

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sunday, June 9, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

GAO: Aegis system defense tests lacking

By SCOTT WYLAND

Stars and Stripes

The Missile Defense Agency has reduced needed testing of the Navy's land-based missile defense system in Poland even though an 18-month construction delay has provided more time to run tests, a government watchdog said.

The agency reduced by 80% tests that would more accurately gauge the Aegis Ashore system's ability to intercept intermediate-range ballistic missiles, a move that increases the chances that the system will be delivered with less defensive capability than planned, the Government Accountability Office said in its findings released Thursday.

Flight tests are the most important to prove the system's effectiveness, GAO said.

"The warfighter relies on testing to understand the system's capabilities and limitations and therefore how to fight

with what MDA has built," GAO said.

In a written response, the Defense Department said it will conduct more ground tests, which it said would be sufficient combined with simulations.

An Aegis system on Kauai successfully intercepted an intermediate-range missile in December, showing there's no need for further tests on the Poland-based system, which uses a similar technology, the DOD said.

The test program leaves no room, either in time or costs, to add more flight tests to an already full schedule, the DOD wrote, "especially when that testing is not required to support delivery decisions."

The Aegis system in Romania and the one being built in Poland are part of a larger missile defense system that NATO is developing.

Other components include four Navy destroyers based in Rota, Spain, an early warning radar system in Turkey and a

command center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

U.S. and NATO leaders see missile defense in Europe as increasingly important as adversaries such as Russia and Iran improve their missile-striking capabilities.

President Donald Trump announced earlier this year that the U.S. would withdraw from the nuclear treaty that banned ground-launched intermediate range missiles after accusing Russia of violating the Cold War pact. Soon after, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that Moscow would follow suit.

A key goal for Europe's Aegis Ashore is to defend against intermediate-range missiles — which can travel up to 3,400 miles — when the system's third phase is finished in 2020, the GAO said.

MDA has reduced missile testing despite Congress increasing the agency's funding by \$3.6 billion — a 46% jump — in 2017.

After the Kauai flight test, the agency had planned to conduct three more tests, including one to assess how well the systems could intercept multiple missiles simultaneously — a likely tactic in a real attack — but decided to forgo them, the GAO said in the report. The agency said further tests could impede the completion of the site in Poland, which at the time was slated for early 2019, the report said. But now there is plenty of time to do the tests due to the construction delays, GAO added.

Skimping on tests could run up costs as crews would have to fix problems after the systems are operating, the GAO said.

"Our prior work has shown that proceeding with limited test data can result in late, and costly, discovery of performance problems," it said. "More thorough assessment ... could mitigate that risk by building a more solid base of knowledge."

Navy's 6th Fleet to get upgraded destroyers in Europe

By SCOTT WYLAND

Stars and Stripes

The Navy plans to replace the 6th Fleet's four destroyers in Europe with newer ones that have upgraded missile defense capabilities, the 6th Fleet announced last week.

The newer destroyers' improved capabilities would include Aegis Baseline 9 missile defense systems.

Those systems enable the ships to simultaneously target high-altitude ballistic missiles and counter closer-range threats, such as guided missiles fired from enemy aircraft and

ships. The missile defense systems on the 6th Fleet's current destroyers can't do both at the same time.

The Navy is bringing in modernized warships "to posture the most capable forces forward in the U.S. European Command area of responsibility," the 6th Fleet said in a statement.

The changeover is scheduled to take place between 2020 and 2022, the Navy said. The current Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, which were built in the late 1990s and are based in Rota, Spain, will be replaced one at a time.

A helicopter squadron will

relocate to Rota to support the new destroyers.

Cmdr. Kyle Raines, 6th Fleet spokesman, declined to discuss further details or identify any potential new destroyers.

Navy leaders have said guided-missile destroyers are vital in maintaining security in Europe and deterring a more aggressive Russia.

The USS Porter was the first to arrive in Rota in February 2014, just before Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine. The USS Carney, USS Donald Cook and USS Ross followed over the next two years.

The four ships are part of

NATO's larger missile defense in Europe. Other facets include the land-based systems in Romania and Poland, an early warning radar system in Turkey and a command center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The destroyers have been among the most active ships in the theater, frequently taking part in multinational exercises and patrolling the Black Sea.

In April 2017, the Porter and Ross fired 59 Tomahawk missiles into Syria in response to President Bashar Assad launching a chemical attack against civilians.

US carrier in Persian Gulf a signal to Iran

Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN — Under a starry sky, U.S. Navy fighter jets catapulted off the aircraft carrier's deck and flew north over the darkened waters of the northern Arabian Sea, an unmistakable signal to Iran that the foremost symbol of the American military's global reach is back in its neighborhood, perhaps to stay.

The USS Abraham Lincoln, with its contingent of Navy destroyers and cruisers and a fighting force of about 70 aircraft, is the centerpiece of the Pentagon's response to what it calls Iranian threats to attack U.S. forces or commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf region. In recent years, there has been no regular U.S. aircraft carrier

presence in the Middle East.

