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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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COUP QUASHED IN TURKEY

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Forces loyal to Turkey's president quashed a coup attempt in a night of explosions, air battles and gunfire that left at least 161 people dead and 1,440 wounded Saturday. Authorities arrested thousands as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed that those responsible "will pay a heavy price for their treason."

The chaos came amid a period of political turmoil in Turkey — a NATO member and key Western ally in the fight against the Islamic State group — that critics blame on Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian rule. Staying in power by switching from being prime minister to president, Erdogan has shaken up the government, cracked down on dissidents, restricted the news media and renewed fighting with Kurdish rebels.

The government has also

come under pressure from the millions of refugees in Turkey who have fled violence in neighboring Syria and Iraq, and for a series of bloody attacks in Turkey blamed on the Islamic State group and Kurdish rebels.

Erdogan was on a seaside vacation when tanks rolled into the streets of Ankara and Istanbul. He flew home early Saturday and declared the coup to have failed.

"They have pointed the people's guns against the people. The president, whom 52 percent of the people brought to power, is in charge. This government brought to power by the people is in charge," Erdogan told large crowds after landing at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport.

The uprising appears not to have been backed by the most senior ranks of the military, and Turkey's main opposition parties quickly condemned the

attempted overthrow of the government. Gen. Umit Dundar said the plotters were mainly officers from the air force, the military police and the armored units.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said 161 people were killed and 1,440 wounded in the violence, and 2,839 plotters were detained. A source at the office of the presidency, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government rules, said the toll of 161 "excludes assailants" — which could mean the death toll is much higher.

Yildirim described the night as "a black mark on Turkish democracy" and said the perpetrators "will receive every punishment they deserve."

Turkey's NATO allies lined up to condemn the coup. President Barack Obama urged all sides to support Turkey's democratically elected government.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he spoke to Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and called for the Turkish people to respect democracy.

The coup attempt began late Friday, with a military statement saying forces had seized control "to reinstall the constitutional order, democracy, human rights and freedoms, to ensure that the rule of law once again reigns in the country, for law and order to be reinstated."

Fighter jets buzzed overhead, gunfire erupted outside military headquarters and vehicles blocked two major bridges in Istanbul. Soldiers backed by tanks blocked entry to Istanbul's airport for a couple of hours before being overtaken by pro-government crowds carrying Turkish flags, according to footage broadcast by the Dogan news agency.

Military flights out of Incirlik suspended

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. military operations against the Islamic State group out of Turkey's Incirlik Air Base came to a halt Saturday afternoon as the Turkish military closed the airspace around the base following an attempted coup, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Also, power was cut to the base, and the U.S. was restricting movements of its personnel as base security was raised to the highest level.

"The Turkish government has closed its airspace to military aircraft, and as a result, air operations at Incirlik Air Base have been halted at this time," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said in a statement. "U.S.

officials are working with the Turks to resume air operations there as soon as possible."

Hours earlier, a U.S. defense official said U.S. air operations from the base had not been affected and were continuing against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria.

Turkish authorities told the U.S. they were closing the airspace until they could be sure all Turkish air force assets were under government control, CNN reported, citing a U.S. defense official.

U.S. planes that had already flown out on missions were allowed to land, CNN reported.

The power cuts to the base had not affected base operations, Cook said: "U.S. facilities at Incirlik are operating on internal power sources."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy said in a post on its website that local authorities were denying movement on and off the Turkish-owned and -operated base. But a spokesman for U.S. European Command said that did not apply to U.S. personnel.

"There was not chaos at this base," said EUCOM spokesman Navy Capt. Danny Hernandez, describing conditions at Incirlik. "All our assets in Turkey are fully under control, and there was no attempt to challenge that status."

Given that the base has moved to Delta — the highest level of security — all U.S. personnel are restricted to Incirlik by U.S. order, Hernandez said.

While there have been reports that Incirlik has been surrounded by authorities limiting

the movement of U.S. personnel, Hernandez said that is not the case.

"We are already at Delta, which makes security thicker," he said, adding that base officials were working to restore commercial power on base.

