

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, December 10, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Search continues for 5 in Japan crash

BY JAMES BOLINGER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — One Marine has been released from the hospital as the search continued Monday for five others missing since their KC-130 Hercules collided midair with an F/A-18 Hornet last week off southern Japan.

Seven Marines initially went missing after the collision just before 2 a.m. Thursday during “regularly scheduled training” that included aerial refueling south of Muroto Cape on Shikoku Island, U.S. and Japanese officials said.

The two Marines aboard the Hornet were recovered the day

of the accident. The first, who was picked up that morning by a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter, has been released from the hospital, III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman 2nd Lt. Ryan Bruce told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday.

The second, Capt. Jahmar Resilard, 28, was pronounced dead after being found just after noon by the JMSDF ship JS Setoyuki.

The size of the team looking for the five Marines from MCAS Iwakuni’s Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 has shrunk since Sunday, according to a spokesman from the Japanese Defense Ministry’s Joint Staff.

A pair of Japan Air-Self De-

fense Force aircraft — a UH-60 Black Hawk and an E-767 AWACS — were searching for the missing crew Monday, a Defense Ministry statement said.

U.S. aircraft participating in the search include Air Force CV-22 Osprey, MC-130J, C-130J Super Hercules, RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft, KC-135 Stratotanker, RQ-4 Global Hawk and Navy P-8 Poseidon, Bruce said. An Australian P-8 was also aiding the effort.

Search and rescue personnel from the 320th Special Tactics Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, were also on scene Monday searching for survivors, said 1st Lt. Renee Douglas, a spokeswoman for the Air Force’s 353rd Special Opera-

tions Group.

How much longer the effort would continue is unknown, the Defense Ministry spokesman said.

III MEF has declared the incident a “Class A” mishap, Japan’s Kyodo news agency reported Monday. Those involve total property damage of “\$2 million or more and/or aircraft destroyed” and “fatality or permanent disability.” Marine Corps officials are still investigating.

MCAS Iwakuni, one of the Pacific’s largest air stations, is home to Marine Air Craft Group 12 and the Navy’s Carrier Air Wing 5.

Officials: Some troops to leave border this week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials say active-duty troops will begin leaving the southern U.S. border this week and the number of forces there will go down to at least 3,000 by the holidays.

There have been roughly 5,400 active-duty troops along the border in recent weeks installing wire barriers and protecting border patrol agents in California, Arizona and Texas.

President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of troops in response to a caravan of Central American migrants moving toward the U.S. border. The number of migrants has been declining, and the military has finished much of the wire barrier placement.

Officials say there is less need for combat engineers and helicopter transport crews. But many of the military police

will remain. The officials spoke anonymously because they weren’t authorized to speak publicly.

Future USS Lyndon B. Johnson now floating

BATH, Maine — The last of three stealthy destroyers being built at Bath Iron Works is in the water.

The Navy says it was a multi-day process to move the future USS Lyndon B. Johnson to dry dock where it was floated on Sunday.

Capt. Kevin Smith, program manager, said it’s an important milestone as construction shifts to final outfitting and production.

Capt. Jeremy Gray, the prospective commanding officer, said it’s impressive to see the ship afloat, “and we look forward to taking her to sea.”

The first two ships in the class, the USS Zumwalt and the USS Monsoor, already have joined the fleet. The ships are the largest destroyers built for the U.S. Navy. They feature a stealthy design, all-electric propulsion and new weapon systems.

Naval Academy chapel dome renovations set

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Renovations of the U.S. Naval Academy’s iconic chapel dome will begin this winter.

The Capital Gazette reported that the chapel will remain operational for services, funerals and weddings during the \$8.9 million project.

Academy Chief of Staff Capt. George Lang wrote in a memo to faculty and staff that new skylights will be installed on the dome, but it will retain its green

patina and the same “iconic view that you see today.”

Charges filed in Navy petty officer’s death

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Authorities say they’ve arrested the former fiance of a Navy petty officer who was killed in her north Florida home three months ago.

The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office said in a statement that Danny Beard was arrested in the slaying of Andrea Washington.

He was ordered held without bail on Saturday.

The Jacksonville Times-Union reported that Washington was found dead last September in her Jacksonville home on the day she was set to appear in court for an injunction for domestic violence protection against Beard.

Green Beret is cleared in Niger ambush

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Army has rescinded the reprimand of a Green Beret who led troops during the deadly October 2017 ambush in Niger that left four U.S. soldiers dead, The New York Times reported.

Last week, Team 3212 leader Capt. Michael Perozeni, initially blamed for his role in planning the mission, was formally cleared, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, a more senior officer — Lt. Col. David Painter, then the battalion commander in charge of Alpha Company and Team 3212 — was issued a reprimand after initially escaping blame, according to the Dec. 7 report.

Col. Brad Moses, the commanding officer of 3rd Special Forces Group at the time, has so far received no punishment but is now under renewed scrutiny, the newspaper said.

U.S. Africa Command referred questions about punishments and accountability actions to U.S. Special Operations Command, which did not have an immediate response

Monday.

