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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Obama slows drawdown in Afghanistan

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The United States will keep 8,400 troops in Afghanistan through the end of President Barack Obama's term, thousands more than he had hoped to leave in the war-torn country.

The president said Wednesday that he would slow his planned drawdown of troops. In October, he announced he would leave 5,500 troops in Afghanistan at the end of his presidency. The decision leaves an important policy decision to Obama's successor, who will take office Jan. 20. There are now 9,800 American service-members in Afghanistan.

"The decision I'm making today ensures that my successor has a solid foundation for progress in Afghanistan, as well as the flexibility to ad-

dress the threat of terrorism as it evolves," Obama said Wednesday at the White House, flanked by Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It was the second time that Obama adjusted his plans to draw down American troops in Afghanistan since the United States officially ended its combat role there at the end of 2014. Initially, the president announced he intended to leave only an embassy security force of about 1,000 troops in the country, where the United States has been at war since the end of 2001, shortly after al-Qaida terrorists attacked New York and Washington on Sept. 11.

American troops serving in Afghanistan now support two "narrow missions," Obama said, to train and advise Afghan security forces and target

terrorist organizations, such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

Carter said the troop-level adjustment "will enhance our ability to continue progress" on those missions, while ensuring Afghanistan is not used "as a safe haven for terrorists."

The Afghan security forces have not progressed as quickly as the United States had hoped. The government's military and police forces still rely heavily on the U.S. and coalition forces for help with planning, intelligence, logistics and command and control.

Last year, the Afghans suffered more casualties than ever in the long war and the Taliban were able to regain territory in some rural parts of the country, such as Helmand province in the south and Kunduz province in the north.

Leaving the 8,400 American

troops in the country, senior U.S. officials said Wednesday, would allow the United States to continue to train the Afghans and target terrorist groups. The officials, who were familiar with the planning, were not authorized to speak publicly.

While the White House does not consider the American roles combat missions, Obama acknowledged American troops in Afghanistan remain at risk. There have been 38 Americans, military and civilians, killed in the country since January 2015.

Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., lobbied for no further troop reductions while visiting Kabul on Monday. On Wednesday, McCain said he "welcomed" Obama's decision, but he questioned why the president wanted to remove any troops.

SEAL trainee's drowning is ruled homicide

BY ALEX HORTON

Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The death of a Navy SEAL trainee whose drowning was described as a training mishap by officials has been ruled a homicide, according to a medical examiner's report released Wednesday.

Seaman James Derek Lovelace, 21, drowned after being repeatedly "dunked" underwater by instructors on May 6 during basic underwater demolition and SEAL training in Coronado, Calif., according to a report from the San Diego Medical Examiner's office.

Lovelace and other students donned fatigues and combat boots to tread water in a pool while their masks filled with

water for the combat swimmer orientation course, according to the report.

The medical examiner described a video in which Lovelace was singled out for having difficulty in the pool while instructors splashed water and dunked him to simulate adverse conditions, the report stated.

The report noted Lovelace had previously been prescribed asthma medication.

While acknowledging Lovelace's drowning could be viewed as an accident under rigorous training, "the actions, and inactions, of the instructors and other individuals involved were excessive and directly contributed to the death, and the manner of death is best classified as homicide," the report

concluded.

A homicide ruling by the medical examiner is not the same as a murder ruling, only that Lovelace's death was at the hands of others.

An investigation of the incident by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is underway, according to a spokesperson for the Navy Special Warfare Center in Coronado.

The instructor directly involved in the drowning was removed from his training billet following Lovelace's death and placed on administrative duties unrelated to training until the NCIS investigation concludes, the spokesman said.

Training was halted immediately following Lovelace's death to assess training and

review emergency procedures. The recognition and execution of life-saving techniques has since been reinforced in training and additional defibrillators are accessible near the pool, the spokesperson said.

Three sailors have died during SEAL training since November, including Lovelace. One sailor committed suicide and another was killed in a traffic collision, according to The Washington Post.

A memorial page for Lovelace shows the young sailor adorned with a single ribbon: The National Defense Service Medal, typically awarded to troops after completing initial training, which Lovelace completed in January.

