

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Bodies found in search for McCain sailors

By TYLER HLAVAC  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Ongoing search-and-rescue efforts for 10 missing USS John S. McCain sailors have turned up a number of bodies, Adm. Scott Swift, Pacific Fleet commander, told reporters Tuesday evening.

The Yokosuka-based guided-missile destroyer was traveling to Singapore for a routine port visit early Monday when it collided with the Liberian-flagged Alnic MC oil tanker east of the city-state, injuring five sailors and leaving 10 missing.

During a news conference at Singapore's Changi Naval Base, Swift said that Navy and Marine Corps divers discovered remains while searching sealed compartments in damaged areas of the ship. The Malaysian navy also discovered remains that could be one of the missing sailors.

"We have a report from the Malaysians ... that they have found a body," Swift said. "We are in the process of effecting the transfer of that body so we can start the identification process and determine whether it's one of the missing sailors or not. We have discovered other bodies during the diving on McCain today. The divers were able to locate some remains in those sealed compartments during their search."

Navy and Marine Corps divers from the

USS America and Yokosuka Naval Base have been searching the McCain using surface-supplied air rigs to access sealed compartments, said a Navy statement issued earlier Tuesday.

Swift said search-and-rescue efforts by the U.S., Malaysian and Singaporean navies are ongoing.

"We're always hopeful that there's survivors," the admiral said. "Until we have exhausted any potential recovering of survivors or bodies, search-and-rescue efforts will continue."

Swift said the McCain had suffered "significant damage" to its port side aft. The admiral, who said flooding has been halted, praised the crew's damage-response efforts and said the full extent of the damage is still being determined.

The destroyer's watertight integrity was compromised and many of the ship's spaces were flooded, he added.

The McCain is the fourth Navy ship to be involved in a serious accident in the Pacific this year. In January, the USS Antietam ran aground and spilled roughly 1,100 gallons of hydraulic fluid into Tokyo Bay. In May, the USS Lake Champlain collided with a South Korean fishing boat while operating off the east coast of the divided peninsula. In June, a deadly collision between the USS Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged merchant ship killed seven sailors and injured three. The commanding offi-

cers of both ships were relieved from their duties.

On Monday, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson ordered a service-wide operational pause and a broad review of naval practices in the Pacific in the wake of the latest collision.

Richardson told reporters at the Pentagon on Monday that the string of accidents are "very similar" and have left Navy leadership with "great cause for concern that there is something out there that we are not getting at."

Swift said the pause, which is being observed by all units in the Pacific, will be completed by Aug. 28. The admiral said he has spoken with the Navy's most senior surface-warfare officer and is considering the possibility of links between the McCain collision and the other mishaps.

"One tragedy like this is one too many," Swift said. "While each of these four events is unique, they cannot be viewed in isolation. We owe it to sailors and their families to answer the questions that flow from the uncertainty of what happened, how could it happen, and what can be done to prevent such occurrences in the future. We will conduct a thorough and full investigation into this collision."

Swift added that he has ordered a second phase to the operational pause that will apply to all surface ships in the Pacific.

## Admiral: Pause won't affect defensive capabilities

By KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — A top U.S. commander said the military's ability to defend against any threats from North Korea won't be affected by an operational pause by the Navy following a devastating collision that left 10 sailors missing.

The servicewide pause and a broad review of practices in the Pacific was ordered Monday after the second collision of an American warship and a com-

mercial vessel in two months.

The stand down is aimed at allowing Navy commanders to review safety fundamentals and ensure proper procedures are being enforced. But it comes at a critical time as tensions have skyrocketed over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, with Pyongyang threatening to fire missiles into the waters near Guam and President Donald Trump warning he'll unleash "fire and fury" if the North doesn't change its behavior.

Adm. Harry Harris, head of U.S. Pacific Command, insisted

the operational pause would not impact the military's ability to defend the United States and its allies.

"We will sequence the pause in such a way that each ship will have the ability to reflect, but the force at writ large will maintain its primary responsibility of defending our homeland," he told reporters Tuesday during a visit to South Korea.

The USS John S. McCain collided with the Liberian-flagged Alnic MC oil tanker east of Singapore early Monday, injuring five sailors and leaving 10 miss-

ing. That raised concerns about fleet readiness since it came after the USS Fitzgerald collided with a cargo ship on June 17, killing seven sailors near Japan.

Harris said the Navy has enough assets to make up for the out-of-commission ships. "As far as the effect on our ability to defend the peninsula and our alliances in the region, I believe it will not have an effect," he said. "The U.S. Navy is large, and we have a lot of capacity, and we'll bring that capacity forward if we need to."

# Officials say Trump's Afghan plan involves 3,900 more GIs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's plan to end the stalemate in America's longest war and eliminate Afghanistan's rising extremist threat involves sending up to 3,900 additional U.S. forces, senior officials said Tuesday. The first deployments could take place within days.

In a national address Monday night, Trump reversed his past calls for a speedy exit and re-committed the United States to the 16-year conflict, saying U.S. troops must "fight to win."

He warned against the mistakes made in Iraq, where an American military withdrawal led to a vacuum that Islamic State quickly filled.

Trump would not confirm how many more servicemembers he plans to send to Afghanistan, which may be the public's most pressing question about his strategy.

In interviews with television networks Tuesday, Vice President Mike Pence similarly wouldn't give any clear answer.

Instead, he cited Pentagon plans from June calling for 3,900 more troops.

"The troop levels are significant, and we'll listen to our military commanders about that," Pence said. "And the president will make that decision in the days ahead."

U.S. officials said there was no fixed number. But they said the Pentagon has told Trump it needs that many fresh forces in addition to the roughly 8,400 Americans in the country to accomplish Trump's objectives of "obliterating ISIS, crushing al-Qaida, preventing the Taliban from taking over Afghanistan and stopping mass terror attacks against America before they emerge."