The latest moves came in response to a concern expressed by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis that lower-ranking troops were shouldering too much of the blame. After news reports highlighted that junior officers were being singled out for punishment, Mattis summoned top military commanders. The meeting resulted in Perozeni's reprimand being rescinded and his supervisors being subjected to fresh scrutiny, the Times reported.

U.S. Special Operations Command Africa boss Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks already had been reprimanded in connection with the ambush for insufficient oversight of his subordinate officers. He is the highest-ranking official punished so far for the incident.

An earlier Africa Command investigation of the October ambush determined that the members of the Green Beret and Nigerien team had little experience together as a unit.

In the aftermath of the attack, there has been significant inter-command friction between Army, SOCOM and AFRICOM

as well as Pentagon leadership over whom should be blamed, the Times reported.

While the Times cited complaints inside the Army about AFRICOM investigating itself, the command on Monday defended its investigation.

"It is not uncommon for a higher headquarters to serve as the investigating authority for one of its component or subordinate commands," AFRICOM spokesman Maj. Karl Wiest said in an email. "U.S. AFRICOM had the responsibility to determine the facts and circumstances related to the attack in order to recognize the valor of our soldiers and to provide answers to the families of the fallen, Congress, and the American public.

"U.S. AFRICOM also needed this information to capture lessons that we have used to further refine our approach to countering violent extremists with our partners in the region."

Four soldiers were killed in the ambush: Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah W. Johnson, Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright and Sgt. La David Johnson.

CDs, faxes return to help military share files

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The shuttering of a widely used military file-sharing service last month has left the services without an online option for transferring sensitive unclassified files, so they're turning to CDs, DVDs, postal mail and even fax machines.

The Navy and Marine Corps issued official guidance late last month saying optical discs are the only way to securely send large files that contain private information like Social Security numbers or medical data after the military disabled the Army's Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center Safe Access File Exchange, or AMRDEC SAFE.

Neither the Air Force nor the Army have issued similar guidance, but officials with those services said they also lack an online alternative.

There's no indication when

AMRDEC SAFE will be up and running after the military disabled the service early last month — a preventive measure after unnamed "government-internal agencies" discovered potential security risks, Kerensa Crum, a spokeswoman for the missile research center, said via email.

"We are unaware of any breach," Crum said. "There is no established timeline for the restoration or sunset of SAFE."

The research center based at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama developed the file-sharing system to allow it to exchange large data files with its civilian industry partners, Crum said. It was not intended for widespread use by the Army or other branches.

Despite the creators' intentions, the site was widely adopted within the military and the government.

Via the site, anyone could send messages containing up to

25 documents or 2 gigabytes to military, government or civilian email addresses. That's significantly more than encrypted email, which is also approved for sending personal and medical information but is limited to 10 megabytes and can't be sent to all email recipients.

Kelly DeWitt, now the deputy chief of staff at the missile research center, said last year that the center didn't track usage data but knew several agencies were using it because of its security and file capacity.

Those comments came after news that the White House's election integrity commission had proposed that state election officials use AMRDEC SAFE to submit the voluminous voter data the commission was seeking for a nationwide database.

Within the Navy, some medical clinics relied on the site for sending electronic medical records. A program for selecting enlisted sailors to join the

Judge Advocate General Corps required that application packets be submitted via the site this year.

The Marine Corps recently required nomination packets for its aviation awards to be submitted via AMRDEC SAFE.

Both services issued guidance on the use of other military-operated file-sharing sites approved for distributing sensitive or protected unclassified materials that do not contain personally identifiable or private health information, such as the Army Research Laboratory's SAFE site (<https://safe.arl.army.mil/>), which allows 2-gigabyte files.

The Corps' information technology department is "exploring long-term solutions to the capability gap, including the potential expansion of [the Defense Information Systems Agency's] Secure File Gateway System to meet the DOD need," the service said in its guidance.

Iraq celebrates 1 year after its defeat of ISIS

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq began removing cement walls from areas surrounding the capital's most fortified enclave Monday, opening parts of the so-called Green Zone to traffic in a symbolic move coinciding with nationwide celebrations marking the anniversary of the country's costly victory over Islamic State.

The partial reopening of parts of the high-security area is meant to portray increased confidence in the country's overall security situation and is also being billed as an act of transparency following protests against corruption and poor public services.

The enclave on the west bank of the Tigris became home to foreign embassies and key government buildings after the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 and has since then been surrounded by blast walls and barbed wire, inaccessible to most Iraqis.

The partial reopening of some side streets — initially just for five hours a day — has been repeatedly delayed and then timed to coincide with the one-year anniversary of Iraq's victory over ISIS. The group has lost virtually all the territory it once held but still carries out sporadic attacks to hang on to its last enclave in Syria near the Iraqi border.

The government declared victory last December after a grueling three-year war in which tens of thousands of people were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. Entire towns and neighborhoods were reduced to rubble.

The government declared Monday a national holiday, and a moment of silence was held at midday. Checkpoints in the capital were decorated with Iraqi flags and balloons as security forces patrolled the streets playing patriotic music.

"That victory and the relative stability in security is a golden opportunity for the government to rebuild the country and to meet the needs of its people," said Sameer al-Obaidi, who led an initiative in the capital's Sunni-dominated north-

ern Azamiyah neighborhood to distribute flowers to security forces at checkpoints.

