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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Indirect fire kills GI in Afghanistan

By Corey DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A 19-year-old Texas-based soldier was killed late Monday while conducting operations against the Taliban alongside Afghanistan security forces in that nation's volatile Helmand province, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

Pfc. Hansen B. Kirkpatrick, of Wasilla, Alaska, died from wounds suffered in an indirect fire attack, the Pentagon said in a statement. He was deployed with the Fort Bliss-based 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Two other soldiers were injured in the attack during the operation in Helmand's Nawa District, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. The soldiers' injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, he said.

The incident is under investigation, Davis said, but there are no indications of friendly fire or foul play by U.S. or Afghan forces.

Navy Capt. Bill Salvin, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, said the Taliban launched the indirect fire—typically an attack with mortar or rocket rounds—into a building used by soldiers during the mission

Kirkpatrick was a mortarman who joined his unit about a year ago, according to Army Maj. James C. Bithorn, executive officer for 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade. Bithorn described Kirkpatrick as "a caring, disciplined, and intelligent young soldier."

Kirkpatrick was the seventh U.S. servicemember killed in action in Afghanistan in 2017.

US, S. Korea fire missiles in response to N. Korea's 'gift'

By Kim Gamel

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea have stepped up military pressure on the North, firing their own missiles into the sea Wednesday after the communist state launched an intercontinental ballistic missile.

The show of force came as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson confirmed that North Korea had launched an ICBM on Tuesday, reversing an initial U.S. assessment that it was an intermediate-range missile.

He also said the U.S. would push for tougher sanctions by the U.N. Security Council, which planned an emergency meeting later Wednesday to discuss the latest provocation.

"Testing an ICBM represents a new escalation of the threat to the United States, our allies and partners, the region and the world," Tillerson said in a statement. "Global action is required to stop a global threat."

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, meanwhile, reportedly called the ICBM test an Independence Day "gift" for the Americans and promised to send more "big and small gift packages often in the future so they don't get bored."

International condemnation mounted in the wake of the test of an ICBM that experts said appeared to be powerful enough to reach Alaska, which would mark a milestone in North Korea's efforts to develop a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland.

The allied forces warned that North Korea's actions were endangering the armistice that has prevented a new outbreak of conflict on the divided peninsula in lieu of a peace treaty since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

The commander of U.S. Forces Korea, Gen. Vincent Brooks, issued a strongly worded statement with South Korea's chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Lee Sun-jin.

"Self-restraint, which is a choice, is all that separates armistice and war. As this Alliance missile live fire shows, we are able to change our choice when so ordered by our Alliance national leaders," Brooks said. "It would be a grave mistake for anyone to believe anything to the contrary."

Earlier Wednesday, the militaries fired missiles into South Korean territorial waters off the east coast, an 8th Army statement said.

In an unusual move, the statement directly linked the exercise with the ICBM test, saying it was "countering North Korea's destabilizing and unlawful actions on July 4." The U.S. military usually refrains from mentioning specific events and insists joint military exercises are defensive in nature.

The 8th Army said it fired the barrage using an Army Tactical Missile System, known as ATAC-MS, and South Korea's Hyunmoo Missile II. The ATACMS is a surface-to-surface missile system.

"The system can be rapidly deployed and engaged," the statement said. "The deep strike precision capability enables the (South Korean)-U.S. Alliance to engage the full array of time critical targets under all weather conditions."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in's office said he had proposed conducting the live-fire exercise as a way of demonstrating the allies' commitment to defense with action, not just a statement. The proposal was submitted to President Donald Trump via the two countries' national security advisers, his office said.

North Korea's state-run media provided more details about Tuesday's missile launch, claiming it had mastered the atmospheric re-entry technology and demonstrated the missile could carry a large nuclear warhead.

The test verified technical features "including the heat-resisting features and structural safety of the warhead tip of ICBM made of newly developed domestic carbon compound material," it said, adding that the characteristics necessary to fire the missile from a mobile launcher also were confirmed.

South Korea's Defense Ministry cast doubt on those claims, saying the missile was fired from a fixed launch pad and it had yet to confirm whether the test was a success.

During a parliamentary briefing, Defense Minister Han Minkoo estimated the missile's range was between 4,350 and 4,970 miles but said there was no evidence to prove its ability to reenter the atmosphere.

"What matters is whether its warhead functioned well from a military standpoint when it re-entered the atmosphere after flying into space," Han was quoted as saying by Yonhap News Agency.

Han also reportedly said there was a "high" possibility that Pyongyang could stage a sixth nuclear test.

North Korea has conducted three of five underground nuclear blasts since Kim took power after his father died of a heart attack in 2011, and satellite images have shown it is poised for another.



Sergeant charged in Humvee mishap

By Nancy Montgomery

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — A sergeant with the 173rd Airborne Brigade has been charged in connection with the spectacular destruction of three Humvees that plummeted to the ground from a C-130 during a parachute drop in Germany last year.

Sgt. John Skipper was charged with destruction of government property and making a false official statement, brigade spokesman Maj. Juan Martinez said Tuesday.

