

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

USS Ford launches, recovers its first jet

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — The USS Gerald R. Ford launched and recovered an F/A-18 Super Hornet for the first time on Friday, following years of setbacks and cost overruns on the next-generation aircraft carrier that formally joined the fleet last week.

The \$12.9 billion Ford is using a new electromagnetic system instead of steam to launch aircraft, which is intended to get more jets into the air in less time, among other things. It also has installed advanced arresting gear that is supposed to allow landings by a broader range of aircraft, from heavily loaded warplanes to lightweight drones.

The launch-and-recovery milestone is a major achievement for the first-of-its-class ship that demonstrates it is making progress toward becoming capable of fulfilling its primary mission. Aircraft carriers are considered the ultimate symbol of American sea power because they can launch warplanes into foreign territory around the globe without the need to secure basing rights.

While the carrier was being built in Newport News, Va., both technologies were saddled with problems that now appear to be fixed. Both systems were tested repeatedly on land in New Jersey before the Super Hornet successfully landed on the Ford as it operated off the coast of Virginia. A pilot from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 23, based at Patuxent River, Md., conducted the landing and takeoff.

US B-1Bs fly over S. Korea

BY AARON KIDD

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Two Air Force supersonic bombers flew low over the Korean Peninsula on Sunday in a show of force after North Korea test-fired its second intercontinental ballistic missile.

The exercise — part of a 10-hour mission with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets — was “in direct response to North Korea’s escalatory launch of intercontinental ballistic missiles,” a Pacific Air Forces statement said.

A suspected Hwasong-14 missile — the second ICBM North Korea has tested successfully this month — was fired late Friday from Mupyong-ni in the country’s far northwest and splashed down into the Sea of Japan about 620 miles east of the launch site, the Pentagon said.

The Guam-based B-1B Lancers first flew into Japanese airspace and were joined by two Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-2 fighter jets, the Pacific Air Forces statement said. The bombers then headed to the Korean Peninsula and were met by four South Korean F-15s. After a low pass over Osan Air Base, the pair returned to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The aircrews took part in “intercept and formation” training throughout the mission, the statement said.

A similar drill took place after North Korea launched its first ICBM on July 4, though that mission involved the Lancers firing inert weapons at a range in South Korea.

“North Korea remains the most urgent threat to regional stability,” Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander, said in the statement. “Diplomacy remains the lead; however, we have a responsibility to our allies and our nation to showcase our unwavering commitment while planning for the worst-case scenario.”

O’Shaughnessy added, “If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing.”

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un expressed “great satisfaction” after late Friday’s missile reached its maximum height of 2,314 miles, according to a statement released Saturday by the Korean Central News Agency.

Kim, who reportedly was present at the launch site, also boasted that the successful test demonstrated Pyongyang’s ability to conduct a surprise ICBM attack from any place and at any time and proved that the regime’s missiles can now reach “all across the continental U.S.”

The launch sends a “stern warning” to the

U.S., which “loses its mind and makes uncalled-for remarks,” Kim said in the statement.

President Donald Trump condemned the test as “reckless and dangerous,” while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson suggested China and Russia should do more to rein in their communist ally.

“As principal economic enablers of North Korea’s nuclear weapon and ballistic missile development program, China and Russia bear unique and special responsibility for this growing threat to regional and global security,” Tillerson said in a statement issued after the launch.

Just hours after Friday’s test, the U.S. and South Korea responded by launching their own missiles into the sea.

In what an 8th Army statement called a “combined training event,” the allies fired the barrage into South Korean territorial waters off the east coast using the surface-to-surface Army Tactical Missile System and South Korea’s Hyunmoo Missile II.

“The ATACMS can be rapidly deployed and engaged and provides deep-strike precision capability, enabling the [U.S. and South Korea] to engage a full array of time-critical targets under all weather conditions,” the statement said.

While the U.S. military usually says joint exercises are defensive in nature and refrains from mentioning specific events, the 8th Army statement linked Saturday morning’s drill directly to North Korea’s ICBM launch.

A similar exercise was conducted soon after North Korea test-fired its first ICBM on July 4.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry on Saturday said it will push for the expansion of an advanced U.S. missile-defense system, known as THAAD, on the peninsula that had been delayed after new South Korean leader Moon Jae-in ordered an environmental assessment shortly after taking office in May.

“Our military will talk with [the U.S.] as soon as possible in a bid to deploy additional THAAD launchers temporarily ... and build our own response system against [North Korea’s] nuclear missiles in the near future,” the statement said.

During a security council meeting earlier that day, Moon encouraged officials to discuss measures — including the THAAD expansion — to strengthen the country’s defense, said presidential spokesman Yoon Young-chan.

To counter the growing missile threat from North Korea, Washington and Seoul agreed last year to place a THAAD battery in the remote southeastern area of Seongju. Residents — fearing possible negative health and economic effects — have protested the system.

AFRICOM investigates whether US troops knew of abuses in Cameroon

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command has ordered an investigation into whether U.S. forces had any knowledge about allegations that Cameroonian forces abused prisoners on a military base where Americans have had a presence.

