

STARS AND STRIPES®

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

2 Navy fighter squadrons arriving in Iwakuni

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A pair of Navy fighter squadrons are arriving this week at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, completing the transfer of the USS Ronald Reagan strike group's fixed-wing aircraft from their old home base near Tokyo.

Strike Fighter Squadrons 27 and 102 are the last jet squadrons from Carrier Air Wing 5 to make the move from Naval Air Facility Atsugi to Iwakuni, which is hundreds of miles away near the southern end of Japan's main island of Honshu.

"After more than a decade of coordination and planning between the U.S. and Japanese governments, it is rewarding to complete the relocation of our fixed wing aircraft," wing commander Capt. Forrest Young said in a Navy statement Wednesday announcing the move.

Construction continues on new facilities to accommodate

'If you want to be sensitive to noise complaints, getting away from that big population center is probably good for everybody.'

Cmdr. Thomas Bodine
former TOPGUN instructor

the squadrons.

The base has already built new schools, a commissary, gym, theater, runways and hangars.

More than three quarters of the base will have changed by the time the work ends. All of the personnel moving there should have arrived in the second half of 2018, the statement said.

The move to Iwakuni has benefits and drawbacks for the wing, Cmdr. Thomas Bodine, a former TOPGUN instructor now serving as an executive fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, told Stars and

Stripes earlier this month.

Bodine, who trained at Atsugi in the past, said it will take more logistical work to move crewmembers such as maintainers to the Ronald Reagan before it departs on patrol, and the air wing will be farther from Iwo Jima, where it usually conducts landing practice.

"The distance matters, but even stateside most of the air wings on the west coast are located at Lemoore, Calif., and the carrier is in San Diego or in (Naval Air Station Whidbey Island) Washington," he said. "So, they're just as far or even farther than the guys in Japan."

He said Iwakuni pilots will have better access to bombing ranges, which are in short supply in Japan, and longer runways that provide more safety in case of a mechanical failure.

And fewer local residents will be affected by aircraft noise, Bodine said.

"It gives U.S. forces a little more freedom of movement," he said. "If you draw a three-mile radius from Atsugi, you're talking somewhere in the neighborhood of 7 million people within that radius. If you want to be sensitive to noise complaints, getting away from that big population center is probably good for everybody."

The move, directed in May 2006, was supposed to be completed by 2014 but didn't begin until February 2017 with the arrival of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125. VFA 115 and 195, along with Electronic Attack Squadron 141 and Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30 Detachment 5, relocated to Iwakuni by December 2017.

Report: Navy jet in crash had 1 working engine

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The Navy jet that crashed March 14 off Florida's coast and resulted in both crewmembers' deaths was flying with only one engine as it attempted to land, according to the Naval Safety Center.

The Virginia Beach-based F/A-18F Super Hornet crashed on final approach during a training mission about a mile from Naval Air Station Key West.

The dual-seated aircraft is built by Boeing and is equipped with twin engines that are each capable of 17,000 pounds of thrust.

It's unclear how long one of the engines had been out before the crash.

The pilot, Lt. Cmdr. James Brice Johnson, and weapons systems officer Lt. Caleb Nathaniel King ejected, were picked up in water near Key West and were taken to a local hospital, where they were pronounced dead.

The Navy has convened a board to determine all factors that caused the crash, which will likely take months to complete.

The investigation will include an examination of previous aircraft maintenance, number of hours flown on the aircraft, physical condition of the aircrew

and their activities before the crash, according to the Navy.

The information about an engine being out was contained in a short narrative compiled by the Norfolk-based Naval Safety Center.

Witnesses reported seeing a fireball and then the jet falling out of the sky into shallow water. Photographs showed the jet upside down in the water with its landing gear down.

The jet was removed from the water late last week, according to Cmdr. Dave Hecht, a Naval Air Force Atlantic spokesman.

A funeral service was held for King in Florida on Saturday. A

service for Johnson that included a missing man formation flyover was held in Virginia Beach on Friday.

The Navy will hold a memorial service for both men later this week at Naval Air Station Oceana.

Hecht said the service is not open to the public and is primarily for the men and women of Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic.

Johnson and King were assigned to the "Blacklions" of Strike Fighter Squadron 213. The squadron is part of Carrier Air Wing 8, which is assigned to the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush.

N. Korea-China visit affirms ties

Associated Press

BEIJING — With smiles and firm handshakes, North Korea and China used a surprise summit this week to show that despite recent tensions, Pyongyang still has a powerful backer and Beijing will not be sidelined in discussions about the fate of its unpredictable neighbor.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's secretive talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing appear aimed at improving both countries' positions ahead of Kim's anticipated meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and President Donald Trump in the coming weeks.

A key objective for Beijing is to reassert its relevance to the talks, from which it has been excluded. China has appeared increasingly shut out as its relations with the North deteriorated and Pyongyang reached out to Seoul and Washington.

"Kim Jong Un's visit shows that China is not marginalized, but playing a leading role. This saves China a lot of face," said Pang Zhongying, a North Korea expert at Renmin University in Beijing.

"North Korea once again is taking advantage of China," Pang said. "It plays the China card, showing South Korea and the U.S.: China is still my ally."

