

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Afghan War policy awaited by top brass

Associated Press

CAMP MOREHEAD, Afghanistan — Signaling that the U.S. military expects its mission to continue, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan on Sunday hailed the launch of the Afghan army's new special operations corps, declaring that "we are with you and we will stay with you."

Gen. John Nicholson's exhortation of continued support for the Afghans suggested the Pentagon may have won its argument that America's military must stay engaged in the conflict in order to ensure terrorists don't once again threaten the U.S. from safe havens in Afghanistan.

President Donald Trump's

defense secretary hinted Sunday that a new overall strategy for the war might be unveiled soon.

Nicholson said the commandos and a plan to double the size of the Afghan's special operations forces are critical to winning the war.

"I assure you, we are with you in this fight. We are with you and we will stay with you," he said during a ceremony at Camp Morehead, a training base for Afghan commandos southeast of Kabul.

The Pentagon was awaiting a final announcement by Trump on a proposal to send nearly 4,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan. The added forces would increase the training and advising of the Afghan forces

and bolster counterterrorism operations against the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate trying to gain a foothold in the country.

The administration has been at odds for months over how to craft a new strategy for the war in Afghanistan amid frustrations that 16 years after 9/11, the conflict is stalemated.

The Afghan government controls only half of the country and is beset by endemic corruption and infighting. ISIS has been hit hard but continues to attempt major attacks, insurgents still find safe harbor in Pakistan and Russia, Iran and others are increasingly trying to shape the outcome. At this point, everything the U.S. military has proposed points to keeping the

Afghan government in place and struggling to turn a dismal quagmire around.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he is satisfied with how the administration formulated its new Afghanistan war strategy. But he refused to talk about the new policy until it was disclosed by Trump.

He said the deliberations, including talks at the Camp David presidential retreat on Friday, were done properly.

"I am very comfortable that the strategic process was sufficiently rigorous," Mattis said, speaking aboard a military aircraft on an overnight flight from Washington to Amman, Jordan.egic direction first.

## Report details sailors' escape after Fitzgerald collision

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — An initial report into the USS Fitzgerald collision released by the Navy Thursday details the terror sailors experienced in the moments after the collision along with the heroic efforts crewmembers undertook to save lives.

The accident happened at about 1:30 a.m. when the destroyer was struck by the ACX Crystal, a Philippine-flagged merchant ship, said the report by investigating officer Rear Adm. C.F. Williams. The Fitzgerald was hit on its starboard side above the waterline, severely damaging the commanding officer's cabin. The merchant ship's bulbous bow battered the starboard access trunk, a space that opens into the ship's Berthing 2 area, which has space for 42 crewmembers. Thirty-five sailors were there at the time of

the collision.

The Crystal tore an approximately 13-by-17-foot hole into the Fitzgerald, the report said. The door between Berthing 2 and a starboard access trunk pulled away from the ceiling and bent to a 90-degree angle.

Berthing 2 had three escape routes, two of which were on the port side of the ship — a ladder and an escape scuttle. The third, a ladder on the starboard side near the point of impact, was rendered nearly inaccessible because of flooding and debris, the report said.

At the moment of impact, some sailors described hearing "a loud noise," Williams wrote. Others felt an "unusual" movement of the ship, and some crewmembers were thrown from their racks.

The crewmembers of Berthing 2 jumped into action after they found themselves in a "rapidly flooding space," the report said, with sailors yelling, "Water

on deck!" and "Get out!"

Sailors woke up fellow crewmembers, and senior sailors checked beds to account for their shipmates, it said. Sailors calmly formed lines to climb the ladder out of the berthing area, even though the water was soon waist deep and then neck deep. Debris, including mattresses, furniture and wall lockers, floated through the area, impeding the evacuation.

During the evacuation, an unnamed sailor reported that Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr. pushed him out from under a falling locker. Rehm, 37, of Elyria, Ohio, was one of the seven who perished in the accident.

Two sailors who stayed at the bottom of the ladder to assist evacuees "likely saved the lives of at least two of their shipmates," Williams said in the report.

The last sailor pulled from the area was in the bathroom at

the time of the accident when a "flood of water knocked him to the floor," the report said. He moved toward the main berthing area and later found himself pinned between the lockers and ceiling of Berthing 2. After grabbing a pipe in the ceiling and pulling himself free, he managed to swim his way to the only light available, which was coming from the ladder area the sailors had used to evacuate.

Sailors who escaped Berthing 2 immediately began to assist with disaster-response efforts, the report said.

"The sailors assigned to Berthing 2 should be commended for their response to the dangerous and deadly threat they faced," Williams wrote. "They fought hard in the dark of night to save their ship. Through their swift and in many cases heroic actions, members of the Fitzgerald crew saved lives."

# US awards contract to prepare for Marine Corps move to Guam

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The U.S. government awarded a contract last week to lay the groundwork for 4,000 Okinawa, Japan-based Marines to move to Guam within the next decade.

Granite-Obayashi, a joint venture based in Watsonville, Calif., received the \$164.89 million firm, fixed-price contract Thursday from Naval Facilities Engineering Command to design and build “utilities and site improvements” for the future Marine Corps Base Guam on Naval Computer and Telecommunications Site Finegayan, a NAVFAC statement said.

