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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Iraqi forces face urban fight in Mosul

Associated Press

GOGJALI, Iraq — Iraq's special forces entered the outskirts of Mosul on Tuesday, taking the state television building and advancing despite fierce resistance by Islamic State group fighters who control the city, an Iraqi general said.

It was the first time in over two years that Iraqi troops have set foot inside the city, Iraq's second-largest. The advance could be the start of a grueling and slow operation for the troops, who will be forced to engage in difficult, house-to-house fighting in urban areas that is expected to take weeks, if not months.

Troops entered Gogjali, a neighborhood inside Mosul's city limits, and later the borders of the more built-up Karama district, according to Maj. Gen. Sami al-Aridi, of the Iraqi special forces. As the sun went down, a sandstorm blew in,

reducing visibility to only 100 yards and bringing the day's combat to an end.

"Daesh is fighting back and have set up concrete blast walls to block off the Karama neighborhood and our troops' advance," al-Aridi said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. Bombs have been laid along the road into the city.

Later, al-Aridi said the troops had taken the nearby state television building, the only one in the province, and that heavy fighting broke out when they tried to continue further in to built-up areas. An official casualty report has yet to be given, but officers mentioned one dead and one wounded.

Mosul is the final Islamic State urban bastion in Iraq, the city from which it drove out a larger but demoralized Iraqi army in 2014 and declared a "caliphate" that stretched into Syria. Its loss would be a major

defeat for the jihadis.

Tuesday's battle opened up with Iraqi artillery, tank and machine-gun fire on Islamic State positions on the edge of Gogjali, with the extremists responding with guided anti-tank missiles and small arms in an attempt to block the advance. Airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition supporting the operation added to the fire hitting the district.

Spokesman Col. John Dorian said the U.S.-led coalition, which coordinates all its attacks with the Iraqis, has been observing the battlefield and has noted that Islamic State forces can no longer move in large numbers.

"And when we see them come together where there are significant numbers, we will strike them and kill them," he said during a televised press conference with Iraqi forces in Qayara, south of Mosul. Concerns over civilian casualties have led

to air operations using precision munitions only, he added.

In a statement, the coalition said that a day earlier it had launched six strikes in the Mosul area, destroying 10 vehicles, including one carrying explosives, as well as a bomb-making facility. It also said it damaged 20 vehicles and a tunnel.

From the nearest village east of Mosul, Bazwaya, smoke could be seen rising from buildings in Gogjali, where shells and bombs had landed. Islamic State fighters also lit special fires to produce dark smoke in order to obscure the aerial view of the city.

Inside the village, white flags still hung from some buildings, put up a day earlier by residents eager to show they would not resist the Iraqi forces' advance. Some residents stood outside their homes, and children raised their hands with V-for-victory signs.

US special ops with Iraqis at Mosul front line

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

NEAR MOSUL, Iraq — U.S. special operators were at the front line on the edge of Mosul on Tuesday with elite Iraqi troops who were preparing to enter the Islamic State group's last stronghold in the country.

The Americans wore black uniforms and drove black armored vehicles, blending in with their Iraqi counterparts from the U.S.-trained Golden Division just outside the village of Gogjali on the eastern edge of Mosul. Several had skull and crossed-sword patches, and one had a sign on his helmet that read, "Hippie Killer." They were not allowed to talk to the media and asked not to be photographed.

Meanwhile, U.S. Army engineers also pushed closer to the city, searching for improvised bombs just west of the Great Zab River, about halfway between Mosul and the Kurdish city of Irbil.

The troops, wearing 101st Airborne Division patches, said they weren't allowed to talk to the media. When a loud explosion rocked a nearby village, soldiers who had been scouting a roadside compound ran back to their armored vehicles.

The American special operators near Gogjali set up a mortar, unloaded a bazooka-style weapon and watched nearby fighting from a farmhouse roof.

From their position, a large television antenna in the center of Mosul was visible. Rockets screamed through the air, ma-

chine guns barked and explosions shook the earth while the Golden Division troops pushed forward in armored vehicles.

About midday, a drone the Americans had launched earlier stalled and crashed beside the farmhouse, breaking its wings and propeller.

Leaflets dropped on the city urged locals who have been helping the Islamic State group to turn against the militants in exchange for the Iraqi government's forgiveness.

Cpl. Hammed Kasim, 24, smiled and waved around a steel hatchet. He claimed he'd used it to torture enemy prisoners in the nearby town of Bartella last week, but added, "I didn't get them to talk."

Another Iraqi soldier, Cpl. Ali Abdul Hussain, 28, of Baghdad,

said the farmhouse where the Americans were positioned was only 2 miles from Mosul's city limits. He said the Golden Division recaptured it on Monday.

"The enemy fought us with three car bombs and rocket-propelled grenades," he said.

His comrade, Cpl. Zaidoun Ali, 28, of Baghdad, said airstrikes destroyed the car bombs. Iraqi forces had advanced on three sides to surround the militants in Gogjali, he said.

"We killed 25 of them," he said.

A few miles away from the front line, in Bartella, displaced Christian families were allowed to visit homes liberated by the Golden Division last week.

Zainab Olivo contributed to this report.

