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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US bases in Japan brace for 2nd typhoon

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. military bases are preparing for potentially destructive winds and rain as the second typhoon in two weeks barrels toward mainland Japan.

Typhoon Shanshan is projected to pass 80 miles east of Yokosuka and 95 miles east of Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Camp Zama and Yokota Air Base between midnight Wednesday and 2 a.m. Thursday. Destructive 58 mph winds are forecast to extend between 40 and 46 miles west from the storm's center.

On Tuesday evening, Kanto-area bases were at a Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness 3 — meaning destructive winds were anticipated within 48 hours. At Yokosuka, foggy, gray skies gave way to intermittent rainfall — weather that was foreboding of the coming storm.

Many 7th Fleet ships were sent to sea to avoid the bad weather, said Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight.

"USS Antietam, USS Benfold and USS Stethem got underway [Monday] and USS Ronald Reagan and USS McCampbell got underway [Tuesday]," he said in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Others, including the USS Blue Ridge, USS John S. McCain and USS Shiloh, cannot ship out because they are undergoing maintenance.

"The remaining vessels in port have taken all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the ships and the crews," Knight said.

Essential personnel will ride out the storm inside the ships at port, and tugboats and pilots will be available throughout the storm should a vessel need help, Knight said.

Services' 'up or out' promotion system fixes could take years

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force veteran and economist Timothy Kane reached one overarching conclusion after writing two books on the military's "up or out" promotion system: It's woefully outdated.

Kane, a former Air Force intelligence officer who served two overseas tours, said Monday that the system is on the verge of a revolutionary change for the first time in more than 30 years.

Defense policy legislation ready for President Donald Trump's signature would install the most widespread reform of the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act, also known as DOPMA, since it was enacted in 1980.

"The revolution has arrived," said Kane, a Hoover Institution fellow at Stanford University who testified before a Senate panel on the proposed reforms this year. "There is a theme and that theme is 'up or out' is out. Flexibility is in."

The massive \$716 billion National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, for fiscal year 2019 would authorize a wave of reforms and policy efforts starting Oct. 1 if signed by Trump on time. The NDAA would break down the rigid confines of the DOPMA.

Experts and military leaders have long called for reform of the DOPMA, which standardized military promotions across the armed forces. Instead, they said, the services need new flexibility to compete with the private sector in the midst of demands for a force of the future.

"We appreciate the many officer management flexibilities the proposed NDAA would provide

to the department and the military services," said Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokeswoman. "These proposed changes would help us better manage our officer corps in the 21st century."

Experts said the changes, while exciting, could still be years in the making.

"I wouldn't expect any quick changes on this," said Dan Grazier, a fellow at the Center for Defense Information for the Project On Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group.

Among the DOPMA's most dramatic changes, the services will be able to use civilian experience to establish a new rank for an entering servicemember. Certain officers could also promote faster under the proposed reforms.

The military will also see new levels of flexibility when it comes to some of the stringent "up or out" requirements that have forced many troops to leave the services. For example, gone would be the expectation of retirement if a servicemember fails to promote twice.

"These things point to an end to the need to build your career around promotions," said Kane, who is the author of "Bleeding Talent: How the U.S. Military Mismanages Great Leaders and Why It's Time For A Revolution" and "Total Volunteer Force: Lessons from the U.S. Military on Leadership Culture and Talent Management." "We will see the military build careers around excellence."

The earliest adopters of the new provisions could be seen among Navy and Air Force pilots, some experts said. In those cases, pilots have increasingly complained of losing flying time

as a result of the "up or out" promotion system.

For example, pilots reluctantly shipped off to school or command positions for promotion could now choose a new track to stay in their current roles and keep flying.

Another major reform could come in the form of counting civilian experience toward a new servicemember's rank. In one scenario, a combat Marine could leave to get a master's degree in business administration, become a logistics expert at Walmart, and then return to the service at a higher rank, Kane suggested.

The changes could become especially valuable for returning veterans who leave the military for technology careers in Silicon Valley who want to return at a higher rank, or for people who haven't been in the military at all.

But how will services incorporate a leader, who has never previously served, giving orders?

"This is going to be one of the problems the services are going to have," Grazier said.

How each of the services implement the potential reforms remains to be seen.

But the Navy and Army could have a head start, Kane said.

For example, the Army is promoting a new direct commissioning program this year for its Cyber Command that allows civilians with tech skills to join as officers. In May, the program directly commissioned its first two officers.

It's not clear how the Marines, who were less enthusiastic about the reforms, will adapt to the changes, some experts said. However, services can adapt as much as they want, Kane said.

Army sending 200 soldiers to battle blazes

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will send about 200 soldiers from the state of Washington to help civilian firefighters battle at least one blaze as wildfires burning in 11 western states soak up resources.

The soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord's 14th Engineer Battalion will begin training Thursday on wildland firefighting skills and could join firefighting efforts as soon as Monday, said Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman. The soldiers have not been assigned to a specific fire yet, Manning said.

