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Votel warns Iran not to provoke US Navy

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An uptick in recent provocative behavior toward American military vessels by a faction of Iran's naval forces could lead to an international incident in the Persian Gulf, Gen. Joseph Votel warned Tuesday.

The U.S. Central Command chief blamed a hard-line group of Iranian naval commanders for the vast majority of recent "unsafe and unprofessional" incidents in international waters.

In at least three separate incidents last week, Iran's Revolutionary Guard fast boats harassed American warships, leading in one case to the USS Squall, a coastal patrol ship, firing three warning shots into the water.

About 90 percent of the interactions were carried out by

vessels of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy, which is controlled by the anti-American, hard-line Iranian regime, Votel said. The United States is less concerned about actions by the regular Iranian navy, which are typically normal.

"The big concern here is miscalculation," Votel told reporters at the Pentagon. "... If they continue to test us, we are going to respond, and we are going to protect ourselves and our partners."

In the incident with the Squall on Thursday, shots were fired only after other standard de-escalation methods — including firing warning flares and attempting to make radio contact — failed, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said.

Votel lauded the American sailors' actions. They remained calm and handled the Iranian

incursions professionally, he said.

If such a confrontation, which can escalate in a matter of seconds, were to develop further, the American sailors would "prevail," Votel said.

"I'm very, very confident of that, and we certainly don't want that to come to pass, and that's why I call on them to act in the professional manner that they espouse to act," he said.

Votel has seen such Iranian actions up close. In July, the general was aboard the USS New Orleans, a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, cruising the Strait of Hormuz when Iranian boats approached quickly in an "aggressive manner."

The Navy estimates about 10 percent of all its interactions with Iranian military vessels since the beginning of 2015 have been unprofessional.

In December, Iranian ships fired rockets near U.S. warships in the Strait of Hormuz and flew an unarmed drone over the aircraft carrier the USS Harry Truman. In January, the Iranian navy captured 10 U.S. crewmembers from two American patrol boats that strayed into Iranian waters and held them overnight.

The Iranians have typically ignored the Americans' stated concerns about such actions, saying they have the right to investigate or confront vessels near their shoreline.

"Iran's actions in the (Persian) Gulf are unlike anyone else's," Votel said Tuesday. "No one else does what they do — go out and drive fast boats towards military vessels. Nobody else does that in international waters."

Swinging general slipped past security screeners

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's failure to detect the extramarital affair and "swinger lifestyle" of a top general despite background checks that likely included polygraph tests exposes flaws in vetting those entrusted with the nation's most sensitive national security secrets, according to experts and a top senator.

The Army fired Maj. Gen. David Haight from his job overseeing operations at European Command earlier this year after investigators uncovered his double life. Haight's post required him to have access to the military's classified capabilities to thwart Russian aggression, and his double life

would have put him at risk of being blackmailed, several senior officials have said.

But Haight's dark secret came to light only after the military received anonymous tips about his 11-year extramarital affair and other sexual escapades and began investigating in December.

Officials entrusted with the most sensitive information undergo background checks and lie-detector tests every five years, meaning Haight passed at least two while he was having an affair.

His case shows that a determined and capable liar can evade detection, experts say.

"It's disappointing to see senior officers behave this way, and that the system is unable

to identify people with integrity problems," said Derek Reveron, professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College. "Adultery clearly illustrates someone who displays bad judgment and is untrustworthy — red flags in background investigations."

But Reveron added, "Unless someone who is interviewed raises an issue, then there's no way to know if people have second lives."

The Haight case shows that more needs to be done to detect potential threats to national security secrets, said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. She has advocated for more stringent background checks following the massive leak of security secrets by former

National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden and the attack by a contractor with a security clearance that killed 12 people at the Washington Navy Yard in 2013.

"As we've seen, these background investigations aren't foolproof, especially if the subjects aren't truthful," McCaskill said.

"I've worked to improve the process — ensuring better oversight and mandating automated review — and while we've made progress, more work needs to be done to vet those individuals trusted with the nation's classified information. Too many cases in recent years have shown gaping holes in the process," she said.

Air Force expanding pool of drone pilots

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Enlisted airmen from all career fields may now apply to fly the RQ-4 Global Hawk, the Air Force said Monday in a move that potentially opens the opportunity to pilot the unarmed intelligence-gathering drone to tens of thousands of more airmen.

The announcement comes just over a month after the Air Force released details of how the service planned to retrain a select group of enlisted airmen to fly the Global Hawk.

In July, the service said it had selected 10 enlisted troops for the program, marking the first time airmen would begin training as pilots since World War II.

But airmen eligible to apply at the time had to be career enlisted aviators — such as loadmasters or flight engineers — from the ranks of staff ser-

geant through senior master sergeant.

The change announced Monday expands the eligibility pool to all Air Force specialty codes.

Applicants still must hold a rank from staff sergeant through senior master sergeant, as well as be retainable for six years after graduation from the course for remotely piloted aircraft.

Airmen in certain high-demand, understaffed career fields may need special permission from a career field manager to apply, and their selection may be limited or restricted, the Air Force said.