“We are aware of the 2017 Amnesty International report alleging illegal detentions and abuse of prisoners by Cameroonian soldiers and are currently reviewing its contents,” said AFRICOM Capt. Jennifer Dyrzcz. “U.S. Africa Command has ordered that an inquiry be conducted into these allegations. As the inquiry is ongoing, we can’t provide specific details about what that entails.”

To date, AFRICOM has not received any reports from U.S. forces about potential human rights abuses by Cameroonian forces, AFRICOM said.

Military members are required to report any “possible, suspected, or alleged violation of the law of war for which

there is credible information during the conduct of operations,” Dyrzcz said. “These reports are required to be made promptly to the chain of command in the most expeditious means possible.”

AFRICOM’s inquiry will include “determining what reported information, if any, AFRICOM was aware of prior to this allegation,” the command said.

Amnesty International said in a July 20 report that between March 2013 and March 2017 and in violation of international human rights laws, Cameroonian security forces tortured prisoners they suspected of being members of the extremist group Boko Haram.

The report did not accuse U.S. soldiers of participating in the events, but it did raise questions about whether U.S. military members knew that prisoners were being held and tortured.

The U.S. maintains a small presence in Cameroon, which hosts a drone base. In addition, U.S. and French forces train with Cameroonian sol-

diers, who are on the front lines in the fight against Boko Haram. While the group is based mainly in northern Nigeria, the extremists have carried out cross-border attacks in Cameroon.

U.S. military personnel regularly were present at the Salak military base, where “widespread practices of illegal detention and torture documented in this report were carried out,” Amnesty said.

The report included testimony from one prisoner, who said: “I saw white men in Salak many times, and I heard them talking in English. I think they were Americans. ... I saw them running from the back window of my cell, especially in the morning, as well as standing in front of our cell, just where the garage was. Some were wearing plain clothes, others were in uniform. The uniform was like camouflage clothing, green and beige.”

AFRICOM declined to go into detail about its mission in Cameroon, citing operational security concerns.

Navy: US helos fired warning at Iranians

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Saturday a U.S. aircraft carrier fired a warning shot in an “unprofessional” confrontation with Iranian vessels, but officials with the U.S. Navy said that the incident involved one of its helicopters.

The official IRNA news agency quoted a statement from the Iranian Republican Guard as saying that the USS Nimitz and an accompanying ship came near an Iranian oil offshore platform in the Persian Gulf, and a helicopter from the ship hovered near vessels manned by Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard.

The report said that the confrontation took place Friday afternoon, and the U.S. navy ships left the area following the encounter.

The U.S. Navy’s Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said the incident happened while one of its helicopters was on a routine patrol in international airspace.

The aircraft saw several Guard vessels approaching American ships “at a high rate of speed” and sent out flares after receiving no response when it tried to establish communications, the U.S. Navy said. The flares prompted the Iranian boats to halt their approach.

After communications were established, the U.S. saw the Iranians conduct a “gun exercise.” That routine exercise involved them firing weapons into the water away from American ships, said Navy spokesman Lt. Ian McConaughy.

The Navy described the encounter “as safe and professional.”

Man dies after near drowning in Navy pool

By SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — A retired California teacher who nearly drowned earlier this month in the pool at a Navy base in Naples has died following a lengthy coma.

R.C. Schwertfeger, 66, died Tuesday at a Naples area hospital, two weeks after passing out at the Navy Support Site swimming pool, officials said. Schwertfeger, an avid swimmer, was in Naples with his wife visiting their daughter and son-in-law, a sailor, when the near-drowning put him in a coma July 10.

Schwertfeger was in intensive care at an Italian hospital and required \$137,000 to be

transported while on life support back to his home in Salinas, Calif. The community in that region, including many of his former students, raised more than \$140,000 a few days before he died, but the family never had a chance to use the money.

“You take someone for granted when you see them every day, then this tragedy happens,” lifelong friend Solomon Terry, 65, said during a phone interview.

Terry said it’s a mystery why Schwertfeger, who swam laps at a local pool twice per day, would almost drown. He said Schwertfeger probably suffered a stroke or a heart attack in the pool.

Navy officials in Naples said

they could not provide details about the fatal swimming incident because it’s still being investigated.

Schwertfeger’s surviving family members include his wife, Mimi; daughter Marisa Merkle; son-in-law Tom Merkle; and five grandchildren.

His daughter posted a memorial on a Facebook page, describing the moment she learned that he died.

“His heart, overflowing with love for so many, was finally able to enjoy the rest that has eluded him these last two weeks,” she said. “We also ask that you continue to hold us in prayer during the days ahead as we prepare to bring R.C. home.”

THAAD successfully intercepts missile

Stars and Stripes

A medium-range ballistic missile was intercepted over the Pacific Ocean early Sunday during a test of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, the Missile Defense Agency said.

