

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Pacific Fleet chief wants deeper China relationship, but lack of clarity persists

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift stressed cooperation with China on Tuesday despite concerns over its military's transparency and tensions over navigation and territory in the South China Sea.

Swift, who boarded what he described as a routine seven-hour flight in a P-8 surveillance aircraft over the South China Sea on Sunday, added that most interaction and dialogue with the Chinese military has been cordial and positive.

However, Swift noted concern among officials he's spoken with throughout the region about China's assertive claims to territory in the South China Sea. China continues to turn rocks and reefs claimed by multiple nations into artificial islands with defensive fortifications, Swift said while speaking with reporters in Tokyo.

"Despite what we can observe directly, we can't predict what intent is," Swift said.

"That's why it's so important to deepen our relationship."

Swift also struck a cautious tone in regard to the Japanese government's push to broaden the abilities of the Japan Self-Defense Forces to fight overseas and defend close allies in combat.

Last week, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pushed 11 security bills through the lower house of the Diet, Japan's parliament, as opposition lawmakers walked out and protesters shouted anti-government slogans outside the building. Polls indicate a majority of Japanese oppose the changes and do not trust the government to keep any potential military operations limited.

The bill, which must now be voted on by the Diet's upper house, has passed despite a constitutional clause that renounces Japan's right to declare war.

However, the U.S. government generally supports the security bill changes. Supporters say the legislation would allow Japan and the U.S. to better defend against ballistic missile threats from North Korea and collaborate on security stability

in the region's waters and skies.

"I think that the effect, if it were to pass into law, the effect on Pacific Fleet's relationship with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force will be evolutionary, not revolutionary as a result," Swift said. "We already have a very deep relationship."

"I'm excited about the opportunities that such passage would present, but I again defer to the Japanese people and the Japanese government as to what it would mean in execution."

Swift also deferred on any decision about further utilizing Subic Bay, where the Navy maintained a U.S. base until the Philippines closed it in the early 1990s. Last week, national news outlets reported that the Philippines would be stationing military ships and aircraft on the former base.

The Philippines has had repeated maritime showdowns over territory within its exclusive economic zone, which is claimed by China. The Philippines is now pressing its case against China in international court, despite China's nonparticipation.

Sub launches, recovers drone used in operation, a Navy first

The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — In a first for the U.S. Navy, a submarine has launched and recovered an underwater drone used in a military operation.

The attack submarine USS North Dakota returned to its base in Groton on Monday following a nearly two-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea specifically to test the drone-launching capability.

"This was something they thought we could go do," Capt. Douglas Gordon, the vessel's commanding officer, said in an interview at the base. "We went out, and we proved that."

The drone was launched from a shelter attached to the top of

the Virginia class submarine that can also be used for the undersea deployment of divers and special forces. Gordon declined to provide details of the mission.

The Navy sees the drones, also known as unmanned undersea vehicles, or UUVs, as a cost-effective way to extend the reach of its submarine fleet, which has been gradually shrinking in size since the end of the Cold War.

"We can do a dual mission," Gordon said. "UUVs do their thing while we do other operations."

Navy Capt. Carl Hartsfield, a program manager for undersea capabilities, said the feat reflects the Navy's commitment to

integrating unmanned vehicles. He said the vehicle deployed by the North Dakota is from a class that is readily available on the commercial market and can be reconfigured to carry a wide range of payloads.

The Navy has used unmanned vehicles to simulate enemy submarines for training purposes since the 1970s, and they also have been used to detect mines and map the ocean floor. The military has been researching how to use them more for other purposes including intelligence gathering and even anti-submarine warfare.

The development of the undersea drones has been pioneered at the Naval Undersea

Warfare Center in Newport, R.I., which in 2010 launched one that navigated its own way from Newport to Woods Hole, Mass., in what the military called an unprecedented feat. The warfare center has worked closely with private companies, academic institutions and other government agencies involved in similar research.

