

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US outguns Iran, but faces realities in event of a war

The Washington Post

Rising tensions that, according to President Donald Trump, left the U.S. just short of open conflict with Iran last week highlight a grim reality that the Pentagon has coped with for years: While the U.S. military outguns Iran, Tehran could make even a limited war painful.

Iran's military has more than 700,000 troops, including a conventional army of about 350,000 soldiers, according to a Congressional Research Service report published last month. That's not counting the Revolutionary Guard, a specialized force comprising another 125,000 troops in its army and 20,000 personnel in its navy, the CRS report said.

It's the Guard that has created friction between the U.S. and Iran. The force, designated a foreign terrorist organization by the Trump administration in April, patrols the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, oversees Iran's ballistic missile programs and claimed responsibility for downing a U.S. surveillance drone over the Gulf of Oman on Thursday, prompting the administration to plan a retaliatory strike before Trump halted it late in the day.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity due to the matter's extreme sensitivity, said Friday that ships accompanying the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln were poised to strike

if called upon. They included the USS Bainbridge, a destroyer, and the USS Leyte Gulf, a guided missile cruiser, both of which can carry Tomahawk missiles, the official said.

Among the weapons that Iran possesses are anti-aircraft missile systems like the S-300, which can target objects at altitudes of 15 miles. Tehran also has a fleet of more than 300 aircraft, although nothing nearly as advanced as what the U.S. Air Force flies. The aircraft include Russian-made MiG-29 fighters and Su-24 bombers and legacy American aircraft that the Pentagon has retired, such as the F-4. Iran bought them from the U.S. before its 1979 revolution, according to the CRS.

At sea, Iran's navy is believed to operate a fleet that includes more than 100 vessels, about half of which are small, quick-moving vessels that would not stand up well to American destroyers but could grind maritime traffic to a halt by laying mines and harassing commercial ships.

It is the actions of the Revolutionary Guard and Iran's proxy forces that have alarmed U.S. officials. The U.S. government has attributed numerous attacks to them globally over the last 20 years, and the Pentagon said this year that it believed Iranian proxy forces were responsible for the deaths of at least 608 U.S. troops in Iraq during the eight-year war spawned by the American invasion in 2003.

Trump approved US cyberstrikes against Iran's missile system

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump approved an offensive cyberstrike that disabled Iranian computer systems used to control rocket and missile launches even as he backed away from a conventional military attack in response to its shoot-down Thursday of an unmanned U.S. surveillance drone, according to people familiar with the matter.

The cyberstrikes, launched Thursday night by personnel with U.S. Cyber Command, were in the works for weeks if not months, according to two of those people, who said the Pentagon proposed launching them after Iran's alleged attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman earlier this month.

The strike against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was coordinated with U.S. Central Command, the military organization with purview of activity throughout the Middle East, those people said. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because the operation remains extremely sensitive.

Though crippling to Iran's military command and control systems, the operation did not involve a loss of life or civilian casualties — a contrast to conventional strikes, which the president said he called back Thursday because they would not be “proportionate.”

The administration on Saturday warned industry officials to be alert for cyberattacks originating from Iran.

The White House declined to comment, as did officials at U.S. Cyber Command. Pentagon spokeswoman Elissa Smith said, “As a matter of policy and for operational security, we do

not discuss cyberspace operations, intelligence or planning.”

The cyberstrikes were first reported by Yahoo News.

“This operation imposes costs on the growing Iranian cyber threat, but also serves to defend the United States Navy and shipping operations in the Strait of Hormuz,” said Thomas Bossert, a former senior White House cyber official in the Trump administration.

“Our U.S. military has long known that we could sink every IRGC vessel in the strait within 24 hours if necessary,” he said. “And this is the modern version of what the U.S. Navy has to do to defend itself at sea and keep international shipping lanes free from Iranian disruption.”

Thursday's strikes against the IRGC represented the first offensive show of force since Cyber Command was elevated to a full combatant command in May. It leveraged new authorities, granted by the president, that have streamlined the approval process for such measures.

The United States in April designated the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization in response to its destabilizing behavior across the Middle East.

On Saturday, the Department of Homeland Security issued a warning to U.S. industry that Iran has stepped up its cyber-targeting of critical industries — to include oil, gas and other energy sectors — and government agencies, and has the potential to disrupt or destroy systems.

Japan: Russian bombers entered airspace

BY CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Two Russian Tupolev Tu-95 bombers entered Japanese airspace Thursday morning over Minamidaito Island — east of Okinawa — and over Hachijo Island — southeast of Tokyo — according to a Japan Ministry

of Defense spokeswoman.

The two missile-platform and strategic bombers first breached Japan's airspace at 8:53 a.m. A single plane again entered the country's airspace at 10:21 a.m., the spokeswoman told Stars and Stripes on Friday. The rules of her job do not allow her to be named.

"Japan Air Self-Defense Force sent out fighter jets to

warn these Russian [bombers]," the spokeswoman said. The aircraft "were in the airspace for three minutes."