Skipper, of the 1st Battalion, 91st Cavalry Regiment, was charged in May, Mar-

tinez said.

A recommendation on whether to proceed to court-martial following an Article 32 probable cause hearing later this month is pending.

"Should this case progress, we will continue to release information consistent with Army policy," Martinez said in a statement.

The charges suggest authorities believe that an equipment malfunction was not the reason the three vehicles slipped from their parachute harnesses.

The incident occurred on April 11, 2016, at the Hohenfels training area in Germany during the Saber Junction training exer-

cise. C-130 Hercules transports dropped about 150 supply bundles, vehicles, communications equipment and weapons without incident during the exercise.

But the three Humvees slipped from their rigging as their parachutes deployed and smashed into pieces after hitting the ground. A video of the mishap, complete with the voices of amazed, laughing troops, has been viewed more than a million times on YouTube.

A Humvee can cost up to \$220,000. The maximum penalty for destruction of government property is 10 years in prison, dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Navy starts annual drills with Vietnam

By Tyler Hlavac

Stars and Stripes

The Navy has kicked off naval drills with Vietnam, just days after sending a guided-missile destroyer near a South China Sea islet claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The USS Coronado and USNS Salvor steamed into Vietnam's Cam Ranh International Port Wednesday for the annual fiveday "Naval Engagement Activity," which will include ship handling, medical evacuations and practicing the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea, a Navy statement said. Skill exchanges will cover shipboard damage control, shipboard medicine and law.

"The United States values our comprehensive partnership with Vietnam and we look forward to deepening our relationship and people-to-people ties through engagements like NEA," Task Force 73 Commander Rear Adm. Don Gabrielson said in the statement.

Personnel from Task Force 73, Destroyer Squadron 7 and the 7th Fleet Band will also participate, the statement said.

"These naval activities un-

derscore the deepening and diverse relationship between the United States and Vietnam," U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius said in the statement.

The exercise, which has been held annually since 2010, is being based for the first time at recently opened Cam Ranh International Port. Previous drills took place more than 300 miles north in Da Nang.

During a 2012 visit to Cam Ranh Bay, then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta called Navy access to the port "a key component" of the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, according to The Diplomat.

The exercise begins just days after the guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem on Sunday sailed within 12 nautical miles of Triton, a South China Sea island in the Paracels chain claimed by China, Vietnam and Taiwan. A Chinese official called the operation "provocative" and said such actions "violate China's sovereignty and threaten China's security."

A Navy official told Bloomberg the warship was passing through those waters on the basis of innocent passage.

Battle of Leyte Gulf remembered on Nimitz

By Tyler Hlavac

Stars and Stripes

The USS Nimitz aircraft carrier held a ceremony at sea Monday to remember the sailors who fought in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, which is considered to be the largest naval contest of World War II.

The morning ceremony took place as the carrier passed through the Surigao Strait near the Philippines, a Navy statement said. There was a moment of silence followed by a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps.

"Today we sail the same waters as those sailors did 73 years ago," said Cmdr. J.W. David Kurtz, the ship's executive officer, according to the statement. "While the immediate dangers may not be the same, the outcome of combat at sea has not changed."

The Battle of Leyte Gulf, which took place in late October 1944, included several naval engagements involving ships from the 7th and 3rd fleets. The battle crippled the Japanese Imperial Navy, which lost four aircraft carriers, three battleships, six heavy and four light cruisers,

11 destroyers, several hundred aircraft and more than 10,500 sailors, according to History. com. U.S. and Allied forces lost one light carrier, two escort carriers, two destroyers and one destroyer-escort.

Japan's losses allowed the U.S. to conduct a ground invasion of the Philippines. Roughly 3,000 sailors and Marines were killed in the battle, which some historians consider to be not only the largest naval battle of WWII, but the largest naval battle in history.

"I'm proud to be here at the ceremony because they didn't have to give their lives for us, but they did," said Chief Religious Program Specialist Kimberly Bell, according to the statement. "This ceremony was emotional for me because every time they play taps I want to cry when I think about all that those servicemembers sacrificed for us."

The Nimitz departed its homeport of Bremerton, Wash., on June 1 and has been patrolling the Pacific while temporarily assigned to the 7th Fleet.

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Military families face cruel care choice

By Dianna Cahn Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The rule is usually discovered by parents bracing for their child to die.

Already consumed by tragedy, these military families are confronted with a brutal choice: Elect hospice to ease your child's suffering or choose treatment to keep fighting for your child's life.

Under the military's Tricare health insurance program, they can't do both.

Tricare does not cover curative treatments and hospice care at the same time. So, when forced to decide, military parents mostly forgo hospice. Because kids — even at their sickest — can rally.

"What do I choose — the spiritual (help) and counseling and the extra doctors and nurses who are qualified for dying, or the nurses qualified to give medical care?" said Adreanna Tarwater.

Five years ago, she and her husband, Bob, now retired from the Air Force, faced that decision when their son, Nathan, who was 12 and suffers from a rare chromosome disorder, was in a critical state with full-time nursing care.

"You have a child that you are told is dying," she said. "You want to make it as easy (as possible) for that child to transition and for us as a family to transition. At the same time, for us to pull the nursing care would have affected our family too."