Navy solicits, listens to sailors' feedback

BY CHRIS CHURCH
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Navy's brass heard "loud and clear" that sailors felt broadsided by the rollout a month ago of the enlisted modernization plan — which included the elimination of ratings titles — and they didn't feel they were given enough say, the chief of naval personnel said Tuesday.

Since the Navy's Enlisted Rating Modernization plan was announced in late September — to a lot of criticism across the fleet — Vice Adm. Robert Burke and fleet leadership have been soliciting feedback from sailors on how to implement the changes.

During a visit to the U.S. 5th Fleet this week, Burke said feedback from sailors is being taken into account. One idea he is finding worth greater consideration is more closely tailoring advancement exams to a sailor's specific skill sets — the Navy Enlisted Classifications — rather than the broader occupational specialty. Such a change could potentially improve sailors' prospects for promotion.

"That's kind of a fleet-borne idea that's really starting to appeal to me and making a lot of sense to give us the flexibility that we want to advance people on their skills," Burke said.

The change would also address a common criticism sail-

ors have about advancement exams: They are broad and include things sailors don't always do on a day-to-day basis.

"Right now when you are in a rating that has 10 NECs, and you have two of them, you are still getting tested on those other eight, right?" Burke asked sailors at an All Hands Call in Bahrain on Tuesday. "That's kind of a pain. You have to learn a lot of out-of-your-job extra skills just to cover the advancement exam."

Burke said there is still a lot of work to do on formulating that and other initiatives, but the Navy wants to keep sailors involved.

During the All Hands Call

in Bahrain, Burke and Master Chief April Beldo, the fleet master chief for manpower, personnel, training and education, discussed the Enlisted Rating Modernization Plan — the decision to drop the Navy's unique rating system. They said the Navy is not attacking the service's heritage and tradition as critics have suggested.

"First thing we need to do as deckplate leaders is not to have our sailors feel as though we do not respect the fact that they are master at arms, yeoman or electronics technicians," Beldo said. "That is still your profession. That is still your occupation. So that's the conversation we need to have."

Okinawa bans water sports for 4 days

BY CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The apparent drowning deaths of two Okinawa, Japan-based Marines in the same area less than a day apart have sparked a four-day ban on water sports for all U.S. servicemembers on the island prefecture, officials said Tuesday.

The deaths occurred over the weekend at Maeda Point on Okinawa's west coast. It's not far from Mermaid Grotto, in

Manza-Mo, where Petty Officer 1st Class Jorge Noriega Suarez — a fleet Marine force corpsman and advance X-ray technician assigned to the 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force — died Oct. 10 in an apparent diving accident.

Investigations are underway into all three deaths. The water sports ban began Monday.

Marine Sgt. Aubrey D. Williams, of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expedition-

ary Force, was pronounced dead about 3:40 p.m. Saturday at Maeda Point, a Marine Corps statement said.

The next day, Lance Cpl. Sebastian Borja-Diaz, a driver for the 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was pronounced dead nearby about 1:40 p.m., according to a Marine Corps statement and Maeda Point Administration officials.

Access to Maeda Point, which features coastal rock formations

and reefs that have become synonymous with Okinawa and diving, was closed off over the weekend because of high winds.

"On both days, the sea was not in a condition for any water activities," said Masahiko Afuso, an official with the Maeda Point Management Office. Afuso said he was at his office, which stands near a stairway to the water at Maeda Point, when the accidents happened. The stairway was closed both days, he said.

As lawmakers eye cuts, commissary sales again drop

BY ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The agency responsible for running the vast network of commissaries on military bases said sales have declined for a fourth straight year as Congress eyes line items to cut from the defense budget.

The Defense Commissary Agency said it earned \$5.25 billion in sales in fiscal year 2016,

down \$258 million, or nearly 5 percent, from last year. The agency received about \$1.3 billion in appropriations for each of the last two years, said Kevin Robinson, a DeCA spokesman.

Sales exceeded \$6 billion in 2012, which amounts to a loss of more than \$841 million since then, according to DeCA data.

There are several factors leading to lost sales beyond competition from other stores such as Costco and Sam's Club,

said Joseph H. JEU, the director and CEO of DeCA.

The decline in sales mirrored force reductions, with 130,000 active-duty troops trimmed from the military since 2012, JEU said. An increase in unmarried troops is also a factor, he said, because they often prefer to have meals at on-post dining facilities or at restaurants. JEU pointed to a Commerce Department report this year that stated restaurant spending outpaced

grocery spending in the United States.

Losses were compounded by overall price deflation for groceries, coupled with commissaries selling at cost instead of a markup. For example, egg prices fell 55 percent at commissaries from July 2015 to July 2016, and only 29 percent at commercial stores, JEU said. That translates to a 54 percent decline in revenue even with a boost in egg sales, he said.

At least 6 killed, 10 hurt in bus crash in Baltimore

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A school bus blocks away from its first stop Tuesday morning rear-ended a car, hit the entrance to a cemetery and then veered into an oncoming commuter bus in a crash that killed at least six people and injured 10, authorities said.

No children were on board the school bus, whose driver was killed along with at least five people on the Maryland Transit Administration bus, Baltimore Police spokesman T.J. Smith said.