The Russian Ministry of Defense denied the encroachment took place, Russia's Tass news agency reported.

"The flight was carried out in strict compliance with the international rules of using international airspace, without any

violations of the borders," Tass cited the ministry as saying.

Japanese Minister of Defense Takeshi Iwaya told reporters Friday morning that he was "deeply disappointed with the Russian bombers violating Japanese airspace twice in one day. We strongly request that such a thing does not happen again."

Commander relieved after Hawaii liberty probe

Stars and Stripes

The commander of Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, has been relieved of his duties following an investigation into an April liberty incident.

Maj. Gen. Paul Rock Jr., commander of Marine Corps Installations Pacific, relieved Lt. Col. Nathaniel "Lips" Baker "due to a loss of trust and confidence in his ability to continue to serve in that position," the service said in the statement Thursday.

No other details were available.

"The Marine Corps holds all Marines, especially commanders, responsible for their actions, and is committed to upholding high standards of honor, courage and commitment within the ranks," the statement said.

Baker, who assumed command at Kaneohe Bay in June 2018, flew 2,900 hours in the EA-6B Prowler and served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kaneohe Bay air station is home to nearly 10,000 active-duty Marine and Navy personnel, according to the Marine Corps website.

USS Fitzgerald flies crew-designed flag that honors 7 collision victims

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

Flags flew aboard the USS Fitzgerald for the first time in nearly two years — this time featuring a new flag designed to honor the seven sailors who died in the ship's June 17, 2017, collision off Japan's Izu Peninsula, according to a Navy statement Thursday.

On the second anniversary of the fatal crash involving the Fitzgerald and a Philippine-flagged container ship about 80 nautical miles southwest of Tokyo, the destroyer's commanding officer, Cmdr. Gar-

rett Miller, unfurled the new flag that current crewmembers designed, according to the statement.

"I am proud of this flag and proud of our shipmates who helped design it, as it is a product of respect and professionalism that symbolizes their great service and sacrifice," Miller said in the statement.

The ship has been undergoing more than \$300 million worth of repairs in Pascagoula, Miss., since January 2018.

The memorial flag is deep blue with white lettering, featuring the phrase "Don't Give Up the Ship" in large, bold font,

according to a Navy photo.

The flag also includes the date of the collision with the phrase "Forever with the Fightin' Fitz" above the names and rates of the seven fallen sailors.

It was raised June 17 alongside the national ensign and Union Jack flags — the first time since November 2017 that flags flew over the ship, according to the statement.

The new commemorative flag is not a permanent feature but will fly each June 17 "to honor [the fallen] and never to forget their sacrifice," Wilbur said in the statement.

Hawaii senator's widow christens warship

Associated Press

BATH, Maine — A Hawaii delegation brought a tropical flair to a state known for cold weather as a Navy destroyer bearing the name of the late Sen. Daniel Inouye was christened Saturday at Bath Iron Works.

There were flowery leis around the necks of dignitaries and a giant one on the warship as Irene Hirano Inouye, the ship's sponsor, smashed a bottle of Champagne on the bow of the future USS Daniel Inouye, which is under construction.

She said the Hawaiian touch was important.

"The traditions of the Navy are very special and historic. But to truly make it reflect of Dan's life, and the people on Hawaii, our team had to find ways to bring a little bit of Hawaii to Maine," she said before the ceremony.

Her late husband was a Medal of Honor recipient who broke racial barriers in Congress represented Hawaii in the U.S. Senate for a half-century until his death in 2012. He lost his right arm in combat in World

War II in Italy with the mostly Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The ship's motto — "Go For Broke" — was borrowed from the 442nd.

In the Senate, Inouye served as chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Hawaiian tradition will continue when the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer is commissioned into service — its homeport will be Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

White House unveils a \$50B Palestinian economic proposal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Saturday unveiled a \$50 billion Palestinian investment and infrastructure proposal intended to be the economic engine to power its much-anticipated but still unreleased “deal of the century” Middle East peace plan.

The scheme, which calls for a mix of public and private financing and intends to create at least a million new jobs for Palestinians, was posted to the White House website ahead of a two-day conference in Bahrain that is being held amid heavy skepticism about its viability and outright opposition from the Palestinians. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday reiterated his rejection of the proposal and the conference.

The “Peace to Prosperity” workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday will also take place amid heightened regional tensions over Iran that threaten to overshadow its goals.

With no official participation from the two main protagonists, Israel and the Palestinians, and scant enthusiasm from others, continued uncertainty and strong doubts over the plan’s political vision and the distraction of potential U.S.-Iran conflict, expectations are decidedly low. President Donald Trump’s senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner faces high hurdles in building support for the initiative.