Advocates of military children have been struggling behind the scenes to get the hospice rules changed. Military officials acknowledge the "gap" in coverage. With hundreds affected each year, advocates in the coalition Tricare for Kids say the fix is long overdue.

"It just seems like a nobrainer," said Karen Ruedisueli, government relations deputy director at the National Military Family Association. "It took our Tricare for Kids coalition a while to wrap our heads around it because everyone was like, 'Really? Is this possible?' ... When we go to [Capitol] Hill, a lot of times I am filled with rage."

For years, hospice care was considered only after all efforts at treatment had been exhausted. But experts say the trend—even with adults—is now to incorporate hospice care into treatment for the illness. It helps families adjust to the reality and grief, while helping the patient manage pain and suffering.

The need for both is even more critical for families of sick children, said Ann Armstrong-Dailey, founder and director of Children's Hospice International, which has been recommending holistic curative and hospice children's care for decades.

"It's so unfair," she said.
"There have been incidents where parents will not refer a child even though they know the child is dying, even near the end. Because to enroll a child in hospice means giving up."

Tricare by law must follow Medicare rules, which are usually geared toward people age 65 and older, said Capt. Ed Simmer, chief clinical officer for Tricare at the Defense Health Agency.

Simmer said that Medicare's hospice policy makes more sense for the elderly, whose end-of-life trajectory can be somewhat predictable. Children's illnesses are far less so—and kids can be in and out of hospice care numerous times over years.

"We certainly recognize that is not always an ideal situation because sometimes children can make remarkable discoveries and sometimes there's a situation where a child can go one way or the other very quickly," he said. "Certainly, providing hospice care leading up to that point, preparing both the child and the family ... is very important."

Simmer said the Defense Health Agency is looking for a long-term solution — possibly a "demonstration project" that would give Tricare a way to go around the current law to give families the treatments and services they need before any legislative change can be made.

After being approached by Tricare for Kids, Senate Armed Services Committee staff members have said they would examine a change in legislation. A spokeswoman said in early June that a legislative fix would be required, but it was too early to discuss the issue.

Ruedisueli and others say the Defense Health Agency needs to do more.

"The best they've been able to do is say they will work on a demonstration project," she said. "It looks like progress, but it's a really slow solution."

In 2007, the Military Health System conducted an analysis on "Care for Children with Life-Threatening Conditions."

The report found that about 4,000 children facing life-threatening illness were eligible for military health care, while 400 a year died. But while costs to care for these children were rapidly rising, the report said that a government cost estimate of a "comprehensive palliative and hospice program for children" — a model followed by Medicaid, the Institute of Medicine and others — indicated cost savings within a few years of implementation.

It also called out the Military Health System for not following the recommendation of the Institute of Medicine for all insurers to "restructure" hospice benefits for children and "drop rules requiring children to forgo curative or life-prolonging care" while in hospice.

It has not changed in 10 years.

"All this time, they haven't made a change," said Kara Tollett-Oakley, a consultant for the Children's Hospital Association and chair of the Tricare for Kids coalition. "It's just egregious."

Tricare for Kids — which

along with nonmilitary children's health organizations includes the Military Officers Association of America, National Military Families Association and the Military Family Advisory Network — is working with the military and legislators to get the change instituted.

A letter was sent in late May by 20 members of the House of Representatives urging changes to Tricare, including the hospice issue. The coalition is also working directly with the Defense Health Agency.

Armstrong-Dailey said Simmer, now the clinical director for the Tricare Health Program, has been consulting with her organization, which has conducted demonstrations in five states, compiling data that she says prove concurrent holistic care from early in the illness saves money for the federal government and insurance companies.

Simmer confirmed those efforts. He said he has been working with Children's Hospice International and commercial insurers to see how they address the issue.

"We are looking for a more comprehensive solution and I can tell you we are close to developing one and putting it out there," he said. "Today we are absolutely focused on resolving this."

The choice adds another layer to already unbearable grief, said Armstrong-Dailey, of Children's Hospice International. Instead of receiving long-term hospice care to help prepare them for their tragedy, parents carry an added burden.

"It's only natural that parents blame themselves," she said. "The bereavement issues are huge when a child is ill. We can make such a difference when the child is alive in the quality of life — but also for families when the child dies. And it doesn't cost a lot to do it."



NYC police officer shot dead while in vehicle

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A police officer was shot to death early Wednesday, ambushed inside her command post RV by an exconvict who once ranted online about his treatment in prison and about police getting away with killing people, authorities said. He was later killed after pulling a gun on police.

The officer, a 12-year member of the New York Police Department, was wrapping up her shift when the man fired one round through the passenger-side window and struck her in the head.

"PO Miosotis Familia has been assassinated in an unprovoked attack on cops assigned to keep NYers safe," Police Commissioner James O'Neill tweeted after her death.

Her partner radioed for help. Officers responded quickly and caught up to Alexander Bonds, 34, about a block away, police said. As they confronted him, he pulled a revolver, and police fired, killing him. A silver revolver was found at the scene. A bystander was hit in the stomach by a bullet and is in stable condition, police said.

