expected — in about eight hours, an official said.

"We don't have an exact time frame on when power will be restored," Capt. Mark Lazane, 374th Airlift Wing public affairs officer, said in an email to Stars and Stripes. "It depends on the amount of damage done to the electrical system, and that won't be known until the systems are dried out."

Safety was the main reason

for the evacuation, said Col. Neil Richardson, the 374th Airlift Wing vice commander.

"No power and no water in any of the facilities also means we have no fire-detection capability, so we determined it was unsafe to keep them in there," he said.

The installation commander-directed evacuation asked the affected residents to report to a processing line at Yokota's Enlisted Club on Tuesday afternoon to receive keys to their temporary quarters.

"Expect to have at least a cot and hot water," said a statement posted to Yokota's Facebook page. "Some rooms may or may not have cooking or cold storage equipment."

Evacuees were asked to bring 72 hours' worth of linens, towels, toiletries and comfort items. They were also asked to bring entertainment, such as laptops and cellphones.

"The lodging has power, but does not have internet," the statement said.

Some residents were also given the option of staying in an off-base hotel, reimbursable up to \$140 per night.

Yokota's 374th Civil Engineer Squadron is working around the clock to fix the problem, Richardson said.

## Air Force seeks to reduce duties required of airmen

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Extra duties such as managing records, maintaining web pages and assisting others with filing taxes will no longer be required of airmen as the Air Force looks to cut some of the additional responsibilities laid on its members on top of mission requirements.

The service announced that it will eliminate, reassign or consolidate 29 of 61 additional Air Force duties — tasks assigned to airmen that aren't part of their unit's primary mission. The effort is aimed at easing the burden on service-members faced with increased operational demands at a time when the force is smaller than it has ever been, officials said.

"We have heard your concern and frustration on the issue of additional duties that compete with accomplishing

our primary Air Force missions," Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Gen. Dave Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, said in a memo last week.

In meeting with airmen at installations around the world, James and Goldfein said that they "have heard consistently that additional duties assigned at the unit-level affect our ability to focus on core mission, which in turn impacts our readiness."

After reviewing 61 of the duties assigned by Air Force instruction, the service decided to eliminate outright seven of them: destruction officer, functional area records manager, records custodian, self-aid and buddy care monitor/instructor, unit public affairs representative, unit tax representative, and web page maintainer.

A number of others will be reduced, with commanders having the discretion to determine whether the duty is required.

## N. Korea accused of planting mines near DMZ bridge

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S.-led United Nations Command on Tuesday accused the North Korean army of planting land mines near a landmark bridge in the heavily militarized border that divides the peninsula.

South Korean officials said the mines were laid last week on the northern side of the Bridge of No Return, which spans the military demarcation line near the truce village of Panmunjom, according to the Yonhap

news agency.

The report comes amid heightened tensions after the South confirmed that a high-level North Korean diplomat had defected, prompting concern that Pyongyang would take action to prevent others from fleeing the isolated country.

The U.S. and South Korea also began their annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises on Monday, prompting a wave of anger from Pyongyang.

The United Nations Command said it was "aware of the Korean People's Army activ-

ity in vicinity of the Bridge of No Return in Panmunjom, but will not speculate as to why the KPA is taking these actions."

The statement warned that devices or munitions near the bridge jeopardize the safety of people on both sides, including thousands of schoolchildren and other visitors who participate in educational tours.

"United Nations Command strongly condemns any KPA action that jeopardizes the safety of all personnel in the DMZ," it said.

Yonhap reported that it was the first time North Korea was

seen planting mines in Panmunjom since the 1953 armistice that ended the three-year war, although there are explosives elsewhere in the 2.5-mile-wide buffer zone. Two South Korean soldiers were maimed last August by alleged North Korean mine blasts.

The peninsula has been on high alert for months since North Korea conducted its fourth underground nuclear test in January, followed by a series of missile tests despite a new round of toughened U.N. sanctions.

# Dallas has no shortage of running backs

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Dallas rookie Ezekiel Elliott appears set for his preseason debut at Seattle after the running back taken fourth overall by the Cowboys missed most of training camp with a hamstring injury.

Lance Dunbar was cleared medically this week following major knee surgery last year, and free agent Alfred Morris is shaping up as a solid insurance policy.

The Dallas running game looks deep behind one of the NFL's best offensive lines, and that's without a mention of last year's leading rusher, Darren McFadden. He's been out nearly three months after breaking an elbow in a household accident.

Once McFadden comes back, who knows how many carries there will be for him coming off his second career 1,000-yard season?

"I think a lot of people made a big deal about, we have so many running backs," coach Jason Garrett said. "You can never have that many running backs. We've found that out in the past."

