

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Marines alter policy on tattoos

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A new tattoo policy unveiled Thursday allows Marines to join other servicemembers in showing a bit more ink but continues to ban arm-covering designs.

Gen. Robert Neller, the Marines commandant, issued the tattoo policy in a 32-page bulletin that does not include any of the drastic changes approved recently by other military services.

Last year, the Army approved the popular sleeve tattoos. In March, the Navy also allowed sailors to sport sleeves and a small neck tattoo.

Marines are banned from inking their head, neck, wrists, knees, elbows and hands, other than a single band tattoo of less than 3/8 of an inch wide on one of their fingers — such as a wedding ring tattoo.

Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green said he and Neller spent months developing the new policy, which intends to simplify the regulation last updated in 2010.

“We’ve attempted to balance the individual desires of Marines with the need to maintain the disciplined appearance expected of our profession,” Green said in a prepared statement.

The policy does not regulate tattoos that are not visible when wearing the Marine Corps’ physical training uniform, but it limits the amount of ink Marines can show in the standard shorts and T-shirts. Marines sporting tattoos allowed in older regulations will not be affected by the new policy.

Visible band tattoos — that wrap around an arm or leg — can be up to three inches wide, an inch larger than the previous policy allowed.

## New Philippines leader could impact US troop-rotation plans

By TARA COPP  
*Stars and Stripes*

SINGAPORE — Rodrigo Duterte’s election as president of the Philippines could affect U.S. plans for increased troop rotations to the island nation, U.S. defense officials said Thursday.

Those rotations are part of a deal providing for closer U.S.-Philippine military cooperation that was agreed to under the outgoing administration of President Benigno Aquino III.

The deal followed growing concern in the Philippines about Chinese moves in the South China Sea.

However, in the weeks since Duterte’s victory in early May, the president-elect has signaled that he will try to repair strained relations with China and to reduce the Philippines’ reliance on the U.S. to address regional security issues, including the militarization of the South China Sea.

At a press conference this week, Duterte, who takes office June 30, said he welcomes direct Philippine-Chinese negotiations and that his country would “not be dependent upon America” in charting its future policy.

“We have this pact with the West, but I want everybody to know that we will be charting a course of our own,” Duterte said, according to Reuters. “It will be a line that is not intended to please anybody but Filipino interest.”

The Philippines is among many countries in the region that have been at odds with China’s

actions in the South China Sea, including the reclamation of land in the Spratly Islands and the seizure of Scarborough Shoal from the Philippines in 2012.

During his visit to Manila in April at the end of joint U.S.-Philippine military exercises, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced the U.S. would temporarily leave behind 275 military personnel, special operations aircraft and A-10 attack planes as part of the U.S.-Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

The resumption of a regular, rotational, U.S. military presence on the islands would “deter uncalled-for action by the Chinese,” outgoing Philippine Defense Minister Voltaire Gazmin said at the time.

It remains to be seen, however, what Duterte’s election means to U.S. plans in the Philippines.

On Wednesday in a briefing with reporters, Carter said that the terms of the defense agreement, which include increased U.S. rotations, “are on track. We haven’t changed our plans at all.”

The U.S.-Philippine relationship, Carter said, “is an alliance relationship, we take that very seriously. It’s longstanding. It is ironclad. It is with a democracy. So they have a new government there, and we look forward to working with them.”

The U.S. will discuss the security agreement with Duterte and his administration after he is sworn in, said a senior U.S. defense official traveling with Carter, who is traveling to Singapore for the annual Shangri-La security dialogue.

## Army report: Contractor use erodes skills

*The Washington Post*

Current restrictions on U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan and a heavy reliance on civilian contractors are eroding the skills and cohesion of units deployed to the country, according to information from the Army given to the House Armed Services Committee and provided to *The Washington Post*.

According to an Army docu-

ment, the use of civilian labor in one of the Army’s combat aviation brigades, or CABs, in Afghanistan has had negative side effects because the contractors are being used in lieu of the brigade’s maintenance soldiers.

Those soldiers should be deploying with their units, but are not because of the “constrained troop level environment” in Afghanistan, the document says.

