

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Army offers more than \$80K in re-up bonuses

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — The Army is increasing bonuses for soldiers willing to reenlist for longer periods of time in hard-to-fill jobs such as special operations and cyber forces, which could mean up to \$81,000 in a lump sum for some troops under the new payout structure, service officials confirmed.

New increases, which go into effect Sept. 9, increase the top bonus by \$9,000 and offer some of the highest payouts available in more than five years. About 45% of soldiers up for reenlistment are eligible for bigger bonuses.

“It’s matching the Army incentives with the commitments from the soldiers. If they give more, they get more,” said Sgt. Maj. Mark Thompson, senior Army career counselor at the Pentagon.

Selective retention bonuses are a tool used by the Army to get soldiers into jobs that can be more challenging to fill because they are in demand in the private sector or require a special skill set or additional training. Keeping soldiers with experience also allows the Army to maintain

that knowledge as opposed to training new soldiers for the job.

The increased bonuses come as the Army attempts to fill gaps in its force largely caused by its failure in 2018 to reach its recruiting goals when the service came up some 5,600 recruits short. The Army met its retention goal in 2018 — and has again done so in 2019, officials have said. But the recruiting shortfall meant the service was not able to grow last year to its desired active-duty end strength of 483,500.

The Army is supposed to reach a force size of 487,500 active-duty soldiers by the end of September, and officials have insisted the service is on pace to meet its recruiting requirements for the year. However, the Army has struggled to fill positions in certain fields — including in newly formed cyber units and in traditional infantry billets.

The Army recently offered recruits bound for the infantry bonuses of \$15,000 to \$40,000 as the service seeks to add some 3,000 infantry recruits by the end of the fiscal year, which is Sept. 30. Recruiting Command officials have declined to provide fiscal year 2019 recruiting statistics,

saying the service policy is not to release them before the fiscal year is complete.

When establishing bonuses, Thompson said the Army looks 18 months ahead to determine where soldiers will be most needed and will “bump and nudge” reenlistment payouts accordingly. Factors such as training time and recruiting goals also play a role in adjusting bonuses.

The increase in bonuses is not because soldiers aren’t reenlisting, he said. Rather, the increases help the Army get soldiers where they are most needed.

“Bonuses assist in end strength, but it’s not our main focus,” Thompson said.

This latest update is the sixth one made to bonus charts this year and follows an Army initiative to pay more to soldiers willing to give longer time commitments, he said.

Though there are about 150 military occupational specialties in the Army, there are more than 700 variations of jobs included in the reenlistment bonus chart once rank, location and other factors are considered. About 80 of those jobs saw an increase in bonus amounts, while another 80 saw a decrease.

## Pentagon establishes new Space Command

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday established a new combatant command responsible for controlling the military’s operations in space, a step meant to counter Russian and Chinese advances in space power that could threaten long-held U.S. supremacy in that domain.

Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond, who took the reins of the new U.S. Space Command during a White House ceremony Thursday afternoon, fingered those two nations as specific threats to the U.S. military’s vast space enterprise, which is instrumental in how troops move, communicate and target enemies on the battlefield. He told reporters Thursday morning at the Pentagon that SPACECOM’s primary mission would be to deter Russia, China and other powers

from challenging American space assets or operations.

“Space is a warfighting domain just like land, air, sea and cyber,” Raymond said during a briefing at the Pentagon ahead of the White House ceremony in the Rose Garden. “... There is nothing we do in the joint and coalition force that isn’t enabled by space. Zero. At the same time, our adversaries have had a front-row seat to our many successes of integrating space [into warfighting] and they are developing capabilities to negate our access to space.”

Trump touted the creation of Space Command as a “big deal” during the brief Rose Garden ceremony, at which Defense Secretary Mark Esper signed documents officially establishing the command.

“This is a landmark day — one that recognizes the centrality of space to America’s national security and defense,” he

said. “Those who wish to harm the United States, to seek to challenge us in the ultimate high ground of space — it’s going to be a whole different ballgame.”

Trump officially ordered the establishment of SPACECOM in December, a move long-embraced by top Pentagon officials who have pushed for more focus on protecting American space assets. The president’s other high-profile, space-related proposal to build a Space Force as a sixth uniformed military service, drew initial criticism including by some top Pentagon officials. But in recent months, Trump’s plan has been embraced by top brass and appears likely to be backed by Congress, which could approve its establishment in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

That bill is expected to be debated once the Senate and House return from their recess in September.

# Guard major endorses Biden in uniform

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — A major in the Army National Guard is facing public scrutiny for improper partisan political activity after appearing in uniform at a campaign event for Joe Biden in South Carolina and publicly telling the former vice president that she hopes and prays he will be the next president.

Maj. Ginger Tate, a member of the South Carolina Army National Guard, took the microphone on Wednesday at a campaign event in the town of Gaffney and recounted how she led 130 troops during a 2013 deployment to Afghanistan. She said she saved her unit's coin so she could present it to Biden and President Barack Obama

should she ever meet them.

"Thank you so much for your guidance as I took 130 soldiers over, and I brought them back," Tate said through tears, according to video footage of the event posted widely on social media. "I am so honored to have served under your administration and your leadership, and I hope and pray that you will be our next president."

