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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Marines join Japan disaster-relief exercise

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marines further solidified their working relationship with Japan's military Thursday as preparation for a possible emergency in a country that is prone to disasters.

Participating in Japan's Churashima Rescue Exercise for the second consecutive year, the Marines used their choppers to set up an aerial ambulance service, shuttling "victims" from a mock disaster. The Marines said it was good to work out the kinks, such as navigating the language barrier, prior to an actual disaster.

"What we're trying to accomplish is just exercise our relations between us and the Japanese," said Capt. Jared Howells, a CH-53E Super Stallion pilot.

"So if something does happen — disaster relief or if they just need assistance moving something, or really just training in general — we've already established the rapport. We know what kind of constraints both parties have, and what abilities both parties have, and we've already had an opportunity to overcome those so we're not running into barriers the first time doing this."

The annual exercise — sponsored by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's 15th Brigade, Western Army — is designed to prepare JGSDF troops and Okinawan first responders for a disaster, such as the earthquake and tsunami that rocked mainland Japan in March 2011 and spawned a nuclear disaster.

This year, the Flying Tigers of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, who are in the region until November through a Unit Deployment Program rotation, joined in, carrying simulated wounded Okinawans from the central part of the island to waiting medical services at Camp Naha in the south. Marine and JGSDF officials said joint practice is critical because both have bases on Okinawa.

"Okinawa is an island, so we have limited resources, especially in case of an emergency," said JGSDF Master Sgt. Masayoshi Kamoshida, a 15th Brigade liaison with the Marines. "The Okinawan people and all of the involved organizations understand the importance of the ability to respond to an emergency."

The exercise also involved local police and fire crews as well as the coordination of prefectural authorities, Kamoshida said.

Afghanistan mourns Kabul attack victims

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan was in mourning on Sunday, a day after the deadliest attack in the capital in 15 years killed at least 80 people.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for twin bombings Saturday that targeted a demonstration of thousands of Shiite Hazaras. It was the highest-profile attack by the Sunni militant group in Afghanistan to date.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said in a statement that two suicide bombers caused the blasts. A third bomber, whose vest failed to detonate, was shot dead by security forces, the ministry said.

Marchers in Saturday's demonstration were demanding that a major regional electrical power line be routed through the impoverished Bamiyan province, where many Hazaras live. While most members of the Hazara minority are Shiite Muslims, most Afghans are Sunni.

The original plan for the TUTAP power line called for it to be routed through Bamiyan

province. Leaders of the marches have said that the rerouting was evidence of bias against the Hazara community.

Hussain Ali Rezaee, who participated in Saturday's demonstration, said that people had started funeral ceremonies Sunday morning.

"We were asked by the officials of the Enlighten Movement [who organized the demonstration] not to bury the dead bodies for a while, but we did it anyway," Rezaee said.

The Interior Ministry said at least 230 were being treated for injuries. A Health Ministry spokesman gave a higher number of people injured — 260. That's a downward revision from the Health Ministry's Saturday estimate of more than 280.

President Ashraf Ghani promised during a television address Saturday night to "avenge the blood" of the victims and declared Sunday a day of mourning. He also announced he was forming an investigative committee headed by the attorney general and comprised of government officials and non-government representatives.

Japan-based Patriot missile battery arrives in S. Korea

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Patriot missile-defense battery arrived in South Korea on July 13 in the wake of a controversial announcement that the allies have agreed to base an even more advanced missile defense system on the peninsula.

The PAC-3 Patriot battery showed up as

part of an exercise aimed at quickly deploying U.S. air-defense crew from Japan to Korea in an emergency, a U.S. official told the South's Yonhap news agency.

"The exercise is designed to enhance reception, staging, onward movement and integration capabilities," said Capt. Joseph Reney, a U.S. Forces Japan spokesman, who confirmed the deployment in an email Friday. "After the joint military exercise,

the Patriot Battery will be returning to Japan."