The soldiers are not firefighters by trade, but Manning said the short training regimen will adequately prepare them for the tasks that they are given. Each team of 20 soldiers will operate alongside experienced wildland firefighters, he said.

"We're not going to put our servicemembers in harm's way if they are not prepared for it," Manning said. "We're putting the forces on the ground that we think are the right forces for the job."

The 14th Engineer Battalion soldiers were chosen for their engineering expertise and are likely to aid civilian firefighters in operations including digging trenches and building fire breaks, officials said.

They will be trained in wildland firefighting skills and outfitted with the same firefighting gear civilian wildland firefighters use.

More than 127 wildfires are burning across about 1.6 million acres in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and Alaska, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

The Department of Defense has also provided five aircraft to aid in fighting the

wildfires — four C-130 cargo planes outfitted with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems and an RC-26 surveillance plane being used to monitor and map wildfires, Manning said.

For decades, active-duty soldiers have been tasked with helping civilian firefighting organizations battle wildfires, especially in the western United States. Last September, 200 soldiers from another JBLM unit — 1st Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division — were sent to Oregon for one month to aid in fighting a wildfire.

Since 1987, active-duty troops have been called in to support wildfire operations 37 times, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

In addition to the JBLM soldiers, National Guard troops from Oregon, California and Washington have been activated to assist with suppressing the wildfires, according to the Pentagon.

Largest wildfire in Calif. history grows

Associated Press

LAKEPORT, Calif. — Wildfires tearing through trees and brush, rampaging up hillsides and incinerating neighborhoods: The places and names change, but the devastation is showing signs of becoming the new normal in California.

On Monday, twin fires in Northern California being treated as one became the largest wildfire in state history, destroying 443 square miles — nearly the size of the city of Los Angeles.

The Mendocino Complex fire north of San Francisco was still growing this week as it broke the record set eight months ago. In December, the Thomas Fire killed two people, burned 440 square miles and destroyed more than 1,000 buildings in Southern California.

The Mendocino Complex, which is 30 percent contained, has been less destructive to property than some of the other wildfires in the state because it is mostly raging in remote areas. But officials say it threatens 11,300 buildings and some new evacuations were ordered over the weekend as the

'I can remember a couple of years ago when we saw 10 to 12,000 firefighters in the states of California, Oregon and Washington and never the 14,000 we see now.'

Scott McLean

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman

flames spread.

Hotter weather attributed to climate change is drying out vegetation, creating more intense fires that spread quickly from rural areas to city subdivisions, climate and fire experts say. But they also blame cities and towns that are expanding housing into previously undeveloped areas.

More than 14,000 firefighters are battling more than a dozen major blazes throughout California, state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Scott McLean said.

"I can remember a couple of years ago when we saw 10 to 12,000 firefighters in the states of California, Oregon

and Washington and never the 14,000 we see now," he said.

Crews made progress over the weekend against one of the two blazes in the Mendocino Complex with help from water-dropping aircraft, Cal Fire operations chief Charlie Blankenheim said in a video on Facebook.

But the other one is growing after spreading into the Mendocino National Forest.

Meanwhile, a new fire erupted south of Los Angeles in Orange County on Monday and quickly spread through the chaparral-covered ridges of the Cleveland National Forest. Campgrounds and homes in Holy Jim Canyon were ordered

evacuated. The fire sent up an enormous pillar of smoke and ash.

Crews also gained ground against another Northern California wildfire that has destroyed more than 1,000 homes in and around the city of Redding. It was nearly halfway contained, Cal Fire said. That wildfire about 225 miles north of San Francisco started more than two weeks ago by sparks from the steel wheel of a towed-trailer's flat tire. It killed two firefighters and four residents and displaced more than 38,000 people.

The fires in Northern California have created such a haze of smoke in the Central Valley that Sacramento County health officials advised residents to avoid outdoor activities for the entire week.

Another blaze that ignited last week in the Sierra Nevada has damaged a historic Northern California resort in the Stanislaus National Forest. The nearly century-old Dardanelle Resort has sustained massive structural damage, though the details were unclear, the Sacramento Bee newspaper reported.

WWII firearms, swords found at Tokyo school

TOKYO — Thousands of Japanese firearms and swords believed to be from World War II have been discovered beneath an elementary school playground in western Tokyo.

About 1,400 firearms, 1,200 swords, eight training grenades and more than 300 bullets and cannonballs were uncovered over the past couple of weeks by construction workers digging to build a warehouse at Tanashi Elementary School, Nishitokyo city officials said. All were severely rusted and decayed and found between 1 and 2 meters below the surface.

It's unclear when or why the items were buried there, but the city believes they belonged to the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II.

There's no danger of an explosion, according to police and members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces who checked the items. The training grenades and bullets were collected. The firearms — believed to be replicas — and swords were to be disposed of by the city.

From staff reports

Local officials: US airstrike mistakenly hit Afghan forces

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. airstrike on Tuesday in eastern Logar province mistakenly hit friendly forces and killed several Afghan police officers, local officials said.

U.S. officials confirmed an airstrike in the area but not whether friendly forces were hit on Tuesday.

