

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Army ponders changes after insider attack

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's too early to tell whether changes must be made in light of an insider attack in Afghanistan that killed one U.S. soldier and wounded two others because uncertainty remains about whether the assailant was a disgruntled Afghan soldier or an insurgent infiltrator, the Army's top officer said.

Gen. Mark Milley, the Army chief of staff, said Friday that the three soldiers who were shot last weekend were protecting members of the new U.S. advisory brigade that deployed to Afghanistan for the first time just five months ago. He said the Army is moving ahead with plans to create more of the training brigades and to use them primarily in Afghanistan, although other locations could be considered in the future.

Officials said the attacker fired on the soldiers at the airfield on the base at Tarin Kowt, in southern Uruzgan province, a hotbed of Taliban activity. He was taken into custody on the

day of the attack, July 7.

It was the first death involving the advisory brigade, and the first insider attack in about a year. Cpl. Joseph Maciel of South Gate, Calif., was shot and killed by small-arms fire. The other two soldiers are in stable condition.

In a message to the media July 7, Taliban spokesman Qari Yosuf Ahmadi said the shooting was carried out by a member of the Afghan security forces who acted alone, but the militant group "appreciated" his attack.

The military, said Milley, is still trying to determine if the shooter was from the Taliban or another insurgency or just an angry Afghan soldier. Either way, he said, it doesn't change the mission of the new advisory teams, working closely with their Afghan partners. Those jobs carry risk.

"Those guys are out there, and they're in exposed positions and it is a high-risk situation," Milley said Friday. "So casualties are going to occur."

That's a reminder of the challenges facing U.S. forces

in Afghanistan in the 17th year of America's military involvement there. The Trump administration is trying to boost the capabilities of Afghan security forces and increase military pressure on the Taliban in the hope of forcing them to negotiate a peace.

During a surge in the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan under the Obama administration, when American forces had a greater combat role, there were dozens of so-called insider attacks.

Despite additional precautionary steps since then, the threat has continued. Last June, there were two insider attacks — in which a soldier in an Afghan uniform turns his weapon on U.S. or other coalition troops — within a two-week period, killing three U.S. soldiers and wounding another seven.

Speaking to reporters last month, Col. Scott Jackson, commander of the new Security Force Assistance Brigade, acknowledged the possible threat of such an attack.

"I will tell you honestly, we

have had our Afghan partners come to us with intelligence that pre-empted potential attacks, and they have been proactively taking care of their own problems," Jackson said during a June 13 briefing.

Jackson said that when the brigade arrived in Afghanistan, they began vetting the higher-level Afghan forces and steadily worked their way down to the smaller units. That vetting goes on as soldiers rotate in and out of the units, and has not delayed operations.

Just six months ago, Jackson was at Fort Benning, Ga. pulling together the new brigade, working to make real the vision of senior Army leaders. The idea was formed early last year, as officials recognized the need for permanent military training teams that could be deployed worldwide to help local forces learn how to fight better. The plan was a reflection of the new reality of America at war: Army soldiers advising and building indigenous security forces, not doing the fighting for them on foreign soil.

New hairstyle rule won't extend to Naval Academy

The Capital

The Navy rule change allowing female sailors to wear ponytails and locks will not extend to the United States Naval Academy.

The rule change — announced Tuesday to expand acceptable female hairstyles when in uniform — does not include midshipmen at this time, said spokesman Cmdr. David McKinney.

"Navy policy just recently changed, and we, the Naval Academy, will look at the policy and discuss how the regulations

for midshipmen will change moving forward," McKinney said.

There are rules that govern midshipmen separate from those for enlisted members of the Navy. The Naval Academy rules for female hair are mostly in line with Navy rules, McKinney said. Midshipmen have not been formally notified that the rule does not apply to them.

While the Navy rule change allows for ponytails, locks and other hairstyles that extend below the shirt collar, female midshipmen must keep their hair length when in uniform

above the collar. To comply, female midshipmen opt for buns, braids or shorter haircuts.

A work group of female officers, led by Capt. Thurraya Kent, announced the rule changes during a Facebook Live session Tuesday. The Navy will now accept "free-hanging" ponytails and braids up to 3 inches below the collar. It has also expanded size regulations for buns and allowed locks as long as they are uniform with a straight part. Women can now wear their hair down with dinner dress uniforms.

Chief of Naval Operations

Adm. John Richardson said during the Facebook session that the policy will help make the Navy more inclusive. Women advised that the expanded rules would be more inclusive of black female sailors and allow women to wear their natural hair.

Hairstyles cannot jeopardize the safety of servicewomen using equipment, nor can it impede uniform hats and headwear. A commanding officer has the final say on whether hairstyles are "eccentric, faddish or out of standards."

Reading between the lines of Mueller probe

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — On the morning of July 27, 2016, Donald Trump made a now-infamous address into the camera.

“Russia, if you’re listening,” began his appeal for hackers to turn up Hillary Clinton’s 30,000 missing emails. Later that very day, it turns out, officials from Russia’s military intelligence agency launched their first concerted attack on Clinton’s personal server.

The Russian activities that day are laid out in an indictment released Friday by special counsel Robert Mueller. It’s one of several revelations hinting at where the Russian election meddling investigation could be heading.

