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Pentagon suspends drill with S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. followed through on its promise to North Korea, announcing Tuesday that it was canceling war games with South Korea that had been slated for August and was expecting concrete steps toward denuclearization in return.

The announcement came a week after President Donald Trump emerged from his landmark summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and announced that “we are ending the war games.”

He surprised allies, lawmakers and military officials by criticizing them as “provocative” and “very expensive.”

The annual drills — a cornerstone of the long-standing U.S.-South Korean alliance — have been a frequent source of tension with the North, which considers them rehearsals for an invasion and has long called for them to be canceled.

In providing the first details about the extent of the suspension, the allies said that for now it was limited to a two-week computerized simulation known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which had been scheduled for August.

“Consistent with President Donald J.

Trump’s commitment to North Korea and in concert with South Korea, the United States military has suspended all planning for Ulchi Freedom Guardian, this August’s defensive war game,” the Pentagon said.

“We are still coordinating additional actions,” spokeswoman Dana White added in the statement. “No decisions on subsequent war games have been made.”

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton are to hold a meeting on the issue at the Pentagon later this week, she said.

“There is no impact on Pacific exercises outside of the Korean Peninsula,” she added, apparently referring to the Pacific Rim international maritime drills to be held this summer in Hawaii.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry issued a similar statement, although it didn’t use the term “war games.”

“We are making sufficient preparations to ensure there won’t be any problems regarding the ... combined defense posture,” ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo told reporters.

She added that officials expect the North to take a measure that “corresponds” with the exercise’s suspension.

The U.S. administration has insisted the

suspension is conditional on the North holding “good faith” negotiations over demands that it take verifiable steps to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Critics said the decision to stop the drills without first obtaining reciprocal measures was a major concession that could backfire. Supporters, however, argued that it was a low-risk gesture because the drills could be resumed at any time.

The decision to cancel the exercises is rare but not unprecedented. A springtime exercise known as Team Spirit was canceled in 1992 but resumed the next year.

Trump and Kim agreed during nearly five hours of talks in Singapore to work toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but the North Korean leader made no specific commitments on eliminating or reducing his country’s nuclear arsenal.

The U.S. and South Korea — which fought against the communist-backed North in the 1950-53 Korean War — train together throughout the year across all branches of the military.

Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which began in 1976, is one of two major exercises and largely comprises a computerized scenario mimicking a war with the North.

Company sues to avoid payment to USS McCain families

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A company that owns the commercial oil tanker involved in a deadly collision with a Navy destroyer last year has filed a lawsuit in federal court asking not to be held liable for damages.

Ten sailors aboard the Yokosuka-based USS John S. McCain were killed in the Aug. 21 collision near Singapore.

If a judge accepts the claim, Energetic Tank Inc. would not have to pay the families of the sailors who died in the crash should they attempt to sue for compensation.

In its lawsuit, which is being addressed in New York federal court, Energetic Tank says the collision was not caused by “any

fault, neglect or want of care” of its company or its tanker, the Alnic.

It also cites a passage in the Navy’s post-collision report that describes “confusion” and steering issues on the McCain in the minutes before the crash.

The suit mentions the Navy’s nonjudicial punishment of seven sailors and criminal proceedings against a McCain chief petty officer and its then-commander in connection with the collision.

Energetic Tank further asks in its lawsuit that, if found liable, the company be made to pay only up to the amount of money the Alnic and its cargo were worth at the time of the crash: about \$16.7 million.

Families of the fallen and injured sailors are filing responses to the lawsuit,

asking the judge to deny Energetic Tank’s requests.

The crash was the second major deadly collision of a Navy ship in the Pacific last year. Two months earlier, the USS Fitzgerald and a civilian merchant ship collided near Yokosuka, Japan, killing seven sailors.

Navy investigations found that the collisions were “avoidable” and caused by failures in planning, training, procedures and operations.

Part of that, the Navy found, was caused by the intense operational pace the fleet has maintained in recent years.

In the wake of the collisions, the Navy instituted reforms to shore up training and alertness at sea.

Antarctic vets warned of radiation risk

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The New Zealand government is warning personnel who worked in Antarctica in the 1960s and '70s about radiation from a leaky U.S. Navy nuclear reactor.

Alerts were posted online by the New Zealand Defence Force, Antarctica New Zealand and other government entities in January and reported by local media last month.

They advise people to contact the New Zealand Office of Radiation Safety or their doctor if they think they may have been exposed to radiation from the reactor used to power McMurdo Station, Antarctica, from 1962 to 1979.

The U.S. Department of Defense has assessed the risk of radiation exposure for those who worked near the power plant as low.

However, the Department of Veterans Affairs ruled in November that retired Navy veteran James Landy's "esophageal, stomach, liver and brain and spine cancers [were] incurred in active duty service."

Landy worked at McMurdo as a C-130 flight engineer from 1970 to 1974 and from 1977 to 1981 before dying at age 63 in 2012, said his widow, Pam Landy.

"He had pain in his kidneys and went to the doctor and they sent him to an oncologist who said he had cancer from radiation exposure," she said in a phone interview Monday from her home in Pensacola, Fla.

