

STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

N. Korea threatens Guam after Trump warning

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

North Korea threatened Wednesday to rain down missiles on the U.S. island territory of Guam after President Donald Trump warned that threats from the North “will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen.”

In Washington, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the State Department was “making every effort” toward a diplomatic solution to the Korean crisis.

But Mattis reminded the North that the U.S. and its allies maintain an overwhelming military advantage and that Pyongyang “would lose any arms race or conflict it initiates.”

The heated rhetoric underscored a dangerous turn in the long-running standoff with Pyongyang after it test-fired two intercontinental ballistic missiles last month.

North Korea’s rapid progress toward its stated goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the U.S. mainland has emerged as one of the new administration’s top security challenges.

Reports also emerged this week that U.S. intelligence analysts believe the North has produced a miniaturized nuclear warhead,

which would mark a major advance.

That appeared to be the catalyst for Trump’s stern ultimatum, which was much stronger in tone than the usual cautious diplomatic language used by U.S. presidents in dealing with Pyongyang. Many observers noted it seemed to echo the belligerent language typically used by the North.

“North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States,” Trump said in televised remarks at his golf course in Bedminster, N.J. “They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen.”

“He has been very threatening beyond a normal state. And as I said they will be met with fire, fury and frankly power, the likes of which this world has never seen before,” Trump said, referring to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Amid mounting concern, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson tried to translate Trump’s remarks, saying the president was trying to send a strong message “in language that Kim Jong Un can understand.”

Analysts said neither side was likely looking for conflict despite the tough talk, but they noted the risk of miscalculation.

“Both Pyongyang and Trump are engaged in dangerous verbal threats and verbal escalation because they could stumble into unintended conflict because of misin-

terpretation and miscalculation during this action-reaction cycle,” said Duyeon Kim, a visiting senior fellow at the Korean Peninsula Future Forum, a think tank in Seoul.

She urged the sides to engage in direct talks on de-escalating the situation, saying “nuclear negotiations can wait.”

North Korea’s army singled out the U.S. territory, which is home to Andersen Air Force Base and a fleet of supersonic bombers, in a statement on its state-run news agency.

North Korea said its strategic force is “carefully examining the operational plan for making an enveloping fire at areas around Guam with medium-to-long range strategic ballistic missiles ... in order to contain the major U.S. military bases on Guam.”

Guam’s governor reassured residents that there was no imminent threat to the island and defenses are in place to protect it.

“My Homeland Security Advisor who is in communications with Homeland Security and Department of Defense notes that there is no change in threat level resulting from North Korea events,” Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo said in a statement Wednesday.

Worries rise on Guam with US-N. Korea tensions high

Associated Press

HAGATNA, Guam — Residents of the tiny Pacific island of Guam say they’re afraid of being caught in the middle of escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea after Pyongyang announced it was examining plans for attacking the strategically important U.S. territory.

Though local officials downplayed any threat and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was unruffled as he headed to Guam to refuel on his trip back to Washington from Malaysia, people who live and work on the island said they could no longer shrug off the idea of being a potential target.

Guam serves as a launching pad for the U.S. military.

About 163,000 people live on the island that spans only about 12 miles at its widest. They are used to the threats from North Korea.

But advances in North Korea’s nuclear program paired with fiery rhetoric from President Donald Trump has raised the already high animosity and heightened worries that a miscalculation might spark conflict between the nuclear-armed nations.

Reports suggested North Korea mastered a technological hurdle needed to strike the U.S. with a nuclear missile. The advances were detailed in an official Japanese assessment and

later a Washington Post story that cited U.S. intelligence officials and a confidential Defense Intelligence Agency report.

In response, Trump on Tuesday threatened the communist country “with fire and fury.” On Wednesday, the North Korean army said in a statement that it was studying a plan to create an “enveloping fire” in areas around Guam with medium- to long-range ballistic missiles.

While it is extremely unlikely that Pyongyang would risk the assured annihilation of its revered leadership with a preemptive attack on U.S. citizens, some residents of Guam are concerned.

“If anything happens, we all

got to be ready, be prepared, and pray to God that it doesn’t happen,” Daisy Mendiola, 56, said after finishing lunch with her family at a restaurant near Hagatna. “Everyone’s afraid, because we’re dealing with powers that’s beyond us.”

Guam is armed with the U.S. Army’s defense system known as Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, which can intercept missiles.

“An attack or threat to Guam is a threat or attack on the United States,” said Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, who said he spoke with White House officials Monday morning. “They have said that America will be defended.”

USS Reagan back in Yokosuka

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

The USS Ronald Reagan is back home at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, after a three-month deployment that included dual-carrier operations near the Korean Peninsula and a massive, monthlong exercise in Australia.

"The crew of Ronald Reagan, as well as the carrier strike group, had the opportunity to accomplish a lot this patrol," Capt. Buzz Donnelly, the ship's commander, said in a Navy statement issued after the Reagan pulled into port Tuesday.

The Reagan, along with Carrier Wing 5 aircraft and other warships, left Yokosuka on May 16. Weeks later, the group was

operating off the Korean Peninsula alongside the USS Carl Vinson strike group and Japanese forces.

The operation marked the largest display yet of naval power in response to North Korean ballistic-missile tests.