"It literally looks like a bomb exploded in the bus. It's catastrophic damage," Smith said.

The only other occupant of the school bus, an aide, was taken to a hospital, as were the car driver and eight people from the commuter bus, Smith told a news conference.

He said one survivor was in critical condition, one was in serious condition and eight had injuries that were not considered serious. The National Transportation Safety Board is sending a team to investigate, spokesman Keith Holloway said.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis characterized riders on the No. 10 MTA

bus as workers traveling on a route from Dundalk, a largely blue-collar community southeast of Baltimore, toward Catonsville, a western suburb.

"They're on their way to make a living, they're on their way to the job and they're on their way to support their families," Davis said, "Our hearts and prayers go out to them, to their families, to their co-workers as well."

The school bus slammed into the MTA bus, crumpling both driver's areas, and then raked the side of the commuter bus, tearing off sheet metal. It finally came to a stop with its front end buried toward the back of the MTA bus.

Smith noted a lack of skid marks at the crash scene on Frederick Avenue near Loudon Park Cemetery, leading to what he called a working theory that the school bus driver had suffered a medical emergency.

Firefighters were still working their way through the wreckage of the commuter bus about two hours after the 7 a.m. crash, Baltimore Fire Chief Niles Ford said.

"This was a significant, significant wreck, so there are still portions of the bus that our people have not been able to

fully access," Ford said.

He said firefighters also had to enter the school bus from the rear and cut out the seats to reach the driver and aide.

One of the first people at the scene was a passing motorist named Matthew Feldman, who told WJZ-TV that he and another man pulled up and tried to help people before emergency responders arrived.

Feldman said the drivers of both the school bus and the Maryland Transit Administration bus appeared to be in very bad shape.

Feldman said he and the other man tried to pull glass off of a woman pinned by the door of the MTA bus and could hear people screaming. He said the driver's side of the MTA bus was a mess of twisted metal with people's arms and legs sticking out.

Smith characterized it as an accident investigation, not a crime-scene investigation, despite the presence of homicide detectives. Smith said they were called because they are accustomed to conducting death investigations.

Truck hits hayride in Miss., kills 3

The Washington Post

In Chunky, Miss., a small town of about 325 tucked into a crook of the Chunky River outside Meridian, several adults and children were enjoying a classic Halloween tradition: a hayride in the crisp October air.

After donning Halloween costumes, the kids and their parents piled onto the back of a hay-lined flatbed truck towed by a Jeep. They were driving along Highway 80, a two-lane, pine tree-lined road through the rural town, when the night took a tragic turn.

About 7:45 p.m. central time, a Ford F-150 driving down Highway 80 rear-ended the trailer during the hayride, Mississippi Highway Patrol Sgt. Andy West told WLBT.

It is unclear what caused the crash, and no arrests have been reported. Three helicopters and several ambulances rushed to the scene and took the injured to three different area hospitals.

Two died at the scene, and a third person died while waiting for a helicopter. Two of the dead were adults and one was a child. They were all related, but their names have not been released.

The number of injured is unknown.

Strike leaves Philadelphia commuters scrambling

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Commuters scrambled Tuesday to find alternate ways to travel as transit workers in Philadelphia hit the picket lines after the city's main transit agency and a union representing about 4,700 workers failed to reach a contract agreement.

The union went on strike at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, shutting down Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority buses, trolleys and subways that provide about 900,000 rides a day. The strike does not affect most service outside the city, in-

cluding commuter rail lines, which was experiencing modest delays and an increase in riders.

But at 69th Street Terminal, a major transit hub a few blocks from the city border in Upper Darby, idle buses sat in a row with "SEPTA OFF DUTY" illuminated in yellow lights. Nearby, commuters were stuck trying to find another way into Philadelphia.

Ramone Whitters, 32, of Drexel Hill, said he was left in a lurch because the car he typically takes to work was in the shop. Without another way into the city, he was waiting for a n early-morning ride.

"At least if they're going to strike, then do it in the summertime," Whitters said. "It's cold to be stranded out here."

TWU Local 234 President Willie Brown said union members will report for picket duty "after management has refused to budge on key issues including safety issues that would save lives and not cost SEPTA a dime."

Brown said the sides remain far apart on pension and health care issues, as well as noneconomic issues such as shift scheduling, break time and other measures that affect driver fatigue.

Ryan voted for Trump but won't campaign for him

The Washington Post

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Tuesday that he has voted for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump but he has no plans to campaign for him in the final week of the race.

"I stand where I've stood all fall and all summer. In fact, I already voted here in Janesville for our nominee last week in early voting," Ryan said in an interview on Fox News Channel. "We need to support our entire Republican ticket."

His comments came as Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton prepared for another busy day of campaign events in a contest that has been roiled by news that FBI Director James Comey is revisiting his probe into the potential mis-

handling of classified material in Clinton's email practices as secretary of state. Clinton planned to campaign in Florida, where aides said that she would focus on Trump's treatment of women. Trump was to visit Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, two states where polls show Clinton leading him.

