

# STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, October 14, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## US at risk of entering Yemen civil war

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The direct U.S. entry into Yemen's civil war, for now a limited response to rebel missile fire on a U.S. Navy ship, risks a wider entanglement that could leave the next American president embroiled in a yet another unwanted Middle East war with broad implications for the region and beyond.

Obama administration officials from the White House, Pentagon and State Department all argued that Thursday's cruise missile strikes on radar sites controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels were strictly a self-defense measure and not an escalation in military involvement.

The potential consequences of more American military action — and even possibly inaction — could affect the stability

of the long-standing U.S.-Saudi relationship; maritime security in an area where Iran has shown increasing interest; and last year's landmark nuclear deal with the Islamic republic.

The U.S. is already involved in the conflict indirectly through its support of the Saudi-led coalition fighting the rebels on behalf of the Yemen government. And the willingness to move from proxy to active combatant, even in self-defense, opens the door to a greater role.

It has happened before. Despite a deep reluctance, President Barack Obama has expanded the U.S. military footprint in Iraq and Syria to confront the threat posed by the Islamic State group. In Yemen, the administration's actions have previously been confined to drone strikes against al-Qai-

da's affiliate there and logistical support to the Saudis. Strikes against Houthi targets are the first of their kind.

It appears the Houthis lashed out at the United States with missile fire against the USS Mason in the Red Sea in retaliation after warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition struck a funeral in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, last weekend that was attended by senior rebel figures. The devastating airstrikes killed nearly 140 people, most of them civilians.

The missile fire from the Houthis missed the American ship, but chief of naval operations Adm. John Richardson said, "Enough was enough," and the Navy was ordered to launch five missile strikes.

State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner said the sites "were specifically tar-

geted in order to take out or in some way limit the ability for the Houthis to carry out these strikes."

Shortly after the missile strike, two Iranian warships began steaming toward the Gulf of Aden on Yemen's southern coast. Although ostensibly deployed as part of a regular anti-piracy patrol, the timing suggested it was aimed at sending a signal to the U.S.

"We are prepared to respond if necessary to any future missile launches," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said.

Iran says it backs the Yemeni rebels but denies arming them. U.S. officials have held open the possibility that the Houthis may have captured some missiles from Yemen's army, but they have also made clear Iran is supplying them as well.

## Senior officials review possible medal upgrades

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's search to make sure that modern war heroes are appropriately recognized has reached a new phase, with senior service officials meeting to review the cases of hundreds of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

The process, directed by Defense Secretary Ash Carter, started early this year and could lead to numerous cases in which heroes of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are retroactively awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for combat valor, or service cross medals that are considered one step lower. The effort follows a review called for by then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in 2014 after years of criticism that acts of bravery after the Sept.

11, 2001, attacks were not getting attention they were due.

The Navy and the Marine Corps became the latest of the services to review past valor cases by convening an 11-member joint board Oct. 12 at Quantico, Va. It is led by a Marine general and includes three Marine colonels, three senior Navy officers, and two enlisted servicemembers from each service, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post. The board is expected to review dozens of cases in which the Navy Cross and Silver Star — the nation's second- and third-highest awards recognizing combat valor — were awarded for potential upgrade.

The other services have launched similar efforts. The Army, the largest service, es-

tablished a three-phase process in which acts of heroism that could receive higher recognition are forwarded to boards with progressively higher-ranking soldiers reviewing the cases, said Wayne Hall, an Army spokesman.

The process of reviewing valor awards is typically secretive, with little acknowledgment for what a servicemember may receive until a decision is reached. The Medal of Honor requires a positive recommendation from the service involved and the defense secretary, and approval from the president. Service crosses require approval by the service secretary.

Navy officials said in a statement, "In accordance with the Secretary of Defense's directive, the Department of the Na-

vy's review is in progress." The Marine Corps acknowledged a board has been convened this month.