Throughout July, the Reagan played a key role in the biennial Talisman Saber exercise, which brought more than 33,000 troops, 26 ships and 200 aircraft together in Australia for high-end warfighting scenarios.

The carrier also hosted more than 60 officers in training for their "summer cruise," the Navy statement said. Two groups of midshipmen stayed on the Reagan to experience Navy life prior to commission-

ing as Navy ensigns or Marine lieutenants.

"Being a midshipman on a cruise gives you that experience of peeking through the shades and seeing what the future really does have in store for you," Lt. Eric Hinz, a Strike Fighter Squadron 2 pilot and former midshipman, said in the statement.

In early July, the Reagan crew conducted a burial at sea for Julius "Harry" Frey, a World War II veteran who served aboard the USS Lexington during the Battle of the Coral Sea in 1942.

The ashes of Frey and his wife, Jerry, were scattered in the same waters where the Lexington sank, the Reagan's official Facebook page said.

US planning carrier visit to Vietnam

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. aircraft carrier will visit Vietnam next year for the first time, the Pentagon announced Tuesday, in the latest sign of growing ties between countries that 50 years ago were engaged in a lengthy war.

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis met Tuesday with Ngo Xuan Lich, Vietnam's defense minister, to discuss further steps in their mutual defense relationship and regional security challenges, the Pentagon said.

The two also agreed to expand naval cooperation and the sharing of information.

The carrier to make the visit was not identified.

The United States and Vietnam have found common ground in recent years over China's assertive claims over much of the South China Sea. Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries hold counterclaims on islands in the area, which is believed to hold reserves of untapped petroleum and possibly valuable ores.

While the U.S. maintains no claims of sovereignty over any part of the South China Sea, officials are concerned that China could eventually dictate which vessels would be allowed to sail or fly there.

U.S. Pacific Fleet ships routinely patrol the South China Sea, engaging in so-called freedom-of-navigation operations near disputed islands occupied or militarized by China.

Vietnam and China have engaged in diplomatic skirmishes over attempted petroleum exploration in the waters near the Vietnam coast.

The U.S. recently transferred a former Coast Guard cutter to Vietnam to help the country improve its maritime law enforcement, the Pentagon said.

The U.S. signed a peace accord with North Vietnam in 1973 after almost a decade of war during which America was allied with South Vietnam.

2 Marine commanders fired in photo scandal

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps has fired two commanders for problems within their units related to the treatment of women as the service continues to investigate dozens of Marines involved in a nude photo-sharing scandal, service leaders said Tuesday.

Two of five Marine Corps commanders removed from duty in 2017 were due to a loss of trust and confidence in their ability to lead their units because of the way their troops behaved toward women, Gen. Glenn Walters, the service's No. 2 general, told reporters at the Pentagon. He declined to name the commanders who had been dismissed.

"They didn't have the correct command climate in what they did," said Walters, the Marines' assistant commandant. "... If the commander wasn't behaving right or holding his people accountable, then he was relieved of command. Simple as that."

It was the first time that the Marine Corps had acknowledged punishing commanders

for problems related to the so-called Marines United scandal, in which some male Marines were accused in March of sharing revealing and often explicit photographs of female Marines through a private Facebook group.

In addition to the two fired commanders, two Marines have been involuntarily separated from service, another has been jailed and 30 others have faced some form of reprimand for actions related to the scandal, said Marine Maj. Iain Pedden, leader of the Marine Corps' military justice branch.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service has identified 78 active-duty and reservist Marines as persons of interest in a range of activities related to the Marines United scandal, Pedden said Tuesday. To date, 45 cases have been adjudicated, 30 have been sent to commanders for disposition and three others are continuing to be investigated by NCIS.

Most of the Marines who have been punished have avoided a court-martial. Twenty-three received an adverse administrative action, typically a letter

of reprimand in their official record, and seven have received some form of nonjudicial punishment, which can include a reduction in rank or temporary dock in pay, Pedden said.

The single Marine who has faced a court-martial on charges of sharing explicit photographs was sentenced in July to 10 days of confinement, a demotion of three ranks and forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay for one month, the Marine Corps said. The male enlisted Marine was not identified.

Walters said Tuesday that the Marines are working to build a culture of acceptance among all Marines from the time that they are recruits until their last day in the Corps. He said the service is analyzing adjustments that it could make to several programs to aid that culture adjustment.

Changes the Marines are studying include fully integrating female recruits into training at the service's two recruit depots at Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego, he said. Women only attend basic training on Parris Island now and are assigned to female-only units.

More Marines to join Afghanistan training mission

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The United States will send fewer than 100 additional Marines to Afghanistan to bolster the Marine Corps-led mission to train Afghan soldiers and policemen in volatile Helmand province, U.S. defense officials said Wednesday.

The Marines will join Task Force Southwest, a unit of about 300 Marines already serving in Helmand, as part of a routine tactical adjustment of forces to bolster ongoing training and advising operations in the southern province, said Bob Purtiman, a Kabul-based spokesman for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission to train and advise Afghan security forces.

“Periodically, forces are reallocated to the Resolute Support mission to provide greater operational flexibility to the commander,” he said. “The Marines are being reallocated to Afghanistan as part of a routine intra-theater movement of forces.”