Ryan's remarks also highlighted the extraordinary lack of unity that continues to plague the Republican Party with Election Day drawing near. Trump and his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, were scheduled to campaign in Eau Claire, Wis., late Tuesday afternoon. Ryan said on Fox News that he learned of their visit "about 10 minutes ago" and does not plan to be there. Instead, he will be in Indiana, Michigan, New York and Virginia campaign-

ing for House Republicans.

Ryan and Trump have had an uneasy relationship throughout the campaign. After *The Washington Post* reported last month that Trump was heard on a hot microphone making vulgar comments about forcing himself on women sexually, Ryan announced that he would no longer campaign for Trump or defend him. He said Tuesday his position has not changed.

"I'm just crisscrossing the country right now fighting for congressional Republicans," said the speaker.

Meanwhile, Sen. Tim Kaine, of Virginia, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, is campaigning in Wisconsin. Clinton has been leading in the state but Trump is making a late push there to try to expand the map.

Ala. blast shuts gas pipeline

Associated Press

HELENA, Ala. — For the second time in two months, a pipeline that supplies gasoline to millions of people was shut down, raising the specter of another round of gas shortages and price increases.

The disruption occurred when a track hoe — a machine used to remove dirt — struck the pipeline, ignited gasoline and caused an explosion Monday that sent flames and thick black smoke soaring over a forest in northern Alabama, Colonial Pipeline said. One worker was killed and five were injured.

A September leak that spilled 252,000 to 336,000 gallons of gasoline occurred not far from the location of Monday's explosion. That leak led to days of dry pumps and higher gas prices in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas while repairs were made.

The cause of the leak has not been determined, and the effects of the latest disruption weren't immediately clear.

Colonial Pipeline, based in Alpharetta, Ga., operates 5,599 miles of pipelines, transporting more than 100 million gallons daily of gasoline, jet fuel, home heating oil and other hazardous liquids in 13 states and the District of Columbia, according to company filings. Authorities have not said which type of fuel was involved in the explosion Monday.

Plagued by a severe drought after weeks without rain, the section of the state where the explosion happened has been scarred by multiple wildfires in recent weeks, and crews worked to keep the blaze from spreading.

Houses around the blast scene were evacuated, and sheriff's Capt. Jeff Hartley said it wasn't clear when people might be able to return home.

Russians say Putin is posturing

Associated Press

BALTIYSK, Russia — Russia held civil defense drills involving 40 million people this month, the largest since the collapse of the Soviet Union. State media broadcast instantly recognizable Soviet imagery showing schoolchildren trying on gas masks and urged viewers to find the nearest bomb shelter "before it's too late."

While those reports fuel Western fears of a new Cold War, ordinary Russians don't seem too worried.

Even in Kaliningrad, a heavily militarized Russian outpost surrounded by NATO members Lithuania and Poland, people see the messages as mere posturing.

The harbor of Baltiysk, home of Russia's Baltic Fleet, is downright sleepy. On a recent morning, fisherman lounged by the pier as sailors put a fresh coat of paint on a missile ship across

the bay.

NATO held a high-profile summit in nearby Poland in July, and the Western alliance's troops are building up positions in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as tensions with Russia escalate. The United States is sending 1,000 troops to Poland next year, and its concerns about an unwanted confrontation with Russia have played heavily into President Barack Obama's reluctance to engage militarily in Syria's civil war.

Russia, for its part, held a flurry of Baltic Fleet exercises this year, with marines practicing landings, ships firing surface-to-air missiles, fighter jets dropping bombs and troops capturing saboteur divers. Last month, Moscow sent nuclear-capable Iskander missile units to Kaliningrad. With an estimated range of 300 miles, the missiles could reach the Baltic states, most of Poland and southern

Sweden.

Moscow has also upped the bellicose talk. Russian state television presents the NATO exercises as testament to aggressive intentions of the West. News bulletins are filled with rapturous reports about missile testing, and Moscow officials proudly announce that the city's bomb shelters are ready to accommodate all 12 million residents.

Alexei Milovanov, editor in chief of the independent news website *NewKaliningrad.Ru*, dismisses the military displays as "saber-rattling" but says he understands why Kaliningrad's Western neighbors are worried.

"If you keep a rifle at home, you know you have it and you can use it if something happens," he said. "But if you go out on the porch with this rifle every day and parade it in front of everyone, people will start giving you strange looks."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man puts down beer, fires at passing cars

FL HOLLYWOOD — Police say a man in Florida carrying a rifle and a six-pack of beer stationed himself at an intersection and opened fire at passing cars, hitting one driver in the head.

News outlets quote Hollywood police as saying that Carl Washington, 40, was arrested on five counts of attempted premeditated murder after he shot at five people as they drove past him Saturday morning.

Police said that among those fired upon was driver Reynaldo Corria, who was shot in the head and crashed. He was taken to the hospital, where he remains in critical condition.

1 hurt in golf cart fall; alcohol use suspected

PA GETTYSBURG — Police said one person was seriously hurt when he fell off a rental golf cart in central Pennsylvania.

Police in Cumberland Township were called to the Battlefield Resort in Gettysburg Saturday afternoon for a report of a fall. Police said the individual, who hasn't been identified, and three others took the golf cart for a joyride to a convenience store. Police said one of the riders fell off the back of the cart and hit his head on the pavement while heading back to the resort. That person was airlifted to a hospital for treatment. Police said they believe alcohol contributed to the fall.