The target missile, air-launched by an Air Force C-17, was detected, tracked and intercepted by a THAAD battery

at Pacific Spaceport Complex Alaska in Kodiak, an MDA statement said. It didn't specify exactly where the missile was stopped.

Soldiers from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade out of Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted launcher, fire-control and radar operations using the same procedures they would use in a real-world scenario, the statement said. The team was not

aware of when the target missile would be launched.

"In addition to successfully intercepting the target, the data collected will allow MDA to enhance the THAAD weapon system, our modeling and simulation capabilities, and our ability to stay ahead of the evolving threat," said Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves, MDA's director.

The exercise comes not long after North Korea test-fired its

second intercontinental ballistic missile Friday. The ICBM splashed down into the Sea of Japan about 620 miles east of the launch site in the country's far northwest, a Pentagon statement said.

The U.S. military, which detected and tracked the missile throughout its flight, said it posed no threat to North America.

US, Japan hold Mutsu Bay drills

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. and Japan trained together recently to improve the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's ability to protect Navy vessels.

The mine countermeasures ships USS Pioneer and JS Bungo took part in the drill Wednesday at Mutsu Bay in northern Japan, a JMSDF spokesman told Stars and Stripes.

The vessels practiced communications procedures to prepare for situations where Japan's navy is called upon to help the United States.

"[The drill] aims to improve the tactical skills of the maritime self-defense forces as well

as to strengthen the relationship with the U.S. Navy," a JMSDF statement said.

The communications drill was separate from a mine countermeasures exercise both ships had been conducting since July 19. Units practiced minesweeping techniques and searching for mines using sonar, a Navy statement said. The exercise ended Friday with a drill in which U.S. and Japanese ships worked together to ensure a route was clear of mines.

Wednesday's drill marked the first time the JMSDF has taken part in such training since Japan enacted security legislation last year allowing its Self-Defense Forces to aid the U.S. while under attack, the JMSDF spokesman said. In the

past, Japanese warships could use force only when directly under fire.

Japan first protected an allied vessel in May when the helicopter carrier JS Izumo escorted the USNS Richard E. Byrd on a mission in Japanese waters to resupply an unnamed Navy warship that was helping to defend against North Korean missiles.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's approval rating, which dipped after the security legislation was enacted, is expected to sink further after Defense Minister Tomomi Inada resigned Thursday amid allegations she helped cover up details of a Japan Ground Self-Defense Force deployment to South Sudan that was enabled by the legislation.

US gives Philippines surveillance aircraft

BY TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

The United States has delivered two surveillance aircraft to the Philippines to aid the country's ongoing battle against Islamic militants.

The Philippine Air Force received the new Cessna 208B Grand Caravan intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance planes during a ceremony Thursday at Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. The aircraft were part of a \$33 million defense package designed to boost the nation's counterterrorism capabilities, U.S. Pacific Command said in a Friday statement.

The Cessnas, which can deliver live data and air-to-ground information streaming, should be a boost to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In May, more than 600 militants from various groups swearing allegiance to Islamic State began an armed occupation of much of Marawi on Mindanao island, forcing Philippine forces into a monthslong campaign to retake the city.

U.S. Special Forces have been assisting by providing intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance to AFP commanders on the ground directing the battle against the insurgents, the PACOM statement said.

Navy looks for tool to ID mineral in concrete

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — The U.S. Navy is working to develop a new high-tech gadget that can quickly identify whether a debilitating iron sulfide mineral exists in concrete, the same problem that's plaguing thousands of Connecticut homeowners with crumbling foundations.

Late last year, unbeknownst to many Connecticut officials, the Navy began seeking out small businesses to invent a device that can quickly detect pyrrhotite in concrete. The mineral is known to naturally react over years with water and oxygen, causing devastating damage to concrete basements and foundations.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Washington recently chose three companies to begin developing a portable device or test kit

that can analyze pyrrhotite in damaged concrete structures, as well as loose aggregate before it is mixed into concrete.

The firms have received federal funding to test their hypotheses that their proposed technologies can detect pyrrhotite in a controlled environment, said Theresa Hoffard, research chemist at the Command.

Prototypes are expected to be developed by the end of the second phase of the process, which usually takes two years. If a company makes it that far, the third and final phase involves commercialization of the product.

As of July 14, the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection had received complaints from 545 homeowners with crumbling foundations.

House OKs deal to fund Veterans Choice

BY NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers voted unanimously Friday on a deal to fund the nearly depleted Veterans Choice Program to avert the threat of interrupted medical care for thousands of veterans.

The bill, a bipartisan compromise negotiated between House and Senate lawmakers, would inject \$2.1 billion into the Choice program to keep it going for the next six months.

The program allows veterans to receive health care in the private sector, and Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin warned in June that it would be completely depleted of funds by mid-August. Friday was the last day for House lawmakers to act before leaving for a monthlong recess. Lawmakers voted 414-0 for the

bill.

House Democrats initially rejected the bill Monday after hearing from eight veterans groups that argued it prioritized the private sector while neglecting VA services. During negotiations last week, the bill was revised to include funding for recruitment and retention efforts and new VA facilities.

