

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Top official: Army at 'ragged edge'

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army's top civilian on Monday urged Congress to provide the military every cent it can as instability around the world forces soldiers to expand their training to combat increasing threats.

Army Secretary John McHugh said Monday that the number of missions and the questions about money have left U.S. forces at "the ragged edge" of its ability to prepare.

Unpredicted fighting around the globe following the U.S. drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the rise of the Islamic State group, Russian intervention in eastern Ukraine and the rapid rise of terrorism in Africa, have forced the Army to spend more money on training soldiers to withstand a wider variety of threats, McHugh said, speaking at the annual conference of the Association of the United States Army.

Outside the United States, the Army has about 180,000 soldiers stationed in some 140 locations serving on dozens of missions, which include advising Afghan and Iraqi security forces, reassuring NATO allies in Eastern Europe and training alongside partners in South Korea and Japan.

'We are in an extraordinarily rare position in American history where our budgets are coming down but our missions are going up. My greatest fear is what comes next?'

John McHugh
Army Secretary

Those missions have stretched U.S. forces and become

At the conference in Washington, McHugh said the number of missions and the questions about money have left U.S. forces at "the ragged edge" of its ability to prepare.

"We are in an extraordinarily rare position in American history where our budgets are coming down but our missions are going up," he said, noting the Army operates on a \$120 billion budget, which has decreased from a high of \$144 billion in 2010. "My greatest fear is what comes next — what don't we see that's heading toward us at this moment? What don't we see that will face us and our allies? And will we be agile and ready enough?"

Gen. Mark Milley, Army chief of staff, listed Army readiness as his No. 1 priority since he became the service's top officer in August.

"The world outside the boundaries of the United States — the velocity of instability is increasing as we sit here. ... It is increasing," Milley said Monday, speaking alongside McHugh at the conference. "There are a lot of things going on around the world today that present a very real threat to the security of the United States and the security of our interests. ... So as we look to the future, it's incumbent that we maintain our abilities and capacities as a military."

For the Army, it means shifting its training focus from the counterinsurgency operations it conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 14 years to focusing on a "hybrid threat" — terrorism and conventional warfare with near-peer forces from nation-states, Milley said.

That's forced a major shift in the training focus and has increased partnership with National Guard and Reserve units.

"We're an Army of 18 divisions, not an Army of 32 brigades and 10 divisions," Milley said, counting the Reserve and Guard units. "We're 18 divisions and 60 brigades. We're 980,000 strong today, not 490,000 strong. We're a total Army with three components. And that's fundamental."

Close call over Syria between Russian, US aircraft

BY TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Russian aircraft had another close call with U.S. and coalition aircraft Saturday over Syria, as the two nations continue to negotiate safety guidelines for pilots conducting airstrikes over the country.

They "came within visual recognition," Col. Steve Warren, a spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve, said Tuesday during a Pentagon news briefing in Baghdad.

"All pilots conducted themselves appropriately," Warren

said. "But it is dangerous. It is dangerous if two sets of aircraft come into the same piece of airspace without very clear laid-out protocols."

The incident was the latest of several close calls to happen since Russia began an air campaign in Syria two weeks ago, designed to buoy Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime in the country's almost five-year civil war.

Warren said Russian and U.S. jets on Saturday flew between 10 and 20 miles of each other, but he could not say over what part of Syria it took place.

At about the same time that U.S. and Russian aircraft made visual contact Saturday, negotiators for the countries were meeting for a second time on protocols on the distance between aircraft, common languages and radio frequencies that the two forces will employ to avoid mishaps or collisions.

In a 90-minute Saturday video conference between U.S. and Russian officials, Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said, the discussions "focused narrowly on the implementation of specific safety procedures. Progress was made during the

talks, and the U.S. agreed to another discussion with Russia in the near future."

The close calls between Russian and U.S. aircraft have happened "several times" since Russia's air campaign began, Warren said. Most of the incursions involved Russian aircraft shadowing a U.S. or coalition drone, he said.

However, Warren said this is at least the second incident involving U.S. or coalition manned aircraft.