Tate is now facing public scrutiny over whether her actions violated Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, which restricts members of the military from partisan political activities.

Tate isn't on active-duty status, according to a spokesman for the South Carolina National

Guard. That means she drills one weekend a month and trains two weeks a year, apart from when she is called up to active-duty status for assignments or deployments.

Inactive servicemembers are allowed to participate in political activities, but the Department of Defense directive stipulates that they should not appear in uniform and should refrain from behaving in a manner that could give the appearance of an official endorsement.

Capt. Jessica Donnelly, a spokeswoman for the South Carolina National Guard, said a formal investigation of the incident would be unnecessary, suggesting the violation of the

directive was clear on its face.

"There is no investigation needed, the Soldier engaged in political activities that imply or appear to imply sponsorship, approval, or endorsement of a political candidate, while in uniform," Donnelly said in an email.

The incident is the latest example of uniformed service members facing blowback for engaging in questionable partisan activity while in uniform. It comes as military leaders strain to avoid politicization in a deeply divided country run by a commander in chief who has regularly taken partisan jabs at his political rivals while appearing before uniformed personnel at military events.

## US troop killed in Afghanistan

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An American servicemember was killed in action Thursday in Afghanistan, the 15th U.S. combat casualty in that country this year as the Pentagon prepares to draw down its force strength there, after 18 years of war.

The U.S.-led NATO Resolute Support mission announced the latest casualty Friday, but provided no other details about the incident. The fallen servicemember was not named, per Pentagon policy barring publicly identifying deceased troops until at least 24 hours after next-of-kin notification.

The New York Times reported Friday that the servicemember was an Army Green Beret killed at the outset of a raid alongside Afghan commandos in Afghanistan's southern Zabul province. A Pentagon spokesman said he could not confirm those details, but said an investigation had been initiated.

The incident follows the deaths of two Green Berets during a raid on Taliban forces in northern Afghanistan's Faryab province on Aug. 21. Special Forces Master Sgts. Jose J. Gonzalez and Luis F. Deleon-Figueroa were killed by small arms fire in that incident. Three U.S. soldiers were also killed in action in July in two separate

engagements.

In total, seventeen American troops have died in Afghanistan in 2019, all but two were killed in combat. It marks the deadliest year for American troops serving in Afghanistan since 2014, the year that then-President Barack Obama ended formal combat operations against the Taliban in favor of a mission largely dedicated to training and advising Afghan security forces. The United States lost 39 troops to combat action in 2014.

The latest death came on the same day that President Donald Trump announced he would reduce the U.S. military footprint in Afghanistan from about 14,000 to about 8,600 once a peace agreement with the Taliban is reached. State Department and Taliban officials have been working toward an agreement that would exchange the partial pullout of U.S. troops for Taliban assurances that they would not harbor terrorist groups in Afghanistan. The agreement would also call for the insurgent group to meet with Afghan leadership to negotiate a ceasefire. The parties, who have been negotiating in Doha, Qatar, have said in recent days that an accord was nearing completion.

Trump said Thursday that he had decided to leave some troops in Afghanistan primarily to conduct counterterrorism operations and gather intelligence.

## Two Navy aircraft damaged in crash on USS Lincoln

*The Virginian-Pilot*

Two Navy aircraft based in Hampton Roads were damaged in a mishap aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln earlier this month, according to the Naval Safety Center.

The incident occurred August 9 in the Arabian Sea when an E-2D Hawkeye from Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121, based at Naval Station Norfolk, aborted an arrested landing while the aircraft carrier was conducting flight operations, said Cmdr. Joshua Frey, spokesman for the Navy's Fifth Fleet.

The Hawkeye struck two aircraft and debris from the impact hit two others, causing minor damage. The aircraft involved include an F/A-18F Super Hornet from Strike Fighter Squadron 103, based at Naval Air Station Oceana, as well as two F/A-18E Super Hornets based in Lemoore, Calif., said Jeff Jones, deputy director of safety promotions at the Naval Safety Center. An E/A-18G Growler from Whidbey Island, Wash., was also damaged.

No one was injured and the Hawkeye, which conducts surveillance, diverted and landed safely, Frey said.



# Florida braces for 'absolute monster'

Associated Press

MIAMI — Unsure where Hurricane Dorian is going to land next week, many Florida residents faced a sense of helplessness as they prepared for what President Donald Trump said could be an “absolute monster” of a storm.

“All indications are it’s going to hit very hard and it’s going to be very big,” Trump said in a video he tweeted Thursday evening, comparing Dorian to Hurricane Andrew, which devastated South Florida in 1992.

The National Hurricane Center said the Category 2 storm is expected to strengthen into a potentially catastrophic Category 4 with winds of nearly 140 mph and slam into the U.S. on Tuesday somewhere between the Florida Keys and southern Georgia — a 500-mile stretch that reflected the high degree of uncertainty this far out.

“If it makes landfall as a Cat-

egory 3 or 4 hurricane, that’s a big deal,” said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. “A lot of people are going to be affected. A lot of insurance claims.”