The contract was funded by the Japanese government through international agreements between the allies.

“This effort is a big step in strengthening Guam, as part of the Marianas strategic hub, ensuring the Marine Corps’ ability to sustain a forward

presence within the Indo-Asia-Pacific region,” Marine Corps Forces Pacific commander Lt. Gen. David Berger said.

The contract calls for the preparation of an approximately 400-acre site within the NCTS boundary for operational, administrative and bachelor housing structures, the statement said. This includes utilities, roads and other infrastructure.

The work, which also encompasses the clearing of unexploded ordnance, stewardship over historic properties and conservation for threatened and endangered species, will follow environmentally friendly waste and stormwater management procedures, the statement said.

It remains unclear when Granite-Obayashi plans to begin the construction work. Spokeswomen for NAVFAC Pacific and NAVFAC Marianas could not be reached for comment Friday.

Follow-up projects are sched-

uled to begin in fiscal 2020.

Plans to relocate Marines to Guam grew from a small but passionate Okinawan protest movement that has sought to reduce the deployment of U.S. forces on the tiny island prefecture. Okinawa is home to about half of the approximately 100,000 U.S. servicemembers, civilian base workers and their families stationed in Japan.

A forces realignment in the region was agreed upon in 2006, but the numbers of troops has changed over the years. The current plan calls for 4,100 Marines to be relocated from Okinawa to Guam, 2,700 to Hawaii and 800 to the U.S. mainland. Another 1,300 Marines from Okinawa would make up the majority of a 2,500-person rotational force in Australia.

Plans call for the Marines to move to Guam sometime between 2022 and 2026. Construction is already underway in the northern part of the island.

# Helo flips, 4 Japanese troops hurt

BY HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Four Japanese servicemembers were injured Thursday when their CH-101 helicopter flipped over and crashed onto the ground while training at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft was conducting cargo-lifting drills at about 2:20 p.m. when the incident occurred, said a JMSDF spokesman at the base, which is jointly used by the U.S. Marine Corps.

The helicopter is assigned to the Shirase, a icebreaker ship used for Antarctic expeditions, which is based at Yokosuka Naval Base.

Four of the eight crewmembers suffered minor injuries, such as bruising, and were taken to a local hospital, the spokesman said.

The extent of the damage and the cause of the accident is under investigation, the spokesman added. Japanese television news reports showed images of the helicopter lying on its side with its rotor damaged and debris scattered around the aircraft.

The crash occurred on the eastern side of the base, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force spokesman said. The area is used by JMSDF flying boats and for cargo-lift training, he said.

The spokesman would not confirm whether the crash affected base operations. Local broadcaster TV Yamaguchi reported that runways used jointly by Marines, JMSDF and by commercial airlines were closed for a short time after the helicopter crash, but they reopened without affecting commercial airline operations.

# Osprey makes maiden flight over Hokkaido

BY ALLEN ONSTOTT  
*Stars and Stripes*

HOKKAIDO, Japan — A Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft flew over Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido for the first time on Friday as part of an exercise involving the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

Six Ospreys are participating in the inaugural Northern Viper, a joint, live-fire exercise running through Aug. 28 that aims to get Marines and Japanese troops working together in unfamiliar environments.

The aircraft are part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, which is conducting live-fire drills alongside Japan’s 11th Brigade during the three-week exercise.

The Marines decided to move forward with their plan to involve Ospreys in the drills despite requests from Japanese officials to ground the controversial helicopter-plane hybrid in the wake of a deadly crash this month off Australia’s eastern coast.

Col. James Harp, commander of Marine Aircraft Group 36, arrived at the Hokudaien exer-

cise area on Hokkaido Friday on an Osprey.

“I flew in on an MV-22 this morning, and I intend to fly back on an MV-22 to Misawa this afternoon,” Harp said. “When it comes to operations with any of our aircraft, we take safety very seriously. I wouldn’t put myself or my men or our allies on an aircraft over citizens where I thought there was a risk.”

The Osprey is a capable platform that has proven itself throughout the world and continues to do so, Harp said.

“It has operated in very tough conditions and continues to excel and be a very viable platform for the Marine Air-Ground Task Force,” he said.

The aircraft, which can hover like a helicopter or tilt its rotors to fly like a plane, has a range of more than 1,200 miles. That range is important in the Pacific, where the Marines might have to cover vast distances responding to a humanitarian crisis or contingency, Harp said.

“I look forward to showing you the unique capabilities of this aircraft over the course of the next week,” he said.

# Iraqi troops begin offensive in Tal Afar

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S.-backed Iraqi security forces on Sunday began a multipronged military operation to retake the town of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, from Islamic State, Iraq's prime minister announced.

Tal Afar and the surrounding area is one of the last pockets of ISIS-held territory in Iraq after victory was declared in July in Mosul, the country's second-largest city. The town, about 93 miles east of the Syrian border, sits along a major road that was once a key ISIS supply route.

