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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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GI shoots, kills Afghan approaching base

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A member of the U.S.-led coalition shot and killed a 22-year-old Afghan on Monday as he approached Bagram Air Field, ignoring repeated warnings to stop, a local official said.

The governor of Bagram district in Parwan province, Abdul Shuqoor Qudoosi, said the man was approaching the base when he was warned off by a servicemember in a guard tower.

The Associated Press reported the servicemember was American, but Qudoosi said that he was a member of the coalition

and did not give the nationality.

“We contacted the foreign forces, and they said, after continuous warnings, the boy continued to come closer to the tower and that’s why he was attacked,” Qudoosi said.

He said the young man may not have understood the warnings.

The AP, citing the police chief in Parwan province, reported the Afghan was carrying what appeared to be an automatic rifle.

Qudoosi said he was unarmed.

The body was taken for examination, Qudoosi said. Then a group of people carried the body to the provincial governor’s house in the provincial capital in protest.

When they were told the death would be investigated, they dispersed, Qudoosi said.

“We are aware of the reports and are looking into it,” said Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and the coalition.

Earlier in the day, the Taliban fired at least two rockets at Afghanistan’s new parliament building, causing minor damage but no casualties.

The attack occurred as top defense and intelligence officials were preparing to speak to the assembly about the country’s security situation.

The Taliban claimed responsibility on their website.

BAC limit dropped on bases to match Japan standard

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The U.S. military is dropping the limit for drinking and driving on base to match Japan’s ultra-low standard. U.S. Forces Japan said Monday the move is not related to recent alcohol-related incidents involving servicemembers.

Starting April 4, the on-base driving limit for blood alcohol concentration will match the 0.03 percent that applies off-base, USFJ spokesman Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman said by email.

“Currently, there are varying policies on-base that range from a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .03 - .05, which creates confusion for servicemembers stationed in Japan,” Hoffman said. “Setting a standard policy across Japan for all servicemembers will eliminate any confusion.”

BAC limits in the States are typically about 0.08 percent, allowing people to legally operate vehicles after consuming a couple of standard-sized alcoholic beverages.

The new policy means that people who are caught with a BAC between 0.03 and 0.079 face a mandatory 60-day suspension of driving privileges, and commanders have the discretion to impose additional penalties. Military drivers who are caught with a BAC at or above 0.08 are subject to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Hoffman said.

Punishment for driving off-base in Japan after imbibing as little as a single alcoholic drink — depending on body weight — can be much more severe: a jail sentence and/or thousands of dollars in fines.

Hoffman said the policy change is not a response to the alleged rape of an Okinawa woman by a U.S. sailor or the alleged assault of a Japanese woman on a Tokyo-bound flight by a Navy officer this month. Alcohol was a factor in both incidents, according to Japanese police.

U.S. personnel in Japan are already subject to a curfew that was imposed following the rape of an Okinawa woman by two U.S. sailors in 2012.

The drunken-driving policy

change has been under review for several months, Hoffman said.

“There is no relation to recent incidents,” he said.

The change is being made to avoid confusion among U.S. personnel about drunken driving limits on various bases, he said.

On Yokota Air Base, the USFJ Headquarters, for example, people have been permitted to drive with a BAC below .05, according to the base website.

USFJ was unable to provide data on rates of drunken driving or accidents caused by impaired drivers on its bases. However, Hoffman said the number of alcohol-related driving incidents on U.S. installations is very small and that the new policy will probably not result in much change.

“The point ... is to standardize the policy across Japan and to bring it in-line with our host nation,” he said.

Customers at a Yokota shopette said they didn’t have an issue with the new limit.

Kevin Sorenson, a civilian manager at the Tama Hills Recreation Area for U.S. per-

sonnel in Tokyo, said the policy change sounded like a good idea to him, since it means less confusion about the rules.

“Otherwise, people will think they can drive on-base and then they will be breaking the law when they get off-base,” he said.

Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Powell, a nondrinker, questioned the timing of the policy change.

“From a political standpoint, we have to have a positive relationship with the Japanese and any incidents cause problems,” he said.

The stricter limit should mean fewer off-base incidents but on-base shuttle services should run longer to help people cope with it, Powell said.