The celebrations come as political infighting has hindered the formation of the government and setting next year's budget amid a deteriorating economic situation as the country grapples with the legacy of the extremist group's rule.

More than 1.8 million Iraqis remain displaced across the country, and a staggering 8 million require some form of humanitarian aid, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council. Those with suspected links to ISIS have been rejected by their communities, while thousands of children fathered by ISIS militants — including those born to enslaved Yazidi women — are still unrecognized by the state.

Nearly two-thirds of displaced people say they are unwilling or unable to return home in the next year, with more than half saying their homes were damaged or destroyed, according to the aid group.

"If this is what 'victory' looks like, then there is little to celebrate for millions of Iraqis still haunted by the crimes of [ISIS] and the long war to eliminate it," said Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary General Jan Egeland.

"They have largely been forgotten by their own government and the international community."

But the government was in a celebratory mood.

Addressing a group of Iraqi military officers, Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi said it was a "proud day for all of us when our brave country defeated the enemies of life, dignity, freedom and peace."

He commended the security forces as well as Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, who issued a fatwa, or religious edict, mobilizing volunteers after the armed forces collapsed in the face of the ISIS onslaught in 2014. Tens of thousands of volunteers joined an array of state-sanctioned militias, many of them backed by Iran.

S. Korean workers on US bases face furlough if no deal

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military has warned that South Koreans working on bases across the divided peninsula will need to be furloughed if Seoul and Washington fail to reach a new military cost-sharing agreement, Stars and Stripes has learned.

With the current five-year deal set to expire on Dec. 31, negotiators from both sides planned to meet Tuesday in Seoul for their 10th round of talks since March amid reports that President Donald Trump is demanding that the South pay much more for its own defense.

Much of the some \$830 million per year paid by the South Korean government covers the salaries of local employees who provide services crucial to maintaining some 28,500 American troops stationed in the South.

U.S. Forces Korea, the main command for some 28,500 American troops based in the South, sent a letter to the Korean Employees Union warning that the military will be "required to issue a general furlough notice with an effective date of April 15, 2019" if negotiations aren't completed in a timely manner to avoid a lapse in funding.

The letter, signed by chief of staff Maj. Gen. Michael Minihan, said the notices would be issued no later than Feb. 13 to provide as much notice as possible.

Citing a joint labor management agreement, Minihan said, "I am required to inform you officially that we anticipate the need to furlough Korean employees for more than 30 days."

"Our Korean workforce is an instrumental part of the alliance between our countries,

strengthening the defense of [South Korea]," he said, according to a copy of the letter obtained by Stars and Stripes. "We will continue to work with the (South Korean) government to find a solution to this challenge."

USFK did not immediately respond to a request for further comment on possible contingency plans in case a deal isn't reached.

The dealmaking comes as the alliance between the two countries, which was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War, is already under pressure from differences over how to approach peace efforts with the North amid stalled nuclear talks.

Trump has stated several times that he wants U.S. allies to pay more. He also has hinted that he would like to withdraw U.S. troops to save money, while insisting that issue is not on the table for talks with North Korea.

The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the talks, reported last week that the administration has demanded that South Korea pay as much as double the current amount, or the equivalent of \$1.6 billion per year.

South Korean media have suggested that Washington is pushing for Seoul to pay for the deployment of an advanced missile defense system known as THAAD or the deployment of strategic assets such as aircraft carriers and supersonic bombers.

U.S. officials have stressed that brinkmanship is common in cost-sharing negotiations. In 2013, the two sides missed the Dec. 31 deadline but managed to reach a deal a few weeks later, with South Korea agreeing to increase its contribution by 5.8 percent.

The new chief of staff search continues

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is considering at least four people to serve as his next chief of staff after plans for an orderly succession for departing John Kelly fell through.

The high-profile hiring search comes at a pivotal time as the president looks to prepare his White House for the twin challenges of securing his re-election and fending off inquiries once Democrats gain control of the House next year.

Trump's top pick for the job, Nick Ayers, is out of the running, and Trump is now soliciting input on at least four individuals, including Office of Management and Budget director Mick Mulvaney and Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C.,

the chair of the conservative House Freedom Caucus.

Ayers, who is chief of staff to Vice President Mike Pence, was seen as the favorite for the job when Trump announced Saturday that Kelly would leave around year's end. But a White House official said Sunday that Trump and Ayers could not reach agreement on Ayers' length of service and that he would instead assist the president from outside the administration. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive personnel matters.

Ayers confirmed the decision in a tweet Sunday, thanking Trump and Pence for giving him the opportunity to work in the White House.

Even senior White House officials were caught off guard

Sunday, most having believed the Ayers move was a done deal. No obvious successor to Kelly was in sight and there was some fretting that Trump may not be able to fill the job by the time Kelly leaves.

Mulvaney was not interested in becoming chief of staff, according to a person close to him who spoke on condition of anonymity. Mulvaney has been saying for almost two months now that he would be more interested in becoming commerce or treasury secretary if that would be helpful to the president, the person said.