The drone deployed by the North Dakota was a Remus 600, a 500-pound, 10-foot-long vehicle that its maker, Hydroid, says can be equipped with video cameras, GPS devices and sonar technology. Gordon declined to say whether it was self-guided or piloted by a member of the submarine's crew.

Obama on the VA: 'Our work isn't done'

BY HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

PITTSBURGH — Speaking to about 5,000 veterans Tuesday, President Barack Obama touted improvements in the scandal-plagued Department of Veterans Affairs and employment numbers for those who have left the service, though he cautioned that much more must be done.

"Veterans continue to tell us that once they get through the door [of VA hospitals], the care is very good," Obama said. "But we've got to acknowledge our work isn't done; we've still got a huge challenge."

He touched on the recent nuclear deal with Iran, a foreign policy more focused on diplomacy than war, and the deadly shooting in Chattanooga, Tenn., that killed five servicemembers, but the bulk of his speech was focused on the health care and benefits system that so many in the audience rely on.

Pittsburgh is the site of a VA hospital where at least six patients died from an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease that local hospital officials tried to cover up.

Obama said the secret wait lists that VA hospitals used to make wait times look shorter are a thing of the past, and a long-standing disability claims backlog that keeps many veterans waiting for benefits has been reduced by 80 percent.

With VA Secretary Bob McDonald onstage, Obama said that despite the accomplishments, much more must be done to get veterans the care they deserve.

"I'm not satisfied, Bob's still not satisfied," he said. "We are focused on this at the highest levels."

Obama also announced changes in consumer protection rules meant to keep predatory lenders from taking advantage of troops.

druzin.heath@stripes.com
Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes

Flags to fly at half-staff for victims of Tenn. shooting

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Tuesday ordered flags across the country to be flown at half-staff for the victims of the Chattanooga shooting after mounting public pressure.

The presidential proclamation issued by the White House calls for all flags on public grounds and military bases to be lowered until sunset Saturday.

The White House drew public criticism over the weekend for not ordering flags at half-staff in honor of the five ser-

vicemembers killed Thursday by Tennessee gunman Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez. By Tuesday, House Speaker Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, had ordered Capitol flags down and lawmakers were calling for Obama to issue the order.

"Our thoughts and prayers as a nation are with the servicemembers killed last week in Chattanooga. We honor their service," Obama wrote in the proclamation. "We offer our gratitude to the police officers and first responders who stopped the rampage and saved lives."

The president had issued similar presidential proclama-

tions after other mass shootings, including attacks at the Washington Navy Yard, Fort Hood in Texas and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

Beginning with Tennessee on Friday, governors in some states issued orders to lower flags. But the White House gave no explanation on Monday when questioned about the lack of a proclamation.

Boehner ordered the flags down on Capitol Hill hours before the White House announcement.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

Man charged with plotting attack on GIs in UK

BY ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — British authorities on Tuesday charged a man with plotting to attack U.S. servicemembers stationed in the United Kingdom.

The suspect, Junead Ahmed Khan, "was planning a terrorist attack" against U.S. military personnel in the United King-

dom, said Deborah Walsh, deputy head of counterterrorism at the Crown Prosecution Service, in a statement.

Khan, of Luton, a city north of London, was charged with violating the U.K.'s 2006 terrorism act between May 10 and July 14, the Crown Prosecution Service said.

More than 18,000 U.S. servicemembers, civilians and local nationals work for the four

largest units based in England, said a spokeswoman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe-UK.

U.S. Air Force officials canceled the Independence Day celebration at U.S.-run RAF Feltwell this year because of security concerns. Officials with the U.S. Air Force and the Crown Prosecution Service declined to comment on any possible connection between that action and the alleged plot.

Roosevelt, strike group receive new commanders

BY CHRIS CHURCH
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and its carrier strike group got new commanders Tuesday during a short break from their eight-month deployment in the Middle East.