There are no plans to provide additional transport options for people living on-base once the new policy is in place. Various installations have programs to provide safe on-base transport for personnel, he said.

On Yokota, for example, people can call 225-RIDE for free on-base transport by volunteer drivers, he said.

Marine Corps forms new cyberwarfare unit

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps is standing up a new unit of cyberwarriors as the global battlefield evolves to include more and more computer networks.

The Marine Corps Cyber-space Warfare Group was activated Friday in a ceremony at Fort George G. Meade, Md., a Marine Corps statement said. Its mission is to man, train and equip Marine cyberspace mission teams to perform both defensive and offensive operations in support of U.S. Cyber Command and Marine Forces Cyberspace Command.

The unit has “a few” cyberwarfare teams up and running, the statement said; however, it won’t be fully operational until sometime next year.

“We’ve always had the means to communicate and the means to protect that communication, but today we’re in an environment where those methods are more and more reliant on a system of transmissions, routers and networks,” unit Commander Col. Ossen D’Haiti said in the statement. “So, the ability to protect that, the ability to control that and deny an adversary to interdict that, is crucial

to command and control.”

Everything from power grids, to banking, government operations and defense contractor weapons plans have shifted online in the past few decades.

That information is a tempting target for both state-sponsored hackers and criminal organizations that are becoming increasingly sophisticated at online theft.

During a town hall meeting with Marines in Okinawa, Japan, in November, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller lamented that China had stolen military secrets from the United States.

“While we’ve been fighting, our adversaries, many of them in this part of the world — pick one: China, North Korea, Iran, Russia — what have they been doing? Making money, buying new gear, stealing all of our secrets,” he said. “Ever look at all the Chinese equipment? What’s it look like? It looks like our stuff. How is that? They stole our stuff, fair and square.”

The Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard are also actively recruiting cyberwarfare soldiers and standing up their own cyberwarfare units and programs.

Pakistani PM vows to fight terrorism after 70 are slain

Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — Pakistan’s prime minister on Monday vowed to eliminate perpetrators of terrorist attacks such as the massive suicide bombing that targeted Christians gathered for Easter the previous day in the eastern city of Lahore, killing 70 people.

The attack underscored both the militants’ ability to stage large-scale attacks despite a months-long government offensive against them and the precarious position of Pakistan’s

minority Christians. A break-away Taliban faction that publicly supports the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Meanwhile, in the capital of Islamabad, extremists protested for a second day outside Parliament and other key buildings in the city center. The demonstrators set cars on fire, demanding that authorities impose Islamic law or Sharia. The army, which was deployed Sunday to contain the rioters, remained out on the streets.

Marine found dead off coast of Camp Schwab

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Marine assigned to Marine Corps Installations Pacific has been found dead off the coast of Camp Schwab, Okinawa.

Officials, who did not release the circumstances surrounding the death, said the body was found by the Japan Coast Guard at approximately 11 a.m. Monday. The Marine’s identity is being withheld pending family notification.

“The thoughts and prayers of

the entire command are with the family, friends and co-workers of the deceased Marine,” a Marine Corps statement said. “We extend our deepest gratitude to our Japan Coast Guard partners for their immediate professional assistance in searching for and locating our deceased Marine.”

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service has launched an investigation to determine the cause of the death, the statement said.

DOD gives nearly \$1B in property to Afghanistan

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Between January 2010 and February 2015, the Defense Department donated roughly \$858 million worth of real property to the Afghan government through the transition of military bases it operated in Afghanistan over the course of the war, a government watchdog agency said Monday.

The former bases, ranging from small, tactical combat outposts to large operational bases, cannot be sold to the government of Afghanistan, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in a fact sheet.

If it is not transferred to another military department or federal agency, it can be abandoned, dismantled or donated. Transferring the property to the Afghan government is more cost-effective than the other options in most cases, Christine Abizaid, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, wrote in a letter attached to the report.

For example, during the transfer of Camp Leatherneck

in October 2014, when NATO formally ended its mission in Helmand province, roughly \$236 million worth of property was donated to the Afghan government. About \$39 million worth was dismantled.