Afghan security forces had been battling the Taliban for 10 days in Logar's Azra district when American airpower was called on, Mohammad Qaseem Sidiqi, a provincial council member, told Stars and Stripes.

The police had set up a line of defense to protect the district center, he said.

"But sadly, when the foreign forces' helicopters arrived, their bombs hit them instead of the enemy," Sidiqi said.

The strike killed 12 police officers, according to Abdul Wali Wakeel, another provincial council member from Azra district. Before the strike, another eight policemen and two civilians were killed in clashes with the Taliban, he added.

"Foreign forces should not repeat the mistake they made early this morning," Wakeel said Tuesday. "If they continue to be careless, it could create a much bigger problem."

Azra is a strategically important district bordering both Pakistan and Kabul province. It's considered "contested," meaning it is not controlled by either the government or the insurgency.

The U.S. military said it was aware of "varying and unconfirmed reports" of Afghan deaths caused by an American airstrike in Logar, and that it was looking into the matter.

"At this time, I can confirm that U.S. Forces-Afghanistan did conduct a strike in support of Afghan operations and in defense of Afghan forces in Azra district, Logar province early this morning," said Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul.

The U.S. military continues to investigate an airstrike last month in northern Kunduz province that local officials claim killed up to 14 civilians.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

Purple Heart recipient glad 'warrior instincts' kicked in

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Lance Cpl. Dillon Bennett doesn't remember what happened after he was caught in a mortar round explosion last month, but his fellow Marines told him he got up, grabbed a missile and brought it back to complete a fire mission.

He suffered a traumatic brain injury, shrapnel to his knee and other cuts and bruises as a result of the blast. Late last month, 7th Marine Regiment commander Col. Kyle B. Ellison awarded the young Marine a Purple Heart during a ceremony at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Bennett and his squad had been operating at an undisclosed location on July 9 when they were ordered to fire a missile. Bennett, a machine gunner with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine

Regiment, was getting the missile when he was hit.

"Even though I don't remember what happened, I am glad that my body and warrior instincts kicked in along with my training," Bennett said on July 27, according to a Marine Corps statement announcing the award.

Bennett said it was humbling to receive the Purple Heart, the oldest decoration still awarded in the U.S. military. The award turned 236 on Tuesday and was first designated by George Washington for "any singularly meritorious action." It is now awarded to those wounded or killed by the enemy.

The ceremony was attended by friends, hospital staff, Bennett's parents and grandfather — a retired 7th Marines officer — who congratulated him and welcomed him home to the U.S., the statement said.

"We planned on being here to

help him recover from the injury when he got back stateside," said Shar Bennett, the young Marine's mother. "To be a part of the ceremony was an added bonus."

Ellison, the regimental commander, spoke of how Bennett's actions showed esprit de corps, a sense of unit morale vaunted in Marine culture, according to the statement.

Hearing the colonel's kind words about her son "was an amazing experience," Shar Bennett said. "It caused us to hold our head a little higher, for Dillon."

The Marine's father, Chad Bennett, said the family is prepared to support his long recovery.

"I know that my son wants to be back, fighting with his men," Chad Bennett said. "We know he has a long journey ahead of him, but we are there for him every step of the way."

Officials with the Tampa, Fla.-based Marine Corps Forces Central Command and the Twentynine Palms base were not immediately available for further comment Tuesday.

Marines of 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment have been serving this summer with the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Crisis Response-Central Command, which supports operations in the region that spans from Northeast Africa through the Middle East to Central and South Asia.

While the Marine Corps has not said where the incident occurred, Marines have been active in Syria. Citing operational concerns, the service has released little information on efforts to help local coalition partner forces, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, clear the Euphrates River valley of the last pockets of Islamic State fighters.

Gates describes how he funneled millions

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Paul Manafort's longtime deputy told jurors Tuesday how he spent years disguising millions of dollars in foreign income as loans to lower the former Trump campaign chairman's tax bill.

Rick Gates, the government's star witness, recounted how he and Manafort used offshore shell companies and bank accounts in Cyprus to funnel the money, all while concealing the accounts and the income from the IRS.

"In Cyprus, they were documented as loans. In reality, it was basically money moving between accounts," Gates said during his second day of testimony in the financial fraud trial of his former boss.

Prosecutors summoned Gates, described by witnesses as Manafort's "right-hand man," to give jurors the first-hand account of a co-conspirator they say helped Manafort carry out an elaborate offshore tax-evasion and bank fraud scheme.

Manafort's defense attorneys have sought to paint Gates as an embezzler, liar and the instigator of any criminal conduct. They have several times tried to impugn his credibility before the jury.

Gates walked into a packed courtroom a day after he calmly acknowledged having embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and said the two had committed crimes together by stashing money in foreign bank accounts and falsifying bank loan documents.

Manafort and Gates were the first two people indicted in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign. But Gates pleaded guilty months later and agreed to cooperate in Mueller's investigation of Manafort, the only American charged by the special counsel to opt for trial instead of a guilty plea.