Rear Adm. Roy J. Kelley took over for Rear Adm. Andrew L. Lewis as the carrier strike group 12 commander, while

Capt. Daniel C. Grieco turned over command of the carrier to Capt. Craig A. Clapperton.

Kelley and Clapperton will command the Roosevelt and its strike group through the latter half of their deployment in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility, which ends in the fall. Clapperton will also be in charge of the Roosevelt during a three-carrier shift, when it will head to San Diego — its new home port — taking the place of the

USS Ronald Reagan, which will head to Yokosuka, Japan, to allow the USS George Washington to return to the States for nuclear refueling.

"I will challenge the best crew on the best ship in the most powerful Navy in the world to continue to improve themselves and their ship," Clapperton said.

Kelley said he was honored to be joining the strike group at a critical point in its deployment.

Spieth falls short of history

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Jordan Spieth headed home from a grueling week at the British Open with history on his mind and another major in his future.

Next up is the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. And if the Grand Slam is no longer in play, there's still plenty out there.

"I don't know how many guys have done three majors in a year," Spieth said. "I'm sure there's only been a few."

Ben Hogan did it in 1953, winning the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open. Tiger Woods missed in the Masters but won the last three majors of the year in 2000 on his way to what became known as the Tiger Slam.

After his chances at winning his third straight major evaporated with a couple of missed opportunities on the last two holes Monday, Spieth was already looking ahead.

It was hard not to after coming up one shot short of a three-man playoff that Zach Johnson won over Louis Oosthuizen and Marc Leishman in what otherwise might have been a British Open for the ages at the home of golf.

Besides, the 21-year-old golfing sensation was not going to get too down after failing to add the claret jug to his Masters green jacket and U.S. Open trophy.

"I made a lot of the right decisions down the stretch and certainly closed plenty of tournaments out, and this just wasn't one of those," Spieth said. "It's hard to do that every single time. I won't beat myself up too bad because I do understand that."

A missed 8-footer on the treacherous

17th hole helped seal Spieth's fate on the Old Course. A misplaced drive on the final hole did the rest.

Something he also tends to do is pay respect to the game and its fans. He's been described as a young man with an old man's wisdom, and it showed in the way he took what had to be a most bitter defeat.

When Spieth walked off the green, he applauded the fans who cheered him on. Later, he came out and watched Johnson win a playoff, then gave him a congratulatory hug.

Starting the final round three shots behind, Johnson shot 31 on the back nine and took the lead with his seventh birdie of the round on No. 12. It looked as though his hopes were slipping away when his right foot spun out on his second shot at the 17th that led to bogey. But with the most significant shot of the tournament, Johnson holed a 30-foot birdie putt on No. 18 for a 6-under 66 and was the first to post at 15-under 273.

Leishman, who lost the lead with a bogey on the 16th hole, had a birdie putt on the 18th to win that stayed left. He shot 66. Oosthuizen saved par on the 17th with a 10-foot putt and made a 5-foot birdie on the final hole for a 69 to join the playoff.

Johnson opened with two quick birdies, kept a one-shot lead in the playoff when Oosthuizen missed a 5-foot par putt on the 17th hole and won the Open when the South African — the last player to lift the jug at St. Andrews in 2010 — narrowly missed a 12-foot birdie attempt.

"I'm grateful. I'm humbled. I'm honored," Johnson said. "This is the birthplace of the game, and that jug means so

much in sports."

He knew Oosthuizen or Leishman easily could have won. And he felt the same about Spieth.

"I can't describe the magnitude as to what he was going through because I've never been in that position," Johnson said. "We haven't really seen that with the exception of Tiger. Truthfully, he could be sitting here."

"He's a phenomenal talent," Johnson said. "And I'm telling you right now, he's a better person than a golfer."

Golf hasn't seen such a player since the days of Tigermania. And there's no reason to believe that Spieth can't continue to contend — and win — major titles for a long time to come.