Official reports from both

countries Wednesday depicted in effusive terms warm ties between the leaders in an effort to downplay recent tensions over Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

Ties in recent months have frayed as China supported tougher U.N. sanctions on North Korea and suspended coal and iron ore imports. Pyongyang last year seemingly sought to humiliate Beijing by timing some of its missile tests for major global summits in China.

Kim made the visit to China at Xi's invitation, China's official Xinhua News Agency said, in his first trip to a foreign country since he took power in 2011. Xinhua said the trip ran from Sunday to Wednesday but appeared to include travel time from Pyongyang on the special armored train that Kim traveled on, which secretly arrived in Beijing on Monday and left Tuesday afternoon.

Although China sought to keep Kim's visit secret, and described it Wednesday as "unofficial," it accorded him full honors due to a head of state, including a formal welcoming ceremony and troop review at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, also hosted a banquet for Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, and they

watched an art performance together, Xinhua said.

For China, the visit also projects to its public that Xi is firmly in charge of steering Beijing's relations with North Korea in a way that favors China's interests.

"Here is Xi Jinping saying, 'Don't worry, everything is going to be great,'" said Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that he had received a message from Xi saying that his meeting with Kim "went very well" and that Kim "looks forward to his meeting with me."

Analysts say Kim would have felt a need to consult with China ahead of summits with Moon and Trump. His famously reclusive father, Kim Jong Il, made his first visit to China as North Korean leader in May 2000, reportedly to consult with the Chinese leadership ahead of his summit with South Korea's then-leader, Kim Dae-jung.

China would also not want Kim's first foreign meeting to be with someone other than Xi.

"This is China asserting its regional hegemony and influence, saying, 'Hey, you talk to me first,'" said Michael Kovrig, senior adviser for Northeast Asia at the International Crisis Group.

Chinese fleet forms for exercises

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Satellite images taken Monday show a huge carrier-led fleet of Chinese ships in formation for spring exercises off the coast of Hainan province in the South China Sea.

One of the images, gathered by the company Planet Labs, shows almost 40 ships sailing two abreast in a row, with China's first aircraft carrier, the Russian-built Type 001 Liaoning, near the center.

The Chinese navy recently announced that it would be holding spring training exercises in the South China Sea to test its combat readiness.

"The South China Sea and East China Sea will be primary battlegrounds," Song Zhongping, a military expert and TV commentator, told the state-run Global Times newspaper on Sunday. "The [People's Liberation Army] is committed to be battle-ready through simulated combat training."

Song said that unlike in previous years in which exercises have been held in spring and fall, navy drills will be held each month in 2018.

Much of the South China Sea is generally regarded as international waters, but China has laid claim to a huge swath of it. It has spent the past few years building artificial islands in some disputed areas and then constructing military-type facilities and airstrips on them.

China has also long maintained it has sovereignty over Taiwan, which broke away from the mainland after the nation's long civil war ended in 1949.

Gregory Poling, director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the resolution of the photos, first reported by Reuters, is too low to draw many conclusions about the spring exercise.

New activity noted at N. Korean nuke site

Associated Press

TOKYO — Increased activity at a North Korean nuclear site has once again caught the attention of analysts and renewed concerns about the complexities of denuclearization talks as President Donald Trump prepares for a summit with Kim Jong Un in the coming weeks.

Satellite imagery taken last month suggests the North has begun preliminary testing of an experimental light water reactor and possibly brought another reactor online at its Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center.

Both could be used to produce the fissile materials needed for nuclear bombs.

The findings come at a particularly sensitive time. Trump and Kim are planning to meet by May, according to officials, and denuclearization will likely be the biggest topic on their agenda if they meet.

According to an analysis in Jane's Intelligence Review published earlier this month, a testing program is now underway at the experimental reactor, which means it could become operational with "little warning later in 2018 or in 2019."

It said the preliminary test-

ing follows increased activity throughout 2017.

In a separate report posted on 38 North, a website that specializes in North Korea news and analysis, experts said they have detected activity at another reactor in the Yongbyon complex, which is located north of Pyongyang, that could be an even bigger concern.

Imagery of Yongbyon's 5-megawatt reactor suggests it was brought into operation very recently. The website said that would mean "North Korea has resumed production of plutonium presumably for its nuclear weapons program."

Trump reportedly weighs using DOD cash to pay for border wall

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Still angry about the budget deal he signed last week, President Donald Trump has floated the idea of using the military's budget to pay for his long-promised border wall with Mexico, despite the fact that such spending would likely require approval from Congress.

Trump raised the funding plan with House Speaker Paul Ryan at a meeting at the White House last Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the discussion who spoke on condition of anonymity.

And he's publicly tweeted that building "a great Border Wall" is "all about National Defense," and called to "Build WALL through M!", meaning the military.

Departments, however, have limited authority to reprogram funds without congressional approval. Pentagon spokesman Chris Sherwood referred all questions on the wall to the White House, where spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders deflected them, saying she was "not going to get into the specifics of that."

Trump threw Washington into a tizzy on Friday when he threatened to veto the omnibus spending bill, in part because it didn't include the \$25 billion he'd tried to secure for the wall in a last-minute bargaining spree.