The 10-year plan calls for projects worth \$27.5 billion in the West Bank and Gaza and \$9.1 billion, \$7.4 billion and \$6.3 billion for Palestinians in Egypt, Jordan and Leba-

non, respectively. Projects envisioned include those in the health care, education, power, water, high-tech, tourism and agriculture sectors. It calls for the creation of a “master fund” to administer the finances and implementation of the projects that it says are akin to the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II.

The plan foresees more than doubling the Palestinian gross domestic product, reducing the Palestinian poverty rate by 50% and cutting the sky-high Palestinian unemployment rate to nearly single digits, according to the documents, which do not specify exactly how the projects will be funded.

It also calls for linking the West Bank and Gaza with a modern transportation network, including high-speed rail service.

Bikers, vets mourn 7 killed in truck crash

Associated Press

RANDOLPH, N.H. — Motorcyclists and military veterans mourned Sunday as authorities sought help in determining why a pickup collided with a group of bikers on a rural highway Friday, killing seven of them.

The crash in remote northern New Hampshire involved members of Marine JarHeads MC, a motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses. Authorities said they might begin identifying victims by name as soon as Sunday.

The tragedy left the close-knit motorcycle community in shock, with many remembering their own close calls on the road.

A pickup towing a flatbed trailer collided with the group of 10 motorcycles around 6:30 p.m. Friday on U.S. 2, a two-lane highway in the tiny North Woods community of Randolph. The pickup caught fire, and witnesses described a “devastating” scene as bystanders tried to help the injured amid shattered motorcycles.

This weekend’s long-planned “Blessing of the Bikes” ceremony an hour to the north of the accident was expected to be especially emotional this year.

Meanwhile, members of the motorcycle community had already begun organizing help for the victims’ families, said Cat Wilson, who organizes a motorcycle charity event in Massachusetts and is a friend of some of the crash victims.

Investigators on Saturday identified the pickup driver as Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, an employee of Westfield Transport, a company in Springfield, Mass.

Zhukovskyy survived the accident, did not need to be hospitalized and has not been charged, authorities said.

The National Transportation Safety Board asked for the public’s help in the form of videos, photos or other information about the accident or the vehicles involved.

Trump delays nationwide ICE sweep

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Saturday delayed a nationwide immigration sweep to deport people living in the United States illegally, including families, saying he would give lawmakers two weeks to work out solutions for the southern border.

The move came after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Trump on Friday asking him to call off the raids. But three administration officials said scrapping the operation was not just about politics. They said Immigration and Customs Enforcement leaders had expressed serious concerns that officers’ safety would be in jeopardy because too many details about the raids had been made public.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to speak about private discussions.

“At the request of Democrats, I have delayed the Illegal Immigration Removal Process (Deportation) for two weeks to see if the Democrats and Republicans can get together and work out a solution to the Asylum and Loophole problems at the Southern Border,” Trump wrote on Twitter. “If not, Deportations start!”

The operation, which sparked outrage and concern among immigrant advocates, had been expected to begin Sunday and would target people with final orders of removal, including families whose immigration cases had been fast-tracked by judges.

The cancellation was another sign of the Trump administration’s difficulty managing the border crisis. The number of people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has risen dramatically under Trump despite his tough rhetoric and hard-line

policies. Balancing a White House eager to push major operational changes with the reality on the ground is a constant challenge for the Department of Homeland Security.

Trump gave the first public word of the planned sweep last week, saying in a tweet that an operation was coming up and the agency would begin to remove “millions” of people who were in the United States illegally. Later, leaks to the media included sensitive law enforcement details, such as the day it was to begin, Sunday, plus specific cities and other operational details.

Pelosi called Trump on Friday night and the two spoke for about 12 minutes, according to a person familiar with the situation and not authorized to discuss it publicly. She asked him to call off the raids and he said he would consider the request, the person said.

Southern Calif. hit by swarm of 1K quakes over 3 weeks

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The seismic storm that unleashed more than 1,000 small earthquakes in San Bernardino and Riverside counties these last three weeks elicited what has become a typical reaction in quake country.

To some, the “swarmageddon” 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles brought fear that a bigger threat was coming. To others, as long as they didn’t feel a shake, it was easy to just put it out of their minds.

California has small quakes all the time — a magnitude 3 every other day on average. But not all of them act the same, and some bring more danger than others.

As officials install more seismic sensors as part of the state’s early warning system, experts are getting an increasingly better look at California’s smaller earthquakes.

There is general agreement that the recent swarm probably wasn’t a precursor to a catastrophic quake. But other small quakes — especially ones near major fault lines like the San Andreas — are potential warnings.

“I would redefine normal as: You should still be prepared for a large earthquake,” U.S. Geological Survey research geophysicist Andrea Llenos said. “We do know a big earthquake is going to happen” — just not when and where.

quake was nearly three years ago.

On Sept. 26, 2016, a rapid succession of small earthquakes — the strongest a trio measuring

above magnitude 4.0 — began rupturing under the Salton Sea close to the San Andreas fault. Scientists worried those quakes could set off a domino effect, reawakening the southern San Andreas from its long slumber. That fault is capable of producing a magnitude 8.2 quake.