Since Russia began its air campaign Sept. 30, it has conducted about 80 airstrikes.

Military mail used to smuggle marijuana

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Smugglers used U.S. military mail to bring 3.7 pounds of marijuana into Japan through Yokota Air Base — home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, according to U.S. and Japanese officials.

“Japanese customs officials at Yokota Air Base discovered marijuana being sent to an APO box in September,” Yokota officials said Tuesday in a statement. Japan’s National Police Agency and the U.S. military were immediately notified, and Tokyo Metropolitan Police are leading the investigation, the statement said.

The marijuana, valued at 8.5 million yen, or \$71,000, originated in Canada, Japanese broadcaster TBS reported.

The package was sent as unofficial mail to a U.S. servicemember who was unaware of its contents, according to police quoted by Japanese broadcaster NHK. The servicemember handed the package to a Japanese national who passed it to a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at Kodaira Station in Tokyo, according to the NHK report. Both were arrested.

Smugglers have used the military mail system to send drugs across international borders in the past. In the first nine months of 2012, the Korea Customs Service found 6.6 pounds of drugs, mostly synthetic marijuana, worth \$52,100 in mail bound for U.S. servicemembers in South Korea.

“While third parties may occasionally attempt to circumvent the law, we continually educate our airmen on APO guidelines, vigilance, and the (uniform code of military justice),” the statement said.

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Henoko landfill permit revoked

Move by Okinawa mayor is latest attempt to block Marines’ runway

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Seeking to block a new U.S. military runway in Okinawa’s remote north, Gov. Takeshi Onaga revoked a permit Tuesday for landfill work in Oura Bay at Henoko, the latest salvo in his battle with Tokyo over the U.S. military presence on the tiny island prefecture.

The runway has become

a symbol of resistance for a small but vocal protest movement seeking to reduce the American military’s presence on Okinawa. Construction was approved in December 2013 by Onaga’s predecessor in exchange for billions in subsidies and would ultimately facilitate the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from a densely populated urban area in central Okinawa to Camp Schwab. The Japanese government has said the move is vital

to public safety.

The decision to revoke the permit came after weeks of intensive talks with Tokyo broke down and Onaga pleaded his case to the U.N. Human Rights Council. Scholars have said the case will likely be adjudicated by the courts, a process that could take years. In the meantime, the Japanese government has vowed to continue with the project.

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Attacked USS Cole a floating memorial

The Washington Post

On the blue, speckled deck floor of the USS Cole, 17 gold stars shine. They’re a constant reminder of what occurred 15 years ago Monday — a terrorist bombing in the Gulf of Aden in Yemen that killed 17 Americans and injured 39.

The victims ranged in age from 19 to 35. They were men and women from across the United States, serving on a U.S. destroyer that had pulled into a port to refuel.

The attack was carried out by al-Qaida affiliates and ripped a 40-by-60-foot hole in the ship’s hull.

On Monday, the Navy marked

the anniversary with a small ceremony in Norfolk, Va. Taps was played in memory of the Americans lost, and families gathered to remember them, according to media accounts from the event.

Survivors also left messages like this one on Twitter to mark the day: “15yrs ago 2day broke me but made me I praise the 17 heroes we lost The Survivors Our heroes #USSCole #NeverForget My burden is my message.”

The ship itself could have sunk, but it was saved by crewmembers who braved dangerous conditions to pump water and fuel out of it.

The Cole eventually was

taken home and received about \$250 million in repairs, including the replacement of more than 550 tons of steel, Navy officials said. The ship itself was turned into a floating — and yet operational — memorial.

In addition to the stars, the ship now has a Hall of Heroes memorializing those lost and carries three American flags in a display case: the one that was flying over the ship during the bombing, the one that was laid over the casket of commingled remains buried at sea in 2002 and the one that was flying in 2006 when the Cole returned to the Gulf of Aden for the first time since the bombing.

Playboy to stop running fully nude photos

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Playboy will no longer publish photos of nude women as part of a redesign, the decadesold magazine announced Tuesday.