The \$1.3 trillion funding package did include \$1.6 billion in border wall spending. But much of

that money can only be used to repair existing segments. Congress also put restrictions on the types of barriers that can be built.

Trump has tried to justify signing the deal by pointing to the boost in funding it provides for the military. But he nonetheless remains frustrated, according to people familiar with his thinking, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump first publicly floated the idea of having the Pentagon pay for the rest of construction in an obscure tweet that left many confused.

"Building a great Border Wall, with drugs (poison) and enemy combatants pouring into our Country, is all about National Defense," he wrote Sunday. "Build WALL through M!"

He retweeted his message again Monday night.

Some people close to the president have also suggested creating a GoFundMe campaign that Trump could use to raise money from the public to fund construction. The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the idea, and it's unclear whether it has gained any serious traction.

Congress, under the Constitution, has the power to determine federal appropriations, and the administration has little authority to shift funding without congressional approval. The Senate Appropriations Committee was not aware of any authority that would allow the Defense Department to fund the wall without congressional approval, said a GOP aide.

Guam-based B-52s to train in Australia

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

Three Air Force B-52 Stratofortresses and their crews are heading Down Under to train alongside the Australian Defence Force.

The strategic bombers will fly out of Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin in the Northern Territory from late March to early April, Australian officials said in a statement Wednesday.

The B-52s from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, will train with Australian F/A-18A Hornets, PC-9 aircraft and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers in military airspace near RAAF Williamstown, the statement said.

The planes will be there at the same time as a force of nearly 1,600 Marines who are headed for Australia for a six-month summer rotation.

Marine Rotational Force-Darwin includes eight MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and an artillery battery of six M777 Howitzers.

As Lockheed celebrates, F-35 critics change focus

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — As Lockheed Martin celebrates a major milestone for the F-35 program Wednesday, some of the plane's biggest critics concede its political opposition in Washington has all but fizzled.

Congress' latest budget funds 90 of the planes — 20 more than requested by President Donald Trump, who once railed against their "tremendous cost."

Government watchdog groups criticize the program for missing deadlines, exceeding cost estimates and failing to live up to promises. But with little appetite left to slow the current program in Washington, they're now focused on stopping future versions of the plane rather than persuading Congress to recon-

sider its investment.

"I have no real illusion we're going to effect any drastic changes to the F-35," said Dan Grazier, a military fellow at the Project On Government Oversight and one of the program's leading critics in Washington. "It's next to impossible to generate enough political opposition to the program."

Steve Ellis, vice president of another watchdog group, Taxpayers for Common Sense, likened the plane's inclusion in Congress' budget to "the (appropriations) version of Oprah."

"You get a plane, you get a plane, you get a plane!" Ellis said.

Lockheed Martin was to roll out the first F-35 made for South Korea at its Fort Worth, Texas, plant Wednesday, alongside that

state's lawmakers and Pentagon officials.

The company makes the planes for 12 countries, and calls the F-35 "the most advanced fighter aircraft ever built," thanks to technology that makes it nearly impossible to detect.

Trump, who railed against the program as a candidate, has also toned down attacks since taking office.

Last week he called the planes "beautiful," and praised Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson as "the leading women's business executive in this country" at a White House meeting.

Michael Friedman, a Lockheed Martin spokesman for the F-35 program, attributed changing political opinions in Washington to the plane "proving its value" as a defense tool.

Grazier, who has worked on F-35 issues for three years, said critics of the program have largely given up on matching that effort.

Instead, they're focused on the Department of Defense's independent review of the plane's design, which could begin this fall. That operational test is required before full-scale production begins.

Grazier said the testing could take years to complete, and will reveal all of the program's "warts and wrinkles."

"One of the best things we can do now, the few of us in my position, and just raise awareness of this," said Grazier. "In 10-15 years when we're talking about the F-45, hopefully, we're not making the same mistakes."

Daniels' lawyer seeking to depose the president

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An attorney for adult film star Stormy Daniels filed a motion Wednesday seeking to depose President Donald Trump and his attorney, dialing up pressure on the president over his alleged sexual encounter with her years ago.

If successful, it would be the first deposition of a sitting president since President Bill Clinton in 1998 had to answer questions about his encounter with Paula Jones.

Attorney Michael Avenatti is seeking sworn testimony from Trump and Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, about a \$130,000 payment made to Daniels days before the 2016 presidential election as part of a nondisclosure agreement she is seeking to invalidate. Avenatti's documents were filed in U.S. District Court in California.

Avenatti is part of a growing list of lawyers looking to question Trump. Attorneys for a former contestant on one of Trump's "Apprentice" TV shows have said they want to depose the president as part of a defamation suit. And the president's legal team

continues to negotiate with special counsel Robert Mueller over the scope and terms of an interview with the president.

Avenatti wants to question Trump and Cohen for "no more than two hours." In the filing, he says the depositions are needed to establish if Trump knew about the payment, which Avenatti refers to as a "hush agreement," and if he consented to it.

"We're looking for sworn answers from the president and Mr. Cohen about what they knew, when they knew it and what they did about it," Avenatti told The Associated Press.