China hot topic at Rim of the Pacific exercise

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The hot topic for the Rim of the Pacific remains unchanged from the last version of the maritime exercise in 2014: China.

This marks the second time China has been a full participant in RIMPAC, bringing five ships, compared with two in 2014, and the country will play a much larger role.

During a Tuesday news conference kicking off the six-week exercise — the largest so far — Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift was flanked by top commanders from many of the 26 participating nations. Beside him was Vice Adm. Nora Tyson, commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet, who is heading the exercise's combined task force.

Swift's opening remarks didn't mention China by name, but his first talking point echoed repeated calls by U.S. civilian and military officials to maintain the U.S.-led status quo in the Pacific region in response to ever-greater Chinese military might.

"[RIMPAC] brings together 26 nations from North and South America, Europe, Asia and Oceania," Swift said. "This is what the international maritime community does in ensuring the norms, standards, rules and laws that have provided the great stability and security — the foundation for prosperity — that we've all enjoyed over the last 70 years."

The biennial exercise is "a recurring answer to the divisive angst and tensions that put security and stability at risk in this region," he said.

"Protecting and navigating these shared interests increasingly rests on the hulls of our ships, the wings of our aircraft and on the backs of every mariner represented here at RIMPAC," Swift said, adding that the exercise was a time for all participants to "set their differences aside."

Some U.S. lawmakers had called on the Pacific Fleet to disinvite China because of its actions in the South China Sea, where it has dredged sand to build up tiny islands and reefs.

The country has added facilities and runways on those islands, which are in waters claimed by other countries, most notably the Philippines.

Most of the questions asked of Swift and Tyson were about China. Swift was asked about whether Beijing had been unduly "rewarded" with partici-

pation in RIMPAC, given it is challenging U.S. naval dominance in parts of the South China Sea.

As it did in 2014, China sent the hospital ship Peace Ark, along with the guided-missile destroyer Xian, guided-missile frigate Hengshui, fleet oiler Gaoyouhui and the submarine logistics vessel Changxingdao.

China will participate in a new submarine rescue scenario, among other drills.

Also new for this year's exercise is a littoral combat ship firing a Harpoon missile at a retired U.S. frigate and amphibious operations taking place in Southern California and Hawaii.

As part of the Navy's renewable-energy "Great Green Fleet," all participating surface vessels at RIMPAC will use biofuel.

Marine pilots' training lag cited

By TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marines have made slight improvements to increase the number of training flight hours its nondeployed pilots receive monthly, but it remains far below what is required and could have long-term consequences for the service, Lt. Gen. Jon M. Davis told lawmakers Wednesday.

According to the Marines' own standards, those pilots should have 16.5 hours of flight training each month.

But they have received far less because the needed aircraft or the funds to pay for training have been transferred to deploying units.

Last year, nondeploying Marine pilots on average were getting only six to nine hours of flight training each month, Davis told the House Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on readiness.

Since Congress added funds to help address the readiness

problem, hours of training have increased to average seven to 11 hours each month, said Davis, the Marines' deputy commandant for aviation.

"It is an improvement but still six hours per month shy of what a trained-and-ready force requires," he said.

Retired Cmdr. Chris Harmer, who flew SH-60F Seahawks and is now a senior analyst at the think tank Institute for the Study of War, said the single-digit monthly training hours are putting servicemembers' lives at risk.

"A pilot flying only 100 hours a year is not really deployable and not really even safe," Harmer said. "If you are flying just seven to 11 hours per month you are not only completely non-proficient in combat, you are dangerously lacking in basic airmanship — takeoffs, navigation and landings. The pilots not in the deployment queue, their skills are eroding. They are a danger to themselves and their fellow Marines."

Davis said the Marines continue to increase its flight training availabilities.

But the longer-term consequences of having a new generation of aviators receive so few flight hours could lead to more "Class A" mishaps, where aircraft and crews are lost, because future leaders, who should have at least 2,000 hours of training, might have only 500 to 600 hours when they are called to guide a less-experienced aviator.

Davis called the lack of hours "concerning ... the loss of experience this generation of Marines aviators has."