The 3,900 figure includes a combination of trainers, security forces and other support troops, according to the officials, who weren't authorized

to publicly discuss details about the military planning and spoke on condition of anonymity. The exact number of arriving forces can vary as conditions change.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis also declined to confirm an exact number Tuesday, saying he was waiting for more input from Gen. Joseph Dunford, America's top military official.

The first deployment is expected to happen quickly, possibly in the next days, one senior U.S. official said, though it's not immediately clear how many would arrive in the first wave. Mattis is expected to give the order. The Alaska Dispatch News reported that the Anchorage-based 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, already was tapped to deploy to Afghanistan later this year.

Before he was a presidential candidate, Trump ardently argued for a quick withdrawal from Afghanistan and called the war a massive waste of U.S. "blood and treasure." On Monday, he suggested an open-ended commitment rather than a "time-based" approach.

"Conditions on the ground — not arbitrary timetables — will guide our strategy from now on," Trump said.

At its peak involvement in 2010-11, the U.S. had roughly 100,000 troops in Afghanistan. President Barack Obama then started bringing them home, drawing criticism for the advance timetables he provided for his planned drawdown and ultimate withdrawal of forces.

Trump was among those who argued that Obama was aiding the enemy by telegraphing U.S. intentions. On Monday, Trump said he wouldn't discuss troop numbers, military tactics or timetables. "America's enemies must never know our plans or believe they can wait us out," he said.

But the administration invariably will have to provide

updates to Congress, which pays the military's bills, and to key U.S. allies, whose troop contributions it seeks, on the changing level of American manpower in Afghanistan.

Obama reversed himself on withdrawing from Afghanistan as security worsened. Taliban militants have made gains across the country, and the fractious Afghan government currently controls only about half the country.

Trump offered few specifics of how his strategy would be implemented. He didn't say how the U.S. would get Pakistan to crack down on militant sanctuaries on its soil — long a point of contention that has led Washington to restrict aid to the country.

Insisting that the U.S. was intent on "killing terrorists" rather than "nation-building," Trump gave little indication of how the U.S. would use other instruments of American power to end the conflict.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said that after an effective military effort, a political settlement including some Taliban might be possible, echoing language of the Obama years.

U.S. lawmakers reflected the division among Americans about whether to press on with the conflict or pull back.

Republican Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman who'd criticized Trump for delays in presenting a plan, said Trump was "now moving us well beyond the prior administration's failed strategy of merely postponing defeat."

Maryland's Ben Cardin, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's top Democrat, said he failed to see how another "surge" of forces in Afghanistan would turn the tide on the insurgency. He expressed concern that Trump was ceding significant responsibility to his defense secretary.

## In Baghdad, Mattis says 'ISIS is on the run'

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday he is confident that U.S.-backed Iraqi forces will finish off the Islamic State militants clinging to strongholds that are shrinking in size and number.

"ISIS is on the run," Mattis told reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and other Iraqi government leaders. "They have been shown to be unable to stand up to our team in combat."

Mattis spoke alongside Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, who is due to finish his tour of duty here in early September.

"The fighting is tough," Townsend said, "but the momentum is with our partners."

Earlier, Mattis described the extremists as being trapped in a military vise that will squeeze them on both sides of the Syria-Iraq border.

Mattis had arrived in the Iraqi capital hours after President Donald Trump outlined a fresh approach to the stalemated war in Afghanistan. Trump also has pledged to take a more aggressive, effective approach against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, but he has yet to announce a strategy that differs greatly from his predecessor's.

The Pentagon chief told reporters before he left neighboring Jordan that the Middle Euphrates River Valley — roughly from the western Iraqi city of al-Qaim to the eastern Syrian city of Der el-Zour — will be liberated in time, as ISIS takes hits from both ends of the valley that bisects Iraq and Syria.

"You see, ISIS is now caught in-between converging forces," he said. "So ISIS' days are certainly numbered, but it's not over yet and it's not going to be over any time soon."

Mattis referred to this area as "ISIS' last stand."

# Drills to go on despite threats

BY KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — U.S. commanders defended joint war games with South Korea on Tuesday as the North warned the United States will face “merciless retaliation” for going through with them.

The annual command-post exercise known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian began Monday and will run through Aug. 31 despite threats from North Korea, which considers such drills rehearsals for an invasion.

Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, said the exercises were important to make sure military options are ready for dealing with the North, even as he and others expressed hope that diplomacy would work.

“We have the responsibility of providing military options to our national leaders, and exercises are a way of making sure that the option is a ready option; it’s a capable option,” he said during a press conference at Osan. “That’s what really underpins deterrence.

“And so in our view, we have to continue to exercise until we have a reason not to, and that reason has not yet emerged,” he added. “That may cause some noise from North Korea, and that’s what we routinely expect. But it doesn’t stop us in our re-

## N. Korea releases incendiary Guam video

BY MARCUS FICHTL  
*Stars and Stripes*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Less than a week after backing off its threat to strike waters near Guam with a barrage of missiles, North Korea has released a video depicting such an attack on the tiny U.S. island territory.

A third of the way through the video — titled “What will the cost be for Americans, who are losing sleep at night?” — North Korean missiles are launched and then fly through clouds before coming down toward a map of Guam. Later, an image of President Donald Trump is shown overlooking a field of crosses as the words “The fate of the U.S., with its many crimes, ends here” are displayed in Korean.

solve to be as ready as possible and leave the greatest number of options.”

This year’s exercises are taking place following recent missile tests that show North Korea has made rapid progress toward its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the U.S. mainland.

Tensions have eased somewhat after the North backed off, at least temporarily, from a threat to fire missiles into the waters near Guam.

