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Fort Worth's commander relieved due to accident

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

The commanding officer of the littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth's Crew 101 has been relieved following an investigation into a January engineering accident.

Cmdr. Michael L. Atwell was removed by Rear Adm. Charles Williams, head of the Singapore-based Task Force 73, because of a "loss of confidence" in Atwell's ability to command, according to a Navy statement issued Thursday in Hawaii.

"While the investigation is still under review by leadership, sufficient findings of facts emerged during the investigation to warrant the relief of the commanding officer," the statement said.

The accident occurred Jan. 12 in Singapore, when the crew started the main propulsion diesel engine and damaged the ship's combining gears because of a lack of oil.

"The insufficient flow of lube oil resulted in high temperature alarms on the port and starboard combining gears," U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman Lt. Clint Ramsden wrote Tuesday in response to a Stars

and Stripes query. "The casualty appears to have been caused by a failure to follow established procedures during maintenance."

Cmdr. Lex Walker, deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 7, will serve as Fort Worth's interim commanding officer until a permanent commander is assigned.

In November 2014, the Fort Worth became the second littoral combat ship, or LCS, to begin a deployment to the Asia-Pacific.

The accident appears to have altered the length of its planned 16-month deployment; the San Diego-based ship is still in Singapore, Navy officials said Tuesday.

The Navy is still considering how and where it will repair the ship, Ramsden said.

The Fort Worth rotates three crews of about 50 sailors during deployment; sailors specific to the ship's mission add about 50 more personnel.

The LCS concept and its capabilities have been hotly debated within the Pentagon and Congress since development began in the 2000s with significant cost overruns.

DOD families told to leave Turkey amid security fears

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon is ordering nearly 700 military family members to leave Incirlik Air Base and two smaller military installations in Turkey because of concerns over the deteriorating security environment there.

Families are expected to begin leaving Turkey on Wednesday, stopping first at Ramstein Air Base in Germany before continuing on to the States or other duty locations, U.S. European Command told Stars and Stripes.

"We understand this is disruptive to our military families, but we must keep them safe and ensure the combat effectiveness of our forces to support our strong ally Turkey in the fight against terrorism," EUCOM chief Gen. Philip

Breedlove said Tuesday in a statement.

The mandatory departure order, announced by the State Department, affects nearly all Defense Department dependents assigned to Incirlik, as well as those at smaller bases in Izmir and Mugla. The families of U.S. diplomats in the same areas also are ordered to depart.

About 670 dependents are expected to be evacuated, along with 287 pets. About 770 dependents, most from Incirlik, are currently in Turkey, EUCOM spokeswoman Julie Weckerlein said. Those allowed to stay are family members with mission-essential jobs.

The dramatic move to get families out of Turkey comes several weeks after Americans at Incirlik were put on base lockdown when the force-protection level was raised to the military's highest threat condition.

Kearsarge Ready Group bound for Mediterranean

The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — Five months into operations in the Persian Gulf, the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group is preparing for a move to the Mediterranean.

The ready group, which comprises the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge, the amphibious transport dock Arlington and the dock landing ship Oak Hill, arrived in the Middle East

in November to assist with operations in Iraq against the Islamic State group as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Capt. Augustus Bennett, commodore of the ready group, said in a telephone interview Monday that the crew should be arriving in the Navy's 6th Fleet area of operations in the next month. The Naples, Italy-based 6th Fleet extends from Europe, Africa and Russia.

The group is nearing the end of a seven-month deployment. Bennett could not say whether that may be extended. The deployment includes 2,200 members of the Camp Lejeune-based 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The March 19 death of Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin, who was killed by enemy rocket fire in Iraq while serving with a small detachment of the MEU, offered

new clues about the extent of the roles the Navy and Marines are playing in the U.S. strategy to root out the Islamic State group. The detachment had set up a fire base near Makhmur in northern Iraq to provide protection for Iraqi forces as they prepare to retake Mosul in coming months, Army Col. Steve Warren, spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve, said in a March 21 briefing.