With the storm’s track still unclear, no immediate mass evacuations were ordered. Along Florida’s east coast, local governments began distributing sandbags, shoppers rushed to stock up on food, plywood and other emergency supplies at supermarkets and hardware stores, and motorists topped off their tanks and filled gasoline cans. Some fuel shortages were reported in the Cape Canaveral area.

As of 8 a.m. EDT Friday morning, Dorian was centered about 255 miles east-northeast of the southeastern Bahamas. Its maximum sustained winds had increased slightly to 110 mph and the storm was moving northwest at 12 mph.

# Trump cancels Poland trip to monitor Dorian

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he is canceling a planned trip to Poland and will remain in the United States to monitor Hurricane Dorian, which is headed toward a potential landfall in Florida or elsewhere along the East Coast by early next week.

The president had been set to travel to Poland this weekend to participate in a World War II commemoration ceremony. Vice President Mike Pence will make the trip instead, Trump said.

“To ensure that all resources of the federal government are focused on the arriving storm, I have decided to send our vice president, Mike Pence, to Poland this weekend in my place,” Trump said in the Rose Garden of the White House during an event focused on the new space command. “It’s something very important for me to be here. The storm looks like it could be a very, very big one indeed.”

The official National Hurri-

cane Forecast predicts Dorian will reach Category 4 strength while approaching the eastern coast of Florida on Monday night.

The president, who returned from the G-7 summit in France earlier this week, never appeared to be enthusiastic about the second overseas trip and had already shortened it twice.

Trump said Thursday that he had informed Polish President Andrzej Duda of the change in plans and had conveyed to him “my warmest wishes and the wishes of the American people.”

“Our highest priority is the safety and security of the people in the path of the hurricane, and I will be rescheduling my trip to Poland in the near future,” Trump said.

Earlier Thursday, Trump tweeted that Dorian “looks like it will be hitting Florida late Sunday night.”

“Be prepared and please follow State and Federal instructions, it will be a very big Hurricane, perhaps one of the biggest!” he said.

# USS Arizona Memorial reopening after yearlong closure

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The USS Arizona Memorial will open to visitors Sunday morning after a yearlong closure for \$2.1 million in repairs.

The memorial in the waters of Pearl Harbor closed last year after divers discovered the anchoring system used to hold a floating dock in place was damaged. Visitors arrive by boat and access the viewing area via a walkway on the dock.

The memorial — which draws more than 4,000 visitors a day when open — is the heart of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, which focuses on the history of the Japanese surprise attack on Oahu on Dec. 7, 1941. The site is managed by the National Park Service.

During the attack, Japanese planes sank the battleship USS Arizona, killing 1,177 men, some of whom were entombed in the sunken hulk.

In May 2018, park service personnel discovered tiny cracks on the dock, and divers subsequently found that six galvanized chains anchored to concrete pilings in the harbor floor were loose.

The concrete pilings had apparently shifted at some point, said Pearl Harbor National Memorial spokesman Jay Blount.

“We’ll never know the full extent to why it happened,” he said. “The concrete anchoring blocks are submerged in this really soft, mucky sediment on the bottom of Pearl Harbor, and all the divers could see was the chains.”

Engineers have guessed that

the concrete shifted during particularly high king tides in early 2017, he said.

“We’re assuming those high tides may have picked up those concrete blocks and moved them, and when they settled, they didn’t settle in the same location,” he said.

The new anchoring system has more flexibility in high tides.

The system anchors using large screws tightened into the harbor floor, in some cases up to 100 feet into the stone, Blount said. The dock is then connected to those anchors with stretchable synthetic cords.

“These have some stretch so that if there is a tide event they’ll allow for the dock to go up higher without moving the anchoring points themselves,” he said.

The cost of the repairs came from a variety of National Park Service sources, he said.

During the yearlong closure, the park service offered visitors free, narrated boat tours of the former Battleship Row, which included passing near the Arizona Memorial. The Pearl Harbor National Memorial includes a host of other attractions, including the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

But the past year has been a disappointment for some making a once-in-lifetime trip to the historic site, only to find the Arizona Memorial off limits.

“A lot of people were frustrated,” Blount said. “We shared people’s frustrations here.”

# Destination remains obscure for oil tanker pursued by US

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Iranian oil tanker pursued by the U.S. on Friday again listed its destination as Turkey but the Turkish foreign minister added to the confusion by saying the vessel is headed to Lebanon — statements that were promptly denied in Beirut.

The flurry of contradictory statements further muddies the waters for the Adrian Darya 1, formerly known as the Grace 1, and obscures where its 2.1 million barrels of oil will ultimately go.

The tanker has taken center stage recently amid a crisis roiling the Persian Gulf and escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America

from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers over a year ago. The vessel's detention and later release by Gibraltar has fueled the growing tensions.

The tanker on Friday changed its listed destination in its Automatic Identification System to Iskenderun, Turkey, a small port on the Mediterranean Sea.

However, mariners can input any destination into the AIS, so Turkey may not be its true destination. On Aug. 24, it had listed its destination as Mersin, Turkey, before removing that from its system. Earlier, it had said it was going to Greece.

