

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Guam residents wary, have faith in US military

Associated Press

HAGATNA, Guam — The tiny U.S. territory of Guam feels a strong sense of patriotism and confidence in the American military, which has an enormous presence on the Pacific island. But residents are increasingly worried over Washington's escalating war of words with North Korea.

The people of Guam woke up Thursday to another pointed threat from Pyongyang, which vowed to complete a plan to attack waters near the island by mid-August — adding a timeline to a threat from a day earlier that North Korea would create an “enveloping fire” around Guam.

Like other U.S. territories, Guam has a sometimes complicated relationship with the U.S. mainland, but many across the island say that despite the threats and concerns, they feel reassured and protected by the military — especially in times of tense, geopolitical sparring.

About 160,000 people live on the island, which extends about 12 miles at its widest. The American military presence on Guam consists of two bases — Andersen Air Force Base in the north and Naval Base Guam in the south — which are home to 7,000 U.S. troops.

“I feel that the presence of the military on Guam will help us a lot,” said Virgie Matson, 51, a resident of Dededo, Guam's most populated village. “They are here to protect the islands, just in case something happens.”

The possibility of a nuclear confrontation is considered remote, but international alarm has been escalating in recent days. In the latest development, Gen. Kim Rak Gyom, who heads North Korea's rocket command, said in a statement carried by state media that his country was “about to take” military action near Guam. He said the North would finalize a plan by mid-August to fire four midrange missiles hitting waters 19 to 25 miles away from the island.

Andersen Air Force Base houses a Navy helicopter squadron and Air Force bombers that rotate to Guam from the U.S. mainland, including B-2 stealth bombers, B-1s and B-52s. Their location in a U.S. territory means its military is just hours from potential flash points in the western Pacific.

## N. Korea rejects warning as Trump reiterates threat

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Thursday defiantly rejected President Donald Trump's “fire and fury” warning, unveiling a detailed plan to launch a salvo of missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam.

Trump, meanwhile, refused to back down from his tough rhetoric, telling reporters Thursday in New Jersey that perhaps his “fire and fury” statement wasn't tough enough. He said North Korea “better get its act together” or “things will happen to them like they never thought possible.”

The verbal exchanges raised the stakes in the standoff over the North's nuclear and missile program, which has generated the most serious crisis on the divided Korean peninsula in years.

Trump said Tuesday in a televised statement from his New Jersey golf course that North Korean threats “will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen.” He didn't elaborate or make clear whether he meant verbal threats or tangible steps that placed U.S. and South Korean interests at risk.

Brushing aside Trump's warning, North Korea said it was finalizing plans to fire four of its Hwasong-12 missiles into the waters off Guam, which hosts 7,000 U.S. military personnel and has a population of about 160,000.

Pyongyang said the plan, which will be sent to leader Kim Jong Un for approval in the next week or so, would call for the missiles to fly over Japan and strike into the Pacific about 10 to 25 miles from Guam.

Guam's residents are American citizens by birth. Such a launch so close to American territory would force the United States to try to intercept the missiles, which could lead to further escalation.

The current crisis escalated following reports this week that the Defense Intelligence Agency believes North Korea may have cleared a major hurdle in its weapons program by miniaturizing a nuclear warhead that could be placed on missiles capable of striking the American mainland.

South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Lee Jin-woo told reporters that

Seoul also believes the North has made “considerable” progress in miniaturizing nuclear warheads. He pointed out that a decade has passed since the North conducted its first of five nuclear tests in 2006.

The Hwasong-12, which was shown for the first time at a military parade last April, is believed to have a radius of more than 2,300 miles and can be fired from mobile launchers that are harder to detect and destroy on the ground.

North Korea's military said its threat to envelop Guam with fire was meant as a warning to Washington that its extensive military assets on the Pacific island were at risk, discouraging any notion of using precision strikes against Pyongyang's nuclear program.

“But the U.S. president at a gold [sic] links again let out a load of nonsense about ‘fire and fury,’ failing to grasp the on-going grave situation,” the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Thursday.

“This is extremely getting on the nerves of the infuriated Hwasong artillerymen of the [North Korean army], it added.

North Korea also rejected the possibility of talks, days after Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the door was open to dialogue if the North halted its missile tests.

Referring to Trump, the statement said “sound dialogue is not possible with such a guy bereft of reason and only absolute force can work on him.”

It added that the strategic force would complete the plan to “envelop Guam” with missile strikes by mid-August, then wait for an order from leader Kim.

“We keep closely watching the speech and behavior of the U.S.,” it said.

Guam officials have reassured residents that defenses are in place and they don't believe an attack is imminent.

The island is home to two major U.S. military installations — Andersen Air Force Base with its fleet of powerful bombers and Naval Base Guam. Both are managed under Joint Base Marianas.

North Korea has frequently threatened to target U.S. bases in the region as well as to turn the South Korean capital Seoul into a “sea of fire.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Sen. McCain unveils strategy for Afghan War

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—In a rebuke of President Donald Trump, Arizona Sen. John McCain declared Thursday that “America is adrift in Afghanistan” as he unveiled a war strategy of his own that includes more U.S. combat forces and greater counterterrorism efforts.