Airmen interested in applying will first have to demonstrate their knowledge in math and aviation matters, among other areas, by taking the computer-based Air Force Enlisted Pilot Qualifying Test and the Test of Basic Aviation, completing those by Oct. 14.

Airmen who have already ac-

rued off-duty flying hours can apply that experience toward their score, Air Force officials said. Airmen who make the initial cut will have to get a flight physical.

The selection board is to meet in February, the Air Force said.

In a statement Monday the Air Force didn't specify why the eligibility was opened beyond saying that the service was "tapping into the talent of our skilled, diverse and innovative enlisted force."

But in December, when the service first announced it would seek to integrate the enlisted force into remotely piloted flying operations, Air Force senior leaders said the decision was to ensure the service can support "the future threat environment," one in which "emerging requirements and combatant commander demands will only increase."

The Air Force has been struggling to keep up with the

increasing global demand for armed and unarmed drones, as the systems are frequently used for intelligence-gathering and targeted killings of suspected terrorists. Global Hawks have been used in support of combat operations against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria, the Air Force has said.

Northrop Grumman Corp. last month said its Global Hawks surpassed 200,000 flight hours; 88 percent of those hours were logged by Air Force systems. Global Hawks were first deployed after 9/11.

The drones can operate at altitudes of up to 60,000 feet for more than 30 hours, surveying thousands of square miles on a single mission.

Their sensors allow military commanders to gather near real-time imagery and use radar to detect moving or stationary targets on the ground, according to Northrop Grumman.

Marine Corps Reserve marks centennial at gathering in New York

Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps Reserve turned 100 years old Monday, and hundreds of active-duty, former and future Marines celebrated with a mass gathering in New York City's Times Square.

The Once a Marine, Always a Marine formation, which included Marines from World War II to the present, kicked off a yearlong centennial celebration for the reserve force, a Marine Corps statement said.

"The presence of these Marines is a reminder to our country that our nation's most treasured resources are the brave men and women who volunteered to serve when this country calls," Lt. Gen. Rex McMillian, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, said in the statement. "This gathering is a reminder to all Marines who ever served that you are still a member of the Corps."

The celebration wrapped up with McMillian giving the oath of enlistment to a group of recruits.

Learn more about upcoming centennial events at marines.mil/usmcr100.

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Carter says WWII crash survey team to resume search in India

BY TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A World War II crash site survey team will return to India for six weeks in the fall to examine additional locations where U.S. planes were lost, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced Monday.

Carter made the announcement while hosting Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar at the Pentagon.

During Carter's trip to India in April, some remains from the U.S. B-24 Liberator crew "Hot as Hell" and a C-109 transport aircraft were repatriated to the United States during a ceremony in New Delhi.

Though both crash sites had been known for years, the transfer of remains in April

was the first of its kind, due to previous political sensitivities and geographic challenges.

More than 600 aircraft and as many as 1,000 U.S. airmen were lost during World War II in India's eastern Himalayas — a treacherous stretch of 15,000-foot mountain peaks known as "The Hump."

In the last several years, the political and military relationship between the United States and India has improved considerably, Carter said, noting Monday that he had "never been more optimistic about this relationship."

Carter said a team from the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency would return to India from Nov. 1 through Dec. 14 to survey additional aircraft crash locations.

France criticizes Turkey for acts in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday criticized Turkey's "contradictory" military intervention in Syria and warned Russia not to become a "protagonist" in the war, a day after a U.S. official warned that clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish forces would detract from the fight against the Islamic State group.

The mounting criticism comes as a spokesman for the Kurdish-led forces in Syria said Islamic State militants carried out a two-pronged attack on villages south and west of the former militant stronghold of Manbij, taking advantage of clashes between his forces and Turkey-backed Syrian rebels.

The Kurdish-led forces seized Manbij from the Islamic State group earlier this month after a 10-week campaign.

Turkish troops entered Syria last week and together with allied Syrian rebels have pushed to clear both Islamic State militants and Kurdish-led forces

from the border area around the Syrian town of Jarablus. Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish forces an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, a domestic group it deems a terrorist organization.

In a speech Tuesday, Hollande said "multiple, contradictory interventions carry the risk of a general inflammation" of the fighting that has devastated the country.

He said he could understand Turkey's concern about protecting its borders and fighting the Islamic State group, but criticized Ankara's actions against Kurdish rebels allied with the U.S.-led coalition who are fighting the extremists. France is part of that coalition.

Shervan Darwish, a spokesman for the Manbij Military Council, part of the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syria Democratic Forces, said the militants used at least three car bombs in Tuesday's attacks. The SDF, aided by airstrikes from the U.S.-led coalition, repelled the attack initially, but Darwish said clashes continued Tuesday. In a

statement on Twitter, the Islamic State group said it seized two villages in the area.

"The Turkish occupation of parts of Syria hampers the war against terrorism, and by targeting us (the Turkey-backed forces), gave Daesh the space to reorganize its ranks and attack us," Darwish told The Associated Press, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Turkish troops and the Syrian rebels they are backing are "aiming for our troops, not Daesh," Darwish added.