All 12 people charged in the indictment are military intelligence officers allegedly assigned to disrupt the U.S. election. But the most tantalizing clues involve a handful of Americans — none identified — who communicated with them. They include a candidate for Congress, a Republican lobbyist who ran a Florida politics blog and a political operative who Mueller’s prosecutor said had close ties to the highest levels of the Trump campaign.

There’s no evidence in the indictment that those people knew that the emails and direct

messages were going to Russian agents, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said Friday in announcing the charges. Yet woven throughout the indictment are signs that Mueller’s team is trying to determine whether anyone connected with the Trump campaign coordinated with the Russian agents to maximize the damage to Democrats.

The indictment provides other new details: that Russian operatives remained in Democratic servers until October 2016 and that they stole details on 500,000 voters in one U.S. state. In a statement late Friday, Illinois’ board of elections said it had been the victim of a cyberattack on its statewide voter registration database and that the indictment was likely referring to that hack.

Prosecutors allege that the Russian officers waged computer attacks against the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign, stealing emails and voter analytics data. After hacking the email accounts of Democratic Congressional Committee and DNC Chairman John Podesta in the spring of 2016 (and ultimately failing in its efforts to find Clinton’s personal emails), the Russians set up the online personas DC Leaks and Guccifer 2.0 and used them to offer the stolen information to jour-

nalists, political figures and right-wing activists.

Then, using the Guccifer pseudonym, the Russian officers reached out to “a person who was in regular contact with senior members” of the Trump campaign. In mid-August, Guccifer wrote: “Do u find anyt(h)ing interesting in the docs I posted?”

By Sept. 9, Guccifer was seeking that person’s help to make sense of a document stolen from the DCCC. “What do u think of the info on the turnout model for the democrats entire presidential campaign?” Guccifer asked. “Pretty standard,” the person replied.

That exchange matches one previously attributed to Roger Stone, the Republican political operative and longtime Trump adviser.

Guccifer, in posts at the time, characterized himself as a Romanian hacker. Stone has said he doesn’t believe Guccifer was a Russian intelligence officer. In a text message Friday, he said he wasn’t even certain the indictment referred to him. His lawyer, Grant Smith, said Stone’s 24-word interaction with Guccifer was innocuous.

“Roger received no information from Guccifer 2.0 or DC Leaks, nor did he provide any counsel to them,” Smith said. “Roger’s benign communications first take place many

weeks after the alleged hacking events described in today’s indictment.”

The indictment also references a candidate for U.S. Congress who asked Guccifer for stolen documents. The indictment doesn’t name the candidate or the election’s outcome. But it does describe one success: The candidate was sent documents on an opponent after contacting Guccifer on Aug. 15, 2016.

The most prominent player in the release of the stolen emails was the hacktivist organization WikiLeaks, identified in the indictment as Organization 1. In late June 2016 — after cybersecurity experts said the DNC hack was probably carried out by Russian intelligence — WikiLeaks began asking Guccifer for the information, saying its distribution network could help heighten the impact of the document release. An email from WikiLeaks on July 6 said: “If you have anything Hillary related, we want it in the next two days” because the Democratic National Convention was about to start and divisive emails could hinder Clinton’s effort to unite the party.

On July 14, Guccifer began instructing WikiLeaks how to access the hacked emails.

Top intel officer: Cyber threat warnings ‘blinking red’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Warning lights about cyber threats to U.S. national security are “blinking red,” and the digital attempts to undermine America are occurring daily, not just at election time, the nation’s top intelligence official said Friday.

Russia has been the most aggressive foreign actor, but cyber threats also are coming from China, Iran and North Korea, as well as criminal networks and individual hackers, said National Intelligence Director Dan

Coats. Targets include U.S. businesses, the federal government, the military, state and local governments, academic and financial institutions and critical infrastructure, he said.

“The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, in coordination with international partners, have detected Russian government actors targeting government and businesses in the energy, nuclear, water, aviation and critical-manufacturing sectors,” Coats said.

He compared the cyber threat today with how U.S. offi-

cialists said before 9/11 that intelligence channels were “blinking red” with warning signs that a terror attack was imminent.

“Here we are, nearly two decades later, and I’m here to say the warning lights are blinking red again,” Coats said.

Coats spoke at the Hudson Institute, a Washington think tank, shortly after the Justice Department indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers accused of hacking into Democratic email accounts during the 2016 U.S. presidential election and releasing stolen information in

the months before Americans headed to the polls.

Coats said that despite public statements by the Kremlin to the contrary, U.S. intelligence officials continue to see individuals affiliated with the Internet Research Agency, based in St. Petersburg, Russia, creating new social media accounts masquerading as those of Americans. He said the IRA, a so-called internet troll farm, then uses the fake accounts to drive attention to divisive issues in America.

Nuclear arms race expected summit topic

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump seems of two minds on nuclear weapons. He muses about eliminating them but also has called for a U.S. buildup and bragged about his nuclear “button.”

In March, while forecasting a face-to-face meeting on this topic with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump said in the same breath that an arms race was “getting out of control” and that he would never allow any country to have weapons “even close to what we have,” although Russia already does.