\$2.5B in property remains unclaimed

VA RICHMOND — The treasurer of Virginia said one in four residents in the state has unclaimed property.

WSLS-TV in Roanoke report-

ed that more than \$2.5 billion worth of cash and valuables are in the Treasury's care. They include a solid gold bar worth about \$20,000 and a three-carat diamond ring. There are also tools, cookware, vacuum cleaners and guitars.

It all comes from various places. For instance, banks turn dormant security boxes over to the state. There are also life insurance policies that beneficiaries are unaware of. People can check the state's website for any unclaimed property that may belong to them.

Beach sees a spike in stingray injuries

CA HUNTINGTON BEACH — Authorities said there's been a spike in stingray injuries at a Southern California beach even as water temperatures cool.

The Orange County Register reported Sunday that Huntington Beach Marine Safety Lt. Claude Panis said there were 17 reports of injuries on Thursday and another 10 on Friday.

He said stingray injuries tend to occur when the water is warmer and waves are smaller but have been reported amid cooler water temperatures and bigger swells.

Hopper Slave Cemetery restored, rededicated

NJ UPPER SADDLE RIVER — A slave cemetery in New Jersey has been rededicated following restoration efforts after it was damaged during Superstorm Sandy.

The Record reported the Rev. Ella Hayes was among those who presided over the rededication Sunday of the Hopper Slave Cemetery in Upper Saddle River.

The plot, owned by the Upper Saddle River Historical Society, contains the remains of up to 50

slaves and freed slaves.

The Rev. Robert Fretz said those buried in the graveyard worked for Dutch settlers who were among the area's largest landholders and owned an 18th-century sawmill on the Saddle River.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy downed trees, destroying a wrought-iron fence and many grave markers.

Pizza Hut employee shoots, kills robber

NC CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte police statement identified Michael Reardon Grace, 28, as the person shot and killed by a Pizza Hut restaurant employee during a robbery attempt.

Police said the employee used his own handgun to shoot one of three people trying to rob the store. Detectives said the restaurant was closed and there were no customers inside. The two other suspects ran away and haven't been arrested.

Taser used to subdue boy, 17, at high school

MD FREDERICK — The Frederick County Sheriff's Office said a deputy used an electric stun gun to subdue a 17-year-old boy after he knocked a girl unconscious and assaulted a deputy outside Frederick High School.

Sgt. Mark Landahl said in a statement that several deputies were already there due to a number of student fights when the confrontation occurred Friday. Landahl said the boy was outside the school when he hit the girl in the head with his fist. He said the boy resisted arrest, assaulted a deputy and tried to run. He said a deputy then fired a Taser at the boy.

Landahl said the girl was taken to a hospital in Hagerstown, about 25 miles away.

Despite Matthew, pecans could be good

GA ATHENS — University of Georgia experts say that despite Hurricane Matthew's major damage to southeastern pecan orchards, the state could have a good crop.

Georgia produces about one-third of the U.S. pecan crop, harvesting from October through December. Matthew swept through Oct. 7-10, knocking down big trees and blowing green nuts to the ground.

UGA Extension pecan expert Lenny Wells said Tattal County agents told him orchards there lost 10 to 30 percent of their trees. However, Wells said that outside of the hurricane-stricken area, the crop could be one of the best in many years.

Sharpened ruler used against prison guard

VT NEWPORT — Authorities said two Vermont prison inmates used an improvised knife made out of a sharpened ruler to take a Northern State Correctional Facility guard hostage and hold him for more than two hours in August.

The Caledonian Record reported one of the inmates, Mehmed Devac, 22, pleaded not guilty to kidnapping-ransom and aggravated assault on a corrections officer. The other inmate, Leroy Hughes, 32, faces similar charges in another county.

A police affidavit said Corrections Officer Malcom Brown seized contraband tattoo equipment from their cell. Brown did a pat-down search of Hughes and was patting down Devac when Hughes attempted to attack him. Brown shoved him away and Hughes showed the weapon. They released Brown after demanding cigarettes and a prison transfer.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Matchup madness means longer games

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Managers head to the mound and point to the bullpens so often in the postseason, it wouldn't be surprising if they need Tommy John surgery.

Complete games have gone the way of spittoons, flannel uniforms and pregame infield practice.

An average of 9.32 pitchers were used in this year's postseason games heading into the World Series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, up from 8.16 in the 1996 and 5.70 in 1986.

Matchup madness rules.

"A lot of it is just to protect your butt, that somebody else might have the information, so I better make sure that I make the move that they know I should be making instead of the move that I know I should be making," former big league manager Bobby Valentine said.

All those pitching changes contribute to World Series games turning into the late, late show.

After using a relatively re-

strained three pitchers to win the opener 6-0, Cleveland sent seven to the mound for a 5-1 loss to the Chicago Cubs in Game 2, and they needed 196 pitches to get 27 outs. The nine innings took 4 hours, 4 minutes to play.

Through the league championship series, nine-inning postseason games averaged 3:22, up from 3:14 last year.

The first four games of this year's World Series averaged 3:38. Much of that time has been for trips to the mound.