Senior enlisted leader for EUCOM is named

STUTTGART, Germany — Command Master Chief Crispian D. Addington was named Monday as the new senior enlisted leader at U.S. European Command, the Pentagon announced.

Addington currently serves as the 7th Fleet command master chief in Yokosuka, Japan. At EUCOM, he will serve as the top enlisted adviser to the commander of EUCOM, a job that involves everything from ensuring the welfare of U.S. troops stationed in Europe to strengthening partnerships with NATO allies.

Addington replaces Chief Master Sgt. Craig A. Adams, who was relieved of duty in September because of loss of confidence in his abilities.

Since Adams' departure, Chief Master Sgt. James E. Davis, the top enlisted leader at U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, has filled in as EUCOM's top enlisted official.

No foul play seen in Marine recruit's death

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — Navy investigators say there are no apparent signs of foul play in the death of a Marine recruit who fell in a barracks stairwell at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service spokesman Ed Buice told The Island Packet of Hilton Head that the investigation is continuing into the death of Raheel Siddiqui, 20, of Taylor, Mich.

Siddiqui was undergoing basic training when he fell nearly 40 feet in a stairwell March 7. Buice said there are no apparent signs of foul play but NCIS investigations usually take several months.

Each year, about 19,000 recruits come to Parris Island in South Carolina for 12 weeks of basic training. The depot trains male recruits from east of the Mississippi River and all female Marine recruits.

From staff and wire reports

Legal questions linger after FBI hacks terrorist's iPhone

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The extraordinary legal fight pitting the Obama administration against technology giant Apple Inc. ended unexpectedly after the FBI said it used a mysterious method without Apple's help to hack into a California mass shooter's iPhone.

Left unanswered were questions about how the sudden development would affect privacy in the future and what happens the next time the government is frustrated by digital security lockout features.

Government prosecutors asked a federal judge on Monday to vacate a disputed order forcing Apple to help the FBI break into the iPhone, saying it was no longer necessary.

The FBI used the unspecified technique to access data on an iPhone used by gunman Syed Farook, who died with his wife in a gunbattle with police after they killed 14 people in San Bernardino, Calif., in December. The Justice Department said agents are now reviewing the

information on the phone.

The government's brief court filing, in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, provided no details about how the FBI got into the phone. Nor did it identify the nongovernment "outside party" that showed agents how to get past the phone's security defenses. Authorities had previously said only Apple had the ability to help them unlock the phone.

Apple responded by saying it will continue to increase the security of its products.

"We will continue to help law enforcement with their investigations, as we have done all along," the company added in a statement, while reiterating its argument that the government's demand for Apple's help was wrong.

"This case should never have been brought," the company said.

FBI Assistant Director David Bowdich said Monday that examining the iPhone was part of the authorities' effort to learn if the San Bernardino shooters had worked with others or had

targeted any other victims. "I am satisfied that we have access to more answers than we did before," he said in a statement.

The dispute had ignited a fierce Internet-era national debate that pitted digital privacy rights against national security concerns and reinvigorated discussion over the impact of encryption on law enforcement's ability to serve the public.

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., said in a statement that while it was "preferable" that the government gained access to the iPhone without Apple's help, the fundamental question of the extent to which the government should be able to access personal information remains unanswered.

Issa, a critic of the administration's domestic surveillance practices, said the government's legal action against Apple raised constitutional and privacy questions and that "those worried about our privacy should stay wary" because this doesn't mean "their quest for a secret key into our devices is over."

Wounded Warrior Project picks retired general as interim chief operating officer

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The board of the Wounded Warrior Project, whose chairman has been running day-to-day operations at the veterans nonprofit since the removal of its top two officers last month, has appointed an interim chief operating officer.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Charlie Fletcher, who serves on the WWP's advisory council, will step in as interim COO on April 11, according to a statement released Monday by the

charity's board.