"The city of Tal Afar will be liberated and will join all the liberated cities," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in a televised speech to the nation broadcast on state television early Sunday. He was dressed in a black uniform of the type worn by Iraqi special forces.

Al-Abadi said his message to ISIS was, "You either surrender or die."

By early afternoon, Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Rasheed Yar Allah, who commands the operation, said the forces had recaptured five villages east of town.

In a statement, the U.S.-led coalition praised Iraqi security forces as a "capable, formidable, and increasingly professional force and they are well prepared to deliver another defeat" to ISIS in Tal Afar, like in Mosul.

"Mosul was a decisive victory for the Iraqi security forces, but it did not mark the end of [ISIS] in Iraq or its worldwide threat," said U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the commander of U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq and Syria.

The coalition estimates that approximately 10,000 to 50,000 civilians remain in

and around Tal Afar.

Along with Tal Afar, ISIS militants are still fully in control of the town of Hawija, west of Kirkuk, as well as the towns of Qaim, Rawa and Ana in western Iraq near the Syrian border.

Tal Afar has been a stronghold for extremists in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Many senior al-Qaida leaders in Iraq and in ISIS were from Tal Afar.

Iraq's mostly Shiite militiamen largely stayed out of the operation to retake Mosul, a mostly Sunni city about 50 miles to the east, but have vowed to play a bigger role in the battle for Tal Afar, which was home to both Sunni and Shiite Turkmen before it fell to ISIS, a Sunni extremist group. The militias captured Tal Afar's airport, on the outskirts of the town, last year.

## Rule to allow commanders to reverse demotions of E-4s

Stars and Stripes

Commanding officers will be able to restore the E-4 rank of sailors who were demoted to E-3 for minor offenses under new guidelines that take effect in December, the Navy said.

Commanders can reinstate the sailors to the higher rank six months after demotion if the offenses are minor and not a judicial punishment, the Navy said.

"Our profession relies on trust and confidence up and

down the chain of command," said Vice Adm. Robert Burke, chief of naval personnel. "We expect our COs to make decisions that are ultimately aimed at developing our sailors' character and competence."

Also, the Navy will eliminate E-4 advancement exams for 20 jobs in the advanced electronics, technical and nuclear fields, including naval air crewman, electrician's mate, cryptologic technician, intelligence specialist and diver.

## Feds allege Calif. Marines involved in Tricare fraud

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Federal authorities say Southern California Marines were recruited for a scheme that bilked the government's military health insurance provider out of \$67 million.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that a complaint was filed Thursday in San Diego as part of a civil asset-forfeiture case. Authorities are trying to seize the property of a Tennessee couple.

Investigators say Marines were recruited at up to \$300 a month for a so-called medical study that involved phone consultations with a doctor's office in Cleveland, Tenn., owned by Jimmy and Ashley Collins.

The Marines were prescribed costly compound drugs.

A pharmacy in Bountiful, Utah, filled thousands of prescriptions and billed them to the insurer, Tricare.

Lawyers for the couple deny they committed fraud.

## Squadrons from USS Ronald Reagan to relocate to Iwakuni

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Three squadrons from the USS Ronald Reagan strike group will relocate from Atsugi to Iwakuni, Japan, this fall, the Navy announced Friday.

Strike Fighter Squadrons 115 and 195, along with Electronic Attack Squadron 141, will transfer from Naval Air Facility Atsugi to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni after the Reagan completes its fall patrol, the statement said.

The squadrons will join Carrier Air-

borne Early Warning Squadron 125, which arrived in Iwakuni in February and replaced the Atsugi-based Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 115.

Both fighter squadrons fly the F/A-18E Super Hornet, while VAQ-141 flies the EA-18G Growler on electronic countermeasure missions, the statement said.

The move is the latest step in efforts to transfer the bulk of Carrier Air Wing 5's nine squadrons to Iwakuni.

All of the unit's fixed-wing aircraft squadrons are scheduled to go there, with two helicopter squadrons remaining at Atsugi. The Navy has yet to announce a

timetable for the relocation of Strike Fighter Squadrons 27 and 102 and Detachment 5, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30.

The relocations are based on the construction of facilities for the squadrons at Iwakuni, the Navy statement said.

Naval Forces Japan commander Rear Adm. Gregory Fenton has said the moves, which will see the air station's population double to 10,000, are on track.

After the moves, Naval Air Facility Atsugi will continue to be used for training, refueling and maintenance purposes, the Navy statement said.

# Spanish police hunt for van driver in deadly attacks

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Police put up scores of roadblocks across northeast Spain on Sunday in hopes of capturing a fugitive suspect from the 12-member Islamic extremist cell that staged two vehicle attacks and plotted much deadlier carnage using explosives favored by Islamic State militants.

Complicating the manhunt, though, was the fact that police have been unable to officially identify who exactly is at large.

While police have identified the 12 members of the cell, three people remain unaccounted for: two believed killed when the house where the plot was being hatched exploded Wednesday, and a suspected fugitive, Catalan police official Josep Lluís Trapero told reporters Sunday.

Trapero declined to confirm that Younes Abouyaaquoub, a 22-year-old Moroccan, was the one at large and the suspected driver of the van that plowed down Barcelona's Las Ramblas promenade Thursday, killing 13 people and injuring 120. Another attack hours later killed one person and injured others in seaside town of Cambrils.