Turkey's president vowed to press ahead with the military operation until the Islamic State group and Kurdish Syrian fighters no longer pose a security threat to Ankara. In comments published Tuesday in the pro-government newspaper Daily Sabah, Turkey's presidential spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, called on the U.S. to "revise their policy of supporting [the Kurdish-led force] at all costs."

The Kurdish-led forces "are shamelessly using the war in Syria to create a de facto terror-

ist state in Syria," the spokesman wrote. "Turkey will not allow that."

Last week, Turkey sent its troops and warplanes to back Syrian rebels in their advance on Jarablus, a town close to the Turkish border and the next Islamic State stronghold after Manbij. The incursion prompted clashes between the two U.S.-allies — Syrian rebels and Kurdish fighters.

In recent months, the U.S.-led allied Kurdish forces have gained control of most of the territory along the Turkey-Syria border, reinforcing the ethnic group's aspirations for a contiguous autonomous region there.

Turkey appears determined to create a de facto "safe zone" free of the Islamic State group and the Kurds near its border. The Turkish military said Turkey-backed Syrian rebels — a mix of various Islamist rebel factions — have cleared several villages of "terrorist entities" and now control an area totaling some 150 square miles south and west of Jarablus.

FBI to release docs on probe of Clinton email

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI is expected to release documents soon related to its investigation into Hillary Clinton and her use of a private email server, a law enforcement official said Tuesday.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter by name and spoke on condition of anonymity, said documents in the case would be made public as the FBI responds to Freedom of Information Act requests. It wasn't immediately clear when the documents would be released or exactly what they would include.

The FBI this month provided Congress portions of its file from the agency's yearlong investigation into whether then-Secretary of State Clinton and

her top aides mishandled classified information that flowed through a private email server in the basement of her New York home.

Though he described Clinton's actions as "extremely careless," FBI Director James Comey said his agents found no evidence that anyone intended to break the law and said "no reasonable prosecutor" would have brought a criminal case.

The FBI interviewed Clinton for several hours at FBI headquarters in Washington just days before announcing its decision to close the investigation. The Justice Department accepted the FBI's recommendation.

CNN reported that the records could be made public as early as Wednesday.

Taliban appoint new chief

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban have appointed a new military chief as the insurgents try to gain more ground in Afghanistan rather than talk peace under a new leadership, Taliban officials said in telephone interviews over the weekend.

They said the appointment of Mullah Ibrahim Sadar, once a close ally of Taliban founder Mullah Mohammed Omar, heralds a commitment to confrontation at a time when multiple governments are trying to coax the Taliban to the negotiating table. Sadar is a battle-hardened commander who gained prominence among Taliban foot soldiers following the movement's overthrow in 2001 in the U.S.-led invasion.

The two officials both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly for the

Taliban.

Sadar's appointment coincides with an uptick in Taliban attacks against Afghan security forces. The United States has sent additional troops to Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, where its capital, Lashkar Gah, is under pressure. The provincial council head, Kareem Atal, earlier said roughly 80 percent of Helmand is already under Taliban control.

Mohammad Akbari, a member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, which is tasked with talking peace with insurgent groups, said there has been no progress in talks since Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in a U.S. drone strike in May in Pakistan. Mansour was succeeded by Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, and the notorious Haqqani network gained a prominent role in the leadership structure.

EU: Tax breaks benefited Apple

The Washington Post

Tech giant Apple could be forced to pay up to \$14.5 billion in back taxes to Ireland after European Union regulators ruled Tuesday that the company benefited from improper Irish tax breaks and other benefits for more than a decade.

The ruling was immediately slammed by Ireland and Apple — both announcing plans to appeal and taking aim at Brussels for what they described as regulatory overreach that could scare away international companies and stifle economic growth.

Regardless of the outcome,

however, the showdown could have a chilling effect on efforts by Ireland and fellow EU members such as Luxembourg to lure major tech companies and other multinationals with business-friendly regulations that seek to streamline the bureaucracy and rules in place in many other EU partners.

Ireland's finance minister, Michael Noonan, denied that the country sidestepped EU tax rules and vowed to challenge the decision — raising yet another potential flash point between Brussels and member states over the reach of regulations and oversight.

Such questions helped tip the scales in Britain in June's vote to leave the 28-nation bloc, and have complicated transatlantic trade talks.

In Brussels, the European Union's competition commissioner, Margrethe Vestager, said a three-year investigation concluded that Ireland granted generous tax breaks to Apple from 2003 to 2014 that eventually shrunk the tax rate to well below 1 percent.

The decision, she said, demands that Ireland recover up to \$14.5 billion plus interest for alleged violations over state aid to private businesses.

Typhoon slams into northern Japan

Associated Press

TOKYO — A typhoon slammed into northern Japan on Tuesday evening, threatening to bring floods to an area still recovering from the 2011 tsunami.