Of the 715 bases the U.S. operated over the course of the war, 391 were turned over to the government of Afghanistan, with the majority — 57 percent — going to the Afghan National Army, the report found.

The Afghan National Police received 30 percent of the transferred bases, the second-largest share.

Other bases were transferred to other components of the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry.

SIGAR found that the U.S. closed 219 bases, and the total value of property destroyed or abandoned on all of the transitioned bases amounted to roughly \$48 million.

Six bases were transferred to other U.S. government agencies. There were other bases where U.S. forces shared locations with coalition or Afghan forces, SIGAR said.

Twelve U.S.-operated bases remain open.

Syracuse ousts No. 1 UVA

Associated Press

CHICAGO — This was never supposed to happen, really. Not after Syracuse staggered into the NCAA Tournament. Not after the Orange needed a big rally to eliminate Gonzaga. No way, not after falling behind against mighty Virginia, which beat Syracuse in January.

And yet there was coach Jim Boeheim, cutting down the net. Freshmen Malachi Richardson and Tyler Lydon, celebrating a Texas-sized comeback.

It happened, all right, sending Syracuse to perhaps the most unlikely of the school's six Final Fours.

"I've never been prouder in all my 40 years as coach of a basketball team as I am of this team tonight," Boeheim said.

Richardson scored 21 of his 23 points in the second half, and Syracuse erased a 16-point deficit on its way to a surprising 68-62 victory over the top-seeded Cavaliers in the Midwest Regional final. Exactly two weeks after the Orange were a bubble team on Selection Sunday, they returned to the Final Four for the first time since 2013.

"We had a lot of doubters," Lydon said. "A lot of people who believed we shouldn't even be in this tournament. I'm sure there are still a lot of people who think that. But we know what we can do as a team and that's all that matters."

It is perhaps the strangest turn of a

topsy-turvy season. The Orange (23-13) dropped their first four ACC games. Boeheim was suspended for nine games as part of an NCAA investigation that found a history of improper benefits and academic misconduct stretching back years.

Then Syracuse lost five of six toward the end of its schedule, including a 72-71 loss to Pittsburgh in the conference tourney. But once the Orange got their at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, they found a way to turn it around.

"I think as a team collectively, we've been great teammates to one another, through all the highs and lows," said Michael Gbinije, a graduate student who had 11 points and six assists against the Cavaliers. "I think it's finally starting to pay off. We've got great chemistry on and off the court, and I think that's what it's all about."

Syracuse becomes the first 10 seed to make it to the Final Four and just the fourth double-digit seed to accomplish the feat. It's the lowest seeded team to reach the national semifinals since No. 11 VCU in 2011, according to STATS.

Next up is another all-ACC showdown against No. 1 seed North Carolina on Saturday in Houston. The Orange dropped both of their games against the Tar Heels this season, losing 84-73 on Jan. 9 and 75-70 on Feb. 29, but they also lost 73-65 to the Cavaliers on Jan. 24.

"Being down that much to a team like

Virginia, knowing that not many teams come down from a deficit like that in the second half, it shows how good we can be when we leave it all out there, and we have to do that going forward," forward Tyler Roberson said.

Syracuse trailed 54-39 before it ripped off 25 of the next 29 points, including 15 in a row. And Richardson led the way, often taking the ball right at Virginia star Malcolm Brogdon.

Richardson's driving layup made it 59-58 Orange with 5:47 remaining for their first lead since early in the first half. After London Perrantes missed a long three for Virginia, Richardson connected from deep and smiled as he ran up the court while making circles around his eyes with his hands.

"I just had to pick it up," he said. "I wanted to help my teammates out as best I could."

Syracuse also trailed in the regional semifinal against Gonzaga, erasing a nine-point deficit in the final 6½ minutes.

"We've obviously been through a lot, and this team has just stayed together," said guard Trevor Cooney, another graduate student. "I think we learned a lot about each other throughout the whole entire year, and all those things are paying off now. We're sticking together, believing in each other, and good things happen when you do that."

UW, Orange women into semifinals

Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — Welcome to the Final Four, Syracuse and Washington.

It will be the first trip to the national semifinals for both teams, who are now headed to Indianapolis. Each had to knock off a perennial Final Four team to get there, with Syracuse beating Tennessee and Washington topping Stanford.