The cases of several service members who were denied the Medal of Honor have proven controversial. In one of the best known, Army Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe received a Silver Star for repeatedly scrambling Oct. 17, 2005, into a burning Bradley Fighting Vehicle in Samarra, Iraq, to pull fellow soldiers to safety. He suffered devastating burns and died a few weeks later. Cashe's battalion commander at the time, now-Brig. Gen. Gary M. Brito, later said he did not realize the extent of the danger Cashe was in when he nominated him for the Silver Star, and has pressed to have the award upgraded.

## New \$440M Navy vessel set to arrive in Detroit

Associated Press

MARINETTE, Wis. — The city of Detroit will soon welcome a new \$440 million naval vessel that will be commissioned during a ceremony after a week of festivities and tours.

The USS Detroit is scheduled to arrive in its namesake city by Friday and to be commissioned Oct. 22, The Detroit News reported.

The Freedom-class ship is part of a new breed of naval vessels and is designed to work in shallow waters and to operate with speed and agility. It's created to be modified quickly to take on different missions.

The idea for the vessel first came about after the 9/11 attacks, when the Navy held a design competition for an innovative kind of focused-mission ship.

Ben Capuco, chief naval architect with Gibbs & Cox Inc.,

the firm that designed the ship, said previous Navy ships have carried the Detroit name but that none has moved like the new vessel.

"This is a very unique vessel in terms of its combination of speed, flexibility and maneuverability," he said.

However, critics believe the vessel might not be what the Navy needs at the moment due to the changing environment; there's concern for its "survivability" in combat.

The makeup and design rely on avoiding fire more than sustaining it. The weaponry includes a 57 mm deck gun, a missile system and preventives that will help deflect attack.

"The Navy's execution of the program has been a matter of congressional oversight attention for several years," said Ronald O'Rourke, an independent specialist in Naval affairs, in a combat ship report.

## Navy officer guilty in growing bribery case

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Navy lieutenant commander on Thursday admitted to providing inside information to a Malaysian defense contractor nicknamed "Fat Leonard" whose ship-supply company overbilled the maritime branch by at least \$35 million in a mushrooming case involving nearly a dozen Navy officers so far, many of whom were bought off with prostitutes.

Supply and logistic officer Lt. Cmdr. Gentry Debord pleaded guilty to a federal charge of conspiracy to commit bribery Thursday in federal court in San Diego.

His attorney Robert Schlein said his client has accepted responsibility for his actions and Schlein found him to be a "very open, honest and professional

guy" in the seven months they worked together. He added that most of the offenses were committed when Debord was a junior officer.

"It's a complex set of facts in this case," Schlein said. "It involves a variety of people and he would be someone on the lesser end of that involvement."

Prosecutors said Debord regularly requested that Glenn Defense Marine Asia executives arrange prostitutes for him during port visits in Asia in exchange for helping the company.

GDMA officials described Debord in emails as "sex crazed" and said he swallowed the bribes, "hook, line and sinker," according to instant messages quoted in the plea agreement.

## Aegis defensive system proves to be effective

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In about 90 seconds Wednesday, the Navy's Aegis Combat System proved its value and saved the USS Mason from a missile strike.

During the attack, the ship's defensive system detected, tracked and intercepted the incoming cruise missile and destroyed it, two Pentagon officials told Stars and Stripes on the condition of anonymity.

"We actually saw an explosion," one official said, relaying what has been reported to the Pentagon from the Mason.

The incident took place about 6 p.m. local time Wednesday off the coast of Yemen, where the Mason and the USS San Antonio, an amphibious transport dock ship, were cruising the Bab el Mandeb Strait, a narrow waterway that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf Aden.

Since March 2015, Yemen has been controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who are fighting a Saudi-led coalition getting logistical assistance from the United States. Subsequently, the strait had seen

several strikes during the past two weeks.

On Oct. 1, an HSV-2 Swift, a catamaran-like, fast-moving, littoral ship owned by the United States and leased by the United Arab Emirates, was badly damaged by a cruise missile fired from Yemen.

On Oct. 8, an airstrike killed at least 140 civilians and wounded hundreds more at a funeral in Sanaa, Yemen's Houthi-controlled capital. Saudi Arabia denied responsibility for the strike. Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said Thursday that the United States did not assist in last Saturday's funeral strike.