Measures were being taken to ensure the safety of personnel operating out of Turkey, Cook said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg tweeted earlier in the day that he had confirmed in a Saturday phone call with NATO Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, who also heads U.S. European Command, that all U.S. and NATO personnel in Turkey were safe and accounted for.

Appeals court rejects Navy sonar-use rules

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court ruled Friday that the U.S. Navy was wrongly allowed to use sonar that could harm whales and other marine life.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower-court decision upholding approval granted in 2012 for the Navy to use low-frequency sonar for training, testing and routine operations.

The five-year approval covered peacetime operations in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans and the Mediterranean Sea.

The appellate panel sent the matter back to the lower court for further proceedings.

A message seeking comment from representatives of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Honolulu was not immediately returned.

Sonar, used to detect submarines, can injure whales, seals, dolphins and walrus and dis-

rupt their feeding and mating.

The 2012 rules adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service permitted Navy sonar use that would affect each year about 30 whales and two dozen pinnipeds — marine mammals with front and rear flippers such as seals and sea lions.

The Navy was required to shut down or delay sonar use if a marine mammal was detected near the ship. Loud sonar pulses also were banned near coastlines and in certain pro-

tected waters.

Environmental groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed a lawsuit in San Francisco in 2012, arguing that the approval violated the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The appellate court ruled 3-0 that the approval rules failed to meet a section of the protection act requiring peacetime oceanic programs to have “the least practicable adverse impact on marine mammals.”

Last chapter of 9/11 inquiry declassified

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newly declassified pages from a congressional report into 9/11 released Friday have reignited speculation that some of the hijackers had links to Saudis, including government officials — allegations that were never substantiated by later U.S. investigations into the terrorist attacks.

Congress released the last chapter of the congressional inquiry that has been kept under wraps for more than 13 years, stored in a secure room in the basement of the Capitol. Lawmakers and relatives of victims of the attacks, who believe that Saudi links to the attackers were not thoroughly investigated, campaigned for years to get

the pages released.

The lightly redacted document names individuals who helped the hijackers get apartments, open bank accounts and connect with local mosques. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals, and several were not fluent in English and had little experience living in the West.

Former Florida Sen. Bob Graham, the co-chairman of the congressional inquiry who pushed hard for the last chapter to be released, believes the hijackers had an extensive Saudi support system while they were in the United States.

Saudi Arabia itself has urged the release of the chapter since 2002 so the kingdom could respond to any allegations.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubier told reporters Friday that his government welcomed the release of the 28 pages and said the documents should finally put to rest questions about Saudi Arabia's suspected role in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

“The surprise in the 28 pages is that there is no surprise,” al-Jubier said.

The 9/11 Families and Victims welcomed the release and said it confirmed what they've long known. “Each of the claims the 9/11 families and victims has made against the kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoys extensive support in the findings of a broad range of investigative documents authored by multiple U.S. intelligence agencies,” the families said.

Trump announces Pence as VP pick

NEW YORK — Donald Trump introduced Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate on Saturday, calling him “my partner in this campaign” and his first and best choice to join him on a winning Republican presidential ticket.

In their first joint appearance, Trump tried to draw a sharp contrast between Pence, a soft-spoken conservative, and Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate. In fact, he spent about as much time lambasting Clinton as praising his running mate.

He said Pence would stand up to America's enemies and that he and the governor represent “the law-and-order candidates” at home.

From The Associated Press

2 Marines playing ‘Pokemon Go’ nab attempted murder suspect

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Javier Soch and Seth Ortega went to downtown Fullerton, Calif., on Tuesday hoping to hunt monsters on the new “Pokemon Go” smartphone game.

Instead, the Marine Corps veterans helped police in the Orange County city catch a man who was bothering children at a playground. Investigators later learned the man was wanted for attempted murder by authorities in Sonoma County.

Ortega, 24, and Soch, 26, who are roommates in nearby Placentia, Calif., arrived downtown at about 9 a.m. and played the

smartphone game for an hour.