“Aviation maintainers not deploying with their [brigades] results in an erosion of skill and experience essential to soldier and leader development,” Army officials said in the document. “The atrophy of these critical skills erodes the brigade’s ability to deploy in the future and sustain itself in an expeditionary manner to locations that may not permit the deployment of contractors.”

## China defense zone plans spur concerns ahead of summit

BY ERIK SLAVIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Concerns linger over a potential move by China to declare an Air Defense Identification Zone over the South China Sea, as world leaders and defense ministers gather for an annual summit in Singapore this weekend.

The United States and Japan already have refused to abide by China's unilaterally declared ADIZ over the East China Sea, which was announced in 2013.

The zone includes airspace over Japan's Senkaku Islands, which China claims and where Chinese and Japanese jets have scrambled repeatedly in recent years.

A South China Sea ADIZ would be significantly more provocative, Navy and U.S. officials say.

Depending on the extent of the zone, it could cover territories and waters claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, Brunei and Indonesia. It also could cover international waters and could apply rules inconsistent with U.S. interpretations of international law.

"A Chinese ADIZ in the South China Sea could lead to tense mid-air encounters between U.S. and Chinese aircraft, especially as China has previously demonstrated a willingness to challenge U.S. military aircraft in contested maritime areas," said a March report by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Challenges by Beijing over sovereignty claims and by Washington in demonstrating rights to sail and fly in international waters have increased in the past year.

Chinese fighter jets exhibited "dangerous behavior" when they intercepted a U.S. patrol plane on May 17 in international waters, U.S. officials later said, though Beijing countered that its aircraft kept a safe distance.

China's time frame for declaring a South China Sea ADIZ — if it happens at all — remains unclear.

On Wednesday, a report from the South China Morning Post cited unidentified sources "close to the People's Liberation Army" as saying that China was preparing a South China Sea ADIZ.

## Navy kicks off 'complex' CARAT exercise series

BY LEON COOK  
*Stars and Stripes*

The United States began its 22nd annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training on Wednesday in Malaysia, kicking off a five-month series of exercises with armed forces from nine Southeast Asian countries.

CARAT is the premier naval exercise in South and Southeast Asia and provides a regional venue for partner nations to address shared maritime security priorities and to develop sustained partnerships, a Navy statement said.

"Our persistent engagement with our allies and partners through CARAT builds trust and creates strong relationships that endure beyond the exercise series," said Rear Adm. Charles Williams, commander of the Malaysia-based Navy Task Force 73. "This translates to increased readiness and interoperability that allows us to work closely with navies across the region and enhance cooperative maritime security."

CARAT's Malaysian leg is taking place on the ground in Sandakan, a city on the northeastern corner of Borneo, and in the waters and airspace above the Sulu Sea, between the Philippines and Malaysia.

CARAT Malaysia's harbor phase will include an amphibious landing, along with explosive-ordnance and noncombat training. At sea, flight operations training, naval gunnery drills and surface warfare maneuvers are scheduled.

The Navy says this year's CARAT series will be the most complex to date.

"We've been working very closely with the Malaysian armed forces for 22 years as part of CARAT," said Capt. H.B. Le, commodore of Destroyer Squadron 7. "Over that time, we've developed a familiarity with each other's capabilities that allows us to push the envelope with the planning and execution of each exercise, something that is important in such a diverse maritime environment."

CARAT is mostly a bilateral exercise, meaning the U.S. will work with only one other nation's forces at a time. After Malaysia, additional bilateral phases are scheduled with Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and East Timor through November.

Other nations may provide assets or send observers, and some events will be multilateral, involving forces from three or more countries.

U.S. ships and units participating in the Malaysia leg include the guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem, the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland, the expeditionary transfer dock USNS Montford Point, a P-3C Orion patrol plane, staff from Task Force 73 and Destroyer Squadron 7, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, Coastal Riverine Group 1 and Marines from 3rd Marine Division.

cook.leon@stripes.com

## Navy fires captain over 'hostile work environment'

*Stars and Stripes*

The commander of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Newport Division has been fired for leadership problems.