But the isolated nation issued a fresh threat on Tuesday, saying the exercises and U.S. military official visits were creating the circumstances for a “mock war” on the divided peninsula, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The U.S. and South Korea “will not be able to escape merciless retaliation and ruthless punishment since they ignored our warning and provoked us militarily,” KCNA said, citing an unidentified military official at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Ulchi Freedom Guardian, the second of two major rounds of exercises held each year, is mainly composed of computer simulations in preparation for an attack from the North. About 17,500 U.S. servicemembers were participating in the drills, with approximately 3,000 coming from off the peninsula.

## Army IDs 5 missing after helo crash

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Army has named the five missing crewmembers of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that crashed Aug. 15 in the waters off northwest Oahu.

The soldiers were identified Monday as 1st Lt. Kathryn M. Bailey, 26, of Hope Mills, N.C.; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian M. Woeber, 41, of Decatur, Ala.; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen T. Cantrell, 32, of Wichita Falls, Texas; Staff Sgt. Abigail R. Milam, 33, of Jenkins, Ky.; and Sgt. Michael L. Nelson, 30, of Antioch, Tenn.

The Coast Guard on Monday suspended its active search for soldiers, meaning the operation will now move to recovering as much of the debris from the crash.

“Suspension of a search-and-rescue case without resolution is a very, very difficult decision, and it weighs heavily, particularly on the hearts of the Coast Guard,” Rear Adm. Vincent B. Atkins, commander of Coast Guard 14th District, told reporters on Monday. The decision to suspend the search was based on an “extensive review of the case, including our search efforts, all available data and weather conditions,” he said.

“It is a difficult decision for all of us — and for the families, most of all,” said Maj. Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, commander of the 25th Infantry Division.

“Even as we grieve, we have a mission to do,” Cavoli added. “The next phase is focused on recovery operations. We will work with our Navy and our Army partners to do everything possible to understand the circumstances of this terrible situation and to try to bring our soldiers home to their families. We owe our soldiers and their families nothing less.”

Searchers continued to find debris during the weeklong search. The recovery operation will concentrate on the area where the helicopter went down a few miles off Kaena Point.

## Fewer servicemembers voted in 2016

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
*Stars and Stripes*

The 2016 U.S. presidential election failed to interest many military voters, a recently released federal study has found.

Voting rates dropped from 58 percent in 2012 to just 46 percent in 2016 among servicemembers, according to the Federal Voting Assistance Program report, released earlier this month.

“A striking finding from our analyses is the reported drop in participation rate among military personnel in the 2016 election as compared to the general

population,” FVAP program director David Beirne said in a report to Congress.

“The data show that more military members cited motivation-related reasons for not voting and were less interested in the election in 2016 than in 2012,” he added.

The FVAP report estimates that 75 percent of the civilian population voted, though that figure is much higher than most estimates, including a U.S. Census Bureau survey showing that 61.4 percent of registered voters reported voting.

Michael McDonald, a University of Florida professor who runs the United States Elections Project website, estimates that about 58 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in 2016, compared with 58.6 percent in 2012.

The main factors for whether a person votes are interest in the election, conviction that the voter’s choice matters and “if they see an important difference between the candidates and their policies,” McDonald told Stars and Stripes before last year’s election.

# Boeing, Northrop win ICBM bids

*The Washington Post*

A high-stakes competition to rebuild a critical component of America's aging nuclear arsenal was narrowed down to two companies on Monday, as the Air Force awarded Boeing and Northrop Grumman the next phase of a contract to replace the Minuteman ground-based intercontinental ballistic missile.

In a contract award announced by the Air Force on Monday afternoon, the two companies were awarded \$349.2 million and \$328.6 million contracts, respectively, for improving upon the key strategic deterrent. The decision effectively rejected a bid by Lockheed Martin, which also had competed for the work. Boeing and Northrop now have three years to develop the next ground-based strategic deterrent missile, after which a single company is to be selected to run the program.

"The Minuteman III is the enduring ground-based leg of our nuclear triad. However, it is an aging platform and requires major investments to maintain its reliability and effectiveness," Air Force Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, said in a statement. Producing an advanced ground-based missile "is the most cost-effective ICBM replacement strategy, leveraging existing infrastructure while also implementing mature, modern technologies and more efficient operations, maintenance and

security concepts."

Inter-continental ballistic missiles produced and maintained by Boeing under the Minuteman program have been at the center of the U.S. military arsenal since the late 1950s. The weapons make up one leg of the United States' so-called nuclear triad, which includes the capability to launch nuclear missiles on a moment's notice from air, ground and submarine.

The U.S. arsenal is aging, and the Pentagon has been working to overhaul all three legs. The Navy's Columbia-class nuclear submarine is slated to replace the older Ohio-class submarines sometime after 2020. And a contract decision on the more-controversial long-range stand-off missile, meant to be launched from a B-52 bomber, is slated for later this week.

For the ground-based version awarded Monday, whichever company comes out on top will be the recipient of a windfall of spending from the U.S. military that could continue to pay dividends for decades to come. Costs of the program have been estimated to be at least \$85 billion.

The Defense Department's decision Monday comes as a blow to Lockheed Martin, which is still smarting from a major loss on the B-21 stealth bomber.

Boeing and Northrop have declined to name their partners on the contract bid.

# Bill Cosby hires new attorneys

*Associated Press*

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby's retrial on sexual assault charges will be delayed until next year as his new legal team gets up to speed on the case, which pits the comedian against a woman who says he drugged and molested her more than a decade ago.

Judge Steven O'Neill on Tuesday granted a defense request to postpone the retrial, which had been scheduled to start in November, saying there's no way that Cosby's lawyers would be ready by then. "To ask someone to review the voluminous record over 18 months — now 20 months in this case — simply cannot be done," O'Neill said from the bench.