Their worst fears didn’t materialize.

But “any time you have an increase in the number of small earthquakes, you’re likely to increase the likelihood of a slightly larger earthquake happening,” Llenos said.

The Fontana earthquake swarm that began on May 25, with its largest event a magnitude 3.2, was much less of a concern — it’s quite a ways from the San Andreas and San Jacinto faults, two of California’s scariest. That’s why, Llenos said, “it’s probably not going to affect the likelihood of larger earthquakes happening.”

While there’s only a slim chance any particular earthquake will trigger something far worse, experts say, it’s important to not completely relax.

While some might focus on the chance that the Fontana swarm won’t result in a much larger earthquake, it wouldn’t be surprising if a magnitude 6 or 6.5 struck the area, said Ross Stein, chief executive of Temblor.net and a former USGS research geophysicist.

“You can dismiss the swarm altogether, but ... you still have an issue that you should address,” Stein said.

N. Korea: Trump sent ‘excellent’ letter to Kim

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump sent North Korean leader Kim Jong Un an “excellent” letter, the North’s state-run news agency reported Sunday, quoting Kim as saying he would “seriously contemplate it.”

The White House declined to confirm that Trump had sent a letter to Kim.

It comes as nuclear talks between the U.S. and North Korea broke down after the failed summit between Kim and Trump in February in Vietnam.

The U.S. is demanding that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons entirely before international sanctions are lifted. North Korea is seeking a step-by-step approach in which moves toward denuclearization are matched by concessions from the U.S., notably a relaxation of the sanctions.

Kim “said with satisfaction that the letter is of excellent content,” Pyongyang’s Korean Central News Agency reported.

South Korea’s presidential office said it sees the exchange of letters between Kim and Trump as a positive development for keeping the momentum for dialogue alive.

Trump’s letter came days after Kim’s summit with visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping, which experts say underscored China’s emergence as a major player in the diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff with the North.

North Korean state media said Kim and Xi discussed the political situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula and reached unspecified consensus on important issues.

Xi is expected to meet with Trump this week in Japan during the G-20 summit. Analysts say he could pass him a message from Kim about the nuclear negotiations.

Man who drove into Va. crowd seeks mercy as sentencing looms

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The self-avowed white supremacist who plowed his car into counterdemonstrators opposing a white nationalist rally in Virginia two years ago, killing one person and injuring dozens, has asked a judge for mercy and a sentence shorter than life in prison.

Lawyers for James Alex Fields Jr., 22, said in a sentencing memo submitted in court documents Friday that the defendant should not spend his entire life in prison because of

his age, a traumatic childhood and a history of mental illness.

Fields pleaded guilty to federal hate crimes in March and is set to be sentenced on Friday.

“No amount of punishment imposed on James can repair the damage he caused to dozens of innocent people. But this Court should find that retribution has limits,” his attorneys wrote.

Prosecutors countered that the avowed anti-Semite and Adolf Hitler admirer has shown no remorse since he drove the car into the counterdemonstra-

tors on Aug. 12, 2017, killing anti-racism activist Heather Heyer and injuring others protesting against the white nationalists.

The attorneys for Fields said that giving him something less than a life sentence would be akin to an “expression of mercy” and a “conviction that no individual is wholly defined by their worst moments.”

But prosecutors said Friday that Fields deserves a life sentence, adding that would help deter others from committing “similar acts of domestic terrorism.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Guardsman charged in child porn case

VT BURLINGTON — The U.S. Department of Justice said a member of the Vermont Air National Guard has been charged with transporting and possessing child pornography.

The Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont said Scott Brochu, 47, was charged on Thursday near his residence.

WCAX-TV reported Brochu has been with the Guard for more than 25 years.

The Vermont National Guard released a statement that said any action by a member “that violates the law, breaks the trust that citizens place on our organization ... will not be tolerated.”

Suit challenges training for braiding

LA NEW ORLEANS — A lawsuit says the state imposes onerous and unconstitutional permit requirements on people who braid hair for a living.

The suit was filed Thursday in Baton Rouge by three practitioners of natural hair braiding techniques practiced widely in black communities.

The suit said Louisiana’s requirement for 500 hours of training is difficult to comply with. That’s because few cosmetology schools offer the course and the state doesn’t appear to offer the required exam.

Troopers and truckers join for safe driving

IL JOLIET — Illinois state troopers are teaming up with truck drivers in the Chicago area to stop distracted driving.

The (Joliet) Herald-News reported the “Trooper in a Truck” program has troopers riding along in the cabs of commercial motor vehicles to better spot distracted drivers.

Maj. Robert Meeder said troopers have a better vantage point from a truck’s cab to see if drivers in other vehicles are texting or doing other unsafe things. If the trooper sees something, they notify police units up ahead to stop the violators.

Hazards of balloons to wildlife highlighted

MI DETROIT — Environmental advocates are raising awareness about the dangers of balloons for wildlife.