Familia, 48, had been stationed in a mobile command post, an RV-sized truck used as a communications hub during major events and in high-crime areas as a constant police presence.

Bonds, who also went by the name John Bonds, was sentenced to six years in prison on an armed robbery case in Syracuse and had been released on parole in 2013. His supervision was set to end next May.

Bonds was captured on video exiting a nearby convenience store, then moving tightly along the wall, pulling his hoodie over his head and walking purposefully toward the van. The video doesn't capture the shooting but shows him running from the scene with a gun in his hand, police said.

Iraqi general says 300 ISIS fighters remain in Mosul

Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — Some 300 Islamic State fighters remain in the small patch of territory still controlled by the group in Mosul's Old City, a senior Iraqi commander said Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Sami al-Aridi, of Iraq's special forces, told The Associated Press that the militants' hold on Mosul has shrunk to a 600-square-yard area. A large number of civilians are believed to be trapped in the ISIS-run enclave, with around 1,500 fleeing with every 100-yard advance by Iraqi forces.

Iraqi forces moved to besiege the Old City before launching their attack in order to prevent ISIS fighters from fleeing to neighboring Syria, but al-Aridi said hundreds of militants still managed to escape from the Old City alone.

"They just shave their beards and walk out," al-Aridi said. "Just yesterday we captured two among a group of women and children."

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Tuesday congratulated his fighters on "the big victory in Mosul" — even as fighting with ISIS militants

continued in the Old City neighborhood where Iraqi forces are about 250 meters from the Tigris River and facing increasingly fierce resistance. The Tigris divides the city roughly into its western and eastern half, which was liberated from ISIS militants in January.

Al-Abadi spoke during a press conference in Baghdad less than a week after he declared an end to ISIS' self-styled caliphate after Iraqi forces achieved an incremental win by retaking the landmark al-Nuri Mosque in the Old City.

"Praise be to God, we managed to liberate (Mosul) and proved the others were wrong; the people of Mosul supported and stood with our security forces against terrorism," al-Abadi said.

His remarks came on the third anniversary of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's sermon at the al-Nuri Mosque, from where he declared an Islamic caliphate on ISIS-held lands in Syria and Iraq.

Also during the press conference, al-Abadi said he has given instructions to rebuild and stabilize areas of the city already freed from the militant group.

Trump hopes for a friendlier welcome in return to Europe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is headed back to Europe hoping to receive a friendly welcome in Poland despite lingering skepticism across the continent over his commitment to NATO, his past praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his decision to pull the U.S. out of a major climate agreement.

Trump arrived in Warsaw, Poland, on Wednesday for a brief visit that is to include a speech in Krasinski Square, near the site of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the Nazis. He also is scheduled to meet with the leaders of Poland and Croatia and hold a joint press conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda.

Before moving on to an international summit in Germany, the president will also hold meetings with the leaders of a dozen countries located between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black seas at a

summit of the Three Seas Initiative, which aims to expand and modernize energy and trade. One of the initiative's goals is to make the region less dependent on Russian energy.

"Even if he doesn't mention Putin or Russia outright, just stepping foot in Poland sends a powerful statement," said Jim Carafano, a foreign policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. "Europe is working for energy independence—looking for free market solutions—and Poland is in the middle of that energy corridor, so it makes so much sense that the president would go there and talk about energy policy."

At the same time, Trump will have to balance his visit to Europe with escalating tensions with North Korea, after the U.S. concluded Tuesday that North Korea had test-launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile. The U.S., South Korea and Japan responded to the provocation by

requesting an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council, scheduled for Wednesday.

Trump returns to Europe after a shaky first trip to the continent in May and signs of unhappiness around the globe with the start of his presidency.

Trump's first trip to Europe as president in May saw a series of awkward encounters, including a tough speech to the leaders of NATO countries urging them to spend more on their armed forces, an uncomfortable handshake with France's new president, and a caught-on-camera moment when Trump pushed past the prime minister of Montenegro, Europe's newest country, while squeezing his way to the front of a crowd.

Poland is host to about 1,000 U.S. troops, and is supporting U.S. and NATO forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's also a regular customer for U.S. military equipment.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 men shot while selling gun at park

OR PORTLAND — Portland police said two men were wounded in a shooting at Woodlawn Park.

Sgt. Pete Simpson said the victims met with two or three other men to sell a gun Sunday night. He said one man shot both victims and then took the gun that was the subject of the sale.

The suspects ran from the park.

Officers applied tourniquets to the victims' injuries as they awaited the arrival of paramedics. Both men are expected to survive. No arrests have been made.

State sued over arrest based on Facebook post

NEW CUMBER-LAND — A West Virginia man is suing state and county officials for violating his First Amendment rights after he was arrested for a Facebook post that officials contended was a terroristic threat.

News outlets reported that the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia filed a lawsuit Friday stating that state police and the Hancock County prosecutor's office wrongfully arrested and pursued prosecution against David Jones in 2015.

The lawsuit says Jones was arrested without a warrant and held for nearly a month with bail set at a high amount for a post criticizing county officials that read, "I will hunt them down and put a bullet in their head (if) ANYTHING drug related ever happens to either of my girls."