In a statement to CBS, Cohen's attorney, David Schwartz, called the filing a "reckless use of the legal system in order to continue to inflate Michael Avenatti's deflated ego and keep himself relevant."

The White House, which has said Trump denies the relationship, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, detailed her alleged 2006 tryst with Trump in a widely watched interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday.

Trump: No repeal of 2nd Amendment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump tweeted Wednesday that the Second Amendment "WILL NEVER BE REPEALED" and called on voters to elect more Republicans in this fall's congressional elections because the GOP "must ALWAYS hold the Supreme Court."

Trump's statements came a day after retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in an essay in The New York Times saying that repealing the amendment would make it easier for Congress to enact gun control legislation.

Last month's shootings that killed 17 people at a high school in Parkland, Fla., have galvanized young people, liberals and Democrats for a renewed push to curb firearms. That has included demonstrations that have drawn hundreds of thousands of marchers in cities across the country.

"THE SECOND AMENDMENT WILL NEVER BE REPEALED!" Trump tweeted early Wednesday. "As much as Democrats would like to see this happen, and despite the words yesterday of former Supreme Court Justice Stevens, NO WAY. We need more Republicans in 2018 and must ALWAYS hold the Supreme Court!"

There is no current, major push to repeal the Second Amendment.

'Call of Duty' World Video Game Hall of Fame finalist

Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Calling all gamers to help pick World Video Game Hall of Fame inductees. Twelve finalists were named Tuesday for the class of 2018, pitting "Ms. Pac-Man" against "John Madden Football."

Also in the running are "Asteroids," "Call of Duty," "Dance Dance Revolution," "Final Fantasy VII," "Half-Life," "King's Quest," "Metroid," "Minecraft," "Spacewar!" and "Tomb Raider."

New this year, the hall is inviting gamers to weigh in on inductees. Online balloting closes April 4. A panel of experts will vote as well. The winners will be inducted May 3.

Museum officials say thousands of nominations were submitted from more than 100 countries. To be recognized, games must have proven their popularity over time and influenced other games or forms of entertainment. They can be electronic games of any type — arcade, console, computer, handheld, or mobile.

About this year's finalists:

■ **"Asteroids."** Released by Atari in 1979, the game sold more than 70,000 arcade units. Millions more played it at home on the Atari 2600.

■ **"Call of Duty."** The first-person shooter game drops players into a World War II setting for a blend of action and historic narrative. Launched by Infinity Ward/Activision, the game and sequels have sold more than 260 million units since 2003.

■ **"Dance Dance Revolution."** Konami's 1998 game spread from Japanese arcades, including to a home version for Sony Playstation.

■ **"Final Fantasy VII."** The 1997 game introduced 3-D computer graphics and other upgrades to the popular franchise. The game sold more than 10 million units, making it the second-most popular game for the Sony Playstation and helped popularize the Japanese role-playing genre.

■ **"Half-Life."** After its creation by Valve/Sierra Studios in 1998, the game added the ability to modify the game itself, providing countless replay possibilities.

■ **"John Madden Football."** The 1990 reboot by Electronic Arts became a pop cultural phenomenon that has sold more than 100 million copies.

■ **"King's Quest."** Sierra On-Line co-founder Roberta Williams in 1984 made her game a hit on personal computers with its

unique visuals and irreverent humor. Seven sequels have followed.

■ **"Metroid."** Nintendo's 1986 game introduced the first playable human female character in a mainstream video game.

■ **"Minecraft."** A top performer since its introduction in 2009, the game lets players in a worldwide, online community build elaborate structures from pixelated blocks.

■ **"Ms. Pac-Man."** Midway launched the follow-up to the Pac-Man arcade game in 1981. It became one of the five best-selling arcade games of all time.

■ **"Spacewar!"** was created by members of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Model Train Club in 1962 on a main frame computer. It is credited with helping to launch the multibillion-dollar video game industry.

■ **"Tomb Raider."** The 1996 game and its protagonist, Lara Croft, inspired a movie of the same name, featuring Angelina Jolie.

The 27 members of an international selection advisory committee will cast ballots for the winners. The three games that receive the most public votes from the new "Player's Choice" voting will count as another ballot.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

School housing for teachers proposed

FL MIAMI — In an effort to combat modest salaries and the high cost of housing, officials in Miami have a proposal — let teachers live at school.

The Miami Herald reported that a preliminary proposal includes building a midrise middle school in Miami's Brickell neighborhood with a floor devoted to residential units for teachers. Another proposal calls for a housing complex with about 300 apartments next to Phillis Wheatley Elementary School.

The proposal by Miami-Dade's school system and the housing department is an effort to develop affordable housing.

Multiple dead cats found under home

HI HONOLULU — The discovery of multiple dead cats underneath a Honolulu home prompted calls for a state investigation.

For years, neighbors have complained about the amount of trash piling up at the Kalihi home. But cellphone video shot last week by a resident shows the problem is beyond trash, Hawaii News Now reported.

Honolulu resident Ray Carre said he found rows of cat carriers under the home, many of them containing remains. He estimated about 200 pet carriers were under the property.