How these seemingly competing instincts will play out in

his talks Monday with Putin in Helsinki could profoundly affect the direction of U.S. defense policy.

Before leaving a NATO summit in Brussels on Thursday, Trump was asked by a reporter whether he would raise long-standing U.S. allegations that Russia is violating a Cold War-era nuclear arms treaty and whether he favors extending a separate treaty that he has criticized in the past as disadvantaging the U.S.

His one-word answer to the two-part question was “yes” — the first public indication that he wants to extend the New Start treaty, which expires in three years. Then on Friday,

he vaguely spoke about how “it would be a tremendous achievement if we could do something about nuclear proliferation.”

Yet Trump’s administration has shown little interest in negotiating further reductions in American and Russian strategic nuclear weapons. It has been more focused on formulating its own nuclear policy and on combating the nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

U.S.-Russian strategic nuclear weapons — those capable of striking each other’s territory — are governed by New Start, which was negotiated by the Obama administration in 2010. It limits each country to 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads.

President Barack Obama favored further cuts, but U.S.-Russian relations soured after Moscow’s 2014 annexation of Crimea.

The New Start deal is set to expire in February 2021 unless both sides agree to extend it. The Trump administration has been reviewing its position, so it’s unclear whether Trump and Putin will do more than agree that their staffs should study the possibility of an extension. Private U.S. arms-control advocates are urging an extension, in part because they see value in a treaty provision allowing each side to monitor what the other is doing on strategic weapons.

Judge commends family reunifications, eyes next deadline

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge on Friday commended Trump administration efforts to reunify young children and families separated at the border but also said he plans to watch closely as a deadline approaches involving older children.

U.S. District Judge Dana Stribaw said at a hearing in San Diego that the government has demonstrated good faith and largely complied with a deadline last week to reunite fami-

lies with children under 5.

At the same time, he indicated he will be monitoring the administration’s actions ahead of a July 26 deadline to reunite more than 2,500 older children with their families.

The judge said the administration must provide a list of names of parents in immigration custody and their children by Monday and complete background checks for them by Thursday.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which represents the

separated families, has said the administration failed to meet last Tuesday’s deadline to reunify dozens of children under 5 with their families and should therefore be closely watched as the next deadline approaches.

The administration disputed that characterization, saying it reunified all 58 children under 5 who were eligible and that it complied with the judge’s order.

It acknowledged that 19 of the 58 children were reunited Wednesday and one came on Thursday — after the deadline

— “for logistical reasons specific to each case.”

The administration filed a plan Friday saying it would immediately begin reuniting the older children with their families.

Those reunions were expected to begin “on a rolling basis” leading to the deadline, according to the Justice Department. The reunifications will occur at six to eight unspecified locations determined by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Mexican president urges Pompeo to reunite immigrant families

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto on Friday urged a U.S. delegation led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to quickly reunite immigrant families separated at the border.

Peña Nieto said in a statement that he called for “a permanent alternative that prioritizes the well-being and rights of minors.”

Pompeo visited Mexico with Cabinet-level officials to meet with both Peña Nieto and President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador after a sea-change elec-

tion that could offer a chance for the neighbors to repair strained relations.

Discussions were expected to address ways to combat transnational criminal organizations, the U.S. opioid epidemic and trade tensions. But irregular migration across Mexico’s northern border into the United States loomed large during the meetings.

“The United States is committed to making measurable progress to ensure security on both sides of that border,” Pompeo told journalists.

U.S.-Mexico ties have dete-

riorated significantly under President Donald Trump, who campaigned on building a border wall and has repeatedly blamed Mexico for economic and social problems in the United States.

Trump’s son-in-law and White House adviser, Jared Kushner, accompanied Pompeo, as well as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. They met first with Peña Nieto and then with the president-elect.

Dozens of protesters jeered at Pompeo’s motorcade as the

delegation arrived to congratulate the leftist, populist Lopez Obrador. Many of the protesters condemned the Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy that separated families attempting to claim asylum in the United States. The vast majority of child migrants separated at the border were Central Americans, not Mexicans.

“Where are our children?” read one sign. Others read, “Stop Trump” and “ICE is a terrorist” — referring to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Cal 3 backer wants suit dismissed

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The backer of an initiative to split California in three asked the state Supreme Court on Friday to dismiss a lawsuit trying to remove it from the November ballot.

Venture capitalist Tim Draper wrote in a response to the court that there is not enough time to properly consider the legal challenge to his effort to divide the state. He said it would be inappropriate for the court to block the initiative from going before voters.

The Planning and Conservation League, an environmental group, filed the lawsuit last Monday, arguing the measure exceeds the scope of an initiative because it would drastically alter California's government and constitutional framework.

"I have been given just a day or two to respond to a complex, multi-faceted attack on my Constitutional right to initiative," Draper wrote. "This Court's long history of jealously guarding the exercise of initiative power should not be cavalierly disregarded now, especially on such a truncated timetable."

Draper argued the Cal 3 measure doesn't go beyond what can be accomplished in an initiative. If passed by voters, it would be only the first step toward splitting the state, he said.

He also said he wasn't properly served with the lawsuit, giving him less time to respond.