U.S. officials have said that signs of heightened Iranian preparations to strike U.S. and other targets in the waters off Iran as well as in Iraq and Yemen in late April emerged shortly after the Trump administration announced it was clamping down further on Iran's economy by ending waivers to sanctions on buyers of Iranian crude oil.

The administration went a step beyond that Friday, announcing penalties that target Iran's largest petrochemical company.

On Saturday, the Lincoln was steaming in international waters east of Oman and about 200 miles from Iran's southern coastline. One month after its arrival in the region, the Lincoln has not entered the Per-

sian Gulf, and it's not apparent that it will. The USS Gonzalez, a destroyer that is part of the Lincoln strike group, is operating in the Gulf.

Rear Adm. John F. G. Wade, commander of the Lincoln strike group, said Iran's naval forces have adhered to international standards of interaction with ships in his group.

"Since we've been operating in the region, we've had several interactions with Iranians," he said. "To this point all have been safe and professional — meaning, the Iranians have done nothing to impede our maneuverability or acted in a way which required us to take defensive measures."

The Lincoln's contingent of 44 Navy F-18 Super Hornets are flying a carefully calibrated set of missions off the carrier night

and day, mainly to establish a visible U.S. "presence" that Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the head of Central Command, said Saturday seems to have caused Iran to "tinker with" its preparation for potential attacks.

He said Friday that he thinks Iran had been planning some sort of attack on shipping or U.S. forces in Iraq. Two other officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details, said Iran was at a high state of readiness in early May with its ships, submarines, surface-to-air missiles and drone aircraft.

"It is my assessment that if we had not reinforced, it is entirely likely that an attack would have taken place by now," McKenzie said.

US MRAP vehicle damaged in Niger incident

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — A U.S. Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle was damaged Saturday in Niger, and the military is investigating whether the incident was the result of hostile intent, U.S. Africa Command said.

"No U.S. fatalities occurred as a result of the incident," AFRICOM spokesman Col. Chris Karns said in a statement.

"We're looking into the matter and will provide an update once we receive the additional details."

The damage occurred near a Nigerien weapons range, AFRICOM said. It is possible "nonhostile factors" were the cause of the damage, Karns said.

The MRAP was designed to protect troops from roadside blasts.

The incident comes days after acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said he will

not pursue additional punishments for military personnel involved in the 2017 ambush in Niger that led to the deaths of four American soldiers following a review of the initial probes into the attack.

The U.S. mission in Niger has been heavily scrutinized in the wake of those attacks. The military also has faced criticism that only junior and mid-grade officers and enlisted personnel faced reprimands over the incident while only one general officer was punished.

In the nearly two years since the ambush, the U.S. remains involved in Niger, where it trains local forces that take part in operations against militant groups in the region.

For AFRICOM, Islamic State militants in West Africa have been a growing source of concern. The group has made steady gains in its home base of northern Nigeria and makes cross-border attacks in the borderlands of the Lake Chad region.

Chief of attack submarine relieved for sharing medication

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The senior enlisted sailor serving aboard the fast-attack submarine USS Jefferson City has been relieved as chief of the boat due to misconduct, the Navy said Friday.

Master Chief Machinist Mate (Auxiliary) Mark Szymanski was relieved Wednesday by Cmdr. Steven Dawley after completion of an investigation and has been reassigned to Naval Submarine Support Command, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

He has been replaced by Master Chief Sonar Technician

(Submarine) Daryl Green, the Navy said.

The USS Jefferson City, a Los Angeles-class sub, is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

A Navy official with knowledge of the investigation said Szymanski had shared tablets of a prescription medicine with

two chief petty officers in mid-May. Those officers discarded the pills, which had been validly prescribed to Szymanski, the official said.

Szymanski had served aboard the USS Jefferson City since April 2017. He enlisted in 2000.

Trump still hangs tariff threat over Mexico despite a deal

Associated Press

STERLING, Va. — President Donald Trump on Sunday dangled renewing his tariff threat on Mexico if the U.S. ally doesn't cooperate on border issues, as Democratic challengers criticized a deal reached to avert the tariffs as overblown.

In a series of tweets sent before departing for his golf club in Virginia, Trump defended the deal heading off the 5% tax on all Mexican goods that he had threatened to impose Monday, but warned Mexico that, "if for some unknown reason" cooperation fails, "we can always go back to our previous, very profitable, position of Tariffs."

Still, he said he didn't believe that would be necessary.

The tweets came amid questions about just how much of the deal — announced with great fanfare Friday — was really new.

It included a commitment from Mexico, for instance, to

deploy its new National Guard to the country's southern border with Guatemala. Mexico, however, had already intended to do that before Trump's latest threat and had made that clear to U.S. officials.

The U.S. also hailed Mexico's agreement to embrace the expansion of a program implemented earlier this year under which some asylum-seekers are returned to Mexico as they wait out their cases. But U.S. officials had already been working to expand the program, which has led to the return of about 10,000 to Mexico, without Mexico's public embrace.

"The president has completely overblown what he reports to have achieved. These are agreements that Mexico had already made, in some cases months ago," said Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, speaking on ABC's "This Week."

Another 2020 candidate, Sen.

Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, chastised Trump for using tariffs as a threat and operating a "trade policy based on tweets."