Kim Hyun-wook, an American studies professor at the Korean National Diplomatic Academy, said South Korea sees the deployment of missile defense systems such as THAAD and the Patriot as signs that cooperation between the nations in dealing with North Korea is more important than ever.

Officials: Teen planned Munich attack for year

Associated Press

MUNICH — The teenager behind Friday's deadly shooting rampage at a Munich mall had planned his attack for a year and chose his victims at random, investigators said Sunday.

Bavarian investigator Robert Heimberger said the shooter, a German-Iranian identified only as David S., 18, visited the site of a previous school shooting in the German town of Winnenden last year, then set about planning the attack in which he killed nine and wounded some three dozen others before taking his own life.

Heimberger said there were "many more terabytes" of information to evaluate, and that the teen's brother and parents were not emotionally up to being interrogated.

There is so far no evidence he knew any of his victims, nor that there was any political motivation behind the attack, said Thomas Steinkraus-Koch, a spokesman for the Munich prosecutors' office.

The suspect received both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric treatment last year to help him deal with "fears of contact with others," Steinkraus-Koch added.

He said medication had been found at his home but investigators needed to talk with his family to determine if he had been taking it.

Obama: Trump NATO comments show 'lack of preparedness'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama says that GOP nominee Donald Trump's recent suggestion that the U.S. might not come to the defense of NATO allies is another sign of Trump's "lack of preparedness" on foreign policy.

Obama said in an interview aired Sunday morning that Trump's recent comments to The New York Times — in which Trump suggested that allies that haven't paid their NATO dues wouldn't be guaranteed of getting help if Russia invaded — were an admission that the U.S. might not live by NATO's "most central tenet."

Obama said Trump's comments on NATO last week were "an indication of the lack of preparedness that he has been displaying when it comes to foreign policy."

NATO members promise that an attack against any of them is considered an assault against all.

Trump told the Times that he wouldn't predict the U.S. response in the case of a Russian attack of smaller NATO allies like Estonia or Latvia. "If they fulfill their obligations to us, the answer is 'yes,'" Trump said.

Obama responded: "There is a big difference between challenging our European allies to keep up their defense spending, particularly at a time when Russia's been more aggressive, and saying to them, 'You know what? We might not abide by the central tenet of the most important alliance in the

history of the world.'"

In contrast, Obama said that presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, who served as secretary of state in his first term, is supremely capable of taking over the reins of power in January.

"I genuinely believe that there has never been a candidate better prepared for the presidency than Hillary Clinton," Obama said.

Asked what it takes to be an effective president, Obama cited the ability to build a team of talented, hard-working people and "make sure they are all moving in the same direction." Another factor, he said, was "personal discipline in terms of doing your homework, and knowing your subject matter, and being able to stay focused."

And to make all this work "you have to really care about the American people ... not in the abstract," Obama said, noting that is crucial because that will help ground the president in that difficult job and prevent them from being overly influenced by polls, pressure and difficult developments.

If you don't have that sense of grounding, "you will be buffeted and blown back and forth by polls and interest groups and voices whispering in your head," he said. "And you will lose your center of gravity. You will lose your moral compass."

Obama's comments to CBS News' "Face the Nation" came on the eve of the opening of the Democratic National Convention. He is scheduled to speak on Wednesday.

Trump: Nations hit by terror could face more screening

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is asserting that countries like France that he says are compromised by terrorism may be subjected to the "extreme vetting" he proposes as a deterrent to attacks in the U.S.

When asked if his proposal might lead to a point when not a lot of people from overseas are allowed into the U.S., Trump said, "Maybe we get to that point" and added: "We have to be smart and we have to be vigilant and we have to be strong."