The magazine will still feature women in provocative poses, but they will no longer be fully nude, Playboy said in a statement.

The change, to take place

in March, represents a major shift for the magazine, which broke new ground when Hugh Hefner created it and featured Marilyn Monroe on its debut cover in 1953. It marks the latest step away from depictions of full nudity, which were banned from the magazine’s website in August 2014.

The magazine claims its website audience soared with that move, averaging a 400 percent

increase in monthly unique visitors.

“The political and sexual climate of 1953 ... bears almost no resemblance to today,” said Playboy Enterprises CEO Scott Flanders. “We are more free to express ourselves politically, sexually and culturally today, and that’s in large part thanks to Hef’s heroic mission to expand those freedoms.”

Cubs hit 6 home runs, lead NLDS 2-1

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The young sluggers of the Chicago Cubs are making themselves at home in the playoffs.

On a rare off night for Jake Arrieta, the Windy City kids bashed their way to the brink of the NL Championship Series — and a spot in the record book.

Jorge Soler, Kris Bryant and Kyle Schwarber connected as the Cubs set a postseason mark with six home runs and beat the St. Louis Cardinals 8-6 on Monday for a 2-1 lead in the NL Division Series. Arrieta struck out nine before departing in the sixth inning, and the bullpen finished the job in the first playoff game at Wrigley Field in seven years.

"To see the ball fly out of the yard as many times as it did was incredible," Arrieta said.

Starlin Castro, Anthony Rizzo and Dexter Fowler also went deep for Chicago, which held a share of the previous postseason record with five homers in Game 1 of the

1984 NLCS against San Diego.

"Pretty impressive," manager Joe Maddon said. "You know, I know the wind was blowing out — we'll concede that — but most of them were properly struck. We are definitely capable of that."

A third straight win for the Cubs on Tuesday afternoon, and the once woebegone franchise will advance to the NLCS for the first time in 12 years. The Cardinals, who led the majors with 100 wins this season, have won at least one playoff series in each of the last four years.

Jason Hammel was set to start at home in Game 4. John Lackey, who won the opener, was slated to pitch for the Cardinals.

"I want to win championships. I want to be on good teams," Lackey said. "Got a chance here, still, and try to keep it moving."

Jason Heyward and Stephen Piscotty homered for St. Louis, which got to Arrieta for four runs in his worst start in four months. But the Cardinals were unable to keep

the Cubs in the ballpark.

St. Louis trailed 8-4 before Piscotty hit a two-run shot with two out in the ninth, a scary moment for a towel-waving crowd of 42,411 used to playoff heartache. But Hector Rondon retired Matt Holliday on a harmless bouncer to second, and the party was on.

"We were grinding against Arrieta all night and we did have opportunities," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "They just kept adding on."

Arrieta improved to 18-1 with a 1.00 ERA in his last 22 starts dating to June 21, but he was far from his usual dominant self. He hadn't allowed more than three runs in a game since a June 16 loss to Cleveland.

Schwarber, Castro and Bryant homered against Michael Wacha in his first playoff appearance since he threw the final pitch of the 2014 postseason for the Cardinals, a game-ending, three-run shot for Travis Ishikawa in the NLCS against the Giants.

Royals rally from 4 down to win Mets pound Dodgers

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Almost out of time and out of the playoffs, the Kansas City Royals realized they needed more than a big home run.

They needed a lot of hits — and maybe a little help, too.

The defending AL champions saved their season Monday. They took advantage when Astros shortstop Carlos Correa couldn't handle a deflected grounder that might have been a double-play ball, rallying for five runs in the eighth inning to beat Houston 9-6, forcing their playoff series to a decisive Game 5.

"We always feel that we're still in games, and we still have a chance," first baseman Eric Hosmer said. "That's the mentality for this whole entire team. It's never quit, and the character we showed today. That's what a championship ballclub does."

Correa homered twice, doubled, singled and drove in four runs in Game 4 of the AL

Division Series. Houston took a 6-2 lead into the eighth, but a tough error charged to the 21-year-old rookie keyed the Royals' comeback to even the matchup at two games apiece.