Gates, who said he has met with the government 20 times ahead of his testimony, is expected to remain on the stand for sev-

eral hours Tuesday and then face a bruising cross-examination as defense lawyers try to undercut his credibility and pin the blame on him.

In a reflection of Gates' importance to the prosecution's case, a cart of about a half dozen green-and-white document boxes bearing his name was rolled into the courtroom ahead of his testimony.

The face-off between longtime business associates and former senior members of the Trump campaign drew scores of people who waited in line for hours outside the courthouse and then jammed into both the courtroom and an overflow room that contained a video feed of the proceedings.

In early testimony Tuesday, Gates related his role in setting up offshore bank accounts for Manafort, a complex arrangement that was requested by wealthy and powerful Ukrainian businessmen who bankrolled Manafort's political consulting work in the country.

Saudi-Canadian spat over rights criticism grows

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia expelled the Canadian ambassador Monday and froze "all new business" with Ottawa over its criticism of the ultra-conservative kingdom's arrest of women's rights activists — yet another warning to the West reflecting Riyadh's newly assertive foreign policy.

The sudden and unexpected dispute bore the hallmarks of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's 32-year-old future leader, whose recent foreign policy exploits include the war in Yemen, the boycott of Qatar and Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri's surprise

resignation broadcast during a visit to the kingdom. Hariri later rescinded the resignation, widely believed to be orchestrated by Riyadh, and returned to Beirut.

Analysts say the dispute between Riyadh and Ottawa shows Saudi Arabia won't accept any outside criticism and will continue flexing its muscles abroad, especially as the kingdom enjoys a closer relationship with President Donald Trump.

"This message is obviously not just being sent to Ottawa," said Giorgio Cafiero, the CEO of Gulf State Analytics, a Washington-based risk consultancy. "It's a message to countries across Europe and across the rest of the world that criticism of Saudi

Arabia has consequences."

The Saudi Foreign Ministry made the announcement early Monday, giving Ambassador Dennis Horak 24 hours to leave the kingdom. It wasn't immediately clear if he was in the kingdom. Saudi Arabia said it would recall its ambassador to Canada as well.

"Any further step from the Canadian side in that direction will be considered as acknowledgment of our right to interfere in Canadian domestic affairs," the Foreign Ministry said. "Canada and all other nations need to know that they can't claim to be more concerned than the kingdom over its own citizens."

Russia warns against NATO membership for Georgia

Associated Press

MOSCOW — An attempt by NATO to incorporate the former Soviet republic of Georgia could trigger a new, "horrible" conflict, Russia's prime minister said Tuesday in a stern warning to the West marking 10 years since the Russia-Georgia war.

Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview with the Kommersant daily broadcast by Russian state television that NATO's plans to eventually offer membership to Georgia are "absolutely irresponsible" and a "threat to peace."

Medvedev was Russia's president during the August 2008 war, which erupted when Georgian troops tried unsuccessfully to regain control over the Moscow-backed breakaway province of South Ossetia and Russia sent troops that routed the Georgian military in five days of fighting.

The Russian army was poised to advance on the Georgian capital, but Medvedev rolled it back, accepting a truce mediated by the European Union.

After the war, Georgia entirely lost control of both South Ossetia and another separatist region, Abkhazia.

Russia has strengthened its military presence in both regions and recognized them as independent states, but only a few countries have followed suit.

The European Union on Tuesday reiterated its "firm support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders" and lamented the Russian military presence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Russian-Georgian relations have improved since the war, but the issue of the breakaway regions remains, preventing the full normalization of ties.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

City settles lawsuits over backed-up sewer

NE LINCOLN — The city of Lincoln has settled lawsuits filed after heavy rains in 2014 and 2015 left some residents with sewer water in their basements.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported the city has agreed to pay Susan Dermer \$7,500. She'd sought more than \$54,000 in two lawsuits for cleaning up and restoring the basement of her home because of sewer backups from storms Oct. 1, 2014, and May 7, 2015. The city didn't admit liability or fault.

Dermer had said the city failed to have a sewer system that would accommodate heavy rainfall, among other problems. The city said the storms were responsible for the backups, not city negligence. Even so, the city set up a \$1 million cleanup fund. Those who participated agreed not to sue the city.

Man burned after throwing gas onto fire

MA MASHPEE — Fire officials said a 22-year-old Cape Cod man was transported to a Boston hospital with third-degree burns after throwing gasoline onto a backyard fire.

Mashpee Fire Lt. Richard Thayer said the victim suffered burns to his face, head, chest and arms just after 11 p.m. Sunday. His injuries are not considered life-threatening.

The details of exactly what spurred the man to pour gasoline onto the fire were unclear.

Family returns from trip, finds body in yard

VA FREDERICKSBURG — A Virginia family said they returned from a trip to find a man's dead body in their

yard.

The Free Lance-Star reported that Scott Mattice, 48, discovered the body next to his family's front porch Sunday morning. He said the family had noticed a smell when they returned from Virginia Beach but initially weren't sure what it was.