The readiness of the Navy and Marine Corps' helicopters and aircraft came into sharp focus after a string of fatal aircraft crashes in recent months, including the January collision of two CH-53E Super Stallions that killed 12 Marines off the coast of Hawaii. The investigation into that crash is close to complete, Davis said Wednesday.

Official implicated in neighborhood standoff

BURKE, Va. — Authorities are looking into an incident caught on video that appears to show a high-ranking Navy official pointing a gun at people during a confrontation in a northern Virginia neighborhood.

In video obtained by CBS News, a man who appears to be Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy Karnig Ohannessian stands on a sidewalk in front of a suburban home, arguing with a group of young men, telling them to leave and pointing a gun at them. A woman tries to calm him, telling him to get in the house and pushing his arm down and away from the men.

Fairfax County Police spokeswoman Officer Megan Hawkins said officers responded to reports of disorderly conduct and a man brandishing a gun on June 11 in a Burke neighborhood, but the alleged victims left by the time they arrived.

In a statement, Rear Adm. Dawn Cutler, Navy chief of information, said officials are aware of the incident and video.

From The Associated Press

10 years later, recalling the lone US loss under Coach K

Associated Press

Ten years later, Carmelo Anthony still remembers where he stood.

He points to a spot between the three-point arc and the sideline, recalling the position from where he watched a celebration some teammates couldn't bear to face.

"Everybody was walking off the floor. There was confetti, things on the court," Anthony said. "Everybody was celebrating and I stayed, I stayed right there on the court. I just wanted to see it and kind of feel it."

The Americans haven't felt it since.

The U.S. had just lost to Greece in the semifinals of the 2006 world basketball championship, a team coached by Mike Krzyzewski and led by likely future Hall of Famers LeBron James, Anthony and Dwyane Wade falling to a team that had no NBA players.

That 101-95 loss in Japan is the only defeat in 76 games since Krzyzewski took over in 2005.

Whether it was an upset depends on who you ask, but there's no debating what it meant to a U.S. team that hasn't looked back.

As the U.S. rolls into Rio and Greece tries to qualify this week, people on both sides remembered the buildup, the game and the aftermath.

Jerry Colangelo had overhauled USA Basketball after the Americans' embarrassing performance in the 2004 Olympics, when Anthony was part of a team that managed only a bronze. But it would take a while to get the U.S. program to where it is now.

"From '04 to '06, it wasn't no organizational structure," Anthony said. "It was just come together, put a team together and just try to go out there and win."

Colangelo set out to change that by selecting players months in advance, then bringing them to camp and making roster cuts — something the U.S. has stopped doing.

"We really had tryouts," Chris Paul said. "Like, you think about it, you get to the

highest point of your professional career, the NBA, and we had tryouts for the USA team. I remember diving on the floor against Luke Ridnour and stuff like that. So when you think back like that, it puts it all in perspective."

James, Anthony and Wade, who had just been MVP of the NBA Finals, were the headliners of the team. Paul had won Rookie of the Year.

The rest of the team was good, but far short of a Dream Team — even though that's what U.S. teams with NBA players always get called across the globe. Kobe Bryant was the biggest absence after knee surgery on the eve of the Americans' training camp.

"A lot of people probably couldn't even name that team if you wanted to," Paul said. "We had guys like Kirk Hinrich, Elton Brand, Brad Miller."

The rest of the roster: Chris Bosh, Dwight Howard, Joe Johnson, Shane Battier and Antawn Jamison.

The Americans arrived in the semifinals with a 7-0 record but had some struggles along the way. Puerto Rico scored 100 points on them in the opener, and the Americans were down 12 to Italy in the second half before Anthony bailed them out with a then-U.S. record 35 points.

Spain and Argentina, the reigning Olympic champion, were also 7-0 and met in one semifinal. The overlooked team was Greece, which had won all seven games in the worlds after winning the 2005 European championship.

"I think we had a really good group with inside and outside players, and also we had a team who could play smart to get the advantage," said Panagiotis Yannakis, who coached Greece.