In an interview to air Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Trump also rejected suggestions that his stance on requiring NATO members to pay their share was a mistake;

defended Fox News founder Roger Ailes, who left the network amid accusations of sexual harassment; criticized rival Hillary Clinton's newly named running mate, Sen. Tim Kaine, for accepting gifts while Virginia's governor; dismissed descriptions of his nomination acceptance speech as "dark," instead calling it "optimistic;" and expressed disapproval of David Duke, the former Ku Klux Klan leader who is seeking a Senate seat from Louisiana.

For months, Trump has called for a temporary ban on foreign Muslims seeking to enter the United States and has criticized the Obama administration for continuing to admit refugees from Syria. In his speech Thursday night at the Republican National Convention, he said the U.S. "must immedi-

ately suspend immigration from any nation that has been compromised by terrorism until such time as proven vetting mechanisms have been put in place" — notably leaving out any reference to Muslims or to Syria, Iraq and other Mideast nations.

In the NBC interview, Trump noted "specific problems" in Germany and France — both countries have been rocked by fatal attacks in public places in recent weeks — and "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd asked if his proposal would limit immigration from France. "They've been compromised by terrorism," Todd said.

Trump replied: "They have totally been. And you know why? It's their own fault. Because they allowed people to come into their territory."

IOC nixes full Olympics ban for Russia

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Olympic leaders stopped short Sunday of imposing a complete ban on Russia from the Rio de Janeiro Games, leaving individual global sports federations to decide which athletes should be cleared to compete.

The decision, announced after a three-hour meeting of the International Olympic Committee's executive board, came just 12 days before the Aug. 5 opening of the games.

"We had to balance the collective responsibility and the individual justice to which every human being and athlete is entitled to," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

The IOC rejected calls from the World Anti-Doping Agency and many other anti-doping bodies to exclude the entire Russian Olympic team following allegations of state-sponsored cheating.

Russia's track and field athletes have already been banned by the IAAF, the sport's governing body, a decision that was upheld Thursday by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and was accepted by the IOC again on Sunday.

Calls for a complete ban on Russia intensified after Richard McLaren, a Canadian lawyer commissioned by WADA, issued a report Monday accusing Russia's sports ministry of overseeing a vast doping program of its Olympic athletes.

McLaren's investigation, based heavily on evidence from former Moscow doping lab director Grigory Rodchenkov, affirmed allegations of brazen manipulation of Russian urine samples at the 2014

Winter Games in Sochi, but also found that state-backed doping had involved 28 summer and winter sports from 2011 to 2015.

But the IOC board, meeting via teleconference, decided against the ultimate sanction, in line with Bach's recent statements stressing the need to take individual justice into account.

"An athlete should not suffer and should not be sanctioned for a system in which he was not implicated," Bach told reporters on a conference call after Sunday's meeting.

Bach acknowledged the decision "might not please everybody."

"This is not about expectations," he said. "This is about doing justice to clean athletes all over the world."

Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov presented his case to the IOC board at the beginning of Sunday's meeting, promising full cooperation with investigations and guaranteeing "a complete and comprehensive restructuring of the Russian anti-doping system."

The IOC also rejected the application by Russian whistleblower Yulia Stepanova, the 800-meter runner and former doper who helped expose the doping scandal in her homeland, to compete under a neutral flag at the games.

The IOC said Stepanova, now living in the United States, did not meet the criteria for running under the IOC flag and, because she had committed doping violations, did not satisfy the "ethical requirements" to compete in the Games. However, the IOC added that it would invite her and her husband, Vitaly Stepanov, to attend the

games.

While deciding against an outright ban, the IOC said it was imposing tough eligibility conditions, including barring entry for the Rio Games of any Russian athlete who has ever been sanctioned for doping.

The IOC said it would accept the entry only of those Russian athletes who meet certain conditions set out for the 28 international federations to apply.

The federations "should carry out an individual analysis of each athlete's anti-doping record, taking in account only reliable adequate international tests ... in order to ensure a level playing field," the IOC said.

The committee asked the federations to examine the information and names of athletes and sports implicated in the McLaren report. Any of those implicated should not be allowed into the Games, it said.