The initial Task Force Southwest of 300 Marines were deployed to Helmand in April charged with boosting the train, advise and assist mission for Afghanistan’s long-struggling security forces in the province. They replaced an Army unit because of the Marines’ history in the province, where as many as 20,000 Marines operated before the U.S. declared its combat mission completed in 2014.

The Marines joining Task Force Southwest had already been deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations, said Maj. Josh Jacques, a Central Command spokesman. He declined to say where they were located now or exactly how many would join Task Force Southwest.

The additional forces are not tied to the ongoing strategy reviews of the war in Afghanistan or security throughout southwest Asia being conducted by the Pentagon and the White House, Jacques said.

Those plans are expected to call for an addition of nearly 5,000 American troops to the about 8,400 now serving in Afghanistan. The plan is still being debated by top officials in President Donald Trump’s administration, defense officials said. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks, said it was unclear when the new strategies would be unveiled.

Senior U.S. officials, including Army Gen. John Nicholson, the top commander in Afghanistan, have characterized the war in Afghanistan as a stalemate with the Taliban.

USMC deems Japan-based Ospreys safe after wreck

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps has deemed its Japan-based MV-22 Ospreys safe to fly despite the Japanese government’s request to ground the fleet of tilt-rotor aircraft after a deadly crash off the coast of Australia, a top general said Wednesday.

The Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted a two-day operational pause of all aircraft to review safety procedures following the crash Saturday of one of its Ospreys off Australia that killed three Marines, said Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, the commander of III Marine Expeditionary Force. Following a preliminary investigation and the safety reviews, the Marines returned all of their Okinawa-based aircraft to normal flight status, he said.

“I would never put my air crews or any local citizens in danger by flying an aircraft that I do not believe is safe and ready to fly,” Nicholson said in a prepared statement. “We did not take the decision to continue flight operations lightly.”

Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori On-

dera asked the United States on Sunday to ground all of its Ospreys.

It remained unclear Wednesday what led to the crash about 18 miles off the northeast coast of Queensland, a Marine spokesman said. The Osprey had taken off earlier Saturday from the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard and was attempting to land on the USS Green Bay when it slammed into the deck of the amphibious transport dock and crashed into the ocean, according to an official familiar with the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The three Marines killed — 1st Lt. Benjamin Robert Cross, Cpl. Nathan Ordway and Pfc. Ruben Velasco — are believed to have been trapped inside the sinking aircraft, the official said. Twenty-three other Marines who were aboard the Osprey were rescued.

Salvage and recovery operations were ongoing as of Wednesday, Nicholson said.

The general defended the Marine Corps’ continued use of the Osprey. The aircraft “has proven itself” in the Asia-Pacific region where it has been used to recover and assist victims of earthquakes and typhoons, he said.

5 GIs sue Trump over transgender ban

The Washington Post

Five active-duty servicemembers sued President Donald Trump on Wednesday over his intentions to ban transgender personnel from serving in the military.

“The directive to reinstate a ban on open service by transgender people violates both the Equal Protection component of the Fifth Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution,” states the suit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington by five anonymous “Jane Does.” They are represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders.

Trump announced in a series of tweets on July 27 that “the United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military.”

The military has not issued a policy on how that directive would be carried out. The suit states that “upon information and belief, the White House turned [Trump’s] decision into official guidance, approved by the White House counsel’s office, to be communicated to the Department of Defense.”

Since the Obama administration lifted the ban on transgender troops in June 2016, hundreds of servicemembers have come out as transgender and are serving openly. A Rand Corp. study commissioned by the Pentagon last year estimates that there are about 11,000 transgender troops in the reserves and active-duty military.

All five plaintiffs said they relied on the 2016 policy change when they notified commanding officers they were transgender. Besides the constitutional challenges, they ask the court to find Trump’s intentions would be a violation of promises government has made to members of the military.

“Because they identified themselves as transgender in reliance on defendants’ earlier promise, plaintiffs have lost the stability and certainty they had in their careers and benefits, including post-military and retirement benefits that depend on the length of their service,” the suit states.

The suit is expected to be the first of several filed once the ban is officially issued.

The plaintiffs are a Coast Guard member who has written a prospective letter of resignation, an Air Force active-duty servicemember of nearly 20 years who served twice in Iraq and three Army soldiers.

Man arrested in attack on French soldiers

Associated Press

LEVALLOIS-PERRET, France — French police arrested a man Wednesday in the search for a driver who slammed his BMW into soldiers in a Paris suburb Wednesday, injuring six of them in what appeared to be a carefully timed ambush before speeding away, officials said.

The driver's motive was unclear, but officials said he deliberately aimed at the soldiers, and counterterrorism authorities opened an investigation. None of the soldiers had life-threatening injuries, authorities said.

It was the latest of several attacks targeting security forces guarding France over the past year.

While others have targeted

prominent sites such as the Eiffel Tower, Wednesday's attack hit the leafy, relatively affluent suburb of Levallois-Perret that is home to France's main intelligence service, the DGSI.

Witnesses described seeing a BMW with one person inside waiting in a cul-de-sac near a building used for the soldiers, according to two police officials. One official said the attacker struck just as a group of soldiers emerged from the building to board vehicles for a new shift.