McCain, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the U.S. needs to put strict conditions on continued assistance to Afghanistan requiring Kabul to demonstrate “measurable progress” in curbing corruption, strengthening the rule of law, and improving the government’s financial transparency.

“Nearly seven months into President Trump’s administration, we’ve had no strategy at all as conditions on the ground have steadily worsened,” said McCain, a leading voice in Congress on national security matters. “The thousands of Americans putting their lives on the line in Afghanistan deserve better from their commander in chief.”

McCain said he’ll seek a vote on his “strategy for success” in Afghanistan when the Senate returns in September and takes up the annual defense policy bill. His plan doesn’t say how many more U.S. forces should be sent to Afghanistan.

Frustrated by his options, Trump has withheld approval of a long-delayed Afghanistan War strategy as he searches for a plan that will allow American forces to pull out once and for all.

The U.S. has about 8,400 troops in Afghanistan, and Trump so far has resisted the Pentagon’s recommendations to send almost 4,000 more Americans to expand training of Afghan military forces and to beef up U.S. counterterrorism operations.

## USS McCain sails in disputed sea

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A U.S. destroyer sailed near a Chinese man-made island in the disputed South China Sea in a challenge to the country’s vast territorial claims in international waters, a Navy official said Thursday.

The USS John S. McCain conducted the routine freedom-of-navigation operation, sailing within about 6 nautical miles of Mischief Reef, an artificially built-up land mass in the Spratly Islands, the official said on condition of anonymity.

It was the third time this year that a U.S. warship cruised within 12 nautical miles of a China-claimed land mass, showing that the Americans do not recognize Chinese claims on the islands. China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, but several other nations including Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines and Vietnam

also claim territory in the waters.

The United States does not back the claims of any nation on the disputed territory.

Marine Lt. Col. Christopher B. Logan, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to confirm the operation but said the United States would continue to conduct regular freedom-of-navigation sails.

“U.S. forces operate in the Asia-Pacific region on a daily basis, including in the South China Sea,” Logan said. “All operations are conducted in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows.”

Mischief Reef is one of several man-made islands in the South China Sea where China has placed military assets and runways. The Chinese are building two radar and communications facilities on the island that already houses missile storage and an underground

storage facility, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, a website created by the Washington think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies to monitor seaborne activity in the Pacific region.

The McCain was challenged multiple times by Chinese military assets as it sailed, the official said.

All of those interactions were deemed “safe and professional.”

The official did not say whether the Chinese demanded the ship leave the area, as they have done during similar operations in the past.

The U.S. Navy alerted the Philippine military of the planned operation Thursday ahead of time but Philippine forces did not take part, The Associated Press reported, citing an unnamed Philippine official.

## Delayed by Fitzgerald probe, admiral takes reins in Hawaii

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The lead investigator of the USS Fitzgerald collision in June assumed command of Navy Region Hawaii on Wednesday during an all-hands call at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

In lieu of the usual pomp and ceremony of a change of command, Rear Adm. Brian Fort took command with the reading of his orders before a crowd of sailors, airmen and Defense Department civilians, a Navy statement said.

Fort had been slated to step into the position with a regular change-of-command ceremony in June, but it was canceled when he was notified to im-

mediately report to Yokosuka, Japan, to investigate the crash, the Navy said.

The destroyer Fitzgerald collided with a Philippine-flagged container ship June 17 about 60 miles southwest of Yokosuka. Seven crewmembers died.

The Navy has not yet released findings from the investigation.

“While I am not able to speak about the details of the investigation, I would ask you to continue to keep the Fitzgerald ohana in your thoughts and prayers for the seven shipmates we lost in the early morning hours of June 17th,” Fort said.

Fort replaces Rear Adm. John Fuller, and as commander Navy Region Hawaii and Naval

Surface Group Middle Pacific he oversees Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oahu and Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai.

He’s also in charge of the 10 surface ships homeported in Hawaii.

Fort was an operations officer aboard the USS Ingersoll and the USS Lake Erie, both formerly homeported at Pearl Harbor, according to his official biography.

He was the executive officer aboard the Hawaii-based USS Port Royal in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

He received a master’s degree from the Naval War College in national security and strategic studies.

## US diplomats in Cuba lose hearing; device blamed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The 2-year-old U.S. diplomatic relationship with Cuba was roiled Wednesday by what U.S. officials say was a string of bizarre incidents that left a group of American diplomats in Havana with severe hearing loss attributed to a covert sonic device.

In fall 2016, a series of U.S. diplomats began suffering unexplained losses of hearing, according to officials with knowledge of the investigation into the case. Several of the diplomats were recent arrivals at the embassy, which reopened in 2015 as part of former President Barack Obama's re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Some of the diplomats' symptoms were so severe that they were forced to cancel their tours early to return to the U.S., officials said. After months of investigation, U.S. officials concluded that the diplomats had been exposed to an advanced device that operated outside the range of audible sound and had been deployed either inside or outside their residences. It was not immediately clear if the device was a weapon used in a deliberate attack or had some other purpose.

The U.S. officials weren't authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the U.S. retaliated by expelling two Cuban diplomats from their embassy in Washington on May 23. She did not say how many U.S. diplomats were affected or confirm they had suffered hearing loss, saying only that they had "a variety of physical symptoms."