On Sunday, the Mason again was cruising the strait when its defensive system detected two cruise missiles fired from a Houthi-controlled coastal area of Yemen, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The Mason's AN/SPY-1D radar detected the incoming missiles launched from a site in Yemen about 30 miles from the Mason, and the Aegis system fired missiles in response. The Mason was not hit by either missile, but the Navy is not certain whether its defensive system stopped the first

incoming missile or it just fell into the sea about 12 miles from the ship. The second missile fired at the Mason fell about 9 miles from the ship, one of the officials said.

On Wednesday, during the second attack on the Mason, the Aegis system detected and tracked the missile, and the ship's crew responded and destroyed it, the officials said. In general terms, as soon as radar identifies an object moving toward the ship as an inbound missile, the Aegis system provides options to the ship commander.

"You have about 90 seconds from saying, 'Yes, that's a missile' and launching a response, one of the officials told Stripes.

The cruise missile was about 8 miles away from the Mason when it was destroyed Wednesday, the official said.

The effectiveness of Aegis on Wednesday provided a battle test for the defensive system, proving it can defend ships, the official said. "There's a lot more faith, a lot more confidence in the ability of Aegis," he said.

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## Hurricane relief effort in Haiti enters new phase

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — An international relief effort for victims of Hurricane Matthew entered a more advanced stage Thursday as a second U.S. military ship arrived off Haiti's coast and U.N. convoys and non-government organizations began reaching more isolated communities.

Food, clean water and construction materials have begun pouring into the southwestern peninsula, though many people there still say they've seen little or no aid.

Those working to send everything from water purification systems to building materials said the scope of the damage from Matthew and the difficulty reaching people create logistical challenges similar to those faced after the devastating earthquake that struck the crowded capital and surrounding areas in January 2010. But while the death toll from last week's storm is in the hundreds, the Haitian government has said the earthquake killed more than 300,000.

"There's just so much to do, not to make it more than the earthquake, but it's so widespread, it's everything across the board," said Chris Bessey, the country representative for Catholic Relief Services.

The Haitian government says more than 1.4 million people urgently need humanitarian assistance. The official death toll is 473, though local officials have reported figures suggesting it eventually will be higher, and the homes of more than 120,000 families were damaged or destroyed. Many people across the ruggedly scenic peninsula have watched passing aid trucks in growing frustration.

"I'm looking at my life and I don't know what to do. It seems like somebody is getting help but it is not us," said Watson Hypolite, 66, in the badly-hit Grande Anse district of Beaumont as trucks with the logos of the U.N. and International Organization for Migration, guarded by peacekeepers,

passed him on a mountainous gravel road.

But amid the challenges, the relief effort has risen visibly in recent days. Teams from the Haitian Red Cross and the Civil Protection agency have fanned out across the peninsula and large convoys from the U.N. and the migration agency are seen more throughout the disaster zone. On Wednesday, the U.S. military made 13 helicopter flights to hard-to-reach areas with 159 metric tons of food supplies, the U.S. Agency for International Development said.

On Thursday, USAID announced more than \$12 million in additional humanitarian assistance to aid hurricane-stricken communities. David Harden, head of humanitarian assistance for the U.S. agency, said the package of short-term relief for Haiti includes \$7 million for food and \$3 million for emergency relief supplies. USAID also will ship in 38 metric tons of chlorine to help provide clean water, a critical issue to fight a spike of cholera.

Harden said the U.S. is also looking into long-term assistance in coordination with the Haitian government and other partners but the details have yet to be determined.

"We are good neighbors and we are good partners and I would expect that we would expect to be there in the medium and long term," he said.

Harden said the Hurricane Matthew relief effort was akin to the situation faced during other major disasters such as the Nepal earthquake in April 2015 or the Philippines typhoon in November 2013, both of which also had much higher death tolls.

The amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima arrived off the coast of the widely affected city of Jeremie to serve as a mobile helicopter base and logistics hub to bring supplies and construction assistance to the southwestern peninsula. It will relieve the USS Mesa Verde, which arrived shortly after storm started hitting the peninsula Oct. 3 and 4.