"I missed it. That's what happened," Correa said. "I wish I was perfect. I wish I could do everything perfect, but I'm not. I'm human."

Game 5 will be in Kansas City on Wednesday. Johnny Cueto is set to start for the Royals against Collin McHugh.

"Everyone that watched that game, everybody that was a part of that game knows how difficult it is to feel like that game was closing in our favor and then have it not go our way," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

"But it's big boy sport. We'll adjust, and we will be ready to play," he said.

Late in the game, a tweet from the account of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott congratulated the Astros on advancing to the AL Championship Series. Abbott later tweeted for his personal account: "No predic-

tions. Just support."

Kansas City opened the eighth with five straight singles off relievers Will Harris and Tony Sipp, with RBI hits by Lorenzo Cain and Hosmer making it 6-4 and leaving the bases loaded with no outs.

"Obviously, we're pretty late in the game right there and down by four, so not one guy can get us back in this game. So we got to do whatever we can to keep the line moving," Hosmer said.

Kendrys Morales followed with a hard, one-bouncer off Sipp's glove. The ball took two more hops and got past the top of Correa's mitt, rolling into center field as two runs scored to tie it at 6.

"Just a weird spin on the ball and tough play," Sipp said. "I'm sure it was tougher than it looked. Game of inches, and I barely missed it."

Alex Gordon's RBI groundout off Luke Gregerson later in the inning put Kansas City ahead.

Hosmer launched a long, two-run homer in the ninth for insurance.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With big hits rather than beanballs, Curtis Granderson and the New York Mets wiped out the Los Angeles Dodgers to take control of their testy Division Series.

Granderson drove in five runs with two doubles off the wall, Travis d'Arnaud and Yoenis Cespedes homered, and New York's dangerous bats busted loose for a 13-7 victory Monday night that gave the Mets a 2-1 advantage in the best-of-five NL playoff.

Before a bloodthirsty crowd of 44,276 in the first postseason game at Citi Field, the Mets broke their postseason scoring record as public enemy No. 1 Chase Utley watched from the Los Angeles bench. New York quickly erased an early three-run deficit and made a winner of a mediocre Matt Harvey in his playoff debut.

"The greatest retaliation is winning," Mets outfielder Michael Cuddyer said.

Back in the postseason for the first time in nine years, New York can reach the NL Championship Series with another win at home Tuesday night behind rookie pitcher Steven Matz.

Trying to save the Dodgers' season, ace Clayton Kershaw will start on three days' rest in Game 4.

"I'm always pretty confident when he's pitching," manager Don Mattingly said.

Utley is the subject of scorn in New York after his late takeout slide Saturday night broke the right leg of Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada at Dodger Stadium. Utley appealed his two-game suspension, keeping him eligible to play.

Amid much speculation the Mets would seek revenge, manager Terry Collins said before the game Harvey was told not to.

"I think the boos at the introductions were kind of a big statement," Harvey said. "For us it was stay focused, go out and let our play do all the talking and, you know, all that stuff will be resolved later."

In the end, Utley never got in the game.

Jays top Rangers to extend series

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Sure, R.A. Dickey was disappointed when he saw Blue Jays manager John Gibbons walking toward the mound.

The 40-year-old knuckleballer had a six-run lead and was one out shy of qualifying for a win in his first postseason start.

Dickey also knew he was handing the ball off to a fellow Cy Young winner, and Toronto went on to beat the Texas Rangers 8-4 on Monday to force a deciding Game 5 at home in the AL Division Series.

"When you look over your shoulder and you've got a guy like this coming in behind you, it makes it a whole lot easier to give the ball to Gibby," Dickey said, with David Price seated to his right after the game. "It's amazing what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit. ... We're going back to Toronto with a chance."

Toronto led 3-0 even before Dickey threw his first pitch, with Josh Donaldson and Chris Colabello homering in the first inning.

"That's great. If you could script it, obviously, that's what you'd want," said Donaldson, who has reached safely in five of his last nine appearances, including two homers in the series.