Also among those thought to be in the mix were Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who said in a CBS interview that he hadn't spoken to anyone at the White

House about the job and was "entirely focused" on his position. A person familiar with Mnuchin's thinking said he, too, was happy with his work at Treasury and had not sought the job of chief of staff.

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker and Trump's former deputy campaign manager, David Bossie, were also among the names being floated by some close to the White House.

Trump's administration has set records for staff turnover, and he has often struggled to attract experienced political professionals, a challenge that has grown more difficult by the upcoming threat of costly Democratic oversight investigations and an uncertain political environment.

Japan effectively bans contracts with Chinese firms Huawei, ZTE

The Washington Post

TOKYO — Japan's government issued instructions Monday effectively banning China's Huawei and ZTE from official contracts, while the country's top three telecom operators plan to follow suit, Japanese media reported Monday.

The news is another setback for Huawei after its chief financial officer was arrested in Canada at the behest of the U.S. government for allegedly trying to evade U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Japan's government guidelines are designed to prevent leaks of sensitive information and do not mention the Chinese companies by name, the Nikkei newspaper reported.

Earlier this year the U.S. Congress passed a law that will largely ban Huawei and ZTE from use by the U.S. government and contractors. Nikkei reported that Washington had given Tokyo information about the security risks involved in using Chinese-made equipment.

Australia and New Zealand have also blocked Huawei from

building fifth-generation, or 5G, networks due to concerns over its possible links to the Chinese government.

The Japanese ban will cover purchases of personal computers, servers and telecommunications equipment by the government and Self-Defense Forces over concerns that viruses embedded in the equipment could cause systems to fail or could leak sensitive information, including military operations, to China, Nikkei reported.

But Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the new rules were not targeting any particular company.

Japan's relations with China have been improving in recent years, and Abe visited China in October vowing to take their relationship in a "new historic direction."

But the controversy about Huawei could become an irritant.

Earlier, the Chinese Embassy in Japan posted a statement on its website Friday saying there is "no evidence that Huawei and ZTE products have security risks."

Brexit in turmoil as May postpones Parliament vote

Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday postponed Parliament's vote on her Brexit divorce deal with the European Union, acknowledging that lawmakers would have rejected it by a "significant margin."

The move averted a humiliating defeat for the government in a vote that had been scheduled for Tuesday. But it throws Britain's Brexit plans into disarray, with the country's departure from the EU just over three months away on March 29.

In an emergency statement to the House of Commons, May accepted that British lawmakers had "widespread and deep concern" about some aspects of the divorce deal agreed upon last month between May and EU leaders.

May said she would seek "assurances" from the EU and bring the Brexit deal back to Parliament, but did not set a new date for the vote.

Many lawmakers were scath-

ing in their comments about both May's actions and the Brexit deal, and derisive laughter erupted when May claimed there was "broad support" for many aspects of the plan.

May insisted that her Brexit deal was still "the best deal that is negotiable," and said rejecting it raised the chances of Britain crashing out of the EU with no agreement.

Delaying the Brexit vote is a bracing new blow for May, who became prime minister after Britain's 2016 decision to leave the EU. She has been battling ever since — first to strike a divorce deal with the bloc, then to sell it to skeptical British lawmakers.

May's Conservative government does not have a majority in the House of Commons, and opposition parties — as well as dozens of Conservative lawmakers — said they would not back the divorce deal. The Brexit disarray leaves both her and her government on shaky ground.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Shoe launch canceled due to unruly crowd

FL MIAMI — A South Florida specialty sneaker store had to postpone the launch of a limited-edition Air Jordan shoe at a nightclub after a crowd showed up and got unruly, resulting in the injury of a police officer.

The retailer SoleFly tweeted Saturday that it was canceling the launch of the limited-edition SoleFly Air Jordan 1 due to safety concerns.

WPLG in Miami reported that a police officer was hurt after the crowd outside the nightclub got unruly waiting for the shoe launch.

Fugitive caught after 16 years on the lam

NJ NEW BRUNSWICK — A New Jersey fugitive who fled 16 years ago after he was convicted of sexual assault has been captured.

Middlesex County prosecutors said Rayed Bukhari, 42, of South Plainfield was arrested Thursday by the FBI at his job in Long Island City, N.Y. He was returned to New Jersey for a federal court appearance in Newark and remained in custody Sunday.

Authorities say Bukhari was convicted in November 2001 of sexual assault, criminal restraint, false imprisonment and a weapons charge. A bench warrant was issued for his arrest after he failed to appear for his sentencing in May 2002.

Man arrested after release from hospital

OR PORTLAND — An armed man shot by police officers at a Northeast Portland Starbucks cafe was released from a hospital and

arrested.

The Oregonian reported Ryan Beisley, 34, was released from the hospital Saturday night and lodged at the Multnomah County Jail. He had been sought on a federal warrant.

Police said Beisley on Friday night began shouting at employees in the coffee shop connected to the Hollywood District Fred Meyer.

Responding officers saw Beisley had a gun. Four officers fired as Beisley walked out of the coffee shop.

Police said he suffered non-life-threatening wounds.