At some point, Soch's game froze near a museum. He looked up and saw a man who appeared to be scaring a woman and her three sons. The man appeared odd, wearing a mismatched outfit with an oversized jacket and a baseball cap.

The man soon approached another woman who was with her two sons, Soch said. He briefly talked with the mother, but as he walked away, he managed to wipe his hand across one of the boy's chest or shoulders.

The man made his way over to the park, where the mother and two sons had ventured. Then, Soch and Ortega saw the man

grab one of the boy's feet and move his hand up the boy's leg.

Ortega bolted to the park and escorted the man away, while Soch stayed with the two mothers and five children. Police arrived and detained the man for questioning. Officers took witness statements from Soch and Ortega, as well as the mothers and their sons.

Fullerton police Sgt. Kathryn Hamel said the man was initially arrested on suspicion of child annoyance, but investigators later learned that authorities in Sonoma County had a warrant for his arrest for attempted murder.

US boxer Mayer finds direction in gym ring

Associated Press

Mikaela Mayer knew she was better than the high school burnout that she was in danger of becoming.

She had attended four schools in three years, repeatedly getting in trouble for fighting and bad grades. She was a 17-year-old occasional model with the self-awareness to realize she had no clear direction or future outside the San Fernando Valley.

"All I cared about was my friends, and going out and partying, and being a young, cool teenager," Mayer said. "I was looking for something, but I had no idea what."

One summer day, she realized something was calling her to the humble storefront kickboxing gym in an unassuming strip mall down the street from her divorced dad's apartment. Instead of driving past it again, Mayer and a friend went inside.

The first thing she asked the trainer was: "Do you think I'm too old to start competing?"

"I was hungry for success in something at that time, because I wasn't doing well at anything," Mayer said. "I was like, 'I want to be good at something.' It's always been inside me. I've always had that fire. I didn't have anywhere to direct it."

Almost nine years to the day after that wild child learned how to throw her first punch, Mayer will fight at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, joining gold medalist Claressa Shields as the only U.S. women boxers in Brazil.

Mayer still doesn't know exactly why she first decided to punch people after a youth spent participating in everything from soccer to motocross to snowboarding. Nobody in her self-described "family of hippies" had been anywhere near a boxing gym.

After her first workout, she knew three ways to throw a proper punch. And she liked it.

"I poured all my energy into it," Mayer said. "It wasn't ever just a part-time thing for me. From the day I walked into this gym, within two months, all I thought was, 'I want to be the best female fighter in the world.'"

Mayer took lessons in muay thai and kickboxing, but she dedicated herself to boxing after a back injury temporarily stopped her from throwing kicks. She became a Golden Gloves champion just a few years later — and when the Olympics added a women's tournament in 2010, Mayer and her father, Mark, decided to chase medals.

They heard about a boxing scholarship program at Northern Michigan University

under revered amateur coach Al Mitchell, who has taught three U.S. Olympic teams. Before she had time to think, the Los Angeles native had been accepted to the program on Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"So I quit my job, said, 'Later,' to my boyfriend at the time, and hopped on a plane," Mayer said. "I had never been to Michigan, let alone the U.P., which is another thing on its own. I remember flying in there and seeing all the pine trees and 10 feet of snow and just thinking, 'Where the hell am I?'"

Mayer warmed to her cold new home, and Mitchell developed his first female pupil into a world-class fighter. Her bond with Mitchell and his fiancée became so tight that she had Mitchell's initials tattooed on her right hand.

"The thing that makes Mikaela different is her commitment," Mitchell said. "When she walked in here, I broke her down and rebuilt her. She never believed it was too hard, and she never gave up. She has toughness that got her this far, and now it's getting her all the way to the Olympics. It's an incredible thing to do in that amount of time."

A year after moving to Northern Michigan, Mayer fell just short of a spot on the first U.S. women's team, losing a decision to Queen Underwood in the 2012 trials. She only became more determined

to catch the next wave in the evolution of her sport.

Mayer made the Rio team last fall only after fending off a ferocious challenge over three qualifying fights from teenage prodigy Jajaira Gonzalez, a fellow LA-area native with a wealth of junior titles.