Veterans who served in Antarctica should have been warned about the radiation risk, Pam Landy said.

"The government knew that thing was there. If they had given people a heads-up he could have been diagnosed early and might have a shot at being alive," she said. "I got a payout from the VA, but it's a pit-

tance compared to a life."

The McMurdo reactor had many malfunctions, but personnel might also have been exposed during its decommissioning when soil and rock from the site was trucked through the base to be shipped off the continent, she said.

Peter Breen, 64, was a New Zealand Army mechanic about 2 miles from McMurdo at Scott Base from 1981 to 1982. Rock and soil from the reactor site was taken to a wharf in open trucks, and Breen fears he could have been exposed to contaminated dust blown by the wind or on ice harvested from nearby cliffs.

He's campaigning for New Zealand Antarctic veterans to be recognized with a medal and offered health checks.

"It is not compensation that guys are after," he said in a phone interview from his home in Tauranga, New Zealand. "They want a health-check program."

Fitzgerald officers face courts-martial

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy will pursue courts-martial for two officers from the USS Fitzgerald in the wake of a collision one year ago off the coast of Japan that killed seven sailors.

The decision by Adm. Frank Caldwell comes despite a recommendation by a pretrial hearing officer that Lt. Natalie Combs instead be sent before a board of inquiry to determine whether she should be discharged from the Navy, according to Combs' lawyer.

Cmdr. Bryce Benson, the commanding officer of the ship at the time of the June 17, 2017, collision, and Combs, the tactical action officer inside the combat information center below deck, will each face general court-martial, the Navy said in a news release.

Charges against a third officer, Lt. Irian Woodley, the ship's surface warfare coordinator, were dismissed. Instead, Caldwell recommended Wood-

ley be sent to a board of inquiry, where he will be required to "show cause" why he should be allowed to stay in the Navy.

Caldwell was appointed consolidated disposition authority in late 2017 after the Fitzgerald collision was followed by the crash of another Navy destroyer, the USS John McCain. That collision killed 10 sailors in August. Part of Caldwell's authority is to decide whether to convene a court-martial, and he has ultimate discretion on who should face internal disciplinary action and who should face justice in a military courtroom.

Combs' lawyer, David Sheldon, told Stars and Stripes that the hearing officer, Cmdr. Anthony Johnson, had recommended that both cases go before a board of inquiry to determine separation from the Navy. That board makes findings only for purposes of separation, not guilt or innocence.

The Navy said it will not release Johnson's recommendations until all proceedings involving the collision are over.

Man will plead guilty to impersonating general

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A man accused of trying to impress a woman by landing a chartered helicopter at a North Carolina technology company plans to plead guilty to impersonating a three-star Army general and will concede that he was sane at the time, according to a new court filing.

The case against Christian Desgroux unfolded after authorities say he unexpectedly had a charter helicopter pilot land on a soccer field last November at the corporate campus of SAS Institute in Cary.

Wearing a military battle uniform, Desgroux told a security officer who confronted him that he was there to pick up a female employee to take her to Fort Bragg for a classified briefing authorized by President Donald Trump, according to federal agents.

After he was charged with a federal count of pretending to be a military officer, his attorney requested that the 58-year-old

undergo a psychological evaluation. A Homeland Security agent previously testified that investigators suspected Desgroux was mentally ill.

Desgroux was examined at a federal prison facility in California, and a psychiatric report was filed under seal with the court in May, according to court records.

It's not clear exactly what the report says, but his attorney wrote in a court filing last Thursday that his client won't object to the conclusion that he was legally sane at the time.

The defense attorney, Andrew McCoppin, also wrote that his client plans to plead guilty to the charge against him. McCoppin didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment Monday.

Prosecutors say the charge against Desgroux carries a maximum of three years in prison.

A competency hearing and arraignment is scheduled for next week.

Both chambers OK GI pay raises

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A massive defense policy bill authorizing a 2.6 percent pay raise for servicemembers — the largest in nearly a decade — along with higher troop levels could win final congressional passage this summer, experts said Tuesday.

The House and Senate have each passed their version of the measure, the National Defense Authorization Act, and it now heads to a conference committee where lawmakers will hash out differences in the plan and come up with a final version. Both versions authorize the pay raises, troop level increases, purchases of aircraft, ships, submarines and weapons and a series of new policy initiatives.

With a spending deal lifting budget caps already in place, midterm elections this fall and a more experienced administration, lawmakers are poised to pass the 2019 NDAA earlier and in smoother fashion this year.

“There’s an excellent chance they could get it done this summer,” said Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “There’s not lots of major issues and they are very cognizant that there are elections and they want to get it done before elections. ... There will be a lot of incentive this summer.”

On Monday evening, the Senate passed its version of the NDAA, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department, in a vote of 85 to 10. Last month, the House passed its version in a vote of 351 to 66. The legislation, with its large margins of passage in both chambers, is “veto proof,” meaning even an objection from President Donald Trump is unlikely to derail the measure, said Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues.

“These are majorities,” with 89 percent in the Senate and 84 percent in the House voting in support of the measure, Sherbo said. “Rare bipartisan support ensures passage.”