The Cal 3 initiative would break the state into Northern California, California and Southern California. Draper has spent more than \$1.7 million supporting it.

Supporters of dividing California argue the nation's most populous state has become ungovernable because of its size, wealth disparities and geographic diversity.

Passing at the ballot box is just the first hurdle. The measure then directs the governor to ask Congress for the ultimate OK — likely a tall order.

Conservative states balk at voter-approved medical pot

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Pot advocates celebrated the culmination of a yearslong effort to ease restrictions on the use of cannabis last month, when nearly 60 percent of Oklahoma voters approved medical marijuana.

Oklahoma's proponents even had included a two-month deadline for the implementation in their measure so as to avoid the years of delays they had seen elsewhere.

But that has not stopped state health officials and the Republican governor from making drastic changes. Within weeks of the election, they signed off on tough, new restrictions, including a ban on the sale of smokable pot. The change was supported by groups representing doctors, hospitals and pharmacists who opposed medical marijuana, but it in-

furiated supporters of the state question.

"It's like they snatched defeat out of the jaws of victory," said Chip Paul, who helped write Oklahoma's medical marijuana state question and pushed for its approval. "You try to do something the proper way. You follow the rules. And then you win and you get screwed."

Even in conservative states such as Oklahoma, which became the 30th in the U.S. to legalize medical marijuana, attitudes are shifting in favor of easing restrictions on pot. But there remains resistance from policymakers, especially in Republican-controlled areas, where the rollout of medical marijuana frequently has been restricted by lawmakers or bogged down in court battles.

After more than 70 percent of Florida voters approved medical marijuana in 2016, the Republican-controlled legisla-

ture there imposed a similar ban on smokable pot. A judge last month ruled that such a ban was unconstitutional.

In Arkansas, 53 percent of voters approved medical marijuana in 2016, but a legal challenge has delayed the program. Michigan voters approved medical marijuana in 2008, only to be followed by years of court fights.

In Texas, the GOP-led legislature approved a restrictive medical marijuana law in 2015, then proceeded to institute strict regulations. It allowed only three dispensaries in a state of 27 million people and imposed the highest licensing fees in the country.

Marijuana advocates say the restrictions on how medical marijuana can be used or the additional burdens placed on doctors may wind up undermining the initiatives and laws.

More than 130 killed in Pakistan election violence

Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan — Disgraced former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was in custody Saturday, a day after the deadliest attacks in Pakistan's troubled election campaign killed more than 130 people, including a candidate.

In the southwestern province of Baluchistan, a suicide bomber killed 128 people Friday, including a politician running for a provincial legislature. Four others died in a strike in Pakistan's northwest, spreading panic in the country.

The attacks came hours before Sharif returned from London along with his daughter, Maryam, to face a 10-year prison sentence on corruption charges, anti-corruption officials said. Maryam Sharif faces seven years in jail.

Mushahidullah Khan, a spokesman for Sharif's Paki-

stan Muslim League, said Saturday that the ex-prime minister and his daughter were being held in Adiala Jail, outside the capital of Islamabad.

Sharif has been calling for supporters to vote for candidates from his party.

Khan said Sharif will appeal his conviction and apply for bail before the deadline expires on Monday. He still faces two additional corruption trials, both of which will be held inside the jail, said Khan. Security is being cited as the reason.

In the southern town of Mastung, candidate Siraj Raisani and 127 others died when a suicide bomber blew himself up amid scores of supporters who had gathered at a rally.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the horrific bombing in southwestern Baluchistan that wounded another 300 people, straining Baluchistan's health care resources.

The group gave no reason for the bombing. Raisani was running for election on the newly launched Baluchistan Awami Party ticket.

Appeals were made for donations of blood. Bodies overwhelmed the morgue as crying family members arrived to collect their dead.

On Saturday, banners decrying the tragedy fluttered over empty streets as the provincial capital of Quetta shuttered in mourning for the dead. Lawyers wearing black armbands canceled court appearances.

"Stop killing people, stop shedding blood" read one banner, while another read: "Terrorism and terrorists should be curbed with iron hands."

Within hours of the bombing in Mastung, Sharif returned to Pakistan from London, where he was visiting his ailing wife, to face corruption charges.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 neighbors settle dispute over tall trees

OR EUGENE — Neighbors in southwest Eugene have settled a long-running legal battle that centered on tall trees.

The Register-Guard reported that the settlement requires two homeowners to cut down 10 of the 23 trees at issue in the case.

A judge ruled earlier this year that homeowners Jeff Bauer and Tom Heyler violated a subdivision covenant that prohibits owners from allowing trees to unreasonably interfere with the view from other lots. Heyler tried to exempt his property by securing signatures from surrounding homeowners.

But Heyler told the newspaper he decided the fight was no longer worth the cost. He estimates he and Bauer have racked up about \$60,000 in legal fees.

Bauer and Heyler must each cut down three trees by Nov. 1. Bauer must remove four additional trees by Feb. 1.

Postal worker avoids prison for drug role

NY BUFFALO — A U.S. Postal Service employee will avoid prison for taking money from drug dealers for special deliveries to homes in western New York.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Buffalo said Thursday that Dennis Bernhard, 56, received a sentence of time served and supervised release that will include three months of confinement in his Derby home.