Cosby's new lawyers made their first court appearance on behalf of "The Cosby Show" star, who's charged with knocking out accuser Andrea Constand with pills and sexually assaulting her at his home near Philadelphia in 2004. He says Constand, a former executive with Temple University's women's basketball program, consented to their sexual encounter.

His first trial ended without a verdict after the jury deadlocked, setting the stage for a retrial.

The judge on Tuesday asked Cosby's lawyers to consider a start date sometime between March 15 and April 1. He said he'll issue a firm date once they get back to him. "Hopefully, they'll get up to speed quickly so we can bring this case to justice. It's a case that deserves a verdict, and we intend to get there," District Attorney Kevin Steele told reporters outside court.

The jury for the retrial will likely come from the Philadelphia suburbs. Signaling an early change in strategy, Cosby's new lawyers said they would be willing to pick a local jury, and Steele's office said it wouldn't object.

# Secret Service: Funds running out

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The Secret Service said Monday that it has enough money to cover the cost of protecting President Donald Trump and his family through the end of September, but after that, the agency will hit a federally mandated cap on salaries and overtime unless Congress intervenes.

If lawmakers don't lift the cap, about a third of the agency's agents would be working overtime without being paid, agency officials said.

"The Secret Service estimates that roughly 1,100 employees will work overtime hours in excess of statutory pay caps during calendar year 2017," Director Randolph "Tex" Alles said in a statement. "To remedy this ongoing and serious problem, the agency has worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security, the administration, and the Congress over the past

several months to find a legislative solution."

The spending limits are supposed to last through December, but the cost of protecting the president and the extended first family, who have traveled extensively for business and vacations, has strained the Secret Service, local governments and at least one other federal agency, the Coast Guard.

Presidential travel for Trump and the first lady — who fly to their oceanfront Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., and to their golf club in Bedminster, N.J., on many weekends — has added costs for taxpayers and complications for the government. The Secret Service also must provide protection for Trump's four adult children.

Alles cited overall increases to his agency's staff levels, which grew by 800 this year, as a factor driving the extra costs, calling the issue "not one that

can be attributed to the current administration's protection requirements alone."

He noted that the Secret Service in recent years has frequently received permission from Congress to exceed the overtime and salary cap. This occurred as recently as 2016 during President Barack Obama's final year in office.

Alles called the agency's current predicament, first reported by USA Today, "an ongoing issue for nearly a decade due to an overall increase in operational tempo."

Without question, however, the agency's workload for security personnel has grown under Trump. The Secret Service now protects 42 people around the clock, 11 more than it did under Obama. The Trump protection number includes 18 members of the president's family.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Realtor and clients find human remains

**FL** ORLANDO — A sheriff's office said a real estate agent and clients found human remains at a property for sale in Florida.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that Lake County Sheriff's deputies said the remains were found Saturday in Groveland. Sheriff's Lt. John Herrell said investigators responded to the home after receiving a call shortly before 6 p.m.

Detectives could not fully investigate with the impending darkness, so a deputy stood guard overnight until they could continue working Sunday morning. The sheriff's office did not disclose further information.

The Sentinel reported that property records indicate the nearly 5-acre property has a roughly 1,000-square-foot, two-bedroom house. A County Property Appraiser's map shows the land is covered by trees with a retention pond on the property's north end.

### Runaway bull killed after evading capture

**MA** LITTLETON — Police said a bull that escaped from a Massachusetts livestock auction last week has been killed by its owner after being shot and wounded by an officer.

Littleton police said the animal was standing in the middle of a road Sunday, and the officer was concerned for the safety of drivers. The officer shot the animal twice. The owner then arrived and fired a fatal shot. He told the Boston Globe the bull was suffering and could not be saved.

The animal was sold in Littleton late Tuesday but got loose as it was being loaded into a trailer. Over the next few

days, it was spotted roaming in nearby towns before being seen again in Littleton on Sunday.

### Driver falls asleep, crashes into house

**ME** WATERBORO — Police in Maine said a home was severely damaged when the driver of a pickup truck fell asleep at the wheel and crashed.

Authorities said the crash happened in Waterboro at about 5:30 a.m. Sunday. Police said a juvenile operating the truck fell asleep at the wheel before barreling into the home.

The juvenile and his passenger, James Houle, 41, of Old Orchard Beach, refused to be hospitalized. Police said the homeowner was not in the house at the time of the crash.

Police said a wall partially collapsed, and the exterior of the home sustained significant damage. No one has been charged.

### Drunk man pretending to be officer had guns

**OH** OXFORD — Police said an intoxicated Ohio man impersonated an officer and approached a driver about alleged traffic violations, then was later found to have three handguns and a bullet-proof vest in his vehicle.

Investigators said Jacob Staton, 21, walked up to a motorist who was in a vehicle and identified himself as an officer last week in Oxford, roughly 30 miles northwest of Cincinnati. Police said the driver realized that the identification that Staton presented wasn't for a legitimate officer and called authorities.

Staton was jailed on charges of impersonating a peace officer, using weapons while intoxicated and mishandling firearms in a vehicle.

### Ex-prison food worker awaits sentencing

**MI** IONIA — A former Michigan prison food worker is awaiting sentencing for trying to smuggle heroin into the Ionia Correctional Facility.

The Detroit Free Press reported that Adrian Delgado, 27, of Portland, pleaded guilty Aug. 11 to drug and prison smuggling charges. A sentencing date hasn't yet been set, but he faces up to a year behind bars. He reached a plea agreement before trial. Ionia County prosecutor Kyle Butler said Delgado, who worked for prison food contractor Trinity Services Group, showed up for work May 19, 2016, with heroin taped to his leg.

### Whale-dolphin hybrid may have been spotted

**HI** LIHUE — A Hawaii research team is investigating a possible hybrid whale sighting off the Kauai island coast.

Robin Baird, with the Cascadia Research group, told The Garden Island that they spotted what appeared to be a cross between a melon-headed whale and a rough-toothed dolphin during an 11-day field project in early August.