“We could not come to an agreement, but instead of the theatrics of partisanship and politics of destruction, instead of sulking away, we came back together to try to find compromise,” Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, said before the vote.

Besides the \$2.1 billion for Choice, the bill provides \$1.8 billion to help fill the some 49,000 vacancies in the department and authorizes 28 leases for new VA clinics. It would be paid for by

extending pension reductions for Medicaid-eligible veterans in nursing facilities and continuing fees on VA-guaranteed home loans.

Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Senate veterans’ affairs committee, and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., the committee’s ranking Democrat, announced their support late Thursday, signaling a clear path for it to pass that chamber. Senators are finishing up work the next two weeks before adjourning for recess.

Larger debate coming

If the deal passes both chambers and is signed into law, as expected, it will be viewed as a win for the veterans groups leading into a larger discussion about reforming how the VA handles private-sector care.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, said Friday on

the House floor, “This is just the first step, though a major one, in a transformative process.”

Those fighting against the original bill included AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Military of the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America and the Wounded Warrior Project.

The coalition’s concerns about the VA sliding too far into the private sector signal a challenge for Shulkin in gaining the veterans groups’ support for his ideas to change community care programs in the long term. Shulkin has described a plan that allows more veterans to seek care in the private sector in areas of the country where VA care isn’t up to par with other health care providers in the community.

Kelly expected to be loyal Trump manager

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retired Marine Gen. John Kelly is a battle-hardened commander who would bring a background of military discipline and order to President Donald Trump’s roiling White House as the new chief of staff.

Kelly’s experience as Department of Homeland Security secretary and a veteran of three tours in Iraq — along with a sobering family tragedy — suggests he’ll be a loyal manager for Trump when he starts the job Monday.

“He has been a true star of my administration,” the president tweeted Friday, announcing that his current secretary of homeland security was in, and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus was out. Trump called Kelly a “great leader” and “great American.” He called Priebus, ousted after a tumultuous six months, a “good man.”

As homeland security secretary, Kelly has taken the lead on some of Trump’s most controversial policies, including his

executive orders suspending the admission of refugees and temporarily barring visitors from several Muslim-majority nations. Those orders have been stripped down by courts pending a Supreme Court review this fall.

People who know Kelly told The Associated Press that he was not aware of the details of the initial orders until around the time that Trump signed it. Yet just days after taking office, he had to lead the agency as it dealt with the chaos and confusion that ensued at airports in the U.S. and around the world. He defended the orders to reporters and lawmakers and insisted he indeed had been part of the decision-making process.

Kelly has stood up to Congress, another facet of his history that Trump might find attractive.

In April, Kelly bluntly challenged members of Congress critical of the Trump administration’s aggressive approach to immigration enforcement to either change the laws or “shut up.”

But Kelly has won bipartisan respect from lawmakers as a result of his distinguished military career. He joined the Marine Corps in 1970, carving out a reputation as a highly respected but often outspoken commander who could roil debate and issue unpopular directives on issues ranging from women in combat to the treatment of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center.

Kelly was the fifth person to lead the Department of Homeland Security, which includes agencies that protect the president, respond to disasters, enforce immigration laws, protect America’s coastlines and secure air travel. His selection as secretary bolstered concerns about an increase in military influence in a Trump White House.

Kelly also holds a somber distinction. He was the highest-ranking officer to lose a child in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. Kelly’s son, Marine 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, was killed in November 2010 in Afghanistan.

Terrorism plot foiled by Australian police

CANBERRA, Australia — Police disrupted the first alleged plot in Australia to bring down an airplane and arrested four men in raids on Sydney homes, officials said Sunday.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said security has been increased at Sydney Airport since Thursday because of the plot. The increased security measures also were extended to all major international and domestic terminals around Australia overnight.

“I can report last night that there has been a major joint counterterrorism operation to disrupt a terrorist plot to bring down an airplane,” Turnbull told reporters. “The operation is continuing.”

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin said details were scant on the specifics of the attack, the location and timing. “In recent days, law enforcement has been become aware of information that suggested some people in Sydney were planning to commit a terrorist attack using an improvised device,” Colvin said.

From The Associated Press

Trump: End health payments unless there's an overhaul

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Saturday threatened once more to end required payments to insurance companies unless lawmakers repeal and replace the Obama administration's health care law.

In apparent frustration over Friday's failure by the Senate Republican majority to pass a bill repealing parts of the Affordable Care Act, Trump tweeted: "If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!"

No Democrats voted for the GOP bill.

Repeal and replace has been a guiding star for Republicans ever since President Barack Obama enacted the Affordable Care Act in 2010. That goal, which Trump turned into a top campaign promise, remains out of reach even with Republicans controlling both the White House and Congress. The issue has dominated the opening months of Trump's presidency.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said after the bill failed early Friday that he would move to other legislative business in the upcoming week.

Trump also tweeted: "Unless the Republican Senators are total quitters, Repeal & Replace is not dead! Demand another vote before voting on any other bill!"