Capt. Howard Goldman was relieved of duty Wednesday because of a "loss of confidence in his ability to command based on findings of an investigation into a hostile work environment and poor command climate," the Navy said.

Goldman, who had served as commanding officer of the Rhode Island division since November 2014, has been reassigned to Naval Station Newport, the Navy said.

"Command in the Navy is all about responsibility and accountability," Goldman told the Navy Times Wednesday. "I was responsible to lead NUWC Division Newport and that leadership did not meet standards. I was held accountable. I accept that

decision."

Goldman took command of the submarine USS Toledo in 2006 and Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 2011, according to Navy records.

Capt. Geoffrey G. DeBeauclair, chief of staff for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, will temporarily replace Goldman until a permanent officer is assigned.

# Bay area fans enjoying life

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif.— Stephen Curry and LeBron James dueling on the court in the NBA Finals as the Golden State Warriors look to cap a record-breaking season with a second straight title. Joe Thornton and Sidney Crosby matching up on the ice as the San Jose Sharks look to win the Stanley Cup for the first time ever.

The Bay Area that is usually known for high-tech innovations, wine country and spectacular views will be the center of the sports world this weekend when it plays host to both the NBA Finals and the Stanley Cup Final, as well as the Copa America soccer tournament.

"This is great for sports fans, regardless of if you follow each respective sport all year-round or whatnot, this is a great time to kind of tune in and be a sports fan in the Bay Area," Curry said. "Obviously, the world's eyes are going to be here in Oakland, San Jose, Levi's Stadium. So it's fun."

Everyone is getting on board, with several players from the area's other teams frequently attending Warriors and Sharks playoff games. When the Sharks clinched a Stanley Cup berth, 49ers general manager Trent Baalke was right next to Sharks counterpart Doug Wilson offering congratulations.

A group of Athletics went over to watch a Warriors shootaround before one of their own games earlier this postseason. Raiders coach and Bay Area native Jack Del Rio has attended both Sharks and Warriors playoff games this spring.

"I think it's inspiring for sure," Del Rio said. "I take great pride in having been from this area. Even when it wasn't good, Warriors had some lean years, whatever. Different sports teams have lean years,

if you're a true fan, you're still there. But there's nothing like it when you get it going and we're all enjoying it. That's what's happening right now with the Warriors and the Sharks, and we'd love to join that."

The drama started Monday when the Warriors won Game 7 of the Western Conference finals at home, while the Sharks were losing Game 1 of the Cup Final in Pittsburgh.

That was the last overlap game of the season for the two teams, meaning fans can put their remotes aside and focus on only one game each night.

The Warriors will host Cleveland in Games 1 and 2 of the NBA Finals on Thursday and Sunday nights. The Sharks will host Pittsburgh in Games 3 and 4 of the Stanley Cup Final on Saturday and Monday.

"It's something that you strive toward," Raiders quarterback Derek Carr said. "Just to see the city on fire for both teams is pretty sweet."

For those with more national than local pride, there's even some big-time soccer in the area as well. The U.S. men's soccer team opens play in the Copa America tournament in Santa Clara on Friday night against Colombia, while Lionel Messi and Argentina take on Chile on Monday.

This marks the ninth time that one market will host the championships for the NBA and the NHL in the same year, with the Bay Area joining East Rutherford, N.J. (2003), New York City (1972 and '94), Chicago (1992), Philadelphia (1980) and Boston (1974, '58 and '57).

None of those markets won both titles in the same year, with New York coming closest in 1994 when the Rangers won the Stanley Cup against Vancouver and the Knicks lost the NBA Finals to Houston in seven games.

This is the best run for Bay Area teams since the A's won three World Series titles from 1972-74, the Warriors won the NBA championship in 1975 and the Raiders won the Super Bowl following the 1976 season.

This current run started in 2010 when the Giants won their first World Series since moving to San Francisco. They followed that up with titles in 2012 and '14 and are currently in first place in the NL West as they hope to extend their streak of even-year championships.

After years of struggles, the Warriors have turned it around under owners Joe Lacob and Peter Guber. They won their first championship in 40 years last season and followed that up by winning a record 73 games in the regular season and making it back to the Finals.