The criminal case against Jones was dismissed in 2016.

NJ man, 70, dies in speedway racing event

BRAINERD — Authorities said a 70-year-old New Jersey man was killed after crashing his sports car during a race in Minnesota.

The Sports Car Club of America and Brainerd International Raceway identified him Monday as veteran racer Mel Shaw, of Voorhees, N.J. His car went off the track at Turn 3 and struck a concrete barrier Sunday.

The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office said he died at the scene.

Shaw's body was sent to the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy.

More than \$93K seized from family at airport

PA PHILADELPHIA
— Federal agents at Philadelphia International Airport seized more than \$93,000 in undeclared cash from a family boarding a flight to Qatar.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers said they found the unreported currency concealed on the bodies of the man, his wife and one of their adult children June 27.

International travelers can carry as much currency as they want in and out of the country but must declare their cash if it totals more than \$10,000.

Officials said the man, who was traveling with his wife and five children, told authorities he had only \$12,000.

Roughly \$3,000 was returned to the family, and they were released without being charged.

Authorities say they seize more than a quarter of a million dollars in undeclared currency from the nation's borders every day.

Pregnant woman hit by lightning; baby delivered

FORT MYERS — A woman who was struck by lightning while she was pregnant remains in intensive care at a Florida hospital where her newborn also is being treated.

NBC2 reported that Meghan Davidson, 26, was just seven days from her due date when she was struck in the head by a lightning bolt on June 29 while walking with her mother outside her home in Fort Myers.

The television station reported that doctors later delivered baby Owen, whose condition wasn't available.

The congregation at Mc-Gregor Baptist Church held a prayer vigil for Davidson, who has two other children, on Sunday. Church member Carol Bridges told the station that Davidson has shown signs of improvement.

Man unharmed after bear climbs atop him

AK JUNEAU — Wildlife officials said an Alaska man is unharmed after a bear climbed on top of him.

Tom Schumacher, with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, said the bear approached the man and his Rottweiler as they were walking near Dredge Lake in Juneau on Friday. According to Schumacher, the dog had been walking about 50 feet ahead of his owner when he came back being chased by the bear.

The man led the bear away from his dog and sat down to avoid being knocked over. Schumacher said the bear got on top of the man, who fought back by kicking the bear while the dog was barking and biting its back end. Both were unharmed.

Officials believe the bear was defending its cub.

Former judge in jail on charges of coercing sex

LOUISVILLE — For years as a judge in Kentucky, Tim Nolan, 70, sat in judgment of others.

Now, the former judge sits in jail, awaiting trial on explosive charges. Prosecutors say Nolan ensnared 17 victims, using money, drugs and threats to coerce women and juveniles into sex over a seven-year period.

Nolan's descent from former district judge to accused sex offender has rocked northern Kentucky, where Nolan was long a fixture in political and legal circles in the suburbs across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. He was known as a champion for tea party causes.

Nolan maintains his innocence. His attorney, Margo Grubbs, said they plan to challenge the constitutionality of the state's human trafficking statute, calling it "vague" and "difficult to apply."

Stolen FBI vehicle found 2 miles away

CHICAGO — Authorities said they have found an FBI vehicle that was stolen in Chicago when an agent left it running at a gas station.

In a statement, Special Agent John Althen said the white 2014 Chevrolet Equinox was stolen early Monday.

Chicago police were able to track down the vehicle late Monday after it received a parking ticket 2 miles from where it was stolen. It was parked less than a half-mile away from the FBI Chicago field office.

Althen said several firearms and tactical gear were in the vehicle when it was stolen.

From wire reports



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Hayward picks Celtics over Jazz, Heat

Associated Press

Gordon Hayward and Brad Stevens were a couple inches from winning an NCAA championship together at Butler.

They are now reuniting, to try for an NBA title.

The top remaining free agent in this summer's class is now off the board, with Hayward announcing Tuesday night with an essay on The Players' Tribune site that he will sign with the Boston Celtics — coached by Stevens — and leave the Utah Jazz after seven seasons.

"This was a life-changing decision for me and my family, and something we took really seriously," Hayward wrote. "And from the very start of this process, one thing stood out as important: I knew that I wanted the fans and the organizations to hear my decision directly from me

"After seven years in Utah, I have decided to join the Boston Celtics."

A person with knowledge of the negotiations said Hayward agreed to a four-year contract, the last of those years being a player option, with a total value of around \$128 million. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be completed before the league's moratorium ends on Thursday.

"Gordon has been an important part of our Jazz family for the past seven years," Jazz owner Gail Miller said. "While disappointed that he is moving on, we thank him for his contributions to the organization and wish Gordon, (his wife) Robyn and their family well. "

It was a decision that Hayward said he agonized over, and he said he was impressed by the pitches — albeit unsuccessful ones — that Miami and Utah made for him over the last few days. But his ties to Stevens, and the memories of how close they were to a title, seemed to weigh heavily on his mind throughout this process.