Fletcher served more than 30 years in military aviation and is a logistics senior mentor at NATO.

"His impressive background and experience in both the military and private sector makes him uniquely well positioned to lead our organization while the board continues its comprehensive search for a permanent CEO," the statement said.

Fletcher will be based at the charity's headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., where he will lead the leadership team and report to the office of the chief execu-

tive officer, run by WWP board Chairman Anthony Odierno.

Odierno took the helm temporarily after the board removed CEO Steven Nardizzi and COO Al Giordano earlier this month following allegations of excessive spending and a toxic culture. Those allegations surfaced in media investigations into WWP in which dozens of former and current staff at the charity described an organization that spent lavishly on staff meetings and gatherings as well as public relations and would not tolerate any questioning or criticism of its approach.

Rule still confounds catchers

Associated Press

Retired World Series-winning catcher Bob Boone has a CD with 60 video clips of home-plate collisions that resulted in injuries. None of those happened in the past two seasons since Major League Baseball instituted a new rule to prevent collisions.

Still, Boone hates the rule that bans blocking the plate because it has thrown catchers off their game. Going into the third season under the rule, many catchers around baseball are still struggling to adjust.

"It's one of the biggest plays we have in the game, and we put the defensive player, the catcher, out of position," said Boone, who works in the Washington Nationals' front office. "What (runners) do is they dive to the outside back corner. And if you get away from that outside back corner, your thought is, 'Hurry and get there so I can make the catch and I've got to go a long way to make the tag.' I think that's probably the biggest problem, is guys trying to make the tag before they have the ball, and they know they're not in position."

Catchers no longer have to brace for contact like before, when Buster Posey of the San Francisco Giants tore ligaments in his left ankle — the injury that precipitated the rule. Physically it's easier, but mentally it's more difficult.

Because they can't block a runner's path before getting the ball, catchers have to consciously worry about the right positioning while also catching the ball on the fly and making a tag.

"With so much going on, you're paying attention to a lot of things, variables — the runner, where guys are lining up with the cut-offs and if the outfielders are going to be able to make the throw on

time," Jason Castro of the Houston Astros said. "Yet at the same time, you're kind of trying to make sure you're in the correct position to field the throw and still allow the runner the lane for him."

Castro said the way he was brought up through the Astros' organization made the transition easy because he was always taught to set up in a place that gave the runner a lane. But he understands why fellow catchers have had to retrain their brains and bodies to change their approach.

That's true of the Nationals' Wilson Ramos, who is still practicing making the smooth exchange from catching the ball on the fly to tagging the runner.

"I know I missed a couple balls last year, trying to just catch the ball and tag the runner," Ramos said. "I'm trying to fix that, trying to learn more, how to go and catch the ball and then go to the plate."

Much like a receiver in football trying to run before securing the ball, catchers must make a conscious effort to go one step at a time. While that's nothing new, Boone pointed out that under the new rule, it's harder for catchers to apply a quick tag like an infielder can on a would-be base-stealer at second.

"You see lot of catchers at home plate missing balls because we're trying to be like a first basemen — try to pick balls and tag," Nationals backup catcher Jose Lobaton said. "It's not easy to catch the ball with one hand with a catcher's mitt. It's not the same as a first-base glove."

The glove isn't the main problem, though. It's more about mindset.

Veteran Carlos Ruiz of the Philadelphia Phillies believes repeated practice in spring training and in game situations is the only way to perfect that.

"The key is to anticipate that play because if you've got a guy at second base,

you have to put in your mind if you're going to have a base hit, there's a very good chance we have action at home plate," said Ruiz, who's considered one of the best defensive catchers around. "So you have to move in front of the plate. A lot of times you don't have a bang-bang play and maybe the throw's going to be the left side — that makes it tough. You're going to do your best to get the ball."