School helps student bullied for hygiene

WI LA CROSSE — La Crosse middle school staff members came to the aid of a truant teenage boy being bullied over hygiene.

School staffers met with the 14-year-old teen's mother to discuss the student missing more than 20 of days of school this semester, according to the La Crosse Tribune.

His mother confirmed she did not have the funds necessary to wash clothes.

A group of La Crosse staff members decided to make arrangements for her to be taken to the laundromat. They also extended the school's food pantry and clothes closet to the family.

IceFest to feature video game figures

OH HAMILTON — Classic video game characters will take center stage at this year's IceFest in a southwestern Ohio city.

The festival sponsor chairman told The Hamilton-Middletown Journal-News that ice sculptures of Pikachu, Mario and Yoshi will be included as

part of this year's "Game Night" theme. Chairman Taylor Welch said the Pikachu sculpture will be 5 feet tall.

Other sculptures planned include Monopoly pieces and a basketball-themed sculpture.

IceFest takes place Jan. 18 and 19.

Theft of stained glass windows investigated

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police and federal authorities are investigating the reported theft of 19th-century stained glass windows from the property of a Philadelphia church.

A police spokeswoman said the custodian for Father Devine Church reported the burglary and theft at the property known as The Disston House, which apparently occurred Dec. 2.

She said the pair of 42- by 94-inch stained glass windows are "original to the 1881-82 construction" and have "significant historical value."

A brass lamp fixture built into the staircase was also taken and could date to work on The Disston House in 1906 and 1920.

Illegal dumping of barrels investigated

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality is investigating how more than a dozen barrels were illegally dumped in Oklahoma City.

The agency said that 16 55-gallon drums containing unidentified liquids were dropped off in a field near an industrial area last month.

Investigators are trying to determine what's inside the barrels, and samples have been sent to the state environmental laboratory for analysis.

DEQ criminal investiga-

tor Michael Freeman said one barrel contained a black tarry substance that leaked onto the ground with the consistency of road tar.

Freeman said one contained a material with the consistency of thick glue and another contained a material that was almost like water.

'Nutcracker' prince proposes on stage

KS WICHITA — The prince in the "Nutcracker" had a special present for his favorite ballerina during a performance of the holiday classic.

The Wichita Eagle reported that Allison Evans was playing the Dewdrop Fairy in the Metropolitan Ballet production when her boyfriend, Dalton Rupp-Meinert, dropped to one knee and proposed.

He broached the idea with choreographer Jill Landrith before rehearsals began last summer. They hatched a plan to make him the prince, even though he'd never danced ballet in his life.

Institute sets exhibit on post-WWII food culture

NY HYDE PARK — The Culinary Institute of America is opening a new exhibit on food culture in the post-World War II era.

An opening reception will be held Wednesday evening at the school's Hudson Valley campus for "Appetites for Change: Foodways in Post-War America."

The free exhibit running through July explores how technology, economics and politics influenced cooking and eating habits from 1945 to 1970.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Dolphins stun Patriots late

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — The celebratory mob scene in the corner of the end zone broke out far from Ryan Tannehill, leaving him in the open field, running and screaming as he waved his arms. Since he couldn't find anyone to hug, he flopped to the grass on his back, the job done and the game won.

"I collapsed — just the emotion of the whole thing," Tannehill said.

Sixteen seconds from defeat, Tannehill threw a short pass and then watched his teammates save the season with the "Drake Escape."

Kenyan Drake ran the last 52 yards as the Dolphins scored on a pass and double lateral on the final play Sunday to beat the New England Patriots 34-33. With that, Miami lived up to its nickname — the Magic City.

"They just made one more play than we did," New England coach Bill Belichick said.

And what a play. The Patriots were on the verge of clinching their 10th consecutive AFC East title when the Dolphins lined up at their 31 after a kick-off return trailing 33-28.

"We had them right where we wanted," Tannehill said dryly. "Not really surprised with how things turned out."

He threw a 14-yard pass to Kenny Stills, who lateraled to DeVante Parker, who quickly lateraled to Drake along the sideline. He cut toward the middle and found a seam, helped by a block from guard Ted Larsen at the 30.

Drake beat two Patriots to the corner of the end zone — defensive back J.C. Jackson and tight end Rob Gronkowski, who was on the field as part of New England's prevent defense.

"Drake runs a 4.3, and Gronk probably runs a 4.6 or 4.7, so you feel good about that matchup," Tannehill said.

Then came one last pass to punctuate the play — Drake

reared back for a celebratory heave into the stands as the Dolphins' bench emptied and teammates swarmed him.

"Football," said Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, "is a crazy game."

The play brought to mind other NFL last-second stunners, including Roger Staubach's "Hail Mary," the "Miracle in the Meadowlands" and the "Immaculate Reception". The play was the longest from scrimmage to win a game with no time remaining in the fourth quarter since the 1970 merger.

Brady threw for 358 yards and three scores, but the stunned Patriots (9-4) lost in Miami for the fifth time in their past six visits. The Dolphins (7-6) came from behind five times to help their slim wild-card chances.

"We're playing one week at a time right now," Miami coach Adam Gase said. "Any loss could be the end."