It's the first time since 2005 that two women's teams will make their Final Four debut in the same season. Oregon State had the chance to make it three teams with no prior Final Four experience. The Beavers played Baylor on Monday night.

UConn, the No. 1 seed, was to play Texas Monday night.

Who said there's no parity in women's basketball?

"We're not done yet," Washington coach Mike Neighbors said. "'What's Next?' has been our motto. It's going to continue to be all the way through Indy."

No team still playing had a tougher road to the national semifinals than Washington. The Huskies had to beat both Maryland and Kentucky on their home floors. Washington, which is only the second seven-seed to reach the Final Four, had to fly across the country twice in the tournament.

Syracuse, which played its first two games at home, had no trouble with Tennessee.

"We did what we had to do," Syracuse coach Quentin Hillsman said. "We knew we had to control the paint, and we did a good job of that. We knew we had to make threes, and to be 14-for-30 behind the arc is really knocking down shots. That was the key to the game."

Syracuse 89, Tennessee 67: Alexis Peterson scored a season-high 29 points, Brianna Butler hit three straight three-pointers early in the fourth quarter to break open the game, and the Orange advanced to their first women's Final Four by winning the Sioux Falls Regional.

The fourth-seeded Orange (29-7) will play No. 7 seed Washington in a national semifinal next Sunday in Indianapolis.

Reserve Cornelia Fondren made all six of her shots and finished with 13 points to help Syracuse follow its Friday upset of top-seeded South Carolina with its 15th victory in 16 games.

Diamond DeShields scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds to lead the Lady Vols (22-14) in the loss that finished their surprise NCAA run after a 13-loss regular season that was the worst in program history.

Washington 85, Stanford 76: Kelsey Plum scored 26 points and Chantel Osahor had 24 points and 18 rebounds as the Huskies won the Lexington Regional.

Seventh-seeded Washington (26-10) scored the game's first 12 points and stayed ahead the rest of the way. Stanford, the No. 4 seed, was seeking its 13th Final Four appearance overall, and seventh in the last nine years.

Lili Thompson scored 19 points for Stanford (27-8). Erica McCall added 17 points — all in the second half — and 15 rebounds.

Tar Heels get back to Final Four

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Roy Williams will take his postgame injuries as long as he and the North Carolina Tar Heels are headed to the Final Four.

The Hall of Fame coach bit his tongue and cut a finger during the net-cutting ceremonies after the Tar Heels beat Notre Dame 88-74 on Sunday night, leaving them as the only No. 1 seed in the Final Four.

"I was screaming. I started to take a step back and I felt like the ladder moved and I grabbed. When I grabbed I grabbed the end of the scissors and it started bleeding," he said.

That's OK since his team will head to Houston.

"Never in my life have I wanted something for someone else as I wanted to get these guys to Houston," he said.

Brice Johnson had 25 points and 12 rebounds as the Tar Heels reached the Final Four for a record 19th time and the first since 2009, when they won the last of their five national championships.

North Carolina (32-6) will face Syracuse, the 10th seed from the Midwest Regional, in another all-Atlantic Coast Conference matchup in the Final Four on Saturday. The Orange beat top-seeded Virginia 68-62.

"He should be used to cutting nets," senior point guard Marcus Paige said of Williams. "He said 'I'll bleed for you guys if you keep playing the way we're playing.' We'll get him patched up."

Sunday's halves were very different. In the first, the teams went shot for shot with both teams shooting over 58 percent and neither leading by more than six points. The second half was run for run and the Tar Heels, taking control of the boards, had the last and biggest one to seize control over the final 10 minutes.

It was Johnson's school-record 23rd double-double of the season.

"It took us four years to do this, but we're finally there," Johnson said of the Final Four.

Paige added 13 points and Joel Berry II had 11 points and eight assists for North Carolina, which has won its four tournament

games by an average of 15.4 points. The Tar Heels finished with a 32-15 rebound advantage. They had more offensive rebounds than Notre Dame had on the defensive end.

"We got going a little bit and all of a sudden they made a huge run," Williams said of the second half. "(In a timeout) Marcus said, 'It's a game of runs. They made runs. We're going to make our run.'"