"I'm very pleased with the way I played," Spieth said. "I think the way that I played this week and especially today would have won the U.S. Open by more than just a shot. I didn't play as well there. It's just that's the kind of golf that was played by the field this week, it just took some special golf. Whoever comes out the champion, that's a hell of a major."

In other words, Spieth didn't lose the tournament. Someone else simply came along to beat him.

Spieth will take that attitude to Whistling Straits, the third straight links-style course among the year's majors. He'll be favored there again, with a chance to join some elite company as a winner of three majors in one year.

"It's a tough feeling to be that close in a major," Spieth said. "I believe I'll have plenty of opportunities like I did today but, still, when it doesn't work out it's tough to swallow a little bit."

Amateurs fare well on Old Course

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Jordan Niebrugge had an outside shot at the silver claret jug. He was more than happy to leave St. Andrews with a silver medal.

At a British Open where amateurs held their own on the biggest stage in golf, Niebrugge pulled within three shots of the lead on the back nine until he could no longer keep up. He closed with a 2-under 70 to tie for sixth, four shots behind the playoff won by Zach Johnson.

Not only was he low amateur, he became the first amateur since Chris Woods at Royal Birkdale in 2008 to finish in the top 10. Along with getting the silver medal, the top 10 means he gets to return to the Open next year at Royal Troon.

"The top accomplishment I've had so far," said Niebrugge, a senior-to-be at Oklahoma State. "Just the silver medal in a major championship, especially at St. Andrews. It's definitely a dream come true."

Paul Dunne of Ireland, the first amateur in 88 years to be a leader going into the final round of the Open, wasn't so fortunate. He was gobbled up by nerves on the first two holes, hitting short of the Swilcan burn on his approach, and hitting his tee shot on the second hole so far right that it wound up on the putting green by the practice range.

Dunne started bogey-bogey and closed with a 78.

Oliver Schniederjans of Georgia Tech, in his final tournament as an amateur, got within two shots of the lead about two hours before the leaders started the final round. He shot a 67 and tied for 12th. Schniederjans is turning pro and will play the Canadian Open later this week.

Niebrugge still has another year left as an amateur because he wants to finish his degree at Oklahoma State. His performance this week should make him a shoo-in to return to links golf in September when the Walker Cup is played at Royal Lytham & St. Annes.

"Just try and do everything I can to play my way onto the team," Niebrugge said. "I've got a couple more events this summer left, and we'll see how it goes."

On this day, he was doing everything he could to compete for a major championship.

Playing alongside Sergio Garcia, he kept pace with the Spaniard with three birdies through six holes, and when Niebrugge made birdie on the par-5 14th, he was at 13 under par. But he dropped a shot on the 15th, and missed an 8-foot par putt on the tough 17th.

"I knew the guys behind me were getting it going," he said. "I knew Zach Johnson played really well out in front of me, so I knew I had to get a couple more birdies, but those last four holes or so were playing really tough. I just needed to get fairways and greens and just give myself opportunities."

Oosthuizen a runner-up again

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Louis Oosthuizen is closing in on a career Grand Slam of sorts.

One he'd rather not have.

For the third time in his career — and second time in a month — the South African was runner-up in a major championship. This time, it was the British Open, where he lost to Zach Johnson in a playoff Monday evening.

Marc Leishman, an Australian with only one PGA Tour win, also got in the four-hole playoff. A bogey at No. 1 essentially ended his chances.

Oosthuizen took it right to the end, misreading putts on the final two holes — one from 5 feet on the 17th hole, the other from 12 feet at the 18th — that could have forced sudden death with Johnson.

"It's never nice to lose a playoff," Oosthuizen moaned. "He left the door open on 17 (where Johnson made a bogey), and I didn't take advantage of it."

Oosthuizen lost a playoff at the Masters three years ago, when Bubba Watson pulled off a ridiculous hook from the pine straw on the second extra hole.