The Cuban government said in a lengthy statement late Wednesday that "Cuba has never permitted, nor will permit, that Cuban territory be used for any action against accredited diplomatic officials or their families, with no exception."

# VA forced to retain fired official

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs was forced to take back the director of the Washington VA Medical Center who was fired in July after VA officials discovered the hospital was putting patients at risk.

The Merit Systems Protection Board, which hears appeals from terminated federal employees, ordered the VA to send former director Brian Hawkins back to work, according to a VA news release Wednesday. Hawkins appealed that he was wrongfully terminated, and the MSPB is requiring the VA to keep him as an employee until the Office of Special Counsel reviews his claim.

The VA said Hawkins is back on the payroll, but at Washington headquarters rather than in a position with access to patients.

"No judge who has never run a hospital and never cared for our nation's Veterans will force me to put an employee back in a position when he allowed the facility to pose potential safety risks to our veterans," VA Secretary David Shulkin said in a written statement. "Protecting our veterans is my most important responsibility."

This is the first notable instance of a VA leader appealing a termination since President Donald Trump enacted a new, faster firing process for VA employees in June.

The VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 aimed to shorten how long it takes the VA to remove employees. Firing an employee took 51 days as of June, Shulkin said at

the time. The legislation cut a 30-day notice period to 10 days. It also established quicker deadlines in the process that employees use to appeal their terminations, and it lessened evidentiary standards required to fire an employee.

In part, the new laws were created in reaction to the MSPB's reversal of VA decisions last year to fire senior executives.

It was unclear Wednesday how the VA's new firing authorities and process could affect Hawkins' case. In response to questions about it, the VA referenced its statement, which said only that VA officials would "quickly make an assessment of Mr. Hawkins' employment ... armed with the new authorities recently provided by the VA Accountability Act."

Hawkins was hired as medical director in 2011. He was fired July 28, three months after problems at the Washington hospital were discovered. At the time, in an unprecedented move, Inspector General Michael Missal released an interim report revealing supply shortages and dirty conditions that posed a risk to patients, as well as cultural problems within the facility. The issues had persisted since at least 2014.

The inspector general released another report Aug. 1 showing Hawkins also had broken VA policy by sending sensitive information to private email accounts belonging to him and to his wife.

In April, Shulkin demoted Hawkins and named retired Army Col. Lawrence Connell as his replacement. The VA has since reported improvements at the facility, including the hiring of nurses and logistics and sterile processing personnel.

## Low-flying Russian plane stirs buzz in DC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A low-flying Russian airplane created a buzz in the nation's capital on Wednesday, but it turns out the surveillance flight over the Capitol, Pentagon and other sites was cleared by the U.S. government under a long-standing global treaty.

The flight, which was filmed by The Associated Press, was permitted under the Open Skies Treaty.

Russia and the U.S. are signatories to the treaty, which allows unarmed observation flights over the entire territory of all 34 member nations. The flights are intended to foster transparency about military activity, to reduce mistrust or misunderstandings and to help monitor arms control and other agreements.

Dan Gaffney, a spokesman for

the Pentagon, said he could not confirm the path of the plane until its mission was over.

But the U.S. Capitol Police issued a heads-up, saying an "authorized low-altitude aircraft" would enter restricted airspace over the Capitol between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Since the treaty entered into force in 2002, there have been more than 1,200 Open Skies flights. According to the Pentagon, the overflights are conducted by unarmed observation aircraft equipped with certain types of film and sensors that are certified under the treaty.

The Pentagon said that before the flights, each state is given the flight plan of the mission and an escort team flies aboard the aircraft to make sure it complies with the treaty. After each flight, the host nation gets a copy of any imagery taken by the observation aircraft.

Senior U.S. intelligence and military officials have expressed concern that Russia is taking advantage of technological advances to violate the spirit of the treaty.

Steve Rademaker, former assistant secretary of state for the bureau of arms control and the bureau of international security and nonproliferation, told Congress in past hearings that Russia complies with the Open Skies Treaty, but has adopted measures inconsistent with the spirit of the accord.

The treaty obligates each member to make all of its territory available for aerial observation, yet Rademaker said Russia has imposed restrictions on surveillance over Moscow and Chechnya and near Abkhazia and South Ossetia, two breakaway regions of Georgia now under Russian control.

## Hurricane Franklin hits Gulf coast of Mexico

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Hurricane Franklin roared ashore on a thinly populated part of Mexico's central Gulf coast early Thursday and began weakening as it pounded a mountainous region prone to flash floods and mudslides with rains and heavy winds.

Franklin became the first hurricane of the Atlantic season on Wednesday and hit north of Veracruz city as a Category 1 storm early Thursday. As a tropical storm, Franklin made a relatively mild run across the Yucatan Peninsula earlier in the week.

Authorities in Veracruz state canceled classes at public schools as a precautionary measure. Schools are frequently used as storm shelters in Mexico.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Franklin had slipped to tropical storm force Thursday morning with maximum sustained winds near 60 mph. Additional weakening was forecast, and Franklin was expected to dissipate Thursday.

# Security forces a top target of Islamic radicals in France

Associated Press

PARIS — French soldiers taking part in Operation Sentinelle are the highest-profile symbols of the fight against Islamic extremism — but along with other security forces patrolling French streets are increasingly the main targets of attacks.