Typhoon Lionrock made landfall near the city of Ofunato, about 310 miles northeast of Tokyo. It's the first time a typhoon has made landfall in the northern region since 1951, when the Japan Meteorological Agency started keeping records.

Even before it made landfall, the storm had already paralyzed traffic, caused blackouts and prompted officials to urge residents to evacuate. It was packing winds of up to 78 mph Tuesday evening.

More than 170,000 people were subject to evacuation, including 38,000 in Ofunato, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. More than 10,000 homes in the northern region were without electricity, with power lines damaged from the winds.

The March 2011 earthquake and tsunami left more than 18,000 people dead along Japan's northern coast, including 340 in Ofunato.

As of Tuesday evening, Typhoon Lionrock had brought 6 inches of rainfall to the region over 24 hours and was expected to dump up to 3 inches of rain per hour in some areas, the meteorological agency said, urging residents to use caution and stay away from the coastline.

Major airlines canceled more than 100 flights to and from the northern region. Bullet train services in the Tohoku and Hokkaido regions were suspended.

At the Fukushima nuclear power plant, decimated by the 2011 disaster, some outdoor decommissioning work was suspended as a precaution.

More N. Korea high-profile executions reported

Bloomberg

Two senior North Korean officials were executed with an anti-aircraft gun in early August on the orders of Kim Jong Un, South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported, citing people it did not identify.

Ri Yong Jin, a senior official in the Education Ministry — possibly the minister — was arrested for dozing off during a meeting with Kim and charged with corruption before being killed, the paper said. Former Agriculture Minister Hwang Min was purged over a pro-

posed project seen as a direct challenge to Kim's leadership, it said.

If true, it would mark the first executions ordered by Kim from outside his party or the military, the paper said. A spokesman at South Korea's Unification Ministry said he couldn't immediately confirm the JoongAng report.

Kim has carried out a series of executions since taking power in 2011 after his father's death, as he puts his mark on the leadership of the isolated nuclear-armed nation.

The most high profile was

the killing three years ago of his uncle and one-time deputy, Jang Song Thaek. He had about 50 officials executed in 2014 on charges ranging from graft to watching South Korean soap operas.

"Kim is continuing to replace the old guard of his father's regime with loyalists," said Robert Kelly, a political science professor at South Korea's Pusan National University. "The charges are obviously trumped up, and this is how promotion or demotion often works in totalitarian states without legitimate venues for opposition."

Kerry in India to improve security, economic ties

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is in India for strategic and commercial talks being held against the backdrop of rising tensions in the disputed region of Kashmir, long a flashpoint between India and rival Pakistan.

Kerry, along with Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, is leading the American delegation to the second meeting of the U.S.-India strategic dialogue, which seeks to improve security and economic development ties between the nations.

Tuesday's talks come amid some of the largest protests in Kashmir against Indian rule in recent years. At least 68 civilians have been killed and thousands injured in the Himalayan region, mostly by government forces firing bullets and shotguns at rock-throwing protesters since early July. Two policemen also have been killed, and hundreds of government forces have been injured in the clashes.

On Monday, Indian authorities lifted a curfew that was imposed in most parts of India-

controlled Kashmir as part of a 52-day security lockdown. They reimposed the curfew in the region's main city after anti-India protests and clashes erupted in several neighborhoods. More than 68,000 people have been killed since rebel groups began fighting Indian forces in 1989 and in the subsequent Indian military crackdown.

The U.S. has consistently urged dialogue between India and Pakistan on the dispute, and in a meeting with the Indian national security adviser, Kerry reiterated that position.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Daughter stabs mom outside a Wal-Mart

AL BESSEMER — Alabama authorities arrested a woman on murder charges in the stabbing death of her mother in a Wal-Mart parking lot in Bessemer.

Al.com reported that federal marshals and police arrested Ashia Christine Huddleston, 29, on Monday morning. Authorities said she stabbed her mother, Tammy Lynn Huddleston, 49, several times in the abdomen in the parking lot Saturday afternoon. The woman died Sunday morning at a hospital from her injuries.

Witnesses said Tammy Huddleston was in a physical dispute with her daughter prior to the stabbing. Police said the suspect then fled the scene in a blue Nissan Versa with her boyfriend.

Boy, 7, raises funds for a new police dog

WI GREEN BAY — A young boy with a big heart is helping the Green Bay Police Department deal with the loss of one of its police dogs.

Four-year-old Cops died earlier this month after battling some serious medical issues. When Ethan Engum, 7, heard about the dog's death, he decided to raise money to help the department pay for a new K-9.

Ethan started a GoFundMe page to raise the money, and on Sunday he delivered a \$520 check to the police department.

Officer Derek Wicklund said Ethan's effort rejuvenates a department that's dealing with the dog's death. Wicklund told WBAY-TV that it makes him want to come to work because it reflects the good in people, not just the bad.

Ethan's goal is to raise

\$12,000 for the department's K-9 program.

Man's Facebook post: 'Just killed someone'

NC FAYETTEVILLE — A Fayetteville man wanted on a murder charge in the shooting death of his daughter's grandfather has apparently confessed to the slaying on Facebook while on the run from police.

