

Lawmakers urge more troop location security

By PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

U.S. service members deployed overseas have been targeted or surveilled using commercially available location data, federal lawmakers said in a Thursday letter to the Pentagon demanding stronger protections for troops.

U.S. Central Command told Congress it had “received multiple threat reports concerning adversary exploitation of commercial location data to target or surveil U.S. personnel in theater,” said the letter, which was signed by over a dozen Capitol Hill legislators from both parties.

The lawmakers said the disclosure marked the first time the Defense Department had confirmed that adversaries were using commercial location data to target U.S. military per-

sonnel in an active war zone. News of the letter was first reported by Reuters.

Neither CENTCOM nor the Pentagon immediately responded to requests for comment.

The CENTCOM area of responsibility includes the Persian Gulf region, where the U.S. and Iran have been engaged in a war since late February.

Although a tenuous ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran is still in effect, talks aimed at ending the war have faltered.

The letter follows reporting by Stars and Stripes about threatening messages sent to U.S. service members assigned to units in the Middle East, including Bahrain.

Those messages, which appeared to come from the Iran-linked hacker group Handala Hack, said U.S. troops were under surveillance and could be

hit by drones and missiles. Some messages were sent directly to troops via WhatsApp, Stars and Stripes reported.

Among the 14 signatories of the letter is Rep. Pat Harrigan, R-N.C., a former Army Special Forces officer.

The lawmakers urged the Defense Department to do more to address the risks posed by the commercial data industry, which collects and sells location information gathered from smartphones and apps.

“Commercial location data can be used to identify where U.S. troops congregate and their pattern of life, which can be exploited by adversaries to target attacks such as missiles, drones, and roadside bombs, as well as for counterintelligence purposes,” the lawmakers wrote.

Among the measures proposed in the letter are disabling

advertising IDs on government-issued mobile devices, automatically disabling location-sharing services for personnel deployed in theater and replacing internet browsers that lawmakers said collect large amounts of user data.

“Every day these browsers remain on government-issued devices is another day we are handing our adversaries a weapon against our own troops,” Harrigan told Reuters.

The lawmakers also said they had unsuccessfully sought additional information from military officials about the reported incidents.

In recent years, journalists and researchers have demonstrated how commercially available datasets can be used to track movements near sensitive U.S. military and intelligence facilities.

Negotiations lead to tentative ceasefire extension

By LARA KORTE

Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Iranian negotiators have reached a tentative agreement to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and launch talks on Iran’s nuclear program, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said President Donald Trump still needs to sign off on the emerging memorandum of understanding.

Iran did not immediately confirm any deal, and the official noted that President Donald Trump has yet to sign off on it.

The memorandum of under-

standing would state that shipping through the vital Strait of Hormuz would be “unrestricted,” Axios reported. Iran would have to remove all mines from the strait within 30 days, according to the news outlet.

The news followed overnight clashes between the U.S. and Iran, with both sides accusing the other of breaching the ceasefire that started in early April.

The U.S. military on Wednesday intercepted five Iranian one-way attack drones that “posed a clear threat in and near the Strait of Hormuz,” U.S. Central Command said in a statement on X.

U.S. forces also struck a ground control station in the port city of Bandar Abbas that

was about to launch a drone, CENTCOM told Stars and Stripes in an earlier email.

“These actions were measured, purely defensive, and intended to maintain the ceasefire,” said the statement, which was attributed to a U.S. official.

State-controlled Iranian news outlet IRIB acknowledged the strikes on Bandar Abbas and said Tehran had retaliated by attacking the U.S. base where the strikes originated. No damage has been reported to U.S. bases in the region.

The U.S. attacks were carried out by F/A-18, F-16 and F-35 jet fighters, according to The Wall Street Journal.

It is the second outbreak of U.S.-Iran violence this week.

On Monday, the U.S. struck Iranian missile sites and boats attempting to lay mines, another action officials said was done in self-defense.

The ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran reached in April has been punctuated by intermittent fire as both sides struggle to find common ground on top-line issues, including the Iranian nuclear program and control of the Strait of Hormuz.

Early Thursday, Kuwaiti officials said they were intercepting more air attacks. In its X statement Thursday, Central Command said Iran committed an “egregious ceasefire violation” by launching a ballistic missile, which Kuwaiti forces intercepted.

American evacuee back in a new Bahrain

BY SHANNON RENFROE
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The heat hits you in the face the moment you step out of the airport doors. That part felt familiar when I returned to Bahrain eight weeks after fleeing what had in some ways felt like a war zone. But almost everything else felt slightly off.

The skies above may be clear again, but people here still watch them closely — the result of Iranian drone and missile attacks that shattered nerves in this tiny island kingdom at the outset of the U.S.-Iran war.

A passing motorcycle raises everyone's head, its engine thrumming with the same low buzz as Iranian drones. A bird flying across the horizon gets the same reaction, a reminder of distant drones that were often little more than black flashes against the sky

before they struck.

