

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Carter makes unannounced Baghdad stop

*The Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — Defense Secretary Ash Carter arrived unannounced in Baghdad on Thursday to assess the government's progress in healing the country's sectarian divisions and hear the latest on support for the Iraqi army's coming attempt to recapture the key city of Ramadi from the Islamic State group.

It is Carter's first visit to Iraq since he took office in February.

His first stop on a daylong visit to the Iraqi capital was the Iraqi Counterterrorism Service Academy. He spent about 20

minutes there, watching Iraqi soldiers in their trademark all-black uniforms maneuver and fire at silhouette targets at a firing range. Some wore partial or full face masks.

Carter told the Iraqi counterterrorism commanders: "Your forces have performed so very well, so very bravely. And I know that you have suffered great losses too, but I just wanted to tell you that it is very clear to us in Washington what a capable force this is. So it's a privilege for us to be your partners."

Carter is not expected to announce any major change in U.S. strategy or increase in U.S. troop levels. The approxi-

mately 3,360 troops now in Iraq are largely involved in training Iraqi troops, advising Iraqi commanders on battle plans and providing security for U.S. personnel and facilities.

The U.S., joined by several coalition partners, also is conducting airstrikes daily to chip away at the Islamic State's grip on large parts of Iraq.

The visit, however, comes at an important moment for the Iraqi government, which has announced a counteroffensive to retake Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province. A Pentagon spokesman, Army Col. Steve Warren, said the assault on the city could start within weeks.

The Ramadi campaign will be a crucial test not only for the Iraqi government led by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, but also for the U.S. strategy of relying on Iraqi security forces, operating in coordination with U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, to overcome the smaller Islamic State forces.

American military leaders have said they would recommend to President Barack Obama that he approve moving U.S. military advisers and perhaps special operations forces closer to the front lines if they believed it would make a decisive difference at certain stages of the Iraqi campaign.

### DOD says no to arming troops at stateside bases

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department on Wednesday came out squarely against giving weapons to every servicemember on a domestic military installation despite a growing clamor in Congress for such a step in the wake of the Tennessee shooting rampage.

Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said Defense Secretary Ash Carter is awaiting recommendations from the five military services on fortifying their recruiting centers and domestic bases following the July 16 assault that left six people dead — four Marines, a Navy corpsman and the shooter, Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez — at a naval reserve center in Chattanooga.

"We do not support arming all military personnel for a variety of reasons," Davis told reporters at the Pentagon. "[There are] safety concerns, the prohibitive cost for use-of-force and weapons training, qualification costs as well as compliance with multiple weapons-training laws."

From McClatchy Washington Bureau

## Senators grill commandant nominee

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The nominee to be the next Marine Corps commandant had a rocky confirmation hearing in the Senate on Thursday, drawing fire for his positions on the war in Iraq and arming military recruiters.

Lt. Gen. Bob Neller, who was nominated earlier this month to replace Gen. Joseph Dunford, told the Armed Services Committee that the war in Iraq against the Islamic State has been at a stalemate for at least a year.

When pressed by committee chairman Sen. John McCain, Neller backed the current Obama administration strategy, which relies on keeping U.S. troops off the ground, directing air strikes. McCain, R-Ariz., has argued that the policy is losing the year-old war in Iraq.

"The Iraqis cannot do it themselves. That is why they are losing," he told Neller, cit-

ing the fall of Mosul to the Islamic State last year. "That is why they've lost their second-largest city."

Neller disagreed, telling the committee that the Iraqis are not losing.

"I do not believe they are winning, either. I believe they are at stalemate right now," he said.

McCain made his position clear: "I am very disappointed in a number of your answers."

Neller led the I Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq from 2005 to 2007 and oversaw forces in Anbar province during the Sunni Awakening, which became a turning point for the U.S. war effort and the country's sectarian insurgency. The MEF trained 6,000 to 8,000 Iraqi police and returned territory to U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces during the earlier war.

Neller also butted heads with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., over arming recruiters.

He was the second military

nominee this week to say firearms at the nation's recruiting centers should be considered. On Tuesday, Army Chief of Staff nominee Gen. Mark Milley testified that it could be appropriate under certain circumstances.

But he also cautioned against the move and possible unintended consequences.