According to Baird, melon-headed whale sightings are rare off of Kauai because the population that passes through spends their time around the entire archipelago.

Baird said the team was able to get a biopsy from the possible hybrid, which had a blotchy skin pattern similar to a rough-toothed dolphin and a gently sloping head shaped like that of a melon-headed whale. With the biopsy, the team will be able to determine what species the unusual whale belongs to.

### Stolen car ruptures chlorine tank, kills 2

**MS** BILOXI — County officials in Mississippi said a toxic cloud of chlorine was released when a stolen car crashed into a utility station and killed two passengers.

WLOX-TV reported that Harrison County Sheriff Troy Peterson said the BMW convertible was stolen a few hours before the wreck Saturday night and that speeding likely caused it. County coroner Gary Hargrove said authorities were working to identify the victims.

County fire Chief Pat Sullivan said authorities initially were responding to a reported chlorine leak when they discovered the two deceased people inside the car. Sullivan said the toxic cloud had injured some first responders, and several deputies and at least one firefighter were treated at the scene.

### Man rams officer's cruiser, flees, arrested

**VA** KING GEORGE — Authorities said a man rammed his car into a deputy's cruiser and later said he was trying to take the officer "out."

King George County Sheriff's spokeswoman Kecia Wharton told The Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star that Deputy Steve Patla was on patrol when a car crashed into the back of his cruiser. Wharton said the car then fled the scene, and the deputy pursued the man, who eventually stopped and was taken into custody. Wharton said when the deputy asked the man what he was doing, the man replied: "I was trying to take you out."

Wharton told the newspaper on Sunday that Reginald Van Robinson Jr. is charged with attempted capital murder of a law-enforcement officer and other offenses.

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# Which top 25 teams will likely wilt?

Associated Press

The college football preseason Top 25 is out and for all those fans feeling good about their team to start the season, there is plenty of history that can spoil the fun.

Over the last 10 years (2007-16), 38 percent of teams that have started the season ranked in the AP poll ended it unranked, which comes out to about 10 teams per season. That includes an average of two top-10 teams per year that wash out.

So don't get too excited, especially if your favorite team landed outside the top eight. And if your team is unranked, don't fret. There will be plenty of openings.

Alabama fans probably don't have to spend much time worrying about the Crimson Tide tumbling out of the rankings. Alabama has not finished a season unranked since 2007 and will start this one No. 1 for the second straight year.

Only once since the AP poll expanded to 25 teams in 1989 has the preseason No. 1 finished the season unranked (Lane Kiffin's 2012 Southern California team). In fact, since the preseason poll began in 1950, the only other times a preseason No. 1 finished unranked were during the early 1960s, when the rankings briefly only went to 10.

Ohio State is this year's preseason No. 2, followed by Florida State, Southern California and defending national champion Clemson at No. 5.

With the 2017 season opening on Saturday, the first AP Top 25 Heat Check of the year examines the preseason poll to assess each team's potential to break its fans' hearts:

## No. 1 Alabama

**Open:** vs. No. 3 Florida State in Atlanta, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** one preseason No. 1 has finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Since Nick Saban's second season in 2008, the Tide have had one season in which they have lost more than once before the bowls. Maybe that changes in 2017, but Alabama is flop-proof.

## No. 2 Ohio State

**Open:** at Indiana, Aug. 30.

**Over the last 10 years ...** no preseason No. 2 has finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The question in Columbus is whether new offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson

and new quarterback coach Ryan Day make J.T. Barrett and the Buckeyes more effective against defenses they can't simply overwhelm. Urban Meyer has enough elite athletes to keep Ohio State from its first unranked finish since he took over in 2012.

## No. 3 Florida State

**Open:** vs. No. 1 Alabama in Atlanta, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** one preseason No. 3 finished unranked.

**Heat check:** This might be Jimbo Fisher's best team since the Seminoles won the national title in 2013. Finishing outside the rankings would be shocking, but the schedule is nasty. This seems like a good time to note that from 2007-16 only about half the teams that started the season ranked in the top 10 finished that way.

## No. 4 Southern California

**Open:** vs. Western Michigan, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** two preseason No. 4s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Trojans come into the season with a nine-game winning streak and Heisman Trophy favorite Sam Darnold at quarterback. They should be really good, but considering what happened the last time USC entered a season with such high expectations it seems fair to brace for the worst — just in case.

## No. 5 Clemson

**Open:** vs. Kent State, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** two preseason No. 5s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Replacing a quarterback as great as Deshaun Watson is hard and history suggests a step back is to be expected. The Tigers have enough talent to make another playoff run, but uncertainty at quarterback creates volatility. The idea that Clemson could go from winning a national championship to finishing unranked a year later seems plausible.

## No. 6 Penn State

**Open:** vs. Akron, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** one preseason No. 6 finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Penn State went on a magical run to the Big Ten title last season after a 2-2 start. There are lots of reasons to believe what the Nittany Lions did was sustainable, starting with the return of RB Saquon Barkley. But magical seasons can be tough to repeat and Penn State seems primed for a market correction.

## No. 7 Oklahoma

**Open:** vs. UTEP, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** one preseason No. 7 finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Sooners have some recent history of face-planting after starting in the top 10. In 2009, they started third and finished unranked when QB Sam Bradford was injured in the opening game. In 2014, OU went from No. 4 to out of the final rankings. Part of the reason Bob Stoops stepped aside this offseason was because he believed he was leaving the program in good shape for new coach Lincoln Riley. Having QB Baker Mayfield should help, but you never know what kind of head coach a guy is going to be until he is actually a head coach.