Another police official did confirm that three vans tied to the investigation were rented with Abouyaaquoub's credit card: The one used in the Las Ramblas carnage, another found in the northeastern town of Ripoll, where all the main attack suspects lived, and a third found in Vic, on the road between the two.

Police believe the cell members had planned to fill the vans with explosives and create a massive attack in the Catalan capital. Trapero confirmed that more than 100 tanks of butane gas were found at the Alcanar house that exploded, as well as ingredients of the explosive TATP, which was used by Islamic State in attacks in Paris and Brussels.

The investigation is also focusing on a missing imam, Abdelbaki Es Satty, who police think could have died in the Alcanar explosion. Trapero confirmed the imam.

On Sunday, King Felipe VI, Queen Letizia, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and other officials attended a solemn Mass at Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica for the victims of the attacks.

# Republican doubts, worries about Trump thrust into the open

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's racially fraught comments about a deadly neo-Nazi rally have thrust into the open some Republicans' deeply held doubts about his competency and temperament, in an extraordinary public airing of worries and grievances about a sitting president by his own party.

Behind the high-profile denunciations voiced this week by GOP senators once considered Trump allies, scores of other, influential Republicans began to express grave concerns about the state of the Trump presidency. In interviews with Associated Press reporters across nine states, 25 Republican politicians, party officials, advisers and donors expressed worries about whether Trump has the self-discipline and capability to govern successfully.

Eric Cantor, the former House majority leader from Virginia, said Republicans signaled this week that Trump's handling of the Charlottesville protests was "beyond just a distraction."

Chip Lake, a Georgia-based GOP operative who did not vote for Trump in the general election, raised the prospect of the president leaving office before

his term is up.

"It's impossible to see a scenario under which this is sustainable under a four-year period," Lake said.

Trump's handling of the protests in Charlottesville, Va., has shaken his presidency unlike any of the other self-created crises that have rattled the White House during his seven months in office. Business leaders have bolted from White House councils, wary of being associated with the president. Military leaders distanced themselves from Trump's assertion that "both sides" — the white supremacists and the counterprotesters — were to blame for the violence that left one protester dead. And some members of Trump's own staff were outraged by his combative assertion that there were "very fine people" among those marching with the white supremacists, neo-Nazis and KKK members.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and a foreign policy ally of the Trump White House, delivered the sharpest criticism of Trump, declaring that the president "has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability nor some of the competence that he needs to" in dealing with crises.

# Researchers find wreckage of WWII-era USS Indianapolis

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Civilian researchers say they have located the wreck of the USS Indianapolis, the World War II heavy cruiser that played a critical role in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima before being struck by Japanese torpedoes.

The sinking of the Indianapolis remains the Navy's single worst loss at sea. The fate of its crew — nearly 900 were killed, many by sharks, and just 316 survived — was one of the Pacific war's more horrible and fascinating tales.

The expedition crew of Research Ves-

sel Petrel, which is owned by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, said it located the wreckage of the Indianapolis on the floor of the North Pacific Ocean, more than 18,000 feet below the surface, the U.S. Navy said in a news release Saturday.

"To be able to honor the brave men of the USS Indianapolis and their families through the discovery of a ship that played such a significant role in ending World War II is truly humbling," Allen said in the news release.

The Indianapolis, with 1,196 sailors and Marines on board, was sailing the Philippine Sea between Guam and Leyte Gulf

when two torpedoes from a Japanese submarine struck just after midnight on July 30, 1945. It sank in 12 minutes, killing about 300. Survivors were left in the water, most of them with only life jackets.

There was no time to send a distress signal, and four days passed before a bomber on routine patrol happened to spot the survivors in the water.

By the time rescuers arrived, a combination of exposure, dehydration, drowning and constant shark attacks had left only one-fourth of the ship's original number alive.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Dish soap helps rescue woman stuck in canyon

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Authorities say a gallon of dish soap and plenty of rope helped them rescue a woman stuck for nearly 12 hours in a narrow slot canyon in the Utah wilderness.

Sheriff's deputies say the 24-year-old woman became wedged so tightly in Zero Gravity Canyon while on a hiking trip with her husband last week that she could hardly breathe.

Crews carefully lowered rescuers into the canyon, but the first rope system they rigged up to haul her out caused her more pain.

Rescuers then brought in the dish soap and wriggled her out with a see-saw motion.

## Police: Mom burned son, locked him in cage

**PA** ST. MARYS, Pa. — A Pennsylvania mother is accused of burning her 3-year-old with chemicals, putting him on a leash and keeping him in a dog cage.

Police in St. Marys charged Arwen Kuhn last week with a slew of charges including aggravated assault, unlawful restraint of a minor, false imprisonment of a minor and endangering the welfare of children.

According to a police affidavit, the child's dad told officers he dropped the boy off at Kuhn's house for three days last year. He said when he picked the child up he noticed a scab on his bellybutton and bruises on his head. That's when he took him to a hospital.