"I think we need to take a look at it, but I have some concerns of second- and third-order effects of that," Neller told senators. "I'm not going to discount it but I think in the end, it is the most extreme measure to do what we need to do, which is protect those Marines who are serving out there."

Neller said other measures to boost security are underway and others fixes could be made, such as reinforcing glass in the front of the centers. Arming recruiters, he said, could alienate them from the public.

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## Missile explodes during exercise, damages ship

A malfunctioning missile exploded during an exercise in the Atlantic Ocean last week, damaging a guided missile destroyer, a Navy statement said.

No injuries were reported, but missile debris caused minor damage to the port side of the ship.

“On July 18 at approximately 9 a.m. a Standard Missile-2 test missile exploded after suffering a malfunction as it was fired from the guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans during a planned missile exercise off the coast of Virginia,” the statement said.

The Sullivans returned to Naval Station Norfolk, and it is unclear what effect the incident will have on the destroyer’s schedule, the statement said.

From staff reports

# Navy trims Guam facilities plans

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

To avoid infringing on Guam’s culturally sensitive areas, the Navy has significantly downsized plans to expand facilities on the island needed for the relocation of Marines from Okinawa.

The Navy issued the final supplement to a 2010 environmental impact statement, or EIS, that assessed the potential consequences of establishing a live-fire training range complex, a camp, a family housing area and required infrastructure. This version differs from an earlier draft by limiting military upgrades to property already owned by the federal government.

The Navy altered its plans in part because of public opposi-

tion to proposed construction along Route 15 in the Pagat coastal area, a revered spot that holds ancient indigenous Chamorro graves and archeological sites.

Construction would include a camp area at the Naval Computer Telecommunications site at Finegayan and family housing and a live-fire training range complex on Northwest Field at Andersen Air Force Base. When the original EIS was issued in 2010, the Navy was planning to relocate approximately 8,600 Marines and about 9,000 dependents from Okinawa, whose residents have long been demanding a reduction in the U.S. military presence. But in 2012, Washington and Tokyo jointly announced that the number of

Marines moving to Guam would be reduced to about 5,000, along with about 1,300 dependents.

With the smaller relocation, the Navy concluded that the area for the camp and family housing area in Guam could be significantly reduced. The supplemental EIS calls for construction over a period of 13 years, instead of the seven years laid out in the original plan. Plans for the camp, or cantonment area, have been downsized from 2,580 acres to about 1,700 acres, allowing the Navy to use existing federal land.

Guam’s delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, said in a statement that she’s pleased with the Navy’s revisions.

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# Navy leader talks Russia, Islamic State threats

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — When he left the Navy’s 6th Fleet three years ago for a planning job at the Pentagon, then-Rear Adm. James Foggo III was fresh from U.S. and NATO air campaigns against the Libyan regime of Moammar Gadhafi.

“I thought we were really busy back then,” Foggo said in a recent interview. “Then I came back this time.”

Now with a third star on his lapel and full command of the fleet, the former submariner faces new threats that had yet to emerge in his last tour. Russia has grown more assertive, testing European boundaries in the air, on the water and under the sea. The rise of the Islamic State group and the growth of Islamic militants in North Africa — the latter finding fertile ground in the vacuum of post-Gadhafi Libya — threaten European security and have contributed to a crush of migrants trying to enter the continent.

It’s an operational plateful for an officer who has spent the past two years in the Navy’s strategy chair, guiding concepts such as Air-Sea Battle, which was designed to counter access challenges for military operations, and the new maritime strategy, intended to coordinate the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard strategies.

Foggo was an eyewitness to Russian behavior at sea last month. During a major

exercise in the Baltics, a pair of Russian Su-24s flew by his command ship, the USS San Antonio, now a common occurrence when U.S. and NATO ships are in the region.

The admiral said such maneuvers are provocative, even if they are in accordance with international standards. Russian unwillingness to communicate with U.S. ships at sea is also worrisome, he said, given the close proximity in which they operate.

So Foggo was surprised when a Russian navy delegation led by a vice admiral accepted an invitation to Naples last month for a discussion about safety at sea, under the umbrella of a Cold War agreement between the two nations, the Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas.