Realizing the Americans' advantage in athleticism, Yannakis' plan was to play three guards who could control the tempo. Theodoros Papaloukas was one of the best in Europe, Vassilis Spanoulis was bound for the Houston Rockets and Dimitris Diamantidis a steady leader.

If they could protect the ball and pound it

inside to 6-foot-10 Sofoklis Schortsianitis — nicknamed "Baby Shaq" — the U.S. transition game would be stalled.

"Some of the teams are afraid, but some other teams don't have the guards to protect the ball," Yannakis said. "Don't give them the opportunity to use their hands, because USA players, they use a lot of their hands on the ball. That's the reason we used three guards. All of them, they had the skills to control the ball."

The U.S. led by 12 in the first half, but Greece stormed ahead by making 25 of 33 shots (76 percent) in the second and third quarters. Carving the Americans up on the pick-and-roll, the Greeks got 22 points from Spanoulis, 12 assists from Papaloukas and plenty of help from the U.S., which made 59 percent of its free throws.

Most of the U.S. players quickly retreated to the locker room as the Greeks danced at midcourt.

"I just remember the end of the game," Anthony said, "and just standing on the court and Greece fans are going crazy, their team is going crazy."

Greece couldn't duplicate its effort in the final, getting blown out by Spain. The Americans beat Argentina for bronze, then went home to build a better team. Jason Kidd and Deron Williams were added to bolster a backcourt that would include Bryant the next year, when they powered through an Olympic qualifier they were forced to play in by not winning the worlds.

The teams would then meet again in Beijing, the Americans cruising to a 92-69 victory. But they would never forget the game two years earlier.

"I mean, the stars were aligned for Greece that night and I chose and still do, as much it pains me, to say out of adversity comes opportunity," Colangelo said. "And I think we were emboldened by the fact that we paid a price early, that we were potentially vulnerable and I think that helped prepare us for our future success."

Federer rallies to advance in London

Associated Press

LONDON — Roger Federer's bid for a record eighth Wimbledon title remains alive after he came from two sets down and saved three match points Wednesday before overcoming Marin Cilic in five sets, advancing to the semifinals at the All England Club for the 11th time.

Playing his best when he absolutely needed it most, the seven-time champion finished with his 27th ace to complete a 6-7 (4), 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (9), 6-3 victory on Centre Court against the player who knocked him out in semifinals of the U.S. Open two years ago.

"Well, a lot happened out there," Federer said, summing up the 3-hour, 17-minute battle filled with tension, momentum swings and crucial points.

"I knew I was in so much trouble in the third, and then again in the fourth," he said. "I'm really, really pleased and just ecstatic I was able to come through somehow."

It was the 10th time in Federer's career that he has erased a two-set deficit to win in five sets. This was also his 80th match win at Wimbledon, which equals Jimmy Connors' record. Federer also matched Connors' record of reaching the Wimbledon semifinals 11 times.

What's more, Federer is now two wins away from the all-time record for Wimbledon men's titles. He's currently tied with Pete Sampras and 1880s player William Renshaw with seven.

Federer's semifinal opponent will be sixth-seeded Milos Raonic, who lost serve only once and downed No. 28 Sam Querrey 6-4, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 on No. 1 Court.

Querrey had knocked out No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the third round on Saturday, but came up short in his bid to become the first American to make it to the semifinals of a Grand Slam since Andy Roddick reached the final four at Wimbledon in 2009.

The 34-year-old Federer will now play in his 40th Grand Slam semifinal. He's the oldest man to get this far at Wimbledon since Ken Rosewall finished runner-up in 1974 at the age of 39. If Federer wins the title, he'll become the oldest men's Wimbledon champion in the Open era.

The third-seeded Federer looked down and out after falling behind two sets to love against No. 9 Cilic, a 6-foot-6 Croatian who kept holding serve, attacking on returns and dominating rallies with his big forehand and two-handed backhand.

It seemed like a replay of their last meeting, when Cilic swept Federer in straight sets in the semifinals en route to the 2014 U.S. Open title.

But Federer gradually worked his way back into the match, breaking for the first time to go up 5-3 in the third, saving three match points in the fourth, and playing flowing grass-court tennis on his favorite stage.