Investigators say they determined Kuhn, 38, dropped him on his stomach and burned him with chemicals, in addition to keeping him on a leash and locking him in a dog cage.

## Dating method helps zoos pair animals

**OH** CINCINNATI — Zookeepers at the Cincinnati Zoo are pairing up compatible animals by drawing inspiration from the online dating website Match.com.

Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard called the internal matchmaking service an animal version of the website. WCPO-TV reported it's not exactly like Match.com — as it draws on expert committees dedicated to Species Survival Plans rather than computer algorithms.

But in pairing up animals, experts pay attention to traits like genetic diversity and personality to ensure ideal matches.

The plans are coordinated nationwide with other zoos and animal experts to ensure the survival of selected species in zoos and aquariums.

## Police: Man stole from grieving family

**CT** VERNON — Police say a man stole credit cards and cash from a Vernon family grieving the loss of a relative.

Miguel Estrada faces larceny, narcotics possession and two counts of interfering with police.

Police say that Thursday evening, the 44-year-old accompanied a friend to the home of a family that had lost a close family member earlier that day.

While the friend was comforting the family, police say Estrada took credit cards and cash from a purse as well as a change container. The family later confronted Estrada at his home, prompting the police response.

Police also arrested a 29-year old wanted in New Hamp-

shire for violating his probation in the incident.

## State reports rare mosquito-borne virus

**NH** CONCORD — New Hampshire residents have another mosquito-borne virus to be concerned about.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services said it's identified the first case of Jamestown Canyon virus this season.

Health officials said a resident from Hanover tested positive for the virus, which has the potential to cause serious health complications.

State Epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan said the virus is rare.

It has been found before in New Hampshire and Maine but there have been only about 50 human cases identified in the U.S. since 2000.

Like West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, the virus is spread by mosquitoes. It circulates widely across North America, primarily between deer and mosquitoes.

## Police: Couple exploited glitch to get free items

**NJ** BRICK — Authorities say a New Jersey couple exploited a computer glitch on a home improvement chain's website to have items worth thousands of dollars shipped to their home without paying for them.

Ocean County prosecutors said Kimy Velazquez, 40, and his wife, Romela Velazquez, 24, stole enough items from Lowe's to fill an 18-foot trailer. The items ranged from a gazebo to a 70-inch Smart TV to \$2,500 worth of underwear.

Authorities say the Brick residents tried to get about \$258,068 worth of unpaid merchandise overall but only

received about \$13,000 in merchandise. They said the couple would sell the items on a Facebook group for less than half of the original price.

## Couple aligns wedding day with solar eclipse

**MO** COLUMBIA — A Missouri couple were sharing their wedding day with Monday's solar eclipse.

The Columbia Missourian reported that Liz Tummons and Fabio Gallazzi were set to marry a few hours before the actual eclipse in Blackwater.

The couple said choosing the day of the eclipse for their wedding will help make it more memorable and give guests something else special to witness.

Monday's eclipse is the first total solar eclipse visible in the contiguous U.S. since 1979.

## Men say they set record for traversing subway

**MA** REVERE — Two Boston-area residents say they've set the world record for travelling to every stop on the city's subway system in about 7½ hours.

The Boston Globe reported Dominic DiLuzio and Alex Cox accomplished the feat on Friday in 7 hours, 29 minutes and 46 seconds. The men hope to get official recognition from Guinness World Records and are submitting photos, videos and other evidence.

They started their journey around 5:30 a.m. at Cambridge's Alewife Station, which is the end of the Red Line. They ended at about 1 p.m. at Revere's Wonderland stop, at the end of the Blue Line. They were greeted there by friends, media and transit officials.

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# Teammates stand by those protesting

Newsday

It was a simple gesture: one football player standing next to his teammate and putting his arm around the other's shoulder.

But in the time it took Eagles defensive end Chris Long to show his support for Malcolm Jenkins, who stood with his right fist aloft during the playing of the national anthem at Thursday night's Eagles-Bills preseason game, the symbolism was undeniably powerful and meaningful.

Long is white. Jenkins is black. And when Long put his arm around his teammate's shoulder, the two sent a powerful message to a nation that rarely has seemed so divided.

Less than a week after riots shook Long's native Charlottesville, Va., and resulted in the death of Heather Heyer, a demonstrator protesting a rally of white supremacists marching through the city, Long joined Jenkins in a show of support.

"It's just telling Malcolm, 'I am here for you,' and I think it's a good time for people who look like me to be here for people fighting for equality," Long told reporters after the game. "I've said before that I'll never kneel for an anthem, because the flag means something different for everybody in this country. But I support my peers, and if you

don't see why you need allies for people that are fighting for equality right now, I don't think you'll ever see it. So my thing is, Malcolm is a leader, and I'm here to show support as a white athlete."

Jenkins has raised his right fist during the anthem since last season, shortly after then-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick refused to stand for the anthem, sitting at first and then kneeling on the sideline. And while Jenkins hasn't experienced the intense criticism that Kaepernick faced — criticism that many people around the league are convinced is the reason Kaepernick has yet to sign with another team — he is one of the few players willing to continue to take a public stand in bringing attention to racial inequality in America.