“We expected they would come in, register a complaint and leave,” he said. “It was about six hours of discussion. It was hard-hitting, honest, robust and they got their points out, we got our points out and we continue to dialogue.”

Not much of that dialogue has filtered down to Russian ships, Foggo added, but communicating is better than not.

Russia’s growing submarine activity has concerned allies such as France, Britain and Sweden, he said. Although he declined to discuss American undersea operations, Foggo said that submarines rotating to the 6th Fleet have been busy and that the fleet could use even more subs.

The lack of dedicated naval resources in Europe has been a common frustration

to European commanders in recent years. The Mediterranean was a focal point during the Cold War, hosting a dedicated carrier strike group and an amphibious ready group with embarked Marines.

Only in the past two years has it begun to receive dedicated warships again, though earmarked for ballistic missile defense, or BMD. The fourth and final BMD destroyer to be stationed in Rota, Spain, the USS *Carnegie*, will arrive later this year, joining the USS *Donald Cook*, the USS *Ross* and the USS *Porter*. Those ships are still available for missions besides BMD, Foggo said, and they have often been called to fulfill the Navy’s monthly tour in the Black Sea.

Africa continues to pose a challenge for the fleet, Foggo said, especially with the growth of militants in the north. The recent rocket attack against an Egyptian patrol vessel near the Sinai Peninsula, which was claimed by an Islamic State group affiliate, underlines the dangers in the region.

The continuing chaos in Libya has opened up smuggling routes toward Europe, sending tens of thousands of refugees across the continent fleeing.

“In the thousands and thousands of great people who come to the country, I remain concerned about small numbers of ISIS sympathizers slipping through,” Foggo said, using an alternative name for the Islamic State.

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# Jamaica stuns US in semifinals

The Associated Press

After the feel-good summer of 2014, the United States was eager to pick up another Gold Cup title and lock up its spot in the next Confederations Cup.

Instead, the Americans are dealing with one of their most shocking losses.

Giving up two first-half goals on set plays, one delivered by goalkeeper Brad Guzan's blunder on a routine throw, the U.S. fell to Jamaica 2-1 in the Gold Cup semifinals Wednesday night in Atlanta.

Forget another CONCACAF title.

That will go to either Mexico or Jamaica, who meet in Sunday's final at Philadelphia.

As for the Americans, it's time to figure out what went wrong after the first home loss to a Caribbean nation since a 1969 defeat to Haiti. They also face a playoff with this year's Gold Cup winner for the North and Central American and Caribbean berth in the 2017 Confederations Cup.

"We have no choice but to move ourselves forward," captain Michael Bradley said. "It's disappointing right now. That's normal."

A year ago, the American men reached the knockout round of the World Cup before losing to Belgium in extra time, giving the world's most popular game a bit more of a foothold in a country still dominated by football, baseball and basketball. Throw in this month's victory in the Women's World Cup, and U.S. soccer was really on a roll.

Well, before more than 70,000 in the sold-out Georgia Dome, the Americans were tripped up by an island nation of some 2.9 million — roughly half the population of metro Atlanta.

"The feeling right now is insane," said Giles Barnes, after scoring one of Jamaica's goals off a free kick.

Barnes' goal from 18 yards, a hooking blast that sailed over the American wall in the 36th minute, wouldn't have been possible if not for Guzan extending his right

arm — and the ball — across the penalty line while making a throw.

"I was running down the field when I heard we had a free kick," said Barnes, who plays in Major League Soccer with Houston Dynamo. "I didn't know what was happening there."

The 34th-ranked Americans were stunned by the ruling.

"It's a call you don't see very often," Bradley said. "It's a call I wouldn't be making if I was a referee. But I'm not a referee."

Talk about disputed calls.

Mexico rallied for a 2-1 victory over Panama on two late penalty kicks by Andres Guardado — one in stoppage time, the other in extra time.

After Roman Torres headed one in off a corner early in the second half, Panama nearly pulled off the second upset of the night, despite playing a man down most of the game. Luis Tejada was sent off with a red card after a hard tackle in the 25th minute.

When American referee Mark Geiger signaled a penalty kick for Mexico with the clock winding down in the second half, ruling Torres touched the ball with his hand in front of the goal while falling to the turf contesting a loose ball, the Panamanians erupted in protest. As fans showered the field with cups and trash, the two teams nearly came to blows between their benches. The match was halted for nearly 15 minutes before Guardado finally converted the penalty.