## US-led coalition ups airstrikes on Mosul

Associated Press

KHAZIR, Iraq — The US-led coalition is increasing airstrikes in and around the militant-held city of Mosul as Iraqi ground forces build up ahead of a planned operation to retake the city, it said in a statement Friday.

The coalition said its planes had conducted more than 50 airstrikes against the Islamic State group in the Mosul area over the past two weeks.

"We have been intensifying our efforts in and around Mosul," said Col. John Dorrian, a spokesman for the US-led coalition.

Iraqi ground forces are moving into place to the south and

east of Mosul. While Qayyarah air base to the south of Mosul remains the main base of operations, Iraqi army convoys, including a unit of the country's elite special forces, could be seen traveling to frontline positions to the east of the city.

"All the troop movements now are related to the Mosul operation," said Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Firas Bashar, stationed at an Iraqi army base in Makhmour.

The operation to retake Mosul is expected to be the most complex yet for Iraq's military. Iraqi and coalition forces say some 30,000 troops will be needed to retake the city that has been under Islamic State control for more than two years.

## NC governor: Flooded historic town to get help

Associated Press

TARBORO, N.C. — As flooding has begun to ease on North Carolina's rivers, allowing some people to return to their homes, the governor is pledging help rebuild and protect one of the country's oldest towns chartered by African-Americans.

Gov. Pat McCrory on Thursday made an aerial tour of Princeville after it was inundated by floodwaters for the second time in less than 20 years. This week's flooding was spawned by Hurricane Matthew. Princeville also was inundated in 1999 during Hurricane Floyd.

The governor said National Guard troops have been sent to Princeville with high-water vehicles to ensure no one loots stores or steals from vacant homes.

"I want to let them know we will be with you, and we'll do everything we can to help you rebuild this city," McCrory said. "And also, steps need to be

taken where this won't happen again in the future."

McCrory said the flooding may be worse than Lumberton is experiencing farther south.

The flooding triggered by heavy rain from Matthew — which killed more than 500 people in Haiti — has left at least 38 dead in the U.S.

McCrory said the number of statewide power outages continues to drop, down to about 44,000 from a peak of more than 800,000 Sunday. He reported the state's death toll climbed to 22.

But McCrory said flooding is still a major problem in poor areas in the eastern part of the state.

"It's a surreal experience to see this on a sunny day," McCrory said.

Floyd roared ashore on Sept. 15, 1999, not long after another hurricane saturated the state. Two days later, the rising Tar River engulfed Princeville in water 20 feet deep near the town hall.

# Trump denies knowing accusers

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Donald Trump contends he doesn't know and never even met some of the women accusing him of sexual assault, and his running mate said Friday the campaign is working on producing evidence that the claims are false.

Trump, himself, has called his accusers "horrible liars" and said he will prove the allegations aren't true, but Hillary Clinton and ally Michelle Obama said Americans are learning more about Trump's unacceptable behavior every day.

"We can't expose our children to this any longer, not for another minute, let alone for four years," the first lady told Clinton supporters at a rally in New Hampshire. In a passionate address Thursday, Obama said that after years of working to end "this kind of violence and abuse and disrespect ... we're hearing these exact same things on the campaign trail. We are drowning in it."

In an appearance Friday morning on Fox News, Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence blamed the news media for what he characterized as an obsession with "unsubstantiated" claims by Trump's accusers.

"There will be more evidence coming out" to prove Trump's innocence, Pence said. Asked what evidence he was talking

about, Pence said, "The campaign is working on bringing that information out." He did not elaborate.

Trump was cheered at rallies Thursday in Florida and two appearances in Ohio, states central to his campaign. He is campaigning Friday in another crucial state, North Carolina.

Clinton has no rallies planned Friday, but President Barack Obama planned to campaign for her in Ohio.

The allegations against Trump dominated the campaign Thursday. Four women have told publications detailed stories about encounters with Trump that ended with groping, kissing and other unwanted sexual advances.