Authorities checked video surveillance of the area near the city hall of Levallois, northwest of Paris, and police fanned out around the French capital and stopped numerous cars as they searched for the attacker.

Most were released. But in

one case, police stopped a car on the A16 highway and arrested the driver and were verifying his possible links to the attack, according to two police officials. One said the arrest was violent and police fired at the suspect to subdue him. The officials weren't authorized to be publicly named because of an ongoing police operation.

The street where the attack occurred is normally guarded by posts that are removed when vehicles move in and out, so the driver must have known exactly when to strike, Veillant said. "They must've really planned this," he said.

Three of the soldiers hit in the morning attack were slightly injured, while three were more seriously hurt but their lives weren't in danger, accord-

ing to the Defense Ministry. The defense minister said she received "reassuring" news about their condition Wednesday afternoon.

The soldiers were from the 35th infantry regiment and served in Operation Sentinelle, created to guard prominent French sites after a string of deadly Islamic extremist attacks in 2015.

French counterterrorism prosecutors opened an investigation aimed at pursuing perpetrators on charges of attempted murder of security forces in connection with a terrorist enterprise, the Paris prosecutor's office said. The move means authorities believe the attack was deliberate and planned with a terrorist motive.

Nagasaki observes bombing anniversary

Associated Press

TOKYO — Amid growing tension between Washington and North Korea, the mayor of Nagasaki said Wednesday at a ceremony marking the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of his city that the fear of another nuclear bomb attack is growing.

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue urged nuclear states to abandon such weapons and criticized Japan's government for not taking part in the global effort toward a nuclear ban.

The bombing anniversary comes just as Pyongyang and Washington are trading escalating threats. President Donald Trump threatened North Korea "with fire and fury" and North Korea's military said Wednesday that it was examining its plans for attacking Guam.

The world's first atomic bomb, used on Aug. 6, 1945, killed 140,000 people in Hiroshima. The bombing of Nagasaki three days later killed

70,000 more.

At 11:02 a.m., when the bomb struck 72 years ago, people at the ceremony observed a moment of silence as the peace bell rang.

Taue sharply criticized Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government for what he said were empty promises about working to achieve a nuclear-free world.

"Nuclear weapons are incompatible with mankind," said Yoshitoshi Fukahori, 88, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bombing who lost his sister in the blast. He said that as he rushed home the morning after the bombing, the shocking view from the hilltop — his hometown flattened and the landmark Catholic church on fire — made him cry.

Fukahori, who operates a library of atomic bombing photos, said Japan, which has since rebuilt itself as a pacifist nation, should never lose the respect and trust it has regained from the international community.

Vote fraud allegation sparks Kenya protests

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenyan police opened fire Wednesday to disperse rioters in several areas after presidential challenger Raila Odinga alleged election fraud, saying hackers used the identity of a murdered official to infiltrate the database of the election commission and manipulate results in favor of President Uhuru Kenyatta. At least three people were killed.

As Kenyatta held a strong lead in provisional results with nearly all polling stations counted, election officials were verifying the final tallies. It was unclear how long it would take, though by law election officials have up to a week from Tuesday's election to announce the results.

Soon after Odinga claimed on television that the election had been rigged, angry protesters in the Nairobi slum of Mathare and poor areas in the opposition stronghold of Kisumu in the southwest burned tires, set up roadblocks and clashed with police.

Two people were shot dead in Nairobi as they took advantage of the protests to loot, Nairobi police chief Japheth Koome said. An Associated Press photographer said one was shot in the head. Police killed one person when they opened fire on protesters in another opposition stronghold in Kisii County, said Leonard Katana, a regional police commander.

Many parts of Kenya, East Africa's commercial hub, were calm a day after the elections for president and more than 1,800 other posts down to the county level. But the violence stirred memories of the unrest that followed the 2007 vote in which more than 1,000 people were killed. Odinga lost that election; he also lost the 2013 vote to Kenyatta and took allegations of vote-tampering to the Supreme Court, which rejected his case.

Odinga, a former prime minister, blamed Kenyatta's Jubilee Party for the alleged hacking of the election database.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Funeral home fined for improper casket reuse

TN MEMPHIS — A Tennessee funeral home has been fined for reusing caskets without taking proper precautions.

WMC-TV reported Monday the Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers found that E.H. Ford Mortuary Services and its director, Edmund Ford Sr., violated state law by not reupholstering caskets each time they were rented for services.

Former employee Jeremy Harris filed the complaint against the home in January, saying he had been ordered to reuse one casket for more than 20 services or visitations in less than six months, without the lining and insert switched out at any point.

Ford said the rental caskets were used by families who chose cremation as a way to provide a dignified service.

The board fined the business \$2,000 and Ford \$1,500, and ordered the process to be stopped.

Plant leak oozes 300 tons of molten glass

OH ZANESVILLE — Authorities said 300 tons of molten glass spilled from a ruptured tank at an Ohio plant, oozing like lava from a small hole that quickly grew to 10 feet wide.

It wrapped around structural beams at the Owens-Illinois glass plant in Zanesville on Monday. Firefighters worked for hours to cool the glass so it wouldn't destroy beams and collapse the building.