The subsidies, totaling about \$7 billion a year, help reduce deductibles and copayments for consumers with modest incomes.

The Obama administration used its rule-making authority to set direct payments to insurers to help offset those costs. Trump inherited the payment structure, but he also has the power to end them.

The payments are the subject of a lawsuit brought by House Republicans over whether the ACA specifically included a congressional appropriation for the money, as required under the Constitution. Trump has guaranteed the payments only through July.

Trump previously said the law that he and others call "Obamacare" would collapse immediately whenever those payments stop. He has indicated a desire to halt the subsidies but so far has allowed them to continue on a month-to-month basis.

Without the payments, analysts have said, more insurers might drop out of the system, limiting options for consumers and clearing the way for the insurers who stay to charge more for coverage.

California takes aim at sex offender homelessness

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California has as many homeless sex offenders now as it did 2½ years ago, when a state Supreme Court ruling that overturned restrictions on where they could live was seen as a way to increase housing options and allow law enforcement to track them better.

As of early July, there were 6,329 homeless sex offenders on the California Justice Department's sex offender registry — down only a hair from the 6,422 in January 2015.

"It's a significant number to be concerned about," said Gerry Blasingame, a psychologist who treats abusers and victims and represents the California Coalition on Sexual Offending on the state Sex Offender Management Board.

The board is planning a \$25,000 study through San Jose State University to try to figure out why the number remains high. The Legislature is considering ending California's requirement that sex offenders register for life. Proponents believe that makes it harder for offenders to get jobs.

That was a sentiment state Supreme Court justices cited in overturning a component of Jessica's Law that banned sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of schools, parks and other places where children gather. That requirement effectively blocked them from living in most parts of major California cities.

The justices agreed with experts who said stable homes, jobs and family ties are important to deter new crimes. The court found that when offenders lack permanent homes, it's tougher for law enforcement officers to track their locations and activities.

Chicago gives departing inmates anti-overdose drug

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago now gives at-risk inmates the overdose-reversing drug naloxone upon their release from jail and Los Angeles is poised to follow suit, putting the antidote into as many hands as possible as part of a multifaceted approach to combat the nation's opioid epidemic.

The Cook County Jail in Chicago has trained about 900 inmates how to use naloxone nasal spray devices since last summer and has distributed 400 of them to at-risk men and women as they got out. The devices can undo the effects of an opiate overdose almost immediately and are identical to those used

by officers in many of the country's law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff Tom Dart, whose office runs the jail, said addicts are most at risk of fatally overdosing in the two weeks after getting out because of their time away from drugs while locked up.

"We've got to keep them alive (and) if we can get them through that two-week window, they might get treatment, get off drugs," he said.

It is too soon to gauge the effectiveness of Cook County's program, but Dart said anecdotal evidence suggests that the kits have saved lives, including a man who was arrested again, returned to jail, and told of how

a friend he had trained to use the kit had done so when he overdosed.

In New York City, more than 4,000 kits have been distributed to friends and relatives of inmates at the city's jail at Rikers Island since the program there was launched in 2014.

"We did a survey of their use of the kits after six months, and 226 people responded to the survey and found 50 usages (of the naloxone), and found that 87 percent of the overdoses where the naloxone was used, (the victim) survived," said Dr. Ross MacDonald, chief of Medicine, Division of Correctional Health Services, New York City Health and Hospitals.

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and Military News

Jon Jones reclaims UFC title

BY GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jon Jones reached the pinnacle of mixed martial arts and then fell harder than just about anyone ever had before.

When he got back on top Saturday night by stopping his greatest rival in dramatic style, Jones vowed to appreciate everything he had lost and regained.

Jones reclaimed his UFC light heavyweight title by stopping Daniel Cormier in the third round with a vicious head kick and a finish on the ground at UFC 214, completing his rocky journey back to the top after 2½ years of drama with his 14th consecutive victory.

He fended off a stiff challenge from Cormier (19-2), who held the belt for most of the past two years while Jones (23-1) dealt with self-inflicted setbacks outside the cage. His title belt has been stripped twice, and he endured a yearlong suspension for a doping test failure before returning to beat Cormier for the second time.

“I feel like I’m leaving my past behind me and I’m erasing everything I’ve done before,” Jones said. “I feel like this is a step to a new career, a new championship, and I want to be a better champion than I was in the past.”

After 2½ rounds of even, high-level striking, Jones landed a left head kick that caught Cormier leaning in. The champion staggered backward and then around the cage with Jones in pursuit, and Jones finished the fight on the ground with a series of merciless strikes.

“I want to thank Daniel for being my biggest rival and my biggest motivator,” Jones said. “He has no reason to be ashamed. He has been a model champion. I aspire to be a lot more like that man, because he’s an amazing human being.”

Earlier, Cris “Cyborg” Justino became a UFC champion for the first time at Honda Center, stopping Tonya Evinger in the third round to win the vacant featherweight belt. Tyron Woodley also defended his welterweight title with a clear decision over Demian Maia, thoroughly frustrating the Brazilian jiu-jitsu master in a fight that drew loud boos from the Honda Center crowd.