An incident report shows that Anthony Curtis Macneill, 32, is wanted on a murder charge in the shooting death early Sunday of Eugene Racine, 48. Racine is a grandfather of Macneill's 15-month-old daughter.

Deputies said the shooting resulted from a domestic dispute.

Media outlets reported that Macneill posted several times on his Facebook site later Sunday. One post on the site said: "Just killed someone. Leaving NC goodbye everyone." In other posts, the writer threatened to kill himself.

Residents try creative methods to deter deer

OR PRINEVILLE — Residents of a central Oregon city are trying out new techniques to keep deer out of their yards after local officials decided not to fine people for feeding the animals.

Prineville residents are using streamers, balloons, pinwheels and CDs hanging from trees to scare off the city's abundant deer.

Ruth McKenzie said she's concerned about them hurting pets and spreading Lyme disease, and her neighbor, Mary Pruitt, approached city councilors about the deer issue in July.

Police Chief Dale Cummins told the City Council that trying to punish people who feed deer wouldn't be productive.

He told the Bulletin that police will try to educate people about why it's harmful to feed deer, but he doesn't believe that fining them is the best choice.

Man accused of scam in car engine sale

NE LINCOLN — Nebraska authorities have accused an Anaheim, Calif., man of scamming several would-be buyers out of thousands of dollars for what he said he had: a powerful, hard-to-find car engine.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported that Lancaster County prosecutors last week charged Steven Shaull, 59, with theft. Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles investigator Marlan Hohnstein said Shaull was arrested Friday in California.

Authorities said a Lincoln company, Restore a Muscle Car, reported wiring \$11,500 to Shaull in December for the 426-cubic-inch engine to put in a 1971 Plymouth Barracuda. The company said it never received the engine.

Hohnstein said in court records that he found other people who also were duped.

Man arrested for fire at ex-girlfriend's home

TN MEMPHIS — A man was arrested after being accused of throwing Molotov cocktails into his ex-girlfriend's Memphis home, causing a fire.

Police told WMC-TV that David McShan was taken into custody and charged with aggravated arson after firefighters responded to a house fire early Sunday morning.

Investigators said a Molotov cocktail sparked the blaze.

Police said officers had been called to the residence earlier that night on domestic violence and vandalism reports. A

woman said the suspect, who is her ex-boyfriend, had been constantly harassing her at home.

The victim also said she saw the suspect throw several Molotov cocktails through her bedroom walls.

Former hoops star Appling arrested again

MI DETROIT — Former Michigan State basketball player Keith Appling is in trouble again with police.

Detroit police said Appling was arrested Sunday night after he drove away from a traffic stop. Sgt. Mike Woody said a gun was found in a bag on the side of the road.

It's Appling's third encounter with Detroit-area police since spring. Gun charges are pending in two separate cases.

Defense attorney Cyril Hall said Appling disputes that he had a weapon. No charges have been filed. The arrest could affect Appling's bond in the other cases.

Appling, 24, played for Michigan State from 2010 to 2014 and had two brief contracts with the Orlando Magic last season.

Experimental plane lands in bean field

MO PORTAGE DES SIOUX — The pilot of an ultralight, experimental airplane is shaken but OK after a crash landing in an eastern Missouri soybean field.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the crash happened Sunday after the engine cut off while the pilot was trying to land. The plane went down in St. Charles County.

The plane's landing gear collapsed, causing the aircraft to spin out of control. St. Charles County police spokeswoman Val Joyner said the pilot managed to walk away without injury.

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Teams get backup QBs more prepared

Associated Press

Some of the biggest losses in college football's opening week likely won't be reflected on the scoreboard.

Several teams in recent seasons have lost starting quarterbacks the first couple of weeks and spent the remainder of the year dealing with QB issues.

Air Force, Boston College, BYU, Kansas State, Notre Dame and Syracuse all lost quarterbacks to season-ending injuries by mid-September last year. Ohio State won the 2014 national title despite losing its top two quarterbacks to injuries.

"They're the only position that takes punishment without being able to give it back, and (they're) being in exposed positions," Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher said. "I'm telling you, if you're not tough, you can't play quarterback."

But since being tough can't always keep a quarterback on the field, the emphasis to have depth at the most important

position on the team seems to have increased with the recent rash of early season injuries.

An AP analysis of all the Football Bowl Subdivision programs shows that only about 38 percent started the same quarterback in every game last season, whether due to injuries or performance.

Florida State uses GPS technology to measure athletes' performance and monitor their health. Fisher said the data revealed quarterbacks had the third-highest workloads on the team "with the torque on their body with their legs, feet and all that stuff." The only position groups with higher workloads were receivers and offensive linemen.

It all adds up to teams taking steps to get backup quarterbacks more prepared.

In 2014, 43 FBS quarterbacks had a combined 500 pass attempts and rushes and 34 pulled off the 500 double-double last season, according to cfbstats.com. Only 19 quar-

terbacks had a combined 500 passes and runs in 2009.