The Sharks shed 25 years of playoff disappointment this year when they made it to the Stanley Cup Final for the first time ever.

The 49ers are just over three years removed from a Super Bowl trip and even hosted the big game earlier this year, meaning that three of North America's Big Four team sports will contest their championships in the Bay Area in a span of less than four months.

Even the Raiders appear to be on the rise after 13 straight seasons without a playoff berth.

"We've been blessed with some great sports organizations and success from when I was here, the Niners were so good," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "They were going to the championship game every year. They were playing in the Super Bowl. The Giants obviously won in the World Series, and the Raiders make another resurgence, and obviously with the Sharks and the Stanley Cup, it's really cool."

# Navy has tough job awaiting

The (Annapolis, Md.) Capital

The way Navy baseball coach Paul Kostacopoulos sees it, who better to pull off an upset in enemy territory than a team full of current and future military officers?

And while Kostacopoulos acknowledges the challenge his team faces on Friday against 13th-ranked North Carolina State in the NCAA Tournament, he knows poise won't be an issue for the Mids despite the game being played before the Wolfpack's home fans at Doak Field at Dail Park, where the home team is 23-7 this season.

"We talk about this all the time, we talk about using the aspects of learned behavior, if you will, of the Naval Academy," Kostacopoulos said on Wednesday. "They're under a lot of pressure to perform and that can be in various ways, not just athletically. They're used to adversity and used to different environments."

"We feel like we're gaining something from Bancroft Hall when we go on the field, and this is the time when you've got to use it," said Kostacopoulos, in his 11th season at Navy. "It's going to be a tough place to play, and we're going to have to tap into all that stuff that goes into being a midshipman."

Navy, the region's No. 4 seed, will be playing in its first NCAA Tournament since 2011. The Midshipmen (42-14-1) earned an automatic berth by winning the Patriot League title in a three-game series over Holy Cross, two games to one.

In 2011, Navy was sent to the Charlottesville Regional and paired with host Virginia, the No. 1 team in the nation. The Mids were blanked by the Cavs, 6-0, before being eliminated the next day by East Carolina, 6-1. Navy's last NCAA victory was in 2005, a 6-4 win over George Washington.

North Carolina State, members of the Atlantic Coast Conference, are hosting the Raleigh Regional thanks to a 35-20 record compiled against the second most difficult schedule in the nation, according to D1Baseball.com's RPI ratings. N.C. State, ranked No. 10 in the RPI, also went 12-11 against the top 25 teams and 19-17 against the top 50.

The Wolfpack boast a team batting average of .300, and four position players were named to ACC all-conference teams.

"You can't be one of the top 10 or so teams in the country and not have a lot in a lot of areas," Kostacopoulos said. "They have quality starting pitching, they have relievers they go to with comfort and ease, and their offense is very balanced. They're the kind of team that does all facets well, and it's reflective of where they stand in the country."

Navy's strength is pitching, as the Mids rank fourth in the country in team ERA at 2.78. The Mids will send ace left-hander Luke Gillingham to the mound against the Wolfpack. A second team All-American last season, Gillingham was the Patriot League Pitcher of the Year in 2016.

# Iguodala an unsung hero for Warriors

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — All season long, MVP Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green drew the attention and accolades.

When it comes to the biggest moments of the playoffs, that's when the Golden State Warriors turn to Andre Iguodala.

Last year's NBA Finals MVP is a major reason why the defending champions are back in this spot with a chance to repeat.

"He's always kind of our unsung hero. He never has the numbers that jump out at you in the box score, so people don't write about him or show him much on the highlights," coach Steve Kerr said. "But he's a phenomenal defensive player and he's an incredibly intelligent player. He settles us down on offense and takes the toughest assignment on defense."

Not bad being compared to Scottie Pippen, either.

Iguodala's stingy, reliable defense while regularly drawing the opponent's best player has earned him that very compliment from Kerr, a former teammate of

Pippen's on the Chicago Bulls.

Last June, the play of Iguodala against LeBron James helped swing the NBA Finals for the Warriors, and he was called upon again to handle the daunting load that is Kevin Durant in the deciding Game 7 of the Western Conference finals.