Operation Sentinelle was created to guard prominent French sites after a string of deadly attacks in 2015. The soldiers' status as representatives, and defenders, of the state, has put security forces in the line of fire.

But experts offer other reasons, too, for why attacks in France recently have focused on heavily armed protectors.

No civilians have been attacked this year — although intelligence services have foiled seven planned attacks, France's interior minister said recently.

Islamic radicals may seek extra media visibility presumably afforded by going after emblematic targets or be tempted by the wish to die as a "martyr," several experts said.

Knives, machetes, hammers and vehicles have been used in the seven attacks this year — in each case against security forces — despite France's state of emergency.

In the latest, on Wednesday, a BMW slammed into six soldiers as they left their barracks outside Paris in what authorities said was a "deliberate" attack. The suspect, an Algerian living legally in France, was arrested after a highway manhunt and was hospitalized with bullet wounds.

In 2015 and 2016, soft targets were more common, after a Syrian who served Islamic State as its high-profile spokesman and strategist before being killed urged sympathizers in Europe and the U.S. to launch attacks against civilians — "especially the spiteful and filthy French."

This year, one person, a police officer on the crowded Champs-Elysees Avenue, has been killed.

One attacker died in a second incident on the avenue after his car laden with weapons caught fire after he rammed it into a convoy of gendarmes.

A study released in March by the Center for Terrorism Analysis, or CAT, showed attacks on security forces have been a constant in the West. Between 2013 and 2016, a majority — 53 percent — of 72 targeted attacks, either carried out, attempted or planned, were aimed at society's protectors. The study also showed that France was the most targeted Western country.

ISIS cites France's participation in the U.S.-led coalition when claiming attacks in the country.

According to expert, Alain Rodier, a former intelligence officer, many French Islamic extremists who go after symbols of the state had spent much of their lives doing just that as small-time delinquents.

In France, police and youth in tough neighborhoods have notoriously bad relations with authorities in uniform and some delinquents who radicalize repeat old habits, he said.

## Landslides hit southwestern China after earthquake

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese monitors say they've detected multiple landslides but no major building collapses following a powerful earthquake in the country's mountainous southwest that killed at least 20 people and injured 431.

The Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth under the Chinese Academy of Sciences drew the conclusion from satellite imagery collected after the magnitude-6.5 quake struck Tuesday night, the official Xinhua News Agency and state broadcaster CCTV said Thursday.

Authorities raised the death

toll by one to 20 and injured by around 200 on Thursday. Six tourists and two local residents were known to be among the dead, and 18 people had serious injuries, local authorities said.

More than 60,000 people have been evacuated from the area amid continuing aftershocks, state media said.

A Canadian woman suffered a slight head injury and a French citizen was wounded in both legs and needed surgery to remove stone fragments, according to Xinhua.

Most of the deaths and injuries were recorded in Zhangzha township, near Jiuzhaigou national park in Sichuan province that is listed by UNESCO

as a world heritage site.

The quake knocked out electricity and sent boulders tumbling down steep mountainsides onto blocked roads, while Xinhua said its photographers on the scene reported extensive damage to scenic sites, which include lakes, spectacular waterfalls and karst formations.

The speed of the rescue effort appeared due in part to improvements to emergency response preparations enacted after the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, which includes Jiuzhaigou, was struck by a massive 2008 earthquake that killed nearly 90,000 people.

The U.S. Geological Survey

measured the quake at magnitude-6.5 and said it struck at a depth of just 5.5 miles. Shallow earthquakes tend to cause more damage than deeper ones.

On Wednesday morning, another strong earthquake struck far northwestern China, some 1,360 miles from Jiuzhaigou, injuring 32 people, two of them seriously, and damaging more than 1,000 houses. That quake was measured at magnitude-6.3 by the USGS and struck in a sparsely populated area of the Xinjiang region near the Kazakhstan border.

CCTV said 10,500 people had been moved from damaged buildings to emergency shelters.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Highway shut down over pigs after semi overturns

**KY** LOUISVILLE — Police and animal control officers rushed to pen up pigs that got loose when a tractor-trailer overturned on an interstate highway in Kentucky.

Media reported the crash happened Wednesday morning in Louisville and shut down the Interstate 65 North ramp to Interstate 64 East. Photos showed police and firetrucks blocking the roadway and pigs standing near a concrete barrier.

Police said the 150 pigs were headed to the Swift plant in a section of Louisville known as Butchertown.

LMPD Traffic Unit investigator Donney Smith told WAVE-TV that some of the pigs died in the crash and others were injured. He said the driver was hospitalized with minor injuries.

## Teen mom charged after baby is left in bag

**NY** ELMIRA — Two sisters who thought a dog was making noises near their neighbor's bushes discovered something shocking: a filthy 8-month-old baby girl who survived three nights outside in a white plastic bag.

"Her legs were just dangling in the bag. Her head was in the bag. Her whole head was covered all the way down," Kayla Seals told Elmira television station WENY.

The baby was hospitalized in stable condition Wednesday and the mother, Harriette Hoyt, 17, was in jail facing a charge of attempted murder.

Hoyt, who lives 20 miles from Elmira in Sayre, Pa., came here to visit a friend Saturday morning and left the infant in the bag under some bushes around noon, said Chemung County District

Attorney Weeden Wetmore.