The Blue Jays made it three homers in the first eight batters against Derek Holland when Kevin Pillar connected in the second for a 4-0 lead. Pillar's drive was caught by Price, who was playing catch in the bullpen with Marcus Stroman.

Game 5 is Wednesday. Cole Hamels starts for the Rangers against Stroman in a rematch from Game 2, which Texas won in 14 innings.

After losing the first two games in the series at home, the Blue Jays won both games in Texas in a span of 24 hours.

"Our mindset the whole time has been you've got to win three games, however you do it, when you do it," said Pillar, who also had a pair of RBI singles. "But it's definitely nice knowing flying home we've got another game."

Dickey, the 2012 NL Cy Young winner when he won 20 games for the New York Mets, allowed one run over 4²/₃ innings and was pulled with a 7-1 lead, with a runner on base. Shin-Soo Choo, already with two hits, was coming to the plate.

Price needed only one pitch to retire Choo to end the fifth, and went three innings to get the win after losing in the series opener.

Only two teams in MLB history have lost a best-of-five series after winning the first two games on the road — Oakland against the Yankees in 2001, and Cincinnati to San Francisco in 2012.



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Gamecocks' Spurrier resigns

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Steve Spurrier said Tuesday that he made the decision to resign as South Carolina's head coach because the team was heading in the wrong direction.

"We've slipped. It's my fault. I'm the head coach," he told a news conference.

Spurrier said he started really thinking about resigning Sunday morning, spoke to South Carolina athletics director Ray Tanner that afternoon and told his team on Monday night that he was stepping down, effective immediately.

Spurrier said he felt he needed to step down now because he doesn't believe there is accountability with players if they know the coach won't be back next year. He also said he was a recruiting liability.

He had never had a losing season in 25 previous seasons coaching at Duke (1987-89), Florida (1990-2001) or South Carolina, where he has been since 2005.

South Carolina President Harris Pastides said he asked the coach to stay through the rest of the season, but Spurrier declined.

Spurrier said it's "time for me to get out of the way and let someone else have a go at it. ... I was the best coach for this job 11 years ago, but I'm not today."

The Gamecocks are 2-4 and 0-4 in the Southeastern Conference for the first time in Spurrier's 23 seasons coaching in the league at Florida and South Carolina.

Interim head coach Shawn Elliott said his job was to help the team move forward.

"Our team is not in shambles, as some might say," he said after Spurrier left the podium. "Not sure the change is what they've needed but the change is what they've got. Going to do everything we can to make the University of South Carolina proud of this football program."

Spurrier was in the middle of his 11th season at South Carolina and while the Gamecocks are struggling, university officials praised his accomplishments and the impact he has had on the football program.

Spurrier considered leaving last December after the Gamecocks went 6-6 in the regular season. But the team beat Miami in the Independence Bowl, a victory that seemed to re-energize him.

He said this summer he planned to coach two or three more years, then extended that to four or five years when several recruits who had committed to South Carolina backed away before signing day in February.

South Carolina's inconsistency on offense this season has surely frustrated Spurrier, a Heisman Trophy winning quarterback at Florida who played for San Francisco and Tampa Bay in the NFL. After beginning his coaching career in the USFL, and leading Duke, he returned to the Swamp and took the Gators to a national championship with a high-flying, Fun-n-Gun attack.

Spurrier, who was 35-21 with the USFL's Tampa Bay Bandits from 1983-85, started his college head coaching career at Duke. He has a 228-89-2 career record with the Blue Devils, Gators and Gamecocks.

USC fires Sarkisian

LOS ANGELES — Southern California fired Steve Sarkisian on Monday, one day after the troubled football coach was put on leave.

Athletic director Pat Haden made the move one day after determining Sarkisian showed up at school in no condition to lead practice, although Haden refused to reveal specifics about the coach's condition. Offensive coordinator Clay Helton was appointed interim coach Sunday.

USC hasn't elaborated on Sarkisian's problems, but the second-year coach had an embarrassing public display in August at a pep rally where he appeared to be intoxicated while giving a speech. Sarkisian later apologized and said he had combined alcohol and medication, but promised not to drink again during the season.