Kerrie Mattice said they had gotten a note from the sheriff's office that a vehicle had crashed into the ditch in front of their house Thursday, but it's unclear whether that was related to the man's death.

Kayakers on cleanup find man's remains

IL OSWEGO — Authorities are trying to identify the remains of a man found by kayakers in the Fox River.

Doug Bosco said he was "shocked" Saturday when he pulled on a boot that was snagged in debris and saw bones inside. He and fellow paddler George Stenitzer found more bones and a skull.

The Kendall County Sheriff's Office is investigating with help from experts at Loyola University Medical Center.

Man pleads guilty in woman's heart attack

ME ALFRED — A Maine man pleaded guilty to manslaughter for frightening a woman during a burglary and causing a fatal heart attack.

Carlton Young was originally charged with murder in the death of Connie Loucks, 62, who suffered a heart attack after Young allegedly knocked on her door and windows. Young pleaded guilty Monday to manslaughter, attempted burglary and other charges in York County Superior Court.

The Sanford man is accused of being part of a burglary ring

in southern Maine. Authorities said he and several others broke into Loucks' home when she wasn't there on March 21, 2015, and returned the following day. Police officers found Loucks dead on her sofa.

Firefighters scramble during gunbattle

MO ST. LOUIS — One man was critically injured after a rolling gunbattle erupted outside a St. Louis firehouse, forcing firefighters to scramble for cover.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that no firefighters were injured in the shootings about 7 a.m. Monday. The lone gunshot victim was found outside the firehouse and medics ran to help him.

Fire Chief Dennis Jenkerson said a dozen firefighters were at Engine House No. 32 when occupants of two cars began shooting at each other.

Firefighters closed the garage door at the front of the firehouse, but not before two people ran in, claiming they had been shot. It turned out they had not been shot.

One of the cars slammed into the private vehicle of a firefighter. Four firefighters found bullet holes in their private vehicles.

Lemonade stand robbed at gunpoint

NC MONROE — Deputies in North Carolina are on the lookout for a teenager who robbed a 9-year-old's lemonade stand at gunpoint.

The Union County Sheriff's Office said Sunday the stickup happened alongside a traffic roundabout in Monroe, about 30 miles southeast of Charlotte.

Deputies said the young drink vendor reported that a male teen wearing a camouflage hat

and a black shirt stuck a black handgun to the boy's stomach, demanded money and then fled on foot Saturday afternoon.

Authorities found a trail in the woods nearby where they found a camouflage hat, a black BB handgun and a stolen metal tin.

Motorcyclist injured, deer killed in crash

CT DANBURY — A motorcyclist was injured in a crash that killed a deer in Connecticut.

Danbury police Lt. Christian Carroccio told the News-Times the deer ran into the biker's path about 8:40 a.m. Sunday. Carroccio said the motorcyclist tried to swerve out of the way, but he hit and killed the animal.

The biker was knocked to the ground and suffered a shoulder injury.

Officials investigating mutilated cat cases

WA OLYMPIA — Thurston County Animal Services said seven cats in Olympia have been mutilated since October.

KCPQ-TV reported one was found Friday and another was found Saturday.

Harley, a tabby cat, was found in West Olympia not far from where Olly was found dead Friday.

Animal Services Officer Erika Johnson said the cats were cut open with a scalpel and their spines were removed. Johnson said killings were "extremely horrific."

There is evidence Olly fought back. Johnson is sending samples from her claws to the crime lab in hopes of getting a DNA match.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Alabama must choose from 2 QBs

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Jalen Hurts is the strong-armed running threat who has mostly won during his Alabama career.

Tua Tagovailoa is the prized, left-handed recruit who rallied the Crimson Tide to a national championship.

It's a quarterback competition, Alabama-style. Totally win-win.

The Crimson Tide have two good options from which to choose, and the decision will be based on what everything is based on at Alabama: victories that make the Tide national and Southeastern Conference title contenders.

"A guy that wins," is how offensive coordinator Mike Locksley boils down what the Tide are looking for.

Both players seem capable of doing that, even if they have different styles and strengths.

Greg McElroy, SEC Network analyst and former Alabama quarterback, figures it might come down to whether Tide coach Nick Saban wants to bank

on the defense and go with the quarterback who makes the fewest mistakes or turn to the one with more of a gunslinging style.

While Tagovailoa is the presumed front-runner, McElroy believes it remains "very much up in the air" who will start the opener against Louisville in Orlando.

Hurts was only intercepted once last season and has gone 13-1 as a starter in each of his first two seasons, with a pair of trips to national title games.

The Tide lost eight defensive starters from last season's title team, and projected first-team linebacker Terrell Lewis had knee surgery in July.

"Now, if I were to handicap it myself, I would say Tua would probably have the inside track just given how he played against one of the best defenses in college football last year," said McElroy, who led Alabama to the 2009 national championship. "But I also know that Jalen did a great job in providing the team exactly what it was they

needed in the (13) games leading up to that championship game.

"I don't think it's as clear-cut as everyone else seems to think it is but I still think that Tua would have the inside track."