"I think what the world is tired of and what I am tired of is a president who consistently goes to war, verbal war with our allies, whether it is Mexico, whether it is Canada," he said.

But acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, speaking on "Fox News Sunday" insisted "all of it is new," including the agreement to dispatch around 6,000 National Guard troops — a move Mexico has described as an "acceleration."

"This is the first time we've heard anything like this kind of number of law enforcement being deployed in Mexico to address migration, not just at the southern border but also on the transportation routes to the northern border and in coordinated patrols in key areas along our southwest border," he said.

Calif. utility cuts power due to wildfire risk

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Pacific Gas & Electric implemented a controversial practice of cutting power to selected portions of Northern California on Saturday to guard against wildfires as the weather turned very windy, dry and hot.

Electricity was turned off around 6 a.m. to 1,600 customers in parts of Napa, Solano and Yolo counties. Just as that shutdown was called off, the utility warned 27,000 customers in Butte, Yuba, Nevada, El Dorado and Placer counties that their power would be cut from 9 p.m. through Sunday morning.

The end of the earlier shutdown was announced around 4 p.m., and the utility said power would be restored in those areas as soon as crews finished checking lines for any weather-related damage.

Conditions ripe for fire — winds, low humidity, dry vegetation and heat — were expected to last into Sunday.

A fire that erupted late in the day in Yolo County was estimated at 100 acres. Firefighters halted the spread of another after 25 acres burned northeast of Calistoga in Napa County.

The causes were not immediately known.

PG&E is under pressure to prevent fire starts after downed power lines and other company equipment have been blamed for conflagrations that began during so-called fire weather.

But there has been opposition from customers who rely on electrically powered life-support equipment as well as businesses that have had to shut down for lack of power.

The state's electricity providers have been given authority to shut off power when fire risk is extremely high.

The California Public Utilities Commission has said they must do a better job of educating and notifying the public, as well as increase fire prevention efforts.

Boeing wanted to wait to fix 737 Max issue

Associated Press

Boeing planned to wait three years to fix a nonworking safety alert on its 737 Max aircraft and sped up the process only after the first of two deadly crashes involving the planes.

The company acknowledged that it originally planned to fix a cockpit warning light in 2020 after two key lawmakers disclosed the company's timetable on Friday.

U.S. Reps. Peter DeFazio, of Oregon, and Rick Larsen, of Washington, wrote to Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration and asked why the company took more than a year to tell the safety agency and airlines that the alert did not work on Max jets.

The feature, called an angle of attack, or AoA alert, warns

pilots when sensors measuring the up-or-down pitch of the plane's nose relative to oncoming air might be wrong.

The sensors malfunctioned during a Lion Air flight in Indonesia in October and an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Addis Ababa in March, causing anti-stall software to push the planes' noses down. Pilots were unable to regain control, and both planes crashed. In all, 346 people were killed.

It is not clear whether either crash could have been prevented if the cockpit alert had been working.

A Boeing spokesman said that based on a safety review, the company had originally planned to fix the cockpit warning when it began delivering a new, larger model of the Max to airlines in 2020.

All Max jets will have the alert as standard equipment before returning to service, and newly built planes will have it, too, Boeing spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. Boeing delivered about 370 of the planes before they were grounded around the world in March.

Boeing is revising its software, called MCAS so that it will rely on readings from two sensors instead of one and will be easier for pilots to overcome if it malfunctions. It is unclear when the FAA will approve the changes and allow the Max to fly again. Regulators in other countries could take longer.

DeFazio and Larsen are leaders of a House committee that is investigating the crashes and the FAA's regulation of Boeing.

Venezuelans pour into Colombia after 4 months of closed border

Associated Press

CUCUTA, Colombia — Thousands of people crossed into Colombia on Saturday to buy food and medicine after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro reopened a border between the countries that had been shut down for the past four months.

Long lines of Venezuelans stood at two international bridges near the city of Cucuta waiting to have their documents checked by Colombian officials, with some carrying children on their shoulders. Venezuelan border guards dressed in green uniforms helped control the crowd.

The South American nation's socialist government ordered the borders with Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Brazil and Colombia closed in February as the opposition tried to deliver food and medical supplies into the country.

Most of the aid was provided by the United States, a key ally of opposition leader Juan Guai-

do, who declared himself to be Venezuela's rightful president in January. Maduro dismissed the aid as an infringement on Venezuela's sovereignty and prohibited it from entering.

In May, the government reopened borders with Aruba and Brazil, but the Simon Bolivar International Bridge and the Francisco de Paula Santander International Bridge with Colombia have remained closed until now.

With the reopening, a flood of people seized on the opportunity to enter into the neighboring country and secure items that are all but unattainable in Venezuela.

The once-wealthy oil nation is now facing severe shortages of basic goods and hyperinflation that is expected to surpass 10 million percent this year, according to a recent International Monetary Fund estimate.

The chaos has been further aggravated by U.S. sanctions on Venezuelan oil exports and has forced an estimated 5,000

people to leave the country each day, according to the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees.

The U.N. refugee agency said Friday that 4 million Venezuelans, or almost 15% of the population, have left the country.