"In the past you were looking for five really good starters. That's always your focal point," Toronto manager John Gibbons said. "Things have definitely changed but you can go back the last couple of years and look at the Royals, and the big talk was how they had those three guys late, actually four guys. The starter would go five or six innings and they would just turn it over to those guys. A lot of teams are trying to do the same."

Back in the 1976 regular season, games averaged 4.83 pitchers, according to Elias. The figure rose to 5.59 by 1986,

6.88 a decade later, 7.70 in 2006 and 8.30 this year.

Decades ago, aces were expected to finish what they started. San Diego's Randy Jones led the major leagues with 25 complete games in 1976 and Detroit's Mark Fidrych had 24.

This year, Chris Sale of the Chicago White Sox topped the big leagues with six complete games and San Francisco's Johnny Cueto was second with five.

Data has revolutionized the sport. When he was managing in the New York Yankees minor league system in the 1980s, Buck Showalter had his wife hand-write spray charts to show where opponents hit balls. Angela Showalter can now relax while watching her husband manage the Baltimore Orioles.

Just before the start of this season, Major League Baseball reached a deal with Apple to have iPad Pros in dugouts, and managers have instant access to figures tracking the decline of starting pitchers' effectiveness the third time through the batting order.

"Every manager would like

their starter to go complete-game shutout, but I think that there's a certain point in the game where the starting pitcher is not being as effective, and you have other options," Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "When you look at analytics or data, those are facts. So where certain options have shown better, then as manager it only makes sense to trust that information as well as your eyes."

When they had Aroldis Chapman, Andrew Miller and Dellin Betances in his bullpen this season, the New York Yankees were confident any time they led after six innings. With relievers so prized, the Yankees dealt Chapman to the Cubs and Miller to the Indians for prized prospects.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona has used Miller in the middle of games to shut down opponents.

"Right now matchups are en vogue, there is no question," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "They've been getting more and more that way over the last couple years."

Schwarber brings 'thunder' back to Cleveland

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Three games at Wrigley Field did to Kyle Schwarber what a shredded left knee, six grueling months of rehab and the Cleveland Indians haven't: keep the Chicago Cubs slugger in check.

The resilient 23-year-old completed a warp-speed recovery after tearing two ligaments in a collision with teammate Dexter Fowler on April 7. Schwarber returned for the World Series and drove in a pair of runs as the designated hitter in Chicago's 5-1 win over Cleveland in Game 2 last Wednesday.

Still, doctors didn't trust his knee enough to let him play defense. The result? Three agonizing days in which Schwarber might have been the most anxious person at Wrigley Field.

His only appearance during the Series' first visit to the Friendly Confines since 1945 came when he popped out as a pinch hitter in the eighth inning of a 1-0 loss in Game 3.

Now that it's back to Cleveland for Game

6 on Tuesday night, Schwarber can resume his DH duties while the Cubs try to force a Game 7 in search of their first title in more than a century.

"It gives them some thunder that they'll situate right in the middle, which you have to respect," Indians manager Terry Francona said Monday. "But I mean, they've got a lot of other good bats, too. I think people can get carried away with some things."

Kind of hard not to after Schwarber went 3-for-7 with two RBIs and a pair of walks in Games 1 and 2. His teammates were left grasping for ways to explain how Schwarber could do that while facing big league pitching for the first time in more than 200 days.

"He's a stud," Chicago second baseman Ben Zobrist said. "He's a special player."

One whose mere presence provided the Cubs with an emotional jolt when he arrived on the eve of Game 1. The hulking former Indiana Hoosier needed only a weekend in the Arizona Fall League against minor leaguers to get up to speed.

"He could have just cashed it in and said,

"I'll be ready for spring training,"" Zobrist said.

Schwarber's summer was a grind. He was early to the ballpark for physical therapy, followed by weight training or conditioning, extended time in the batting cage and then perhaps the hardest part: watching in sweatpants while Chicago's special season went on without him.

It looked easy when he ripped a double off the wall against Indians ace Corey Kluber in Game 1. It wasn't.

"I don't know there's anybody in the league that can do that," Zobrist said. "It's really, really difficult to wake up and get out of bed after six months ... and be a great hitter like he is."

All that confidence couldn't make an impact from the bench at Wrigley, though. Chicago manager Joe Maddon tried to find spots for Schwarber, but his pinch-hit appearance in Game 3 was his only trip to the batter's box.

That won't be an issue in Cleveland, a development that's given Maddon a newfound appreciation for the DH.

New-look Bulls top Nets, move to 3-0

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dwyane Wade left his defender in the dust with a vintage crossover that brought players on the Chicago bench and fans behind them to their feet.

“He’s still got some ‘ahh’ in his bag,” teammate Jimmy Butler said. “Very impressive.”

So are the new-look Bulls.

Butler scored 22 points, Wade had 12 in the first road game of his career not played for Miami, and the Bulls improved to 3-0 by beating the Brooklyn Nets 118-88 on Monday night.

With Wade and Rajon Rondo in a revamped backcourt, the Bulls opened with home victories against Eastern Conference playoff teams Boston and Indiana before easily handling their road opener, leading by as many as 33 points.