Astros manager A.J. Hinch, a major league catcher for parts of seven seasons, considers losing track of the runner the biggest issue. Josh Thole of the Toronto Blue Jays said setting up differently has been his most major adjustment and hopes umpires understand his intent is to be in the right spot.

Teammate Russell Martin doesn't stick his leg out to block runners like he used to but insisted he won't let the rule change him too much. Martin is in favor of the rule for the sake of safety.

"Guys are making more money, and the last thing you want is just for one thing to take somebody's career away," Martin said. "Another thing is just the head issues, concussions. If somebody gets a free shot at you, you're going to get a concussion."

Boone would prefer catchers learn how to absorb contact the right way, but of course he realizes they no longer have to because of the new reality. One thing that catchers past and present agree on is that the rule is here to stay.

"Whether people like it or not, the rule's worked and it's saved both runners and catchers," Hinch said. "I applaud the effort. As we get away from sort of the initial shock of changing the rule like that, I think we'll find that the game adjusts and the play still remains the same. We just don't see the epic collisions that are not fun to go through."

UConn women in Final Four

Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — UConn's headed back to the Final Four again thanks to its stellar senior class of Breanna Stewart, Morgan Tuck and Moriah Jefferson.

The All-American trio took over when Texas was making a run in the third quarter to help UConn to the 86-65 victory Monday night, sending the Huskies to the national semifinals.

"We're the seniors, and we've got to make big plays in big moments," said Jefferson, who had 11 points and nine assists. "They were on a run, and we really needed to step up."

Tuck scored 22 points and Stewart added 21 points and 13 rebounds for UConn, which is headed to the Final Four for the ninth straight time. The Huskies will be trying for a record fourth consecutive national championship.

"Nine times is a lot of Final Fours," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "That's a lot. That's a lot of players over a lot of years. It's not easy to do."

The victory, UConn's 73rd straight overall, was also the school's 22nd consecutive one in the postseason, breaking a tie with Tennessee for the most in a row. Two more victories will give Auriemma an 11th title, moving him past vaunted UCLA men's coach John Wooden for most all-time in college basketball history.

"We're really excited to go to the Final Four," said Stewart, who was selected as the Most Outstanding Player of the regional. "I think that any time you go, it's a lot of fun, there's a lot going on. ... This is our last trip with this team. Last time to be with this team. And I think we're just going to enjoy it. Especially as seniors. Last time it's going to be like this."

The Huskies will join Final Four newcomers Syracuse and Washington in Indianapolis this weekend.

UConn will play Oregon State in the national semifinals Sunday night.

Dallas Regional

Oregon St. 60, Baylor 57: At Dallas, Sydney Wiese scored 18 points, including three free throws in the final 34 seconds and the Beavers advanced to the women's Final Four for the first time after a victory over the Lady Bears.

Baylor (36-2) finished its season with a regional final lost for the third consecutive season.

Oregon State (32-4) is going to Indianapolis to face three-time defending national champion UConn after eliminating the six-time defending Big 12 champions.

Jamie Weisner had 16 points while Ruth Hamblin had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Beavers.

Alexis Jones had 19 points for Baylor.

With a roster filled with seniors and juniors recruited by coach Scott Rueck, the Beavers were in a regional final nearly six years after he had to conduct open try-outs to fill his first roster.

Tunsil turns heads at Ole Miss pro day

Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Ole Miss left tackle Laremy Tunsil is known as a big man who can move. He is an elite pass blocker whose quick feet made him a three-year starter and an anchor on the Rebels' offensive line.

Turns out his upper-body strength isn't bad either.

The 6-foot-5, 310-pound Tunsil did 34 repetitions of 225 pounds on the bench press on Monday at Ole Miss pro day, matching the most by anyone at last month's NFL combine.

Tunsil is considered one of the players who could go No. 1 overall to the Tennessee Titans. His performance in the weight room on Monday certainly helped.

Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze said talking about Tunsil with NFL scouts is a stress-free task.