House mistaken for site of sale ransacked

CO LONGMONT — A Colorado woman said her house was ransacked by people who mistakenly thought it was the site of an estate sale.

The Daily Camera reported that Mary Andrews said she left her Longmont home unlocked

and came back Friday morning to find people taking items from her house. Longmont police told Andrews it was a "very, very bad misunderstanding."

Andrews said a house just a few doors down was having an estate sale, and somehow someone got into her house and began spreading the rumor that an estate sale was going on there and that everything was free.

Man held in beating of pregnant girlfriend

KY ELIZABETHTOWN — Police said a Kentucky man faces assault charges involving his pregnant girlfriend.

The News Enterprise reported that Brandon Farmer, 36, of Elizabethtown, was charged Sunday with second-degree assault.

According to an arrest report, a woman told Elizabethtown police she was grabbed by the neck, slammed to the floor and choked in a hotel room where she lived with Farmer. He was being held on \$10,000 cash bond in the Hardin County Detention Center.

Remarks to Easter Bunny bring charges

OH MANSFIELD — Police said an Ohio woman was arrested for making lewd comments to an Easter Bunny.

Authorities said they were called to Richland Carrousel Park in Mansfield on Saturday after the woman made the comments while taking a picture with the Easter Bunny. Police report she began to ride the carousel after making the comments.

Arriving officers said the 54-year-old appeared to be intoxicated, with slurred speech and unsteadiness on her feet.

The woman was arrested for drunkenness and transported to the county jail.

Dog pulls man into path of train; both die

WI WAUKESHA — Waukesha police said a man who was killed by a train was pulled onto the railroad tracks by his dog.

Authorities said Tuesday that Alois Hinkes, 73, was walking his dog along the tracks in Waukesha on Monday morning when the approaching train scared the dog, causing it to pull the man onto the tracks. Hinkes lived in the neighborhood.

Police said the dog did not survive.

Police find burglar sleeping inside home

CT NEW HAVEN — Police said they caught a suspected burglar snoozing inside a Connecticut home.

Officers responded to the break-in about 7 a.m. Sunday in New Haven. The homeowner wasn't inside at the time, but she watched the suspect through a surveillance system.

Police said they found the 27-year-old suspect sleeping on the living room sofa. He was charged with third-degree burglary and first-degree criminal trespass.

False escaped camel reports cause chaos

MA BOSTON — False reports of an escaped camel from a local zoo sent police on a search and inspired speculation on social media.

The Boston Globe reported that Boston police began searching for Zowie, a Bactrain camel who lives in Franklin Park Zoo, on Saturday night.

Zoo officials said reports of an

escaped camel are "false," and they are unsure of who called in a missing camel. Someone called police, saying the camel was blocking traffic, which was also untrue.

Sheriff's office: ICE interviewed inmates

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco Bay Area sheriff's office said it allowed federal deportation officers to enter the jail it operates and interview four inmates in violation of the agency's pro-immigrant sanctuary policies.

Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith told the San Francisco Chronicle that members of her staff "mistakenly" let U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers enter their facility March 7 and 8.

She said none of the four inmates was detained by ICE.

Smith said that after learning of the incident, the sheriff's office re-evaluated and strengthened measures for admitting law enforcement agencies to their facilities.

Man faces retrial in shooting of his friend

PA HARRISBURG — A former death row inmate is on trial for the second time in the shooting death of a friend a dozen years ago in eastern Pennsylvania.

Bryan Galvin, 53, was sentenced to death in the January 2006 shooting death of Kristofer Kolesnik, 32, but won a new trial because jurors had discovered information about his criminal history.

Berks County prosecutors said Galvin shot the victim and was heading to a remote area to dump the body when police stopped him for driving without headlights.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news
updated 24/7 from bases
around the world.
Now online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Baseball season opens with more muscle

Associated Press

Just the thought of Giancarlo Stanton and Aaron Judge in the same lineup sent fans into a frenzy. Come opening day, all of baseball will see which teams really have the muscle.

A season of haves and have-nots begins Thursday with Derek Jeter's pared-down Marlins playing the pumped-up Cubs. Later that day, the New York Yankees unleash their most potent pair of slugers since Mantle & Maris.

MVP Jose Altuve and the World Series champion Houston Astros added ace Gerrit Cole to a rotation with Dallas Keuchel and Justin Verlander. The Dodgers and Indians are still poised after coming within one win of that elusive crown. The Nationals hired a new manager to help free agent-to-be Bryce Harper, Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg reach the top. And the Red Sox got the bopper they needed.

Where does that leave the Reds, Pirates, Tigers, Rays and A's? Well, better luck next year. Or the year after that.

Major League Baseball is in a hurry these days, with record home runs and strikeouts the new norm. But please, get that last out in under three hours.

A season that will include games in Mexico and Puerto Rico is set to start. And, if all goes as planned, the final game will come in October.