“We only played a little bit together in the preseason, so

we’re still learning each other right now. We’re only three games in, but we see it looking good at times,” Wade said.

The Bulls had seven players in double figures, with Wade becoming the last of them when he blew by Bojan Bogdanovic with that crossover and was fouled on a drive to the basket in the fourth quarter.

Nikola Mirotic had 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Taj Gibson added 14 points and 11 boards for the Bulls.

Bogdanovic scored 15 points and Jeremy Lin had 14 for the Nets, who fell to 1-3.

Butler made all five shots as the Bulls built an 18-point lead after one quarter that grew to 25 in the second. Chicago led 93-66 after three, leaving the crowd with little to cheer in the fourth beyond Wade’s smooth moves.

The Nets’ first three games had all been decided by single digits — they had actually out-

scored opponents 328-326 despite starting 1-2 — but they were never in this one after the opening minutes.

“It was just poor energy right from the start,” center Brook Lopez said. “Obviously there is no excuse for the way we played.”

Hawks 106, Kings 95: Dwight Howard had 18 points, Kyle Korver and Dennis Schroder scored 17 points apiece, and the host Hawks beat the Kings for their first 3-0 start in five seasons.

Every Atlanta starter scored in double figures, and the Hawks held Sacramento’s DeMarcus Cousins in check after he averaged 30 points in the Kings’ first three games. He finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Raptors 105, Nuggets 102: DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points and Kyle Lowry had 29, leading Toronto to the victory.

DeRozan is the first Raptor ever to start a season with three straight 30-point games, and his run is one short of Mike James’ stretch from 2006 for the longest run at any point in the season.

Danilo Gallinari, Will Barton and Emmanuel Mudiay each had 16 points for Denver, and Jusuf Nurkic added 13 points and a career-high 18 rebounds.

Clippers 116, Suns 98: Chris Paul scored 24 points and Blake Griffin had 21 points and 11 rebounds to send host Los Angeles past winless Phoenix.

DeAndre Jordan, playing with a sprained right thumb that was wrapped in tape, added 19 points and 11 rebounds as the Clippers relied on their Big Three in improving to 3-0 this season.

Brandon Knight had 18 points for the Suns (0-4).

Nine-game NHL tryouts create uncertainty

Associated Press

Dylan Strome is living his NHL dream playing for the Arizona Coyotes, staying in a hotel and avoiding the harsh Pennsylvania winter he endured the past three years playing for the Ontario Hockey League’s Erie Otters.

He just doesn’t know how long it will last.

Strome was the No. 3 overall pick in 2015 and he is in hockey’s version of purgatory: At 19, he is eligible to be sent back to the juniors without burning a year of his contract as long as he doesn’t play 10 games.

In the NFL and NBA, when you’re drafted, you’re in, and Major League Baseball prospects almost always start in the minors.

NHL teams, however, get the chance to test-run some of their top young prospects before committing to them for a full season.

“No one feels bad for you,” Strome said. “It’s not really up to me. Obviously I want to be in the NHL.”

In the same uncertain spot are Coyotes teammates Jakob Chychrun and Lawson Crouse and others around the league, from the New York Islanders’ Anthony Beau-

villier and Mathew Barzal to the Calgary Flames’ Matthew Tkachuk. Despite making their teams’ opening-night roster, the players face a nerve-racking, nine-game tryout — and decision time is near for many of them.

“It’s normal to have that kind of tryout because you never know what can happen,” said Beauvillier, whose contract will count for this year if he plays his 10th game Tuesday. “I don’t control that. I just control what I do on the ice.”

The NHL’s transfer agreement with the Canadian Hockey League prevents major-junior players under 20 from going to the American Hockey League for some professional seasoning. So even though Strome had 111 points, Tkachuk 107 points and the Toronto Maple Leafs’ Mitch Marner 116 points in juniors last season, they must remain in the NHL or go back to juniors instead of spending time in the minors.

Once considered a top player in the 2016 draft class, Chychrun slipped to 16th and pondered the rule often during camp. But he has played well enough to get into seven games and give himself peace of mind.

“Now that I’ve gotten a taste of the level here and just seen that I can play here, I

think I’m just trying to really just act like a pro,” Chychrun said. “You can’t play when you’re stressed. You’ve just got to act like you’re sticking here, and if you do that you’ll have a better chance of showing them why.”

Easier said than done for Barzal and Strome, who have been out of the lineup more than in it. Coach Jack Capuano implied that a roster crunch could prevent the Islanders from keeping Beauvillier and Barzal all season, but Arizona could let Strome and Crouse practice, learn and wait rather than making them essentially repeat a grade level they already aced.

The Coyotes sent Max Domi back to juniors two years ago and watched him dominate and blossom as a result, so coach Dave Tippett understands the nine-game barrier but doesn’t dwell on it.

“We’re more in tune of making sure that we’re doing everything we can to make it so they can play here so the nine games doesn’t matter,” Tippett said. “We have to give them every opportunity, whether through extra coaching, extra workouts, critiquing their play — everything you do to try to make sure it gives them the best chance to be successful.”

Carolina's Rivera goes to bat for Newton

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Panthers coach Ron Rivera said he's involved in ongoing discussions with the NFL and the Players Association about ways to make sure league MVP Cam Newton is given the same protection in the pocket as other, smaller quarterbacks.