He shined, as usual. The unflappable Iguodala appeared loose while joking around with teammates on the Oracle Arena court after Wednesday's practice ahead of Game 1 against the Cavaliers on Thursday. He played 43 minutes in just his second start of the season and first of these playoffs for the 73-win Warriors in a 96-88 win Monday night.

In the last two games when the Warriors depended on his defense against Durant, he played more than 81 minutes combined for his highest two outputs of any regulation game all season.

"He's going to need some good treatment tomorrow, for sure," Curry said only half-jokingly afterward. "He's such a Swiss Army knife kind of guy where he can do so much on the floor ... just his presence as a playmaker and a seasoned

vet. You kind of never know what's on his mind by looking at his face. He always kind of has the same mannerisms and whatnot, and it keeps us just composed and at peace with whatever the situation is."

Inserting Iguodala back into the starting lineup Monday proved a spot-on move by Kerr, who made a similar switch during last year's Finals as Golden State beat James and Cleveland in six games for the franchise's first championship in 40 years. Kerr used Iguodala to start the second of a thrilling Game 6 comeback at Oklahoma City, too.

He's rarely rattled. Now, he will get up close and personal with James again.

The Warriors greatly missed Iguodala's presence and energy off the bench in March as he nursed a left ankle injury.

After Golden State lost Game 1 to the Thunder at home, Iguodala missed his first five shots in a Game 2 win before a beautiful double-clutch, no-look layup in the final minute of the first half and then an alley-oop dunk the next time down that put the Warriors up 57-49 at halftime.



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# Pens top Sharks in OT

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby enters the faceoff circle with a plan every time, well aware it will almost certainly evaporate once the puck smacks the ice.

That doesn't stop the Pittsburgh superstar from doing it, because every once in a while the idea in his head morphs into reality. Times like Wednesday night, when Crosby's improvisation helped move the Penguins within two victories of the Stanley Cup.

Crosby's faceoff win helped set up Conor Sheary's perfectly placed wrist shot 2:35 into overtime, one that lifted the Penguins to a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks and a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"I call 25 faceoffs a night," Crosby said

with a laugh. "I got 24 wrong tonight."

It's the one Crosby got right that will live on if the Penguins find a way to close out their fourth championship. Just before heading to the dot to the right of San Jose goalie Martin Jones, Crosby told Sheary to line up on the wall and then look for a soft spot in the San Jose defense.

Crosby won the draw and dropped it to defenseman Kris Letang, who feigned a shot then slipped it to Sheary. The 23-year-old rookie zipped it over Jones' outstretched glove for his fourth goal of the playoffs and second of the series.

"It's pretty surreal," said Sheary, who began the season in the minor leagues.

Game 3 is Saturday night in San Jose.

Sharks defenseman Justin Braun tied it with 4:05 left in regulation, but San Jose fell to 0-4 when pushed to overtime in the

playoffs after getting largely outplayed for much of the night by the quicker Penguins.

Phil Kessel scored his 10th goal of the postseason for Pittsburgh, and Matt Murray made 21 stops. The Penguins have not trailed at any point while reeling off four straight playoff victories after falling behind in the Eastern Conference finals against Tampa Bay.

"Game 1 was decided in last two minutes, tonight was decided in overtime," Sharks coach Peter DeBoer said. "We'll hold off on the funeral."

Maybe, but time is running out. Only five teams in NHL history have come back from a 2-0 deficit in the final to win the Cup, a hole the Sharks find themselves in despite Braun's second career playoff goal and 28 stops by Martin Jones.

# Williams rallies into French semifinals

Associated Press

PARIS — Defending champion Serena Williams pulled out quite a comeback in the French Open quarterfinals, coming back from a set and a break down to beat Yulia Putintseva 5-7, 6-4, 6-1.

How close was Williams to her earliest exit at a Grand Slam tournament since Wimbledon in 2014? Putintseva, who is from Kazakhstan and ranked only 60th, twice was a point from serving for the biggest victory of her career.

"She played unbelievable. And I honestly didn't think I was going to win that in the second set," said Williams, who will face another unseeded opponent, 58th-ranked Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands, in the semifinals. "Somehow I did."