The IOC said the federations would have to apply their own rules if they want to ban an entire Russian team from their events in Rio, as the IAAF has already done for track and field.

Russian entries must be examined and upheld by an expert from the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the IOC said.

Russian athletes who are cleared for the Games will be subjected to a "rigorous additional out-of-competition testing program."

The IOC also reiterated its "serious concerns" about the weaknesses in the fight against doping, and called on WADA to "fully review their anti-doping systems." The IOC said it would propose

measures for more transparency and independence.

The decision for the IOC was loaded with geopolitical ramifications.

Never has a country been kicked out of the Olympics for doping violations. And Vladimir Putin's Russia is a sports powerhouse, a huge country seeking to reaffirm its status on the world stage, and a major player in the Olympic movement. Many international Olympic officials and federation leaders have close ties to Russia, which has portrayed the exclusion of its track athletes and calls for a complete ban as part of a political, Western-led campaign.

Putin, citing the U.S. and Soviet-led boycotts of the 1980 and 1984 Games, said the Olympic movement "could once again find itself on the brink of a division." And former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev wrote an open letter to Bach on Friday to plead against a blanket ban.

Anti-doping leaders had argued that the extent of state-backed doping in Russia had tainted the country's entire sports system, and the only way to ensure a level playing field was to bar the whole team, even if some innocent athletes will lose out.

Russia faces a possible ban from the Paralympic Games. Citing evidence in McLaren's report of doping among Russian Paralympic athletes, the International Paralympic Committee said Friday it will decide next month whether to exclude the country from the Sept. 7-18 event in Rio.

Athletes take advantage of Brazilian ties

Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Rugby player Isadora Cerullo never lived in Brazil. Fencer Ghislain Perrier speaks very little Portuguese. Golfer Miriam Nagl played abroad most of her life.

They'll still be parading under the host nation's flag at the Opening Ceremony of the Rio de Janeiro Games come Aug. 5.

Cerullo, Perrier and Nagl are among several athletes who will be fulfilling their Olympic dream because of Brazil's shortage of athletes in sports it automatically qualified for as host. Without an Olympic tradition to fall back on, the country was left to rapidly recruit an international band of athletes for events such as field hockey, golf, water polo, fencing and rugby.

Their ties, in many cases, are weak. Some have lived away for most of their lives but were born in Brazil. Some were born abroad but have Brazilian parents or grandparents. Some had almost no links to the country but were hired by local federations and became naturalized.

"I would have very slim chances of participating in the Olympics if I hadn't made the switch to play for Brazil," said Nagl, a Brazilian-born golfer who left the country when she was 8 and had always played for Germany. "When this idea came up and I realized that I had a chance to make it to Rio, I started dreaming about being at the Maracana Stadium during the Opening Ceremony."

The 35-year-old Nagl, who plays in the Ladies European Tour and is No. 444 in the women's world rankings, said she hadn't given much thought about representing her native country until being contacted by golf officials

after Rio was awarded the Games.

"By making the switch, I gave myself a chance to be in the Olympics, but I also thought about how this could be good for Brazil, about how I could become a good ambassador and help the game develop," she said.

Nagl admitted she had concerns about how she would be seen in Brazil after deciding to compete for it despite being away for so long.

"If there is some bad press about it, I will be fine," she said. "I know my connection, and I feel it's a very strong connection. I feel good about this."

Brazil had only two foreign athletes in its delegation at the 2012 London Games — American basketball player Larry Taylor and Chinese table-tennis player Gui Lin. Now about 20 "international" athletes will be taking advantage of the many extra spots available for the home nation in Rio.

The International Olympic Committee said it is "against changes of nationality motivated by money and other unethical reasons," but it allows for switches made within the rules, including when a country has changed international status, when an athlete is a citizen of more than one nation or because of a direct link to a country, such as marriage or permanent relocation. The international federations also must approve the changes in most cases.