Iskenderun is some 125 miles by sea from a refinery in Baniyas, Syria, where authorities alleged the Adrian Darya had been heading before being seized off Gibraltar in early

July.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu denied the tanker was heading to Iskenderun and claimed it was going to Lebanon. Speaking in Oslo, Norway, the diplomat said the Turkish state and Turkish private companies were no longer buying oil from Iran, in line with U.S. sanctions.

"This tanker is not heading actually to Iskenderun port, this tanker is heading to Lebanon. And we follow actually very closely ... it is heading to Lebanon," the minister said.

But Lebanon's Minister of Energy and Water Nada Boustani tweeted that was not the case and that there is no request for the tanker to enter Lebanon. She also said Lebanon does not have a refinery to deal with crude oil.

# Texas joins Bumble in nude photo crackdown

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — As states push to criminalize the sharing of intimate photos to get revenge on former sex partners, Texas is teaming with Bumble to crack down on people who send unsolicited nude images on dating apps and elsewhere in cyberspace.

The new Texas law banning so-called cyber flashing comes after state Rep. Morgan Meyer collaborated with the Austin-based social and dating application company to shepherd a bill earlier this year.

"They had a number of people who were using the app complaining about the sending of these images and they quickly realized there was no recourse," Meyer said, recalling how Bumble CEO Whitney Wolfe Herd approached him about crafting a measure. "There was nothing that could be done. It wasn't a criminal offense — although it was definitely digital sexual harassment."

The law set to take effect Saturday forbids what is often characterized as technology-enabled sexual harassment. It makes electronic transmission of sexually explicit material a Class C misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$500 if the person who received it hasn't given consent.

Meyer said the law targeting unwanted images will apply to text messages, email, dating apps and social media.

A 2017 survey by Pew Research Center found women encounter sexual harassment online at much higher rates than men. The study found 21% of women ages 18 to 29 report being sexually harassed online compared to 9% of men in the same age group. Roughly 53% of those women said someone has sent them explicit images they didn't ask for.

# Trump targets mental health in gun debate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When shots rang out last year at a high school in Parkland, Fla., leaving 17 people dead, President Donald Trump quickly turned his thoughts to creating more mental institutions.

When back-to-back mass shootings in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas, jolted the nation earlier this month, Trump again spoke of "building new facilities" for the mentally ill as a way to reduce mass shootings.

"We don't have those institutions anymore and people can't get proper care," Trump lamented at a New Hampshire campaign rally not long after the latest shootings.

Now, in response to Trump's concerns, White House staff members are looking for ways to incorporate the president's desire for more institutions into a long list of other measures aimed at reducing gun violence.

It's the latest example of White House policy aides scrambling to come up with concrete policies or proposals to fill out ideas tossed out by the president. And it's an idea that mental health professionals say reflects outdated thinking on the treatment of mental illness.

Trump sometimes harks back to his earlier

years in New York to explain his thinking on preventing future mass shootings. He recently recalled to reporters how mentally ill people ended up on the streets and in jails in New York after the state closed large psychiatric hospitals in the 1960s and 1970s.

"Even as a young guy, I said, 'How does that work? That's not a good thing,'" Trump said.

As the White House looks for ways to fight gun violence, officials have looked at Indiana as one potential model in addressing mental illness.

The state opened a new 159-bed psychiatric hospital in March, Indiana's first in more than 50 years.

But Trump's support for new "mental institutions" is drawing pushback from many in the mental health profession who say that approach would do little to reduce mass shootings in the United States and incorrectly associates mental illness with violence.

Paul Gionfriddo, president and chief executive of the advocacy group Mental Health America, said Trump is pursuing a 19th century solution to a 21st century problem.

"Anybody with any sense of history understands they were a complete failure. They were money down the drain," said Gionfriddo.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Kayaker chased by 360-pound alligator

**GA** AUGUSTA — A Georgia kayaker says he could only think of paddling faster after realizing he wasn't alone in a pond.

Bo Storey told WRDW-TV, "I just paddled and paddled." on Monday to get away from a 10-foot, 360 pound alligator that got as close as 5 feet from the back of his kayak.

News outlets report Richmond County deputies received a call from Storey saying he was being chased by the behemoth. Deputies arrived on the scene and wrestled the massive gator with help from hunter Trey Durant and his friend Robby Amerson. The alligator was clearly not afraid of humans and was deemed a nuisance so it was legally killed by Durant.

## Man's body exhumed after cemetery mix-up

**NC** RALEIGH — A man's body has been exhumed from a grave on a court order after a funeral home discovered it'd mistakenly sold the same plot twice.

WRAL reports Kizzie Sewell bought a plot at Montlawn Cemetery in Raleigh for her husband, Winfred Barnes, upon his death in 2014. But last year, Sewell says Montlawn informed her they realized they'd already sold her husband's plot to another customer who started paying for it six months before Barnes was buried there.

On Wednesday, Barnes' body was dug up after five years in the plot.

## Turtle patrol finds two-headed hatchling

**SC** HILTON HEAD ISLAND — A group that

monitors sea turtles in Hilton Head Island, S.C., has reported finding a two-headed Loggerhead hatchling.

News outlets report Sea Turtle Patrol Hilton Head Island says the hatchling was found alive Tuesday and released into the ocean.

The group's leader, marine biologist Amber Kuehn, says a genetic mutation caused the second head on the turtle, since named Squirt and Crush.