## No. 8 Washington

**Open:** at Rutgers, Sept. 1.

**Over the last 10 years ...** two preseason No. 8s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Huskies made a big leap into the playoff last season and conventional wisdom is that Chris Petersen will now have Washington a regular contender. Having three-fourths of a secondary drafted in the second round is nothing to brush off, but Petersen and a manageable schedule make Washington a safe play to avoid a big fall.

## No. 9 Wisconsin

**Open:** vs. Utah State, Sept. 1.

**Over the last 10 years ...** five preseason No. 9s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Nine has been the spot where the volatility really picks up. From 2007-16, teams ranked ninth or lower in the preseason finished ranked only about 55 percent of the time. Wis-

consin expects improvement from QB Alex Hornibrook, but also spent a chunk of the offseason looking into grad transfers. A defense that carried a so-so offense last season has a first-year coordinator in Jim Leonhard and has already lost star LB Jack Cichy to a season-ending injury. Among top-10 teams, Wisconsin is most likely to disappoint.

## No. 10 Oklahoma State

**Open:** vs. Tulsa, Aug. 30.

**Over the last 10 years ...** five preseason No. 10s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Cowboys became a trendy top team when QB Mason Rudolph and WR James Washington decided put off the NFL for another year. Still, are they really that much better than Kansas State, Texas or even TCU? Big 12 teams aside from Oklahoma are always risky bets.

## No. 11 Michigan

**Open:** vs. No. 17 Florida at Arlington, Texas, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** three preseason No. 11s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Jim Harbaugh has to replace a mountain of talent. That's no way for college football's most-celebrated coach who has never won an FBS conference title to climb out of third place in the Big Ten East. Though for many top coaches, year three is often a breakthrough season.

## No. 12 Auburn

**Open:** vs. Georgia Southern, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** four preseason No. 12s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Tigers won a national title in 2010 after starting the season ranked No. 22 and played for the BCS championship in 2013 after being unranked in the preseason. They also went from No. 6 to unranked two seasons ago with a promising but unproven quarterback. That's the deal again with Baylor transfer Jarrett Stidham on board. The optimism is more cautious this time around.

## No. 13 LSU

**Open:** vs. BYU at Houston, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** seven preseason No. 13s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** A strong finish to last season, plus the hiring of creative offensive coordinator Matt Canada might be masking some issues such as offensive line depth. And just how productive the Tigers will be at quarterback is still anybody's guess. The honeymoon for coach Ed Orgeron will be brief.

## No. 14 Stanford

**Open:** vs. Rice at Sydney, Australia, Aug. 26.

**Over the last 10 years ...** three preseason No. 14s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** If any team in the Pac-12 is going to get in the way of a possible playoff play-in between USC and Washington in the Pac-12 title game, it's the Cardinal. They also have a quarterback coming off major knee surgery and are replacing two top-10 picks.

## No. 15 Georgia

**Open:** vs. Appalachian State, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** five preseason No. 15s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Bulldogs are working on two straight seasons of being ranked in the preseason but unranked at the end. So here they are again. Improvement from the offensive line and sophomore quarterback Jacob Eason could mean a big step forward in year two under coach Kirby Smart. More likely a small step forward keeps the Bulldogs from disappointing again.

## No. 16 Louisville

**Open:** vs. Purdue at Indianapolis, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** six preseason No. 16s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson is back, which is a great place to start. Still, the end of last season made the Cardinals' thrilling start seem like the anomaly. Put Louisville down for most likely to disappoint among teams 11-20.

## No. 17 Florida

**Open:** vs. No. 11 Michigan at Arlington,

Texas, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** four preseason No. 17s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Two straight SEC East titles never felt less exciting. Notre Dame transfer QB Malik Zaire brings hope for an improved offense, though the defense that has been so dominant during Jim McElwain's first two seasons probably won't be as good. The Gators get Michigan to begin the regular season and Florida State to end it.

## No. 18 Miami

**Open:** vs. Bethune Cookman, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** seven preseason No. 18s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The false alarms for the Hurricanes' return to prominence have been plentiful in recent years. Uncertainty at quarterback tempers the enthusiasm for Mark Richt's second season as coach, but the 'Canes seem less likely to flame out this time.

## No. 19 USF

**Open:** at San Jose State, Aug. 26.

**Over the last 10 years ...** five preseason No. 19s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Bulls are the lone team outside the Power Five in the preseason rankings. History suggests those conferences will be better represented in the final poll. USF has a nonconference schedule that has fans talking about an undefeated season. Not so fast. The American Athletic Conference should present challenges and all the hype can be hard to live up to.

## No. 20 Kansas State

**Open:** vs. Central Arkansas, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** five preseason No. 20s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** Bill Snyder has his best team since Heisman finalist Collin Klein led the Wildcats to a Big 12 title in 2012. K-State is more likely to overachieve this season and finish in the top 10 than underachieve and wind up unranked.

## No. 21 Virginia Tech

**Open:** vs. No. 22 West Virginia in Landover, Md., Sept. 3.

**Over the last 10 years ...** four preseason No. 21s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Hokies exceeded expectations in year one under Justin Fuente, and will need him to work a little magic with another first-year starting quarterback (redshirt freshman Josh Jackson) to avoid going the opposite way this season.

## No. 22 West Virginia

**Open:** vs. Virginia Tech in Landover, Md., Sept. 3.

**Over the last 10 years ...** six preseason No. 22s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The Mountaineers had an experienced team that did well in close games last season and finished a surprising 10-3. Florida transfer QB Will Grier has West Virginia fans feeling confident, but a step back is more likely than a repeat of last season's record.

## No. 23 Texas

**Open:** vs. Maryland, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** seven preseason No. 23s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The narrative is Charlie Strong left some good players for Tom Herman to work with at Texas. The Longhorns also are coming off three straight losing seasons. If nothing else, Texas should break that streak.