Bears' 'D' dominant vs. Rams

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bears harassed Jared Goff and squashed the Los Angeles Rams' high-powered offense while shuffling their way to a surprising victory over the team that came in with the NFL's best record.

In a season of huge strides, this might be their biggest one yet.

Eddie Goldman led a dominant effort by the defense and the NFC North-leading Bears beat the NFC West champion Rams 15-6 on Sunday night.

"Our play on defense — all I can say is wow," coach Matt Nagy said.

The Rams (11-2) missed a chance to secure a first-round playoff bye and fell into a tie with New Orleans for home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

Goff threw a career-high four interceptions and was sacked three times, with Goldman getting to him for a tie-breaking safety early in the third quarter.

Bradley Sowell became the first Bears offensive lineman in 11 years with a touchdown reception when he caught a 2-yarder from Mitchell Trubisky in the third quarter. And after four straight last-place finishes in the NFC North, Chicago continued to close in on its first division title and playoff appearance since 2010.

Coming off a shaky outing against Detroit, Goff was 20-for-44 for 180 yards with a 19.1 rating. NFL rushing leader Todd Gurley ran for a season-low 28 yards on 11 carries, and the Rams' three-game win streak came to an end.

The Rams' only other loss was at New Orleans. But against the Monsters of the Midway, they managed just 214 yards.

The Bears (9-4) bounced back from a wild overtime loss at the New York Giants and won for the sixth time in seven games.

Luck, Hilton lead Colts past Texans

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Indianapolis receiver T.Y. Hilton missed multiple practices with a shoulder injury in the week prior to Sunday's trip to NRG Stadium for a critical AFC South matchup. The Colts said his status was up in the air.

Hilton knew he couldn't possibly miss a game at a place where he's had more success than any receiver since the stadium opened in 2002.

He played, and in Indianapolis' 24-21 win over Houston, Hilton had 199 receiving yards and Andrew Luck threw for 399 yards and two touchdowns.

"This is my second home, man," Hilton said, laughing. "I don't know what it is."

Hilton entered as the all-time leader in receiving yards per game at NRG Stadium with 122.3 yards and finished Sunday just shy of 200 yards with nine catches on 12 targets. In seven career games in Houston, Hilton has topped 100 yards four times.

The Colts (7-6) snapped the Texans' nine-game winning streak, trimming Houston's lead over the AFC South to two games with three remaining.

Butker's OT FG gives Chiefs win

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The fourth-down play was designed to go left, yet there was Patrick Mahomes scrambling to his right with a phalanx of Ravens in pursuit, his eyes trained on Tyreek Hill deep downfield.

Mahomes heaved an audacious throw. Hill made an incredible catch.

The Chiefs proceeded to score a tying touchdown on a pass to Damien Williams on another fourth-down play to force overtime. Then they watched as Harrison Butker booted a 36-yard field goal — atoning for a miss as time expired — and their maligned defense stuffed Baltimore to escape with a 27-24 victory Sunday.

"You always want to be in a position to go win a game," said Mahomes, who threw for 377 yards and two scores as the Chiefs clinched a playoff berth. "These are the best wins when you have to battle, when you trade plays. These are the ones that you remember the most."

Tyreek Hill caught eight passes for 139 yards for Kansas City (11-2), including three in overtime to set up the eventual winning field goal.

Cowboys edge Eagles on Cooper's OT score

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Amari Cooper's impact on Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott has been dramatic.

The new No. 1 receiver for the Cowboys shook up the NFC East race, too.

Prescott threw his third touchdown pass to Cooper on the first possession of overtime, and the Cowboys took a big step toward the division title with a 29-23 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

On third down, Rasul Douglas tipped the pass into the air by getting inside the slant route, and Cooper grabbed it and had a clear path to the end zone from the Philadelphia 7 for the 15-yard score. The Cowboys used almost all of the 10-minute overtime, scoring with 1:55 remaining.

"I knew I had the slant route there, but I knew he would sit on it," said Cooper, who finished with a career-high 217 yards receiving on 10 catches. "I tried to sell the fade. It didn't really work, but I just stayed with the ball and there you have it."

By winning the third overtime game in the past four seasons at A&T Stadium between these division rivals, the Cowboys (8-5) won their fifth straight game and took a two-game lead over the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles (6-7) and Washington with three games left.

Carson Wentz threw for three touchdowns, including a pair of tying scores in the fourth quarter. But he never got a chance in overtime because Prescott engineered a 13-play, 75-yard drive.

Prescott overcame two interceptions and a lost fumble to set career highs in completions (42), attempts (54) and yards passing (455).

"Helpless feeling," Wentz said. "I've got a lot of lot of confidence in the defense. They were making plays today. We just didn't do enough early offensively and that cost us."

Top 25 roundup

Tennessee knocks off No. 1 Gonzaga

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Tennessee lost the reigning SEC player of the year down the stretch against the nation's top-ranked team.

The Vols still had the Admiral to lead them.

Admiral Schofield hit a three-pointer with 24 seconds left and scored 25 of his 30 points in the second half, helping No. 7 Tennessee knock off top-ranked Gonzaga 76-73 in the Colangelo Classic on Sunday.