Here's an early best-of-seven:

Welcome

Slugger J.D. Martinez moves to Boston, which hit the fewest homers in the American League. Andrew McCutchen and Evan Longoria go to the retooling Giants, Jake Arrieta joins the rebuilding Phillies, Christian Yelich and Lorenzo Cain become part of the Brewers' outfield, Marcell Ozuna provides pop in St. Louis and Yu Darvish is now pitching for the Cubs. Also, six new managers: Alex Cora (Red Sox), Aaron Boone (Yankees), Dave Martinez (Nationals), Mickey Callaway (Mets) and Gabe Kapler (Phillies) try for the first time, and Ron Gardenhire (Tigers) returns after a four-year absence.

Worth watching

Babe Ruth or bust? We'll see whether newcomer Shohei Ohtani becomes the most successful two-way player in the bigs since the Bambino. The 23-year-old Japanese star struggled at the plate and on the mound this spring, but it's early. Tampa Bay reliever Jonny Venters has been out of the majors since 2012 while having three Tommy John surgeries. Alex Rodriguez, meanwhile, keeps getting more popular in retirement as he moves into the ESPN booth for Sunday night telecasts.

Hiya

In a game of numbers, make way for some new letters to go along with ERA, OPS and WAR: MVs. Mound visits will be posted on scoreboards, tracking how many times catchers, infielders, managers and coaches go talk

with a pitcher. It's part of MLB's new pace-of-play rules, designed to cut down the incessant back-and-forth between batteries. Teams are allowed six trips without making a change. After that, every visit requires a new pitcher. For sure, this will take a few weeks to sort out. And no shenanigans — what if a shortstop thinks a reliever is out of gas, and trots to the mound on his own to force a switch?

Ouch!

Giants ace Madison Bumgarner is among several banged-up stars who will miss opening day. Dodgers catalyst Justin Turner, Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia, Orioles closer Zach Britton, Milwaukee starter Jimmy Nelson, Blue Jays shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and Nationals second baseman Daniel Murphy are out. Mariners ace Felix Hernandez is recovering from being hit by a line drive in spring training, which is how Bumgarner broke a bone in his pitching hand. Astros first baseman Yuli Gurriel is healing from hand surgery, then will serve a five-game suspension for making an offensive gesture toward Dodgers pitcher Yu Darvish during the World Series. Twins shortstop Jorge Polanco begins an 80-game drug ban, and will be ineligible if Minnesota makes the playoffs.

Yummy

The plate will be tasty — at concession stands. In Texas, the Dilly Dog is a dill pickle, hollowed out and stuffed with a hot dog, served up battered and fried. PNC Park presents Greens and Grains that includes kale, quinoa, sunflower seeds and other healthy items. Fenway Park provides dessert,

a creme brulee French toast topped with Vermont maple syrup. Want a bolder option? Try the Rocky Mountain Po'Boy at Coors Field. That's Rocky Mountain oysters, topped with guacamole, pico de gallo and more, on a roll (um, Rocky Mountain oysters aren't really seafood. In Colorado, that's what they call cattle testicles).

Fan-tastic

All 30 teams will have expanded netting to protect fans, reaching at least to the far end of the dugouts. ... At Camden Yards, the Orioles will offer free tickets in the upper deck to kids 9 and under for the first month of the season. ... At the Coliseum, the A's are opening a garden beyond the outfield seats, growing produce and flowers in redwood planters. ... At Dodger Stadium, there will be bar stools behind the plate, plus a painted blue seat in right field to mark where Kirk Gibson's home run landed to win the 1988 World Series opener.

The ex factor

From Triple-A Pawtucket down to rookie Pioneer League Idaho Falls, extra innings will have a different look in the minors. Every half-inning will start with a runner on second base. They say it'll shorten games and help preserve the arms of pitching prospects. They do this in the World Baseball Classic, international baseball and — heck — even Central Park softball. Purists, note: Commissioner Rob Manfred has stated this idea isn't being considered for any major league games that count. For real, right?

Ohtani scheduled to pitch for Angels in fourth game

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani is scheduled to make his major league pitching debut Sunday when he starts for the Los Angeles Angels in their fourth game of the season at Oakland.

The much-hyped Japanese star is expected to be the team's designated hitter in at least one of the first three games, but it's unclear if that will happen in the opener on Thursday.

"We haven't determined our opening-day lineup yet," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said Tuesday night.

The 23-year-old Ohtani, who struggled in spring training, was told after Tuesday's exhibition game against the Dodgers that he'll pitch Sunday.

Asked what he expects from Ohtani in his first start, Scioscia said: "He's gotten into the mid-80-pitch range and should be able to get over 90 if he's throwing to his capabilities.

That's plenty of pitches for him to get deep into the game. We're going to take it one pitch at a time with all of our pitchers."

Ohtani was supposed to get an at-bat or two on Tuesday night but that didn't happen because the game was called in the bottom of the fifth inning due to a foul-smelling leak that spilled sewage onto the Dodger Stadium field near the home dugout.

The Angels play their home opener Monday against Cleve-

land. They plan to use a six-man rotation this season, but won't need to open that way.

"We're at five starters and we'll eventually be at six," Scioscia said. "As far as how everything was lining up, there were definitely some things we were looking at as far as how we started out of the gate. The thing about the starting rotation, especially this year, is that we're going to be flexible and fluid."