I was one of thousands of Americans evacuated from Bahrain during the early days of the war. At the time, I was living in Seef, northwest of downtown Manama. Days before leaving, my apartment building was struck in the middle of the night, possibly by debris from a drone shoot-down, causing minor damage.

Once the evacuation order came, I had 45 minutes to pack. I left for Germany with only two bags.

Back in Bahrain now, many visible signs of the war have disappeared, even if some of the unease it caused has not.

In Seef, Breaker Tower, a high-rise apartment building gutted by fire after being struck by a drone during the war's first week, stands partially restored. Its scorch marks have been painted over and shattered windows cov-

ered. A banner at street level declares "Bahrain is well" as long as King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa is present.

Public discussion of the war remains guarded. Bahraini authorities threatened prison sentences of up to 10 years for filming the Iranian attacks or spreading information that may "cause panic or undermine military preparedness." Many remain cautious about what they say publicly.

But for me, the strangest part isn't what was destroyed. It's who hasn't come back.

Before the war, roughly 8,300 Americans lived near Naval Support Activity Bahrain, headquarters of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, including sailors, civilian defense employees, contractors and military families. It was one of the few posts in the region where families were allowed.

During the war, Iranian strikes

and falling debris caused extensive damage around the base and nearby residential areas, which house many American personnel and their families.

As the Iranian attacks intensified, thousands of Americans were evacuated to Europe and the U.S. The base evacuation in March appears to have shaped how at least some here view the American military presence.

According to State Department cables cited by Politico, some Bahrainis viewed the United States as abandoning Bahrain, while some pro-Iran social media accounts argued the American military presence had turned the kingdom into a target.

Still, when conversations in Bahrain turn to a hypothetical ceasefire, many residents end them the same way, with an Arabic expression of hope:

"Inshallah, it will last."

Once built, Columbia-class subs to homeport at Kitsap

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

The Navy plans to homeport up to eight Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor by early in the next decade, the service said Wednesday.

The submarines would replace up to eight of the current Ohio-class submarines homeported at the base just west of Seattle on the Puget Sound.

"The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure continuation of the Navy's sea-based strategic deterrence mission at NBK-Bangor," the Navy said in a statement released Wednesday. "The need for the Proposed Action is to ensure the U.S. can respond to current and future threats and meet national defense objectives and policies."

The first Columbia-class boat, the USS District of Columbia, is under construction at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. Additional modules are being built at Electric Boat facility Quonset Point in North Kingstown, R.I., and HII Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Va.

The environmental plan would be finalized next year, with construction beginning in July 2027, according to Ted Brown, a Navy spokesman on the project.

The first submarine would be expected to arrive for homeporting in 2032.

The 12 planned Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines will be 560 feet long and have a displacement of 20,810 tons, making them the largest submarines ever built by the United States.

2 more alleged drug boats hit by US in eastern Pacific

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

U.S. forces launched a strike Wednesday on an alleged drug boat in the eastern Pacific, killing two, U.S. Southern Command said.

SOUTHCOM posted a 13-second video on X showing a boat resting on the water before being struck. No U.S. personnel were harmed in the operation.

A strike launched on Tuesday killed one and left two survivors.

SOUTHCOM posted a 19-second video on X showing a boat speeding through water before exploding into flames. The combatant command said it "immediately notified the U.S. Coast Guard to activate the search and rescue system for the survivors."

No U.S. forces were harmed in the operations.

The latest strikes come after the Pentagon's internal watchdog last week announced it would launch an investigation into whether the U.S. strikes against alleged drug boats have followed targeting guidelines. The investigation into Operation Southern Spear, the Pentagon's name for the campaign against drug trafficking in Latin America, was self-initiated and not in response to a congressional query.

Strikes under the operation have increased in frequency in recent weeks after a relative lull that followed the capture of former Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in January.

The U.S. has conducted strikes that began in early September and have killed at least 196 people in the Caribbean and the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Senator: ICE facility is ‘a moral stain’

The Philadelphia Inquirer

A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Newark, N.J., has made national headlines for concerns over its conditions and charged protests happening outside the center that led to Sen. Andy Kim getting tear-gassed on Memorial Day.

Sen. Cory Booker says he's struck by the “unbearable and unacceptable” human cost of immigration enforcement and is calling for an end to it, following an oversight visit on Wednesday.

Booker, who spoke with members of the media following his visit, called the scene at Delaney Hall “chilling,” raising

concerns over proper medical care and nutrition for detainees.

“This is not who we are as a nation,” Booker said. “This is a moral stain on who we hope to be and profess to be.”

Booker's visit follows escalating tensions at the privately-owned ICE detention facility. Delaney Hall has been the center of allegations of inhumane conditions for months. Its owners and the Department of Homeland Security have repeatedly denied those claims.

Over the holiday weekend, hundreds of detainees went on a labor and hunger strike, according to their lawyers, in peaceful protest of the center's conditions. About 300 detainees par-

ticipated, according to NJ.com.