"The competition is so much tougher now than it was when I started," Mayer said. "Back in 2009, if you went to a tournament and even got to have two fights, it was worth the money."

With an artfully bent nose from boxing, she still takes occasional modeling work, particularly for a handbag company that sponsors her. Although she still lives in Michigan, Mayer returned to her original Valley gym last month, joyfully greeting her first coach — and Coconut, the adorable dog she gave up when she moved.

She wants an Olympic medal out of her journey, but she also wants her success to bring more attention to women's boxing. Although she has thought about turning pro, good money is scarce for female fighters outside the octagon — but that only makes Mayer more determined to succeed in Rio.

"I've always believed I'd be here, but I also knew that the chances of being here were going to be slim," Mayer said. "This was my dream before I knew it was possible."

Lefty battles rain, keeps Open lead

Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — Phil Mickelson wore a black rain suit that he didn't need until he approached the far end of Royal Troon and already had stretched his lead. Henrik Stenson opened the curtains at his house expecting to see rain coming down sideways and was pleasantly surprised by the calm.

Good golf and the good end of the draw is tough to beat in the British Open.

Mickelson hit a wedge that spun back toward the cup until it stopped about two postage stamps away on the par-3 eighth hole, the signature shot in his 2-under 69 that allowed him to back up his record-tying start and take the 36-hole lead in a major for the first time in three years.

"I thought it was a good round to back up the low round yesterday," Mickelson said. "I played kind of stress-free golf again. I made one or two bad swings that led to bogeys. But for the most part, kept the ball in play."

He just couldn't shake Stenson, who timed his birdies perfectly.

The Swede made three straight birdies before the wind showed up and the clouds began to spit rain. He added two more during lulls in the increasingly bad weather. And he wound up with a Friday-best 65 that enabled him to close within one shot of Mickelson.

"I was five back of Phil from yesterday, so of course I was hoping to gain a little," Stenson said. "And the way it turned out, I gained quite a lot. It's still early in the

tournament, though. We're only halfway through. But so far, so good. I'm happy with the way I played the course. It's not easy out there."

Try telling that to the players who had to endure an afternoon of gusts that topped 30 mph and rain so heavy at times it was hard to see.

"Some draws go your way," Rory McIlroy said, "and some draws don't."

Just look at the leaderboard.

Mickelson was at 10-under 132, the best 36-hole total ever to lead at Royal Troon. Stenson, a runner-up to Mickelson at Muirfield in 2013, was one shot behind. Soren Kjeldsen and Keegan Bradley each shot 68 and were three shots behind.

The top 14 players going into the weekend all played Friday morning. Of the 26 players still under par, only four of them played in the afternoon.

The nature of links golf, and this championship, is getting the good side of the tee times. Mickelson was soaked when he walked off the course, though he managed to get in eight holes before the rain arrived. On the ninth hole, he had his caddy hold the umbrella over his ball on a 10-foot par putt, walking away at the last minute to watch his boss roll in into the cup, like he's been doing all week.

Jordan Spieth? He was lucky to still be playing.

Spieth battled through the worst of the elements to play the final six holes in even par for a 75 to finish at 4-over 146. Two hours before he finished, that looked as if it would earn him a trip back to Texas.

Instead, he made the cut on the number.

McIlroy got within five shots of the lead until the weather and a few bad shots gobbled him up, and the four-time major champion dropped four shots in five holes. He had to settle for an even-par 71 and was eight shots behind, along with U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson (69).

Jason Day, the world's No. 1 player, had a 70 and was among three players who broke par in the afternoon.

"I felt like I shot a low-career round out there today with just how tough the conditions were," Day said.

Mickelson's made his first bogey when he pulled an iron off the tee into the rough, missing a gorse bush by about two paces. He dropped another shot on the 15th when he pulled his drive into the rough and couldn't reach the green. Those were the mistakes, offset by a 25-foot birdie putt on the 14th hole when he played his tee shot off the back side of a bunker and let it feed toward the hole.