On Saturday, the UNHCR's special envoy, Angelina Jolie, was visiting another part of the Colombia-Venezuela border to learn more about the conditions faced by migrants and refugees and raise awareness about their needs. The Hollywood actress met with aid workers and Venezuelans and toured a tent village built by UNHCR for vulnerable migrants.

Following her visit, Jolie gave a brief statement in which she praised Colombia for receiving more than 1.3 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees and urged the leaders of developed countries to do more to help displaced people around the world.

Massive extradition protests in Hong Kong

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hundreds of thousands of protesters marched through Hong Kong on Sunday to voice their opposition to government-sponsored legislation that would allow people to be extradited to mainland China to face charges.

The massive protest took place three days before Hong Kong's government plans to bring the bill to the full legislature, bypassing the committee process, in a bid to win approval by the end of the month.

Police estimated the crowd at 240,000, but organizers said more than 1 million took part.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, has pushed forward with the legislation despite widespread criticism from human rights and business groups. Opponents say that China's legal system would not guarantee the same rights to defendants as in semi-autonomous Hong Kong.

"What can we do to get Carrie Lam to listen to us? How many people have to come out to make her reconsider listening to the public?" asked Miu Wong, 24, an office worker who joined the protest.

Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997, the so-called "one country, two systems" framework. However, China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes.

Hong Kong's Legislative Council intends to vote on the amended Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance on Wednesday.

Sudanese launch protest after crackdown

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Shops were closed and streets were empty across Sudan on Sunday, the first day of a general strike called for by protest leaders demanding the resignation of the ruling military council.

The Sudanese Professionals Association had called on people to stay home starting on Sunday, the first day of the workweek, in protest of the deadly crackdown last week, when security forces violently dispersed the group's main sit-in outside the military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum.

The protesters say more than 100 people have been killed since the crackdown began June 3.

The protesters hope that by

bringing daily life to a halt they can force the military to hand over power to civilians. The military overthrew President Omar al-Bashir in April after four months of mass rallies but has refused demonstrators' demands for an immediate move to civilian rule, instead pushing for a transitional power-sharing arrangement.

An Associated Press journalist saw heavy deployment of troops from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in several parts of Khartoum and its sister city of Omdurman. There are long queues for fuel in several areas in the capital.

The internet remains cut off in Khartoum, and other types of communications also restricted, with reports of mobile network services heavily disrupted.

Security forces removed bar-

ricades from the main roads and opened the sit-in area outside the military's headquarters for the first time since the dispersal. The SPA urged protesters to avoid clashes with the RSF.

Protesters have accused the RSF, which grew out of the notorious Janjaweed militias used by al-Bashir in the Darfur conflict in the early 2000s, of leading the nationwide crackdown. The SPA has called for the force to be disbanded.

The Sudan Doctors' Committee, the medical affiliate of the SPA, said at least four people were killed Sunday, including a young man who was shot dead by the RSF in Khartoum's Bahri neighborhood. Two died of their wounds after RSF forces beat them and a fourth was shot dead in Omdurman, it said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Famed Four Seasons is closing again

NY NEW YORK — New York's famed Four Seasons Restaurant is closing less than a year after it reopened in a new location.

The New York Times reported that the midtown Manhattan restaurant known as the original power lunch destination will close Tuesday.

The Four Seasons lost its home in the Seagram Building when developer Aby Rosen took over the landmark skyscraper in 2016. It reopened in August 2018 in a new location three blocks away.

Managing partner Alex von Bidder told the Times that the revamped restaurant had a great team in place but "just couldn't make it."

Alligator captured in city neighborhood

PA PITTSBURGH — Animal control officers in Pittsburgh captured an alligator.

A person walking a dog spotted the 5-foot gator in the city's Beechview neighborhood last Thursday.

The alligator was hissing, and animal control officers cornered it against a garage door before taping its jaws shut. It was taken to an animal shelter.

Law bans advertising for lab-grown 'meat'

SC COLUMBIA — The state has passed a new law that keeps protein grown in a laboratory from stem cells as advertising as "meat."

Primary sponsor Republican Rep. Randy Ligon, of Chester, said he didn't want people to confuse lab-grown protein with the real thing.

The lawmaker and member of the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association told The Post and Courier of Charleston he doesn't want to stop research into the alternative food, but he does want to make sure consumers understand what they are getting.

The bill passed both the House and Senate unanimously and Gov. Henry McMaster signed it into law last month.

Pony Express rides set at historical parks

NE LINCOLN — Visitors to two Nebraska state historical parks can see a reenactment of the Pony Express this week.

The rides will take place Tuesday and Wednesday at Rock Creek Station and Fort Kearny state historical parks.

Each year, members of the National Pony Express Association recreate the Pony Express with a commemorative ride over 10 days. Riders carry letters over the original trail.

The 1,966-mile, eight-state event is conducted 24 hours a day until the mail is delivered.

LA doctor guilty in \$33M Medicare scam

CA LOS ANGELES — A doctor and a patient recruiter have been found guilty of taking part in a \$33 million scheme that billed Medicare for medical services and equipment that patients didn't need or never received.