Demetrius Jackson had 26 points and V.J. Beachem had 18 for sixth-seeded Notre Dame (24-12), which has made the Final Four once, in 1978.

"I thought we put ourselves in position," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "We took that one-point lead and they answered it like men. ... I thought the way they answered that run was championship level."

The teams split their games before the tournament, with the Tar Heels winning by 31 in the conference tournament two weeks ago.

The second half Sunday seemed like it was going to be similar with North Carolina making a big run.

This time, a 12-0 run gave the Tar Heels a 63-52 lead with 9:19 to play. North Carolina showed its depth during the run with the final eight points coming from reserves Isaiah Hicks and Theo Pinson.

North Carolina opened the second half with an 8-2 run and Kennedy Meeks scoring all the Tar Heels' points down low. Notre Dame answered with 12 straight points. During that run, Johnson was charged with a technical foul for throwing the ball high in the air after he was called for a foul. He apologized after the game.

"That was dumb on my part," Johnson said. "But my teammates did a very good job of playing. They stepped up during a time of need."

After an incredible first half in which both teams played about as well as they could offensively, North Carolina led 43-38.

Both teams shot better than 58 percent from the field and from three-point range. In one stretch, North Carolina went 4 minutes without missing.



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Blackhawks earn playoff spot

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Looking to repeat as Stanley Cup champions and win their fourth title in seven years, the Chicago Blackhawks took a crucial step Sunday.

They're back in the playoffs.

Andrew Ladd scored the go-ahead goal with 2:27 left in the third period and Chicago clinched its eighth straight post-season berth with a 3-2 victory over the skidding Vancouver Canucks.

Jonathan Toews stickhandled into the Canucks zone before dropping a pass in the high slot to Ladd, who fired in a one-timer for his 23rd goal this season and sixth in 13 games with Chicago.

"I love the way he played the last couple of games," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "He brings that presence and has had some pace to his game and some energy and he was rewarded with some huge goals for us."

Ladd was coming off a three-point night against Calgary on Saturday in which he scored two goals and added an assist.

"We wanted to build on last night's win and just keep getting points," Ladd said. "It's still a dogfight in the standings and for position, and these are the games you need to have — and a lot of times they are tough. You are playing against a team with nothing to lose and a lot of young guys that are trying to prove something and it can go either way."

Tomas Fleischmann and Teuvo Teravainen also scored to help the Blackhawks improve to 44-25-7. Trevor van Riemsdyk had two assists for the defending champs.

Chicago earned consecutive wins for the first time since March 2.

Scott Darling made 26 saves in his ninth victory of the season. Regular starter Corey Crawford is not on the road trip due

to an upper-body injury.

"I thought he had a couple of key saves," Quenneville said about Darling. "I thought he was big, strong, quick and that he anticipated really well."

Alex Burrows and Sven Baertschi scored for the Canucks, who have managed only seven goals during their eight-game losing streak. Emerson Etem had two assists, and Ryan Miller finished with 29 saves.

"It's frustrating," Burrows said. "You never want to lose that many games in a row. Right now it's frustrating because we know we're not going to get in. It's going to be a really long summer of working out and a lot of time in the gym. We have to use these next few weeks for the young guys to show what they got."

Baertschi tied the score 2-all with just more than 5 minutes left in the third when he converted a feed from Etem.

Teravainen put Chicago ahead early in the period when he slammed home a quick one-timer at the back door following a nifty passing play between Patrick Kane and van Riemsdyk.

"We have some guys who can make plays," Quenneville said. "The puck lately hasn't been our best friend. Sometimes I don't care if they're pretty or not, but if we simplify with the puck, we can be better."

Fleischmann opened the scoring for Chicago with his 14th goal of the season late in the first period. Burrows responded midway through the second, banging home his first goal in 10 games.

Burrows' ninth of the season came at 11:29 when he took a bouncing pass from Linden Vey in the slot and snapped the puck past Darling on the blocker side. After a battle in the corner, Etem got the puck to Vey behind the net, who smacked it in front, where the puck found Burrows.

Fleischmann opened the scoring with a quick wrister from the slot at 17:42 of the first. Taking a hard pass from van Riemsdyk, the Blackhawks' wing sent a shot through traffic and past Miller's blocker.