He looked like a links specialist the way he used the ground. Then again, his name is on the silver claret jug for a reason.

And he wouldn't mind seeing it there again.

Only two other players have started a major with rounds of 63-69. One was Raymond Floyd, who went on to a wire-to-wire victory at Southern Hills in the 1982 PGA Championship. The other was Greg Norman, who shot 78 in the final round of the 1996 Masters and lost a six-shot lead.

Tennis stars decide not to go to Rio

Associated Press

LONDON — Two top-10 tennis players withdrew from the Rio Olympics on Friday and one opted out Saturday, citing concerns about the Zika virus.

Fifth-ranked Simona Halep on the women's side and No. 7 Milos Raonic for the men announced their decisions after their names were listed on the International Tennis Federation's roster for next month's Summer Games.

"After several talks with doctors and my family, I concluded that the risks are too high for my career and for my health, especially as a woman," the 24-year-old Halep, the 2014 French Open runner-up from Romania, posted on Facebook. "Family is much too important for me and I can't risk not being able to have one of my own after my career in tennis is over."

Raonic, a 25-year-old Canadian who made his first major final at Wimbledon this month, said in a statement that "I am making this decision for a variety of health concerns including the uncertainty around the Zika virus."

On Saturday, Wimbledon semifinalist Tomas Berdych said "it was a hard decision for me to make after a long and painstaking discussion" with family.



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Nats' Strasburg wins record 16th straight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stephen Strasburg so badly wanted to start the Washington Nationals' first game after the break that he gave up the chance to pitch in the All-Star Game in his hometown of San Diego.

His 13th victory was a reward for that. Strasburg allowed one run and three hits with six strikeouts in eight masterful innings as the Nationals beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-1 on Friday night. Strasburg (13-0) has won 16 consecutive decisions dating to September, a franchise record for starting pitchers.

"He got probably some grief by not pitching in the All-Star Game, but he was doing what he thought was best for us and for him," manager Dusty Baker said. "Boy, that sets the tone for the rest of the series."

Strasburg has allowed a total of five hits in three starts since coming off the disabled list on July 3. Catcher Wilson Ramos said this is the best he has ever seen Strasburg pitch, and eight innings matched the right-hander's season high.

At the plate, Strasburg drove in what turned out to be the winning run on a sacrifice bunt attempt in the seventh inning. He reached safely because of an error by Pirates first baseman David Freese.

First baseman Clint Robinson, who drove in a run in the fifth, scored in the seventh on the combination of a wild pitch by reliever Neftali Feliz and a throw-

ing error by catcher Eric Fryer. Center fielder Michael Taylor broke the game open with a two-run homer, his seventh of the season, off Feliz.

Pittsburgh starter Francisco Liriano (5-9) got the loss after allowing three runs and five hits in six-plus innings.

Cubs 6, Rangers 0: Kyle Hendricks and four relievers combined on a five-hitter, Addison Russell had a two-run single to key a five-run sixth inning, and host Chicago beat Texas in a matchup of slumping division leaders.

Orioles 4, Rays 3: Jonathan Schoop hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, and AL East-leading Baltimore came back from an early deficit to beat host Tampa Bay.

Indians 5, Twins 2: Mike Napoli had three hits, including his 19th home run, and Carlos Carrasco pitched into the seventh inning as visiting Cleveland beat Minnesota.

Tigers 4, Royals 2: Victor Martinez drove in two runs with a tiebreaking in-field single in the seventh inning, and host Detroit took advantage of that fluky hit in holding off Kansas City.

With the bases loaded and two outs, Martinez's comebacker deflected off reliever Joakim Soria and rolled to the area between first and second. With the second baseman playing deep, there was no chance to retire Martinez, and two runs came home on the play.

Red Sox 5, Yankees 3: Ryan Hanigan, Travis Shaw and Xander Bogaerts hom-

ered to back knuckleballer Steven Wright, and Boston opened the second half with a win over host New York.

Mets 5, Phillies 3: Neil Walker hit a three-run homer and Juan Lagares also went deep to lead visiting New York over Philadelphia.