Former welterweight champion Robbie Lawler squeaked out a unanimous decision victory over Donald “Cowboy” Cerrone in another compelling matchup on the UFC’s most stacked card of the summer.

Jones’ victory thrilled a crowd that was deflated after Woodley defended his welterweight belt with a strong technical performance against the 39-year-old Maia, a vaunted jiu-jitsu specialist from Brazil. Maia couldn’t get the fight to the ground thanks to the wrestling acumen of Woodley, who patiently stuffed takedowns and grinded out a victory that bored UFC President Dana White.

Afterward, White said Georges St. Pierre will

Brock Lesnar to Jones: “Careful what you wish for”

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jon Jones had barely reclaimed his UFC title when he called out Brock Lesnar to be his next opponent.

And Lesnar was listening.

Right after Jones stopped Daniel Cormier in the third round at UFC 214 on Saturday, the light heavyweight champion reignited his growing rivalry with Lesnar, the former UFC heavyweight champ.

“Brock Lesnar, if you want to know what it feels like to get your ass kicked by a guy who weighs 40 pounds less than you, meet me in the octagon,” Jones said on the pay-per-view broadcast.

The Associated Press reached Lesnar shortly after he watched the championship fight and then heard Jones call him out.

“Be careful what you wish for, young man,” Lesnar replied.

A heavyweight superfight between Jones and Lesnar would be one of the biggest events in UFC history. Lesnar is an extraordinary pay-per-view draw as likely the most popular fighter in mixed martial arts, while Jones’ victory over Cormier is expected to put him back atop most pound-for-pound lists as the world’s best fighter.

Jones expanded on his desire for a fight with Lesnar during the news conference following his victory over Cormier.

“We’re serious about it, and it would be great for the MMA world,” Jones said.

UFC President Dana White was in the cage when Jones called out Lesnar, and the promotion is aware of the growing buzz surrounding the matchup. White is also aware of the obstacles in its way, including the remainder of Lesnar’s suspension for failing a doping test last year.

“It’s fun to talk about, but the reality of it happening anytime soon, it’s not a reality,” White said.

From The Associated Press

fight middleweight champion Michael Bisping next instead of Woodley. White claimed that “nobody wants to watch Tyron Woodley fight.”

Justino is widely considered the most dangerous pound-for-pound fighter in women’s MMA after a lengthy career spent dominating smaller promotions. She finally claimed a UFC belt by methodically breaking down the tough Evinger, a late replacement opponent fighting 10 pounds above her usual weight.

Garcia outpoints Broner

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mikey Garcia piled up the punches in another powerful performance, and his career is clearly climbing.

Adrien Broner remains stalled.

Garcia unanimously outpointed Broner on Saturday night to remain undefeated, a fight that didn’t give him a title but could open more opportunities to fight for another one.

Garcia controlled his first fight at 140 pounds, particularly with body shots he was able to sneak in below Broner’s defense, and won 117-111 on one card and 116-112 on the other two.

“This is definitely one of my best performances ever. I think I controlled the fight in the early rounds and I kept the activity up,” Garcia said. “[Broner] is a great fighter who has great skills. I was the superior fighter tonight.”

A former champion in three lower weight classes, Garcia (37-0, 30 KOs) never seriously hurt Broner but dictated the action for most of the 12 rounds, landing nearly twice as many punches.

Broner (33-3, 24 KOs) lost a fight he probably needed to win to prove he is worthy of still being considered capable of beating some of the sport’s best. It was better than some of his recent performances, but not good enough against a fighter of Garcia’s caliber, and even he seemed to be talking about his career in the past after the fight.

“At the end of the day I’m still a four-time world champion at four different weight classes and I’ll still be in the history books,” Broner said.

Broner, who turned 28 on Friday, had won titles in three divisions by 23 and later added a fourth. But losses and lethargic performances even in his wins, along with legal problems outside the ring, stalled his career that once rose so rapidly.

Leon helps Red Sox slide past Royals

Associated Press

BOSTON — Sandy Leon certainly looked nifty at the right time.

The stocky Leon slid into home plate and avoided catcher Drew Butera's tag on Eduardo Nunez's ground out in the 10th inning Saturday night, lifting the Boston Red Sox past Kansas City 9-8 to end the Royals' nine-game winning streak.

"I saw him reach for the ball, so the right side was wide open so I decided to go for it without him touching me," Leon said. "It was close, but he didn't touch me."

Nunez also hit two solo homers over the Green Monster for the Red Sox, improving to 5-for-9 in two games since being acquired from San Francisco for two minor-league pitchers earlier in the week.

Lorenzo Cain hooked a three-run homer around the right-field pole and Whit Merrifield had a career-best four hits — all singles — for the Royals, who were looking to match their longest win streak since June 2014.