No injuries were reported.

Owens-Illinois told the Zanesville Times Recorder that employees followed safety protocols, and the damage is being assessed.

Officials say home sale sign violates civil rights

MI MASON — Michigan Department of Civil Rights officials say a veteran's front-yard sign advertising the sale of his home violates state and federal laws because it calls for "no foreigners."

A column in the Lansing State Journal said James Prater's sign in front of his home in Mason says "Terms No foreigners Iraq vet" next to "For Sale by Owner." Department spokeswoman Vicki Levengood said the sign violates the federal Fair Housing Act, which prohibits "any notice, statement or advertisement" in real estate transactions that discriminates based on national origin.

Full-scale replica of Fort King being erected

FL OCALA — A full-scale replica of a fort used by the U.S. Army and early Florida settlers is being built at Fort King National Historic Landmark.

The Ocala Star-Banner reported that the original Fort King was used nearly 190 years ago and during subsequent Seminole wars.

Construction is scheduled to be completed in October, with a re-enactment in December including the Seminole attack that destroyed the original.

City seeks fine for damage to historic oak

GA SAVANNAH — Georgia's oldest city is seeking \$37,000 from a construction contractor that local officials say caused fatal damage to a century-old oak tree.

Savannah officials said in a news release that a construction crew employed by Dustcom Limited severely damaged

the roots of a 47-foot live oak last month while digging a hole for a restaurant's water line. Officials say the crew failed to notify the city that it was digging on public property, violating the project's right-of-way permit.

Savannah officials said arborists determined the tree, which is more than 100 years old, can't be saved and should be removed for public safety reasons. City Hall wants the contractor to pay a \$500 fine plus expenses. It appraised the value of the tree at more than \$27,600.

Mainer to participate in Mongolian horse race

ME POLAND — A Maine woman is set to embark on a most unusual horse race.

Amanda Charlton Herbert is one of just eight Americans selected to compete in the toughest horse race in the world, the 620-mile Mongol Derby.

The Sun Journal reported that she will be riding 28 semi-wild horses during the ride across Mongolia. The race aims to re-create Genghis Khan's relay postal system from the 1200s. The system was similar to the American Pony Express several centuries later.

Brawl breaks out at soccer game; 3 hurt

CA WHITTIER — A brawl broke out between two teams in an adult soccer league outside Los Angeles, leaving three people injured with possible stab wounds.

Los Angeles Sheriff's Lt. Tracy Stewart said the three people wounded all had non-life-threatening injuries. Two had cuts to their rib cage while a third was injured on the arm.

Stewart said more than 20 people were involved in the

brawl during the game at El Camino High School in Whittier on Sunday.

World War II dog tags discovered in France

MI BATTLE CREEK — A Michigan man's World War II dog tags have been found in France more than seven decades after the war.

Texas manufacturer Garrett Metal Detector recently contacted Jan Siddall to tell her that someone using a metal detector discovered her father's dog tags in France, WOOD-TV reported.

Siddall said the dog tags are a nice way to reconnect with her father, Rex Young, who died in 2006. Young lost his dog tags sometime while serving in World War II as a U.S. Army radio operator. He fought at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

Sheriff: Pair sold moonshine on Facebook

NC ELIZABETHTOWN — North Carolina authorities have arrested a South Carolina pair who they say sold moonshine through Facebook.

WECT-TV reported Tuesday that Bladen County Sheriff James A. McVicker said Dillen Wright, 20, and Kaytee Lauren Nielson, 26, of Aynor, S.C., were arrested after a joint investigation with North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

McVicker said an alcohol law enforcement agent reached out following complaints. Undercover agents set up a meeting in Clarkton, and McVicker said the pair delivered eight quarts of moonshine, leading to their arrest. Both face multiple charges and have each been released on \$15,000 bond.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Spieth: No pressure in Grand pursuit

Associated Press

Jordan Spieth knows all about pressure. He also knows about the history that awaits him at the PGA Championship.

Surprisingly, he doesn't think the two are connected.

Spieth understands what is at stake in the final major championship of the year. A victory would make the 24-year-old Texan only the sixth player — and the youngest by about six months over Tiger Woods — to capture the career Grand Slam.

And he has never felt more at ease.

Maybe that will change when Spieth gets to Quail Hollow Club for the 99th edition of the PGA Championship, and the conversation shifts from his British Open victory and that amazing finish at Royal Birkdale to the prospect of owning all four trophies from golf's biggest events.

"There's going to be a bunch of buildup and hype around it, and it's going to be said a lot," Spieth said. "But it's almost like if we don't win ... we're free-wheeling. I'm going to play to win. And if it doesn't go well, then so what?"

Woods was the most recent addition to golf's most elite group when he won the U.S. Open and British Open in a span of 35 days in 2000.

It took 13 years before anyone else even had the chance, and now there are three candidates. Phil Mickelson picked up the third leg of the career Grand Slam at the 2013 British Open, and Rory McIlroy joined him by winning the claret jug a year later. In both cases, they had to wait until the following year for their opportunity to get the last one — Mickelson at the U.S. Open, McIlroy at the Masters.

Spieth only has to wait three weeks, which is one reason he doesn't feel any anxiety.