Almost a month ago to the day, Oosthuizen was beaten in regulation by

Jordan Spieth at the U.S. Open, a tournament best remembered for Dustin Johnson's three-putt on the 72nd hole when he had a chance to win.

That sent Spieth to the home of golf with two straight major titles and the Grand Slam still in play.

The young Texan missed out on the playoff by a single stroke, ending his bid to become the first player to sweep all four majors in a year.

Instead, it's Oosthuizen who heads to Whistling Straits next month with his own little bit of history on the line — the PGA Championship is the only major in which he has not finished second.

"I'll take a lot out of this week," he insisted, looking for a bright side. "It's not first, but I'll take it."

At least Oosthuizen has a major title. He won the British Open in 2010, the last time it was held at St. Andrews.

He's shown more than enough game to win another.

At Chambers Bay, Oosthuizen rallied brilliantly from an opening 77, posting three straight rounds in the 60s but coming up short again, one stroke behind. In his return to St. Andrews, he was right there again for the claret jug.

Just a little short again.



Ship's Store official new car program

Exclusive Navy at-sea offers:

www.navyauto.com or nasinfo@navyauto.com

Spurs win summer league title

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Becky Hammon already made history when she became the first female head coach in NBA summer league.

Leading the San Antonio Spurs to the Las Vegas Summer League championship just made the experience that much sweeter.

Hammon coached the Spurs to a 93-90 victory over the Phoenix Suns in the title game on Monday night.

"It was a grind," Hammon said. "They've been together for 17 days. They really started to jell the last two or three games. They listened and they played really hard for me. I just really appreciate their attentiveness and alertness. They were tired but they fought through."

The Spurs participated in both the Orlando and Las Vegas summer leagues, but Hammon served as the head coach only in the higher profile Vegas event.

The Spurs lost the opener to the New York Knicks, and then reeled off six straight victories.

Jonathon Simmons scored 23 points and took home MVP honors for the championship game. Treveon Graham added 22 points for the Spurs.

"It's amazing. It was a humbling experience," Simmons told NBATV of playing for Hammon. "For all of us. I really love her and I've only known her a couple days. She's a real cool coach. She's a player coach. That's something we all like."

Last year the Spurs made Hammon the first female full-time assistant coach in league history. Earlier this summer they told her she would lead the team in Las Vegas.

"She's a firecracker, she takes no prisoners, she's got a great personality," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said during a visit to Minnesota in the regular season. "She knows her stuff. She's competitive."

The Spurs have worked hard not to make too much of their hiring of Hammon. Popovich has said time and again that she was hired because of her coaching acumen and not because the team was looking to help a woman break the glass ceiling.

"I don't know if her perspective is unique. It's women instead of men, but it's the same game," Popovich said. "Becky knows what to do on a pick-and-roll just as much as what Tony Parker knows. So I don't think it's unique at all."

The players gave Hammon a Gatorade bath during the celebration in the locker room, and the Spurs were the third team to win the Vegas Summer League tournament, following the Warriors in 2013 and Kings in 2014.

"You never know what your journey has in store," Hammon said, according to Sports Illustrated. "You just work hard and keep your nose to the grind. You do things the right way, you treat people the right way, and good things happen. ... I'm just thankful that [Popovich] trusted me with the guys in that locker room, and that those guys trusted me back."

"I don't know if her perspective is unique. It's women instead of men, but it's the same game," Popovich said. "Becky knows what to do on a pick-and-roll just as much as what Tony Parker knows. So I don't think it's unique at all."

Women's baseball debuts in Canada

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Women's baseball made history Monday at the Pan Am Games, the first time it's been played in a large, multi-sport event.

There was no live television coverage at the debut, and perhaps only 200 fans saw the first pitch as American left hander Sarah Hudek threw a ball just off the plate to open the game against leadoff hitter Astrid Rodriguez of Venezuela.