## Farmer works to round up loose pigs

**VT** ORANGE — A Vermont farmer is working to round up the rest of his 250 pigs that escaped from a fenced area earlier this month.

NECN-TV reports that Walter Jeffries of Sugar Mountain Farm in Orange says roughly 50 adults and 200 piglets escaped after fencing was damaged by vandals.

He said Wednesday that many of the pigs have been wrangled. He and workers placed a trail of hamburger and hot dog buns to lure the stragglers.

Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts says his agency is providing Jeffries guidance on how to remedy the problem.

He says the state is concerned about public safety on the road for drivers and the pigs and about creating a feral population of pigs.

## Officials investigate bright green creek

**IA** CLIVE — Officials in suburban Des Moines are seeking answers on what has caused a creek there to turn bright green.

The Des Moines Register reports that city officials reached out to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on Tuesday morning after a Clive resident

posted a photo online of a vivid green Walnut Creek.

Department officials have since taken samples of the water, but Clive Assistant City Manager Pete DeKock says the department has not shared the results with city officials.

## Coke bottle helps lead to burglary suspect

**MO** WENTZVILLE — Authorities believe they've found the man responsible for burglaries across Missouri, and a bottle of Coca-Cola helped break the case.

KTVI-TV reports that Dakota Blackburn, 25, faces multiple charges for burglaries in St. Charles County, Jefferson City, Moberly and elsewhere. Authorities believe he's responsible for more than a dozen crimes.

Wentzville police say someone recently broke into a Mexican restaurant and ransacked it, looking for money. The intruder took a bottle of Coke from the cooler and left it behind.

Police Chief Kurt Frisz says DNA testing from the bottle linked Blackburn to the crime.

## Woman gets help to keep her vanity plate

**NH** ROCHESTER — New Hampshire's governor has stepped in to help a woman keep a 15-year-old vanity license plate showing a common parental phrase.

The state Division of Motor Vehicles asked Wendy Auger, of Rochester, to surrender the plate, which reads "PB4WEGO." The division said phrases related to excretory acts aren't permitted.

Seacoastonline.com reports Gov. Chris Sununu said Wednesday he reached out to the division and "strongly

urged them" to allow Auger to keep the plate.

## Airborne surfer lands on shark and gets bit

**FL** NEW SMYRNA BEACH — Authorities say a surfer at a Florida beach caught air on a wave and landed on a shark that, in turn, bit him on the hand and calf.

Donald Walsh tells The Daytona Beach News-Journal that he had been surfing at New Smyrna Beach for several hours Tuesday when he decided to try going airborne before leaving for the day.

Ocean Rescue Capt. Tamra Malphurs says that's when Walsh landed on the 6.5-foot shark in waist-deep water and suffered lacerations that weren't considered life-threatening.

Walsh, 40, says he didn't see the shark below him as he landed in the water, but the shark's bite brought it into focus.

## Libraries eliminating overdue book fines

**WA** PORT ANGELES — The North Olympic Library System has eliminating fines for overdue books and other materials, joining a host of other libraries that have already made the move.

The Clallam County regional library's Board of Trustees voted 5-0 last week to eliminate overdue fines at its public libraries in Port Angeles, Sequim, Forks and Clallam Bay. The fine-free policy takes effect Sept. 1.

Library Director Margaret Jakubcin told the Peninsula Daily News the primary reason for eliminating fines is that fines "create barriers" to service.

From wire reports

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# No. 1 Clemson hammers Georgia Tech

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Travis Etienne spent all offseason trying to ignore the national attention headed his way. He'll have a harder time doing that after the show he put on in No. 1 Clemson's opener.

Etienne, the reigning Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, rushed for a career-high 205 yards and three touchdowns, including one from 90 yards out, as the Tigers overpowered Georgia Tech 52-14 Thursday night for their 16th straight victory in the opener for both ACC teams.

Etienne started slowly and had a first-quarter fumble to end a drive by the Tigers. The next time he touched the ball, the junior bounced to the left and outraced the Yellow Jackets to the end zone to tie the longest TD run in Clemson history.

Etienne added 14- and 48-yard rushing scores as Clemson went up 35-0. He averaged more than 17 yards on his 12 carries.

Still, Etienne brushed aside what this game might mean for

him individually when Heisman Trophy voters are looking for performances like this.

"I really don't try to worry about who's out there watching," Etienne said. "I try to play the best for my team and just try to get to 1-0 every week and be there for my brothers."

Etienne was certainly there to lead the Tigers during a lackluster game for Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence.

The 6-foot-6 sophomore, so poised and polished in leading the Tigers to a 15-0, title-winning season, threw two interceptions in the first half. Lawrence had just four picks all last year.

Still, Lawrence had his moments. His hustle after a bad interception knocked defensive back Tre Swilling out of bounds at the Clemson 3, and the Tigers defense kept the Yellow Jackets from scoring. Lawrence opened things with a 6-yard rushing score and threw a perfect pass to Tee Higgins for a 62-yard touchdown.

Lawrence finished 13-for-23 for 168 yards.

Lawrence knew when he

released the ball that Swilling would pick it off. But he went back to his football training, took a good angle and made the play. He said his teammates were cheering his hustle play.