Authorities said the mail carrier was paid by drug dealers to provide addresses of unsuspecting people on his route in Buffalo. Then he intercepted packages of drugs mailed to the addresses and turned them over to the dealers for \$100 or more each. Bernhard pleaded guilty earlier to bribery.

Lamborghini destroyed in gas station mishap

MO KIRKWOOD — A Lamborghini erupted in flames at a suburban St. Louis gas station after a minivan driver pulled away from a gas pump with the nozzle still attached.

The Riverfront Times reported that the pump sprayed fuel into the Huracan Performante's engine in Kirkwood, causing the blue Italian supercar to ignite. No one was hurt. Police have determined it was an accident.

Bystander Parker Gelber, who is a car salesman, said he was paying inside the store and his friend was grabbing water when the vehicle that was worth more than \$275,000 was destroyed.

Another bystander captured the minivan driving off on video, but it doesn't show the fire.

2 officers save baby raccoon from sludge

MI FLINT — Two Michigan police officers are credited with rescuing a baby raccoon that was trapped in a barrel of sludge.

The Flint Journal reported that officers Maria Reed and Timothy Hilliker were responding to a call Tuesday about a strange screaming noise in Flint, about 50 miles northwest of Detroit, and found the trapped animal.

The Flint Police Department said in a statement that the raccoon "was running out of energy and nearly drowning." Police said Hilliker knocked over the barrel to free the raccoon, and an area resident helped officers clean it up with a hose and dry it off.

Reed cradled the raccoon in a towel as it recovered, and the animal got something to eat.

Man fleeing cops found dead under bulldozer

PA BERNVILLE — State police have released the name of a man found dead under a bulldozer after fleeing officers in Pennsylvania.

Police said a Pennsylvania Game Commission employee operating the bulldozer Monday on game lands in Penn Township saw a car parking in a field.

Two men fled as Bernville police arrived, and one was taken into custody.

A state police helicopter located the second man in thick underbrush but then lost sight of him. The bulldozer headed for his last known location with a trooper and the game commission employee aboard.

Police said the bulldozer stopped in the underbrush, and the body of Gregory Longenecker, 51, of Reading, was found under the rear of the vehicle.

Man gets prison for series of ATM thefts

MA PITTSFIELD — A man who pleaded guilty to helping steal several ATMs in the Berkshires was sentenced to up to four years in prison.

The Berkshire Eagle reported that Nicholas Beauchamp, 29, said he participated in a series of break-ins and thefts between August and September to help pay off drug debts. The Pittsfield man pleaded guilty to 13 charges.

He told police that he and another man stole the machines from stores, a sub shop and an American Legion post in and around Pittsfield by loading them onto a hand truck and taking them to a state forest, where they broke them open and removed the cash.

The other man's case remains open.

Teen on vacation had to float in ocean overnight

GA ST. SIMONS ISLAND — A tourist said his nighttime stroll on a Georgia beach turned his holiday into the "worst vacation ever" after a rip tide swept him out to sea.

Blake Spataro, 19, of Louisiana, told WJAX-TV he spent nearly 10 hours in the Atlantic Ocean, where no one could hear his screams over the waves and wind. He said he "didn't want to die out there," so he floated on his back and "was talking to God the entire night."

Glynn County Emergency Management Director Jay Wiggins wrote on Facebook that officials were about to switch the search from rescue to recovery Wednesday when they learned the teenager was alive. He had floated 3 miles and then realized he could walk ashore on a Sea Island golf course.

Man trying to pull over troopers is arrested

AZ PHOENIX — Arizona authorities said a uniformed security guard is accused of impersonating a police officer by trying to pull over an unmarked car that happened to contain two state troopers patrolling a Phoenix freeway.

The Department of Public Safety said Matthew Allen Disbro, 44, of Mesa, was driving his personal black Dodge Charger on Wednesday when he activated law-enforcement-style emergency lights on his Charger to pull over the troopers' yellow Ford Mustang.

According to DPS, the troopers wouldn't pull over so Disbro then drove alongside, yelled and waved a hand at the troopers to get them to pull over. They then activated their own vehicle's police lights and pulled him over.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Young France faces experienced Croatia

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Kylian Mbappe has electrified the World Cup with his speed and youthful exuberance. Luka Modric has coolly controlled matches in Russia with his graceful play in the middle.

Whether France wins its second title in 20 years or Croatia raises the trophy for the first time Sunday at the Luzhniki Stadium in front of Russian President Vladimir Putin and nearly a billion television viewers could turn on the play of the two stars.

The 19-year-old Mbappe has been the biggest sensation at the tournament in Russia, scoring three goals — including two against Argentina in the round of 16 — and creating havoc for opposing defenses with his pace and his agility.

“It’s going to be the biggest match of my life, for sure,” the Paris Saint-Germain forward said Friday.

Although Mbappe has impressed for France at the month-long tournament, Modric has been the rock and the spark for Croatia. When the Real Madrid midfielder has the ball at his feet, good things

seem to happen for Croatia.

“Even when you think they’re going to lose, or going to crack, they always have the mentality to come back,” Mbappe said of the Croatian team. “It’s a team that plays with a lot of intensity.”