Asdrubal Cabrera had three hits for the Mets, who opened the second half by snapping a three-game skid while All-Star outfielder Yoenis Cespedes missed his third straight game with a strained right quadriceps.

Reds 5, Brewers 4: Adam Duvall and Tucker Barnhart doubled home runs in the sixth inning, rallying host Cincinnati past Milwaukee to snap a three-game slide.

The bottom two teams in the NL Central went into the All-Star break with downturns. The last-place Reds pulled off a three-run rally, then barely held on.

Rockies 11, Braves 2: Carlos Gonzalez had three hits, Nolan Arenado scored three times and pinch-hitter Ryan Raburn capped a big offensive performance for Colorado with a ninth-inning grand slam against Atlanta.

Marlins 7, Cardinals 6: Ichiro Suzuki had a pinch-hit single for his 2,991st hit and scored the tying run in the eighth inning, and Miguel Rojas drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth as visiting Miami beat St. Louis for its fourth straight victory.

Tommy Pham had two of the Cardinals' four homers and drove in four runs. Stephen Piscotty and Randal Grichuk

also connected for St. Louis, which made three defensive miscues.

Astros 7, Mariners 3: Carlos Correa hit a two-run double and scored from second base on a wild pitch during Houston's five-run fifth inning against host Seattle.

Padres 4, Giants 1: All-Star slugger Wil Myers hit his 20th home run and Adam Rosales also connected off Madison Bumgarner, powering host San Diego past major league-leading San Francisco.

Dodgers 13, Diamondbacks 7: Chris Taylor drove in six runs and fell a single shy of the cycle, and Los Angeles starter Bud Norris finally beat host Arizona.

Taylor, acquired from Seattle on June 19 and recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City six days later, tripled in the fourth, doubled in the fifth and hit a grand slam in the sixth — his first major league home run. He was out on a bunt in the eighth.

Angels 7, White Sox 0: Hector Santiago threw seven innings of five-hit ball against his former team, and Los Angeles beat visiting Chicago.

It was the second time this season Santiago (7-4) blanked the White Sox 7-0. He has tossed 14 spotless innings against them, but given up 54 runs over 91¹/₃ innings in his other 17 starts.

Athletics 8, Blue Jays 7: Josh Reddick scored the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning on a play that was overturned by replay, and host Oakland held on to beat Toronto.

Drummond finalizes deal with Pistons

Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Andre Drummond has his huge contract with Detroit, and an extra season of waiting seems to have worked out fine.

The Pistons finalized their five-year contract for \$130 million with the NBA rebounding leader, and they held a news conference with Drummond on Friday. Stan Van Gundy, Detroit's coach and team president, said Drummond's willingness to wait a little while before receiving this deal gave the team the flexibility needed to acquire other players.

Drummond was a restricted free agent, but the Pistons were able to keep him with this new maximum contract. Detroit could exceed the salary cap this offseason to sign Drummond because he was already playing for the Pistons — but if they had given the 6-foot-11 center this deal last offseason, it would have used up valuable cap space.

Detroit traded for Tobias Harris during the 2015-16 season and made the playoffs for the first time since 2009. The Pistons have also signed free agents Ish Smith, Jon Leuer and Boban Marjanovic this offseason.

Van Gundy said the Pistons couldn't have done all that if they hadn't been able to wait on Drummond's deal.

"We either, number one, wouldn't have been able to do Tobias Harris during the year," Van Gundy said. "Or, if we had done Tobias, we wouldn't have been able to add the people that we added this summer."

Detroit drafted Drummond, 22, out of UConn with the No. 9 pick in 2012, and he made an immediate impact with his size and athleticism.

NFL players shed tag for big deals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Von Miller got a monstrous contract, befitting a sack-happy Super Bowl MVP. Muhammad Wilkerson and Justin Tucker also received big paydays, shedding their franchise tags and getting new deals.

Kirk Cousins, Alshon Jeffery, Eric Berry and Trumaine Johnson, however, will all be playing this season under the value of their tags after they and their teams failed to agree on long-term contracts by the NFL's Friday deadline.