Butler went to the NCAA championship game in back-to-back seasons under Stevens in 2010 and 2011, losing to Duke and Connecticut. In the 2010 game, Hayward's desperation shot to win the title from mid-court narrowly missed as time expired and Duke won 61-59.

From there, Hayward went to the NBA. Not long afterward, Stevens followed. And now, they're together again.

"That unfinished business we had together, back in 2010, when I left Butler for the NBA ... as far as I'm concerned, all of these years later, we still have it: And that's to win a championship," Hayward wrote.

Hayward leaves a loaded Western Conference to join a Boston team that was the No. 1 seed in last season's Eastern Conference playoffs. He was finally an All-Star for the first time last season, averaging career bests of 21.9 points and 5.4 rebounds.

Hayward also shot 47 percent, a significant jump over what he managed in the previous four seasons.

His post capped a strange day, after it was widely reported in the early afternoon that Hayward picked the Celtics— a decision immediately shot down by his agent Mark Bartelstein, who told AP and many other outlets that Hayward was still going over his options.

Several hours later, it was done, and it was Boston.

"This has been the toughest decision that I've ever had to make in my life," Hayward wrote. "This weekend has probably been the longest weekend of my life. And today ... well, today has definitely been one of the craziest days of my life. But I wanted to make sure that I got this right."

He becomes the third prominent free agent in three years to announce his plans on July 4: LaMarcus Aldridge left Portland for San Antonio on that date in 2015, and Kevin Durant left Oklahoma City for Golden State on the holiday in 2016.

Hayward opted out of his contract and became a free agent late last month, a move that was expected. Utah could have been in position to offer Hayward the so-called Supermax deal — a five-year extension worth just over \$200 million — if he was selected to an All-NBA team after the season, but his vote total fell well short of making that list.

Other than Golden State stars Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant, Hayward may have been the top free agent on the market this summer.

Kings add Randolph, Hill to mentor younger players

Associated Press

The Sacramento Kings added veteran help to their young roster on Tuesday by agreeing to free-agent contracts with forward Zach Randolph and point guard George Hill.

Randolph left Memphis for a \$24 million, two-year deal to reunite with former Grizzlies coach Dave Joerger in Sacramento, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be signed until Thursday.

ESPN first reported the agreement.

Hill announced on Twitter that he was coming to Sacramento. Yahoo Sports first reported the deal, saying Hill would get \$57 million over three years.

The Kings started free agency with just two players on the roster who are not on their rookie contracts — guard Garrett Temple and center Kosta Koufos — and were seeking some proven players to provide stability. Sacramento went 30-52 last season, Joerger's first year, and has not made the playoffs since 2006.

The Kings hope the additions of Randolph and Hill will help change that.

After a rocky start to his career in Portland and New York, Randolph found himself in Memphis. He spent eight years with the Grizzlies, emerging as one of the central figures of the team's "grit and grind"

mantra

He helped Memphis make the playoffs the past seven years, including a trip to the conference finals in 2013, when Joerger was an assistant. Joerger took over as head coach the following year and had three years with Randolph, including a trip to the second round in 2015.

Randolph, who turns 36 later this month, averaged 14.1 points and 8.2 rebounds per game last season and is still considered one of the better post players in the game.

He is expected to be a mentor for young big men like Willie Cauley-Stein, Skal Labissiere and Harry Giles, one of the team's three first-round picks last month.

It's quite a reversal for Ran-

dolph, who was considered a malcontent in need of mentoring when he arrived in Memphis in 2009 after failed tenures in Portland, New York and with the Los Angeles Clippers. But he grew into a leadership role with the Grizzlies and became a trusted veteran.

Hill will be expected to provide similar traits in Sacramento, while grooming rookie point guards De'Aaron Fox and Frank Mason III. The 31-year-old has spent nine years in the NBA with San Antonio, Indiana and Utah.

He averaged a career-high 16.9 points per game last season for the Jazz, helping them make the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2010. He also averaged 4.2 assists and 3.4 rebounds.

Jays chase Sabathia, halt 5-game skid

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When CC Sabathia took the mound at the Los Angeles Angels on June 13, the New York Yankees were 38-23 and led the AL East by four games.

Sabathia limped off after four innings that night with a strained left hamstring and didn't return until Tuesday, when he was chased during a four-run third inning. Kendrys Morales hit a two-run single that helped Toronto to a 4-1 win, stopping the Blue Jays' five-game losing streak and sending New York to its 15th loss in 21 games.

"It's been tough, just injury after injury," Sabathia said. "It's just a tough time for us right now, but we've got to battle through it. Everybody goes through this stuff. It's a long season."

Aaron Judge dented a metal casement above a door behind the left-center field wall with his major league-leading 28th home run, a drive that would have traveled 456 feet had it landed unimpeded, according to MLB's Statcast. The liner rose only 59 feet above the field and was the fourth-hardest-hit homer of the season at 118.4 mph. Judge has the hardest at 121.1 mph and all of the top four.

That was the only run off J.A. Happ (3-5), who allowed four hits in six innings.

"He was tremendous today," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "He battled, got some strikeouts, really gave us what we needed."

A 20-game winner last year,

Happ has won three of his last four decisions after losing his first four. He walked two and struck out six, including Judge on a foul tip with two on to end the fifth.