A federal jury on Friday convicted Robert Glazer of conspiracy and a dozen counts of health care fraud.

Marina Merino was convicted of conspiracy and eight fraud counts. Prosecutors said she recruited patients to Glazer's East Hollywood clinic in exchange for kickbacks.

Both may now face decades in federal prison.

Authorities said the two and others ran a scheme that fraudulently billed Medicare \$33 million. The government paid out about \$22 million.

The other two people have pleaded guilty to conspiracy and await sentencing.

Parents arrested over meth taken to school

WA KENNEWICK — Police said a boy's mother and stepfather have been arrested after he brought a bag of methamphetamine to his elementary school in Washington state.

The Tri-City Herald reported the child found the meth at his home and handed the bag to a Kennewick elementary school employee Wednesday.

Kennewick police said a school resource officer talked with the boy and officers decided to search his home. They found fentanyl pills and drug paraphernalia.

The child's parents were arrested on drug possession charges and booked into the Benton County jail. Child Protective Services took the boy and his younger sister into protective custody.

Man finds stranger in his home cleaning

VT ST. JOHNSBURY — A man said he came home to find a stranger inside cleaning.

Brendan Boardman told mynbc.com that he heard noises in the kitchen Tuesday. When he went to look he found a woman cleaning the house.

He said he asked her what she was doing there and she said she must have gotten dropped off at the wrong house.

Police said a trooper spoke to

the woman who said she wasn't sure of the address of the house she was supposed to clean.

Police surround house for burglary, find deer

TX LUFKIN — Police who surrounded a house in eastern Texas because they thought they had a burglary in progress found a deer instead.

The homeowner called Lufkin police early Thursday after she heard glass breaking. The woman hid in a closet and realized she had left her weapon in the kitchen. Officers were worried it could end up in the hands of the suspect.

Video posted on Facebook shows officers entering the home, yelling, "Police! Let me see your hands!" Police said that as the officers rounded a corner, they came "face to face with one very frightened doe."

The officers used chairs to shoo the deer out the door.

Mountain lion seized from home released

CO DENVER — Wildlife officials have released a mountain lion that was seized from a southern Colorado home after falling ill when the residents fed it bratwurst.

The feline was released into the wild after spending several months at a rehabilitation center in Wetmore.

The Walsenburg residents posted photos on social media in November showing the then-kitten in a cage and describing how they found it in a snowbank after a snowplow passed by.

The mountain lion was only a few months old and was kept too long to be returned to the area to be reunited with its mother.

From wire reports

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Nadal withstands challenge, wins 12th French Open title

Associated Press

PARIS— For a few, fleeting moments Sunday, Rafael Nadal found his French Open supremacy seemingly threatened by Dominic Thiem, a younger, talented opponent challenging him in the final for the second consecutive year.

A poor game from Nadal allowed Thiem to break him and even things at a set apiece. That development brought fans to their feet in Court Philippe Chatrier, roaring and clapping and, above all, wondering: Was this, now, a real contest? Could Thiem push Nadal more? Could he make this surge last? Would Nadal falter?

That the questions were raised at all was significant. The answers, perhaps not surprisingly, arrived swiftly. Nadal reasserted himself, as he usually does at Roland Garros, by grabbing 16 of the next 17 points and 12 of the remaining 14 games, pulling away to beat Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 for his record-extending 12th championship at the French Open.

"I gave everything I had," Thiem said. "It's amazing: 12 times here. It's unreal."

No one in tennis ever has won any major tournament that many times. Then again, no one ever has been as suited for success on any of the sport's surfaces as this 33-year-old Spaniard is on red clay: Nadal is 93-2 for his career at Roland Garros, winning four in a row from 2005-08, five in a row from 2010-14, and now three in a row.

Looking at the bigger picture, Nadal is now up to 18 Grand Slam trophies, moving within two of Roger Federer's men's record of 20.

Thiem, a 25-year-old Austrian who was seeded No. 4 and upset No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, was eyeing his first major title in this rematch of the 2018 final in Paris. But again, he couldn't solve Nadal.

"First thing that I want to say is congrats to Dominic. I feel sorry, because he deserves it here, too," Nadal said. "He has an unbelievable intensity."

This one began on a cloudy afternoon, with the temperature in the low 60s and only a slight breeze. In the initial game — interrupted briefly by a baby wailing in the stands, drawing a laugh from other spectators and prompting Nadal to back away from the baseline between serves — three of the five points lasted at least 11 strokes.

And, thereby, a pattern was established: By the end of the 3-hour, 1-minute match, a total of 46 points went 10 strokes or more. Each man claimed half.

Both men would station themselves

along the baseline and sprint, scramble, slide, stretch to somehow reach just about each and every ball that came their way, not merely putting a racket on it but responding with a booming reply. It was an impressive display of athleticism, skill and will, with Thiem managing to give just as good as he got, particularly with his ferocious backhand.

From the get-go, it was such a physical grind that Nadal was soaked with sweat and changed neon yellow shirts after seven games and 45 minutes, eliciting some whistles and catcalls from the crowd.