The Detroit Free Press reported volunteers for the Alliance for the Great Lakes picked up more than 18,000 balloons, balloon pieces or balloon strings along Great Lakes shorelines from 2016 to 2018.

Lara O’Brien, who studies at the University of Michigan’s School for Environment and Sustainability, said an Australian study found balloons are the highest-risk plastic debris for seabirds. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist in Virginia said necropsies reveal tangled balloon ribbons in the guts of birds and marine animals.

Wife accused of taking husband’s guns

FL LAKELAND — A woman was arrested for allegedly taking her husband’s guns and turning them over to police.

Lakeland Police said Courtney Irby, 32, told police Joseph Irby tried to run her over with a car. She later went to his apartment and searched for the guns.

According to the arrest affidavit, she told an officer she had the guns and he asked if she had committed an armed burglary. According to the affidavit, she said “yes” but explained that her husband wasn’t going to turn them in.

She was charged with armed burglary of a dwelling and grand theft of a firearm.

The Ledger reported the couple was in the midst of a divorce. Court records show she applied for a temporary injunction against her husband.

Live rat falls from ceiling at restaurant

CA LOS ANGELES — A woman said she got more than she bargained for at a restaurant when a live rat fell from the ceiling.

Alisha Norman, of Houston, said she was watching the Women’s World Cup soccer game at Buffalo Wild Wings in Westchester on Thursday when the rat fell onto a table next to hers.

Norman told KCBS-TV that the manager scooped up the rat using two plates and dumped it into a garbage bag.

Bones at construction site are of triceratops

CO DENVER — Paleontologists said fossilized bones unearthed at a suburban Denver construction site are those of a large adult triceratops.

Maura O’Neal, a spokeswoman for the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, said Friday the partial skeleton included a limb bone and several ribs of the three-horned dinosaur.

The Denver Post reported the bones were found in May at a construction site near a retirement community in High-

lands Ranch in a rock layer that dates back 65 million to 68 million years.

Prosecutor: Thieves stole used cooking oil

NC RALEIGH — Federal agents said they’ve mopped up a theft ring involving 21 co-conspirators responsible for stealing a precious commodity: \$3.9 million worth of used cooking oil known as “yellow grease.”

A federal indictment unsealed Thursday said the thieves targeted eateries in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia for five years, pumping used oil from restaurant storage tanks into trucks for shipment around the country.

This oil is greasy gold for biodiesel companies. U.S. Agriculture Department data show a 100-pound load of “yellow grease” is worth \$25.

The suspects face conspiracy and money laundering charges that carry prison sentences of up to 25 years.

Baby California condor is spotted

AZ VERMILION CLIFFS — A baby California condor has been spotted in far northern Arizona.

The Peregrine Fund said one of its biologists confirmed the nestling last week at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

It’s the first hatching of a bird in the wild during the current breeding season. The Peregrine Fund said the condor likely is 2 months old.

California condors are making a comeback in the wild three decades after they were on the brink of extinction.

From wire reports

On a mission to provide objective reporting to America’s military, wherever they serve.
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STARS AND STRIPES®

US ready to get defensive

Associated Press

REIMS, France — Much of the attention on the United States rightly goes to its prolific offense, especially after that 13-goal game to open the Women's World Cup, but the team's defense has been predictably reliable so far in France.

The defense has posted shutouts in the team's first three games, marking the first time the United States has not conceded a goal in the group stage at the tournament. The defending champions open the knockout round Monday against Spain.

Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher saw little action during the team's rout of Thailand in the opener, but matches against Chile and Sweden provided incrementally tougher tests.

"To come away from group play with three shutouts, as a team defensively, I'm very proud of that," she said. "It's a goal that we have going into every game, especially as a back line, to keep clean sheets. We put a lot of time into team defending as well, all 11 players on the field are defending, and that cohesiveness is what helps bring that."

The team's backline in France has shifted due to lineup changes and injuries. Veteran center back Becky Sauerbrunn was held out of the first game because of a minor injury, but came back against Chile when coach Jill Ellis rested players.

Against Sweden, Ellis used the backline that is expected to start in the knockout

phase, with Abby Dahlkemper alongside Sauerbrunn, Kelley O'Hara on the right and Crystal Dunn on the left. Dunn was especially effective against Sweden and in thwarting forward Sofia Jakobsson.

The United States has seven clean sheets in its last eight World Cup matches — the exception being the two goals allowed in the team's 5-2 victory over Japan in the 2015 final. The United States went 540 minutes in Canada without conceding a goal, the longest streak in the tournament since Germany's record 679 scoreless minutes from 2003-11.

Former goalkeeper Hope Solo allowed just three total goals and won her second straight Golden Glove as the tournament's top goalkeeper. The backline included Sauerbrunn, Meghan Klingenberg, Julie Johnston and Ali Krieger.