Booker said the inmates he spoke with described the protest as a refusal of meals in part because of the “quality of the meals,” but also as a constitutional way to protest their overall housing conditions. But, he added, the hunger strike participants fear retaliation and have been told they could potentially face criminal charges for what they're doing.

“That retribution has put a chill on what they believe are their rights to protest,” Booker said, adding that some inmates told the senator that their visitations were cut off after refusing meals.

Protesters clashed with fed-

eral officers outside Delaney Hall over the holiday weekend. On Monday, the scene was described by media outlets as “charged” and “chaotic.” Video footage from the scene shows armed, masked ICE agents fighting with protesters and, in some cases, using gas canisters and batons.

Kim said officers shot pepper spray at him and others outside the facility. Kim, who was eventually allowed inside Delaney Hall, said he spoke with over 100 detainees, some of whom said they were arrested at scheduled immigration interviews. He described seeing a milk carton with its contents “congealed solid.”

Air-quality suit filed over Alligator Alcatraz facility

Miami Herald

MIAMI — The white tents and chain-link fences may soon be coming down at Alligator Alcatraz, but an environmental advocacy group has sued the Florida Division of Emergency Management, accusing it of violating federal pollution laws by operating the detention center in the middle of the Everglades.

In a 40-page complaint filed in Miami federal court Wednesday, the Center for Biological

Diversity argues the diesel-fueled generators and bright lights powering the facility are emitting “significant amounts of dangerous air pollutants that are harmful to human health and the environment.”

The Center also alleges the state didn't get the proper permits or conduct a detailed air quality analysis before hastily erecting and opening the site on July 1, thereby violating the Clean Air Act.

The Division of Emergency Management did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Wednesday's filing follows a visit by U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost on Tuesday. The Democrat from Orlando said the detention center now held 655 detainees and that the Division of Emergency Management had begun winding down operations at the site, including the amount of gasoline generators were using.

Frost said he was told it would take 15 to 30 days to fully dismantle the tent city once the detainee population reached zero.

In a statement on Wednesday, the environmental group said generators release air pollutants, such as benzene, formaldehyde and nitrogen oxides, that are harming the nearby Big Cypress National Preserve. Each day of violation could cost Florida taxpayers up to \$124,426, the group says.

Newsom vows 100% tax on ‘slush fund’ payouts

Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Gavin Newsom has threatened to tax 100% of the money Californians receive from President Donald Trump's “anti-weaponization” fund for his political allies.

Trump's Justice Department had announced last week that it would establish a \$1.776-billion fund to compensate allies of the president who claim they have “suffered weaponization and

lawfare” under the Biden administration's Justice Department.

“Anyone from California that receives any of those funds, we want to tax 100% of those proceeds,” the governor told reporters Thursday. “That's an action the state of California can take ... (and) it's an action we look forward to taking.”

Just how Newsom would do so remains unclear. He indicated that he would need action

from the Democratic-led California Legislature to impose the new tax. If adopted, the measure would likely face legal challenge.

The fund has prompted outrage from Democrats and some Republicans — including Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who said in a statement that the “slush fund,” which would “pay people who assault cops,” was “utterly stupid.”

Newsom's remarks about

Trump's settlement fund came on Wednesday as he signed a bill designed to prevent election interference ahead of Tuesday's primary.

The bill, Senate Bill 73, restricts law enforcement agencies and officers — including those from federal agencies — from interfering with state and local election officials, such as confiscating ballots, voter rolls or voting machines without a warrant.

Uganda closes Congo border over Ebola

Bloomberg News

Uganda closed its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo as authorities step up efforts to prevent the spread of Ebola into the country.

The decision, announced by the National Task Force on Ebola Response, follows what officials described as an escalating outbreak in eastern Congo and growing risks linked to cross-border movement.

The first case in Uganda was confirmed less than two weeks ago in a Congolese patient who crossed the border for treatment and died in intensive care in Kampala on May 14 after developing bleeding symptoms.

Authorities said the body was

returned to Congo the same evening, underscoring the risk of transmission through the movement of patients and infected remains. Uganda has since confirmed seven Ebola infections, including health workers exposed while treating infected patients.

Under the new measures, only authorized Ebola response teams, humanitarian workers, food and cargo transporters, and security personnel will be allowed to cross the border. All approved entrants will undergo strict health screening, documentation and continuous monitoring at official entry points.

The government also ordered mandatory 21-day self-isolation

for anyone returning from Congo, supervised by health and district surveillance teams. Schools in border districts will remain open but must enforce health ministry guidelines, including daily temperature checks for students arriving from Congo, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Authorities directed district officials to strictly enforce Ebola-prevention measures, while media houses must dedicate at least 30 minutes of prime-time programming daily to public-awareness campaigns.

Uganda has previously faced Ebola outbreaks and remains on high alert because of frequent movement of people and goods

across its long border with Congo.