Early on, there were no signs of fatigue for Thiem, even though he was competing for a fourth straight day, because of rain that jumbled the schedule. Nadal, meanwhile, entered Sunday having played just once in the previous four days.

Not only that, but while Nadal dismissed Federer with relative ease in a straight-set semifinal that concluded Friday, Thiem was forced to work overtime, eliminating Djokovic in a five-setter that wrapped up less than 24 hours before the final began.

Thiem showed he can play defense. Showed he can flip to offense in a blink. Showed power off both sides. Showed precision, too, making only three of the match's first 12 unforced errors.

Indeed, it was Thiem who nosed ahead first, closing a 12-stroke exchange by ripping a forehand winner to earn the first break point of the final, then converting it with an overhead to cap a 20-stroke point for a 3-2 edge.

Nadal snapped to, immediately. He grabbed 13 of the set's last 18 points, and its final four games, doing so with elan, using a drop shot to help him break Thiem for a 5-3 lead, then a serve-and-volley to help hold for the set.

They appeared headed for a tiebreaker in the second set when Thiem broke to take it. Talk about a stunning shift: Nadal had a run in which he took 25 of 26 points on his serve, before a loss of focus, perhaps, did him in. With spectators trading between-point chants of nicknames — "Ra-fa!" and "Do-mi!" — Nadal pushed a backhand long. That gave Thiem the first set he'd managed to steal from Nadal in four career meetings at Roland Garros.

But Thiem made three unforced errors in the fourth set's first game to get broken at love. Nadal won the point on 23 of 27 times he went forward. One drop volley was spun so marvelously that it landed on Thiem's side, then bounced back toward the net. All Thiem could do was watch — and offer an appreciative thumbs-up.

Women's World Cup

Cristiane's 3 goals lift Brazil over Jamaicans

Associated Press

GRENOBLE, France — Cristiane scored all three goals and Brazil spoiled Jamaica's first-ever Women's World Cup match with a 3-0 victory on Sunday.

The veteran forward's goal in the 64th minute for the hat trick came on a free kick that curled just under the crossbar. She also scored in the 15th and 50th minutes for the Brazilians, who were playing without star Marta. The six-time women's world player of the year was ruled out of the match because of a left thigh injury.

The loss could have been worse for the Reggae Girlz, but goalkeeper Sydney Schneider stopped Andressa's penalty kick in the 38th minute. The save prompted countryman Usain Bolt to tweet "Yes mi keeper." Jamaica is the first Caribbean nation to play in the Women's World Cup.

It is Brazil's first hat trick in a World Cup since 1999. Cristiane is the ninth player overall to score 10 career World Cup goals; Marta holds the record with 15.

Italy 2, Australia 1: At Valenciennes, France, Barbara Bonansea scored twice, including the game-winner in stoppage time, as Italy upset Australia on Sunday.

Bonansea got past Australian captain Sam Kerr with a header that caught goalkeeper Lydia Williams off guard in the fifth minute of stoppage time. The Juventus player also had the equalizer in the 56th minute for the 15th-ranked Italians, who are making their first appearance in the World Cup since 1999.

England 2, Scotland 1: At Nice, France, The Lionesses scored two first-half goals to win a Group D match. Nikita Parris started the scoring for England with a penalty kick goal that resulted from a hand ball against Scotland. With several minutes to go in the first half, Ellen White curled a shot in to put the Lionesses up 2-0.

Scotland came within a goal when Claire Emslie scored late in the second half.

Norway 3, Nigeria 0: At Reims, France, Guro Reiten and Lisa Marie Utland scored to help Norway open the Women's World Cup with a victory over Nigeria on Saturday night.

Rocker throws no-hitter for Vanderbilt

Associated Press

Louisville became the first team to clinch a spot in the College World Series, but it was Vanderbilt's Kumar Rocker who provided the biggest highlight on the second day of the NCAA super regionals.

The freshman pitched the first no-hitter in the super-regional era that started in 1999, and the No. 2 national seed Commodores kept their season alive with a 3-0 win over Duke on Saturday night.

No. 1 UCLA and No. 9 Oklahoma State also were to play decisive Game 3s on Sunday. Jake Moberg scored from first on Kevin Kendall's double in the 12th inning and the Bruins beat Michigan 5-4. The Cowboys scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the ninth to get past Texas Tech 6-5.

In super regional openers, Florida State, Auburn, No. 5 Arkansas and No. 6 Mississippi State won and can clinch CWS bids Sunday.

Louisville's Bobby Miller

carried a no-hitter through eight innings in a 12-0 win that wrapped up a two-game sweep of East Carolina. He gave up a hit in the ninth before Michael Kirian finished to preserve the shutout for Louisville (49-16), which reached the CWS for the fourth time since 2013 and fifth overall.

Vanderbilt's Rocker dominated Duke 24 hours after the Blue Devils won the series opener 18-5. Rocker used a devastating breaking ball to strike out 19, including 12 of 14 in one stretch and the last four.

"The eighth (inning) was the one I had to get over," said Rocker, who threw 131 pitches. "The ninth came. I said I'm here, I might as well do it."