Jenkins is not alone, now that Long has stood by his side. And two other high-profile players have decided to use the anthem as a means of bringing attention to social issues. Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch sat for the anthem in the first two preseason games, although the mercurial running back has declined to say why, which reduces the value of any point he might be trying to make. But Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett has been very outspoken about his decision to

sit for the anthem before last week's preseason game.

"Charlottesville was the tipping point for me," Bennett said in an interview on CNN. "To see so much hate. There was no way I could go out there and hide behind the game."

Bennett also drew support from a white teammate. Before Friday night's game in Seattle, Seahawks center Justin Britt stood next to Bennett and put a hand on his shoulder as Bennett sat on the Seahawks' bench during the anthem.

National anthem protests turned into a highly polarizing situation last season, and many fans grew irate at seeing Kaepernick and a few other players either sit or kneel during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." It was cited as one of several reasons for a reduction in television ratings last season, and it wasn't unusual to hear fans say they had sworn off the game because of the protests.

Like it or not, those demonstrations aren't likely to go away. And the fact that Long became the first white player to add his support makes you believe the issue will continue to resonate among players.

Even Commissioner Roger Goodell has acknowledged that political and social activism in the NFL will continue, even if he doesn't personally like it.

"It's one of those things where we have to understand that there are people who have different viewpoints," Goodell said last week at a forum for Cardinals season-ticket holders. "The national anthem is a special moment for me. It's a point of pride. That is a really important moment, but we also have to understand the other side, that people do have rights, and we want to respect those."

Considering the current political climate, there is reason to believe that at least some players will be moved toward expressing their feelings publicly. There also is reason to believe that many fans who prefer to see the NFL as entertainment and a diversion from world events will react negatively to any such activism, which is as much their right as it is the players' right to speak up about what they perceive to be social injustice.

Long believes this goes beyond politics, something that hit home as he watched his city rocked by violence.

"Everybody is trying to turn this political," he said. "This isn't a political issue. This is right or wrong. I believe you're on one side or the other. For me, being from Charlottesville, no one wants to see you sit idly by and watch that stuff happen and not say anything."

## Federation blames NBA for Greek star's status

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's basketball federation has accused the Milwaukee Bucks and the NBA of hatching a plan to prevent All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo from playing in the European championship.

The NBA denied the allegation.

The saga started Saturday about an hour after Antetokounmpo posted on Facebook and Instagram that he was unavailable because of a knee injury, with the Greek federation attacking the Bucks and the NBA in a statement, describing an "organized and well-staged plan" to keep Antetokounmpo from playing in the Eurobasket at the end

of the month.

"The simultaneous report by the Milwaukee Bucks and Giannis Antetokounmpo himself, by phone and social media from faraway China, and not by the appropriate official manner, of his inability to join the national men's team saddens us ... but is not surprising," the federation said in the statement.

"A series of indications ... had convinced us of the existence of an organized and well-staged plan by (Antetokounmpo's NBA) team, with the full knowledge if not encouragement of the NBA that put the athlete on the spot and forced him to announce today that he is no longer part of the men's national team."

However, the NBA countered Saturday night with a statement saying Antetokounmpo is indeed hurt.

"The NBA and the Milwaukee Bucks have followed all appropriate protocol under the NBA-FIBA agreement," the NBA said in a statement released to The Associated Press. "Giannis has an injury that has been confirmed through multiple examinations and any suggestion to the contrary is false."

In his Facebook post, Antetokounmpo said he failed to complete physicals because of excessive pain. Antetokounmpo is in China to attend, but not play in, a basketball tournament in Shanghai, as an NBA ambassador.

# Kyle Busch sweeps 3 races at Bristol

BY JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Erik Jones really needed to win, and Kyle Busch would have loved to celebrate the first Cup win for the kid he discovered.

But this is Bristol Motor Speedway, and Busch practically owns the place.

Busch swept the weekend for the second time in his career by winning the Monster Energy Cup Series race Saturday night. He also won in the Truck Series on Wednesday night and the Xfinity Series on Friday night. He's the only driver to pull off the sweep, and he also did it in 2010.

Busch toyed with the crowd, which had equal cheers and boos, by cupping his ear to the fans who disapproved of the win.

"So proud of Rowdy Nation. This one's for you!" he shouted. And the haters?

"I don't care. All noise is good noise," he said.

He then collected a broom from an onlooker to commemorate the sweep.

Busch admitted this win was the most difficult of the week because of the race he had with rookie Erik Jones, his protégé, future teammate and fellow Toyota driver. Jones led the most laps and the rookie believes he needs a victory to lock up his spot in the playoffs.

"Erik Jones put up a whale of a fight," said Busch. "I was running with my tongue hanging out, my arms were Jell-O and my throat hurts."

Busch won for the 40th time in the Cup Series, sixth time at Bristol in Cup, and second time this season. All told, he's won 20 times across NASCAR's national series at the Tennessee bullring.

Jones settled for second, one spot short of his first career victory. He led a race-high 260 laps and felt it had been his best chance to date to win a Cup race.

He was admittedly disappointed to fall a spot short.