"Our team really executed in the second half," Schofield said. "A lot of good looks for a lot of guys and anyone could have knocked down those shots, we have so many talented people on this team."

Tennessee (7-1) jumped on Gonzaga early and fought back from a nine-point, second-half deficit.

Reigning SEC player of the year Grant Williams fouled out with 2:30 left, but the Vols went up two when Schofield banked in a three-pointer with 80 seconds left.

After Rui Hachimura tied it with two free throws, Schofield hit a long three and Tennessee held on for its first win over a No. 1 team — fifth overall — since beating Kansas in 2010.

"We knew it would have a March kind of feel to it," said Tennessee coach Rick Barnes, who moved into a tie with Gary Williams for 25th in Division I with 668 victories. "When you play against a No. 1 team, you're going to play 40 minutes and we probably did that better today that we had any other game this season."

Gonzaga (9-1) had two shots at a tying three-pointer, but Zach Norvell Jr. and Hachimura missed.

Hachimura and Brandon Clarke had 21 points each for the Bulldogs.

No. 4 Virginia 57, VCU 49: Kyle Guy scored 13 of his 15 points in the first half, and Ty Jerome had 11 of his 14 in the second for host the host Cavaliers.

Virginia (9-0) missed 13 of its first 15 shots after the break and VCU (7-3), coming off its road upset of Texas on Wednesday, led 37-36 midway through the second half.

Isaac Vann led the Rams with 10 points.

No. 6 Nevada 74, Grand Canyon 66: Jordan Carolina had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and Nevada used a late run to finally shake Grand Canyon in the Colangelo Classic in Phoenix.

Nevada (10-0) had a short turnaround after playing No. 20 Arizona State late Friday night and found itself in what felt like a home environment for Grand Canyon.

Spurred by the rowdy Havocs student section, the Antelopes (5-4) held Nevada scoreless the opening 5½ minutes and were within two at halftime.

Nevada finally put it away in the final two minutes, going on a 9-0 run to go up 71-61.

Jazz Johnson had 19 points and Caleb Martin finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the 10-0 Wolf Pack, off to their best start of the program's Division I era (1969-70).

Trey Drechsel had 16 points and Alessandro Lever 13 for Grand Canyon.

No. 15 Virginia Tech 81, South Carolina State 44: At Blacksburg, Va., Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 19 points to lead Virginia Tech.

Alexander-Walker hit 8 of 11 shots, including three three-pointers for the Hokies (8-1). Damani Applewhite led South Carolina State (2-9) with 10 points.

NBA roundup

Brogdon's 3s lift Bucks past Raptors

Associated Press

TORONTO — Malcolm Brogdon hit tying and go-ahead three-pointers in the final 67 seconds and the Milwaukee Bucks held on to beat the Toronto Raptors 104-99 on Sunday.

Brogdon scored 18 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 19 points and matched a season high with 19 rebounds, and Brook Lopez had 19 points for the Bucks, the first team to beat Toronto twice this season.

Serge Ibaka scored 22 points and Kawhi Leonard had 20 for the Raptors, who have lost two straight, the second time this season they've suffered consecutive defeats.

Fred VanVleet scored 19 points and Pascal Siakam had 17 for the Raptors, whose 21-7 record is best in the NBA.

Toronto's Kyle Lowry shot 0-for-5 and didn't score for the first time this season. Lowry led the Raptors with seven assists.

Pelicans 116, Pistons 108: Jrue Holiday scored 37 points and Julius Randle added 28 as New Orleans dealt host Detroit its fourth straight loss.

Pelicans star Anthony Davis left with a right hip injury after a first-quarter collision with Blake Griffin. Davis returned early in the third quarter, but finished with only six points — three before the injury. He also had five blocks and nine rebounds.

Spurs 110, Jazz 97: DeMar DeRozan had 26 points and eight rebounds and Rudy Gay added 23 points and 15 rebounds as host San Antonio won its second straight after dropping four of five.

Hornets 119, Knicks 107: Kemba Walker scored 25 points and Jeremy Lamb added 19 to lead visiting Charlotte past New York.

'Shocked' Baines gets call from Hall

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Harold Baines was given a save as big as any Lee Smith ever posted.

In a vote sure to spark renewed cries of cronyism at Cooperstown, Baines surprisingly was picked for the baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday after never coming close in any previous election.

"Very shocked," the career .289 hitter said on a conference call.

Smith, who held the major league record for saves when he retired, was an easy pick when the Today's Game Era Committee met at the winter meetings.

It took 12 votes for election by the 16-member panel — Smith was unanimous, Baines got 12 and outfielder and manager Lou Piniella fell just short with 11.

George Steinbrenner, Orel Hershiser, Albert Belle, Joe Carter, Will Clark, Davey Johnson and Charlie Manuel all received fewer than five votes.

Smith and Baines both debuted in Chicago during the 1980 season. Smith began with the Cubs and went on to record 478 saves while Baines started out with the White Sox and had 2,866 hits.

Baines had 384 home runs and 1,628 RBIs in a 22-year career — good numbers, but not stacking up against the greats of his day. He never drew more than 6.1 percent in five elections by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, far from the 75 percent required.