Tagovailoa passed for three touchdowns after halftime of the title game against Georgia's stingy defense, including the 41-yard winner to fellow freshman DeVonta Smith in overtime.

He also was picked off once and was sacked on the play before the TD strike.

"We have film of good, bad and ugly and that's definitely been on the ugly," Tagovailoa said. "It's most definitely something you can learn from. Instead of taking a sack, throw the ball away."

Hurts has struggled in four playoff games, totaling just 329 passing yards while also making some plays on the ground and being named offensive MVP of last season's semifinal game.

But he was the SEC offensive

player of the year as a freshman. He has run for 1,809 yards and 21 touchdowns in two seasons, though his passing yards per game dipped last season from 185.3 to 148.6.

Hurts vented over the weekend about Alabama's handling of the quarterback situation and comments from Saban, saying he told Saban in June that he would remain this season and not transfer.

One thing he insists he's not sweating: competition.

"I'm definitely not looking over my shoulder, I'm not worried about anybody else," Hurts said. "I'm just worried about me, Jalen Hurts, being the best player that I can be, be the best quarterback that I can be."

Tagovailoa, a former five-star recruit from Hawaii, showed off plenty of ability in backup duty as a freshman last season. He passed for 636 yards with 11 touchdowns and two interceptions, one of which was returned 93 yards for a touchdown in a blowout of Tennessee.

13 North Carolina players suspended for selling shoes

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Less than a year after emerging from a long run of NCAA issues, North Carolina is dealing with rules violations again — this time for football players selling team-issued shoes.

The school announced Monday that 13 players will miss games serving suspensions for the secondary NCAA violations, which will leave the Tar Heels shorthanded during much of the season's opening month. While secondary violations are generally considered less severe, the penalties in this case will result in several players being forced to sit out at least a third of the regular-season schedule.

In all, nine players will miss four games, two will sit two games and two others will

miss one contest. The NCAA approved a school request to delay two suspensions affecting multiple players at one position, while the other 11 suspensions begin with the Sept. 1 opener at California.

The Tar Heels want to move on quickly from this latest embarrassment.

"The guys that are suspended, they're very remorseful," coach Larry Fedora said during a news conference Monday. "They don't want to let their teammates down and they feel like they did in this situation. But nobody's pointing fingers on this football team. ... We're beyond that point now. It's already happened. It is what it is, so they're all looking forward and moving forward."

The suspensions have had at least one major impact already.

With sophomore quarter-

back Chazz Surratt among the players suspended four games, the team's most-watched pre-season position battle has come to a swift end with Fedora saying junior Nathan Elliott will start against Cal.

The players facing four-game suspensions are: Surratt; defensive ends Malik Carney, Tomon Fox and Tyrone Hopper; offensive linemen Brian Anderson, Quiron Johnson and Jordan Tucker; receiver Beau Corrales and linebacker Malik Robinson.

Defensive backs Greg Ross and Tre Shaw must sit two games, while quarterback Jack Davidson and offensive lineman Jonah Melton will each miss one.

Carney was the only suspended player to talk with reporters Monday, saying he has apologized to the team.

"In the moment like that, you're not really thinking about the consequences," Carney said when asked if he knew selling his pair of shoes was improper. "Like as a kid, when your mom tells you 'Don't touch the iron because it's hot,' you don't really think that it's hot. You just do it."

"It's something you don't really think about in the moment. And I made a wrong decision."

UNC reported the violations after learning of the special-edition Nike shoes being sold to at least one retailer in an email from a member of the public in January, according to documents released after a public-records request from The Associated Press. That email contained a social media advertisement from a retailer seeking \$3,500 for the shoes.

Even at 35, Gore focusing on starting

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — The NFL's active career rushing leader may still be a starter at age 35.

Frank Gore is listed as sharing the No. 1 running back spot with incumbent Kenyan Drake on the first depth chart of training camp for the Miami Dolphins.

Gore signed with his hometown team in March and was widely expected to fill the role of veteran backup. He's awfully experienced for a feature back, with 13 seasons and 196 games of mileage.

But that mileage translates into lots of yardage — 14,026 yards, to be exact, which ranks behind only Emmitt Smith, Walter Payton, Barry Sanders and Curtis Martin.

And 10 practices into camp, Gore shows no sign he has lost a step.

"I'm not surprised," coach Adam Gase said Monday. "He's just been proving everybody wrong for so many years. You just never doubt that guy."

Gase, Gore and Drake all described as no big deal the depth chart, especially one posted leading up to the first exhibition game. But Gore has enjoyed showing in practice he can still play.

"I come out here and compete every day," he said. "Not just with Drake, but with every guy at my position. I think we all push and help each other. With me, whatever my coaches want me to do this year, I'm going to do it."

Drake could yet prove difficult to dislodge from the No. 1 job. He ranked sixth in the NFL last year with an average of 4.8 yards per carry, topping 100 yards in consecutive games after he became the starter in

Week 13.

"I don't think anybody really cares about where they are on the depth chart before preseason even starts," Drake said. "We've got to go out there and earn our spots."