## No. 24 Washington State

**Open:** vs. Montana State, Sept. 2.

**Over the last 10 years ...** four preseason No. 24s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** The return of QB Luke Falk is cause for optimism, but the Cougars ended last season with a thud that makes even this preseason ranking seem a bit much.

## No. 25 Tennessee

**Open:** vs. Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Sept. 4.

**Over the last 10 years ...** six preseason No. 25s finished unranked.

**Heat check:** More modest expectations this season are just what the Volunteers and coach Butch Jones need.

# Beckham twists ankle, avoids big injury

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Odell Beckham Jr. didn't point fingers or make accusations.

After possibly dodging a major injury, New York's flashy wide receiver calmly moved on.

No theatrics were necessary.

Beckham sprained his left ankle on a questionable hit in the first half of the Giants' 10-6 NFL exhibition loss to the Cleveland Browns on Monday night.

After catching an 18-yard pass from Eli Manning in the first half, Beckham was undercut by Browns cornerback Briean Boddy-Calhoun, who drove his shoulder and helmet into the star receiver's left leg. Beckham's legs flipped into the air and he banged his head hard on the turf.

"I'm pretty concerned," Beckham said. "But I'll be all right."

The Giants (0-2) said Beckham only suffered a sprain, but the team will have further medical tests conducted Tuesday. One of the NFL's most electrifying playmakers, the 24-year-old Beckham caught 101 passes last season and recently said he wants to be the league's highest-paid player.

"It feels like a sprained ankle, a rolled ankle," Beckham said. "It feels like you know you hurt your ankle. That's how it feels."

Earlier, Beckham was visibly upset by what he thought was an unnecessary shot for a preseason game. He glared at Boddy-Calhoun as he limped off the field.

The Browns (2-0) won their second straight game after

going a combined 1-19 in 2016.

Beckham's injury came shortly after more than a dozen Cleveland players knelt in a circle on the sideline and prayed during the national anthem. Several players bowed their heads and clasped hands while others showed support by placing their hands on their teammates' shoulders.

"The United States is the greatest country in the world," tight end Seth DeValve said. "It is because it provides opportunities to its citizens that no other country does. The issue is that it doesn't provide equal opportunity to everybody. And I wanted to support my African-American teammates today who wanted to take a knee."

"We wanted to draw attention to the fact that there's things in this country that still need to change."

All the drama upstaged Cleveland's quarterback competition. Brock Osweiler started his second straight game and completed 6 of 8 passes for 25 yards in two series. He was intercepted by Giants defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul.

Osweiler came in favored to win the starting job over rookie DeShone Kizer, who scored on a 1-yard sneak and finished 8-for-13 for 74 yards.

Browns coach Hue Jackson hopes to name his starting quarterback for the Sept. 10 regular-season opener by Wednesday.

Cody Kessler, who appeared to fall out of the race, completed 7 of 7 passes for 50 yards.

After sitting out the preseason opener, Manning went 10-for-14 for 80 yards.

# Siemian wins close battle for Broncos' starting QB

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Vance Joseph was admittedly enamored of the idea of a towering, chuck-it-or-tuck-it quarterback with a first-round pedigree and a lightning bolt for a right arm leading the Denver Broncos in 2017.

Even more captivating for the rookie head coach was the notion of his egghead seventh-rounder with the sneaky fast-ball and penchant for making the right decisions calling the signals.

So, it's Trevor Siemian and not Paxton Lynch who will start for the Broncos.

Joseph made the announcement Monday following a five-month audition that represented the biggest positional battle in the NFL this offseason.

Joseph suggested Lynch may still represent the future in Denver, but with a team that's just 18 months removed from a championship parade and so good on defense, he had to think about today, not tomorrow.

So, Siemian is his guy.

Just as he was Gary Kubiak's choice a year ago.

"It's all about performance, not potential," Joseph said. "And Trevor is ready to lead our football team. We've got two receivers that are All-Pro caliber, we've got a great backfield, we've fixed the offensive line. So, we need a guy who can operate at a high level all the time."

The book on Lynch coming out of Memphis' spread offense was that he needed multiple years of seasoning at the pro level and Joseph said what's holding Lynch back is "probably experience."

"It's tough to play quarterback in this league. A lot goes into it and it's not simply about how tall you are or your arm strength, how fast you run," Joseph said.

Joseph demurred when asked if he felt Lynch was right where he should be on his developmental arc.

"I can't say that. But he is a guy that again has rare talent and he works at it. He does work at it," Joseph said. "Some guys

need more time. He's a young player. So in a year or two, he might be ready to take over the reins. But right now he's not."

Siemian beat out veteran Mark Sanchez last summer then went 8-6, throwing for 3,400 yards with 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions in 2016 despite playing three-fourths of the year with a sprained left shoulder that required offseason surgery.

Siemian found himself fighting for his job again after Kubiak retired from coaching in January and was replaced by Joseph, who brought in Mike McCoy to author the Broncos' new playbook.

"Honestly, I think you have to compete for your job every day, every week," Siemian said.

Although Joseph declared it a "50-50 competition" this spring, Siemian's edge in experience was a major factor in him pulling away from Lynch, the 26th overall pick in last year's draft.

That's not to say it wasn't a close call, however.

Joseph said there was some

debate among the group of decision-makers that included himself, McCoy, QB coach Bill Musgrave, GM John Elway and player personnel director Matt Russell.

"There was discussion because obviously it was a four-to five-month evaluation and when you watch Paxton's physical traits, I mean, they're fun to watch," Joseph said. "So, for a coach, to have a 6-foot-5 guy with a big arm who can run zone-read and scramble, that's exciting for us. So, it was close."

Lynch showed more comfort with the new scheme and new coaching staff but still proved inadequate at decoding defenses while Siemian was steady and solid, consistently making the correct calls and right reads.