France last won the World Cup title in 1998, at home. The French defeated Croatia in the semifinals that year, which until now had been the country’s best showing at the tournament.

The heads of state from both countries are expected to sit with Putin. Will Smith is set to headline the closing ceremony.

Croatia, a country of 4.5 million people which gained independence from the former Yugoslavia only 27 years ago, enters the final after playing three straight extra-time matches, including two nerve-racking penalty shootouts.

In all three of those matches, Croatia has had to recover from being a goal down. The players never gave up.

“When you put the sacred Croatia shirt on you become a different person,” Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic said through a translator. “I’m not

trying to say it’s a superior feeling that the French have for France, or Russians for Russia.

“The best feeling is to be Croat these days and this is the source of all our strength.”

While Croatia had to rally to keep advancing, France won all three of its knockout games in the regulation 90 minutes and trailed for only nine of the 540-plus minutes it has been on the field.

Europe wins

France or Croatia will become the fourth different European country to become world champion in a streak started when Italy beat the French in the 2006 final.

Spain won the 2010 title in another Europe-only final against the Netherlands, and Germany defeated Argentina in 2014 in Brazil to become the first European team to win the World Cup in South America.

Prize money

There is \$10 million in extra prize money on the line at the Luzhniki Stadium.

FIFA will give \$38 million

to the winning team’s national soccer federation. The runner-up gets \$28 million.

The total prize fund for the 32 competing teams is \$400 million. FIFA gives each team at least \$8 million.

Finals clash

Both the World Cup final and men’s final at Wimbledon are on Sunday and could overlap.

The tennis final starts in London two hours before the soccer kicks off in Moscow.

Midfield architect

If Rakitic’s soccer career had not led him to the World Cup final, he might have helped design the Luzhniki Stadium’s recent reconstruction.

Rakitic studied architecture while growing up in Switzerland, and trained at the Basel offices of Herzog & de Meuron.

He said he “worked in an office that made blueprints” for the Bird’s Nest, the main stadium for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The firm also designed the stadium for Bayern Munich that opened ahead of the 2006 World Cup.

Belgium beats England – again – in third-place match

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Belgium and England both leave the World Cup happy to have reached the semifinals. Belgium may be a little happier, though.

The Belgians earned their highest World Cup finish by beating England 2-0 in the third-place match on Saturday. Thomas Meunier and Eden Hazard scored a goal each.

“These players didn’t want to rely on talent anymore, wanted to work as a team,” Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said. “Their standards have been magnificent. They wanted to make the country proud, every single Red Devils fan proud.”

France and Croatia will play

in the final on Sunday at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. The French beat Belgium on Tuesday in the semifinals, while the Croats defeated England on Wednesday.

Meunier’s early goal matched a World Cup record for Belgium by having 10 different players score in a tournament, something only done before by France in 1982 and Italy in 2006.

Both Belgium and England were playing for the seventh time in 26 days, but the Belgians entered the match with an extra day of rest.

Meunier scored in the fourth minute, knocking a cross from Nacer Chadli past England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Hazard added the other off a pass from Kevin De Bruyne in the 82nd.

Toby Alderweireld denied England’s best chance of the game, sliding on the goal line to clear a shot from Eric Dier.

England matched its best World Cup result — fourth in 1990 — since winning the tournament for the only time in 1966.

“Today shows there’s room for improvement. We’re not the finished article. We’re still learning. We’re still getting better,” England striker Harry Kane said. “We don’t want to wait another 20-odd years to get into another major semifinal.”

Belgium’s previous best finish at the World Cup was

fourth, but the team outplayed England in the midfield to go one better this time.

The Belgians could easily have scored more, with Pickford making a good save to stop a shot from De Bruyne in the 11th and Alderweireld volleying narrowly over the bar in the 35th.

England made set pieces the cornerstone of its run to the World Cup semifinals and created chances for Harry Maguire and Dier in the second half.

Neither hit the target with their headers.

It was the second time England and Belgium met in this year’s tournament. In the group stage, both teams had already qualified before Belgium’s 1-0 win in Kaliningrad.

Kerber wins 3rd women's Grand Slam title

Associated Press

LONDON — Angelique Kerber was so steady, so patient, so accurate throughout the Wimbledon final. She never really gave Serena Williams much of a chance.

Kerber won her first championship at the All England Club and third major overall by playing cleanly as can be and picking her spots for big shots, beating Williams 6-3, 6-3 on Saturday.

"I knew that I had to play my best tennis against a champion like Serena," said Kerber, the first German woman to win Wimbledon since Steffi Graf in 1996.

She prevented Williams from claiming an eighth title at Wimbledon and 24th from all Grand Slam tournaments, which would have equaled Margaret Court's record.

Williams gave birth only 10½ months ago, then was treated for blood clots. She wore special compression leggings as a precaution during Wimbledon, just the fourth tournament of her

comeback. After all the time away, Williams spoke about being impressed with herself for just reaching the final. She also wanted to win, of course.

"To all the moms out there, I was playing for you today — and I tried," said the 36-year-old American, her voice shaking during the trophy ceremony.

"Angelique played really well," Williams said. "She played out of her mind."