The Red Sox won for just the second time in seven games and remained one-half game behind the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

Leon opened the 10th with a double off the Green Monster against Mike Minor (5-3). After Mookie Betts was intentionally walked, both moved up on a wild pitch before Nunez hit a grounder that shortstop Alcides Escobar made a diving stab of and threw to first. Leon, who halted on the play, headed home on the throw to first and beat Eric Hosmer's throw by slipping his hand around the tag.

"He made a very instinctive play and an athletic slide. I know that seems kind of odd because that's Sandy," Red Sox third base coach Brian Butterfield said. "But he made an athletic slide."

After a delay to confirm the call, the Red Sox celebrated.

"I didn't know what was going on. I was running so hard, I was mad when he dove so I didn't know what was going on," Nunez said. "When I see Leon going to home plate, I was like, 'What's going on? Why is he there?' What's going on?"

Royals manager Ned Yost waited and knew it was over after a replay.

"We missed the tag at the plate, but (Escobar) made a great play stopping it and wheeling and throwing to first and (Hosmer) got rid of it as quick as he could," he

said. "It was just a tough play. It was a great slide."

Matt Barnes (6-2) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Boston tied it on Betts' sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Trailing 6-4 in the sixth, Kansas City scored four runs on two hits, two walks and the two errors. Reliever Blaine Boyer also had a wild pitch and Christian Vazquez a passed ball.

Third baseman Rafael Devers booted Escobar's grounder to open the inning and Alex Gordon walked. Both moved up on the wild pitch. Merrifield and Jorge Bonifacio had consecutive RBI singles to tie it. After Nunez threw high on an attempted force at second and a run scored, Salvador Perez's sacrifice fly made it 8-6.

The Red Sox had moved ahead by scoring twice in the fourth and fifth. Vazquez had an RBI double and scored on Devers' single. Nunez hit his second homer leading off the fifth, and the other scored on Mike Moustakas' fielding error.

Cain's homer cleared the short wall and Betts' glove as he leaped, slipping into the first row to make it 4-2.

Roundup

Rangers' Beltre one hit away from 3,000th

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Adrian Beltre singled to get within one hit of 3,000 for his career in the Texas Rangers' 4-0 loss to the Baltimore Orioles on Saturday night.

Beltre was 1-for-4, grounding a ball through the left side of the infield for a hit leading off the fourth. He had two chances after that to become the 31st major leaguer with 3,000 hits, but grounded out to short in the sixth and was retired on a double play in the ninth when third baseman Manny Machado made a slick snag on a short-hopper before a sidearm sling to second base.

Kevin Gausman (8-7) went 8²/₃ innings to win his fifth consecutive decision over seven starts. He struck out eight and threw 118 pitches.

Zach Britton converted his

56th straight save chance, and seventh this season. He relieved with two on and got Carlos Gomez to ground out, completed the Orioles' sixth shutout this season.

Yankees 5, Rays 4: Brett Gardner hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning, and host New York earned its sixth straight victory.

Dodgers 2, Giants 1: Corey Seager had three hits, Cody Bellinger drove in two runs and the host Dodgers earned their seventh straight victory.

Indians 5, White Sox 4: Pinch hitter Brandon Guyer was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth inning for the go-ahead run, and Cleveland beat host Chicago for its ninth straight victory.

Cubs 2, Brewers 1 (11): Jason Heyward homered in the 11th inning, and the visiting

Cubs strengthened their hold on first place in the NL Central.

Mariners 3, Mets 2: Yovani Gallardo took a shutout into the sixth inning, helping the host Mariners stop Jacob deGrom's eight-start winning streak.

Tigers 5, Astros 3: Jose Iglesias hit two RBI doubles and Matt Boyd pitched into the seventh inning, leading the host Tigers to the victory.

Rockies 4, Nationals 2: Marquez carried a perfect game into the sixth inning and Trevor Story homered for visiting Colorado.

Marlins 7, Reds 3: Adam Conley won consecutive starts for the first time this season, Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer and host Miami earned its fourth straight victory.

Phillies 4, Braves 3 (11): Ty Kelly hit a game-ending RBI single in the 11th inning, lifting

the host Phillies to the comeback victory.

Angels 6, Blue Jays 5: Cliff Pennington hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in visiting Los Angeles' three-run ninth inning, helping the Angels rally for the win.

Diamondbacks 7, Cardinals 1: Paul Goldschmidt homered and drove in three runs for visiting Arizona, and Zack Greinke pitched seven strong innings.

Athletics 5, Twins 4: Rajai Davis hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to rally host Oakland to the win.

Padres 4, Pirates 2: Dinelson Lamet pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning and fellow rookie Manuel Margot homered and scored twice, leading host San Diego to its fourth straight victory.

In medley, Dressel ties Phelps with 7th gold

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Michael Phelps, you've got company.

Caeleb Dressel won his seventh gold medal of the world championships Sunday, putting the U.S. team ahead to stay with another dominating swim in the 4x100-meter medley relay.

One night after becoming the first swimmer to win three golds in one night at a major international meet, Dressel joined Phelps in another elite club with seven golds at the second-biggest meet after the Olympics.