"That's the easiest discussion I can have," Freeze said. "I don't care who you have on your team, I don't see how you can bypass Laremy Tunsil."

Tunsil briefly spoke with NFL Network on Monday, but otherwise didn't do interviews following his workouts.

It was a big day for the Ole Miss football program, which was able to showcase much of the talent that helped the program make the leap into the upper tier of the Southeastern Conference. The Rebels finished last year with a 10-3 record, including a Sugar Bowl victory over Oklahoma State.

Sixteen players worked out for NFL execs on Monday, but the focus was on Tunsil, receiver Laquon Treadwell and defensive tackle Robert Nkemdiche.

All three have a chance to be first-round picks in April's NFL draft.

Treadwell wasn't expected to run an elite 40-yard dash time considering strength — and not speed — was his best asset for the Rebels. But his unofficial times of 4.65 and 4.63 seconds in the 40 were still slightly disappointing.

The 6-foot-2, 221-pound Treadwell led the SEC with 1,153 yards receiving last season. He played in all 13 games one year after breaking his leg in a 2014 game against Auburn.

"I don't need to run a 4.2 to win on a deep ball," Treadwell said. "I just play hard. I don't really go into games thinking I've got to run superfast to beat you. I work on techniques and try to beat you at different points when attacking the ball."

The 6-3, 294-pound Nkemdiche did some position drills for scouts on Monday.

But his physical skills aren't often the focus for NFL scouts. Instead, he said he gets lots of questions about off-the-field issues, including an incident in December when he was charged with possession of marijuana after falling out of a hotel room window in Atlanta.

He said one bad moment won't define him and that's been his message for NFL teams.

"I've been honest," Nkemdiche said. "I've been straightforward and made it clear that's not who I am. That's not anything they have to worry about because that's not my character. ... That's not my personality. I'm a positive person and I'm going to be an asset for the team and the community where I end up."



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Jazz hand Kobe worst loss of career

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Rodney Hood will never forget the night Kobe Bryant requested to guard the second-year player because he was virtually unstoppable. That's a huge compliment from the future Hall of Famer.

Hood scored 30 points and the Jazz turned Bryant's last visit to Utah into the worst loss of his career with a 123-75 victory on Monday night that matched the Lakers' largest defeat in franchise history.

"We were just talking a little bit of trash," Hood said. "He was just congratulating me on the season. I just told him he was the greatest of all-time. A guy I've been looking up to since I was a little child. ... It was just a great night tonight."

"Those are memories I'll forever take. Going back to Hawaii (during preseason). Tonight. Every single time I get a chance to play against him, that's something I'll remember after I'm done playing ball."

The Jazz had their biggest offensive night of the season and remained in the No. 7 slot in the Western Conference playoff race, one game ahead of the Houston Rockets.

The 48-point defeat matched the margin

in the Lakers' 142-94 loss to the Clippers on March 7, 2014, when Bryant was out with an injury.

Hood and the Jazz put the game away early in the first quarter with a 17-2 start. The second-year guard was 5-for-5 from the field for 14 first-quarter points. He had 30 at halftime, including a franchise record-tying eight three-pointers, and fell two points shy of his career high for a game while Bryant face-guarded him in the second half and attempted to not let him touch the ball.

Shelvin Mack and Trevor Booker added 17 apiece as the Jazz shot 51.7 percent from the field.

Thunder 119, Raptors 100: Russell Westbrook had 26 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds in his 16th triple-double of the season. Kevin Durant scored 34 points and visiting Oklahoma City beat Toronto for its eighth straight win.

Westbrook has seven triple-doubles in March, the most in a month since Michael Jordan had seven in April, 1989. He has the most in a season since Magic Johnson had 17 in 1988-89.

Oklahoma City has the NBA's longest current winning streak and the team's longest since a 10-game run from Jan. 16-31, 2014.