However, the NDAA still needs companion legislation that actually appropriates the funding and there are threats from the White House that it could face roadblock and a government shutdown if Trump doesn’t get money for a southern border wall.

With both chambers of Congress agreeing on several key measures of the defense bill, it makes efforts to boost pay, programs and benefits close to a sure thing to win passage out of congressional conference committee, experts said. Earlier this year, a deal to lift budget caps for two years allowed Congress to increase spending for defense to \$716 billion for 2018. Estimates are the 2019 NDAA is just under \$710 billion.

“This year you are getting pretty close to what they call regular order,” Cancian said of the process.

Nominee Miller sees no quick end to Afghan War

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s choice to lead American and NATO efforts in Afghanistan told lawmakers on Tuesday that a revamped war strategy has made progress but he doesn’t see an end to the 17-year conflict any time soon.

Army Lt. Gen. Austin “Scott” Miller said American troops were needed in Afghanistan to ensure major terrorist organizations including al-Qaida and Islamic State remained unable to launch major attacks against the United States from that country, a position that top Pentagon officials have maintained for years. Miller, who oversees the United States’ most secretive commando units as chief of Joint Special Operations Command, warned withdrawing from Afghanistan would likely mirror the pullout of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011 — which helped lead to the rise of ISIS.

“I can’t guarantee you any timeline or an end date,” Miller told the Senate Armed Services Committee in a hearing to consider his nomination to become the ninth top American commander in Afghanistan.

Without American forces there, he

added, he would “be concerned about ISIS’ and al-Qaida’s ability to emerge and project external operations. One, because I know they want to, and I know they are constantly looking for that opportunity.”

Miller, 57, appeared headed for an easy confirmation to take command of forces in Afghanistan from Army Gen. John Nicholson, who has led U.S. and NATO troops there since March 2016. Miller is expected to be confirmed in the coming weeks and take command in August or September, officials said.

But despite a warm reception from senators who described Miller as “well-qualified” and “one of the most extraordinary general officers in the United States,” several lawmakers told the general that he should take the assignment with an eye toward implementing changes to America’s longest war.

“There is obviously an expectation that you’ll bring something in that is going to offer something new,” said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., the committee’s acting chairman. “Come in and give some new insights. To continue to do the same thing that’s been done for 17 years is not going to be acceptable. We expect some major change from you.”

Audio of children stokes anger over separations from migrant parents

Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — An audio recording that appears to capture the heartbreaking voices of Spanish-speaking children crying out for their parents at a U.S. immigration facility took center stage in the growing uproar over the Trump administration’s policy of separating immigrant children from their parents.

“Papa! Papa!” one child is heard weeping in the audio file that was first reported Monday by the nonprofit ProPublica and later provided to The Associated Press.

Human rights attorney Jennifer Harbury said she received the tape from a whistleblower and told ProPublica it was recorded in the last week. She did not provide details about where it was recorded.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said she had not heard the audio but said children taken into custody by the government are being treated humanely. She said the government has high

standards for detention centers, and the children are well cared for. She said that Congress needs to plug loopholes in the law so families can stay together.

The audio surfaced as politicians and advocates flocked to the U.S.-Mexico border to visit U.S. immigration detention centers and turn up the pressure on the Trump administration. The president was to visit Capitol Hill on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the crisis with House Republicans.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, reversed a decision to send a National Guard helicopter from his state to the Mexican border to assist in a deployment, citing the administration’s “cruel and inhumane” policy. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, said Tuesday he has ordered four Maryland National Guard members and a helicopter to immediately return from their station in Mexico until the separation policy is rescinded.

Yemen claims airport captured

From wire reports

Yemeni government forces backed by Saudi-led coalition warplanes said they seized control of Hodeidah airport from Houthi rebels on Tuesday, a major objective in their fight to recapture the western city that is the country's aid and food lifeline.

The airport, which includes civilian and military zones, was now being combed for any remaining pockets of rebels after days of intense fighting, said Abdulrehman al-Mahrami, who leads the Yemeni forces on the west coast front. There was no immediate comment from the Houthis.

The government and its Gulf partners, including the United Arab Emirates, began their assault on the port city of 400,000 people last week. The UAE said the operation aims to force the Iran-aligned Houthis into talks, but the United Nations has warned two-thirds of the population could die if Hodeidah is besieged, and it is pushing for a political resolution to spare the city.

The battle for Hodeidah,

entry point for 70 percent of Yemen's imports and humanitarian assistance, has become a pivotal point in the country's 3-year-old civil war. A loss or drawn-out clashes for the Saudi-led coalition would deal another blow to Riyadh's efforts to win the proxy war with regional rival Iran. The capture of the airport, however, could give the Saudi-backed coalition the upper hand as it advances on the real prize — the port.

"Strategically, it's a big win for the coalition," said Peter Salisbury, a senior fellow at Chatham House's Middle East & North Africa Program. "They now have a ready-made operations base to work from as they begin the campaign for the port and the city. It took them longer than anticipated, but that also translated to a high cost for the Houthis. The question for me is if the Houthis have the manpower and resources to mount the same kind of defense of the port."

Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in Yemen's war in March 2015 after the Houthis took control of the capital Sanaa and other cities, forcing Presi-

dent Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi into exile in Riyadh. While the alliance has been able to recover areas in southern Yemen, the Houthis still control Sanaa and territories in the north, and frequently fire ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia, which has accused Iran of supplying such weapons.

During the war, the Saudi-led coalition has disrupted food and other supplies coming into Yemen by imposing a naval blockade on ports including Hodeidah, which they have said are used to smuggle in weapons. The Houthis extract payments on goods that are trucked through the areas they control, forcing up food costs.

The fighting has created a humanitarian catastrophe, with thousands of civilians killed and displacement, hunger and sickness rampant. Three-quarters of the country's 28 million people need aid to stave off hunger and disease, and half of those require it urgently to survive, according to the U.N. About 5,200 families had fled the fighting in Hodeidah, it said Monday.

Strike near Syrian border condemned

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq condemned on Tuesday the targeting of pro-Syria paramilitary troops in eastern Syria after an airstrike killed mostly Iraqi Shiite forces deployed to fight Islamic State.

In a statement, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry expressed "rejection and condemnation of airstrikes targeting troops deployed in areas where they are fighting Daesh, whether in Iraq or Syria." Daesh is the Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

Targeting these troops "is a support to Daesh to regroup and to expand," the statement added. It called for continuing coordination between the U.S.-led coalition and troops on the ground to support them in the fight.

Iraqi Shiite forces and Syria on Monday accused the U.S.-led coalition of conducting the Sunday airstrikes along the Iraq-Syria border, killing at least 22 fighters and wounding 12 others. Iraqi officials in Baghdad put the death toll at 25 Shiite fighters, with 25 others wounded and three missing.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Sean Ryan denied the strikes were carried out by U.S. or coalition forces, but said they were investigating.

Also Tuesday, Iraq's Hezbollah Brigades denounced what it called a "heinous crime" that "will not go unanswered," blaming the attack on the "idiots Trump and Netanyahu." It warned it was ready to confront Israel and America without hesitation.

No details were available on the strikes, but Syrian state TV said they occurred around midnight in the village of al-Hari.

Last week, ISIS launched a major offensive against Boukamal, reaching the outskirts of the town before being pushed back by government forces. The loss of the town would deal a major blow to Iran-backed forces on both sides of the border, who have established a corridor through eastern Syria to link Iran to the Mediterranean Sea.

3 shot dead after leaving cafe in Sweden

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The fatal shooting of three men in Malmo, Sweden's third-largest city, was the latest incident in suburban feuds between criminal gangs fighting over territory or honor. Sweden's justice minister called the shootings an "abominable crime."

Police in Malmo said Tuesday that three of the men — ages 19, 27 and 29 — had died overnight. None of the victims was identified, in line with Swedish practice.

Three others — ages 21, 30 and 32 — had been injured — one seriously, said Region Skane, the regional health authority for southern Sweden.

"It is an abominable crime and reminds us once again that

our main task is to fight organized crime," Swedish Justice Minister Morgan Johansson told the Swedish TT News Agency.

Malmo police Chief Stefan Sinteus told a news conference that the shooting likely was linked to feuding criminal gangs that are fighting over territory and honor, conflicts that have become more common in major Swedish cities in recent years. In Malmo alone, there are three or four gang feuds, Sinteus said.

"Those involved are to be considered as gang members who are involved in serious organized crime," Sinteus said. "It is unusual that three die in the same incident.

"We didn't see it coming," he added.

Sinteus said there was no motive known for the late Monday shooting, "but generally speaking," a feud could start over business conflicts, girls or a perceived lack of respect by others.

The men were shot as they left an internet cafe in the southeastern part of the southern Swedish city Monday evening. Police could not confirm media reports that the shots had been fired from a car and that an automatic weapon had been used.

Police said a dozen shots were fired but no arrests have been made, and they are looking for a dark vehicle.

The shots caused screaming among bystanders, but police quickly said there was no reason for the public to worry.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School stops yearbook sales over Nazi quote

MA ANDOVER — A Massachusetts high school has pulled its yearbook after the principal found out that a student had used a quote generally attributed to Adolf Hitler or Joseph Goebbels under his picture.

Andover High Principal Philip Conrad said he was “horrified” to learn of the Nazi origins of the quote about making people believe lies, which made it through a painstaking vetting process.

Conrad said the student, whom he did not identify, did not know the origin of the quote. He said the student “sincerely regrets his choice.”

Students who already have yearbooks either can get a custom sticker to cover the quote or they can return their books and get replacements.

Sisters held in ‘mutual combat’ stabbings

WI MADISON — Two sisters accused of stabbing each other during a fight in front of five small children are in jail in Wisconsin pending criminal charges.

The Madison Police Department said officers were dispatched to a residence just after noon Saturday after one woman reported she had been stabbed. The officers arrived to find two “uncooperative” sisters, ages 24 and 23, with stab wounds on their arms.

A police statement says the women had “engaged in mutual combat,” but did not suffer life-threatening wounds. Police said both women will be charged with domestic recklessly endangering safety.