"They weren't happy I threw an interception, but just happy he didn't score," Lawrence said.

Georgia Tech, changing its offensive and defensive styles under first-year coach Geoff Collins, struggled on both sides. It committed four turnovers and gave up more than 500 yards of offense.

Early on, the Yellow Jackets muffed a punt that set up Clemson near its goal line for its first score. Swilling's pick set Tech up with a first-and-goal on the 3, but it couldn't score.

"We've just got learn to finish those things," Collins said.

## The takeaway

**Georgia Tech:** The Yellow Jackets have some work to do to get all the option out of their system. Many of their offensive plays, especially in the first half, looked like the quarter-

back runs of former coach Paul Johnson.

**Clemson:** There were sloppy moments on both sides of the ball. But performers like Etienne, Lawrence and Higgins overshadowed any problems the Tigers might have.

## Poll implications

Clemson came out fast and never let up. Expect the Tigers to remain No. 1, no matter how many points No. 2 Alabama or No. 3 Georgia hang on opponents this weekend.

## Teaching time

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney was grateful for the win — and grateful he and his coaches will have their players' attention after some sloppy mistakes. Swinney said there were plenty of errors on all sides of the ball that will have to get fixed before No. 12 Texas A&M comes to Death Valley in 10 days. "We can give them some truth," Swinney said. "They have to receive the truth and we've got to get better."

## Top 25 roundup

# No. 14 Utah pulls away from BYU in annual 'Holy War'

Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — Utah's defense picked up where it left off last season. BYU paid a steep price for it.

The No. 14 Utes scored three touchdowns off three BYU turnovers to pull away for a 30-12 victory on Thursday night in the opener for both teams. Utah left no doubt about how strong its defense could be this season.

Over the final 30 minutes, the Cougars gained just 104 yards on 18 total plays.

Utah's defense did its part, and Zack Moss highlighted the offensive effort.

Moss ran for 181 yards and a touchdown to help the Utes (1-

0) earn their ninth straight victory in the 100th game in the Holy War rivalry.

The senior suffered a hand injury in fall camp and wore a protective splint after the game. It didn't seem to limit it him. Moss propelled the offense after halftime by gashing the Cougars for a series of big runs. He averaged 6.2 yards on 29 carries.

The defense took care of the rest.

Zach Wilson totaled 208 yards on 21-for-33 passing and added 43 yards on the ground to lead BYU (0-1). Wilson also threw a pair of interceptions that Utah returned for touchdowns.

**No. 12 Texas A&M 41, Texas State 7:** Kellen Mond

threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score in just more than three quarters, and the host Aggies had four interceptions in a rout of the Bobcats.

Mond, who threw for 194 yards, had touchdown passes of 21 and 3 yards and ran for another score in the first two quarters as Texas A&M raced to a 28-0 halftime lead.

Quartney Davis had 85 yards receiving and a touchdown and Jhamon Ausbon added a touchdown catch. First-year starter Jashaun Corbin had 103 yards rushing with a touchdown reception and a TD run.

**No. 17 UCF 62, Florida A&M 0:** Former Notre Dame star Brandon Wimbush threw

for 168 yards and two touchdowns in his debut with his new team, helping the Knights open the season with a rout of the Rattlers.

The redshirt senior transfer completed 12 of 23 passes without an interception while sharing playing time with true freshman Dillon Gabriel, who finished second in the competition for the starting quarterback job that opened because of an injury sidelining two-time American Athletic Conference offensive player of the year McKenzie Milton.

Wimbush, who tossed TD passes of 37 and 12 yards to Gabriel Davis, was 13-2 as a starter over the past two years at Notre Dame.



# Gauff advances to face Osaka in US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Coco Gauff pumping her fists and screaming “Come on!” to celebrate a Grand Slam victory is already becoming a regular occurrence. At just 15, she’s now the youngest player to reach the U.S. Open’s third round since 1996, quickly proving her captivating run to Week 2 at Wimbledon was no fluke.

And what a showdown comes next: Gauff will face No. 1 seed and defending champion Naomi Osaka on Saturday.

“This is just the beginning, I promise,” Gauff told an appreciative crowd that chanted her name at Louis Armstrong Stadium on Thursday during a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 win over Timea Babos of Hungary.

“I was tested a lot. I think we were both just testing each other,” Gauff said after her second three-set tussle this week. “If I didn’t win that last point, maybe she would have won the

match.”

The Floridian is putting together another captivating run, just like she did on the way to the fourth round at the All England Club last month in her Grand Slam debut.

Another young American woman is making Slam waves, too: Taylor Townsend, 23, whose pure, raw emotion came through after she delivered one last crisp forehand volley to complete her 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) upset of two-time major champion Simona Halep.

Townsend, a qualifier ranked 116th, clenched her fists, raised her arms and yelled, “Yes! Yes!” before patting her heart. Moments later, Townsend’s voice cracked and tears began to flow as she told fans in Arthur Ashe Stadium, “It’s been a long journey. Just haven’t been able to get over the hump.”

Townsend pulled off the biggest victory of her up-and-down career with an entertaining,

net-rushing, serve-and-volleying brand of lefty tennis against former No. 1 Halep.