Hawks 102, Bulls 100: Jeff Teague scored 26 points, including two free throws with six seconds to play, and surging Atlanta fought off a furious rally by host Chicago.

It was the fourth straight win for the Hawks. Though the Bulls mounted a dramatic late comeback, they continued a late-season swoon, losing their fourth straight.

Spurs 101, Grizzlies 87: LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points and 13 rebounds to lead visiting San Antonio over Memphis.

Aldridge connected on 11 of 16 shots and was 9-for-11 from the line as San Antonio won despite resting stars Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, who did not make the trip to Memphis.

Heat 110, Nets 99: Dwyane Wade had 30 points and nine assists, Hassan Whiteside scored a career-high 27 points off the bench and host Miami pulled away to beat Brooklyn.

Mavericks 97, Nuggets 88: At Denver, reserve J.J. Barea scored 18 points and had 11 assists to help short-handed Dallas halt a three-game skid.

Dwight Powell had 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter as Dallas moved into a virtual tie with Houston for the eighth

and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Timberwolves 121, Suns 116: Andrew Wiggins scored 32 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 27 points and 10 boards and host Minnesota beat Phoenix.

Pelicans 99, Knicks 91: Jrue Holiday scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and host New Orleans snapped a three-game slide with a victory over New York.

Clippers 114, Celtics 90: DeAndre Jordan had 15 points and 13 rebounds, Chris Paul added 13 points and 14 assists and host Los Angeles cruised past Boston.

The Clippers won their third in a row and moved 5½ games ahead of Memphis, which lost to San Antonio on Monday night, for fourth place in the Western Conference with nine games to play.

Trail Blazers 105, Kings 93: Reserve Allen Crabbe scored 21 points and host Portland beat short-handed Sacramento. CJ McCollum had 16 points, while Damian Lillard added 13 points and nine assists, before both sat out the fourth quarter.

Caps top Blue Jackets, nab Presidents' Trophy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — All season the Washington Capitals have thrived after losses and in the third period. Fittingly, they earned the official distinction as the top regular season team in the NHL by doing what they do best.

The Capitals dominated the third period to beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 4-1 Monday night and clinch the Presidents' Trophy and home-ice advantage throughout the Stanley Cup playoffs. A three-goal third period allowed them to remain the only team without consecutive regulation losses, as much a testament to their season-long success as anything.

"Third period is usually our strength, and it was tonight," said goaltender Braden Holtby, who downplayed winning the Presidents' Trophy because it felt like such an inevitability. "We've known for a while that we were going to get it, just mathematically it was going to happen, so it's not a surprise. It's just one of those things that it shows we've been doing good things all year and working hard."

It's the second Presidents' Trophy in franchise history. Six players remain from the group that won it in 2009-10, when the Capitals lost in the first round to the Montreal Canadiens.

The Capitals' offense, particularly in the third period, is alive and well. With goals by Tom Wilson, Oshie on the power play and Nicklas Backstrom with an empty net, their 92 scores in the third period lead the NHL.

"That's our game plan every night is to set it up as the game goes on to wear out their team," said Holtby, who made 21 saves to earn his 46th victory that moved him two shy of Martin Brodeur's single-season record. "It seems to be working."

Sharks 5, Kings 2: Joe Thornton scored a tiebreaking, power-play goal early in the third period to help send host San Jose back to the playoffs with a victory over Los Angeles.

Justin Braun added two goals, Joe Pavelski and Melker Karlsson also scored and the Sharks will return to the postseason after their run of 10 straight trips was snapped last season. Martin Jones made 30 saves.

Vincent Lecavalier scored twice for the first-place Kings, who had their lead in the Pacific Division cut to one point over second-place Anaheim. The Ducks are four points ahead of the third-place Sharks and have a game in hand over both of their California rivals.

Lightning 3, Maple Leafs 0: Victor Hedman had a goal and an assist, Ben Bishop made 34 saves and host Tampa Bay beat Toronto to move into a tie for first place in the Atlantic Division.