The outbreak of the rare Bundibugyo strain of Ebola has probably killed 221 people in Congo since the first cases were reported on May 15 and is already the country's worst since 2018-20, when almost 2,300 people died in North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a global public-health emergency, warning that the virus is spreading rapidly in eastern Congo, where insecurity, poor infrastructure and population displacement are hampering containment efforts. Still, the WHO discourages border closures, arguing they may push people to use unofficial crossings.

Spanish police search Socialist Party HQ in probe

Bloomberg News

Spanish police seized information from the ruling Socialist Party's headquarters, as part of a broad criminal investigation that's gripping the country and roiling the government of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.

Officers of the Civil Guard, one of the country's main security forces, entered the party's main office in Madrid early Wednesday to request that certain information be handed over, according to public TV broadcaster RTVE. The party

is collaborating fully with the police, party spokesperson Montserrat Mínguez said in an interview with Catalunya Radio.

The search is the latest development in a series of high-profile criminal investigations hitting people close to the government, including at least one former minister and former Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero — who is also highly popular among Socialist grassroots. Wednesday's search is linked to a corruption

case involving a former high-ranking member of the party.

The image of police searching a party's office carries special symbolism in Spanish politics with Sánchez's government having over the years repeatedly criticized the center-right People's Party for its history with slush funds. In 2013, the PP's headquarters was searched by police as part of a graft investigation.

In 2018, Sánchez led the first ever successful no-confidence vote to remove the PP from

government. At the time, he based a large part of his bid to lead the country on anti-corruption pledges, and the 2013 raid was a crucial element of his campaign.

Although the PP and other opposition parties have said Sánchez should call elections given the number of open criminal investigations, so far the PP has not said it plans to seek a no-confidence vote. The PP is the largest party in parliament, but needs support from others to form a majority to govern.

5 rescued from cave in Laos; search continues for 2

cleveland.com

XAISOMBOUN PROVINCE, Laos — Five villagers were found alive Wednesday after being trapped for more than a week in a flooded cave in central Laos, as teams continue searching for two others that are still missing in a complex and dangerous underground operation.

The group of seven entered the cave in Xaisomboun prov-

ince around May 19 or 20 to search for gold when sudden heavy rains triggered flash flooding that sealed off the entrance to the cave and left the group stranded deep underground.

Rescue divers from Laos and Thailand located the five survivors on a submerged ledge inside the cave system after navigating narrow, partially flooded passages and unstable terrain.

Officials said the group appeared alive and in relatively stable condition despite their extended entrapment in confined, air-limited spaces.

The operation has drawn international expertise, including divers who participated in the high-profile 2018 Thai cave rescue, as teams worked through challenging conditions marked by rising water levels, low visibility and narrow tunnels in a

remote mountainous region roughly more than 93 miles north of the capital, Vientiane.

Officials said the search for the remaining two missing villagers will continue, though conditions inside the cave remain unstable due to ongoing rain and the risk of further flooding. Authorities have not released additional details about the identities or condition of those still unaccounted for.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

College to be tuition-free for some families

PA PHILADELPHIA — Swarthmore College will make tuition free for families who earn under \$200,000 annually, the school announced Tuesday.

The highly selective small college already is one of a small number nationwide that are “need blind” for U.S. students, meaning the school does not consider students’ finances in the admissions process and provides aid to help them cover tuition, fees, housing, and meals.

Jim Bock, vice president and dean of admissions, said the new step is designed to make costs more transparent for families who might look at the sticker price and think they cannot afford the college. Tuition at Swarthmore tops \$72,000 annually.

The \$200,000 income limit applies to families “with typical assets,” school officials said. The college said decisions on what constitutes typical assets are made on a case-by-case basis.

The change would take effect for students entering in fall 2027.

State drops measles vaccine recommendation

MI LANSING — The state of Michigan is no longer recommending that infants as young as 6 months get an early dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

In early April, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a temporary recommendation that families in southeast Michigan have

their infants vaccinated between the ages of 6-11 months.

The guidance came amid a measles outbreak in Washtenaw County as state health officials hoped to curb the spread, especially among babies, who are vulnerable to the disease.

The state said Tuesday that it can lift the early-age recommendation because there has been no further community transmission.

MDHHS announced the recommendation on April 2.

Typically, the state recommends children get their first dose of the MMR vaccine between 12-15 months of age, with a second dose given a minimum of 28 days after the first dose.

Bill to raise tobacco purchase age passes

AK JUNEAU — The Alaska Legislature passed a bill to impose a new state tax on e-cigarettes and vapes and formally raise Alaska’s legal smoking age from 19 to 21. Along with the deterrence measures, the bill also includes a provision to legalize cigar lounges.

Senate Bill 24 passed the House 24-16 and cleared the Senate on a 15-5 concurrence vote on May 20, the final day of the legislative session.

If it becomes law, the new taxes would take effect Jan. 1, 2028.