NIT roundup

Utah, Penn State move into title game

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With a poised performance at the free throw line, Justin Bibbins sent Utah to the championship game of the National Invitation Tournament for the first time in 44 years.

Bibbins made all 12 of his foul shots and scored 19 points as the Utes beat Western Kentucky 69-64 on Tuesday night in the semifinals at Madison Square Garden.

"I went to the basics and knocked them down," Bibbins said.

Sedrick Barefield added 14 points for the second-seeded Utes (23-11), who advanced to the title game for the third time — and first since losing to Purdue in 1974.

They will play Thursday night against No. 4 seed Penn State, a 75-60 winner over Mississippi State.

"We thought the whole time we could win this thing and bring back the trophy," said David Collette, who had 13

points and seven rebounds. "We're there."

Tyler Rawson scored 12, including a three-pointer that put Utah ahead to stay with 38.1 seconds left.

Bibbins led the way despite shooting just 3-for-8 from the field.

"I was happy to go to the line," he said. "Once I got into the flow and made four in a row, I tried to get there more because my shot wasn't falling from the outside."

Justin Johnson had 24 points for the fourth-seeded Hilltoppers (27-11). Lamonte Bearden added 12 and Dwight Coleby scored 10.

"It's a fine line, winning and losing," coach Rick Stansbury said. "Give them credit (for) making the plays."

The game went back and forth throughout and wasn't decided until the final seconds. Utah took a 66-64 lead when Rawson hit a three from the right side to snap an 0-for-7 shooting slump for the Utes,

who went 8:23 without a field goal.

"Ty was wide open," Bibbins said. "I was happy he knocked it down."

On the ensuing possession, Bibbins drew a charge against Bearden and knocked down two free throws. Johnson missed a straightaway three at the other end, and Barefield's free throw with five seconds to go made it 69-64.

Penn State 75, Mississippi State 60: Tony Carr scored 21 points, Shep Garner added 18 while breaking a school record for career three-pointers in the Nittany Lions' semifinal rout.

Fourth-seeded Penn State (25-13) will play No. 2 seed Utah for the championship Thursday night at Madison Square Garden.

After the score was tied 9-all, Penn State ended the first quarter on a 9-2 run. From there, the Nittany Lions opened the second with a 19-0 spurt capped by Garner's three off an assist from Carr to make it

37-11.

Penn State was up 42-23 at halftime and led by as many as 27.

Mississippi State (25-12) wasn't able to get within 20 until there was 7:56 left in the game. Abdul Ado's dunk made it 65-47, but that was the closest the fourth-seeded Bulldogs got before the waning moments.

Mississippi State was led by Tyson Carter's 19 points off the bench. Ado had 13 points and seven rebounds.

Lamar Stevens scored 17 points for Penn State. Carr had six assists and five rebounds.

While the Nittany Lions would have preferred to play in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2011, they made the NIT for the first time under seventh-year coach Pat Chambers. Penn State is back in the NIT title game for the first time since 2009, when it beat Baylor for the crown.

The school's only other appearance in the final was a loss to Minnesota in 1998.

Sports briefs

Angels-Dodgers exhibition called due to sewage spill

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Spring training came to a repulsive end Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium.

The exhibition finale between the Angels and Dodgers was cut short because of a foul-smelling leak that spilled sewage onto the field in the fifth inning.

The game was called after a 32-minute delay with two outs in the bottom of the fifth, giving the Dodgers a 4-3 victory over their Los Angeles rivals. The water main leak left a brown mess pooling near the Dodgers' dugout in foul territory as the grounds crew spread a drying

agent and worked to clean up.

"I'm not going to tell you what it really was," Dodgers outfielder Andrew Toles said. "That's messed up. It's nasty."

There was definitely an undeniable stench, according to players.

"I thought it was Gatorade or something coming from the stands. I don't know. They said it was the sewer," Toles said. "I smelled it. It was nasty, man."

After about 10 minutes of waiting on the field, both teams returned to their respective dugouts. Umpire crew chief Gerry Davis announced the delay as officials tried to determine if it was a stadium or city issue.

NFL's new helmet rule could use video review

ORLANDO, Fla. — The NFL's new rule outlawing a player from lowering his head to initially make any sort of hit with his helmet likely will be included in replay reviews for officials.

That has not been decided yet, but Commissioner Roger Goodell and competition committee chairman Rich McKay made it clear Wednesday that video reviews probably will be part of the process.

"If we're able to have replay confirm one of these fouls and also confirms a player be ejected," Goodell said as the league

meetings concluded.

After noting the unanimous approval of the new rule among coaches, Goodell said on-field officials felt the same way.

"We think that is appropriate to do and it would be the first time we use replay for safety or in respect to any kind of foul," Goodell added.

Late Tuesday, the owners rewrote the rule on using the helmet, making it a 15-yard penalty for any player to lower his head to initiate any hit with the helmet. McKay called it "a significant change," noting that it was a "technique too dangerous for the player doing it and the player being hit."

NBA roundup

Wade, Heat shut down LeBron, Cavs

Associated Press

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade is completely convinced LeBron James is still the best basketball player in the world.

And the Miami Heat accepted the challenge of slowing him down.