## 2 charged with throwing rocks onto vehicles

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh police said they took two juveniles into custody for throwing rocks onto vehicles from an overpass above Route 65.

Several vehicles called 911 to report their cars being hit with rocks or other items about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday.

One motorist said cars were forced to slow down because of a broom left in one lane of travel. It's not immediately clear if the youths who threw the rocks also threw the broom or placed it there so cars would slow down and become easier targets.

It wasn't immediately clear how many cars were hit, how badly they were damaged or whether anyone was injured, though one woman told WPXI-TV her husband was hit in the head by a rock that came through their sunroof.

## Judge: Parents must pay for suit in son's death

**GA** VALDOSTA — A judge is ordering the parents of a Georgia teenager found dead inside a rolled-up gym mat and their attorney to pay more than \$292,000 in legal fees to people they accused of foul play in a lawsuit that was later dropped.

Classmates in Valdosta found the body of Kendrick Johnson, 17, in 2013. Sheriff's investigators concluded he died in a freak accident. Johnson's parents insisted he was murdered.

Kenneth and Jacquelyn Johnson filed a lawsuit accusing two brothers of killing their son. They also claimed law enforcement and school officials covered up the crime.

Superior Court Judge Richard

Porter said in a ruling Monday that Johnson's parents admitted under oath they had no evidence to support those claims.

## Man sentenced for thefts including grandpa's pants

**SD** PIERRE — A Pierre man who stole numerous items including his grandfather's pants to support a drug habit has been sentenced to five years of probation.

Authorities accused Logan Jacobs, 27, of a crime spree last year in which he stole guitars, tools, money and even his grandfather's pants to search the pockets for money.

He was given a 15-year suspended prison sentence Tuesday and ordered to make restitution.

Judge John Brown called the pants theft "so offensive, at a gut level."

## Confederate time capsule held flag, newspapers

**FL** ORLANDO — Newspapers, a Confederate flag and Confederate States of America dollar bills were among the items inside a time capsule that was found at the base of a memorial in Florida when the statue of a soldier was moved.

WFTV reported the capsule was opened Tuesday, nearly two months after the 106-year-old memorial nicknamed "Johnny Reb" was dismantled in Orlando following public outcry that the monument is a symbol of racism and white supremacy.

The monument is being refurbished and re-erected in a section of a historic cemetery where 37 Confederate soldiers are buried.

The capsule's items were placed in protective bags so they can be documented.

They'll eventually be taken to the Orange County Regional History Center.

## Accused burglar doesn't flush, leaves DNA

**CA** VENTURA — Investigators said a suspect accused of burglarizing a Southern California home took a bathroom break and left DNA evidence in the toilet that led to his arrest.

Detective Tim Lohman, of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, said the suspect did not flush during the October break-in in the city of Thousand Oaks.

He said that allowed investigators to collect evidence to conduct a DNA profile. That profile matched another DNA profile in a national database and detectives tracked down the suspect at his home.

Andrew David Jensen was arrested July 28 on suspicion of burglary.

## Toddler OK after ride down hill in SUV

**PA** VANDERGRIFT — Pennsylvania police said a 2-year-old boy "was happy as could be" and wasn't injured after he and an SUV rolled down a 100-foot-high hill.

Vandergrift police said the toddler was apparently playing inside the sport utility vehicle as his mother was cleaning it and he must have knocked it out of "park."

Police said his mother tried to stop the vehicle as it rolled down the driveway and headed toward the top of the hill but she was slightly run over and dragged in her attempt.

Police Officer Joe Gray said the boy had "no bumps, no bruises, no scrapes" when he was rescued.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Rams, Chargers give Fight for LA meaning

Associated Press

The Fight for LA finally has some punch.

A handful of skirmishes broke out Wednesday when the Los Angeles Chargers visited the Los Angeles Rams' training camp for the teams' second joint practice in five days.

The fights mostly arose between the Chargers' offense and the Rams' defense during a lively scrimmage.

In the first and best scrap, Rams cornerback Trumaine Johnson threw a punch at Chargers receiver Dontrelle Inman before Rams cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman pushed Inman to the ground — and Chargers receiver Keenan Allen responded by body-slaming Robey-Coleman.

Even veteran Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers chipped in with some trash-talking of the Rams' defenders during the workout, but Rams cornerback E.J. Gaines' bloody face was the only noticeable result of the short-lived brouhahas.

The players and coaches left UC Irvine with the first on-field instance of bad blood between two franchises currently competing for the hearts and minds of Los Angeles' football fans after moving to town one year apart.

"We're definitely building a nice little rivalry with the Rams," Chargers running back Melvin Gordon said. "That's what I got out of today."

The franchises have co-existed peacefully in the seven months since the Spanos family announced the Chargers' intention to join the Rams in Stan Kroenke's lavish Inglewood stadium complex, which will open in 2020.

The Chargers also moved north with a bold advertising campaign built around a "Fight for LA" slogan, and they actually released a new video from the campaign earlier Wednesday.

That fight hadn't really materialized until the teams got together for a workout lasting more than two hours. They are holding their training camps 5 miles apart in Orange County.