“It’s been a long road. A lot of haters. A lot of people who weren’t sure. I mean, I’ve heard it for a really long time that I was never going to make it, that I wasn’t going to be able to break through or do this or do that,” Townsend said. “This was a huge, monumental moment. It was a very defining moment for me to realize that I belong here.”

She was marked for greatness long ago.

Townsend won singles and doubles junior titles at the 2012 Australian Open, turned pro that year at age 16, then cracked the top 100 in the rankings while still a teen. But a drop out of the WTA’s top 300 followed and she came into Thursday 9-16 at Grand Slam tournaments and 0-10 against top-10 women.

Against Wimbledon champion Halep, she wasted a pair

of match points, one via double-fault, while serving for the win at 5-4 in the third, but never wavered. Townsend then saved a match point for Halep at 6-5.

“When I’ve played her before, I was just trying to make balls (in). I think I played not to lose,” said Townsend, who’d been 0-3 against Halep. “And today I played to win.”

How did she do it?

Townsend and Gauff provided the most attention-grabbing results on a busy Day 4 at the year’s last major tournament, with all but nine of Wednesday’s scheduled singles matches carried over because of rain. The weather was just right Thursday, and so result after result poured in, including Andrea Petkovic’s 6-4, 6-4 elimination of two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová and unseeded American Denis Kudla’s 7-5, 7-5, 0-6, 6-3 win over No. 27 Dusan Lajovic.

## NFL preseason roundup

# Backups brings Bills back in victory over Vikings

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Undrafted rookie Tyree Jackson hit David Sills for an 8-yard touchdown pass with 8 seconds left in rallying the Buffalo Bills to a 27-23 win over the Minnesota Vikings to close the preseason Thursday night.

Victor Bolden recovered Jackson’s fumble in the end zone and Marcus Murphy scored on a 79-yard punt return as the Bills scored three touchdowns in the final 3:53 to overcome a 23-6 deficit. The Bills finished 4-0 for the first unbeaten preseason in team history.

**Colts 13, Bengals 6:** Indianapolis wrapped up an unsettling preseason, moving on from Andrew Luck with the victory in Cincinnati.

**Falcons 31, Jaguars 12:** Atlanta ended a 12-game preseason losing streak and seem-

ingly found a solution to its kicking woes while winning in Jacksonville.

**Steelers 25, Panthers 19:** Mason Rudolph and Kyle Allen turned in solid efforts and appeared to solidify their No. 2 quarterback roles for their respective teams in Charlotte, N.C.

**Jets 6, Eagles 0:** Taylor Bertolet kicked two field goals for the game’s only scores, but missed three other attempts in his bid to make New York’s roster.

**Buccaneers 17, Cowboys 15:** Vincent Testaverde’s first NFL pass was badly overthrown, and the second was intercepted. At least the son of Vinny Testaverde could say he played in a preseason victory for the team that drafted his dad No. 1 overall in 1987.

**Browns 20, Lions 16:** Rookie Austin Seibert appeared to

lock up Cleveland’s kicking job after a summer-long battle, and Detroit finished 0-4 in the preseason with a road loss.

**Ravens 20, Redskins 7:** Dwayne Haskins completed 10 of 17 passes for 104 yards and a touchdown and showed flashes of why host Washington considers him its quarterback of the future.

**Packers 27, Chiefs 20:** One play stood out during host Green Bay’s win, and it happened on a dead ball in the fourth quarter.

**Dolphins 16, Saints 13:** Jake Rudock passed for 229 yards and one touchdown for Miami, which won at New Orleans.

**Titans 19, Bears 15:** Dalyn Dawkins rushed for 117 yards and caught two touchdown passes for Tennessee in a win at Chicago.

**Rams 22, Texans 10:** In the battle for the third-string

quarterback job, John Wolford played well and Brandon Allen struggled as Los Angeles closed out the preseason with a win at Houston.

**Broncos 20, Cardinals 7:** Malik Reed had a pair of sacks and host Denver capped a strong summer by the second-string defense in front of a sparse crowd.

**Seahawks 17, Raiders 15:** Geno Smith appeared to lock up the backup job in Seattle, throwing a pair of first-half touchdown passes before limping off with a minor knee injury during a victory over visiting Oakland.

**Chargers 27, 49ers 24:** Cardale Jones led scoring drives on Los Angeles’ first four possessions in his bid to make the roster as the No. 3 quarterback in a game against San Francisco at Santa Clara, Calif.

# Reds' Aquino raps 14th HR in August

Associated Press

MIAMI — Aristides Aquino broke the National League rookie record for homers in a month with his 14th in August, but Harold Ramirez homered leading off the 12th inning for the Miami Marlins, who beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-3 Thursday night to avert a four-game sweep.

Aquino hit a two-run homer in the first for Cincinnati, and his two-out RBI single in the eighth tied it at 3.

Miami's Jon Berti, Austin Dean and Starlin Castro hit solo home runs off Alex Wood, who has allowed 10 homers in 35<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings this season. Ramirez pulled a 1-

1 pitch for his third career walk-off RBI against closer Raisel Iglesias (2-10).

The Marlins finished 1-6 in the season series with the Reds.