UCLA had bases loaded twice with none out in the 11th but couldn't push a run across after a quirky unassisted double play by third baseman Blake Nelson and an inning-ending groundout. Moberg reached on Michigan's fifth error in the 12th and scored when Kendall's drive into right center.

Oklahoma State took three leads against host Texas Tech only to see the Red Raiders come back. With the score tied 5-all, OSU loaded the bases against Clayton Beeter and Taylor Floyd in the ninth, and Noah Sifrit came home on Floyd's third wild pitch of the inning.

Florida State, trying to return retiring coach Mike Martin to the CWS for a 17th time and give the all-time NCAA coaching wins leader one last shot at his first national title, overcame a four-run deficit for the first time this season to beat LSU 6-4. The Seminoles (40-21) also continued Martin's streak of winning at least 40 games each of his 40 years at the helm.

Auburn, down three runs after seven innings, scored nine runs in the last two to beat host North Carolina 11-7.

Jack Kenley's three-run homer in the first inning ignited 2018 national runner-up Arkansas in an 11-2 win over Mississippi. The host Razor-

backs got a career-high 8¹/₃ innings from Seattle Mariners second-round draft pick Isaiah Campbell.

SEC pitcher of the year Ethan Small struck out eight and gave up five hits in six innings and Mississippi State knocked out Brendan Beck after three innings in a 6-2 win over Stanford.

Perturbed Pirate: East Carolina coach Cliff Godwin said his team deserved better treatment from the NCAA in scheduling and seeding. The Pirates, of the American Athletic Conference, required five games to win their weather-plagued regional and had to play doubleheaders last Sunday and Monday.

"I felt like when you push two games together, our guys just ran out of gas having to play five games in 48 hours," he said. "And you'd think for student-athlete welfare — the NCAA is so concerned about that — we wouldn't have to play the first game on Friday. I guess that's the way it is when you're a non-Power 5 school."

Golovkin knocks out Rolls in the 4th round

BY BARRY WILNER

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now that he has taken care of his return to the ring in typical Triple G fashion, Gennady Golovkin can look ahead.

Well aware of the lesson Anthony Joshua learned in the same Madison Square Garden ring last weekend, Golovkin used a vicious left hand to prevent a second Garden shocker. In his first fight since his initial loss, last September to Canelo Alvarez, Golovkin knocked out Steve Rolls with 51 seconds remaining in the fourth round of their super middleweight fight Saturday night.

There were no titles on the line, and Triple G ensured there was no stunner like Andy Ruiz Jr.'s upset of Joshua for four heavyweight belts. Go-

lovkin looked slow and tentative, perhaps rusty from the layoff, until he began landing regularly in the fourth round.

That massive left decked Rolls, who struggled to get up and clearly was in no condition to continue. Golovkin (39-1-1, 37 knockouts) previously had Rolls in trouble in the round thanks to a series of strong and quick combinations that looked like vintage Triple G.

"I love knockouts," Golovkin said. "I love New York."

"It was a great night all around. I'm ready to come back in September and bring back the big drama show."

That, of course, could be a third go-round with Alvarez, who owns the victory and the draw on Golovkin's record. Both are under contract to DAZN, which streamed Saturday night's bout, Golovkin's

first without a championship involved since 2009, a span of 22 fights.

Asked in the ring who he wanted to fight next, the Kazakh star smiled widely as the crowd of 12,357 cheered.

"We know who the fans want me to fight next," he said.

Yes, perhaps, he can look to Alvarez-Golovkin III, probably the biggest money fight out there in a sport that could be filled with them over the next year.

Promoter Tom Loeffler is relatively certain that's where the middleweight division is headed.

"I know DAZN signed Triple G to make the third fight, that would be the marquee fight of their lineup," Loeffler said. "They are in the business of putting on the biggest fights. The Canelo fight is his biggest

fight just as the Triple G fight is the biggest for Canelo. The fans are demanding they want to see a third fight.

"We will do everything on our side to make that fight. DAZN wants to make that fight. Both are bigger than whatever belts are around their waists. Those are mega-events."

Rolls, a Canadian in his first bout at the Garden — Golovkin is 6-0 here — sustained his first defeat after 19 wins. He looked particularly adept in Round 2, when he was by far the busier and more accurate fighter. Still, two judges gave that round to Triple G.

No matter. Golovkin found the range with both hands in the third round, and after that it looked like the Triple G who ruled the ring for nearly a decade until his two extremely close bouts with Alvarez.

MLB roundup

Brewers' Davies tops Pirates, rolls to 7-0

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Zach Davies became the first Milwaukee starter to win his first seven decisions in a season, hanging on for five innings Saturday before the Brewers' bullpen finished off a 5-3 victory over Pittsburgh.

Ryan Braun had an RBI single in the fourth that put the Brewers ahead to stay. Mike Moustakas hit his 19th home run and pinch-hitter Manny Pina added a late homer.

Milwaukee moved a season-high nine games over .500 and beat the Pirates for the fifth time in six games this year.

Davies gave up seven hits and left with a 4-3 lead. Four relievers blanked the Pirates on one hit, with Josh Hader striking out the side in the ninth for his 15th save.