Like last year, when the Cowboys were fortunate to land a productive McFadden after letting 2014 NFL rushing champion DeMarco Murray go to NFC East rival Philadelphia in free agency. And Dallas didn't just hand the ball to the fourth overall pick from 2008, instead letting Murray's backup, Joseph Randle, have the lead job for six games.

When Randle injured his back and McFadden grabbed the lead role, Dallas had a carousel of backups after releasing Randle. The Cowboys were lucky McFadden made it through relatively healthy for one of the few times in his career.

That's where Morris comes in. A two-time Pro Bowl pick in Washington, he's the likely No. 2 behind Elliott for the regular-season opener Sept. 11 at home against the New York Giants.

The Cowboys, who drafted another running back in the sixth round in Eastern Michigan's Darius Jackson, essentially declared Elliott the starter by being ultra conservative with his hamstring in camp.

"I don't know my role," said

Morris, who had 2,888 yards his first two seasons compared to 1,825 the past two. "Whatever it is, whether it's two plays, 100 plays, it really doesn't matter. I have to make the most of each one. And that's what I'm doing."

Elliott was the second-leading rusher in Ohio State history and scored four touchdowns for the Buckeyes in the championship game at the home of the Cowboys following the 2014 season. He was drafted higher than Hall of Famers Tony Dorsett and Emmitt Smith.

Therefore, Morris doesn't see it as much of an issue that Elliott missed the better part of three weeks.

"I said in interviews, like, way a while ago, he's way ahead of where I was as a rookie," Morris said. "I think he'll have a good showing out there versus the Seahawks. I'm sure looking forward to seeing him get out there. He hasn't had his preseason debut yet, so it should be a fun one for him."

Garrett isn't ready to say Elliott will play on Thursday night, but did say the 21-year-old made it through practice Monday with no issues. Elliott

wasn't available in the locker room when it was open to reporters.

"It's important for all players to practice and get their work in. That's what we would like for everybody on our team regardless if they're a first-year player or have played for 15 years," Garrett said. "He's done a really good job with his rehab getting himself back, staying engaged with the team."

Dunbar's been doing that since last October, when he tore two ligaments and the patellar tendon in his left knee while returning a kickoff at New Orleans. The loss of his versatility was an underrated reason the offense struggled while also missing quarterback Tony Romo (twice-broken collarbone) and receiver Dez Bryant (broken foot).

While he's a ways from being cleared to play in a game, Dunbar is doing individual work at practice.

"We had to be very deliberate in saying, let's keep him out," Garrett said. "Now we feel like it's the right time to bring him back. We're excited to have him back. He's an awfully good football player."

## No. 1 Crimson Tide have experienced receiving corps

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Calvin Ridley doesn't want to brag on Alabama's receiving corps too much.

Sure, it's a group full of talented, mostly experienced playmakers — especially counting tight end O.J. Howard — on an offense where the quarterbacks are still duking it out for the starting job and there's no established tailback.

The biggest star of the group

nevertheless mixes confidence with a dollop of humble brag.

"As a group of receivers, we're really good," Ridley said. "I don't want to boost our ego up but we've got some good guys on this team who can make a lot of plays."

Maybe Cooper Bateman, Blake Barnett or freshman Jalen Hurts will grab the quarterback job. Bo Scarbrough and Damien Harris certainly have the pedigree to become the

Crimson Tide's latest accomplished backfield duo.

All that's still getting sorted out, but offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin certainly has the widest array of experienced receiving options of his tenure.

It starts with Ridley. His 89 catches and 1,045 yards topped Julio Jones and Amari Cooper to set Alabama freshman marks. He had the second-most catches for a freshman in major college football history.

Ridley didn't even start until Robert Foster went down with a season-ending shoulder injury in the third game, and now a healthy Foster returns.

Then there's deep threat Ar-Darius Stewart, who had 700 receiving yards last season.

And graduate transfer Gehrig Dieter joins the Tide after earning second-team All-MAC honors last season with Bowling Green with 94 catches for 1,038 yards.



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# USA Basketball enters time of transition

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Mike Krzyzewski is heading out, Gregg Popovich is coming in and maybe LeBron James would even come back.

It's a time of transition for both the U.S. Olympic team and international basketball and it starts, as usual, with the Americans on top.

The U.S. won its third straight gold medal Sunday, beating Serbia 96-66 in the final game for Krzyzewski, who led the program for a decade and became the first coach to win three Olympic gold medals. He also guided the Americans to a pair of world championships, an 88-1 record and from the bottom back to the top.

"It's been a joy," Krzyzewski said. "I've been so lucky to have been given this opportunity."

Now it goes to Popovich, the other coach Jerry Colangelo

considered before choosing Krzyzewski after taking control of USA Basketball in 2005. Like Krzyzewski, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Popovich is a military man who attended the Air Force Academy and has built one of sports' most successful organizations while winning five championships with the San Antonio Spurs.

Krzyzewski has used the military as an inspiration for USA Basketball, referring to playing for the team as service and sacrifice, and Popovich should be an ideal choice to continue that relationship.