Pistorius gets 6-year sentence for murder

Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee Olympian described by a judge as a "fallen hero," was sentenced on Wednesday to six years in a South African prison for the murder of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, a ruling viewed by some as too lenient.

However, Judge Thokozile Masipa appeared to anticipate criticism of a jail term that fell far short of the normally mandated 15 years for murder under

South African law, declaring: "Our courts are courts of law, not courts of public opinion."

Pistorius, who shot Steenkamp through the door of a toilet cubicle in his home in 2013, was asked to stand and face Masipa as she announced his sentence in a wood-paneled courtroom in the South African capital, Pretoria. He was calm after the ruling, embracing his aunt and tearful sister before being led down a courtroom staircase to a holding cell ahead of being taken to prison.

The sentencing was the latest act of a three-and-a-half year legal drama that has often played out on live television and shown the fall from grace of a runner once viewed as an inspiration to many for overcoming his disability. Both of Pistorius' legs were amputated below the knees when he was 11 months old because of a congenital defect.

He made history by competing at the 2012 Olympics on his carbon-fiber running blades, and was one of the world's most recognizable athletes.



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Cubs dominate All-Star roster

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After topping the major leagues during the first half of the season as they seek their first title in more than a century, the Chicago Cubs dominate the roster for next week's All-Star Game.

The Cubs became the first team since the 1976 Cincinnati Reds' Big Red Machine to have five players voted as All-Star starters, and seven Chicago players in all were picked Tuesday for the July 12 game at San Diego's Petco Park.

Chicago's entire infield was voted in — first baseman Anthony Rizzo, second baseman Ben Zobrist, shortstop Addison Russell and third baseman Kris Bryant — along with center fielder Dexter Fowler, who hopes to recover from a hamstring strain that has sidelined him since June 18. The only other team to start four infielders was the 1963 St. Louis Cardinals.

"It'll be really cool starting the game and throwing to those guys in San Diego," Rizzo said.

Rizzo led NL players with 3.2 million votes, and Zobrist won the closest race by finishing 88 votes ahead of Washington's Daniel Murphy for second base. Chicago's Jake Arrieta and Jon Lester were selected for the National League pitching staff.

Chicago got off to a 47-20 start but has slumped for the past few weeks. The

Cubs have not won the World Series since 1908, but have the second-most All-Stars in their history behind eight in 2008.

The game will feature 11 first-time starters, the most since 2005. In a sign of the sport's generational change, 12 of the 17 elected starters are 26 or younger.

Boston has six All-Stars, including four starters. Designated hitter David Ortiz, who is retiring at the end of the season, became a 10-time All-Star and is joined in the lineup by a trio of first-timers: shortstop Xander Bogaerts and outfielders Jackie Bradley Jr. and Mookie Betts. Knuckleballer Steven Wright and closer Craig Kimbrel also were selected.

"Four days of rest and chilling is good, but this All-Star Game, I'm going to try to enjoy it the most," said the 40-year-old Ortiz said.

Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez and first baseman Eric Hosmer were voted to the AL starting lineup along with Houston second baseman Jose Altuve, Baltimore third baseman Manny Machado and Los Angeles outfielder Mike Trout. Perez led all players with nearly 4.97 million votes.

San Francisco catcher Buster Posey was elected in the NL along with New York Mets outfielder Yoenis Cespedes and Washington outfielder Bryce Harper.

Five Baltimore players were picked for the AL roster. Beyond Machado, catcher

Matt Wieters and outfielder Mark Trumbo are among the reserves, and Brad Brach and Zach Britton are on the pitching staff.

Arrieta is among five first-time All-Stars on the NL pitching staff, joined by New York's Noah Syndergaard and Jeurys Familia, the Los Angeles Dodgers' Kenley Jansen and Miami's A.J. Ramos. Other NL pitchers include Washington's Stephen Strasburg, the Giants' Madison Bumgarner, the Marlins' Jose Fernandez and Atlanta's Julio Teheran. Washington's Max Scherzer was bypassed.