Miller and Denver spent the offseason in a contract stare down this season, but the sides agreed to a six-year, \$114.5 million deal that includes \$70 million guaranteed.

Miller and agent Joby Branion parlayed patience into a record-breaking deal in terms of overall value and guarantees. The outside linebacker received \$23 million at signing and will earn \$61 million over the first eight months of the blockbuster deal that makes him the highest-paid player outside of quarterbacks in NFL history.

Miller's camp had rejected the \$38.5 million the Broncos offered in guarantees, and Miller threatened to sit out the season barring a long-term deal. About two hours before the 4 p.m. EDT deadline, the cornerstone of the league's best defense accepted the Broncos' blockbuster offer and tweeted a photo of himself in his orange No. 58 jersey with the caption "For Life."

In a statement, Miller thanked general manager John Elway, team owner Pat Bowlen, president and CEO Joe Ellis and coach Gary Kubiak.

"I'm also thankful for the way my teammates and our fans have supported me," Miller said. "I'm excited for the future and ready to get back to work." The New York Jets pulled off a last-minute stunner,

signing Wilkerson to a five-year extension shortly before the deadline.

Wilkerson had a career-high 12 sacks last season and was selected for his first Pro Bowl, but was unable to play after breaking his right leg in the season finale at Buffalo. The 2011 first-round draft pick said he was frustrated at not receiving a new deal from the Jets, who instead placed the franchise tag on him.

Just as many fans began to take to social media, upset at a deal not getting done, the Jets announced on Twitter that they had signed Wilkerson to a multi-year contract. The deal is worth more than \$85 million, including \$37 million in guarantees through the first two years, according to a person familiar with the contract. Through three years of the deal, Wilkerson will be paid \$54 million in guaranteed money, added the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team does not announce financial terms of contracts.

"I give my all every Sunday on the field and play with so much love and passion for the game," Wilkerson wrote on Twitter. "I'm thankful for everything that comes my way and proud to say I'm back on the green and white for a few more years."

Tucker and the Baltimore Ravens agreed to a four-year contract, announced late Friday afternoon by the team.

Since joining the Ravens as a free agent in 2012, Tucker has made 130 of his 148 field goal tries — an 87.8 percent success rate that is second-best in NFL history. He was selected to the Pro Bowl in 2013 after making 38 of 41 field goal attempts, including a 61-yarder that beat the Detroit Lions.

Cousins will earn \$19.95 million this season while playing under the franchise tag for Washington after the sides failed to agree on a long-term contract.

Franchised players who didn't sign deals by Friday now must wait until the offseason to re-open negotiations.

He'll be the first quarterback to play a season on the tag since San Diego's Drew Brees in 2005.

The 27-year-old Cousins started all 16 regular-season games for the Redskins last season, throwing for 4,166 yards and 29 touchdowns with 11 interceptions last season. In 30 career NFL games, the 2012 fourth-round pick has thrown 47 touchdowns and 30 interceptions.

Jeffery will be paid \$14.6 million this season by Chicago. He missed seven games last season with injuries, but still led the team with 54 catches and 807 receiving yards while scoring four touchdowns. His per-game average of 89.7 receiving yards was the seventh-best mark in the NFL.

Kansas City general manager John Dorsey announced in a statement released by the team on Twitter that the Chiefs and Berry were unable to reach a long-term deal. Berry, the NFL Comeback Player of the Year last season after being diagnosed in November 2014 with Hodgkin's lymphoma, will play this season under the tag worth \$10.8 million.

"Although both sides would have preferred a different outcome, Eric is a true professional and a tremendous football player, and we know that he will continue to be a leader in our locker room," Dorsey said. "We look forward to resuming our discussions on a long-term agreement when the negotiating window reopens after the season."

The Los Angeles Rams and Johnson also couldn't close on a deal Friday, meaning the cornerback will under play his tag value, worth \$13.952 million.

In four NFL seasons, Johnson has 15 interceptions, including seven last year in a breakout season for the Rams after being a third-round draft pick out of Montana in 2012.