Penguins 3, Rangers 2 (OT): Sidney Crosby scored on a deflection at 4:30 of overtime, and surging Pittsburgh beat host New York in a potential first-round playoff preview.

Matt Cullen and Phil Kessel also scored for the Penguins, who have won eight of nine. Marc-Andre Fleury made 25 saves.

Eric Staal scored twice for the Rangers, who had won three straight. Kevin Hayes and Jesper Fast assisted on both of Staal's goals. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 29 shots.

Derick Brassard was called for high-sticking with 1.4 seconds left in regulation to give Pittsburgh a power play in the extra period. But the Rangers killed it off before Kris Letang's wrist shot from the point ricocheted in off Crosby in front.

Pittsburgh, third in the Metropolitan Division, moved within three points of the second-place Rangers and two ahead of the idle Islanders. The Penguins have a game in hand on the Rangers.

Hurricanes 3, Devils 2: Victor Rask scored twice for the first multigoal game of his career, leading host Carolina past New Jersey.

Rask, who has scored in three straight games, ended the Hurricanes' skid of six consecutive games without a power-play goal when he connected in the first period. He scored his 20th of the season early in the second to make it 3-0.

Ron Hainsey scored the other Carolina goal, and Cam Ward made 23 saves.

Bobby Farnham and Travis Zajac had the goals for New Jersey. Devils goalie Scott Wedgewood, playing in his fourth NHL game, stopped 20 shots.

US looks to bounce back in Columbus

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Some home support and self-evaluation could go a long way toward the United States getting some measure of redemption after its numbing loss at Guatemala on Friday night in a World Cup qualifying match.

The 2-0 loss was the first to Guatemala in 21 games since 1988 and the first qualifying loss in 13 matches against them.

The rematch is Tuesday night in Columbus, at Mapfre Stadium, known as Crew Stadium until 12 months ago.

By any name it's been a fortress for U.S. soccer where the national team has a 7-0-3 record and outscored its opposition 15-1. The lone goal allowed was against Jamaica on Nov. 14, 2004.

Among the shutouts are four qualifying matches against Mexico, all 2-0 scores for the famous "Dos a Cero" tag line.

"This is one of the few stadiums in the United States we have an all-pro American crowd. I remember my last time here against Mexico the atmosphere was amazing," midfielder Alejandro Bedoya said of the Sept. 10, 2013, match. "To be able to know we have all the fans behind us gives us a mental edge, so to speak."

The U.S. was lacking that and cohesive play Friday when a poor back pass by Edgar Castillo led to the first goal by Rafael Morales and the second in the 15th was from Carlos Ruiz as he got by the leaky defense.

"There's no doubt we were stunned, for sure, to let in two goals in that manner in the first 15 minutes," Bedoya said. "We put ourselves against the wall. We started the way we wanted to start and then we got a little sloppy. A bad back pass leads to a corner kick and I guess we weren't ready for that."

"We talked about being aggressive on set pieces; 1-0 down then 2-0 down on a collective mistake from the team."

Injuries to defenders John Brooks and Matt Besler and midfielder Fabian Johnson didn't help and coach Jurgen Klinsmann's lineup came into question, especially when he substituted midfielder Mix Diskerud at the half because of his poor performance.

There were other quizzical moves by Klinsmann, such as right back DeAndre Yedlin starting on the right wing and using Michael Orozco as the left center back.

U.S. captain Michael Bradley said the players have to be held accountable.

"The game finishes and you're looking at the right balance, looking at the game, looking at ourselves, looking at things that need to be better," he said Sunday before practice at Mapfre Stadium. "We're pretty honest with ourselves. We understand we let ourselves down the other night."

"We have to be ready when the chance comes Tuesday night and step on the field and right from the first whistle play in a way that leaves no doubt as to the result at the end of the game."

Trinidad and Tobago (2-1) leads Group C with seven points. Guatemala (2-0-1) is one point back. The U.S. (1-1-1) has four points and St. Vincent (0-3-0) is last.

There are three matches remaining for each team in the semifinal round with the top two teams advancing the six-nation regional finals.