Andrew Miller and Dellin Betances of the New York Yankees were picked for the AL bullpen but teammate Aroldis Chapman was left off after missing the first 29 games of the season while serving a domestic violence suspension.

Miller and Wright are among seven first-time All-Stars on the AL pitching staff, joined by Brach, Tampa Bay's Alex Colome, Toronto's Marco Estrada, Brach, Houston's Will Harris and Cleveland's Danny Salazar. Other AL pitchers include Chicago's Chris Sale and Texas' Cole Hamels.

The result of the game determines whether the AL or NL team in the World Series has home-field advantage.

US official: Logistics will be a problem at Rio Games

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — At about the same time newly minted members of the U.S. Olympic track team get their uniforms, they'll be led to a TV monitor featuring a map of Rio de Janeiro with three dots: the athletes' village, the track team's training center and Olympic Stadium.

None of them are all that close to each other; all will take a long time to reach.

USA Track and Field CEO Max Siegel said Tuesday that after a few visits to Brazil "we realized logistics would be a problem."

So, in addition to counting on the Olympic traffic lanes that will supposedly make travel easier for the 120-plus U.S. track and field Olympians, USATF staff is making it clear to the athletes that they need to build in plenty of time to make their way through the city.

It's expected to be a 45-to-60-minute drive from the athletes' village to both the stadium and the training center.

"It's getting coaches and athletes to understand that it's not going to be easy, like London, where everything is easy and right there," said Robert Chapman, USATF's associate director for sport science and medicine.

Siegel said USATF is working with the U.S. Olympic Committee on contingency plans in case traffic does end up as snarled as some predict. Aretha Thurmond, a four-time Olympian who is now director of international teams for USATF, said staff will be on the ground two weeks before the Olympic track meet starts to make test runs to the stadium and map out every possible option for athletes.

"There's only so much that's in your control," Thurmond said. "You've got a city with a mountain in the middle, and you've got to go around it."

The process of getting from Point A to Point B may seem like a rather low-level concern considering all the other troubles consuming the Olympic city: Zika, polluted water, security concerns amid a financial crisis and more. But, as Thurmond knows, athletes need a comfort level as they head for the biggest competition of their lives.

"If we know something's not right, then we try to build that into their travel schedule," she said, "so athletes don't have to make that decision."

Regarding the mosquito-borne virus that has hit Brazil as hard as any country, Siegel said USATF has taken part in USOC-led seminars and is distributing as much information as possible about health concerns.

Among the many leaflets the athletes pick up at team processing in Eugene is one distributed by the Centers for Disease Control called "Mosquito Bite Prevention For Travelers." The USOC will give athletes bug repellent when they go through Team USA processing later this month.

But traffic, in Siegel's view, is "frankly, one of our biggest concerns over things we don't have immediate control over."

Machado, Orioles snap 5-game skid

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Baltimore Orioles have five All-Stars and each of them contributed against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Manny Machado struck the biggest blow, hitting a three-run homer in the fifth inning to propel the Orioles to a 4-1 victory Tuesday night that ended their five-game skid while stopping the Dodgers' five-game winning streak.

"We needed that," he said. "We've been scuffling a bit and we've been putting ourselves in bad situations."

Machado, named an All-Star starter the day before he turns 24, sent a 2-2 pitch from Kenta Maeda (7-6) into the upper corner of the left field pavilion, putting the AL East-leading Orioles ahead 4-1. Machado's 19th homer would have registered 453 feet — his longest shot of the season — had it landed unimpeded, according to Statcast.

"Yeah, I got it good," Machado said. "Good hitters will hit it hard over the stadium, but I guess I don't have that pop."

The Orioles lead the majors with 129 home runs; they had 56 in June.

Chris Tillman (11-2) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, struck out two and walked two while facing the Dodgers for the first time in his career.

"It's what we needed," Orioles manager Buck Showalter said. "Chris was the difference. He's been good all year. He's been pretty consistent."

Tillman, a right-hander from Anaheim, Calif., had his career-high nine-game winning streak snapped last week, and wasn't selected for next week's All-Star Game in San Diego.