In 2019, a federal law raised the legal age to purchase tobacco and nicotine products to 21. Updating Alaska’s state statute to match federal law would make enforcement easier and clearer for retailers and regulators, said Senate President Gary Stevens, a Kodiak Republican and longtime advocate for the bill.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed a similar measure passed in 2022, objecting to the proposed 35% wholesale tax rate on electronic smoking products. This year’s bill instead sets the tax at 25% of the retail sale price.

Plea deal for captain in teen wakeboarder’s death

FL MIAMI — The captain of the yacht that was towing 15-year-old Ella Adler, who was wakeboarding when she was struck and killed by another boat in Biscayne Bay, reached a plea deal with prosecutors Tuesday.

Edmund Richard Hartley, 33, pleaded guilty to two navigational rule violations, which are misdemeanor charges. In exchange for the plea, prosecutors dropped two other misdemeanor charges.

Ella, a student at Ransom Everglades School in Coconut Grove, was being towed with another teen behind a 42-foot boat on a congested waterway off Key Biscayne when she was killed on May 11, 2024.

As a result of the agreement, Hartley received a withhold of adjudication, meaning no criminal conviction will appear on his record, and was sentenced to six months of probation. He was also ordered to complete a boating safety course — and cannot operate a vessel for a 60-day period starting in June.

When he completes all conditions, prosecutors may agree to set aside Hartley’s plea and drop the charges against him.

In January, Carlos Guillermo “Bill” Alonso, 79, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor careless-boating charges in connection to the accident. He was operating his 42-foot Boston Whaler when he

struck Adler, who was the granddaughter of Michael Adler, the U.S. ambassador to Belgium at the time of the incident. Alonso maintained he never knew he hit the girl.

Adler had fallen off the wakeboard and was treading water when she was struck.

Driver known for road rage attacks sentenced

HI HONOLULU — A Tesla driver who became infamous for a series of road rage attacks captured on camera in Southern California is headed to prison after being convicted of a similar attack in Hawaii.

Nathaniel Radimak, 40, was previously convicted and jailed in Los Angeles over two incidents of road rage, where he was seen threatening women with a pipe in 2022 and 2023. But after serving less than a year of his five-year sentence he was paroled and released due to overcrowding.

Then last May, he was arrested for an attack in Hawaii.

Honolulu Police arrested Radimak after he exchanged words with an 18-year-old woman parking her car, officials said.

Radimak was accused of getting out of his car and assaulting her and a 35-year-old woman before fleeing.

He was charged with one count of unauthorized entry into a car, and two counts of assault in the third degree.

After initially pleading not guilty in the case, Radimak entered a plea of no contest in court earlier this year, and was sentenced to seven years in prison last week.

— From wire reports

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Sinner stunned by heat in second round

Associated Press

PARIS — Not since Rafael Nadal was winning his record 14 French Opens had a player come to Roland Garros as such an overwhelming favorite to win the clay-court Grand Slam.

Jannik Sinner had won everything there was to win in tennis over the past three months: five straight Masters 1000 titles — three of them on clay — and 30 straight matches.

And with Carlos Alcaraz, his biggest rival, out due to an injured right wrist, it seemed almost a foregone conclusion that Sinner would raise the Coupe des Mousquetaires trophy and complete a career Grand Slam.

That's why Sinner's meltdown amid the Paris heat wave was so stunning Thursday — especially after he came within just one game of concluding his second-round match in straight sets when he led 5-1 in the third.

The top-ranked Sinner struggled with dizziness and was beaten by 56th-ranked Juan Manuel Cerundolo 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 after wasting two chances to serve for the match.

"I didn't feel very well on

court," Sinner said. "I struggled, starting to feel very dizzy, very low on energy. ... In the beginning, I was hitting very clean, very good, and then I just kind of hit the wall.

"I didn't have energy, really. I was very, very flat. The whole body. I don't remember last time I felt this weak," Sinner added.

Sinner said when he woke up Thursday that he "didn't feel very well."

Sinner bent over on the clay court in apparent exhaustion multiple times and was hardly even running for shots as the match wore on, resorting to drop shots and serve-and-volley tactics to try and shorten the points.

He attempted to cool himself with a hand-held fan on changeovers and put bags of ice around his neck.

The temperature at the start of the match was 84 degrees F and rose to 90 F.

"It was warm but not crazy warm," Sinner said. "I feel like it was quite OK to play. Really it was nothing against the heat, nothing against the weather. It was just me today, but it happens."

Cerundolo didn't celebrate too much when it was over,

just producing a little wave to the crowd.

"It's tough for him," Cerundolo said. "I couldn't win more than three games by set. So I think I was a little bit lucky. ... He was deserving to win in this match. But then I don't know what happened. ... I feel sorry for him and hope he recovers."

When Sinner served for the match a second time at 5-4 in the third set, he bent over at 0-40 and then walked to his chair. He asked for assistance and left the court. His entire light blue outfit was soaked through with sweat.