Newton blasted NFL officiating following Sunday's game against the Arizona Cardinals after taking a shot to his lower right leg from defensive tackle Calais Campbell as he was releasing the ball. Campbell was not flagged for the hit and the Panthers settled for a short field goal rather than an automatic first down.

Newton said after the game, "I could have torn my ACL."

"I would like to see our quarterback get those calls," a calm, but stern Rivera said Monday.

Newton said Sunday that officials aren't doing enough to protect him and he "doesn't feel safe" on the field, which is taking the fun out of the game for him.

Rivera stood behind his quarterback Monday, saying Newton's comments are "correct" and he supports him 100

percent.

Rivera reiterated what he said in September after his QB took four helmet-to-helmet hits in a loss to the Denver Broncos — that Newton doesn't get the calls because of his 6-foot-5, 245-pound frame.

"When (smaller quarterbacks) get hit, they roll around on the ground. When he gets hit, he absorbs them — and it doesn't look as bad," Rivera said. "... It's about making sure he is getting the equal treatment he deserves as a quarterback in the pocket."

Rivera was criticized for not being more vocal on the sideline and during postgame press conferences about the hits Newton has absorbed.

Former NFL coach Tony Dungy said on NBC's Football Night in America on Sunday that "Cam should not have to be the one saying this. His head coach, his owner and everybody in the organization should be saying this."

Rivera said he doesn't get upset on the sideline because he knows game officials have a difficult job to do and he appreciates "meaningful conversations" rather than engaging in a shouting match.

But Rivera said he has been constantly working behind the scenes with the NFL and the Players Association on resolving the issue. He and general manager Dave Gettleman had another conversation with the league office on Monday morning.

"This is something I work on every week, quite frankly," Rivera said. "I don't talk about it because it's between me and the league and this team. This is something that has become public because of Cam's statements."

Rivera suggested the NFL needs to add an eighth referee to help monitor hits on the quarterback. He said using replay would be a good option for reviewing questionable hits.

That is something he's expected to raise in the NFL competition committee meeting next spring. In the meantime, Rivera said he's confident the league and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell will do everything they can to protect Newton this season.

"The league is looking into these things — and not just for Cam but for all quarterbacks," Rivera said.

Newton suggested after the

game that he would like to talk personally to Goodell about his concerns.

That could happen.

"The commissioner often speaks to current and former players throughout the year," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said in an email.

Newton's comments were a hot topic on sports TV shows.

ESPN football analyst and former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb said Monday that he agrees "wholeheartedly" with Newton's comments.

"I have been in that situation," McNabb said Monday on ESPN. "When you are behind the line of scrimmage, you are a passer. When I am looking to throw the ball down the field and I get ear-holed or if I get hit low, the referee has to throw the flag. Cam is absolutely right — if Tom Brady gets hit low then they are going to throw a flag."

Newton said Sunday that he's tired of officials telling him they missed a call.

"Enough is enough," Newton said Sunday. "I don't know what I have to do. ... I don't think there is a person that can go through what I go through and still keep their head."

Bradford sacked five times as Vikings fall to Bears

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Sam Bradford and the Minnesota Vikings were rolling as the NFL's last undefeated team. Now, they can't even beat the last-place team in their division.

Bradford got sacked five times behind a leaky offensive line and the Vikings (5-2) dropped their second straight in a stunning 20-10 loss to the Chicago Bears on Monday night.

If there was any doubt the blueprint to beat Minnesota was out after the Eagles game, it got squashed with this loss.

After Bradford was sacked six times in Philadelphia, Chicago exploited the same

weaknesses on Monday night, plowing through a slapped-together offensive line to get to Bradford.

"Obviously, the last two weeks haven't gone our way," Bradford said. "It's not the same team that came out and started 5-0, but we've got that same team in the locker room. ... We just have to figure the way we did it, what the formula was those first five weeks and do it."

After stuffing the Vikings punch-less running attack time and again in the first half, Bears defenders keyed on Bradford and forced him into hurried throws an additional nine times.

Unlike last week, when the

coach criticized his offensive line for playing "soft" in an "embarrassing loss," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer avoided calling out any unit. He spent most of his five minutes at the podium tightly gripping the side of the lectern and at one point almost looked to be in pain, pinching the bridge of his nose with his thumb and forefinger.

Meanwhile, Cutler threw for 252 yards and a touchdown after missing five games with a thumb injury, and rookie Jordan Howard ran for a career-high 153 yards and a TD for the Bears (2-6).

Here are some things to know about the Vikings' loss to the Bears:

Off line: The Vikings have

allowed 11 sacks the past two weeks. If that doesn't say it all, what does?

Their tackles once again got dominated.

Jake Long was out of football and hoping to get a chance to prove his right knee was healthy again when the Vikings signed him on Oct. 11. The Vikings moved T.J. Clemmings to right tackle for the Eagles game and had Long at left tackle.

But he gave up two strip sacks against Philadelphia and got beaten by Chicago's Leonard Floyd on a sack.

"We've got to keep Sam upright," Long said. "I mean, when he has a clean pocket he does great things so we just can't get him hit like that."