"It's a fun experience being out here," Rams quarterback Jared Goff said. "I'm sure there's a little bit of a rivalry among the fans with both LA teams now, but it was a good day today, and it was a lot of fun to see both teams' fans out here."

The teams also held a joint practice last weekend at StubHub Center, the Chargers' new home stadium, without anything approaching a fight.

Everything changed in Ir-

vine, where Johnson and Inman set off the festivities with a scrap after the whistle.

"He probably landed (a punch) on my helmet, which is kind of nothing," Inman said of Johnson. "I think that's stupid. If you break your hand, then what? But nah, I think it got real intense."

Johnson, the Rams' highest-paid player, indeed threw a punch at Inman, and Robey-Coleman flattened Inman as the third man in. Johnson said the scuffle arose from Inman leaving his hand in Johnson's facemask for far too long.

"Where I'm from, if somebody initiates it, you're going to finish it," Johnson said. "But it was a fun competition. ... I'm from Stockton, (California) and the Stockton came out in me. At the end of it, he got in my face, and I'm not going to let anybody disrespect me."

The intensity and feistiness likely were secretly thrilling to both coaches, who used the joint practice to shake their teams out of the preseason doldrums with their exhibition openers looming this weekend.

Sean McVay and Anthony Lynn both expressed relief that nobody got seriously hurt in the workout.

"I liked the energy," McVay said. "Going against another quality team is something

that's going to be helpful for us going forward. ... (Fights) are a good learning opportunity for us as a team, about keeping that composure in scrimmage situations."

The teams won't play each other during the regular season, but they will face off in a preseason game at the Coliseum on Aug. 26.

Neither team expects any bad feelings from this workout to linger — and most players were back to casual friendliness by the time they wrapped up this practice at dusk.

During their first year of cohabitation, the clubs will spend their weeks about 90 miles apart on opposite ends of the sprawling Los Angeles metropolitan area. After their preseason showdown, the Fight for LA will be mostly an advertising slogan and a point of debate for fans.

The Rams' faithful made their feelings known in Irvine with rude chants directed at the Chargers. Talkative Chargers cornerback Casey Hayward had a running dialogue with hecklers during one drill, but it was mostly in good fun.

"I just saw a lot of good competition out there," Lynn said. "I didn't encourage the fighting, but I was pleased with the intensity."

## QB Watson shines in Texans debut

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Deshaun Watson reminded everyone why Panthers coach Ron Rivera — and many others — felt he should have won the Heisman Trophy last season.

Watson shined in his NFL preseason debut, completing 15 of 25 passes for 179 yards and running for a score in the Houston Texans' 27-17 loss to the Carolina Panthers on Wednesday night.

Watson, who led Clemson to the ACC championship on this field last December en route to winning the national championship, received a rousing ovation from Tigers fans dressed in orange when he entered the game in the second quarter.

The cheers grew louder when Watson

outran two defenders for a 15-yard touchdown — although Panthers fans tried to cover the celebration with boos.

"It was good just to get my feet wet," said Watson, who was pleased with his overall effort.

Houston's first-round draft pick looked comfortable in the pocket, stepping up to avoid pressure and getting rid of the football in a timely manner. He didn't let penalties on his team affect him and didn't turn the ball over in nearly three quarters of play.

"He's a smart player, an instinctive player," Texans coach Bill O'Brien said.

"For the first game out there I thought he did some good things. That's a big jump from college to the NFL and I thought he handled it pretty well."

Tom Savage went three-and-out on his first two possessions against Carolina's first-team defense.

Panthers veteran backup Derek Anderson looked sharp starting in place of Cam Newton, who's still resting a sore right shoulder.

Anderson completed 4 of 5 passes for 76 yards, including a 23-yard touchdown pass to Kelvin Benjamin to finish with a perfect 158.3 QB rating.

Two former NFL Defensive Players of the Year returned to action after missing significant time last season with injuries.

J.J. Watt played one series for the Texans in his return from back surgery. Kuechly played six plays after returning from his second career concussion. Neither registered a tackle.

# McIlroy feels at home at Quail Hollow

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jordan Spieth is going for a career Grand Slam at the PGA Championship and doesn't appear to have a care in the world.

Rory McIlroy hasn't won a major in three years and expectations are higher than ever.

Blame that on Quail Hollow.

This is where McIlroy won his first PGA Tour event in 2010 when he fearlessly fired a 4-iron into the breeze and over the water to 6 feet for an eagle that allowed him to make the cut on the number, and then he followed with a 66-62 weekend. Quail Hollow is where he shot 61 in the third round to run away from a strong field for a seven-shot victory. He has played here seven times and has finished out of the top 10 just once.

It's not Tiger Woods at Torrey Pines.

But there's a reason McIlroy has been looking forward to this PGA Championship. And it's a big reason why he is the betting favorite by a slight margin

over Spieth, who is just three weeks removed from winning the British Open.

The odds on McIlroy winning at Royal Birkdale were 20-1, some of the highest ever associated with him. He joked then that it was a good time to back him.

Now he's listed at 7-1, and he doesn't feel much differently.

"I told you those odds wouldn't last long," he said Tuesday. "I think it's partly to do with the upturn in form that I've had over the last few weeks. And then my history on this golf course — a couple of wins, beaten in a playoff, a few other top 10s.