Kerber made only five unforced errors the entire match, 19 fewer than Williams. Perhaps more impressive was this: She broke Williams in four of nine service games.

The 30-year-old German lost to Williams in the 2016 Wimbledon final. She beat Williams in the Australian Open final that year, then won that year's U.S. Open to briefly replace her at No. 1 in the rankings.

Kerber addressed Williams during the on-court interviews, saying: "You're such an inspiration for everybody, for all of us. I'm sure you will have your next Grand Slam title soon. I'm really, really sure."

The final started more than two hours late, because they had to wait for the end of Novak Djokovic's five-set victory over Rafael Nadal in a men's semi-final that was suspended the night before.

Williams' play was tight right from the outset.

After taking the opening two points, she made four miscues in a row to get broken. That was part of a run in which she dropped 8 of 9 points. The American was mostly her own undoing, too: She was responsible for the final's initial six unforced errors. By the time the first set was over, the disparity was 14-3.

That's not going to work against an opponent of Kerber's quality.

Trying to sneak a ball by Kerber is something akin to trying to put one past a brick wall. There are no holes.

The left-hander scurried along the baseline, this way and that, using a combination of quickness and anticipation to track down what often appeared to be winners for Wil-

iams but were not enough to end a point. Kerber would bend real low, even putting a knee right on the grass to get a ball back.

And when she swung her racket, the measure was almost always true.

That's not to say Kerber is only about defending. She has added a more aggressive element to her game in recent years. That was on display Saturday when she delivered a pair of down-the-line forehand passing winners to collect the last break she'd need, for a 4-2 edge in the second set.

Soon enough, she was down on the grass, celebrating the moment and caking dirt on her white dress.

"It was such an amazing tournament for me. I was really happy to get this far," Williams said.

"It's obviously disappointing, but I can't be disappointed. I have so much to look forward to. I'm literally just getting started," she added.

Groenewegen takes 2nd straight Tour de France stage

Associated Press

AMIENS, France — Dylan Groenewegen has turned the sprinting battle at the Tour de France into a three-man race.

The 25-year-old Dutch rider won his second consecutive stage on Saturday, joining world champion Peter Sagan and Tour newcomer Fernando Gaviria as two-stage winners at this edition of the world's leading cycling race.

Groenewegen entered the final meters of Stage 8 behind Andre Greipel, Gaviria and Sagan, but the Team LottoNL-Jumbo rider timed his last surge perfectly, swinging around his hard-charging opponents to cross first.

"It was a hectic (finish), but that's every day in the Tour," Groenewegen said. "I am very happy with my team. The last two days have been very good

with two wins."

Greipel and Gaviria crossed next, but their results were disqualified after they dangerously jockeyed for position in the final meters, though they both keep their times.

Greipel boxed Gaviria in next to the barrier on the left-hand side of the street, appearing to nudge him with his side. Gaviria responded by pushing back, even knocking Greipel with his helmet.

That meant that Sagan officially finished second, with John Degenkolb in third.

"The legs have been better every day," Groenewegen said, adding that "the team did an amazing job and put me in a great position. I saw Gaviria and Greipel were fighting for position but I saw the finish line and thought, 'This is the moment.'"

Olympic road race champion

Greg Van Avermaet, who is riding in support of BMC leader Richie Porte, kept the overall lead for a fifth consecutive day.

Van Avermaet picked up a one-second bonus overall during an intermediate bonus sprint at 20K from the finish. That increased his lead over Froome's teammate Geraint Thomas in second to 7 seconds and his own BMC teammate Tejay Van Garderen to 9 seconds.

Four-time winner Chris Froome is in 12th place at 1 minute, 6 seconds behind Van Avermaet.

The mostly flat 112-mile ride from Dreux to Amiens was won by Groenewegen in 4 hours, 23 minutes.

It comes before the three-week race faces one of its most difficult legs when it hits the tricky and occasionally treacherous cobblestones.

Sunday's Stage 9 will take riders over 15 cobbled paths scattered along 21.7 kilometers of the 156.5-kilometer course from Arras to Roubaix, near the Belgian border.

Van Avermaet won the single-day cobblestone Paris-Roubaix race in 2017. He says he will try to keep the yellow jersey while his teammates work for Porte.

"We will try to do both," the Belgian said. "We will try to keep Richie with me, but if I have to follow another rider or attack, the other six guys will take care of Richie."

That cobblestone challenge will be followed by a rest day on Monday before the race shifts to its first mountain stages in the Alps.

Fans helped celebrate Bastille Day by waving French flags along the side of road as riders moved north of Paris through wheat fields to Amiens.

Muncy helps Dodgers rally past Angels

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Max Muncy tuned up for next week's Home Run Derby and the Los Angeles Dodgers kept a slim hold on their lead in the NL West standings.

Muncy homered and drove in the tying run in the seventh inning, helping the Dodgers rally past the Angels 3-2 on Friday night in the resumption of the Freeway Series.

The Angels took two out of three last week in Anaheim. The series is tied 2-2 with two games remaining.

Muncy singled to deep right-center off Cam Bedrosian (3-2), scoring pinch-hitter Logan Forsythe and Joc Pederson to put

the Dodgers ahead 3-2.