The statement also says a 30-year-old man is suspected of initiating the disturbance.

Woman strangles bobcat in front yard

GA HARTWELL — A 46-year-old woman strangled a rabid bobcat to death after the animal attacked her in her front yard in northeast Georgia.

The Athens-Banner Herald reported DeDe Phillips, of Hart County, went outside June 7 to take a picture when the bobcat lunged at her. She grabbed the cat by its throat and didn’t let go.

Phillips said her father-in-law was once a trapper of bobcats, and she knew something about the animal’s behavior.

The woman is being treated for rabies and is recovering from a broken finger and several bite and claw wounds to her hands, arms, chest and legs.

Dog that was shot is given a new home

OR PORTLAND — A dog that was shot twice and left for dead in a rugged area of northeastern Oregon has been given a new home.

KATU-TV reported the dog named Rez was found in the mountains near Pendleton in February covered in blood from two bullet wounds in the head, causing him to lose an eye and several teeth.

The Tri-City Animal Shelter in Pasco, Wash., searched for a new home for Rez for months and eventually connected him with Nolan Sheehan, who recently moved to Ellensburg, Wash., after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan.

Meat laced with rat poison found in yards

CO FORT COLLINS — A Colorado humane society group says food laced

with rat poison has been found in several yards in a southeast Fort Collins neighborhood.

The Coloradoan reported that the Larimer Humane Society said it has received several reports of suspicious food items found in yards in the Fossil Lake Ranch neighborhood. Fort Collins police officer Dustin Weir said police responded to one report of suspicious meatballs found in the yard of a home on June 9.

The group’s community outreach manager, Kaylene Weingardt, said no animals have been harmed.

Officer finds lost engagement ring

NY FIRE ISLAND — Long Island police said an officer used his personal metal detector to find a woman’s \$20,000 engagement ring she lost on the beach on Fire Island.

The Suffolk County Police Department said the woman reached out Saturday, saying she lost her ring sometime during the weekend.

Marine Bureau Police Officer Edmund McDowell took his metal detector to the beach where the woman had been sitting and found the ring after about 10 minutes of searching.

Tests confirm mystery animal was a wolf

MT HELENA — Montana wildlife officials have confirmed that an unusual looking animal shot in central Montana was a wolf.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials initially weren’t certain what the creature was when a rancher shot it near Denton in May. They noted the legs, front claws and canine teeth were shorter and its ears were bigger than normally seen

on wolves.

The agency said Monday that an inspection of the animal at its wildlife health laboratory revealed it to be a relatively normal-looking wolf. DNA tests confirmed that the animal was a gray wolf.

Motorists on freeway help protect horse

CA LOS ANGELES — Motorists on a Southern California freeway formed a blockade to protect a runaway horse.

The Los Angeles Daily News reported California Highway Patrol officers said the horse was spotted at 3:08 p.m. Sunday on the westbound 210 Freeway in the northeast corner of the San Fernando Valley.

California Highway Patrol Officer Elizabeth Kravig said the horse somehow made its way off the freeway and was last seen galloping down a side street.

Greeters welcome flying servicemembers

NH PORTSMOUTH — A collective of retired veterans and local residents known as the “Pease Greeters” have welcomed their 1,500th flight to the Portsmouth International Airport at Pease.

The greeters were formed to help active military members feel appreciated before they head overseas or prepare to return home from the New Hampshire airport.

The group traces its lineage to 2005, when a plane carrying about 135 servicemembers landed at Pease to refuel.

The greeters have evolved since a handful of people brought out coffee and doughnuts to that initial flight.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Japan surprises Colombia in Cup opener

Associated Press

SARANSK, Russia — Japan did what no other Asian team had ever done at a World Cup — beat a South American squad on the biggest stage in soccer.

The 2-1 victory over Colombia on Tuesday was another surprising result in an unpredictable tournament.

A costly mistake by Colombia midfielder Carlos Sanchez in the opening minutes led to a red card and a penalty, helping Japan take an early lead. Coming in the third minute, it was the second fastest red card in World Cup history and the first of this year's tournament.

Yuya Osako won a bouncing ball to begin a sequence that led to the red card and the penalty. Sanchez blocked Shinji Kagawa's shot with his extended right arm and was ejected. Kagawa then converted from the spot.

Colombia, which played with 10 men for the rest of the match, scored late in the first half on Juan Quintero's rolling but accurate free kick, which sneaked inside the right post. Osako's gritty determination led to a 73rd-minute header from Keisuke Honda's corner kick that gave Japan three points in Group H.

"He played well in Germany this sea-

son," Honda said of the Werder Bremen forward. "He also couldn't score last World Cup and I knew he really wanted to score this game. I'm happy he scored."

Japan became the latest team to pull off an upset at the World Cup, joining Mexico, Switzerland and Iceland in earning unexpected results. The win was a surprise also because Japan changed coaches shortly before the tournament, and because Asian teams had failed to beat South American opposition in 17 previous World Cup meetings.

"Normally you prepare a match to play 11 players against 11 and to lose one player in the first three minutes — to lose such a crucial player — that's not an easy thing," Colombia coach Jose Pekerman said. "In the second half, Japan adapted its style and managed to score by playing better and taking advantage of their opportunities."