"You don't want to sound like you're whining or being a sore loser by saying it sucks to run second, but it's a bummer. It hurts," Jones said. "This was the first shot that I really had to come really close to it in the Cup Series. It's Kyle Busch. He won all three races here this weekend."

Jones conceded how difficult it is to beat Busch anywhere, particularly at Bristol. Busch is also Jones' former boss, and Jones was amazed at Busch's ability to win three national NASCAR races in four nights.

Jones said he's done a triple-duty weekend before, and "it was something I honestly never want to do again, so I respect him for that."

"He's a hardcore racer, he really commits himself to that and he does a really good job that he doesn't let it affect his Cup racing, at all," Jones said.

Denny Hamlin and Matt Kenseth were third and fourth as Joe Gibbs Racing took the win and two other spots inside the top four, while all four drivers were in Toyotas.

Busch passed Jones for the lead with 55 laps remaining as the track changed and the top lane became the preferable spot. Jones' car didn't handle as well in that area, and he had Busch and Kenseth all over his bumper. It was Busch who moved from third to first, but Jones didn't relent.

He chased Kenseth after Kenseth moved into second, but Jones ultimately gouged Kenseth out of his way. It put Jones in the middle of a weird JGR sandwich. In front of him, Busch, the driver who launched Jones' career and future teammate, and Kenseth, the guy Jones is replacing next season who is looking for 2018 employment.

Hamlin eventually took position from Kenseth, but it was so obviously a night for Toyota.

Martin Truex Jr. finished 21st and did not clinch the regular-season title.

# Umpires protest by wearing wristbands

BY BEN WALKER  
Associated Press

Major League Baseball umpires wore white wristbands during games Saturday, protesting "abusive player behavior" after Detroit second baseman Ian Kinsler was fined but not suspended for his recent verbal tirade against Angel Hernandez.

The World Umpires Association announced the action, saying the union strongly objected to the response by the commissioner's office. Kinsler said this week that Hernandez was a bad umpire and "just needs to go away."

"The Office of the Commissioner's lenient treatment to abusive player behavior sends the wrong message to players and managers. It's open season on umpires, and that's bad for the game," the WUA said.

"Enough is enough. Umpires will wear the wristbands until our concerns are taken seriously," the union said.

Kinsler said he didn't really "think too deeply into it."

"I hope they wear the white wristbands for the rest of their careers. I don't care," Kinsler said. "I said what I felt and what I thought. If they take offense to that, that's their problem."

MLB said it had no comment on the union's statement.

Crew chiefs Joe West, Gerry Davis and Bill Miller wore the wristbands in the first games of the day. Hernandez wore one for the Arizona-Twins game.

Miller worked at second base during the Dodgers-Tigers game at Comerica Park, right near Kinsler.

"He's not the focus of the situation. That's just part of the puzzle," Miller said. "We've had several instances where umpires have been called out or challenged. Ejections seem to be up, and we just feel like we need to band together and let people know that we are human beings."

Most every full-time MLB

umpire wore a wristband. Triple-A call-up umps didn't in the early games.

"That's certainly their right to do that. I think the country's in a mood to protest right now. That's pretty clear," Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said before the Brewers played at Colorado.

"The umpires do get the brunt of it sometimes. But I also think they're kind of trained to understand that," he said.

West, the president of the umpires' union, declined comment after working home plate at Wrigley Field in the Cubs' 4-3 win over Toronto. In the fourth inning, West called strike three on Chicago's Jon Jay — Jay yelled in frustration as he walked away from the plate.

West is the most senior umpire in the majors. Earlier this month, he was suspended three games by MLB for comments he made in a newspaper story about Texas star Adrian Beltre being the biggest complainer in the game. West said he was joking, and Beltre said he knew the umpire was kidding.

On Thursday, at the owners' meeting in Chicago, Commissioner Rob Manfred drew a distinction on remarks by players and umpires.

"It is not unusual after a very competitive event for a player to say something that we don't think is helpful over the long term. We have always dealt with those by player discipline, fines. That's the ordinary course," Manfred said.

"I see the umpire thing differently. Umpires have to be beyond reproach on the topic of impartiality. That's why there are really specific rules in the umpire basic agreement about public comment," he said.

On Monday, Kinsler was ejected by Hernandez in Texas after being called out on strikes. The next day, Kinsler sharply criticized Hernandez, saying the umpire was "messing" with games "blatantly."

# Happ, Quintana lift Cubs over Toronto

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A day after striking out four times, rookie Ian Happ struck back.

Happ hit his 18th home run, Jose Quintana pitched six effective innings and the Chicago Cubs beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 Saturday to keep up their success against AL opponents.

The World Series champions have won nine of their last 10 interleague games. The NL Central leaders have won five of seven overall.

Happ hit an RBI single in the first inning and added a solo homer in the fourth. In the sixth, Happ drew a leadoff walk from Danny Barnes (2-4) and later scored on a two-out single by Javier Baez for the go-ahead run.

"The game ebbs and flows all the time. That's why it is a beautiful game and a terrible game at the same time. You are going to have your good weeks, your bad weeks, good days and your bad days, being able to stay even and keep fighting through it is important," Happ said.