Notes: On Sunday, Klinsmann added midfielders Graham Zusi from Sporting Kansas City and 17-year-old Christian Pulisic from Borussia Dortmund to the roster. Fabian Johnson has returned to Borussia Moenchengladbach for treatment on a groin injury, and Matt Besler will travel to Kansas City after sustaining a concussion in training Thursday.

Surging Pacers hold off Rockets

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Paul George did the bulk of his work for the Indiana Pacers early on, and then Monta Ellis and Ian Mahinmi came through at the end.

George scored 16 of his 25 points in the first quarter and the Pacers overcame 34 points from James Harden to beat the Houston Rockets 104-101 on Sunday night.

"This was exactly the kind of game we expected," Mahinmi said. "We knew we had to have this one tonight. A big thing right now is that we are still learning to play with each other, and we are getting better."

The trio worked well together to put the game away and keep the Pacers rolling on a playoff push.

Ellis scored 23 points on 10 of 18 shooting, including the go-ahead basket with 4:46 remaining to give the Pacers a 96-95 lead. Mahinmi, who tied his career high with 19 points, followed up with back-to-back baskets to give the Pacers a 104-101 lead.

Harden added eight rebounds and Trevor Ariza added 14 points for the Rockets, who have lost two straight.

Warriors 117, 76ers 105: Klay Thompson scored 40 points in consecutive games for the first time in his career, Draymond Green posted his franchise-best 12th triple-double as host Golden State beat Philadelphia.

Stephen Curry had 20 points and eight

assists and Green contributed 13 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists as Golden State (66-7) stayed a game ahead of the pace set by the 1995-96 Bulls' during their record 72-win season. Chicago was 65-8 through 73 games.

Backup big man Marreese Speights added 17 points and seven rebounds in the Warriors' 53rd straight regular-season victory at Oracle Arena and 35th consecutive at home this season.

Carl Landry scored 22 points for the lowly Sixers, who lost their ninth in a row and 22nd in 23 while playing a back-to-back.

Clippers 105, Nuggets 90: DeAndre Jordan had 16 points and 16 rebounds and host Los Angeles beat Denver to become the fourth Western Conference team to clinch a playoff spot.

Chris Paul added 14 points, six rebounds and nine assists, Jamal Crawford also had 14 points, Jeff Green and Wesley Johnson each added 13, and J.J. Redick had 12. The Clippers had a 25-8 edge in fast-break points.

Jusuf Nurkic had 19 points, and D.J. Augustin added 17 for Denver. Gary Harris finished with 11 points, Joffrey Lauvergne had 10, and Darrell Arthur grabbed 12 rebounds.

The Nuggets, 10th in the West with eight games remaining, fell 5½ games behind the Utah Jazz and Houston Rockets in the race for the conference's eighth and final playoff berth.

Kings 133, Mavericks 111: Rookie Willie Cauley-Stein followed a breakout

offensive performance with 21 points and DeMarcus Cousins had 20 points and 12 rebounds to lead Sacramento over visiting Dallas.

The Mavericks have dropped three straight and 10 of 12. They are ninth in the Western Conference and trail Houston by half a game for the final playoff spot.

Cauley-Stein, the sixth overall pick in last year's draft, set a career high with 26 points on Friday night against Phoenix and followed up with just his second 20-plus point game.

Darren Collison had 17 points and Seth Curry and Ben McLemore each had 14 for the Kings. Rajon Rondo had 11 points and 11 assists.

Raymond Felton had 15 points and both J.J. Barea and Dirk Nowitzki had 14 for the Mavericks. Wesley Matthews and David Lee each scored 12 points.

Wizards 101, Lakers 88: John Wall had 22 points and 13 assists and Marcin Gortat added 16 points and 10 rebounds in Washington's victory over host Los Angeles.

Kobe Bryant scored 17 points in 23 minutes for the Lakers, who have lost seven of eight to fall to 15-58. Bryant has four home games remaining in his 20-year NBA career, and the Staples Center crowd serenaded him with cheers and chants while the Lakers listlessly lost again.

Otto Porter Jr. scored 14 points in the Wizards' balanced performance during the opener of a four-game West Coast swing with their playoff hopes in peril.