"I don't think you can ever have enough quality depth at the quarterback position if you run your quarterback," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said.

Having a quality backup quarterback can make or break a season.

Michigan State advanced last year to the College Football Playoff in part because backup quarterback Tyler O'Connor helped the Spartans pull a 17-14 upset of Ohio State when a shoulder injury prevented Connor Cook from playing. Notre Dame lost starting quarterback Malik Zaire to a broken ankle in the second week of the season, yet DeShone Kizer stepped in and kept the Fighting Irish in playoff contention all year.

Ohio State's 2014 national championship provided perhaps the biggest statement on the importance of having multiple quarterbacks ready to play.

Braxton Miller, the two-time

Big Ten offensive player of the year, injured his throwing shoulder in August and didn't play all year. J.T. Barrett replaced Miller and performed brilliantly before breaking his right ankle in late November. Cardale Jones started Ohio State's final three games and led the Buckeyes to a national title.

"All of those guys at Ohio State were similar enough that they didn't have to depart from what they did offensively," said Houston offensive coordinator Major Applewhite, a former Texas quarterback. "I think that's important when you're building your quarterback room."

"You need to have an identity on what you want to be as a team offensively and defensively — and build that quarterback position around it so you don't have to switch offenses."

Whatever the strategy, the successful teams seem to have a solid backup quarterback ready to play.

In third year, Army coach likes team's mix

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army coach Jeff Monken is set to begin year three at the helm, which means half his roster includes players he has signed.

Right now, he likes that mix.

"I think we're getting better as a program and better as a team," Monken said. "We've got a lot of guys that have played in games that find themselves in pretty important roles this year. We've just got to perform, execute."

Army finished last season 2-10, the finale against Navy a heartbreaking 21-17 setback. It was the 14th straight defeat suffered in the series by the Black Knights, who came oh-so-close to ending the skid.

Lost in the emotion of the moment was that Army quarterback Chris Carter was a freshman making only his second career start leading the complicated triple option. And he nearly led the Black Knights to victory against a heavily favored Navy team led by record-setting senior quarterback Keenan Reynolds.

"For a kid to not play in this offense in high school, learn the offense and the very

next year he's starting in the Army-Navy game, that's a lot to ask," Army offensive coordinator Brent Davis said. "It was a huge test. He really elevated his game. I think there's something there."

Carter returns this season along with junior Ahmad Bradshaw, the starter in 2015 before injuries sent him to the sidelines.

"It's important that we start to show some improvement," Davis said. "Guys that we recruited our first year ... for what our vision of the offense is are working their way into the lineup. That's exciting."

QB shuffle

Running the option usually requires more than one quarterback to get the job done because of the punishment that goes with the position. Army seems to be set there. Bradshaw, a junior, sparkled at times (468 yards rushing with five touchdowns) when he wasn't ailing — he missed four games — and Carter has two big games (Rutgers was the other) under his belt.

"It's not a finished deal," Davis said. "We think it's a good situation to have two guys we feel good about."

What pressure?

Army's run totals were down in 2015. The Black Knights outgained opponents 2,931-1,982, but their per-game average was just 244.3 and their 4.8-yard average per run was barely better than their opponents (4.5). That's a far cry from the 2012 team, which averaged 369.8 yards to lead the nation.

A lot is expected this season.

"We need a guy to rush for 1,000 yards out of that position," Davis said. "That makes us really dangerous."

Prediction

Army plays only one of its first five games at Michie Stadium — Rice on Sept. 10 — and hosts rival Air Force in November. The Black Knights also play Notre Dame in San Antonio in November before the annual season finale against Navy. With Lafayette and Morgan State of the FCS, and North Texas also at home and road games against Buffalo and Wake Forest, a total of five wins doesn't seem out of the question.

Saltalamacchia's home run lifts Tigers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Jarrod Saltalamacchia's drive was so high in the air, it was fair to doubt whether it had the right trajectory to clear the wall in right-center field.

"I saw the outfielders kind of meeting right at that little Bermuda Triangle out there, so I got a little scared," Saltalamacchia said. "When I didn't see them catch it, I was definitely happy."

Saltalamacchia's two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning lifted the Detroit Tigers to a 4-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Monday night.

Justin Upton also went deep for the Tigers, who pulled within a game of Baltimore for the American League's second wild card.

Detroit trailed 3-2 after a solo homer in the seventh by Chicago's Tyler Saladino,

but Saltalamacchia's towering drive off Nate Jones (5-3) put the Tigers ahead.

It was Saltalamacchia's 12th homer of the season.

"For a backup catcher, he's had some production," manager Brad Ausmus said. "He's contributed to the offense quite a bit."

Justin Wilson (4-4) got the win in relief, and Francisco Rodriguez pitched a perfect ninth for his 37th save in 40 chances.

Saladino drove in all three Chicago runs. James Shields allowed two runs and six hits in six innings, ending an awful August on a decent note, but the White Sox couldn't hold a one-run lead for him.