Johnston, now Julie Ertz, has moved up into a role as a defensive midfielder in France. She sat out against Sweden because of a hip contusion but U.S. Soccer characterized the injury as minor. Krieger won a spot on the roster for this tournament because of her big-game experience after a long layoff from the team.

Naeher has replaced Solo, considered one of the game's best goalkeepers ever. Solo was dismissed from the team following the 2016 Olympics.

Brushing off the inevitable comparisons, Naeher has been steady in goal.

"I've played with Alyssa since I was like 16 so I've known her

for a really long time. It's awesome to see her step into this role because I've always known that she has the capacity and the talent to be the starting goalkeeper on this team. She's shown that," O'Hara said. "She, for me, provides a very calm consistency back there. She's also someone with steely nerves. I think she does a really good job of just putting on a game face."

The United States is currently on a streak of 594 minutes since last conceding a goal. The last came in the 81st minute of a 5-3 victory over Australia in April.

Echoing Naeher, Tobin Heath said the Americans have embraced team defense.

"It's huge. It's a big part of what we're trying to do, both offensively and defensively. We always talk about this idea of 360 defending, where everybody's contributing," Heath said. "I think Alyssa's been fantastic. It's not easy, especially in the first two games to not face that many shots, and then to have a quality opponent like Sweden, to be on her game."

If the top-ranked U.S. can get past No. 13 Spain, there's a possibility of a clash against hosts France in the quarterfinal in Paris. The fourth-ranked French, who scored seven goals in the group stage and conceded just one, faced Brazil on Sunday.

"I think this is the best team we've had, and we're so confident right now, we're so motivated to want to win and succeed," Krieger said.

Norway advances on PKs

Associated Press

NICE, France — Ingrid Hjelmseth proved to be a shootout hero once again as Norway beat Australia on penalties Saturday night to advance to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup.

Hjelmseth saved Emily Gielnik's kick and Ingrid Engen, who is playing in her first World Cup, hit the decisive penalty as Norway won the shootout 4-1 after the match had finished 1-1.

Australia captain Sam Kerr, who was frustrated by Norway most of the night despite several opportunities, fired her penalty shot high and wide.

"It was a great win," Hjelmseth said. "I was just focusing and picking a side when they put the ball down. I was just telling myself, 'OK, I will go to the right,' and then I took a chance and it was good for us, it was the right side."

Hjelmseth saved two penalties in her last shootout — the semifinal of the 2013 European Championship.

"That was a good one," she said. "I think when you're a goalie you can only be a hero so it's just about picking a side and just finding the right timing to go so you don't get the VAR stuff."

The shootout came after a game during which neither team had a clear advantage, though Norway succeeded in keeping Australia's Kerr from being much of a factor. Kerr had a goal ruled out in the second half after offside was called. Australia also had two penalties denied on video review in normal time.

The game went to extra time after Australia's Elise Kellond-Knight scored from a corner to make it a 1-1 game in the 83rd minute.

Kerr ended the tournament tied with American Alex Morgan for the most goals at five.

England eliminates angry Cameroon

Associated Press

VALENCIENNES, France — Steph Houghton scored on a rare free kick to set England on its way to a 3-0 victory over Cameroon on Sunday, clinching a place in the Women's World Cup quarterfinals after a game punctuated by the anger of the African team over VAR decisions.

At times during the incident-filled game in northeast France, the Cameroon players looked like they might refuse to resume playing as they protested against decisions while referee Quin

Liang struggled to maintain control.

Houghton scored the first goal after the captain was set up for an indirect free kick in the penalty area in the 14th minute.

Ellen White added to the lead in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time with a goal awarded only after an offside call was overruled on a video review.

Cameroon players were seething again when they were denied a goal at the start of the second half when another offside review went against the lowest-ranked team remaining.

Salary-cap deals dominate draft's 2nd day

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The traditional team-by-team roll call to open the second day of the NHL Draft hadn't yet begun when the league's looming salary-cap crunch began overshadowing the final six rounds Saturday.

Norris Trophy-winning defenseman P.K. Subban is off to New Jersey. Forward Patrick Marleau, a 21-year veteran, is headed to Carolina. And center J.T. Miller, one year into a five-year \$26.25 million contract, was traded to Vancouver.

The common denominator spurring each of the trades were teams seeking to shed salaries to address more pressing roster needs before the NHL's free agency period opens July 1. And the urgency to make the trades became more real when the league and NHL Players' Association announced next year's salary cap was set at \$81.5 million — \$1.5 million lower than initially projected.

"We had to make a business

decision," Nashville Predators general manager David Poile said about trading Subban.

And then there was Toronto Maple Leafs GM Kyle Dubas, who only two days ago suggested there was "a strong chance" Marleau would be back for the final year of his contract.

"I think everyone here knows how we feel about Patrick Marleau and what he has done for our organization," Dubas said, noting he kept Marleau informed of trade talks. "We didn't want to do one of those trades where it was moving a salary or a cap hit that was going to take anybody off our roster."