For him, the pressure was getting to this point.

It was having a three-shot lead going into the final round of the British Open, knowing that everyone was watching to see if he would have a repeat of the 2016 Masters, when he crumbled in a three-hole stretch on the back nine.

"I had to get over some added pressure and fear, which shouldn't ever happen — fear of what I was going to have to answer and how long I would have

to answer," he said. "It's annoying more than anything. What's asked and what's published is ultimately what the public ends up thinking. And it's then your reputation to an extent. The only reputation I should care about is first off, what I think of myself. Secondly, what our teams think. Third, the other guys, my peers. After that, you shouldn't care."

"But that's something you have to work on," he said. "And that's a crash course out here at the speed we've been going through things."

Spieth surely could draw on his experience from two years ago, when he won the Masters and U.S. Open at age 21 and headed to St. Andrews to pursue the calendar Grand Slam. He missed a playoff by one shot in the British Open.

In both situations, he already had won a major that year.

The same can't be said for McIlroy and Dustin Johnson.

Johnson never imagined he would come to the final major without even being in contention for one this year. Before the Masters, he was coming off his third straight victory. Then he slipped down the stairs and wrenched his back, sidelining

him on the eve of the Masters. He missed the cut at the U.S. Open. He fell behind early at the British Open.

McIlroy has reason to be excited about this PGA Championship in Charlotte, N.C. He won his first PGA Tour event at Quail Hollow in 2010. He won again two years ago by seven shots.

For now, it's mostly about one player and his bid for the career Grand Slam.

Of the five players with the career Grand Slam — Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen — no one ever won the final leg at the PGA Championship. The only two players lacking the PGA were Tom Watson and Arnold Palmer. They spent the better part of two decades chasing it.

"I believe I'll have plenty of chances, but it doesn't have to be this year," Spieth said. "If it's this year and it happens, that's great. That's another lifelong goal that we've then achieved. Getting three legs of it is much harder than getting the last leg — although I've never tried to get the last leg, so it's easy for me to say."

Mickelson, Els hit major milestone together

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — On the monitor below them was a photo of the first time they met. The 14-year-old with an easy smile was holding the winner's trophy from the 1984 Junior World Championship. Next to him was the golden boy from San Diego, slightly taller at the time, holding his trophy as the runner-up.

Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson are still going at it, rarely rivals, always friends.

The next time playing together, this week at the PGA Championship, marks a special occasion for both. Three decades later, Els and Mickelson join an elite club by competing in their 100th major championship.

Els won his first one in 1994 at the U.S. Open at Oakmont. Two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange was quoted as calling Els the "next god." Only later did the media realize what Strange had said was that Els would be the "next guy." It just

sounded the other way because of his thick Virginia accent.

Mickelson didn't win his first major until he was 34, at the Masters, and it came at the expense of Els. Mickelson holed an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole. Els, on the putting green hopeful of a playoff, heard the ground-shaking roar, and walked off. He never won a green jacket.

The PGA of America brought them together Tuesday afternoon for an interview and a celebration, complete with a cake.

They become the 13th and 14th players to reach 100 majors, a list that starts with Jack Nicklaus and his 164. He is followed by Gary Player, Tom Watson, Arnold Palmer, Raymond Floyd, Sam Snead, Ben Crenshaw, Gene Sarazen, Tom Kite, Mark O'Meara, Bernhard Langer and Nick Faldo, who played his 100th and final major at St. Andrews in the British Open two years ago.

All of them are in the Hall of Fame, Els

and Mickelson included.

The PGA of America had photos from the first major they played (Els at the 1989 British Open, Mickelson at the 1990 U.S. Open); the victories in the majors (five for Mickelson, four for Els); and yes, that 1984 Junior World.

They are linked mostly through competition, win or lose.

"Phil has had a great time, winning five. I've won four," Els said. "But we've been in the hunt many, many other times and it didn't quite come off. But it's a hell of a thrill. It's what we play for, what we practice for. And you want to pull off great shots in the bigger stage."

They also had to settle for being second fiddle to Tiger Woods.

How different could it have been minus Tiger? Both say they would not have been the players they became. Woods was a fierce rival, but Els and Mickelson say they relished the challenge.

Chiefs' Mahomes to start second half

Associated Press

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — It has been years since the Kansas City Chiefs gave their fans any reason to stick around after halftime of their preseason opener, when the starters and backups generally take a seat.

That will change Friday night.

Chiefs coach Andy Reid plans to give each of his quarterbacks a full quarter against the San Francisco 49ers. That means Alex Smith will start and veteran backup Tyler Bray will get the second quarter, while first-round draft pick Patrick Mahomes II will start the second half.

It's arguably the most anticipated preseason debut by a Chiefs rookie since 1983, which also was the last time Kansas City spent a first-round draft pick on a quarterback.

Asked what he wants to see out of his young signal caller, Reid replied: "I'd tell you this with everyone: execute. Obviously the quarterbacks have a little more responsibility with all the calls and so on, but the main thing is to execute."

Reid said most of the starters would play the first quarter alongside Smith, while the backups on the depth chart this week will have Bray under center. So whatever the outcome for Mahomes is Friday night, it must be examined through the prism of working with third-team players.