Sanchez did not speak to reporters after the match.

Japan will next face Senegal on Sunday in Yekaterinburg, while Colombia takes on Poland in Kazan on the same day.

"If we had actually won the World Cup, we would have had a parade on the main street of Saransk," Japan coach Akira Nishino said. "However, it is just one win, three points.

"We'll save our celebrations."

Colombia captain Radamel Falcao, who made his World Cup debut after a knee injury sidelined him in 2014, said his team will approach its remaining group games like "two finals."

"We only depend on what we do from now on," Falcao said. "We need to be strong, have character and show the power of our team."

Dream sequence: Osako was instrumental in both goals and sprawled to block a close-range shot by Colombia midfielder James Rodriguez in the waning minutes.

"To score a goal for me in World Cup has been a dream," Osako said. "This is World Cup, it's a huge stage, and I think we started off very well."

The win provided joy to a country recovering from a deadly earthquake in Osaka a day earlier. Japanese princess Takamado attended the match.

Rematch reversal: Colombia defeated Japan 4-1 when the teams met in group play in Brazil four years ago, and the Japanese also began the game without Shinji Okazaki, a Leicester forward who has been trying to overcome a sore calf.

Senegal stuns Poland Kane able to lift England

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Senegal became the first African team to win at this year's World Cup, defeating Poland 2-1 Tuesday on a first-half own-goal and a controversial second-half strike by Mbaye Niang.

Senegal, back in the tournament for the first time since 2002, went ahead in the 37th minute when Thiago Cionek's attempted block of Idrissa Gueye's shot wrong-footed goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, who was picked to start over fellow Arsenal castoff Lukasz Fabianski.

Niang, who had returned to the field from treatment, later beat Szczesny to a backpass and had an open net when he doubled the lead in the 60th.

Grzegorz Krychowiak, whose backpass led to Senegal's second goal, headed in a free kick in the 86th minute to end Poland's streak of five straight scoreless World Cup openers.

Both teams' stars, Senegal's Sadio Mane and Poland's Robert Lewandowski, rarely threatened in quiet World Cup debuts.

Senegal is tied for the group lead with Japan, which upset Colombia 2-1 earlier. Senegal will play Japan on Sunday, when Poland meets Colombia.

Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia had been outscored 6-1 as African teams started 0-4.

Poland kept up its track record of dismal World Cup starts. It has four losses and three draws since beating Argentina in 1974.

Senegal President Macky Sall was in the stands to watch his nation's first World Cup match since 2002, when the team reached the quarterfinals before losing to Turkey. Poland returned for the first time since 2006.

Poland fans in red and white were about three-quarters of the crowd, and they chanted and clapped throughout.

Associated Press

VOLGOGRAD, Russia — Twice wrestled to the ground during the match, England captain Harry Kane finally evaded the Tunisian defense just as time was running out.

Kane found an open area of space at the far post and used his head to meet Harry Maguire's flick-on, scoring the winning goal Monday in a 2-1 victory at the World Cup.

It was relief for Kane and Gareth Southgate, who leapt into the air in delight as his World Cup debut as a coach got off to a winning start.

"The best teams in the world keep that belief in what they're doing," Southgate said, "and in the end they break the opposition down."

England shouldn't have found it so tough in its Group G opener against such opposition. Not after Kane got England off to a perfect start with an 11th-min-

ute tap in. But after Kyle Walker softly conceded a penalty that Ferjani Sassi converted in the 35th, many of the fouls went against England.

"Maybe there was a bit of justice at the end," Kane said.

Finally, Kane showcased on the international stage the predatory instinct in front of goal that has served Tottenham so well. Only two years ago, the striker failed to find the net at the 2016 European Championship, which ended in humiliation with a loss to Iceland in the last 16.

The team has been transformed by Southgate since then. For all the placidness and togetherness within the group, Southgate has added persistence and doggedness.

"It shows the work we have put in these last few weeks," Walker said. "Togetherness and believing in ourselves."

Caps' Trotz resigns after winning Cup

Associated Press

Less than two weeks after lifting the Stanley Cup, Barry Trotz is a free agent and the Washington Capitals are looking for a new coach.

Trotz stepped down as Capitals coach on Monday after a contract dispute over salary and term that leaves the newly minted Stanley Cup champions without a coach with the draft and free agency fast approaching. General manager Brian MacLellan said the Capitals accepted Trotz's resignation after they were unable to agree on terms on a new contract.

Winning the Cup less than two weeks ago triggered a two-year extension for Trotz that would have given him a slight bump in salary to just over \$2 million, a person with direct knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team did not announce the extension.

"His representative wants to take advantage of Barry's experience and Stanley Cup win

and was trying to negotiate a deal that compensates him as one of the better coaches in the league, top four or five coaches," MacLellan said at a news conference in Arlington, Va. "I think the five-year term is probably a sticking point. You have a coach that's been here four years, you do another five, that's nine years. There's not many coaches that have that lasting ability. It's a long time and it's a lot of money to be committing to a coach."