Mexico won it after Geiger awarded another kick for Harold Cummings' takedown of Javier Orozco in the penalty area, setting up Guardado's winning goal in the 105th. The weary Panamanians couldn't come back from that, but they did muster the energy to go after Geiger at the final whistle. Security officers raced onto the field to escort the referee and his crew to the safety of the locker room.

"I ask myself why did this happen?" said

Panama coach Hernan Gomez through a translator. "We were doing everything well. It is very sad. We are people of football, and I still can't believe this happened. I wonder if this really happened."

Panama will take on the U.S. in the third-place game Saturday.

The Jamaicans charged onto the field with pure joy at the end of their victory, while a small contingent of fans, clad in green and gold, saluted the Reggae Boyz. Ranked 76th in the world, they became the first Caribbean nation to reach a Gold Cup final — a sporting achievement that had nothing to do with Usain Bolt.

"My phone hasn't stopped," Barnes said. "Back in Jamaica, there's got to be a party going on. Everybody knows how we are."

Darren Mattocks, of the Vancouver Whitecaps, scored Jamaica's first goal on a 31st-minute header directly off a throw-in. Otherwise, the Americans largely dominated, finishing with a 10-3 edge in shots on goal — including eight in the second half, as they furiously pushed the attack.

Jamaican goalkeeper Ryan Thompson, who plays for the Pittsburgh Riverhounds in the third-tier United Soccer League, turned aside every shot but Bradley's goal in the 48th. Even then, Thompson stopped a couple of attempts before Bradley swooped in on the loose ball to finish.

The defending champion U.S., which had played in five straight Gold Cup finals, was eliminated for the first time by a CONCACAF team en route to the title game. In the era when teams outside the region were invited, the Americans lost semifinals to Brazil in 1996 and 2003, and a quarterfinal to Colombia in 2000.

"We had enough chances to put this game away," said U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, insisting there was no reason to panic. "The luck was not with us."

# American athletes look to Rio

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Alan Ashley isn't paying attention to the medal table at the Pan Am Games, but the American will be riveted to it at next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Ashley, the chief of sport performance for the United States Olympic Committee, is working the Pan Am Games like a laboratory: trying out younger athletes, giving many their first taste of a large, multi-sport event, and using the 41-nation championships to qualify some athletes for Rio.

"I feel an enormous amount of pressure to deliver for the athletes," Ashley said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's their show, they're the ones out there competing. But we've got to do everything within our power to make sure they have their very best day."

The United States is expected to top the medal table when the Pan Am Games end Sunday, probably just ahead of host Canada. The Americans have won twice as many medals as anyone else in the 64-year history of the event, so the outcome was expected before the games opened in Canada's largest city.

Now eyes turn to Brazil, and expectations soar.

It's still early, so Ashley declined to make predictions. However, several widely circulated forecasts show the United States as a slight favorite to finish ahead of China with Russia in third.

Ashley said prospects for Rio will be clearer after the world swimming championships opening this week in Russia, and the track and field world championships in August in Beijing.

"After the world championships, everybody will have a better idea of how their countries are stacked up against each other," Ashley said.

The United States won the most gold medals in London with 46, and also led the overall count. China had 38 gold and was second overall. Host nation Brazil won only 17 overall medals — only three gold — and is hoping to use the home-nation advantage and win about 30.

"I think China will be really solid, and I wouldn't discount Russia," Ashley said. "The best I can tell you is that it's probably similar to London and the horse race that went on there."

The United States needs to maintain its dominance in swimming and track and field, and improve in events like sailing and equestrian, which failed to produce medals in London.

The Americans will be strong in golf, which is returning to the Olympics since its last appearance in 1904 in St. Louis. The men's field could include the likes of defending Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth, Bubba Watson, Dustin Johnson and Rickie Fowler.

The Americans are also hopeful in rugby sevens, another new sport with a wide-open field for both men and women.

Ashley's first summer Olympics in this position was London.

# Tempers flare as Mexico ousts Panama

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A night of conflict and controversy ended with referees surrounded by security and another win by Mexico surrounded by suspicion.