Likewise, it will almost certainly come against the second- and third-team 49ers defense.

That's one reason Reid was reticent Tuesday following the Chiefs' final open practice of the week to put too much stock in a single preseason game. He instead will lump the performances in a game setting along with what he's seen out of practice and the meeting rooms, and begin deliberating with his coaching staff on what will ultimately comprise his 53-man roster.

With changes to the cutdown rules, he'll also have three more games to examine.

"The first preseason game, everyone has an opportunity to play. After that, it's not guaranteed," Reid said. "That kind of stuff has never changed. The thing you don't want to do is

give another team, if possible, a good player. You want to make sure you do as thorough evaluation as you can."

Several starters are also unlikely to play because of injuries, and one of them forced the Chiefs to make a roster move ahead of their preseason opener. Incumbent kicker Cairo Santos is out while nursing a groin injury, so the Chiefs signed Sam Ficken late Tuesday to handle those duties.

They placed wide receiver Corey Washington on waivers to make roster space for him.

"He's going to be fine," Reid said of Santos. "It's not a serious deal."

Most of the other injury woes have occurred on defense.

Rookie lineman Tanoh Kpassagnon was the latest to go down with what Reid called shin splints. DT Bennie Logan has already been out with a knee injury, while second-year pro Chris Jones remains on the PUP list following offseason knee surgery.

DT Roy Miller, signed last week, continues to work his way back from a torn Achilles tendon sustained last October.

He has yet to practice with the team.

In the secondary, star safety Eric Berry is unlikely to play while dealing with a heel injury that has sidelined him since Saturday. Cornerbacks De'Vante Bausby (ankle) and Jacoby Glenn (concussion) are also out, while linebackers Tamba Hali and Dadi Nicolas remain out with knee injuries.

The positive of all those injuries is that others will have an opportunity to stand out.

"You get to see them with the swings that happen in games. That is really what it is all about," defensive coordinator Bob Sutton said, "is how you deal with these swings and can you get your focus right back in. Can you let that play go, good or bad, and get right into it? Or hey, we have had two or three series that have not gone the way we wanted it to go on defense. So can we get this thing back on track and get in position to win the game?"

"We have a lot of young guys," Sutton said, "so I think it will be exciting to see them."

No. 1 draft pick Garrett ready to make statement

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Myles Garrett won't be satisfied with just sacks or de-cleating a running back.

For his first NFL exhibition, Cleveland's rookie wants to make sure the New Orleans Saints remember him — and that the rest of the league takes notice.

"They don't have much film to go off of, at least not of me now, and they don't know what I have to offer," Garrett said Tuesday. "So I'm looking forward to sending a message through this first game."

Garrett, who has more than lived up to expectations in his first training camp, will make his preseason debut on Thursday night when the Browns host the Saints at FirstEnergy

Stadium. The No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft is eager to showcase his speed, power and new pass-rush moves he's been trying out on Cleveland offensive linemen eager to see him abuse someone new.

Soft-spoken yet dead-serious, Garrett wants to make a mark.

"It doesn't matter if it's preseason or a scrimmage," the defensive end said. "I want to display a dominance when I'm on the field, so I'm trying to have a dominant performance, whether it's preseason first series or whenever I get out there."

He'll be out there with Cleveland's starting defense. After beginning camp deep on the depth chart, Garrett has worked his way into the lineup with steady, solid performanc-

es. He has shown a willingness to put in extra work, staying on the field after practice to run 100-yard sprints to build his stamina.

It's been something to see, and now the Saints will be the first team to get a close-up look at the 6-foot-4, 272-pounder.

The former Texas A&M standout has enthralled Browns fans and even wowed Hall of Famer Bruce Smith, the league's career sacks leader, who stopped by camp for a visit last week. He has won over 10-time Pro Bowl tackle Joe Thomas, who was beaten badly by Garrett last week while protecting quarterback Cody Kessler.

The only thing Garrett hasn't been able to do is hit a QB, but that will change against the Saints.

"It's kind of a relief," said Garrett, who was credited with two sacks in last week's scrimmage. "It's really harder to avoid hitting him than it is to actually wrap him up and take him down. Now that I can follow through, I can actually show that I'm getting there and I'm making big plays."

But while he's targeting QBs, Garrett has also expressed respect for players he has grown up admiring.

Drew Brees may or may not play in Garrett's debut, but he'll face Ben Roethlisberger in the season opener and QB stars Andrew Luck, Aaron Rodgers and Philip Rivers are on Cleveland's schedule.

Garrett already admires them, and now it's time to attack them.

Sale fans 13; Red Sox win 7th straight

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Working on six days' rest, Chris Sale followed up his worst start of the season with one of his best.

Sale allowed two hits and struck out 13 in eight innings, helping the Boston Red Sox win their seventh straight, 2-0, over the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday night. Last Wednesday, Sale gave up seven runs in five innings against Cleveland.

"To be honest, I was flat-out embarrassed last time I was on a baseball field," Sale said. "You have some added fuel when you don't do so well your last time out. I wanted to come back and be good for this one."

He was more than just good. Sale reached double digits in

strikeouts for the 15th time this season, the first time that's been done since Randy Johnson in 2002.

The win pushed Boston's AL East lead over the New York Yankees to four games.