After losing the set 7-5, Sinner received medical attention and left the court. Minerals were added to his drink when he returned, but he wasn't able to recuperate.

Sinner lost 18 of the last 20 games. Asked if he considered retiring before the match ended, Sinner said that in the "fifth set we all know everything can happen. I was in a tough spot."

Sinner's previous loss came Feb. 19 in the Qatar Open quarterfinals. He had won five straight Masters titles while dropping just three sets.

"We'll definitely do some

tests to be sure of what happened today," he said.

"Let's hope we're ready for Wimbledon," Sinner added. "To be ready there, we need to recuperate well and do things right now."

But Sinner has a history of struggling in the heat. He admitted that he was lucky at the Australian Open in January against Eliot Spizzirri when the roof was closed and the third-round match swung his way. Additionally, he had to retire from a match in Shanghai in October which was contested amid extreme humidity.

"Shanghai was very tough. Humidity very high. Australia was very, very warm," Sinner said. "Here, I mean it was warm, but it was OK. It was not like I was dying because of the heat. I think today was completely different scenario."

"It's tough to accept, of course, because of the position where I've been in and everything considered," added Sinner, who sportsbooks had listed at around -300 to win the tournament.

On the same Court Philippe Chatrier last year, Sinner wasted three match points against Alcaraz and lost an epic final.

Canes beat Canadiens, roll to within one win of Cup Final

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Sebastian Aho, Jordan Staal and Logan Stankoven scored in a 2:47 span late in the first period and the Carolina Hurricanes moved within a victory of the Stanley Cup Final, beating the Montreal Canadiens 4-0 on Wednesday night.

Frederik Andersen made 18 saves for his third shutout in 12 postseason games this year to help the Hurricanes take a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference Final. Game 5 is Friday night in

North Carolina, with the series winner facing the Vegas Golden Knights.

"We have better," Stankoven said. "It's great to come out like a team like this and perform like that, but I think at this time of the year you can't bring your 'B' game. You have to bring your 'A' game every night."

Nikolaj Ehlers and Shayne Gostisbehere each had two assists for the Hurricanes. They are the seventh NHL team to win six or more road games to start a postseason.

Anderson and the Hurricanes are 11-1 in the first three rounds. They put it away early in Game 4 after winning the previous two games in overtime.

The Hurricanes scored first for the fourth straight game when Aho beat Jakob Dobes with a one-timer from the right circle on a power play with 5:02 left in the first.

Staal followed with 3:53 to go, tipping in K'Andre Miller's centering pass. Stankoven then finished off a two-on-one with Jason

Blake with 2:14 remaining in the period.

"The game's going to humble you," Montreal coach Martin St. Louis said. "Whenever you get humbled, you stand tall."

Andrei Svechnikov had an empty-net goal in the third.

Carolina had a 19-3 shots-on-goal advantage in the third period for a 43-18 overall edge.

"It seemed like the only guy that showed up was Doby," Montreal defenseman Lane Hutson said.

Reyna, Scally bringing bond to US roster

Associated Press

DUSSELDORF, Germany — How far can the power of friendship get you at the World Cup? With Gio Reyna and Joe Scally in the team, the United States might just find out.

Reyna and Scally are old friends who've had a blast playing together this season at German club Borussia Moenchengladbach and both made the U.S. roster for the World Cup this week.

"The chemistry's there and it will always be there," Reyna said this month in a joint media availability with Scally.

"We're already close, but it feels like we've gotten even closer, which felt impossible, but it's been a good year together," Reyna said.

He added that his wife is friends with Scally's fiancée and even their dogs are buddies.

Reyna told the Associated Press last year that his friend was the "cherry on top" in his decision to join Gladbach to revive his career this season after injuries and a controversial time at the 2022 World Cup.

Scally argued their bond brings on-field benefits.

"On the training field, in the locker room, in the car rides every day, I think we've definitely enjoyed every day because we know it doesn't last forever," Scally said. "I think we understand each other very well on the field. We want to play together more than we have. In the time

that we do play together, something good normally comes out of it."

The 23-year-olds were youth players together at New York City FC a decade ago and have both made their names in Europe, but the on-field similarities end there.

Scally is a versatile, reliable defender who rarely misses a game. Reyna's a creative, unpredictable attacking midfielder who can make a sudden impact in games, but has been repeatedly sidelined with fitness and injury issues for large parts of the last few seasons.

Reyna played only twice off the bench and then-U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said after the tournament that an unnamed player, lat-

er identified as Reyna, was nearly sent home for a lack of effort in training.

Reyna's parents—Claudio and Danielle Reyna, both former national team players—lobbied the U.S. Soccer Federation for more playing time for Gio and contacted the USSF about a three-decades-old domestic violence allegation involving Berhalter and the woman who later became his wife—Danielle's former college roommate.

Reyna told the AP last year he'd now handle the 2022 incident differently "in certain ways" and his actions stemmed from frustration, but the dispute wasn't "completely" his fault or that of his family.