"These vicious claims about me, of inappropriate conduct with women, are totally and absolutely false. And the Clintons know it," Trump said Thursday in Florida. He offered no evidence discrediting the reports except to ask why his accusers had waited years and then made their allegations less than a month before the election.

His defense appeared undermined by a video that surfaced last week in which he bragged about kissing and groping women without their permission. Similar behavior was detailed by women who accused Trump in articles published late Wednesday by The New York Times and the Palm Beach Post.

Separately, a People magazine reporter offered a first-person account accusing Trump of attacking her in 2005 while she was in Florida to interview him and his pregnant wife.

The New York billionaire denied the allegations and blamed them on Clinton's campaign and a complicit news media. He promised to sue his media critics and said he was preparing evidence that would discredit his female accusers, whom he called "horrible people. They're horrible, horrible liars." For her part, Clinton said "the disturbing stories just keep on coming."

Trump's attacks came after campaign manager Kellyanne Conway earlier in the week highlighted a Clinton tweet that said "every survivor of sexual assault deserves to be heard, believed, and supported." Conway hoped to encourage more women to come forward with allegations against Bill Clinton, building on the campaign's decision to bring three of the former president's accusers to the second presidential debate.

"His campaign is promising more scorched-earth attacks. Now that's up to him," Hillary Clinton said during a San Francisco fundraiser. "He can run his campaign however he chooses. And frankly, I don't care if he goes after me."

## Hawaii airline weight policy is criticized

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaiian Airlines executives had a dilemma: Their planes were burning more fuel than projected on their regular 2,600-mile route between Honolulu and American Samoa.

Various factors for increased fuel use, like winds, were ruled out. So the carrier asked passengers on the twice weekly flights if they wouldn't mind being weighed before boarding.

The results of the six-month, voluntary survey found that, on average, the passengers and their carry-on bags were 30 pounds heavier than anticipated, and it prompted a new policy: Passengers are no longer allowed to pre-select their seats on flights between Hawaii and the U.S. territory.

Instead, they are assigned seats when they check in for their flights at the Honolulu and Pago Pago airports to ensure that weight is evenly distributed around the jets' cabins.

But the new policy has prompted complaints and claims people from American Samoa are being targeted because of their weight.

"What they're saying is Samoans are obese," said Atimua Migi, who was seeing off his father, Mua Migi, at Honolulu International Airport Monday for the nearly six-hour flight to Pago Pago, American Samoa's territorial capital.

"That's an entirely incorrect assumption," responded Jon Snook, Hawaiian's COO.

Snook said he was surprised to see headlines worldwide about the issue, and said many media reports were inaccurate in saying that the airline was assigning seats based on passenger weight.

Using the results of the survey, airline officials found that if adults all sat in one row of the plane, the combined weight of those passengers might exceed load limitations in crash-landing situations, Snook said.

## Email: Clinton tried to shift Ill. primary

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton's campaign tried to move the Illinois presidential primary to a later date, saying a contest held after the Super Tuesday primaries might stop momentum for a moderate Republican candidate and emphasizing that Clinton and her husband "won't forget" a political favor, emails made public on Thursday show.

A November 2014 email hacked from the accounts of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta was among nearly

2,000 new emails published by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks. The email, from future Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook to Podesta, said Obama administration officials should use their connections in the president's home state to try to push back the March 15 Illinois primary by at least a month.

"The overall goal is to move the IL primary out of mid-March, where they are currently a lifeline to a moderate Republican candidate after the mostly southern Super Tues-

day," Mook wrote. "IL was a key early win for (GOP presidential candidate Mitt) Romney" in 2012.

While the request would come from Obama, the president and former Illinois senator, "the key point is that this is not an Obama ask, but a Hillary ask," Mook said.

"The Clintons won't forget what their friends have done for them," he added. Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, famously gave special attention to allies considered "friends of Bill."

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police hunt for meth owner using Facebook

**KS** CHERRYVALE — Police in the tiny town of Cherryvale, Kan., looking to track down the owner of an abandoned gram of crystal meth have taken their case to social media.

A bag with methamphetamine was found Sept. 29 at a convenience store in the community of 2,300 people. So Cherryvale police politely posted about it on the department's Facebook page.