Dustin Pedroia, back in the Boston lineup as a DH after a stint on the disabled list, scored the first run on a fielder's choice in the fourth. A bad throw by Austin Pruitt (6-3) prevented a possible inning-ending double play on Rafael Devers' chopper to the mound.

It was the only run allowed by Pruitt in his fourth major league start.

The Rays were shut out for the third time in four games. The Brewers held them scoreless on Saturday and Sunday.

"We need to find a way to win when our pitchers do so well," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "The offense is going to get going. We ran into a little buzzsaw against Milwaukee, and Chris Sale is the biggest buzzsaw."

Sale (14-4) gave up singles to Wilson Ramos in the fifth and Peter Bourjos in the sixth. The Rays did not get a runner to second base until the seventh, when Sale followed a walk to Logan Morrison with a wild pitch.

"Any pitcher can go out and dominate the first couple innings," said Jackie Bradley Jr., who drove in Boston's other run with a ninth-inning single. "He was able to do it throughout the game. That's what makes him a

special pitcher."

Sale, who leads the majors with 229 strikeouts in 23 starts, has struck out at least 12 in all four of his starts against the Rays.

Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth for his 28th save.

Eduardo Nunez and Xander Bogaerts each had three of Boston's 12 hits.

Pedroia's return

Pedroia, who missed eight games with left knee inflammation, hoped to return to second base for Wednesday night's game. "We'll see," he said after going 0-for-3 with a walk. "Hopefully, I'll wake up and not have any problems. I'm just kind of getting back into it."

Lamb's grand slam helps rally Arizona past Dodgers

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Los Angeles Dodgers can't win them all, not when Jake Lamb hits a grand slam against one of the game's better left-handed relievers.

Lamb was batting .143 against lefties when he came to bat against Tony Watson with the bases loaded and launched one off the right field foul pole in the seventh inning to rally the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 6-3 victory Tuesday night.

The Dodgers had intentionally walked A.J. Pollock to get to Lamb, and Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts took the outcome with no regrets.

"I love the matchup. I loved it," Roberts said. "As good as Jake is, I will take Tony against him any day."

Except Lamb won this day.

"I've been working quite a bit on the lefties," he said. "Like I said, it's one at bat. I want to keep improving."

Lamb's second career grand slam, and first against a left-hander, sent the Dodgers to just their eighth loss in their last 52 games. He also had a solo home run in the sixth inning.

"So it was a pretty special night," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "The Dodgers roll into town with tremendous momentum and I think we played one of our better games in quite some time, and not just all the obvious things."

Justin Turner homered twice for the Dodgers, who led 3-2 entering the bottom of the seventh. Chris Iannetta had a solo home run for the Diamondbacks.

The Dodgers lost for just the fourth time in 29 games since July 4.

Closer Fernando Rodney, who blew a three-run lead in a 5-4 loss at the Dodgers on July 6, threw a scoreless ninth for his 26th save in 31 tries.

That loss a month ago completed a three-game sweep of one-run Arizona losses in the series.

"We remember them," Lovullo said. "We're still smarting from them, and I think that it's motivating these guys. I know it motivates me."

Indians 4, Rockies 1: Yan Gomes hit a three-run homer off Greg Holland (2-3) with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting Corey Kluber (10-3) and host Cleveland to the victory.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 2: Josh Donaldson hit two two-run homers for Toronto and J.A. Happ (5-8) won his sixth straight decision against visiting New York.

Marlins 7, Nationals 3: Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton hit his career-high and major league-leading 38th homer of the season and drove in three runs in visiting Miami's victory.

Cardinals 10, Royals 3: Yadier Molina, Jedd Gyorko and Randal Grichuk homered, leading visiting St. Louis to its fourth straight win.

White Sox 8, Astros 5: Rookie Kevan Smith homered and drove in four runs, and host Chicago stopped a six-game losing streak.

Mets 5, Rangers 4: Rookie Chris Flexen (1-1) got his first big league win and hit, and host New York stopped a four-game losing streak.

Padres 7, Reds 3: Jose Pirela had four hits and Yangervis Solarte had a homer among his three hits, powering visiting San Diego to the victory.

Twins 11, Brewers 4: Brian Dozier hit his first career grand slam and Max Kepler

and Eddie Rosario each homered twice, powering host Minnesota to a two-game sweep of Milwaukee.

Pirates 6, Tigers 3: Andrew McCutchen hit his 23rd homer, leading host Pittsburgh to its fifth win in six games.

Phillies 5, Braves 2: Odubel Herrera hit a two-run homer, Zach Eflin (1-3) pitched seven strong innings following his recall from the minors, and visiting Philadelphia continued its season-long mastery of Atlanta.

Angels 3, Orioles 2: Parker Bridwell (6-1), a right-hander picked up simply for cash in mid-April, came back to haunt his former team in a victory for host Los Angeles over Baltimore.

Mariners 7, Athletics 6: Leonys Martin homered in the top of the 10th inning as visiting Seattle rallied from a four-run deficit to defeat Oakland.

Giants 6, Cubs 3: Buster Posey hit a three-run homer in the first that was upheld after review and later stole a base, Ty Blach (8-7) won his second straight start and host San Francisco beat Chicago.