Muncy took second on right fielder Kole Calhoun's throw that sailed over the head of catcher Jose Briceno. Bedrosian scrambled to the backstop, but he bobbled the ball and had no throw to the plate as Pederson scored.

"I got it kind of on my right side, I don't think I ever really got closed all the way," Calhoun said. "Just kind of sailed that throw and with Joc on second I felt like I might have to hurry a little bit and turns out he wasn't even going. It's just a throw that's got to be down and just not executed by me."

Caleb Ferguson (2-1) got the win with two perfect innings of relief with three strikeouts.

Scott Alexander induced a double play to end the ninth for his first save.

The Angels got the potential tying run on in the ninth when pinch-hitter Shohei Ohtani doubled with one out. Briceno beat out the throw from shortstop to put runners on the corners. David Fletcher grounded into a game-ending double play to third base. Second baseman Logan Forsythe's throw pulled first baseman Cody Bellinger off the bag and he barely tagged Fletcher before he got to the bag for the final out.

"Cody did a lot to help us win defensively," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "If that goes awry and they score it could get a little dicey."

Mike Trout went 1-for-4 with two strikeouts for the Angels, who were without slugger Albert Pujols. He went on the disabled list earlier Friday.

Pena gave up one run and three hits in four innings. He struck out five and walked three.

Dodgers rookie Walker Buehler came off the disabled list to make his first start since June 8. He allowed two runs and six hits in five innings, struck out five and walked one.

"Kind of a battle, one of those grinder games," Buehler said. "I'm still trying to find my rhythm. The velocity was still up and down a little."

MLB roundup

Mets' Syndergaard wins in return from disabled list

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Noah Syndergaard pitched out of trouble in a rusty return from the disabled list and helped himself with an RBI single as the New York Mets beat the Washington Nationals 4-2 on Friday night.

Amed Rosario tripled and doubled, both times over Bryce Harper's head in center field, and the Mets won for only the sixth time in their last 26 home games. Brandon Nimmo had three hits for New York, which built a three-run cushion in the first inning against struggling starter Tanner Roark.

Roark (3-12) became the first 12-game loser in the majors this season. He allowed four runs and eight hits in five innings.

Matt Adams homered for the inconsistent Nationals, who fell back to .500 at 47-47. They have lost just three of 13 games at Citi Field since the start of last season.

After missing seven weeks with a strained ligament in his right index finger, Syndergaard (5-1) came out firing 99 mph fastballs.

Robert Gsellman gave up Adams' upper-deck shot in the eighth but got six outs for his fourth save.

Blue Jays 13, Red Sox 7: Kevin Pillar had four hits and Justin Smoak had three, including a pair of homers, and they drove in four runs apiece to help visiting Toronto snap Boston's 10-game winning streak.

Mookie Betts had three hits, including two triples, to raise his major league-leading batting average to .357. J.D. Martinez had two hits for the Red Sox, who won 15 of their previous 17 games.

Phillies 2, Marlins 0: Aaron Altherr drove in his first run of July and later started a sensational relay to protect the lead, helping Jake Arrieta and Philadelphia top host Miami.

Indians 6, Yankees 5: Rookie right-hander Shane Bieber pitched into the eighth inning and host Cleveland's shaky bullpen narrowly closed things out.

Bieber (5-1) was removed after Tyler Wade's leadoff double in the eighth and Cleveland

leading 6-3. Brett Gardner's RBI groundout cut the lead to two and set up a tense ninth inning.

Cubs 5, Padres 4 (10): Anthony Rizzo hit a tying double with two outs in the ninth inning and Javier Baez scored the go-ahead run on consecutive errors with one out in the 10th, lifting visiting Chicago over San Diego.

Pirates 7, Brewers 3: Josh Bell tied a career high with four hits, Gregory Polanco homered and both drove in two runs to lead host Pittsburgh over Milwaukee.

Twins 11, Rays 8: Joe Mauer homered and drove in four runs, Jake Cave had three hits and a pair of RBIs, and Robbie Grossman added three hits for Minnesota, which has won eight of nine games on its homestand.

Giants 7, Athletics 1: Buster Posey singled in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning and host San Francisco slowed down surging Oakland.

Reds 9, Cardinals 1: Scooter Gennett and Dilson Herrera homered, Matt Harvey (5-5) tossed five solid innings and

visiting Cincinnati beat St. Louis.

Rangers 5, Orioles 4: At Baltimore, Ryan Rua had a tie-breaking, pinch-hit three-run homer in the seventh inning and Texas held on to snap a three-game losing streak.

Rockies 10, Mariners 7: Trevor Story homered and drove in four runs, Charlie Blackmon also connected and Tony Wolters had three RBIs for host Colorado, which won its third straight.

Diamondbacks 2, Braves 1: Nick Ahmed hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh after Zack Godley allowed a run over six innings and visiting Arizona beat Atlanta.

Astros 3, Tigers 0: Dallas Keuchel pitched six strong innings, three relievers completed the seven-hitter and Alex Bregman provided the offense by setting a career high with his 20th homer to give host Houston a win over Detroit.

White Sox 9, Royals 6: Leury Garcia had three hits and three RBIs, All-Star Jose Abreu homered for the first time in July and Chicago beat visiting Kansas City.