The post reads: "We are very concerned and would like to find the owner so please notify us and describe the packaging and we will see what we can do for you."

It's been shared nearly 1,700 times. But police Chief Perry Lambert said no one has come forward as the owner — though he said he's hopeful.

## Woman fears addict stole, ingested mother's ashes

**MA** BROCKTON — A Massachusetts woman whose mother's ashes were taken from her vehicle fears an addict stole and ingested them thinking they were drugs.

Carolyn Parker told The Enterprise of Brockton that the ashes were in a plastic bag inside a small white box in her glove compartment. They were taken from her unlocked Jeep on Monday.

She said the thief took only the ashes, leaving behind her expensive sunglasses, \$20 in change and a gold chain hanging from her rearview mirror.

Her mother died in July. Parker, 48, had the ashes in her vehicle so she could spread them at her mother's favorite spots.

## Bakery accused of racism over pastry

**OR** PORTLAND — A Portland bakery is being accused of racism for selling an Oreo cupcake they named "Mr. President."

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that customers have been leaving Yelp reviews criticizing Fat Cupcake for its "Mr. President" pastry. The cupcake is described as an Oreo Cookie baked inside white cake with buttercream.

Owner Anjelica Hayes said she is black, so the cupcake cannot be racist. She said they originally named the cupcake because it was so good they wanted it to hold public office. She later found out President Barack Obama's favorite cookie was the Oreo.

For now to avoid the controversy Hayes has renamed the cupcake "the Professional."

## Lecturer apologizes for KKK comparison

**VA** CHARLOTTESVILLE — A lecturer at the University of Virginia has apologized after comparing the Black Lives Matter movement to the Ku Klux Klan on social media.

The Daily Progress reported that adjunct lecturer Douglas Muir apologized after responding to a Facebook post about Black Lives Matter, calling the movement the biggest racist organization since the KKK. In a statement on Oct. 11, Muir said his actions were wrong and apologized to his students and the community.

Muir agreed to take a leave from the school three days after posting the comment.

University spokesman Anthony de Bruyn said the school did not take disciplinary actions against Muir, an adjunct

lecturer at both the engineering and business schools. He is expected to return to his classes Monday.

## Baby dies when stroller crashes into shaft

**NY** NEW YORK — Police said a 6-week-old baby has died after a stroller crashed down a Brooklyn elevator shaft.

The New York Police Department said a woman was waiting with the stroller on the 23rd floor of an apartment building at about 11:40 a.m. Thursday.

The doors opened, and she stepped forward, but the elevator was not there.

The baby was pronounced dead at Coney Island Hospital.

## 12-year-old brings live ammunition to school

**MA** WEST SPRINGFIELD — Police said a 12-year-old boy is facing criminal charges on suspicion of bringing bullets to his school last month.

Chief Ron Campurciani told The Republican newspaper the boy brought three live rounds of 9 mm ammunition to the middle school on Sept. 27.

The chief said the boy also used an online messaging app to threaten a student who turned him in and said that if he had a gun, he would use it on kids who gave him a hard time.

Police said the boy got the bullets from his older brother, a legal gun owner.

## Hallucinations spur hospital quarantine

**OR** COOS BAY — A hospital in Coos Bay has lifted a quarantine of its emergency room after a 78-year-old patient, her caregiver, two sheriff's deputies and a hos-

pital employee all developed hallucinations.

The Coos Bay World reported Wednesday that authorities have not pinpointed what caused the episodes, but they believe it was something spread by direct contact.

The bizarre incident began at about 3 a.m. when the elderly woman's caregiver called authorities to say people were vandalizing her car.

A responding deputy found nothing. The caregiver called back at 5:30 a.m. and was taken to the hospital after deputies decided she needed medical help.

Later, the two deputies who helped the caregiver, the caregiver's patient and a hospital staffer all developed symptoms.

## Video shows judge trying to restrain man

**MI** JACKSON — A Michigan judge who threw off his robe and helped restrain a defiant man in his courtroom said he was concerned about the safety of the man and a court officer.