She made 11 unforced errors before Putintseva committed a single one, and at the end of the first set, the count was 24-2, which seems like it might be a typo but is not. Williams got so desperate at one point that she shifted her racket to her left hand to try a shot that way — and whiffed.

By the end, the unforced error statistics read this way: Williams 43, Putintseva 16.

But by the end, too, Williams was asserting herself as no one else currently on tour can, winding up with twice as many winners as Putintseva, 36-18.

Still on target to win a fourth straight major title and complete a career Grand Slam, Novak Djokovic advanced to the semifinals for a record sixth straight time.

The top-seeded Serb beat Tomas Berdych 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 Thursday, a day after completing a four-set win over Roberto Bautista Agut.

Only Roger Federer, with 39 major semifinals, and Jimmy Connors, with 31, have participated in more major semifinals in the Open era.

Djokovic will next face No. 13 Dominic Thiem. The Austrian beat No. 12 David Goffin of Belgium 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4, 6-1.

Williams now can continue her quest for a 22nd Grand Slam title, which would equal Steffi Graf's Open-era record.

Since getting No. 21 at Wimbledon a year ago for her fourth consecutive major championship, Williams has bowed out in the semifinals of the U.S. Open last September against Roberta Vinci of Italy — ending the American's bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam — and in the final of the Australian Open this January against Angelique Kerber of Germany.

This setback would have come in the quarterfinals, though, and against a more unheralded opponent. Putintseva is only 21, 13 years younger than Williams, and had never been past the third round of any major tournament until this one.

Yet Putintseva — who used to train with Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou — threw her 5-foot-4 frame into groundstrokes to send balls deep into the court and make things rather interesting for two sets.

At 5-all in the first, Williams went ahead 40-love on her serve, only to get broken. Putintseva then served out that set at love when Williams — what else? — flubbed a backhand. Putintseva yelled with joy and waved her arms, telling the spectators to rejoice with her.

Williams hadn't lost a set in the tournament until this match, and this was more like a year ago at Roland Garros, where she was forced to win five three-setters on the way to the championship.

# Orioles overcome 5 HRs by BoSox

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Orioles manager Buck Showalter had already seen plenty of wacky things happen during a wild, back-and-forth slugfest.

Then, things got really weird.

A potential double-play grounder whisked through the legs of Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia, and Baltimore turned the miscue into the tie-breaking run in a 13-9 victory over the Red Sox on Wednesday night.

Matt Wieters had three RBIs for the Orioles, who won for the third time in 10 games despite allowing five home runs. Baltimore, by contrast, failed to go deep yet still reached a season high in runs.

Pedroia's error came in the sixth inning with the score tied at 8. After Clay Buchholz (3-6) walked Chris Davis and Mark Trumbo, Wieters hit a grounder to second. The ball skidded under Pedroia's glove, and Davis scored to give Baltimore the lead for good.

"That's when you know it's Twilight Zone night," Showalter said. "Actually, when it happened I said, 'We might have a shot.' He's one of the best second basemen you'll ever see."

Pedroia — a four-time Gold Glove winner — had two errors in 50 games this season.

"I missed it. We're not robots," Pedroia said. "It's part of the game, man. You make errors sometimes. Just wish they are not in that situation, but it's part of it."

The Orioles added another run in that inning and pulled away with a three-run seventh.

Hyun Soo Kim and Pedro Alvarez each had three hits, and Davis drew four walks for Baltimore.

Xander Bogaerts extended his hitting streak to 25 games — second-longest in the majors this season — and Mookie Betts added two homers to go with the three he clocked on Tuesday night. After connecting in the first and second innings of this game, Boston's leadoff hitter had five home runs in seven at-bats.

Chris Young also homered twice for the Red Sox, and David Ortiz had a solo shot to move into a tie with Jim Rice for third place on the team's RBI list with 1,451.

After the game, Boston optioned starter Joe Kelly to Triple-A Pawtucket and recalled right-hander Noe Ramirez from the same minor league club. Kelly allowed

seven runs in 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings and ended the night with an 8.46 ERA.

Brad Brach (5-0) pitched 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings of scoreless relief for Baltimore, which pulled within two games of first-place Boston in the AL East.