Bishop got his first career shutout against the Leafs. It was his sixth shutout of the season and 18th of his career.

Ducks 2, Oilers 1: Corey Perry scored his 31st goal of the season and John Gibson made 27 saves to help Anaheim beat host Edmonton.

Brandon Pirri also scored for the playoff-bound Ducks, who are trying to catch the Los Angeles Kings for first place in the Pacific Division.

Flyers 3, Jets 2 (OT): Claude Giroux scored at 4:46 of overtime, and Philadelphia beat visiting Winnipeg for a crucial win for playoff positioning.

Avalanche 4, Predators 3: Blake Comeau had a goal and an assist, and Colorado used a fast start to edge host Nashville.

Red Wings 3, Sabres 2: Dylan Larkin, Riley Sheahan and Luke Glendening scored and host Detroit held on against Buffalo.

Detroit is tied with Philadelphia for the second wild card in the Eastern Conference, but the Flyers have one more game to earn at least a point.

Flames 5, Coyotes 2: Sam Bennett scored twice, Sean Monahan had a goal and two assists and visiting Calgary avoided a season sweep by Arizona.

Chiefs' Abdullah retires

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chiefs safety Husain Abdullah retired after seven seasons Monday, joining the growing list of players who have walked away from the NFL because of health concerns.

Husain had his fifth concussion this season, which sidelined him for five weeks. The 30-year-old player returned to help Kansas City beat Houston for its first postseason victory in more than two decades.

"There are numerous factors in my decision with personal health being foremost," Abdullah wrote on Instagram. "I had a lot to contemplate. My goals moving forward are to be of benefit to my family, my community, my country and hopefully the world. Having a sound mind will be vital to accomplishing these goals."

The Chiefs appeared to know weeks ago that Abdullah was leaning toward retirement, moving quickly to place the franchise tag on Eric Berry. They also have safeties Ron Parker and Daniel Sorenson

on the roster, and coach Andy Reid indicated last week that Jamell Fleming would move over from cornerback.

Abdullah joined the NFL as an undrafted free agent out of Washington State, and spent four productive seasons with the Minnesota Vikings. He left in his prime to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, then returned after one season to earn a roster spot during training camp with the Chiefs.

He proved to be a dependable safety for Kansas City the past three seasons.

"After sitting out of football to fulfill my Hajj pilgrimage in 2012, the Chiefs were the first to call," Abdullah said. "The three years I spent playing for KC may have been the most enjoyable football experience in my entire life."

Numerous productive players have indicated plans to retire this offseason, including Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson and Patriots linebacker Jerod Mayo. Many of them have cited their long-term health as one reason behind their decisions.

Serena out at Miami Open

Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Serena Williams had been out of the tournament for less than 20 minutes when she climbed into her white Mini Cooper with the checkerboard top and pulled away from the players' parking lot, fastening her seat belt as she drove.

A hasty departure, for sure. Williams' 20-match winning streak at Key Biscayne ended Monday with a 6-7 (3), 6-1, 6-2 loss to Svetlana Kuznetsova in the fourth round of the upset-filled Miami Open.

Williams was bidding for her ninth title in the event and her fourth in a row. But after a grueling first set that lasted nearly an hour, the 21-time Grand Slam cham-

pion faded on a sweltering afternoon.

It was her earliest exit at Key Biscayne since 2000, when she lost in the fourth round to Jennifer Capriati.

Other women sidelined included No. 3 seed Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 4 Garbine Muguruza.

A wave of upsets continued on the men's side, too, with No. 2 Andy Murray dropping the final five games against No. 26 Grigor Dimitrov to lose 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-3.

Murray's elimination leaves the tournament without four of the five top-seeded men. Among them only No. 1 Novak Djokovic reached the round of 16.

In other men's play, No. 12 Milos Raonic held every service game to beat the last American in the men's draw, No. 22 Jack Sock, 7-6 (3), 6-4.