The incident involving Jackson County Circuit Court Judge John McBain took place in December during a hearing about a personal protection order violation. McBain had just ordered the man to jail, but the man resisted efforts by the officer to handcuff him.

McBain told the Jackson Citizen Patriot that the man was "totally disturbing the decorum of the court." The newspaper published video of the confrontation online.

Jackson County Chief Circuit Judge Thomas Wilson said, "A judge has the power to take whatever action is necessary to maintain order in the courtroom."

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Dodgers' Kershaw closes out Nationals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A little past midnight in Game 5 of the NL Division Series, Clayton Kershaw emerged from the bullpen to pitch in relief for the first time in seven years.

Two outs later, the only save of his major league career in the books, Kershaw's arms were raised and teammates were rushing to celebrate with a guy whose postseason performances have never carried the luster of his regular-season success.

Coming in after closer Kenley Jansen entered in the seventh inning and threw a career-high 51 pitches but issued a pair of one-out walks in the ninth, Kershaw got Daniel Murphy to pop out, then struck out Wilmer Difo to end it.

That finished the Los Angeles Dodgers' dramatic 4-3 victory over the Washington Nationals that decided their NLDS in the wee hours of Friday.

"The adrenaline rush was pretty good right there," said Kershaw, who approached Dodgers manager Dave Roberts in the seventh inning to offer to pitch if need be on the

must-win occasion.

"At the at the end of the day, if we don't win that game, we're going home, anyway, so what does it matter?" Kershaw said. "I just wanted to be available, and it ended up to the point where I could help out tonight."

The Dodgers won the last two games of the best-of-five NLDS with Kershaw pitching in each and now head to the NL Championship Series to face the Chicago Cubs. That opens at Wrigley Field on Saturday night.

The Nationals, meanwhile, still have never won a postseason series, winning three NL East titles in the past five years but losing in the NLDS each time.

And while there's no way Kershaw will be available for Game 1 against Chicago, one thing's for sure: Whatever notion there might have been about the lefty's playoff problems — he was 2-6 in the postseason until this series, with an ERA nearly twice what he has in the regular season — is now a thing of the past.

"That (criticism) is ridiculous," Dodgers President Stan

Kasten said, his dress shirt soaked with alcohol from the postgame festivities. "That's why I said to him, 'Dude, you're Mr. October.'"

Kershaw worked two days after throwing 110 pitches over 62/3 innings in Game 4, when he had the benefit of only three days' rest following his win in the opener against the Nationals.

"Nobody wants it more than him — his tireless work ethic and how much he competes. And just for him to go up and tell them, 'Hey, I can come in and close this thing out if you need me,' just says so much about the type of player he is," said Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner, whose two-run triple in the seventh helped LA build its lead. "He's a winner. He's a champion."

How unanticipated was this work as a reliever? Several hours before Thursday's game began, Dodgers first-year manager Dave Roberts was asked whether Kershaw might be available at all — maybe just for one out, say?

"No," came Roberts' reply. "Absolutely not."

Turned out the three-time NL Cy Young Award winner would get a pair of outs in his first relief appearance since the 2009 playoffs.

"Clayton came to me in the seventh," Roberts explained, "and said that he had an inning if I needed it."

Kershaw came in after Jansen got a career-high seven outs. Jansen walked Bryce Harper and Jayson Werth with one out in the ninth — and that's when Roberts went to Kershaw.

Kershaw wound up with his second pro save. His other came on Aug. 19, 2006, in the Gulf Coast League in a game against the Nationals' rookie club.

LA's scoring all came in a four-run seventh off six Nationals pitchers, including Joc Pederson's homer off Max Scherzer.

"It's the craziest game I've ever been a part of," said Scherzer, who took a no-hitter into the fifth. "We just didn't get it done. No one's a goat. No one made a crucial misplay. Everybody stepped up and did their game. We just didn't get that extra run."

## Cubs' Lester gets start for Game 1 against LA

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jon Lester is all set for Game 1 of the NL Championship Series on Saturday night. The rest of the Chicago Cubs' rotation depends on the health of Kyle Hendricks.