"I wasn't expecting this day to come," the six-time All-Star said.

The Hall board-appointed panel included longtime White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf.

"I'm glad he was on that committee this year to help to get into the Hall of Fame," Baines said.

Reinsdorf praised his former player in a statement. Baines currently serves as a team ambassador in community rela-

tions department of the White Sox.

"So happy for Harold. He's a great player and a great human being," Reinsdorf said. "I am so honored that I was a member of the committee. He deserved to be in long ago. I am just so excited.

"Not only was Harold one of my favorite players to watch, but I have nothing but admiration for him as a player and as a human being," he said.

Tony La Russa, Baines' first big league manager, also was on the panel that elected him.

In the past, Phil Rizzuto and Bill Mazerowski were among the players who benefited from friendly faces on Veterans Committees to reach the Hall. That panel has been revamped over the years, and the Today's Game Era group was created as part of changes in 2014.

"The era committees were established as a sort of a court of appeals for an opportunity in the event that over time it was felt that maybe somebody slipped through the cracks," Hall President Jeff Idelson said. "And in the case of someone who received 6 percent of the vote in the BBWAA election, the reason that may have happened could be for many, many reasons."

Baines, now 59, had a smooth, consistent, left-handed stroke. But he never finished higher than ninth in an MVP vote, and never was among the top five AL hitters in the yearly batting race. His single-season high was 29 home runs at a time when lots of players hit more.

Smith's fastball helped him become a seven-time All-Star in an 18-year career. He owned the saves record when he retired during the 1997 season.

Smith became the seventh pitcher who primarily was a reliever to make the Hall, joining Trevor Hoffman, Dennis Eckersley, Rollie Fingers, Goose Gossage, Bruce Sutter and Hoyt Wilhelm.

NHL roundup

Jets rout Flyers with power play

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Josh Morrissey scored one of Winnipeg's three power-play goals and the Jets got goals from seven players while routing the Philadelphia Flyers 7-1 on Sunday.

Kyle Connor, Brandon Tanev, Dustin Byfuglien, Blake Wheeler, Bryan Little and Tyler Myers also scored for Winnipeg (18-9-2).

Mark Scheifele assisted on all three of Winnipeg's second-period goals, and Nikolaj Ehlers and Patrik Laine each had two assists.

Jakub Voracek scored his eighth goal for the Flyers (12-13-3).

The Jets' power play was 3-for-6, while the Flyers went 0-for-2.

Bruins 2, Senators 1 (OT): Torey Krug scored 3:07 into overtime and visiting Boston beat Ottawa.

Krug took a cross-crease pass from David Krejci and beat goalie Mike McKenna with a one-timer.

Brad Marchand had the regulation goal for the Bruins (16-10-4), and Tuukka Rask made 27 saves.

Mark Stone scored in regulation for the Senators (13-14-4), who got a 42-save performance from McKenna, including a diving two-pad stack save against Sean Kuraly in overtime.

Ducks 6, Devils 5 (SO): Daniel Sprong and Ryan Getzlaf scored in the shootout to lead host Anaheim.

Ducks goalie John Gibson blocked one New Jersey shot in the shootout and Taylor Hall's attempt bounced off the crossbar.

Jakob Silfverberg, Kiefer Sherwood, Brandon Montour, Pontus Aberg, Ondrej Kase scored in regulation for the Ducks, with three of the goals deflected off New Jersey players.

Anaheim's Ryan Miller,

looking to become the all-time leader in U.S.-born goaltender wins, left the game with 12:47 left in the third period after a pair of players crashed into him at the net. He appeared to have injured his left leg. Miller stopped 23 of the 27 shots he faced. Gibson had seven saves through overtime.

Canadiens 3, Blackhawks 2: Tomas Tatar scored the tie-breaking goal on a deflection with 1:17 left in the third period and visiting Montreal beat Chicago for its third straight win.

Max Domi and Shea Weber scored in the first period to give Montreal an early lead. Carey Price, starting for the seventh straight game and 11th in the last 12, stopped 37 shots.

The reeling Blackhawks fell to 3-11-2 under coach Jeremy Colliton, who replaced Joel Quenneville on Nov. 6.

Canucks 6, Blues 1: Brock Boeser scored his second career hat trick, Elias Pettersson had a goal and four assists, and visiting Vancouver beat St. Louis.

Bo Horvat and Nikolay Goldobin also scored for the Canucks, who won consecutive games for the first time since winning three straight from Oct. 29 through Nov. 2. Vancouver was 2-10-2 in its previous 14 games.

Oilers 1, Flames 0: Mikko Koskinen made 24 saves in his third shutout of the season and Connor McDavid scored the only goal to lead host Edmonton.

The Oilers have won three straight and have gone 6-1-0 in their last seven games.

Golden Knights 4, Stars 2: Alex Tuch got his 10th goal of the season and Vegas won its fifth straight at home.

Tuch became the fifth Golden Knights player to reach double figures in goals just before the end of the second period, when he chopped a loose puck just past defenseman Miro Heiskanen's skate and through goaltender Ben Bishop's five-hole to give the Golden Knights a 3-1 lead.