Andres Guardado scored two goals on penalty kicks, including the tiebreaker in extra time, and six-time champion Mexico beat short-handed and angered Panama 2-1 in the Gold Cup semifinals Wednesday night.

Turmoil on the field incited fans — among the 70,511 at the Georgia Dome — to hurl drinks and other debris onto the field on two occasions.

Tensions rose after a foul was called on Panama's Roman Torres for touching the ball with his hand in the penalty area late in the second half when Panama was protecting a 1-0 lead. There was a delay as cups were thrown from the stands. Players from both teams argued on the sideline and appeared to be on the verge of an all-out melee before being separated.

The call set up Guardado's first penalty kick in stoppage time.

Panama coach Hernan Gomez called it a "stolen goal" and said he was left with "immense sadness."

"I ask myself why did this happen?" Gomez said through a translator. "We were doing everything well. It is very sad."

"We are people of football and I still can't believe this happened and I wonder if this really happened."

Mexico will play Jamaica in the final Sunday in Philadelphia. Jamaica upset defending champion United States 2-1 in the first semifinal and will be appearing in its first final.

"This is not the ideal situation," Mexico coach Miguel Herrera said. "It wasn't the ideal way to win."

Panama's Torres scored on a header early in the second half, and the 1-0 lead held until Guardado's penalty kick in stoppage time. The penalty kick, which followed a 10-minute delay as tempers flared, set up the extra time.

Panama played at a disadvantage after forward Luis Tejada drew a red card and was ejected for his contact with Mexico's Francisco Rodriguez about 25 minutes into the match.

Similar controversy surrounded Mexico's 1-0 win over Costa Rica in the quarterfinals Sunday night. The win came on Guardado's penalty kick in the final minute of extra time after Roy Miller was called for a foul on Oribe Peralta.

"We didn't produce football," Herrera said. "We had nothing to do with that."

Panama was denied its second straight final. It lost to the U.S. in the 2013 final after beating Mexico in the semifinals.

Mexico is No. 40 in the world rankings and has appeared in seven of 12 finals in the CONCACAF tournament. Panama is 62nd.

A header by Torres early in the second half broke the scoreless tie. Torres was in position to intercept a corner kick from Erick Davis in front of the goal, and his header to the ground bounced past goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.



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# Angels stretch streak to 7

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Huston Street had to wait two weeks between his 299th and 300th saves, partly because of a minor groin injury and partly because of the All-Star break.

But mostly because his Los Angeles Angels have been so good that they barely needed their closer during a spectacular July.

Street became the 27th pitcher to record 300 career saves, Kole Calhoun had three hits and drove in two runs, and the Angels beat the Minnesota Twins 5-2 on Wednesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Angel Stadium set off a fireworks display when Street retired Trevor Plouffe on a grounder back to the mound to end Los Angeles' 17th win in 20 games. The 31-year-old Street became the second-youngest closer to hit the milestone, behind former Angels closer Francisco Rodriguez.

"More than anything, what I appreciate about it is you know all the work you put in, but you also know how many good teammates you've played with," Street said. "I've pitched in a bunch of great bullpens. There's eight innings of winning baseball that has to be played before I even take the mound, and I always just approached my job as I'm just one guy trying to make one pitch at a time."

Street hadn't earned a save since July 8, but he allowed just one walk in the ninth while picking up his 25th save of the season.

"This number is motivating for me," Street said while his sons, Ripken and Ryder, shared a chair and mostly stayed quiet next to him. "It definitely is substantial when you look at the history of the game, how many people have done it. At the same time, I'm 31 years old, I believe I'm in an organization that has a chance to win this year, the next year and a lot more after that."

The Angels are doing a lot of it lately. Chris Iannetta homered and Albert Pujols had an RBI double for the Angels (54-40), who have won 13 of 15 while streaking to the top of the AL West.

Johnny Giavotella had three hits and scored three runs for the Angels, who briefly trailed for the first time during their streak in the third inning — but reclaimed the lead later in the inning.

"For the most part, we had good clutch hitting," manager Mike Scioscia said. "We were able to get a big enough gap and hold on."

Not everything went well, however: Third baseman David Freese is out for at least two weeks after his right index finger was broken by an inside pitch in the fourth from Mike Pelfrey.