"The first couple innings I was a little erratic, but I thought I settled down and was able to pound the strike zone," Shields said. "I've really done that in my last few starts, but tonight I think I had more luck."

Shields was 0-4 with a 13.95 ERA in five August starts coming into Monday's game, but the Tigers didn't do much against him. Miguel Cabrera hit a sacrifice fly in the third, but Saladino's two-run single put the White Sox ahead the following inning.

Upton tied it in the sixth with a solo home run. Saladino led off the seventh with his eighth homer of the season.

Chicago used three relievers to get through the seventh, and Jones came on in the eighth. He walked Martinez, and Saltalamacchia went deep one out later.

"You just have to tip your hat because Nate has been as consistent as anyone out there," Chicago manager Robin Ventura said. "Salty's gotten us a few times before."

Cespedes, Mets get past Marlins in 10th

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When the New York Mets need a big hit, Yoenis Cespedes is their man.

That's why his health is so critical to the defending NL champs.

Cespedes homered with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning to give New York a 2-1 win over the slumping Miami Marlins in the first game of a pivotal series between National League playoff contenders Monday night.

It was a rousing triumph for the Mets, who appeared overmatched on the mound in the opener of a four-game set. New York was shut out for six innings by Marlins ace Jose Fernandez, but Rafael Montero also put up zeros in his first major league start since April 2015.

"It was one of those games that you don't expect to go win," Mets manager Terry Collins said.

Jose Reyes dashed home to score the tying run in the eighth on a dangerous collision at the plate, and the Mets pulled even with Miami for second place in the NL East. With its seventh victory in nine games, New York remained 2½ games behind St. Louis for the

league's second wild card.

Recalled from Double-A Binghamton before the game, Montero went five innings and worked around a career-high six walks — most by a Mets starter since May 2014. The right-hander yielded only two hits while subbing for Jacob deGrom, skipped in the rotation to rest and regroup following two poor outings in a row.

Rookie left-hander Josh Smoker (1-0) struck out two in a perfect inning against the meat of Miami's struggling lineup for his first major league win. Smoker, who pitched for the third straight day and fourth in the past five, was all fired up coming off the mound.

Cespedes, who sat out Sunday's loss to Philadelphia after his nagging right quadriceps flared up, launched a no-doubt drive to left-center on a 1-1 pitch from Nick Wittgren (4-3).

"He crushed it. It was one of those, the minute he got it off, you knew it was gone," Smoker said. "I was ecstatic. It was unbelievable."

Cespedes had three hits and is batting .388 with five homers and nine RBIs in nine games since coming off the disabled list.

"They say one bad pitch can change anything, and it happened," Wittgren said. "I completely messed up on that pitch and put it right down the middle for him."

Cardinals 6, Brewers 5: Stephen Piscotty scored on a throwing error in the ninth inning after Carlos Martinez struck out a career-high 13, leading visiting St. Louis past Milwaukee.

Indians 1, Twins 0 (10): Jason Kipnis' 10th-inning single scored Chris Gimenez as host Cleveland handed Minnesota its 11th straight loss.

Red Sox 9, Rays 4: Rick Porcello (18-3) became the majors' first 18-game winner and the first Boston pitcher in 70 years to open a season 13-0 in Fenway Park, going seven solid innings in his team's victory over Tampa Bay.

Nationals 4, Phillies 0: Tanner Roark (14-7) threw seven impressive innings, Jayson Werth hit a solo homer and visiting Washington beat Philadelphia.

Cubs 8, Pirates 7 (13): Miguel Montero hit a game-ending RBI single in the 13th inning, and host Chicago rallied for a wild win over Pittsburgh.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 1: Josh Donaldson hit his fourth homer in two days and Jose Bautista also went deep in support of Marco Estrada (8-6), leading visiting Toronto past Baltimore.

Royals 8, Yankees 5: Dillon Gee (6-7) kept his team's momentum going with six sharp innings, Alcides Escobar hit a three-run homer and host Kansas City beat New York.

Rangers 6, Mariners 3: Yu Darvish (5-3) struck out nine in 6⅔ innings and Carlos Beltran homered among three hits, helping host Texas beat Seattle.

Astros 6, Athletics 0: Jose Altuve homered, Joe Musgrove (2-2) and three relievers combined on a four-hitter as host Houston shut out Oakland.

Rockies 8, Dodgers 1: Jon Gray (9-6) pitched six scoreless innings, Nick Hundley hit a two-run homer and host Colorado beat NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Angels 9, Reds 2: Mike Trout and Albert Pujols each hit one of host Los Angeles' five home runs in a win over Cincinnati.

Kaepernick's stand attracting scrutiny

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — From the White House to San Francisco police union headquarters, Colin Kaepernick's name came up as his decision to sit down during the U.S. anthem reached far beyond the NFL.

And many aren't thrilled with the San Francisco quarterback's strong words about why he is doing it: To instigate change and challenge authority when it comes to race relations and what he considers police brutality.