"To be here, this is awesome. This is it," said American player Malaika Underwood. "It doesn't matter that we're not on TV. I mean the fact we are out here is the point. When we look back at this, I think we'll appreciate the magnitude."

For the record, the United States defeated Venezuela 10-6 in a regulation seven innings.

Pardon a joke the women have heard many times, but none of the players threw like a girl, and none wore a skirt, which was the uniform in the 1992 film "A League of Their Own," a depiction of women's professional baseball in the United States in the 1940s starring Tom Hanks, Geena Davis and Madonna.

"I'm glad we don't wear skirts," said Underwood, a 34-year-old infielder and a veteran on a team ranging in age from 16 to 41. "I'm not sure I would feel comfortable playing in a skirt. Sliding, it would be tough."

The field and the distances are identical in the men's and women's games. The only difference is seven innings for the women, and nine for the men.

The first three innings took more than an hour to play, so the speed also resembled some men's games.

Hudek said her father, former major-league reliever John Hudek, probably couldn't hit her heat.

"He wasn't the best hitter," she said. In the second inning, Venezuela nearly pulled off a triple play.

The United States had runners on first and second, and American Anna Kimbrell hit a sharp hopper to third. Venezuela's Daily Gimenez touched third, got the force at second, but Kimbrell beat the relay to first by a step.

The Americans are represented by a firefighter, a nurse, two high-school students and a wide mix of players, most of whom grew up playing baseball. Some also played softball, but Underwood guessed about two-thirds played only baseball.

Underwood grew up in San Diego, played baseball on the boys' team at La Jolla High School and earned a volleyball scholarship to the University of North Carolina. Baseball was not an option.

The United States has no professional league for women, although Japan and several other countries do.

"I just want to get women's baseball more out there and open the doors for younger women knowing they don't have to convert to softball if they don't want to," said Hudek, adding the response is always the same when she says she plays baseball.

"They try to correct me. They say: 'Oh, you mean softball.'"

She replies: "No, baseball. I hope one day we can get to where people don't correct us."

Nats jump on Harvey early, beat Mets

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With two men on, Washington Nationals center fielder Michael A. Taylor made a long run for a nice grab of a deep fly ball before bumping into the out-of-town video scoreboard to end the fifth inning.

"I was thinking 'triple' right out of the box," Mets batter Eric Campbell would say later.

Nationals pitcher Gio Gonzalez sure appreciated the effort, raising his index finger to point in Taylor's direction.

"You've got to show love," Gonzalez said, "when love is due."

Gonzalez got plenty of defensive help, Clint Robinson's two-run double provided the biggest blow as the Nationals jumped on Matt Harvey for five runs in the first three innings Monday night, and NL East-leading Washington beat second-place New York 7-2.

"He went a long way," Nationals manager Matt Williams said about Taylor's play. "And that wall comes up quick. But it was a perfect read, perfect angle."

Third baseman Yunel Escobar made a diving stop, right fielder Bryce Harper made a sliding catch, and catcher Jose Lobaton made a stumbling grab in foul territory to back Gonzalez (7-4), who allowed two runs in six innings.

A day after leaving 25 men on base and going 1-for-26 with runners in scoring position in an 18-inning victory at St. Louis, the Mets' troubled offense left 10 men on and went 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position.

Indeed, it was Harvey (8-7) who drove in New York's runs with a bases-loaded single in the fourth.

Dialing up his fastball to 99 mph, Harvey retired the last 14 batters he faced after his rocky beginning. He wound up going seven innings, charged with five runs — four earned.

"When you can't find it, maybe you try a little bit too hard to find it right away, instead of toning it down a little bit," Harvey said.

Williams pointed to one particular key: staying away from Harvey's high fastballs.

Robinson, starting at first base for Ryan Zimmerman, drove the ball over the head of center fielder Juan Lagares in a

three-run third that also included Mets third baseman Daniel Murphy's second error of the game. Zimmerman is one of four everyday Nationals on the disabled list, along with Jayson Werth, Anthony Rendon and Denard Span.