Baez also made a highlight-reel defensive play in the ninth when he fielded Ryan Goins' grounder deep in the hole at short-stop after it deflected off Kris Bryant's glove. Baez made a strong throw to first to get Goins for the second out in the ninth.

"I don't think we played bad. It's been the Baez show the past couple days. We've seen plenty of that on TV. We battled, we hung in there, but this ballpark you've got to hit a home run. I thought we pitched very well. Just wasn't good enough," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

In his seventh start since being acquired in a trade from the White Sox, Quintana (4-2) gave up two runs and four hits. He struck out eight and walked two.

"I thought Quintana was really good today also. It just seemed to me like better command. The last game he had a lot of fastball misses in. He was getting that pitch here today for a strike, curveball was definitely more pertinent today. I didn't see a lot of changeups. But I saw him pitch with his fastball well and accurately and did a great job," Cubs manager Joe Mad-

don said.

Cubs closer Wade Davis pitched a perfect ninth for his 26th save in as many chances. He tied the franchise record for consecutive saves converted.

Anthony Rizzo added an insurance run in the seventh with a two-out RBI single.

The Blue Jays cut the lead in the eighth with the help of Bryant's throwing error. Bryant fielded Steve Pearce's grounder at third, but threw wildly to first allowing Pearce to advance to second. Kevin Pillar followed with an RBI single to cut the Chicago lead to 4-3.

In the fourth, Toronto got three straight hits off Quintana. Pillar led off with a single and former Cub Darwin Barney doubled down the left-field line. Raffy Lopez followed with a two-run bloop single to left-center to put the Blue Jays ahead 2-1.

Happ tied it with his opposite-field homer to left off Nick Tepesch.

Quintana got out of a bases loaded jam in the second inning when he struck out Tepesch.

## Roundup

# Ace Sabathia, Yankees get past Red Sox

Associated Press

BOSTON — CC Sabathia thought about retiring after a knee injury put the 37-year-old left-hander out of commission earlier this month.

He didn't, and his return to the New York Yankees' rotation was perfect timing for a team fighting to stay in the AL East race.

Tyler Austin hit a three-run home run, Todd Frazier added a solo homer and Sabathia retired 13 of the first 14 batters he faced as the Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 4-3 on Saturday night.

Sabathia (10-5), returning from a stint on the disabled list because of a sore right knee, allowed two runs and four hits to earn his first victory since July 21. He also improved to 3-0 in three starts against Boston this season. Dellin Betances got the last three outs for his ninth save.

"I felt confident coming in. But to be able to go out and pitch

well against that team and get us a big win, feels really good," Sabathia said.

He said he's surprised himself by how fast he was able to return to action.

"I would have said, 'No way.' But everything's worked out," he said. "I want to keep going out there and helping the team."

The Yankees won for the fifth time in six games and snapped Boston's three game winning streak to pull within four games of the first-place Red Sox in the AL East.

**Dodgers 3, Tigers 0:** Adrian Gonzalez's seventh-inning single broke a scoreless tie and visiting Los Angeles went on to its sixth straight win and 21st in the last 24 games.

**Indians 5, Royals 0:** Trevor Bauer pitched 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings to get his career-best fifth straight win as visiting Cleveland beat Kansas City.

**Pirates 6, Cardinals 4:** Adam Frazier homered, doubled and

singled as host Pittsburgh beat St. Louis to end a six-game losing streak.

**Mariners 7, Rays 6:** Mitch Haniger hit a grand slam, Nelson Cruz added his 31st home run and visiting Seattle rolled to its fourth straight win.

**Astros 3, Athletics 0:** Colin McHugh threw six innings, Marwin Gonzalez hit a two-run single and host Houston beat Oakland.

**Mets 8, Marlins 1:** Rafael Montero pitched six strong innings in his best effort of the season, and Wilmer Flores and Kevin Plawecki each hit long two-run homers to help host New York snap a five-game losing streak.

**Twins 5, Diamondbacks 0:** Jose Berrios threw seven innings for his 11th win to help host Minnesota keep pace in the AL wild card race.

**Reds 11, Braves 8:** Scooter Gennett hit a grand slam to lead visiting Cincinnati past Atlanta.

**Angels 5, Orioles 1:** At Bal-

timore, Mike Trout and Luis Valbuena each hit two home runs off Kevin Gausman, and Los Angeles won for the eighth time in 10 games.

**Padres 3, Nationals 1:** Yangervis Solarte hit a two-run home run off Stephen Strasburg in the first inning of the right-hander's first start in almost a month and host San Diego beat Washington.

**Brewers 6, Rockies 3:** Pinch-hitter Jesus Aguilar connected for a go-ahead home run with two outs in the ninth inning and visiting Milwaukee got its fifth win in six games.

**Rangers 17, White Sox 7:** Rougned Odor homered twice, Mike Napoli also went deep, and both had five RBIs to help host Texas rally from an early five-run deficit and roll past Chicago.

**Phillies 12, Giants 9:** Pinch-hitter Ty Kelly had a grand slam, Rhys Hoskins hit a three-run homer and visiting Philadelphia snapped a six-game losing streak.