Gore said Drake is worthy of friendly competition.

"Kenyan is a very talented guy," Gore said. He's smart; he can do everything on the field. I think that me and him can really help this team be successful this year."

That would be a change. The Dolphins went 6-10 last season, when they ranked 28th in both points and rushing.

They expect to have a more potent offense this year with an upgraded line, the return of Ryan Tannehill and their new running back, who's not new to the NFL at all.

Gore has started every game since 2012. Last year he aver-

aged a career-worst 3.7 yards per carry for the Indianapolis Colts, but they provided little room to run, and he did reach the 100-yard mark twice in the season's final month.

He was thrilled at the chance to return to South Florida, where he was born and raised and starred for the Miami Hurricanes. The homecoming makes even Thursday's mostly meaningless game against Tampa Bay special to Gore, because he's playing for Miami again.

"Pop Warner, high school, college and now the NFL," he said. "I want to do some great things for my city and for my team. I want to show guys that when they get up in age, if you love the game and you go out and work hard, it shouldn't matter what age you are. That's what my goal is this year."

If he starts, that's a bonus.

Jets won't decide on starting QB until end of preseason

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — The New York Jets' three-man quarterback competition could last the entire summer.

Coach Todd Bowles is in no hurry to make his decision on whether it will be Josh McCown, Teddy Bridgewater or Sam Darnold under center as the starter in the team's regular-season opener at Detroit on Sept. 10.

"You've got to play preseason games," Bowles said Monday. "I'm not into hypotheticals and nothing that hasn't happened yet. We're going to let them play. And after the fourth preseason (game), sometime that week, I'll make my decision and go from there."

"It's possible I will make my decision after the fourth week."

Usually, teams have their starters determined by the third preseason game, when the first-teamers play the bulk of the snaps.

The Jets' coach could also

keep the team's starter under wraps until the night of the game against the Lions.

"The guy who runs out on the field [Monday night] in Week 1, we'll see who the starter is," he said.

McCown is the incumbent and still is No. 1 on the depth chart with the first unofficial list released Monday. But, Bridgewater — who's No. 2 — and Darnold — listed at No. 3 — saw extensive action in practice.

McCown got just 10 snaps in team drills, while Bridgewater had 32 and Darnold a whopping 55, including 16 with the starting offensive line.

"They're going to play (preseason) games," Bowles said of Bridgewater and Darnold. "And, I didn't see enough work Saturday (in the scrimmage at Rutgers). So we needed more work today on certain situations that Josh has been through."

Bowles said he has an idea of how the Jets will use their quarterbacks in the preseason

opener against Atlanta on Friday, but wants to discuss it with his staff before revealing the plan. In fact, there's no guarantee that McCown will even play against the Falcons.

Last summer, McCown played the first series of the preseason opener and didn't see the field again until three games later as the Jets gave Bryce Petty and Christian Hackenberg extended looks. This year, Bridgewater is shaking off the rust from being sidelined nearly two years because of a severe knee injury, while Darnold is the No. 3 overall pick who is considered the future of the franchise.

"This is my 17th training camp and I've done this for a while," McCown said. "Obviously, we have a lot invested in the other two guys, as far as learning the offense and getting comfortable with things. It's good for our team for those guys to get as much work as they can."

Darnold has been in camp for

just a week after missing the first three practices of camp while working out details in his contract. He quickly got up to speed and had a few solid performances last week, including in the team's scrimmage.

But the rookie was up and down Monday in 92-degree heat with high humidity, making a few terrific plays and also coming up short on others while not looking as sharp as he had. He also showed some frustration, pumping his fist angrily after one play.

"I definitely feel a lot more comfortable calling plays in the huddle and then executing them," Darnold said. "Obviously, I'm not exactly where I want to be. There's always growth that needs to happen. But I'm real excited with where I'm at."

So are his teammates, who have seen quite a bit of growth in just the last week. Darnold's ability to make quick reads on the defense and make plays on the fly is impressive.

Peralta's HR in 14th inning lifts Arizona

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Arizona Diamondbacks had chances to win in the ninth inning, again in the 10th, and the next three innings after that.

After all those chances and more than 4½ hours of baseball, David Peralta finally ended it with his first walk-off home run.

Peralta hit his second solo homer of the game off the top of the wall in the 14th inning and the Arizona Diamondbacks rallied from a two-run deficit in the ninth to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 3-2 on Monday night.

"I always wondered what it felt like to hit a walk-off homer," Peralta said. "It's something

you can't even describe."

Phillies starter Jake Arrieta allowed three hits in eight scoreless innings, leaving with a 2-0 lead.

His chance at a fifth straight win came undone in the ninth.

Peralta hit a one-out solo homer off Seranthony Dominguez, and Steven Souza Jr. followed Eduardo Escobar's double with a tying single. Luis Garcia replaced Dominguez and walked two to load the bases, but got pinch hitter A.J. Pollock to ground out.

Yoshihisa Hirano (3-2) didn't allow a hit the final two innings, with Jorge Alfaro just missing a homer to right for the final out of the 14th.