Rugby is one of the sports in which Brazil lacks tradition but will compete anyway. Hoping to put on a good show in front of the home fans, the local federation launched a worldwide campaign — entitled "Brazilian Rugby Players Wanted" — to attract athletes playing abroad.

A few who responded to the campaign will be in Rio, including American-born Cerullo, who has Brazilian par-

ents but had never visited the country until after contacting Brazilian rugby officials. Two Brazilian brothers who lived in France also made it to the team, as well as a Brazilian-born athlete who lived and played in Argentina. England-born Juliano Fiori and France-born Laurent Bourda-Couhet, who has a Brazilian mother, will also play.

Brazil's fencing team earned eight additional spots as hosts and included three international players for the Games. Among them are Ghislain Perrier, who was born in Brazil but left the country as a baby after being adopted by a French family, and Italian-born Nathalie Moellhausen, who competed for Italy at the 2012 London Games but chose to be with the hosts in Rio to fulfill the wish of her Brazilian grandmother.

"I don't have many connections to Brazil," admitted Perrier, who has lived and trained in France most of his life. "I spent vacation in Brazil a few times, but I know only a few people there."

The fencing team will also have Marta Baeza, who was born in Brazil but had been competing for Spain, and reserve team member Katherine Miller, who was born in the United States.

One controversial case was water polo goalkeeper Slobodan Soro, a Serbian whose naturalization process was approved just before the Games. He and center Josip Vrljic of Croatia were hired to play for Brazil despite not having direct connections to the country. They were among five foreign-born players picked to play for the Brazilian team by Croat coach Ratko Rudic, the gold medalist with Croatia at the London Games.



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Trumbo's 30th HR propels O's

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — In a duel between first-place teams, the most notable performances were turned in by Mark Trumbo, who hit his major league leading 30th home run, and Kevin Gausman, who pitched seven shutout innings.

Chris Davis was the difference-maker, however, in the Baltimore Orioles' 5-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Saturday night.

Though Davis is known for his mammoth home runs, the hustle of the 230-pound slugger helped propel the Orioles past the AL Central leaders.

With runners at the corners and one out in the first inning, Davis hit a potential double-play grounder to second base. After the force at second, Davis beat the relay by a step to get an RBI and keep the inning alive.

Trumbo followed with a no-doubt shot to left off Josh Tomlin (10-3) for a 3-0 lead.

Trumbo has homered in each of the first two games. Playing in his first season with Baltimore, the 2016 All-Star already has eight more home runs than last year and is just four short of matching his career high, set in 2013 with the Angels.

Dodgers 7, Cardinals 2: The red-hot Justin Turner went 2-for-5 and his two-run double in the third proved to be the winning RBI as visiting Los Angeles beat St. Louis to end the Cardinals' five-game winning streak.

Giants 2, Yankees 1 (12): Mac Williamson homered in the fifth inning and hit a tiebreaking single in the 12th, lifting San Francisco past host New York for the Giants' first victory since the All-Star break.

Mariners 14, Blue Jays 5: Nelson Cruz hit his ninth career grand slam and added a three-run shot, and Hisashi Iwakuma pitched six innings to win his fifth straight start in visiting Seattle's victory over Toronto.

Cruz hit his slam off R.A. Dickey (7-11) in the third, then added a three-run drive off Drew Storen in the eighth for his 20th career multi-homer game. He has 25 home runs this season.

Marlins 7, Mets 2: Giancarlo Stanton homered and had his first four-hit game since 2012, driving in three runs to give Jose Fernandez all the support he needed, and host Miami beat New York.

Twins 11, Red Sox 9: Miguel Sano homered and Eduardo Nunez drove in three runs, including two in a five-run seventh inning, and visiting Minnesota rallied to beat Boston.

Hanley Ramirez hit a three-run homer and Xander Bogaerts had four hits for the Red Sox. They lost for just the third time in 12 games.