"Obviously I believe in myself to be the starter," Lynch said, his voice cracking. "But the coaches made a decision and that's what we're going with."

# Miller injury dampens Indians' victory

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Andrew Miller wasn't among the Cleveland Indians chasing Roberto Perez around the infield, flinging water and white powder to celebrate a wild win over an American League rival in a matchup of Major League Baseball first-place teams.

The Indians relief ace — a pivotal piece during Cleveland's run to the World Series last season — may miss a few more big moments this season, too.

Miller's injury put a damper on a 5-4 walk-off victory Monday night over the Boston Red Sox, a game that ended when first baseman Brock Holt threw away Perez's bunt in the ninth inning, allowing Brandon Guyer to score from second base.

Miller left in the seventh after aggravating the patellar tendinitis in his right knee. He had spent more than two weeks

on the disabled list with the injury before returning Friday. This was his second appearance since.

Manager Terry Francona said Miller would be evaluated Tuesday, but it was likely he'd return to the DL.

"Hope for the best and hope that it's not a big deal," Miller said. "It stinks missing any time. I've already missed 12 days or something like that. I don't want to do it again. We'll find out more (Tuesday). See how I wake up."

Miller began the seventh by walking Red Sox star Mookie Betts on six pitches — including a number of fastballs that failed to reach 90 mph — and then threw one pitch to Andrew Benintendi before walking off the mound. Francona and a team trainer had a brief conversation with Miller, who then left the field.

Miller said he was optimistic he had turned the corner with

the injury, but that changed when he entered the game.

"It was kind of not really crisp the first pitches," he said. "But the pitch I pulled inside to Mookie, I kind of felt it. And I threw one more and it was the same thing."

The left-hander is 4-3 with a 1.65 ERA and has 79 strikeouts in 54<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

After Guyer's leadoff double against Brandon Workman (0-1) in the ninth, Holt fielded the bunted ball and tried to throw out Guyer at third. Guyer slid into the bag as the throw skipped past third baseman Rafael Devers, then got to his feet and raced across home plate.

"It was just a routine play," Holt said. "I couldn't get it out of the glove, fumbled it a little bit, and then tried to rush the throw, and made a bad one."

Holt replaced Mitch Moreland, who was a late scratch because of a sore neck. Moreland took a forearm in the back

of the head from Holt on a play Sunday. Manager John Farrell said Moreland passed concussion tests, but he decided to hold him out of the lineup.

Perez also had a three-run homer in the second inning.

Cody Allen (1-6) allowed Christian Vazquez's leadoff single in the ninth, but retired the next three hitters. The inning ended when shortstop Francisco Lindor ran down Betts' popup in center field with his back to home plate.

Boston led 4-3 behind two-run homers by Hanley Ramirez and Andrew Benintendi before Edwin Encarnacion tied the game in the eighth with an RBI single.

Eduardo Rodriguez allowed three runs in 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings for Boston. Mike Clevinger allowed both homers and gave up four runs in 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings for Cleveland.

## Roundup

# Texas tops LA, tightens crowded AL wild-card race

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif.— It's beyond crowded in Major League Baseball's American League wild-card race, with eight teams bunched up like flowers in an overflowing vase.

The Los Angeles Angels were the most recent club to make some noise, winning nine of 11 to slip into the second spot.

But the Texas Rangers still believe they can make a run, and Monday night they took a step in that direction with a 5-3 victory over the Angels behind Adrian Beltre's three-run homer and seven strong innings from Cole Hamels.

"We have to beat every team," Hamels said. "If we want to stay in this wild-card race, we have a lot of different teams we have to beat. It doesn't matter what teams we're facing, we just have to win series."

Hamels (9-1) did his part, allowing two runs on three hits, two walks and a hit batter while striking out three. Alex Claudio got four outs to earn his seventh save, despite giving up an RBI single to Mike Trout in the ninth.

The loss dropped the Angels a half-game back of Minnesota for the second AL wild card. The Rangers closed within two games of the final playoff berth. Eight teams are within four games of each other.

"We're chasing these guys," Beltre said. "It's nice to get the first one out of the way and try to win the series."

**Dodgers 6, Pirates 5 (12):** Yasiel Puig homered in the 12th inning, helping visiting Los Angeles top Pittsburgh.

Puig drove a 1-0 pitch from rookie Dovydas Neverauskas (1-1) over the wall in center for

his 22nd of the season.

**Diamondbacks 3, Mets 2 (10):** A.J. Pollock hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning as visiting Arizona snapped a three-game skid.

**Mariners 6, Braves 5:** Andrew Albers worked into the sixth inning for his second straight win since coming up from the minors, leading Seattle over host Atlanta.

Albers (2-0) also had the first hit and RBI of his career — in his first big league at-bat.

**Orioles 7, Athletics 3:** Adam Jones hit a pair of home runs and Jonathan Schoop added a three-run shot to help host Baltimore beat Oakland.

Wade Miley (7-10) held the A's to two runs, five hits and four walks over six-plus innings to pick up his first win at Camden Yards since June 17. Miley is 2-0 with a 1.38 ERA against Oakland this season.

**White Sox 7-2; Twins 6-10:**

Jorge Polanco hit his second three-run homer of the day as visiting Minnesota scored six times in the second inning and routed Chicago to split a doubleheader.

Brian Dozier added a three-run drive off Carson Fulmer during the rally. Byron Buxton and Jason Castro each added a solo shot for the Twins, who have won five of six. They are a half-game ahead of the Angels for the second AL wild card.

**Giants 2, Brewers 0:** Giants rookie Chris Stratton pitched six innings to run his scoreless streak to 12<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings over his past two outings, and host San Francisco stymied Milwaukee.

It was a night of missed chances as the Brewers, who had won six of seven, dropped 2½ games back of first-place Chicago in the NL Central.