"Things are a bit different than they were a couple of weeks ago."

McIlroy has posted seven straight rounds in the 60s going into the final major of the year, though he has not been in serious contention in either the British Open or the Bridgestone Invitational. A bad start held him back at Royal Birkdale — 5 over through the opening six holes — and he was slowed

by not hitting his wedges close enough or making enough putts at Firestone.

His long game has been solid as ever, and that figures to be an advantage on a course already softened by rain on Tuesday and with storms in the forecast for the rest of the week.

McIlroy, like Spieth, also has three legs of the career Grand Slam. He is lacking only the Masters, and he hasn't come particularly close in the three years he has gone to Augusta National with a chance to complete it. But there are differences.

McIlroy won the British Open at Hoylake in 2014 and then had to wait nearly nine months for the Masters. That was plenty of time to think about it, to answer to it.

"It plays on your mind a little bit," he said. "I think that's where Jordan doesn't have to deal with that coming into this week. It's great to be able to ride on the crest of a wave and just sort of keep it going."

McIlroy isn't the only player trying to make sure the year

doesn't end without him winning a major. Dustin Johnson looked good enough to win them all until he slipped down the stairs and wrenched his back on the eve of the Masters.

Johnson believes his game is close to where it was before the injury, but he has played Quail Hollow only three times, and not since 2011. He missed the cut twice and tied for 29th.

McIlroy almost feels like he can roll out of bed and play well at Quail Hollow.

He can only hope to join a short list of players who have won a major on the same course where they won a PGA Tour event — Woods (Pebble Beach and Torrey Pines, both times in the same year), Jack Nicklaus (Firestone), Ben Hogan (Riviera in the same year) and Walter Hagen (Olympia Fields).

"There's certain golf courses that you can see yourself shoot a score on," McIlroy said. "You don't really have to have your best game and you still feel like you have a chance to win. And that's sort of how it feels here."

## Day eager for return to top of world ranks

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jason Day's swagger — and his motivation — have returned.

"I'm hungry again — and I'm looking forward to trying to beat these guys," Day said Wednesday on the eve of the 99th PGA Championship.

Day is in the midst of what he called a "very poor season" with only two top 10 finishes and no wins in 15 starts. But the world's former No. 1 player feels like he's about to turn the corner after finishing tied for 24th last week at Bridgestone.

He's also drawing confidence from his past success at the PGA Championship, winning at Whistling Straits in 2015 and finishing second last year to Jimmy Walker at Baltusrol. His renewed confidence may not be good news for the rest of the field this week. Jordan Spieth is aiming for a career grand slam.

"I'm motivated now," said Day, who withdrew from a tournament in March to be with his cancer-stricken mother.

His best finish this year is second at the

AT&T Byron Nelson, where he lost a playoff to Billy Horschel.

Day entered the season as the top-ranked player but has since dropped to No. 7 — something that he says "annoys and motivates me at the same time."

He made it clear his goal is to get back on top — and anticipates that will start with a strong performance this week at Quail Hollow.

The 29-year-old Australian said his passion waned late last season after getting "burned out." Looking back, Day felt like he spread himself too thin trying to fulfill obligations and spending less time practicing and relaxing.

By the time the end of last year rolled around, Day said he was exhausted.

That pressure, along with his mother's lung cancer surgery in March, led to a rough start to the 2017 season. He tearfully pulled out of the Match Play Championship six holes in, too distraught to play, to join her ahead of the surgery.

"It was difficult for me to be on the golf course and even think about actually play-

ing at the time," Day said.

On the course, his driving deteriorated and his normally reliable short game eluded him. He felt like his game plateaued.

"You're not panicking or anything, you're just wondering why," Day said. "You're up at night thinking about, 'OK, what do I need to do to get back to that winning room?'"

If Day does get back to No. 1, he's vowed to handle things differently. In some ways, he's already done that.

He didn't arrive in Charlotte until Tuesday night and checked in to the tournament on Wednesday morning so he could spend more time away from distractions.

Day refuses to call this a lost season.

Sure, he's finished out of contention at the Masters (tied for 22nd), the U.S. Open (cut) and the British Open (tied for 27th), but he believes his putting and driving are coming back.

And he harkens back to 2014 when he finished the year strong, which served as a springboard for two incredible seasons.

"I want to win again," Day said. "So I'm excited about that."

# Dodgers down D-backs, earn 80th win

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Hitless in 23 previous at-bats, the Los Angeles Dodgers' Joc Pederson faced Arizona Diamondbacks ace Zack Greinke with two outs in the seventh inning and a man on second base.

Pederson, who'd struck out in his first two at-bats against Greinke, delivered a game-tying double, then came around to score the go-ahead run on Yasiel Puig's single in the Dodgers' 3-2 victory on Wednesday night.

"To have it come up big and help the team win a ballgame is a nice feeling," Pederson said. "Just trying to look for a good pitch to hit. He made a mistake and I capitalized on it."

The Dodgers became the sixth team since 1913 to reach

80 wins in their first 113 games.

"You could see the exhale when he got to first base, and that boyish smile," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said of Pederson. "He's a big part of what we need to do. For him to get that big hit was a boost to all of us."

Puig's hit was the third off Greinke in the seventh, after Greinke had allowed only one hit through six innings. Cody Bellinger homered, doubled and scored twice for the Dodgers.