Kelly Olynyk scored a game-high 19 points, Wade blocked a pair of shots by James as part of a stifling defensive effort by Miami, and the Heat had little trouble on the way to beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 98-79 on Tuesday night.

Wade finished with four blocks, two of them from behind to thwart James, and afterward the close friends got together and laughed like always.

“That’s one thing about us — we don’t brag about what we do against each other,” James said. “We talk about what we do against everybody else.”

Josh Richardson and James Johnson each scored 15 points for Miami, which led 54-34 at halftime and has won 10 of its last 11 home games. Wade fin-

ished with 12 against the team he spent part of this season with before getting traded back to Miami.

“We did a great job,” Wade said. “One of our best defensive games since I’ve been here, for sure.”

The Heat held Cleveland to a season-low point total, a shocking number when considering the Cavs had scored 120 in each of their previous four games. James finished with 18 points for the Cavaliers, who were without Kevin Love in the second half because of what was initially diagnosed as a loose tooth and then changed to concussion-like symptoms.

Love, who was hurt 1:22 into the game after taking an elbow from Heat center Jordan Mickey, will be evaluated again Wednesday to see if he needs to enter the NBA’s concussion protocol.

“What hurt us more was our rotation was in disarray,” James said. “We have a great rotation thing down the last few games and for a guy to go down

that early it kind of messed that up.”

Rockets 118, Bulls 86: Eric Gordon scored 31 points and tied a career high with eight three-pointers on a night James Harden sat out to rest, and host Houston got its 10th straight win.

Wizards 116, Spurs 106: Markieff Morris shot 7-for-7 from the floor for 15 points, Otto Porter Jr. added 14 and host Washington beat San Antonio to snap a three-game losing streak.

Pacers 92, Warriors 81: Injury-plagued Golden State again lacked the firepower to finish off an opponent, and Victor Oladipo scored 24 points in visiting Indiana’s victory over the defending champions.

Trail Blazers 107, Pelicans 103: Damian Lillard scored 20 of his 41 points in the fourth quarter, and Portland beat host New Orleans.

Lillard hit his first six shots of the fourth quarter, including two three-pointers, to push

Portland into its first lead since early in the first quarter.

Raptors 114, Nuggets 110: DeMar DeRozan, Jonas Valanciunas and Fred VanVleet each scored 15 points and host Toronto beat Denver.

Jakob Poeltl scored all of his 12 points in the fourth quarter, including eight straight for Toronto at one stretch.

Clippers 105, Bucks 98: Tobias Harris scored 19 points, DeAndre Jordan had a double-double and host Los Angeles rallied after blowing a 16-point lead to beat Milwaukee and boost its playoff hopes.

Mavericks 103, Kings 97: Harrison Barnes had 20 points, six assists and five rebounds, and Dallas beat Sacramento while protesters forced a lockdown of Golden1 Center for the second time in six days.

Outside the arena, demonstrators gathered to protest the March 18 fatal police shooting of Stephon Clark, an unarmed 22-year-old black man who was in his grandparents’ backyard.

NHL roundup

Turriss scores only SO goal as Predators hold off Wild

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The checklist for the Nashville Predators is getting shorter as the regular season winds down.

Kyle Turriss scored the only goal in the shootout to lift the Predators over the Minnesota Wild 2-1 Tuesday night to snap a three-game skid.

The win clinched the defending Western Conference champions home-ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs. The franchise’s first Central Division title also is in reach, with Nashville leading Winnipeg by five points for both the top seed in the West and

in the division with six games remaining apiece. Nashville wrapped up its division schedule by going 18-5-3.

“We took another step closer tonight to achieving that goal and keep on getting wins, and finish as high as we can,” Predators forward Scott Hartnell said. “It’s just been great efforts the whole year long, and especially tonight a big effort by everybody.”

Nashville also moved three points ahead of Tampa Bay in the chase for the Presidents’ Trophy and home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs. The Predators visit Tampa Bay on Sunday.

Roman Josi scored for Nash-

ville, and Pekka Rinne made 22 saves.

Jets 5, Bruins 4 (SO): Patrik Laine scored the deciding goal in the shootout, Brandon Tanev had his first career hat trick and host Winnipeg beat Boston to cap a perfect six-game homestand.

Canucks 4, Ducks 1: Brandon Sutter had two goals and an assist to lift host Vancouver.

Blues 3, Sharks 2 (OT): Vladimir Tarasenko scored his second goal of the game in overtime to lift host St. Louis over San Jose.

Devils 4, Hurricanes 3: Stefan Noesen scored on a rebound with 1:33 to play and host New Jersey continued its playoff

push.

Blue Jackets 7, Oilers 3: Thomas Vanek had three goals and an assist to lift visiting Columbus over Edmonton.

Red Wings 5, Penguins 2: Luke Glendening scored twice, Darren Helm matched his career high with three points and host Detroit beat Pittsburgh.

Stars 3, Flyers 2 (OT): Alexander Radulov scored 40 seconds into overtime as host Dallas beat Philadelphia to end an eight-game winless streak.

Islanders 4, Senators 3: Andrew Ladd scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period to lift visiting New York over Ottawa.