The Diamondbacks kept putting runners in scoring position,

but failed to get that crucial hit until Peralta hit the first pitch he saw from Austin Davis (1-2) off the wall and out in left-center. Peralta was mobbed at the plate after ending the Phillies' five-game winning streak with one swing.

"This is the type of baseball we were used to playing last year, done it in spurts this year and couldn't have come at a better time," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said.

Arrieta underwent a massive turnaround in July, going 4-0 with a 2.80 ERA in six starts after going 0-4 with a 6.66 ERA in June.

The right-hander is second in the NL at inducing groundball double plays with 19 and got another in the second inning to

strand Escobar after a leadoff double.

Arrieta was lifted after 110 pitches and seemingly in great position, only to watch it go up in smoke with the ninth-inning blowup.

"He pitched great and we definitely strive to win baseball games like that for a starting pitcher who performs like Jake did," Phillies manager Gabe Kapler said.

Arizona's Zack Godley matched Arrieta nearly pitch for pitch until Odubel Herrera hit a run-scoring triple in the seventh inning and Jorge Alfaro followed with a sacrifice fly.

Godley allowed two runs on five hits and struck out seven in 7 1/3 innings.

Yankees rebound from 5-game skid, blank White Sox

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Lance Lynn pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning in his first start with New York, and the Yankees rebounded from their tough weekend in Boston by beating the Chicago White Sox 7-0 on Monday night.

Lynn provided a big boost for New York after it dropped a season-high five straight games, including a four-game sweep by the major league-leading Red Sox. The series concluded with Aroldis Chapman blowing a save opportunity in a 10-inning loss at Fenway Park late Sunday night.

Enter Lynn (8-8), who was acquired in a trade with Minnesota on July 30 and tossed 4 1/3 scoreless innings in relief in his Yankees debut Wednesday. The veteran right-hander, who replaced Sonny Gray in New York's rotation, retired 19 in a row before Nicky Delmonico led off the eighth with a single to right.

After Tim Anderson flied out, A.J. Cole finished the three-hitter for the AL wildcard leaders.

Indians 10, Twins 0: Trevor Bauer (11-6) struck out 11

and allowed three hits in six innings, and host Cleveland hit four home runs in routing Minnesota.

Bauer has 206 strikeouts this season, one behind Boston's Chris Sale for the AL lead. The right-hander has 10 double-figure strikeout games, tying him with Sale for the league lead. Bauer also leads the AL with 159 2/3 innings pitched.

Cubs 3, Royals 1: Javier Baez went deep, Cole Hamels (7-9) pitched six strong innings and visiting Chicago beat Kansas City.

Baez hit the first pitch from reliever Kevin McCarthy (4-4) in the sixth inning to center for his 25th home run, putting the Cubs ahead 2-1.

Rockies 2, Pirates 0: Kyle Freeland (10-7) and the Colorado bullpen combined on a two-hitter to beat visiting Pittsburgh in a game that was interrupted 32 minutes by rain.

Freeland allowed two hits and struck out five over seven stellar innings. Relievers Seunghwan Oh and Wade Davis combined to close out the win.

Mets 6, Reds 4: Rookie Jeff McNeil homered in getting three more hits with his

most unusual bat, leading Noah Syndergaard (7-2) and host New York over Cincinnati in a matchup of struggling teams.

Wilmer Flores, playing on his 27th birthday, and Austin Jackson each had three hits and Kevin Plawecki homered for the Mets. Both clubs had lost five of six going into the series opener.

Marlins 2, Cardinals 1: Javy Guerra cleaned up a ninth-inning mess created by struggling closer Kyle Barraclough, getting Yadier Molina to hit into a double play to end host Miami's victory over St. Louis.

After Wei-Yin Chen (4-8) pitched 5 2/3 innings of one-hit ball, Miami led 2-0 going into the ninth and handed the game off to Barraclough.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3 (12): Ryon Healy had a go-ahead RBI single with two outs in the 12th inning and visiting Seattle beat Texas after blowing an early three-run lead.

Mitch Haniger scored from second base when Healy hit a hard grounder through the left side of the infield. Haniger had doubled into the left field corner off Eddie Butler (2-2) a pitch after Jean Segura was

thrown out trying to steal second base.

Astros 3, Giants 1: Roberto Osuna (1-0) got the win in his first appearance with his new team after Marwin Gonzalez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting visiting Houston over San Francisco.

Osuna hadn't pitched in the majors since May 6 while serving a 75-game suspension for violating MLB's domestic violence policy. Osuna was acquired from the Toronto Blue Jays last Monday in a deal that sent back closer Ken Giles, and he became eligible to pitch Sunday. A few fans booed when he entered the game in the eighth inning. He retired the side in order on five pitches.

Angels 6, Tigers 2: Andrelton Simmons hit a two-run homer and made several spectacular defensive plays to lead host Los Angeles to a victory over Detroit.

Eric Young Jr. hit his first homer of the season, drove in two runs and made a diving catch in deep center field to end the eighth inning for the Angels, who won for just the second time in eight games.