"That was a big out with the way Judge has been swinging the bat and how he's seeing the ball," Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin said. "He got to 3-2 and Happ just kind of threw a little extra cheese on that one."

Roberto Osuna pitched a perfect ninth to convert his 19th consecutive save chance and 20th overall this season, completing a four-hitter and the Blue Jays' third win in 12 games.

New York had been 10-3 in starts by Sabathia, who was 5-0 with a 0.99 ERA in six outings before getting hurt. He lacked control in his return, throwing just 35 of 63 pitches for strikes.

"I was just a little too hyped up," Sabathia said. "Overthrowing a little bit."

Sabathia retired his first eight batters before walking Darwin Barney, who took second on a wild pitch and scored on Jose Bautista's single. Martin singled, consecutive walks to Josh Donaldson and Justin Smoak on full-count sliders forced in a run, and Morales' single finished Sabathia.

"We started off hot. Everyone was healthy. We were firing all cylinders. Then a couple people went down," Judge said. "You've got to keep battling, keep fighting, and everyone is going to get healthy here sooner or later and we'll be back to where we need to be."

6 Padres combine to shut out Indians

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Cory Spangenberg drove in the only run with a groundout, and six San Diego pitchers combined on a five-hitter as the Padres edged the Cleveland Indians 1-0 on Tuesday night despite a record-setting outing by All-Star Corey Kluber.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona missed the game after he was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic for tests. Francona was hospitalized twice last month after feeling lightheaded and having a rapid heart rate. He was fitted with a heart monitor last week and said at the time doctors had ruled out any serious health issues.

Team president Chris Antonetti said Francona did not experience the previous symptoms again, and the tests were being done to help determine what's causing the issue.

Kluber (7-3) struck out 10 in eight innings — setting a franchise mark with five consecutive double-digit strikeout games. But the 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner received

little help from his offense or defense.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 3: Clayton Kershaw carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning and struck out 11 to become the first 13-game winner in the majors this season, helping first-place Los Angeles beat visiting Arizona in a matchup of the National League's top two teams.

Kershaw (13-2) ended up allowing two hits in seven shutout innings. He lost his bid for a second career no-hitter on an infield single by Chris Owings with one out in the seventh. All-Star closer Kenley Jansen entered with two on in the ninth and gave up a three-run homer to Daniel Descalso. Jansen finished for his 18th save in as many chances.

Kershaw has made 12 consecutive starts without a loss and is 9-0 with a 2.19 ERA since a 4-3 loss to San Francisco on May 1. The left-hander hasn't allowed a run in his last three starts.

Red Sox 11, Rangers 4: Andrew Benintendi went 5-for-5 with two homers, six RBIs and

a terrific catch in left field, and David Price struck out nine in six scoreless innings as visiting Boston beat Texas to stretch the longest winning streak in the majors to six games.

Astros 16, Braves 4: Jose Altuve homered and drove in four runs, Josh Reddick hit a grand slam and visiting Houston pounded Atlanta.

Reds 8, Rockies 1: Homer Bailey (1-2) pitched six solid innings for his first win since last August, Billy Hamilton had a two-out, two-run single after missing a game with a bothersome back and visiting Cincinnati beat Colorado.

Rays 6, Cubs 5: Tim Beckham homered, and visiting Tampa Bay won its reunion with former manager Joe Maddon.

Nationals 11, Mets 4: Daniel Murphy had four hits and five RBIs, helping NL East-leading Washington win at home for its third straight victory.

Pirates 3, Phillies 0: Righthander Jameson Taillon (5-2) struck out a career-best nine in five innings, and Andrew Mc-Cutchen hit a pair of solo homers for visiting Pittsburgh.

Royals 7, Mariners 3: Whit Merrifield hit the first pitch of the game from Felix Hernandez for his seventh home run, helping visiting Kansas City to its fifth win in six games.

Athletics 7, White Sox 6: Franklin Barreto homered in the ninth inning, Yonder Alonso went deep twice and host Oakland snapped a season-high sixgame losing streak.

Brewers 6, Orioles 2: Eric Thames homered twice and Jimmy Nelson (7-4) pitched seven strong innings, leading host Milwaukee to the victory.

Tigers 5, Giants 3: Victor Martinez homered, Michael Fulmer (8-6) pitched eight innings and host Detroit snapped San Francisco's six-game winning streak.

Marlins 5, Cardinals 2: Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer and Jose Urena struck out seven in five solid innings, helping Miami to the road win.

Twins 5, Angels 4: Kyle Gibson got his first win in three weeks and Byron Buxton hit his fifth homer, leading host Minnesota to the victory.



Venus rallies after dropping first set

Associated Press

LONDON — Venus Williams came back after dropping the opening set against Wang Qiang of China to win on Wednesday and reach Wimbledon's third round.

Williams powered her way through the final set to pull out the 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory. She wound up with more than twice as many winners as her opponent, 43 to 20.

This is Williams' first tournament since a two-car crash police say she caused in Florida on June 9. A 78-year-old passenger in the other vehicle died about two weeks later.