Rangers 7, Royals 4: Cole Hamels allowed one unearned run in 5¹/₃ innings, Nomar Mazara and Adrian Beltre homered and Texas beat host Kansas City.

Hamels, who is 6-1 with a 2.24 ERA in his past nine starts, limited the Royals to five

hits, struck out four and walked three. Hamels (11-2) lowered his ERA to 2.87.

Pirates 7, Phillies 4: Gregory Polanco and David Freese hit two-run singles during a five-run fifth inning to rally and host Pittsburgh beat Philadelphia after top Pirates prospect Tyler Glasnow was removed with shoulder discomfort.

Nationals 3, Padres 2: Pinch-hitter Stephen Drew hit a game-ending RBI triple in the ninth inning to lift Washington past visiting San Diego.

Brewers 6, Cubs 1: Kirk Nieuwenhuis hit two home runs, Zach Davies took a shutout into the seventh inning and host Milwaukee beat Chicago.

Athletics 4, Rays 3: Ryon Healy hit a game-ending home run in the ninth inning two batters after Jake Smolinski tied it with a two-run homer, and Oakland rallied past visiting Tampa Bay.

Rockies 8, Braves 4: Trevor Story hit two home runs to set an NL rookie record for shortstops and host Colorado beat Atlanta.

Reds 6, Diamondbacks 1: Jay Bruce hit a three-run homer and barely missed another in host Cincinnati's victory over fading Arizona.

Astros 7, Angels 2: Evan Gattis had two home runs and four RBIs in his return to the lineup, Collin McHugh threw six strong innings and Houston beat visiting Los Angeles.

Shevchenko stuns Holm at UFC

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A traumatic start at Valentina Shevchenko's training camp didn't deter her from pulling off another shocking upset in the UFC women's bantamweight division.

Shevchenko, from Kyrgyzstan, stunned Holly Holm on Saturday night at UFC Chicago, unanimously outpointing the former UFC champion.

Less than two months ago, Shevchenko was at a chicken restaurant in Lima, Peru, when it was raided by armed robbers. Her trainer, Pavel Fedotov, was shot in the abdomen during the robbery. He has recovered and was in Shevchenko's corner Saturday.

Fedotov pushed Shevchenko to continue to train for the fight.

"It was a very different camp than I had to endure in all my life," Shevchenko said. "After two days when he (Pavel) was in the hospital he said, you should take this fight and prepare. It doesn't matter what happened."

Fighting for the first fight since losing the belt to Miesha Tate at UFC 196, Holm had losing scores of 49-46 from all of the judges.

Her stunning knockout of then-champ Ronda Rousey in Australia at UFC 193 catapulted Holm (10-2) into the spotlight of mixed martial arts, but she followed with the back-to-back losses.

Shevchenko (13-2) put herself in the mix to contend for the women's bantamweight title at 135 pounds that is held by Amanda Nunes, who she lost to in March at UFC 196.

In the third round, after Shevchenko got in a few jabs, Shevchenko caught Holm's leg on a kick attempt and took her down. Shevchenko had another takedown and kept Holm on the mat for the rest of the round as she landed punches.

In the co-main event, Edson Barboza won in a unanimous decision over Gilbert Melendez in a lightweight fight.

Barboza scored with the judges on a number of kicks to Melendez's left knee in the third round as the judges scored the fight 30-27, 30-27, 29-28 in favor of Barboza.

Sale pulled after destroying jerseys

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago White Sox ace Chris Sale was scratched from his start against the Detroit Tigers on Saturday night and sent home after he destroyed collared throwback uniforms that the team was scheduled to wear.

Matt Albers, who started in Sale's place, confirmed the incident, but the White Sox provided no details after their game against Detroit was suspended by rain after eight innings tied at 3 — the game was to resume Sunday before the series

finale.

"You probably know what happened," Albers said. "But we're going to keep it in-house."

On Sunday, Chicago suspended Sale five days without pay his actions.