For Toronto, losing the 39-year-old Marleau — and his \$6.2 million salary — provides more flexibility to re-sign 22-year-old Mitchell Marner, a restricted free agent after completing his three-year entry-level contract.

Miller became expendable in Tampa Bay, where the Lightning are focused on re-signing center Brayden Point, also a re-

stricted free agent. As a result, Vancouver added a versatile center while giving up journeyman minor-league goalie Marek Mazanec and two draft picks in the deal, including a conditional 2020 first-round selection.

The trades started before Ottawa opened the second round by selecting American center Shane Pinto at No. 32 overall, and pushing the conclusion of the draft into the background.

The Devils came away the big winners. A day after taking American center Jack Hughes at No. 1 overall, New Jersey acquired Subban in a trade with Nashville. The Predators picked up defensemen Steven Santini and Jeremy Davies, plus the 34th pick in this year's draft and a second-rounder next year.

"We have cap space, cap space, cap space, and we said if there was a time to book it now, we did," Devils GM Ray Shero said of adding Subban and his \$9 million salary cap hit over

each of the next three seasons. New Jersey could afford it after entering the offseason with about \$34 million salary cap space available.

"P.K. is excited," Shero said. "It's great for our market."

Subban released a video on social media in which he thanked the Predators and their fans, and then looked forward to joining the Devils.

Marleau, meanwhile, has a decision to make as to whether he'll play for Carolina or have the team offer him a buyout.

Hurricanes GM Don Waddell said he's open to either option. The key for Carolina in the deal was acquiring a conditional first-round pick in next year's draft. As for the draft, Pinto is from Franklin Square, N.Y., and his selection continued a trend in which 11 American players were chosen in the first round — one short of the record set in 2016.

About face: US routs Trinidad in Gold Cup

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The only embarrassment and shame was felt on the other side.

Two years later, the U.S. soccer team turned the tables on Trinidad and Tobago.

Gyasi Zardes scored two goals in a three-minute span, Christian Pulisic added one during a five-goal barrage in the second half and the Americans unloaded on their nemesis in a 6-0 blowout in the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Saturday night, earning a small dose of revenge over the team that handed them a nightmarish loss in 2017.

Aaron Long scored his first two international goals — one with his head, the other off his chest — and Paul Arriola scored as the U.S. tallied five times in 25 minutes while cruising to its second shutout this week and advancing to the quarterfinals in Philadelphia on June 30.

It was the first matchup between the U.S. and Trinidad and Tobago since Oct. 10, 2017, when the Americans, needing only a tie to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, lost 2-1 to the Soca Warriors.

The embarrassing defeat snapped a

streak of seven straight World Cup appearances by the Americans and triggered a top-to-bottom overhaul of the men's program, which has operated in the imposing shadow of the powerful U.S. women, seeking their fourth world title in France.

There would be no repeat performance by this revamped U.S. team, which is determined to win back global respect.

"Every time we step on the field we want to make a statement," said Zardes, who just missed getting a third goal. "We're trying to change the way the world views American soccer."

The Americans posted their most lopsided win since beating Honduras 6-0 in a World Cup qualifier on March 24, 2017, when Pulisic, who took over this game in the second half, also scored and had a pair of assists.

But while much of the pre-game talk centered on the U.S. getting payback, the Americans insist they've put the past behind them.

"For us, we advance to the next round," coach Gregg Berhalter said. "That's im-

portant. Our focus was to prepare for this game knowing that if we'd be able to go to the next round. That was the focus of the group. Trinidad was in our way."

Not anymore.

With the U.S. leading 1-0 on Long's goal in the 41st minute, Zardes scored from right in front shortly after U.S. goalkeeper Zack Steffen made a diving save to stop Trinidad from tying a match the Americans dominated.

Michael Bradley chipped the ball from the left side to a charging Nick Lima, who headed the ball to Zardes in front. The American striker only had to guide it by Trinidad keeper Marvin Phillip in the 65th minute. Two minutes later, Zardes buried a hard shot from the left side for his 10th international goal and second two-goal game for the Americans.

Zardes nearly completed a hat trick, but his low shot from up top in the 70th minute hit the left upright.

Next up for the Americans is a matchup with Panama on Wednesday.

MLB roundup

Stanton leads Yankees to 8th straight

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Giancarlo Stanton hit a pair of go-ahead, two-run singles, both off third baseman Yuli Gurriel's glove, and New York defeated Houston 7-5 for its eighth straight win.

"It's great to be able to contribute to a win finally," Stanton said.

Stanton got his first four RBIs of the season. He's only played seven games, missing 2½ months due to biceps, shoulder and calf injuries. Some fans at Yankee Stadium have booed the 2017 NL MVP as he's struggled to get up to speed.

"You have to give the guy a break," teammate Luke Voit said, adding "just getting those reps in. He won MVP for a reason. It's nice having an MVP hit behind you."

Houston lost its seventh in a row in the matchup of AL division leaders.

Zack Britton earned his third save. The Astros stranded 11 runners.