Aguirre's early Mexico camp revives grind for home push

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — When Javier Aguirre was a player, he believed Mexico's grueling, year-long training camp ahead of the 1986 World Cup was the key to El Tri's run to the quarterfinals — matching its best result.

As coach of the national team, he is trying to replicate that vintage formula.

Unlike most competing nations, which must wait for domestic leagues to conclude before gathering their squads, Mexico began assembling its players more than a month before its opening World Cup match June 11 against South Africa — pulling them away from their teams while the Liga MX was ongoing.

"This is a project, not a whim — it's a project to try and make this a great World Cup," Aguirre says.

"We concluded that being at home and having these magnificent facilities we needed to be well prepared in every way. This meant having them ready five weeks before the World Cup."

The 67-year-old manager, steering Mexico into the World Cup for a third time, was an integral part of the 1986 squad that beat Belgium and Bulgaria and lost to eventual finalist West Germany in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals. The only other time El Tri reached that stage was in 1970, also on home soil.

"Being part of the national team and being able to play in a World Cup at home is priceless," Aguirre said of the 48-team tournament

that Mexico is co-hosting with the United States and Canada.

Modern dilemma

Modern soccer presents challenges that didn't exist in 1986. While that Mexico squad featured only one Europe-based star the current pool boasts 14 players competing in Europe.

To secure his domestic players early, Aguirre had to convince the owners of the 18 Liga MX first-division teams that an extended camp was the only way to truly stand out at home. His blueprint was approved last December, and the gates to the training ground opened May 6 with an initial group of 12 domestic players.

Yet the strategy has drawn criticism from prominent figures within Mexican football, most notably former national team manager Ricardo La Volpe, who led El Tri to the round of 16 at the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

"I'm truly surprised, and I have a lot of respect for Javier Aguirre, but I don't understand him for one simple reason: First, he doesn't have most of the players, making the practices meaningless," La Volpe argued. "I would say that if you can't work with everyone, you should let the players use the domestic playoffs to maintain their match rhythm."

Gathering pieces

Because of the staggered arrivals, Aguirre initially had to bring in youth academy players

as sparring partners to fill out his training sessions. Behind the scenes, however, the manager utilized his deep network and public relations savvy to persuade some European clubs to release their Mexican players ahead of schedule.

The politicking paid off. By early last week, Aguirre had 18 of his final 26 players available for a warmup match against Ghana, which Mexico won 2-0.

Mexico's intensive preparation continues with friendlies against Australia on Saturday in Pasadena, Calif., then a final test against Serbia in Toluca on June 4. Mexico also faces South Korea and the Czech Republic in Group A.

Building brotherhood

While critics question the tactical wisdom of the extended camp, the players themselves have championed the early lockdown. Beyond the tactical drills, the squad views the isolation as a crucible for building chemistry that transcends the pitch.

For Reyes and his teammates, the long hours spent at the upgraded training center are forging a collective identity that could prove decisive under the intense pressure of a home tournament.

"That camaraderie in the locker room is vital because we're starting to feel like a brotherhood," defender Israel Reyes said. "On the field, it changes everything. You're no longer just defending a teammate — you're defending your brother."

Sánchez sets Phillies scoreless streak mark

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Left-hander Christopher Sánchez pitched seven brilliant innings, extending his scoreless streak to 44⅓ innings and passing Hall of Famer Grover Cleveland Alexander for the Phillies franchise record, in a 3-0 win Wednesday against the San Diego Padres for a three-game sweep.

Sánchez (6-2) reached the milestone by getting through the four full innings he needed to pass Alexander, who had a 41-inning scoreless streak in 1911. He kept going through three more scoreless innings before leaving after throwing 100 pitches. He allowed six hits, struck out nine and walked none.

He set another franchise record by going at least seven scoreless innings for the fifth straight start, becoming the sixth to do so in MLB history.

Trea Turner homered leading off the ninth, his seventh, and Kyle Schwarber hit an RBI single during the two-run sixth.

Cubs 10, Pirates 4: Ian Happ hit a tiebreaking three-run home run and drove in five runs on while playing in his hometown as visiting Chicago ended its 10-game losing streak with a victory over Pittsburgh.

Happ's three-run shot snapped a 4-4 tie and started a six-run inning that helped the Cubs get their first win since May 15. Pinch-hitter Michael Conforto hit a two-run home run later in the inning to extend the lead to 10-4.

Brandon Lowe hit a three-run homer for the Pirates and rookie Konnor Griffin had a solo blast that drew the Pittsburgh into a 4-4 tie in the fourth inning.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 1: Held without a hit through seven innings, host Milwaukee broke through in the eighth with three hits and two runs to beat St. Louis.

Dustin May carried a no-hitter into the eighth for the Cardinals, who have lost seven of nine games. May was looking to be-

come just the third pitcher in the history of American Family Field, which opened in 2001, to pitch a no-hitter.