Sarkisian's unsteady appearance Sunday prompted Haden to make the program's fourth coaching change in two years.

"After careful consideration of what is in the best interest of the university and our student-athletes, I have made the decision to terminate Steve Sarkisian, effective immediately," Haden said in a statement.

"I want to add how proud I am of our coaching staff and players and the way they are responding to this difficult situation. Through all of this we remain concerned for Steve and hope that it will give him the opportunity to focus on his personal well-being."

Helton, Sarkisian's offensive coordinator, was to officially lead his first practice Tuesday as the Trojans (3-2, 1-2 Pac-12) prepare for their annual rivalry game at No. 14 Notre Dame.

Sarkisian went 12-6 at USC, where he started as an assistant coach under Pete Carroll with the program's dominant teams of the past decade.

"This is an opportunity for Sark to get right and to get well," Carroll said Monday. "We're pulling for him. He's up against some big challenges and he's got to go ahead and take care of it. It's not about coaching now. It's about his personal life and getting things in order. I know he's committed to taking the right steps to do that, and it's hugely important for him."

The 41-year-old Sarkisian is in the midst of a divorce from his wife, Stephanie.

Steelers rally past Chargers

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Mike Tomlin and Le'Veon Bell knew exactly what had to happen.

With five seconds left, the Pittsburgh Steelers down by three points and the ball inside the 1, Bell had to get into the end zone.

It was a wildcat way to win, which the Steelers did 24-20, stunning the San Diego Chargers and sending tens of thousands of Terrible Towel-waving Pittsburgh fans into delirium at Qualcomm Stadium.

Bell took the direct snap, ran left and was slowed in traffic before diving for the end zone and getting the ball across the line as Donald Butler dragged him down.

"It was time to go to the mattresses, if you will," said Tomlin, the Steelers' coach. "We had to do what was required to win. Le'Veon gave us an opportunity to win, and we were trying to do everything we could to move the football."

"I got to get it in," Bell said. "We still had a timeout left. I was thinking we still have a timeout left, so I'm thinking, 'OK, maybe if I get stopped, maybe run like 4 seconds off and get a timeout and we could kick a field goal.' I wanted to end the game right there."

Bell ran 21 times for 111 yards. San Diego rookie Josh Lambo kicked a go-ahead, 54-yard field goal with 2:56 left.

Here are some things that stood out as the Steelers moved to 3-2 and the Chargers fell to 2-3:

Heinz Field West: It's never been hard for fans of visiting teams to get tickets at Qualcomm Stadium, and Steelers fans practically overran the aging concrete bowl, which could be hosting its final year of the NFL because Chargers owner Dean Spanos wants to move to the Los Angeles area.

"First I'd like to thank Steeler Nation," Tomlin said. "How about the support that we had in the building tonight? We get that type of support just about all of the time we're on the road, but it doesn't get old. We appreciate it."

Opposing view: Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers didn't appreciate the many fans clad in black and gold.

"It was a tough environment tonight. It was like being on the road," Rivers said.

"Odd is one word we could use," Rivers said. "We were in silent count and we had no chance. We were checking in and out of plays and it was about as tough as it gets. I'm usually hoarse after road games and I'm going to be today as well."

Be like Mike: Mike Vick, having an awful game until the fourth quarter, kept the winning drive alive with a 24-yard scramble up the middle on third-and-6 from the 41 and then a 16-yard pass to Heath Miller to the 1 a play before Bell's big run. An unnecessary roughness call against San Diego's Jahleel Addae moved the ball a half-yard closer to the end zone and stopped the clock.

Gatesy: Antonio Gates returned from a four-game PED suspension and caught a 12-yard scoring pass from Philip Rivers in the first quarter and then had an 11-yard grab with 8:02 left to give the Chargers a 17-10 lead. Gates has 101 career TDs, joining Tony Gonzalez (111) as the only tight ends to reach that milestone.