"He was pretty bummed out about his last two starts," Machado said. "I know he puts a lot of emphasis and a lot of pride into it. Knowing him, he wanted to come and prove a point today. He did that and more."

Zach Britton pitched the ninth to earn his AL-leading 24th save in as many chances. The Dodgers briefly threatened, with Adrian Gonzalez's leadoff single before Yasiel Puig struck out and pinch-

hitter Justin Turner's long fly was caught at the wall by right fielder Joey Rickard. Howie Kendrick struck out swinging to end the game.

Brad Brach struck out the side swinging in the eighth before turning it over to Britton, who hasn't allowed an earned run in his last 24 games since May 5.

Baltimore catcher Matt Wieters, another All-Star, went 2-for-4 with one strikeout.

Maeda tied season highs in runs allowed (4) and hits (7) in four-plus innings, which equaled the shortest outing of his career. The right-hander struck out five and walked three while dropping to 3-6 in nine home starts this season.

Marlins 5, Mets 2: Giancarlo Stanton lost his way for a while. He never lost his prodigious power, though.

Miami's muscular slugger homered twice to match a career high with five RBIs and made a crucial play on defense, sending Wei-Yin Chen and Miami to a victory that snapped host New York's five-game winning streak.

Indians 12, Tigers 1: Lonnie Chisenhall was 4-for-5 with three RBIs, Carlos Santana and Tyler Naquin homered, and host Cleveland remained perfect in 11 games against host Detroit.

Carlos Carrasco (5-2) allowed one run in six innings for Cleveland, which has won 13 straight at home.

Astros 5, Mariners 2: Luis Valbuena hit a solo homer and Colby Rasmus and rookie A.J. Reed added two-run shots in the fourth inning to back up a solid start by Dallas Keuchel (6-9) for host Houston.

Blue Jays 8, Royals 3: Josh Donaldson hit two solo home runs, Troy Tulowitzki had a three-run blast and host Toronto connected four times.

Rangers 7, Red Sox 2: Shin-Soo Choo homered on David Price's first pitch of the game, and Elvis Andrus scored to break a sixth-inning tie as visiting Texas snapped a three-game losing streak.

Reds 9, Cubs 5: John Lackey's winless streak stretched to five games, Chicago manager Joe Maddon was ejected and Cincinnati beat struggling host Chicago behind Zack Cozart's 13th home run.

Rockies 7, Giants 3: All-Star Nolan

Arenado hit a go-ahead three-run home run in the seventh inning to give visiting Colorado the big hit it has missed for much of the past week and end a season-high six-game losing streak.

Brewers 5, Nationals 2: Hernan Perez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning to back an effective pitching performance by Zach Davies, and Milwaukee won its second road series of the season.

Yankees 9, White Sox 0: Carlos Beltran celebrated his ninth All-Star selection with three of visiting New York's season-high 20 hits.

Masahiro Tanaka (6-2) pitched into the eighth inning while improving to 4-1 with a 1.14 ERA in eight road starts.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 2: Eric Fryer burned his former team with two hits and three RBIs to lead visiting Pittsburgh.

Phillies 5, Braves 1: Maikel Franco homered for the third straight game and host Philadelphia hit four overall.

Angels 13, Rays 5: C.J. Cron homered twice and drove in four runs, and visiting Los Angeles overcame another shaky start by Tim Lincecum to get its third win in 15 games.

Twins 11, Athletics 4: Kennys Vargas, Max Kepler and Miguel Sano hit home runs, Tommy Milone beat his old team and host Minnesota topped Oakland in a game that ended early Wednesday morning after a severe thunderstorm delayed the start by 2 hours and 42 minutes.

Marcus Semien hit his 18th home run in the second, but that was all the A's managed against Milone (1-2).

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 5: Rickie Weeks Jr. hit a three-run homer and Paul Goldschmidt had two RBIs after being named to his fourth straight NL All-Star team for host Arizona.

Weeks hit a three-run homer off Christian Friedrich (4-4), and Zack Godley (2-0) worked around trouble through five innings in front of 14,110 fans, the smallest crowd in Chase Field's 18-year history.