Greinke (13-5) lost for the first time in 13 starts at home this season and is 10-1 at Chase Field. He allowed three runs on four hits in 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, struck out eight and walked four.

"I threw a terrible pitch to Joc and he hit it good. Threw

a pitch where I wanted to with Puig but he hit it all right and found a good spot," Greinke said. "The pitch to Joc was the worst one and he did what he was supposed to with it."

Dodgers starter Alex Wood (14-1) allowed two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and a walk in six innings, and improved to 6-0 with a 1.72 ERA on the road this season.

Wood made a minor adjustment to his delivery to get the velocity back after it was lacking in his last start.

"I felt really great coming out of New York and that bullpen session, so I'm looking forward to the stretch for sure," Wood said.

J.D. Martinez's two-out single in the sixth off Wood gave the Diamondbacks a 2-1 lead,

but it didn't last long. Paul Goldschmidt had homered high off the center field batter's eye in the fourth to tie the game at 1.

Bellinger, a native of nearby Chandler, Ariz., connected for his 33rd home run in the second inning. The ball sailed well into the right-field seats above the Dodgers bullpen.

The Dodgers are on a 53-game streak with at least two extra-base hits, the most in the majors since 1913.

The Dodgers got strong relief from Josh Fields, who pitched two scoreless innings and got Goldschmidt to ground into an inning-ending double play in the eighth. All-Star closer Kenley Jansen, who hadn't pitched since Sunday in New York, closed out the game for his 29th save.

# Bumgarner sharp again as Giants shut down Cubs

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Madison Bumgarner admits at times he wondered whether he would make a complete recovery from injuries sustained in a dirt biking accident.

He looked like his old self against the Chicago Cubs.

Bumgarner allowed four hits over seven innings to win for the second time since returning from the disabled list, helping the San Francisco Giants defeat the Cubs 3-1 Wednesday and complete a winning home-stand for only the second time this season.

"Obviously there's going to be some times when doubt creeps in," Bumgarner said. "It's just like anything else, you've got to deal with it. You can't try to push it aside, you can't try to trick yourself, you just try to deal with it."

Bumgarner (2-5) struck out seven, walked one and gave up five hits — including a third-inning home run by Albert Almora Jr. Bumgarner is 2-2 with a 2.52 ERA in five starts since returning July 12 after missing

nearly three months because of injuries sustained April 20. Since beating Pittsburgh on July 25, he did not get a decision against the Los Angeles Dodgers and lost to Arizona.

The 2014 World Series MVP has a 1.38 ERA in his last four starts and has received two runs or fewer of support in seven of 10 starts this year.

Hunter Strickland pitched a one-hit eighth and Sam Dyson completed the six-hitter with a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

**Cardinals 8, Royals 5:** Yadier Molina hit a grand slam one pitch after a cat ran onto the field in the sixth inning, helping host St. Louis rally to beat Kansas City.

**Mariners 6, Athletics 3:** Nelson Cruz homered twice, Kyle Seager also went deep off Jharel Cotton (5-9) and visiting Seattle completed a two-game sweep.

**Angels 5, Orioles 1:** After 10 seasons in the minors and playing in his first major league game, Cesar Puello singled in the go-ahead run for host Los Angeles and C.J. Cron added a

two-run homer

**Rangers 5, Mets 1:** Martin Perez (6-10) allowed three hits over eight innings, Joey Gallo hit his 32nd home run and visiting Texas gained a two-game split.

**Rockies 3, Indians 2:** Charlie Blackmon homered against Zach McAllister (1-2) in the 12th inning, atoning for getting doubled up at first base on a foul ball in the eighth inning of visiting Colorado's victory.

**Nationals 10, Marlins 1:** Ryan Zimmerman had four run-scoring hits, including two solo home runs, drove in five runs and became the franchise's all-time RBI leader as host Washington defeated Miami.

**Reds 8, Padres 3:** Joey Votto extended his longest hitting streak of the season to 14 games, Stuart Turner hit his first major league homer, and host Cincinnati beat San Diego.

**Tigers 10, Pirates 0:** Justin Verlander (8-7) allowed one hit over eight innings and host Detroit beat Pittsburgh.

**Phillies 3, Braves 2:** Odubel

Herrera continued to feast on Atlanta pitching by driving in a run with two triples in visiting Philadelphia's victory that completed its third series sweep of its opponent this season.

**Twins 4, Brewers 0:** Bartolo Colón (2-1) pitched seven innings, Brian Dozier added a home run, double and single and visiting Minnesota beat Milwaukee.

**Yankees 11, Blue Jays 5:** Todd Frazier homered and had three RBIs, Gary Sanchez and Didi Gregorius also went deep and visiting New York overcame a shaky start by Masahiro Tanaka to beat Toronto.

**Red Sox 8, Rays 2:** Eduardo Nunez chased Jake Odorizzi when he lined a single off the pitcher's foot, starting a five-run fifth inning for visiting Boston in a victory over Tampa Bay.

**White Sox 7, Astros 1:** Tim Anderson homered and drove in three runs, Miguel Gonzalez (6-10) tossed eight strong innings and host Chicago beat Houston, its second straight win over the team with the best record in the AL.