Brian Dozier had an early two-run single for the Twins, who have lost four straight.

**Athletics 4, Blue Jays 3:** Pinch-hitter Ike Davis beat out an infield single with two outs in the 10th inning that went to replay review, lifting host Oakland past Toronto.

The play went to review with the A's already in the midst of a postgame celebration near the mound. Blue Jays manager John Gibbons immediately emerged from the dugout to challenge, and Oakland players stood together near the mound during the review that took 2 minutes, 45 seconds before they celebrated again.

**Nationals 4, Mets 3:** Michael Taylor had a tying two-out, two-run single in the eighth inning, Danny Espinosa followed with an RBI double and host Washington rallied from three runs down to beat New York.

**Cardinals 3, White Sox 2:** Yadier Molina hit a bases-loaded triple off David Robertson with two out in the eighth inning, sending St. Louis to a victory over host Chicago.

**Royals 5, Pirates 1:** Edinson Volquez pitched effectively into the eighth inning against his old team and Mike Moustakas hit a three-run homer to lead Kansas City over visiting Pittsburgh.

**Yankees 4, Orioles 3:** Alex Rodriguez hit the 20th homer of his renaissance season, Mark Teixeira connected for an early two-run shot and New York beat visiting Baltimore.

**Astros 4, Red Sox 2:** Preston Tucker homered twice and drove in three runs

and Evan Gattis added a solo shot to give host Houston a victory over Boston.

**Marlins 5, Diamondbacks 3:** Jose Fernandez struck out 11 in seven innings, A.J. Ramos struck out three straight with the bases loaded in the ninth and Miami held off host Arizona.

**Tigers 9, Mariners 4:** Nick Castellanos hit a grand slam off the brick facade in left-center field, part of an eight-run third inning for Detroit in its victory over visiting Seattle.

**Reds 9-5, Cubs 1-6:** Taylor Teagarden singled home the tiebreaking run off Aroldis Chapman with two outs in the ninth inning, completing Chicago's biggest comeback of the season and a doubleheader split with host Cincinnati.

Cincinnati won the opener behind another strong showing by Mike Leake (8-5), who could be traded this month.

**Phillies 5, Rays 4 (10):** Pinch-hitter Odubel Herrera's RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted Philadelphia to a victory over visiting Tampa Bay.

**Dodgers 3, Braves 1:** Mike Bolsinger pitched seven strong innings and Los Angeles scored three runs in the fifth inning to beat host Atlanta.

**Indians 7, Brewers 5:** Michael Brantley homered, doubled and drove in four runs, and Cleveland closer Cody Allen withstood a rocky ninth to help Cleveland hold on for a win over host Milwaukee.

**Rangers 10, Rockies 8:** Elvis Andrus hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the ninth, and Texas bounced back from blowing an early five-run lead to beat host Colorado.

Rougned Odor homered and finished with three hits for the third time in the last six games for the Rangers.

**Giants 7, Padres 1:** Brandon Belt hit a tying solo home run in the sixth inning and Buster Posey hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh to lead visiting San Francisco to a victory over San Diego.

## NFLPA's offer in Brady case 'met with silence'

The players' union proposed a settlement on Tom Brady's four-game suspension last week that was "met with silence" by the NFL, a person familiar with the proposal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because the NFL Players Association's offer was confidential. There is no timetable on when Commissioner Roger Goodell will rule on the New England quarterback's appeal.

Several media reports indicated the union's proposal called for Brady paying a large fine, but with no suspension. The Patriots paid a record \$1 million fine and were stripped of two draft picks, including a No. 1 selection next year. Team owner Robert Kraft accepted those punishments while stating he believed the Patriots had done nothing wrong.

Brady was suspended for his role in using underinflated footballs in the Patriots' victory over the Colts in the AFC title game. A league-sanctioned independent report by attorney Ted Wells found that Brady at the least was "generally aware" of the use of the footballs in what has become known as "Deflategate."

Brady adamantly denied any involvement.

The Patriots report to training camp next Wednesday and begin practicing Thursday. Brady is not barred from participating in team activities until the pre-season ends.

## Lamoriello leaves Devils, joins Maple Leafs as GM

TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs have hired longtime NHL executive Lou Lamoriello as general manager.