Aquino broke the rookie record of 13 in a month set by the Dodgers' Cody Bellinger in June 2017. The major league record by a rookie is 18 by the Tigers' Rudy York in August 1937.

Aquino, who was promoted from the minors on Aug. 1, tied the Reds record for homers by a player in a month held by Frank Robinson (1962) and Greg Vaughn (1999). He leads the majors with 32 RBIs this month.

Robert Dugger, making his second ca-

reer start for the Marlins, pitched seven innings and allowed two runs, both unearned. He retired 13 in a row during one stretch.

Tyler Kinley (3-1) pitched two perfect innings.

Cincinnati's Joey Votto reached on a two-base error in the first inning when his deep fly was dropped by center fielder Lewis Brinson. With two out, Aquino homered.

Berti led off the Marlins' first with a homer for the third time this year.

Dean homered to tie the game in the fifth, and Castro's 14th homer in the sixth gave Miami a 3-2 lead.

## MLB roundup

# Twins top White Sox, set record with 139 road HRs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jake Cave homered twice, C.J. Cron went deep and the surging Minnesota Twins set a major league record for home runs on the road in a 10-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Thursday.

Cave led off the third with a drive off Dylan Cease (3-7) to give Minnesota 139 homers away from home, eclipsing the mark of 138 set by San Francisco in 2001. Cron, the next hitter, followed with a homer to center.

Cave added a shot in the seventh for his second career multi-homer game, increasing the Twins' overall total to 261. The record for homers in a season, 267, was set last year by the New York Yankees.

Cron doubled and had three RBIs in a three-hit game, and Nelson Cruz drove in three runs as the AL Central leaders won their fifth straight. In sweeping a three-game series with sliding Chicago, Minnesota (82-51) moved to 31 games above .500 for the first time since September 2010.

Jose Berrios (11-7) cruised to his first victory in nearly a month. He allowed three runs on seven hits and struck out eight in six innings.

**Rays 9, Astros 8:** Ji-Man Choi hit a two-run double, Travis d'Arnaud homered and drove in four runs, and Tampa Bay won at Houston to avoid a three-game sweep.

Astros star Jose Altuve hit a tiebreaking solo leadoff homer in the sixth, his 25th, but the Rays scored three runs in the seventh to make it 8-6. Tommy Pham had an RBI single off Chris Devenski (2-3), and Choi brought in two more with a drive to center.

Houston ended a seven-game winning streak, and the Rays snapped a season-high four-game road skid.

**Indians 2, Tigers 0:** Mike Clevinger struck out 10 in eight innings, and Francisco Lindor homered to lift Cleveland to a win at Detroit.

The Indians swept the three-game series and are 15-1 against the Tigers this year, including the past 14 in a row. Clevinger (10-2) allowed four hits and no walks in his longest outing of the season. He was lifted after 115 pitches, and Brad Hand worked a perfect ninth for his 33rd save in 38 chances.

Lindor opened the scoring in the third with a solo homer off Daniel Norris (3-11) and added a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

**Athletics 9, Royals 8:** Ju-

rickson Profar homered and drove in three runs and Seth Brown added two RBIs as Oakland won at Kansas City.

Everybody in the A's starting lineup had a hit or drove in a run, bailing out starter Chris Bassitt, who failed to survive the fifth before turning the game over to Yusmeiro Petit (4-3).

Glenn Sparkman (3-10) also failed to make it through the fifth for the Royals, allowing seven runs, nine hits and a walk. He also hit a pair of batters in losing his fifth straight decision.

**Cubs 4, Mets 1:** Victor Caratini homered twice off ace Jacob deGrom, including a tiebreaking, three-run drive in the seventh inning that powered Chicago to a win at New York for a three-game sweep.

Jon Lester (11-9) limited the Mets to five hits and pitched six effective innings as the Cubs increased their lead for the second NL wild-card spot to 2½ games over Philadelphia.

Caratini lofted a solo homer in the second that made it 1-all. That was the Cubs' only hit until they struck in the seventh.

**Mariners 5, Rangers 3:** Austin Nola hit a sacrifice fly that scored Dee Gordon with the tiebreaking run in the top

of the ninth inning and Omar Narvaez added an insurance run with an RBI single as Seattle snapped a three-game losing streak with a win at Texas.

Matt Magill (4-1) allowed one base runner in the eighth and ninth innings.

**Pirates 11, Rockies 8:** Kevin Newman had two homers among his four hits and drove in three runs, Jose Osuna also homered and Pittsburgh won at Colorado. Newman homered to lead off the game, igniting a seven-run first that he capped with his second hit of the inning, a two-out RBI single that chased Rockies starter Chi Chi Gonzalez (0-6). It was the second career leadoff home run for Newman.

**Padres 5, Giants 3:** Chris Paddock rebounded from his worst start of the season, throwing one-run ball over seven innings and leading San Diego to the win at San Francisco.

Manuel Margot and Austin Hedges homered for the Padres, which had lost seven of eight against the Giants.

**Diamondbacks 11, Dodgers 5:** Eduardo Escobar hit his 30th home run, Wilmer Flores had three hits and three RBIs and host Arizona defeated Los Angeles' Hyun-Jin Ryu for the first time this season.