Toronto's Mike Babcock makes the most at \$6.25 million on an eight-year deal after coaching Detroit for 10 seasons, Chicago's Joel Quenneville is next at \$6 million entering his ninth full season with the Blackhawks and Montreal's Claude Julien brings in \$5 million after coaching Boston for nine-plus seasons. All three have won the Cup like Trotz, including Quenneville three times.

If Trotz was paid among the top five, it would have put him in the \$4 million-plus range an-

nually — a price the Capitals have not been willing to pay for coaches.

"After careful consideration and consultation with my family, I am officially announcing my resignation," Trotz said. "When I came to Washington four years ago we had one goal in mind and that was to bring the Stanley Cup to the nation's capital. We had an incredible run this season culminating with our players and staff achieving our goal and sharing the excitement with our fans."

The 55-year-old Trotz went into the season with an uncertain future after ownership and MacLellan declined to talk about a contract extension last summer after back-to-back Presidents' Trophy-winning seasons that ended with second-round exits.

"We were struggling at the time to get over the hump," MacLellan said. "We couldn't get out of the second round and Barry hadn't been able to coach out of the second round yet, either. I think from the

organization's perspective, some changes would've had to be made if we lost in the second round again."

That didn't happen as a relaxed Trotz played a vital role in Washington's first title in franchise history. He survived a rough start to the season and other struggles before he and the team found a stride in the playoffs.

After the Capitals accepted his resignation, Trotz will be an intriguing figure on the coaching market.

Only the New York Islanders have a current coaching vacancy, though given Trotz's success in Nashville and Washington, other teams might consider making a move to hire him. Trotz has the fifth-most victories in NHL history and has guided a team to the playoffs in 11 of his 19 seasons. He is 762-568-60-134 overall with the Predators and Capitals, and he won 205 of his 328 regular-season games (63 percent) since taking over as Washington's coach in 2014.

Oregon State ousts Pac-12 rival Washington from CWS

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Oregon State kept things loose in the clubhouse during a weather delay that stretched to 4½ hours at the College World Series. Reserve outfielder Joe Casey entertained teammates by stuffing 30 pieces of gum into his mouth, a party game known as "Mafia" broke out and the tunes were cranked up.

When it was time to return to the field, the Beavers were all business.

Kyle Nobach hit a three-run homer to put Oregon State in control in the seventh inning, Kevin Abel pitched four strong innings of relief and Oregon State sent Pac-12 rival Washington home from the College World Series with a 14-5 win on Monday night.

"Crazy game. Long day," Beavers coach Pat Casey said.

"I thought our guys came out really prepared after the rain delay. We were kind of scuffling out of the chute. Really appreciate the way they hung with it and got themselves a win."

The Beavers erased early deficits, starting their comeback just before the teams were pulled off the field because of lightning near TD Ameritrade Park. Before play resumed, star second baseman Nick Madrigal gave a talk to emphasize the stakes.

"It's win or go home at this point, and there are a lot of guys that will never put this uniform on again," Nobach said. "It means a lot to us, and a lot of people don't really understand it until you play here and you're around 'Case' and this program. That's motivating for us. And that's what his message was, just to strictly compete."

Oregon State (50-11-1), the No. 3 national seed, was coming off a loss to North Carolina in its CWS opener and still must win three more games to reach the best-of-three finals. Washington (35-26) went two games and out in its first CWS.

"A lot of people expected us to roll over halfway through the season," Huskies shortstop Levi Jordan said. "Instead, we went the other direction and brought this program to its first College World Series. To hang our heads about our performance in the College World Series... it shouldn't be a reflection of our season. Obviously, a tough loss. But the program is moving in a great direction."

Washington had leads of 3-0 and 5-4 before the delay in the top of the sixth inning. The Beavers had bases loaded with two outs when play was

stopped. Washington sent out closer Alex Hardy (5-4) after the delay and he walked in the tying run.

The Huskies elected to intentionally walk Adley Rutschman to set up forces on the bases with two outs in the seventh. Michael Gretler smashed a ball down the left-field line for the tie-breaking double, and Nobach hit a 2-2 pitch that barely cleared the wall in right center for his sixth homer of the season and a 9-5 lead.

Oregon State scored all but one of its runs with two outs. The Beavers were 13-for-21 with two outs and 7-for-10 with runners in scoring position.

Tyler Malone homered to start a five-run eighth inning that finished off the Huskies.

Oregon State avoided going 0-2 at a CWS for the first time in five appearances since 2005.

Astros rally in 9th, stretch streak to 12

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve upped the pressure on Alex Bregman as he walked to home plate with the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the ninth inning.

“Altuve told me ... that he’s not bringing his bat or batting gloves to the on-deck circle, so I better get the job done,” Bregman said. “So I had to find a way.”

Bregman hit a game-ending two-run double and the Houston Astros beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 to match a franchise record with their 12th straight win.

Houston trailed 4-0 after three innings but cut the lead to one entering the ninth.

Sergio Romo (1-2) walked Marwin Gonzalez to start the ninth, then allowed a single to Max Stassi. Tony Kemp’s sacrifice bunt moved both runners

up, and Houston loaded the bases when George Springer reached on interference by catcher Wilson Ramos.