Garrett Mitchell led off the eighth with a double and Luis Rengifo followed with a single, chasing May (3-6). After Sal Frelick grounded into a fielder's choice and pinch-hitter Andrew Vaughn struck out looking, Christian Yelich singled to drive in Mitchell to tie the score, with Frelick moving to third. Frelick then scored when Masyn Winn booted Jackson Chourio's grounder.

Tigers 4, Angels 0: Spencer Torkelson homered, doubled twice and drove in three runs, and five Detroit pitchers combined for a two-hitter as the Tigers snapped a season-worst seven-game home skid with a win over Los Angeles.

Drew Anderson (2-1) relieved Casey Mize to start the fifth and pitched three perfect innings with three strikeouts. Mize had six strikeouts, gave up two hits and walked one in four scoreless innings before leaving due to an undisclosed injury.

Kyle Finnegan pitched a 1-2-3 eighth before Kenley Jansen threw two-thirds of an inning and Brenan Hanifee recorded the final out.

Guardians 3, Nationals 2: Gavin Williams (8-3) settled down after a choppy start and pitched seven solid innings as host Cleveland beat Washington to salvage the finale of a three-game series.

Rookie Travis Bazzana had two doubles and José Ramírez drove in a run for the Guardians, who were outscored 16-5 in the first two games.

Blue Jays 2, Marlins 1: Kazuma Okamoto hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth inning and host Toronto beat Miami.

Jeff Hoffman (3-3) got four outs for the win as the Blue Jays won for the eighth time in 12 games. Tyler Rogers finished for his second save in four chances.

Mariners 9, Athletics 1: Rob Refsnyder and Julio Rodríguez

hit three-run home runs and Logan Gilbert (3-4) threw six shutout innings as visiting Seattle beat the Athletics to complete a series sweep and move into first place in the AL West.

Colt Emerson hit his first MLB triple in the fourth inning, driving in two runs, and the Mariners added another run on a throwing error by A's shortstop Darel Hernaiz, extending their lead to 6-0.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 2: Mike Soroka (7-2) limited San Francisco to two runs on four hits in six innings, Geraldo Perdomo broke a seventh-inning tie with a sacrifice fly and visiting Arizona won for a three-game sweep.

Arizona has won five straight and 10 of 11. The Diamondbacks were 11-2 in a 13-game stretch against Colorado and the Giants to improve to 31-24.

Orioles 11, Rays 2: Blaze Alexander hit his first home run of the season and drove in six runs, Gunnar Henderson had his 12th and 13th homers and host Baltimore routed Tampa to complete a three-game sweep.

Trey Gibson (1-0) allowed one run in 5⅓ innings for his first victory in the majors. The Orioles backed him with 16 hits.

Red Sox 8, Braves 0: Connelly Early (5-2) struck out seven in seven innings, Jarren Duran homered, and host Boston beat Atlanta to snap a five-game losing streak.

The Red Sox scored six runs in the fourth inning. Masataka Yoshida scored on a throwing error, Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit an RBI single, while Ceddanne Rafaela and Wilner Abreu hit two-run singles.

Yankees 7, Royals 0: Gerrit Cole (1-0) struck out 10 while pitching into the seventh in a second stellar start since his return from Tommy John surgery, and visiting New York beat Kansas City to run its winning streak to 14 straight over the Royals.

Ben Rice had three RBIs, Ryan McMahon hit a two-run homer and Paul Goldschmidt

and Aaron Judge also drove in runs, sending the Yankees to their second sweep of the Royals this season. New York has won 22 of its last 23 series against them overall.

White Sox 15, Twins 2: Chase Meidroth hit his first career grand slam, David Sandlin struck four in six innings in his major league debut and host Chicago beat Minnesota.

Munetaka Murakami went 2 for 4 with a solo homer. His 20 home runs are tied with Gary Sánchez (New York Yankees, 2015-16) and Wally Berger (Boston Braves, 1930) for second in MLB history through 55 career games.

Mets 4, Reds 2: Juan Soto homered again, Carson Benge provided two clutch singles and host New York pieced together a 4-2 victory over Cincinnati that snapped a five-game losing streak.

Eric Wagan also went deep in his first start for the last-place Mets (23-33), who prevented a three-game sweep and avoided falling a season-worst 12 games under .500.

Astros 4, Rangers 3: Yordan Alvarez homered twice for the second consecutive game, including a tiebreaking solo shot in the eighth inning of visiting Houston's victory over Texas.

Pederson's second long ball pulled Texas within a run in the eighth after the Astros went ahead 4-2 in the top of the inning. Following Alvarez's homer, Christian Walker scored from first on reliever Tyler Alexander's throwing error on Taylor Trammell's sacrifice bunt.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 1: Two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani (5-2) homered and combined with two other pitchers for seven hitless innings before Colorado broke up the no-hitter bid in the eighth in a win for host Los Angeles.

The Dodgers also got solo shots from Freddie Freeman and Andy Pages to help Ohtani secure his third consecutive victory.