Phelps had seven victories at the 2007 worlds in Melbourne, Australia — a prelude to his record eight golds the following year at the Beijing Olympics.

Dressel matched the feat along the banks of the Danube, emerging as America's next great swimming star.

The 20-year-old University of Florida student won three individual golds and was part of four winning relay teams.

Lilly King took the breaststroke rubber match with Yulia Efimova — and set another world record for good measure. She claimed a second gold medal for the day as part of the 4x100 medley relay team.

Chase Kalisz kept the U.S. firmly on top of the world in the men's individual medley.

The brash King knocked off her second record of the world

championships, touching first in the 50-meter breaststroke.

King eclipsed the mark of 29.48 set by Lithuania's Ruta Mielutyte at the 2013 worlds in Barcelona.

Efiomova settled for silver in the 50 at 29.57, while another American, Katie Meili, took the bronze in 29.99.

"I always think Lilly has a world record in her," Meili said. "Yeah, I knew she was going to go really fast. She's been incredible this meet. Totally lights on her every time she gets in the pool, so I'm very very proud of her."

Kalisz breezed to victory in the 400 IM, adding to his triumph in the 200. He became the first swimmer at worlds to sweep the event, which encompasses all four strokes, since Ryan Lochte accomplished the feat in 2011.

In the women's 50 freestyle, Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom got a bit of redemption for her loss to American Simone Manuel in the 100 free.

After setting a world record in the semifinals, Sjostrom completed the furious dash from one end of the pool to the other in 23.69.

Ranomi Kromowidjojo of the Netherlands claimed the silver in 23.85, while Manuel settled for the bronze at 23.97.

Yankees get Garcia

NEW YORK — The Yankees

bolstered their rotation a day before the non-waiver trade deadline as they acquired Jaime Garcia from the Minnesota Twins for a pair of minor league pitchers.

The 31-year-old Garcia is 5-7 with a 4.29 ERA in 19 starts this season. He was acquired by the Twins from the Braves on July 24 and made only one start for Minnesota. He allowed three runs and eight hits in 6²/₃ innings of a 6-3 win over the Athletics on Friday.

He is eligible for free agency at the end of the season.

The Twins received left-handed pitcher Dietrich Enns and right-hander Zack Littell.

Vettel extends F1 lead

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel overcame steering difficulties to win a tense Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday and extend his championship lead over rival Lewis Hamilton heading into the summer break.

The four-time Formula One champion made a decent start from pole position, crucially holding off teammate Kimi Raikkonen on the long straight into Turn 1. On a Hungaroring track where overtaking is notoriously hard, there were limited chances to catch him after that.

But Vettel was hampered by a steering issue for more than half the race, allowing the Mer-

cedes cars to close the gap on him and Raikkonen — who in turn was being slowed down by Vettel.

But Vettel held on for his 46th career win, while Raikkonen expertly defended his position for a Ferrari 1-2.

Preece first in Iowa

NEWTON, Iowa — Ryan Preece survived a green-white-checked finish to win the NASCAR Xfinity race Saturday at Iowa Speedway for his first career victory.

The 26-year-old Preece, running the second of a two-race deal in the No. 20 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing, held off Kyle Benjamin on three restarts in the final 17 laps.

Benjamin was second, followed by Brian Scott, Brennan Poole and Cole Custer.

Busch gets trucks win

LONG POND, Pa. — Kyle Busch dominated another NASCAR race and was clearly the driver to beat until a late wreck knocked him out of the race.

Kyle Busch Motorsports still took the checkered flag.

Christopher Bell passed John Hunter Nemechek for the lead with six laps left and held on to win the Truck Series race Saturday at Pocono Raceway.

Langer wins third Senior British Open

Associated Press

BRIDGEND, Wales — Bernhard Langer won the Senior British Open on Sunday in rain and wind at Royal Porthcawl for his record-extending 10th senior major title and fifth in the last 10.

Fighting a sore throat all week in the difficult weather conditions, the 59-year-old German star closed with an even-par 72 to finish at 4-under 280 and beat American Corey Pavin by three strokes.

"Wasn't 100 percent," Langer said. "Makes it even more meaningful."

Langer joined Jack Nicklaus as the only

players to win three senior majors in a season, and won the event for the third time to match the tournament record.

"It's pretty neat to do something that nobody else has done before," Langer said. "Like winning 10 senior majors, it's not easily done. There's a lot of competition out there. Very blessed and honored to have achieved that. Maybe there's one or two more in the future, who knows? But right now, I'm just going to enjoy the fruit of the labor, and to have won three majors in one season is pretty spectacular, and it actually could have been four if I didn't mess

up two weeks ago (in the Senior Players Championship)."

Langer won the Regions Tradition and Senior PGA Championship — the first two of the PGA Champions Tour's five majors — in May. He finished second behind Scott McCarron in the Senior Players Championship, losing the lead with a double bogey on the 71st hole. Nicklaus won three of the then-four majors in 1991.

Langer also won in 2010 at Carnoustie and took the 2014 event at Royal Porthcawl by 13 strokes.