Braves 1, Marlins 0: Julio Teheran pitched six sharp innings, and rookie Austin Riley scored the only run of the game for Atlanta.

The Braves won despite getting only three hits and improved to 5-0 this season at Marlins Park. Miami had just four hits.

Teheran (4-4) gave up two hits and struck out five.

Tigers 9, Twins 3: JaCoby Jones homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs in host Detroit's win over Minnesota.

Christin Stewart also homered for the Tigers, who had lost 13 of 14 at Comerica Park.

Nick Ramirez (2-0), Detroit's second pitcher in a bullpen game, gave up one run and three hits with three walks in three innings.

Indians 8, Yankees 4: Rookie Oscar Mercado hit a two-run homer off CC Sa-

bathia to break a fifth-inning tie and host Cleveland defeated New York.

Roberto Perez homered in his fourth straight game for the Indians, who have won four of five on their homestand against AL division leaders New York and Minnesota.

Orioles 4, Astros 1: Renato Nunez hit his 16th homer, Richie Martin added a two-run shot in the ninth and Baltimore snapped a three-game skid by winning at Houston.

Nunez homered in the sixth inning and the Astros tied it in the bottom half on a sacrifice fly, but a solid defensive play by right fielder Anthony Santander ended the threat.

Phillies 4, Reds 1: Nick Pivetta struck out six in his first career complete game, Jay Bruce had a two-run single and host Philadelphia beat Cincinnati.

Pivetta (4-1) allowed six hits in his third start since his demotion to the minors. The right-hander is 2-0 with a 1.80 ERA since being recalled.

Rays 9-1, Red Sox 2-5: Marco Hernandez hit a key two-run double in his first major league start in over two years, David Price pitched six solid innings in his 300th career start as host Boston beat Tampa Bay to salvage a split of a day-night doubleheader.

It was Boston's first home win over the Rays this season after losing the first four meetings, including the opener.

In the opener, Ryan Yarbrough held the Red Sox to an unearned run into the eighth inning and Travis d'Arnaud hit a three-run homer.

Rangers 10-3, Athletics 5-1: Adrian Sampson threw a four-hitter for his first career complete game, and host Texas wrapped up a doubleheader sweep over

Oakland.

Sampson (5-3) struck out seven and walked one in 109 pitches to win his fifth game in a row.

In the opener, Tim Federowicz homered in his first big league game this season, Nomar Mazara also went deep.

White Sox 2, Royals 0: Lucas Giolito worked into the eighth inning and had a career-high 11 strikeouts to win his seventh straight start, outdueling host Kansas City's Brad Keller.

Diamondbacks 6, Blue Jays 0: Zack Greinke and four relievers combined on a five-hitter, Alex Avila and Kevin Cron hit solo home runs and Arizona won at Toronto for its third straight win.

Mets 5, Rockies 3: Steven Matz struck out 10, Pete Alonso moved closer to the team's rookie home run record and host New York beat Colorado.

Matz (5-4) threw 120 pitches in six innings. He gave up two earned runs on six hits and two walks.

Cardinals 9, Cubs 4: Pinch-hitter Victor Caratini hit a tiebreaking bases-loaded double in host Chicago's four-run sixth inning in a win over St. Louis. Hitting for starting pitcher Jon Lester with the bases loaded, Caratini lined the first pitch to left field. Marcell Ozuna attempted a sliding catch, but the ball dropped.

Dodgers 7, Giants 2: Corey Seager had three of his four hits and three of his four RBIs following intentional walks to Cody Bellinger, and Los Angeles won at San Francisco.

Nationals 4, Padres 1: Max Scherzer struck out nine in seven strong innings and Brian Dozier hit a two-run home run to lead visiting Washington past San Diego.

Ohtani gets best of Kikuchi in Angels' victory

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Shohei Ohtani and Yusei Kikuchi sensed the excitement around Angel Stadium each time they dug in against each other. The Japanese stars also realized millions of eyes were on them from across the Pacific as they faced each other in the major leagues for the first time.

When Ohtani's homer sailed into the night sky, the Angels slugger left no doubt who won

the first stateside matchup in what's likely to be a long, friendly rivalry between two incredible talents from Hanamaki Higashi High School.

Ohtani homered and singled in his first three major league at-bats against Kikuchi, leading Los Angeles to a 12-3 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Saturday night.

Ohtani's fourth-inning homer was the Angels' third consecutive dinger in four pitches off Kikuchi (3-4), who was chased

from his rough start shortly afterward. Tommy La Stella and Mike Trout also homered before Ohtani hit the first big league homer by a Japanese-born hitter off a Japanese-born pitcher since 2009.

"I was trying to treat it like a normal game and a normal at-bat, but there was something special about it," Ohtani said through a translator.

"I mean, we went to the same high school. I'm glad that we got the results we wanted,

though."

Ohtani celebrated with obvious glee, even flexing his muscles in the dugout — although he was only mimicking a previous gesture by teammate Kole Calhoun, he said.

"That's the most excited I've seen him on a homer," Trout said.

"I think I would be, too, if I went to the same high school. I'd be excited, too. I'd never seen him like that. It was pretty cool."