Bregman then drove a ball that bounced off the wall in left-center. He lifted both arms as he trotted into second base, and teammates mobbed him in the infield.

It was Houston’s second game-ending hit of the season, and the other also came off Bregman’s bat April 7 against San Diego. Bregman also walked off Houston with a single in Game 5 of the World Series last season.

“You do it as often as Alex has done it, we know it’s going to be a good at-bat,” manager A.J. Hinch said. “Whether it ends in our favor or not is baseball, but he’s a guy we want up there.”

Romo declined to speak to reporters after the game, but manager Kevin Cash discussed

his work.

“He’s the guy who’s been out there and got the experience,” Cash said. “He’s done it here as of late. It lined up right; it just didn’t work.”

Collin McHugh (2-0) struck out two in a scoreless ninth for the win on a night Gerrit Cole walked a career-high five to help the Rays build the early lead.

Houston also won 12 straight in 2004 and 1999.

“The only thing that matters to these guys is winning,” Bregman said.

Romo was the seventh pitcher the Rays used as they employed a reliever as a starter for the 16th time in 30 games.

Cole walked Jake Bauers with one out in the first before Ramos launched a fastball into the seats in right field to give Tampa Bay a 2-0 lead.

Matt Duffy drew a walk with one out in the third, stole

second base and took third on an error by catcher Brian McCann. Cole, who hadn’t walked more than three in a game this season, walked Bauers and Ramos to load the bases. A two-out single by Joey Wendle came next to score two and push the lead to 4-0.

Altuve, who finished with three hits, singled with one out in the fourth, and Carlos Correa followed with a double. Houston got within 4-1 on a groundball single by Yuli Gurriel which scored Altuve. The Astros made it 4-2 when Correa scored on a sacrifice fly by Josh Reddick.

Altuve doubled and reached third on an error by Johnny Field to start Houston’s sixth. A one-out single by Gurriel scored Altuve to cut the lead to 4-3. Gonzalez singled with two outs, but Diego Castillo came in and retired pinch-hitter Evan Gattis to end the inning.

MLB roundup

Hicks’ homer helps Yankees earn split with Nationals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Aaron Hicks’ go-ahead two-run homer sparked chants of “Let’s go, Yankees!” on the road and helped New York beat Washington 4-2 in the second game of an unusual semi-doubleheader Monday, after pinch-hitter Juan Soto’s tiebreaking two-run shot for the Nationals won the opener 5-3.

These games originally were scheduled more than a month ago, and Game 1 resumed after being suspended because of rain in the middle of the sixth — so technically, Soto managed to homer in a game played before he made his major league debut.

Huh?

The 19-year-old Soto was called up from the minors for the first time five days after Game 1 started on May 15; it picked back up at 3-all and

the Nationals about to bat in the bottom of the sixth. After Bryce Harper — who had a full beard back on May 15, when the game began, but was clean-shaven this time — struck out, and Anthony Rendon singled, Soto drove a 97 mph fastball from Chad Green (4-1) to the back of the second deck in right field.

“I thought he had a good chance to hit the ball hard,” Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. “That was hard.”

It was Soto’s sixth homer since he was brought up from Double-A Harrisburg on May 20 — and second against the Yankees. Soto stood and admired this one before beginning his trot around the bases.

“A pitch right in his hot zone. Soto got us again,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “Obviously a really good-looking player. Two pretty big shots he’s hit against us.”

Soto also was involved in a double play while playing left in the seventh. Didi Gregorius lined to Soto, and he lobbed the ball to shortstop Trea Turner, who sprinted to second base to double off Gary Sanchez.

Rangers 6, Royals 3: Bartolo Colon (4-4) earned his 244th win, passing Hall of Famer Juan Marichal for the most by a pitcher born in the Dominican Republic, and visiting Texas beat skidding Kansas City.

Indians 6, White Sox 2: Trevor Bauer (6-5) pitched seven shutout innings before a rain delay ended his night, and Jason Kipnis homered to lead host Cleveland over sliding and sloppy Chicago.

Mets 12, Rockies 2: Brandon Nimmo homered twice during a huge night at the plate, including an inside-the-park shot to begin the game, and visiting New York finally gave Jacob deGrom some run sup-

port in a victory over Colorado.

Phillies 6, Cardinals 5 (10): Left fielder Marcell Ozuna dived for and missed Aaron Altherr’s two-run double with two outs in the 10th inning, allowing host Philadelphia to rally past St. Louis.

Pirates 1, Brewers 0: Trevor Williams (6-4) pitched one-hit ball over seven innings and two Pittsburgh relievers closed out a two-hitter against visiting Milwaukee.

Diamondbacks 7, Angels 4: Paul Goldschmidt hit an early two-run homer and Zack Greinke (6-5) pitched seven-hit ball into the seventh inning of visiting Arizona’s 12th victory in 16 games.

Marlins 5, Giants 4: Miguel Rojas followed Lewis Brinson’s RBI single with a go-ahead base hit as visiting Miami rallied in the ninth inning and overcame an early four-run deficit to beat San Francisco.