Zach Britton got four outs for his 15th save.

The first three innings featured 15 runs, 17 hits and two starting pitchers fortunate to emerge from the mess with a no-decision.

**White Sox 2, Mets 1:** Relief pitcher Matt Albers doubled leading off the 13th inning for his first hit since 2007 and scored the tiebreaking run, his first in the majors, to help the Chicago White Sox beat the New York Mets 2-1 on Wednesday.

Todd Frazier tied the score in the seventh with his major league-leading 17th homer for the White Sox, who overcame 13 walks by their pitching staff.

Albers (2-4) relieved closer David Robertson to start the 12th and led off the 13th in his first at-bat since 2009. With the outfield playing shallow, he drove a 1-2 pitch from Logan Verrett (3-3) to left-center, and the ball rolled to the fence on two hops.

**Athletics 5, Twins 1:** Danny Valencia had three hits, including a pair of doubles; Billy Butler added two hits and an RBI and host Oakland beat Minnesota to win its fifth straight game.

**Brewers 3, Cardinals 1:** Zach Davies had a career-high nine strikeouts over eight shutout innings and Milwaukee averted a three-game sweep with a win over visiting St. Louis.

**Cubs 2, Dodgers 1:** Jon Lester pitched a four-hitter for his first complete game of the season, helping host Chicago edge Los Angeles despite another lackluster night at the plate.

The Cubs finished with just three hits against Mike Bolsinger (1-2) and two relievers after they managed only one in Tuesday night's 5-0 loss to Los Angeles.

**Indians 5, Rangers 4 (11):** Yan Gomes' single scored Lonnie Chisenhall with the winning run in the 11th inning, and host Cleveland defeated Texas.

**Tigers 3, Angels 0:** Michael Fulmer took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and completed 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> dominant innings to lift Detroit over host Los Angeles.

**Blue Jays 7, Yankees 0:** Aaron Sanchez (5-1) pitched 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings to win his fourth straight decision, Edwin Encarnacion had two RBIs and Toronto beat visiting New

York to complete a three-game sweep.

**Nationals 7, Phillies 2:** Max Scherzer had 11 strikeouts in eight sharp innings, Wilson Ramos hit a three-run homer and visiting Washington finished a three-game sweep of Philadelphia.

Danny Espinosa also went deep for the Nationals, who have won four straight. NL MVP Bryce Harper missed his second straight game after bruising his right knee when hit by a pitch Monday.

**Marlins 3, Pirates 2:** Adeiny Hechavarría hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning to lift Miami over visiting Pittsburgh.

Marlins starter Adam Conley took a no-hitter into the sixth and tied a career high with nine strikeouts in six shutout innings.

**Braves 5, Giants 4 (11):** Freddie Freeman homered leading off the 11th inning to give host Atlanta a victory over San Francisco.

**Royals 6, Rays 3:** Danny Duffy pitched six effective innings and rookie Whit Merrifield had two hits and scored a run as Kansas City beat Tampa Bay to complete a 6-0 homestand.

The last time the Royals had a homestand of 6-0 or better was June 2-8, 1988, when they went 7-0.

**Reds 7, Rockies 2:** John Lamb overcame a liner off his left leg to throw a career-high seven innings and help Cincinnati beat host Colorado.

**Astros 5, Diamondbacks 4 (11):** George Springer homered with two outs in the 11th inning to lift Houston over visiting Arizona for the Astros' fifth straight win, and third in a row against the Diamondbacks.

Springer hit the first pitch he saw from Tyler Clippard (2-2) off the facade in left-center for his 13th home run of the season and first career walk-off shot.

**Padres 14, Mariners 6:** Alexei Ramirez homered twice and matched his career high with five RBIs, Adam Rosales and Wil Myers also went deep and host San Diego routed Seattle hours after Padres executive chairman Ron Fowler strongly criticized the team's poor play.

In the morning, Fowler told the team's flagship radio station, the Mighty 1090, that the Padres' recent performances have been "embarrassing" and "pathetic." His comments came a day after James Shields allowed 10 runs in 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings of a 16-4 loss at Seattle.