Gio Urshela and Austin Romine went deep for New York, giving the Yankees a homer in 25 straight games. That tied Joe DiMaggio and the 1941 Yankees for most in franchise history. The 2002 Texas Rangers hold the major league mark at 27.

Cardinals 4, Angels 2: Albert Pujols took a curtain call for his adoring fans at Busch Stadium after homering against the Cardinals, but Marcell Ozuna connected to lead Dakota Hudson and host St. Louis.

Pujols hit his 13th home run, a solo drive in the seventh inning. He got a standing ovation as he rounded the bases and the cheers grew louder until Pujols emerged from the dugout and tipped his hat to the sellout crowd.

Twins 5, Royals 3 (10): C.J. Cron homered and singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning, and Minnesota won at Kansas City. Miguel Sano and Jake Cave also homered for the Twins, who blew a 3-0 lead in

the eighth before pushing ahead for good in the 10th. Eddie Rosario's double to deep right off Wily Peralta (2-3) scored Cave for a two-run cushion.

Mets 10, Cubs 2: Rookie slugger Pete Alonso hit his 26th homer to set the NL record for most homers before the All-Star Game as New York won at Chicago.

Alonso broke a tie with Los Angeles' Cody Bellinger (2017). He's still seven short of Mark McGwire's major league record 33 accomplished in 1987.

Todd Frazier and Wilson Ramos also homered for the Mets, who won consecutive road games for the first time in over two months.

Marlins 5, Phillies 3: Wilkin Castillo hit a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh inning in his first game back in the majors in 10 years, lifting Miami to a win at Philadelphia.

The Phillies have lost six in a row and 15 of 21.

Justin Brice (1-0) struck out two in a perfect sixth for the last-place Marlins, who've won three in a row.

Pirates 6, Padres 3: Adam Frazier hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth inning and host Pittsburgh beat San Diego.

It was 2-all when Starling Marte led off the eighth with a triple against reliever Craig Stammen (5-4). Josh Bell and Corey Dickerson walked to load the bases, and Frazier singled up the middle. Elias Diaz added on with an RBI single and pinch-hitter Jung Ho Kang had a sacrifice fly.

Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 7: Freddy Galvis and Rowdy Tellez hit back-to-back homers to help Toronto rally from a six-run deficit at Boston, and Eric Sogard drew a four-pitch, bases-loaded walk to break an eighth-inning tie.

The Red Sox scored five times in the second and led 6-0 after three before its

bullpen blew a save for the 15th time in 31 chances. The Blue Jays trailed 6-1 before scoring four in the seventh on two homers and a wild pitch, then added three more in the eighth, when Matt Barnes (3-2) and Ryan Brasier combined to walk four straight batters with two outs.

Athletics 4, Rays 2: Matt Chapman homered in the third inning and doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh, leading host Oakland past Tampa Bay.

Orioles 8, Mariners 3: Jonathan Villar hit a three-run homer, Anthony Santander had a two-run shot and Baltimore ended a 10-game skid with a win at Seattle.

Brewers 6, Reds 5: Yasmani Grandal led off for the first time in his career and homered in his opening at-bat to help host Milwaukee snap a season-high five-game losing streak.

Indians 2, Tigers 0: Aaron Civale dazzled in his major league debut, striking out the side to begin the game and allowing just two infield hits over six innings in host Cleveland's win over Detroit. Civale struck out six, walked three and worked out of a sixth-inning jam.

Braves 13, Nationals 9: Dansby Swanson hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, Freddie Freeman drove in five runs and visiting Atlanta rallied from a four-run deficit against Washington's beleaguered bullpen.

Rangers 6, White Sox 5: Nomar Mazara hit two home runs, Lance Lynn shook off a four-run first inning and retired 17 of the last 18 batters he faced, and host Texas beat Chicago.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 4: Alex Dickerson had three RBIs, and five San Francisco relievers held host Arizona scoreless for five innings.

Dodgers get 2nd straight walk-off win over Rockies

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Alex Verdugo is not afraid of the big moments, a rookie who wants to receive the postgame Gatorade dunks.

Verdugo got his wish on Saturday. The center fielder hit his second home run of the game in the 11th inning to give the

Dodgers a 5-4 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

"This guy loves the big moment. He doesn't run from it," manager Dave Roberts said. "So to have a young player with that kind of confidence, who's not afraid to fail, with his talent and energy. It couldn't have ended better for us."

It was the second straight

night the Dodgers won with the long ball by a rookie. Matt Beaty ended Friday's game with a two-run shot in the ninth inning. Beaty and Verdugo are the first set of rookie teammates with walk-off homers in back-to-back games, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Verdugo hit a fastball from Jesus Tinoco (0-1) into the

Rockies' bullpen in right field for his fourth hit of the game and first game-ending homer. It was his first multihomer game.

"I got a little in front and under it and good things happen," said Verdugo, who has three of his seven homers against the Rockies.