Even his former coach, outspoken University of Michigan leader Jim Harbaugh, chimed in from afar in disagreement with Kaepernick's tactics — clarifying some earlier remarks that questioned the quarterback's motivation.

"I apologize for misspeaking my true sentiments. To clarify, I support Colin's motivation. It's his method of action that I take exception to," Harbaugh posted on Twitter.

A day after Kaepernick called Donald Trump "openly

racist," the Republican presidential candidate fired back on Seattle's KIRO radio.

"I have followed it, and I think it's personally not a good thing. I think it's a terrible thing," Trump said. "And you know, maybe he should find a country that works better for him. Let him try, it won't happen."

Kaepernick, who has sat through the anthem for all three 49ers preseason games so far, is prepared to keep fighting for what he believes in, even alone.

"The fact that it has blown up like this, it's a good thing. It brings awareness," Kaepernick said on Sunday. "Now, people are really talking about it. Having conversations about how to make change. What's really going on in this country. And we can move forward. ... There is police brutality. People of color have been targeted by police."

Martin Halloran, the San Francisco Police Officers Association president, sent a letter on Monday to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and 49ers CEO

Jed York denouncing Kaepernick's "ill-advised" statements and a "naiveté and 'total lack of sensitivity' toward police, along with an 'incredible lack of knowledge' about officer-involved shootings.

"There is some depth and some truth to what he was doing," Seahawks star Richard Sherman said of Kaepernick. "He could have picked a better platform and a better way to do it, but every day they say athletes are so robotic and do everything by the book, and then when somebody takes a stand like that, he gets his head chopped off."

The police union invited Kaepernick or anyone else from the league to visit the San Francisco police academy to build communication and understanding about the profession.

"In short, Mr. Kaepernick has embarrassed himself, the 49er organization, and the NFL based on a false narrative and misinformation that lacks any factual basis."

At the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, top-

ranked American John Isner spoke of Kaepernick after winning his first-round match.

"I thought that was pathetic from him. The cause he was going for, fine by me — but don't do it in that fashion," Isner said. "For him doing it in that way really irked me. I'm a big Blaine Gabbert fan now."

Gabbert and Kaepernick are competing to be San Francisco's starting quarterback.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said he was confident President Barack Obama was aware of Kaepernick's actions, but hadn't spoken directly with the president about it.

"In general, what I can say is that I certainly don't share the views that Mr. Kaepernick expressed after the game in explaining his reasoning for his actions, but we surely would all acknowledge and even defend his right to express those views in the settings that he chooses," Earnest said. "That's what he's done, and even as objectionable as we find his perspective, he certainly is entitled to express it."

Djokovic wins opener despite problems with right arm

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Novak Djokovic double-faulted, then shook his right arm and grimaced.

Seconds later Monday night, a weak serve produced a wince from the U.S. Open's defending champion, then was followed by a missed forehand that gave away a set — the first set dropped by Djokovic in the first round of any Grand Slam tournament since 2010.

While he managed to emerge with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Jerzy Janowicz of Poland, there were plenty of signs of trouble, starting with a visit from a trainer who massaged Djokovic's bothersome arm after only five games.

Asked about his health during an on-court interview, Djokovic deflected the ques-

tion, saying, "I don't think it's necessary to talk about this now. I'm through. I'm taking it day by day."

When the subject arose at his news conference, Djokovic again avoided addressing the topic, saying the trainer's visit "was just prevention; it's all good."

During the match, Djokovic hit first serves around 100 mph, sometimes slower — 25 mph or so below what's normal for him. He hit second serves in the low 80s mph. He flexed that right arm, the one he has used to wield a racket on the way to 12 Grand Slam titles, and appeared generally unhappy, covering his head with a white towel at changeovers.

Djokovic's coach, Boris Becker, gnawed on his fingernails, looking nervous as can be.

All in all, Djokovic's issues

figure to loom large as the tournament progresses, and therefore amounted to the most noteworthy development at Flushing Meadows, even if there were results of interest elsewhere.

Those included No. 8-seeded Madison Keys' 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 comeback victory over 60th-ranked Alison Riske in the last match of the night. It finished at 1:48 a.m., well after Keys took a medical timeout while a trainer worked on her right shoulder in the second set, and extended Riske's Grand Slam losing streak to 10 matches.

That was one of three intriguing all-American contests Monday. The others were 20th-seeded John Isner's comeback from two sets down to edge 18-year-old Frances Tiafoe before a rowdy, standing-room-only crowd at the new Grandstand,

and 26th-seeded Jack Sock's five-set victory over another 18-year-old, Taylor Fritz.

More drama, too: A first-round loss by Rio Olympics gold medalist Monica Puig, and French Open champion Garbine Muguruza's complaints about having trouble breathing after dropping the first set of a match she won in three.

Earlier in Arthur Ashe Stadium, Rafael Nadal stood near the net after winning his first Grand Slam match in three months — 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 against Denis Istomin — and unraveled the thick wrap of white tape protecting his all-important left wrist. He said he's still not back to hitting his forehand the way he does when he's at his best.

Nadal's summation of his day: "Not very good; not very bad."