Williams also beat Wang at the French Open in May. The 55th-ranked Wang has never been to the third round at a Grand Slam tournament.

Williams owns seven major titles, including five at Wimbledon. Wednesday's match was her 97th in the main draw at the All England Club, breaking a tie with her sister Serena for the most among active players.

Meanwhile, Andy Murray's hip looks just fine.

The defending men's champi-

on advanced to the third round by beating Dustin Brown of Germany 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Murray entered the tournament with questions about his hip after skipping two exhibition matches last week. But he has lost only 14 games so far, seven in each of his opening two matches at the All England Club.

The two-time champion will next face 28th-seeded Fabio Fognini.

Britain's biggest hope for a women's champion also worked her way into the third round on Wednesday.

Johanna Konta trailed early but managed to come back and hang on for a 7-6 (4), 4-6, 10-8 victory over Donna Vekic on Centre Court.

"It's a nice feeling not to have to keep going out there," Konta said. "We were out there a long time and both of us battled incredibly hard.

"Whoever was going to draw the short straw was going to be hurting."

Konta, seeded sixth, is in the third round at the All England Club for the first time in six appearances. She reached the final at a grass-court warmup tournament in Birmingham last month, but lost to Vekic.

"I think I overall trusted my game a bit more this time," said Konta, who is trying to become the first British woman to win the Wimbledon title since Virginia Wade in 1977. "I'm definitely here with the intention of wanting to be a part of the event for the full two weeks."

Stan Wawrinka, a three-time Grand Slam champion who lost in the first round at Wimbledon, is dating Vekic and was at Centre Court watching the match.

On Court 16, Daniil Medvedev expressed his anger after losing his match by throwing some coins at the foot of the chair umpire's chair.

Medvedev, an unseeded Russian who beat Stan Wawrinka in the first round, lost to Ruben Bemelmans 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 in the second round.

After the match ended, both players shook hands with chair umpire Mariana Alves. Medvedev then grabbed his wallet and pulled out some coins and tossed them toward the chair.

"In the heat of the moment

I did a bad thing and I apologize for this," said Medvedev, who denied he was implying the chair umpire was paid off. "I was just frustrated. It had no meaning."

When the Wimbledon gates opened Wednesday morning, the race was on to get the best spot on Mount Murray.

The hill next to No. 1 Court at Wimbledon, formerly known as Henman Hill and also referred to as Murray Mound, was a coveted spot for Day 3 at the All England Club because Konta and Andy Murray were scheduled to play their second-round matches on Centre Court.

Thousands of fans on the grounds and without tickets to the main stadium often gather on the hill to watch the action on a giant TV screen.

The area was named Henman Hill in honor of Tim Henman, another British player but one who never was able to win the title. The nickname shifted to Murray when he came on the scene and eventually ended the country's 77-year wait for a homegrown men's winner when he won the title in 2013.

Italy's Aru wins mountain stage of Tour de France

Associated Press

CHAMPAGNEY, France — Italy's Fabio Aru accelerated away from three-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome and other top contenders for the yellow jersey in an impressive show of strength on the first mountain climb of this year's race, winning Stage 5 on Wednesday and showing that he could be the man to beat to the finish in Paris on July 23.

Froome still rode well enough up the steep ascent to the Planche des Belles Filles ski station to take the overall race lead and its yellow jersey off the shoulders of his teammate Geraint Thomas, who couldn't stay with the leaders on the climb made doubly punishing by the hot temperatures.

But it was Aru who impressed with his fierce burst of speed that left everyone in his wake with more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles left to climb, rising out of his saddle and rocking powerfully from side to side as he ate up the mountain, in his jersey in Italy's colors of green, white and red.

"It's extraordinary for me to win this stage," said the 26-year-old rider for the Astana team.

Dan Martin, of the Quickstep team, was second to the top, surprising Froome with his own burst of speed on a very steep section toward the top. Froome came in third — made painfully aware by the climb that the Tour could be harder than ever to win this year.

But getting the yellow jersey was some consolation. Froome has a 12 second lead over Thomas, with Aru climbing to third in the overall standings, 14 seconds behind the reigning champion for Team Sky.

British rider Mark Cavendish commended the "courage" of Tour de France jurors for disqualifying world champion Peter Sagan for a horrific crash on Tuesday.

Speaking Wednesday, before the Tour set off without him from the spa town of Vittel on Stage 5, Cavendish said his immediate concern after he hit the deck was a profusely bleeding finger on his right hand.

The winner of 30 Tour stages in his stellar career was later diagnosed with a broken right shoulder blade and withdrew

from the race. Sagan, who appeared to elbow Cavendish before he fell at high speed, stayed on his bike but was disqualified for endangering Cavendish and other riders in the sprint finish at Vittel.

Cavendish said, "It takes a lot of courage ... to eliminate the world champion from the Tour de France."

Cavendish said he bore no hard feelings toward Sagan and that his actions didn't appear malicious. He stressed that they are good friends and said Sagan called him Tuesday evening while he was being examined in hospital.

Sagan's explanation for extending his right elbow into Cavendish's path was that he was just trying to stay upright.