Lamoriello resigned as New Jersey Devils president to take the job. Maple Leafs President Brendan Shanahan said Thursday he wanted NHL experience, and he got almost three decades of it in Lamoriello.

The 72-year-old Lamoriello stepped down as Devils general manager this summer when the team hired Ray Shero. New Jersey won three Stanley Cups during Lamoriello's stay.

The Maple Leafs fired general manager Dave Nonis after missing the playoffs for the second straight season.

## Navy to play Notre Dame in San Diego in 2018

SAN DIEGO — Navy and Notre Dame will play their annual rivalry game at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego in 2018, the first meeting between the longtime rivals west of the Mississippi.

The Fighting Irish and Midshipmen have played 88 times and earlier this month agreed to play in Jacksonville, Fla., in 2016. The teams play this season Oct. 10 in South Bend, Ind. The 2018 game is set for Oct. 27.

The Fighting Irish have won 75 games against Navy.

## Golfer faces mandatory military service in S. Korea

OAKVILLE, Ontario — Bae Sang-Moon said Wednesday he plans to play the rest of the PGA Tour season before submitting to his mandatory military service in South Korea.

Bae was denied an extension of his visa at the start of the year and challenged it in court. Yonhap news service said Bae lost his legal battle to have his service deferred.

The 29-year-old Bae is a two-time winner on the PGA Tour, including the season-opening Frys.com Open last October.

From The Associated Press

# Froome closes in on second tour win

The Associated Press

SAINT-JEAN-DE-MAURIENNE, France — Chris Froome is halfway through the Alps, the last obstacle to his second Tour de France victory, after comfortably maintaining his race lead on a Stage 18 won in style by Romain Bardet on Thursday.

Bardet rode alone down the huge Glandon pass and up the 18 hairpin bends of the Montvernier Laces, previously unclimbed by the Tour, to take a solo victory at Saint-Jean-De-Maurienne on the second of four days in the Alps, the last big test before the finish in Paris on Sunday. Pierre Rolland of the Europcar team made it a 1-2 French finish, coming in 33 seconds behind the winner for AG2R La Mondiale.

As they did on the first Alpine stage on Wednesday, Froome's rivals again tested the Team Sky rider but couldn't make him crack over seven climbs.

"Everyone attacked," Froome said.

Two-time champion Alberto Contador showed spirit, with a burst of speed on the 22-kilometer (14-mile) long climb up to the Glandon pass, but he couldn't claw back the minutes he lost on Wednesday in a crash.

"One of the hardest days for me," Contador said. "I was in pain."

Froome, Contador, and other podium contenders finished together in a group of 10 riders who rode in three minutes behind Bardet, who remains too far down the overall standings — in 10th place, nearly 13 minutes back from Froome — to have realistic ambitions for the podium this year.

But, at age 24, the second French stage winner confirmed that he is a big talent for the future. He placed sixth at the Tour last year. He hasn't been consistent enough to improve on that this year, but he is the highest-placed French rider so far.

Bardet rode away at the top of the punishing Glandon climb — the hardest Alpine ascent so far — and built a lead on the long descent. He held it up the Montvernier Laces, where the road spaghetti's back and forth in a spectacular series of switchbacks.

"A crazy stage," Bardet said. "I can't believe it."

The hairpins are so narrow that police stopped fans from lining the road there as they do elsewhere, making the telegenic

ascent eerily quiet. But a cheering crowd waiting from Bardet at the top gave him a burst of energy to the finish.

"I had goosebumps," he said.

Froome remains 3 minutes, 10 seconds ahead of second-placed Nairo Quintana, and 4:09 ahead of the Colombian's Movistar teammate, Alejandro Valverde. Froome identifies those two as the riders he must watch most closely over last two days in the Alps, especially since they could work together against him on the very tough climbs. The crescendo will come Saturday on the 21-hairpin bends to the Alpe d'Huez ski station that will be teeming with fans.

"It's the last challenge," said Froome. "We can really expect it to be a big finale."

The Tour has covered 1,865 miles. Chances have nearly run out for Froome's rivals to try to dislodge the 2013 winner. And he says he feels stronger than he did at the same point two years ago.

"Two more stages left of real racing," he said. "This time two years ago I was just sort of hanging on."