Mets manager Terry Collins aligned his rotation to have his top pitchers face Washington, and he didn't try to hide how important he believes this matchup is.

"We're trying to catch these guys, so it's big," Collins said. "It's big for us."

Angels 11-7, Red Sox 1-3: Albert Pujols hit three homers while host Los Angeles swept a doubleheader from the Boston, connecting twice and seizing the major league lead from teammate Mike Trout during the nightcap.

Trout also homered and rookie Andrew Heaney pitched seven strong innings in the second game of the Angels' first home doubleheader since 2003. Pujols, Kole Calhoun and David Freese homered during an 11-1 win in the first game. Pujols homered in both games of a doubleheader for the first time in his career. He caught and passed Mike Schmidt for 15th place in baseball history, hitting his 549th career homer in the seventh.

Reds 5, Cubs 4: Todd Frazier connected for the first time since he won the All-Star Home Run Derby, and Jay Bruce hit a key two-run shot in the sixth inning, powering host Cincinnati.

The Reds hit three homers in all, including Marlon Byrd's solo shot, and beat the Cubs at Great American Ball Park for the first time this season. Bruce's drive off Justin Grimm (1-3) put Cincinnati up 5-4 with two outs in the sixth.

Tigers 5, Mariners 4: Ian Kinsler homered twice, including a go-ahead two-run shot in the eighth inning for host Detroit.

Kinsler, who came in with three homer this season, hit one off Seattle starter J.A. Happ in the first, and then drove a fastball from Mark Lowe over the Tigers' bullpen with two out in the eighth. It was his first multi-homer game since Sept. 7, 2011.

Phillies 5, Rays 3: Cesar Hernandez doubled, tripled and drove in two runs, and David Buchanan earned his first win in almost a year, leading host Philadelphia.

Maikel Franco had a pair of hits with an RBI and Jeff Francoeur contributed two hits for the Phillies, who have won

four straight after setting the franchise record with 62 losses before the All-Star break.

Braves 7, Dodgers 5: Nick Markakis hit his first homer of 2015 and scored the go-ahead run on Juan Uribe's fifth-inning single, leading host Atlanta past former teammate Brandon Beachy and Los Angeles. Markakis hit a two-run homer to center field off Beachy in the first inning. It was his first homer since Sept. 25, 2014, for the Orioles at the Yankees. Braves rookie Matt Wisler (4-1) allowed four runs and eight hits in six innings.

Pirates 10, Royals 7: Travis Ishikawa had three extra-base hits and drove in four runs as visiting Pittsburgh outslugged Kansas City.

Ishikawa, who was 1-for-13 with one RBI in nine games since the Pirates claimed him on waivers July 5, hit a two-run double in a four-run second. He homered in the fifth with Jung Ho Kang aboard.

Rockies 8, Rangers 7: Ben Paulsen hit a tiebreaking single with one out in the bottom of the ninth, and host Colorado recovered from blowing a seven-run lead to beat Texas.

Troy Tulowitzki homered and Nolan Arenado had two RBIs for Colorado, which has won a season-best five in a row at home.

Diamondbacks 3, Marlins 1: Rubby De La Rosa went seven innings for his first win in five starts, David Peralta singled in two runs and host Arizona snapped a six-game losing streak by sending the Marlins to their fourth loss in a row.

De La Rosa (7-5) allowed a run on five hits, overcame a season-high five walks and got his second RBI of the season by hitting into a bases-loaded fielder's choice. Peralta's two-out, bases-loaded single off David Phelps (4-6) in the third provided the only runs needed by the Diamondbacks.

Padres 4, Giants 2: Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer to help host San Diego beat the World Series champion San Francisco Giants and extend their winning streak to a season-high five games.

Kemp's 409-foot drive off 40-year-old Tim Hudson (5-8) into the sandy play area beyond the right-center fence in the third inning was his fourth homer in seven games and 10th overall.