The suspension comes to \$250,000 of his \$9.15 million salary. He was also fined about \$12,700 — the cost of the destroyed jerseys — according to a person familiar with the penalty. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

FanRag Sports first reported Sale was

protesting the 1976 jerseys, which were navy and sported unusual collars. It was 91 degrees with high humidity when the game began.

Sale then cut up an unknown number of jerseys before the game and was told to leave the stadium. Albers said he was informed about 2 hours before the game that he would start.

With not enough usable 1976 jerseys available, the White Sox wore white throwback uniforms from the 1983 season.

It's uncertain if Sale, 14-3 with a 3.18 ERA, will face further discipline.

Froome celebrates 3rd Tour title

Associated Press

PARIS — Sharing beer and champagne with teammates, Chris Froome celebrated his third Tour de France title in four years on Sunday.

The Kenyan-born British rider finished safely at the back of the main pack in the final stage, arm-in-arm with his teammates during the mostly ceremonial leg ending on the Champs-Élysées.

Immediately after finishing, Froome was greeted by his wife and infant son, who he took in his arms.

Andre Greipel of Germany won the 21st leg in a sprint finish.

At the start of the stage, Froome dropped back to his Team Sky car to collect bottles of beer and distributed them to each of his eight teammates for a celebratory round.

Then it was time for the traditional flute of champagne.

Froome rode a yellow bike to go with his yellow jersey, helmet, gloves and shoes.

His teammates had yellow stripes on their jerseys and yellow handlebars on their bikes.

Froome also still had bandages on his right knee and elbow, the result of a downhill crash two days ago.

Having begun the stage with more than a four-minute advantage over Romain Bardet of France, Froome and his teammates dropped back just before the finish and he lost some of his margin.

Froome ended up 2 minutes, 52 seconds ahead of Bardet, while Nairo Quintana of Colombia finished third overall, 3:08 back.

Froome, who also won the Tour in 2013 and 2015, became the first rider to defend the title since Miguel Indurain won the last of his five straight in 1995. Lance Armstrong was stripped of his seven consecutive titles for doping.

The mostly flat 70-mile stage concluded with eight laps of a circuit in downtown Paris, finishing on the cobblestones below the Arc de Triomphe.

Greipel narrowly edged world champion Peter Sagan, who was coming on with a late charge.

Alexander Kristoff of Norway crossed third.

It was Greipel's first stage win in this Tour. The rider nicknamed 'The Gorilla' won four stages last year.

It was a difficult stage for the Etixx-Quick Step team. First, three-time time trial world champion Tony Martin abandoned the race due to a left-knee injury, then Marcel Kittel, the sprinter who won Stage 4, had a mechanical problem and dropped behind as he was forced to change bikes.

Kittel slammed a wheel to the ground in frustration as he waited for the change. He eventually caught up to the peloton but wasn't a factor in the sprint.

Mark Cavendish, the British sprinter who won four stages in this Tour, abandoned the race before the Alps.

Crawford tops Postol for unification title

LAS VEGAS — Terence Crawford was so sure of his victory Saturday night that he spent part of the final round with his hands at his side, taunting Viktor Postol.

What he's not so sure of is that Manny Pacquiao will agree to his terms and fight him at 140 pounds in November.

Crawford turned in a dominating performance Saturday night in a battle of unbeaten champions, knocking Postol down twice on his way to a lopsided 12-round unanimous decision to put himself in the running for a fight with Pacquiao — who has fought most recently at 147 pounds — in November.

Crawford won 118-107 on two ringside scorecards, and 117-108 on the third. The Associated Press had him winning 118-107.

Crawford said he wanted to fight Pacquiao, but that the fight would be at 140 pounds. Pacquiao, who has fought at 147 pounds in recent years, is tentatively set to return to the ring Nov. 5 and promoter Bob Arum said the winner of the fight would be a prime candidate as an opponent.