Pick-six: Antwon Blake intercepted Rivers' pass and returned it 70 yards for a touchdown to give the Steelers a 10-7 lead late in the third quarter. Receiver Malcolm Floyd broke off a crossing route that led to the pickoff.

Lightning's Stamkos notches 500th point

Associated Press

BOSTON — Steven Stamkos scored his 500th point with a tiebreaking power-play goal that sent the Tampa Bay Lightning to a 6-3 victory over the Bruins on Monday.

Stamkos has 278 goals and 222 assists in 495 regular-season games.

Brian Boyle scored two goals, and Ondrej Palat, Jonathan Drouin and Valteri Filppula added goals for the Lightning. Ben Bishop stopped 27 shots. It was Tampa Bay's first win in Boston since March 25, 2010.

Loui Eriksson had two power-play goals, and David Krejci also had one for Boston. The Bruins have opened with three straight losses for the first time since 1999.

Tuukka Rask made 17 saves for the Bruins.

Boston captain Zdeno Chara played his first game after missing most of the pre-season with an undisclosed upper-body injury.

Islanders 4, Jets 2: John Tavares had a power-play goal and added two assists, and Thomas Greiss made 22 saves as host New York beat Winnipeg for its first victory in its new Brooklyn home.

The Islanders came out with purpose after losing their opening two games to the defending champion Blackhawks, one in overtime at home and the other in regulation in Chicago.

The Islanders outshot the Jets 16-6 in the opening period and had a 20-9 shots

advantage in the second. Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec made a number of key saves in the first as the Islanders had four power-play chances.

Ryan Strome banged in a rebound with a man advantage at 19:48 of the first, giving the Brooklyn matinee crowd a chance to launch the standard "Yes! Yes! Yes!" chant. Tavares and Kyle Okposo assisted on Strome's first of the season.

Canucks 2, Ducks 1 (SO): Radim Vrbata and Alex Burrows scored in the shootout as Vancouver spoiled Anaheim's home opener.

Ryan Miller made 28 saves and Adam Cracknell scored in regulation for Vancouver, which beat the Ducks for just the third time in their last 12 meetings.

Sami Vatanen scored and Frederik Andersen stopped 24 shots for the Ducks, who are winless in the first two games of the season.

After the Ducks failed to score on a power play during their first taste of 3-on-3 overtime hockey, Vrbata and Burrows got stuttering, halting shots past Andersen, who stopped Burrows' shot before watching it trickle under him.

Flyers 1, Panthers 0: Michael Neuvirth stopped 31 shots for his first shutout in more than 3½ years, leading host Philadelphia past Florida.

Brayden Schenn scored to help the Flyers win for the first time in three games this season.

Neuvirth replaced Steve Mason after Florida scored four goals in a 7-1 vic-

tory Saturday night. Mason left the team Monday because of unspecified personal reasons, giving Neuvirth the chance to shut down the Panthers from the opening face-off. He had his first shutout since March 11, 2012, against Toronto.

Philadelphia coach Dave Hakstol won for the first time in the NHL game after spending 11 seasons coaching North Dakota. The college-to-pros move in the NHL is a rare one. Hakstol was the first to make the jump since Bob Johnson went from Wisconsin to the Calgary Flames in 1982.

Sabres 4, Blue Jackets 2: Rookie star Jack Eichel scored a hustling unassisted goal as Buffalo beat visiting Columbus to give coach Dan Bylsma his first victory with his new team.

Eichel, the former Boston University player selected No. 2 overall in the June draft, bodied off Boone Jenner in a loose-puck battle, kept the puck in the offensive zone, wheeled to his forehand and ripped a shot over goalie Sergei Bobrovsky to give Buffalo a 3-1 lead at 9:21 of the third period. Eichel has two goals this season.

Rasmus Ristolainen, Ryan O'Reilly and Matt Moulson had power-play goals for Buffalo. Moulson added two assists, and Chad Johnson made 21 saves to help Buffalo rebound after losing its first two games of the season.

Scott Hartnell and Brandon Saad scored for Columbus, and Bobrovsky stopped 29 shots. The Blue Jackets are 0-3.