"You have the best guy in the world who's going to coach the team now and that says a lot for the program that's been developed," Krzyzewski said.

It was in perhaps its worst shape when he took over, coming off a bronze-medal finish in the 2004 Olympics and an

even poorer finish two years earlier in the world basketball championship.

The Americans lost their first tournament under Krzyzewski, the 2006 worlds, but haven't dropped even a game since.

Some things to watch:

**LeBron in Japan?** James passed on a fourth Olympics after leading Cleveland to the NBA championship, but may not be done wearing the red, white and blue. The U.S. career leader in scoring before Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Durant passed him during this tournament, James told ESPN that he hasn't retired from international play and was leaving the door open for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

**Stars align?** Besides James, players such as NBA MVP Stephen Curry and All-Stars and former Olympians Russell Westbrook, James Harden and Chris Paul all withdrew

from consideration for the Rio roster. Perhaps some or all of them would be interested in playing for the respected Popovich, who could perhaps even persuade his own star with the Spurs, Kawhi Leonard, to play after also pulling out.

**First, the minor leaguers:** FIBA, basketball's world governing body, is introducing a new qualification system similar to the one in soccer, where teams will play home and road games against regional opponents to qualify for the 2019 Basketball World Cup in China. That tournament will then serve to qualify teams for Tokyo.

The U.S. doesn't know yet who its opponents will be, but some games will take place during the NBA season, ruling out Popovich and the world's best players. They will likely use NBA Development League players until the A-team is available.

## Orioles use long ball to beat Nats

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Two rookie pitchers with plenty of hope for the future could end up playing big roles this year for the Orioles and Nationals.

Dylan Bundy threw six innings of six-hit ball, Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 38th home run and Baltimore beat Washington 4-3 Monday night in a matchup between neighboring contenders.

Jonathan Schoop also homered for the Orioles, who had lost five of their previous six games — all at home. The victory lifted Baltimore within two games of first-place Toronto and Boston in the AL East.

Bundy (7-4) gave up two runs, walked four and struck out four. The 23-year-old is 5-3 with a 3.56 ERA in eight games since joining the starting rotation on July 17.

"It's just a tribute to Dylan and the people who have worked with him," Orioles manager Buck Showalter said.

"And most of all, Dylan. Good pitchers are easy to handle. Just get out of their way."

The Orioles did all their scoring against A.J. Cole (0-1) in his season debut. Cole was recalled from Triple-A Syracuse to replace scheduled starter Stephen Strasburg, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list with right elbow soreness.

Anthony Rendon and Danny Espinosa homered for the NL East-leading Nationals and Daniel Murphy had his 48th multi-hit game.

**Red Sox 6, Rays 2:** David Price limited his old team to two hits in eight scoreless innings, helping Boston beat host Tampa Bay to move into a tie for first place in the AL East.

**Dodgers 18, Reds 9:** Adrian Gonzalez hit three of visiting Los Angeles' seven homers — driving in a career-high eight runs — and rookie Corey Seager had a noteworthy homer as well.

**Indians 1, Athletics 0:** Carlos Carrasco (9-6) and Andrew

Miller combined on a four-hit, Carlos Santana homered in the eighth inning and visiting Cleveland beat Oakland.

**Cubs 5, Padres 1:** Kris Bryant, Addison Russell and Jason Heyward all homered to back Jon Lester's (14-4) strong outing for visiting Chicago.

**Mariners 7, Yankees 5:** Mike Zunino and Kyle Seager each hit a three-run homer and Nelson Cruz added a solo shot as host Seattle rallied to beat New York.

**Astros 3, Pirates 1:** Doug Fister (12-8) pitched seven scoreless innings of three-hit ball, Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run homer and visiting Houston beat Pittsburgh.

**Diamondbacks 9, Braves 8:** Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo homer in the ninth inning to lift host Arizona over Atlanta.

**Brewers 4, Rockies 2:** Chris Carter homered and Jimmy Nelson (7-13) won for the first time in seven starts for host Milwaukee.

## McGregor receives injury suspension after UFC 202

LAS VEGAS — Conor McGregor has received a medical suspension of up to six months following his five-round victory over Nate Diaz at UFC 202.

McGregor outpointed Diaz in a bloody, tiring slugfest Saturday and came out with issues in his foot and ankle, including a possible fracture, and also said after the fight that his shin was sore from landing so many kicks. He hobbled into his post-fight press conference on crutches and needed assistance walking out.

The medical suspensions aren't uncommon. McGregor can have his waived if he is cleared by an orthopedic doctor. Otherwise, he's unable to train with contact until Oct. 5 and is suspended from fighting until Oct. 20, when he can be re-evaluated.

Diaz came out of the fight with his face bloodied and swollen but was only issued a 30-day suspension.

From The Associated Press