Hendricks left Game 2 of the Division Series against San Francisco when a comebacker went off his right forearm in the fourth inning. He had a bullpen session Thursday, and the Cubs are waiting to see how he feels before confirming the major league ERA leader for Game 2 on Sunday night.

"Just find out where Kyle is. Just making sure that he's healthy," manager Joe Maddon said. "He threw today. You always wait a little bit to find out if there's any after-effect of that and then you make your determination. But that's about it, just health."

Hendricks is coming off a breakout season, going 16-8 with a 2.13 ERA this year that included a 9-2 record and 1.32 ERA in

15 home games.

Assuming Hendricks comes through the bullpen session just fine, he likely would be followed by Jake Arrieta in Game 3 and then John Lackey. The four playoff starters combined for 64 of Chicago's major league-leading 103 wins this season, and it sounds as if the Cubs feel they will be OK no matter how it shakes out.

"I have a lot of faith in our guys. They've been doing it all year," Maddon said on a brisk day at Wrigley Field. "They're absolutely rested going into this moment, so I feel very strongly about our starting pitching."

The only major question for Chicago is its NLCS roster.

"We debated 11 pitchers versus 12 a lot before that last series, and I'm sure that'll be the same debate," general manager Jed Hoyer said before Los Angeles' win. "Which way we end up going I'm not sure. There was parts of the last series that pushed for both, really. There were moments that you

were glad you had the extra position player. There were moments you wanted the extra pitcher."

Chicago was nearly pushed to a decisive Game 5 by San Francisco, but the Cubs rallied for four runs in the ninth inning of their series-clinching 6-5 win on Tuesday. Asked how much he had watched that ninth inning, a chuckling Hoyer responded "a lot."

"It was great. I thought the purpose of our guys' at-bats was really wonderful," Hoyer said. "They all had a plan."

The Cubs also made it to the NLCS last year and then managed just eight runs and 21 hits in a sweep by the New York Mets. But they are hoping momentum from the rally against the Giants, their experience from last year and home-field advantage will lead to a different result this time around.

"I do have a lot of faith in our guys," Maddon said. "I'd like to believe that just getting to this next moment might chill everybody out even a little bit more."

# Rivers, Chargers hold off Broncos

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Chargers eased a lot of pain with their 21-13 victory over the Denver Broncos.

Philip Rivers threw for 178 yards and one touchdown, passing Hall of Famer Dan Fouts to become San Diego's career passing leader, and the Chargers held off the Broncos.

The victory may have saved embattled coach Mike McCoy's job and it snapped a streak of 10 straight losses in the AFC West dating to 2014.

Most importantly, the Chargers figured out how to finish a game in which they had a late lead.

"There is nothing like winning," a misty-eyed McCoy said. "Especially beating a good football team in front of our home fans. It was great."

Of course, these being the Chargers (2-4), they still extended nervous time right down to the final gun.

Denver's Brandon McManus kicked a 46-yard field goal with 27 seconds left, and Denver recovered the onside kick at its 46. It got to the San Diego 45 with 8 seconds to go before Trevor Siemian's desperation pass was batted down by Dexter McCoil.

"You can't take winning for

granted in this league," defensive end Corey Liuget said. "When I saw it said 0:00 and that guy didn't catch that ball, I was happy. I got on my knee and said, 'Thank you, Lord. It's over now.'"

Here are some takeaways from the game:

**Riverboat Mike:** McCoy has been under fire for his conservative approach, particularly late in games, and clock-management issues.

He went for it on fourth-and-1 from the Denver 20 early in the second half, with Melvin Gordon going over the top for a 1-yard gain. Rivers misfired on two straight passes and was flushed on third down, forcing the Chargers to settle for Josh Lambo's 37-yard field goal for a 10-0 lead.

McCoy improved to 25-31 overall in four seasons. The Chargers were coming off a mistake-filled loss at Oakland, and earlier in the season lost three games in which they led at the 2-minute warning. The Chargers are trying to convince voters to approve a \$1.1 billion public handout for a new downtown stadium in the form of an increase in the hotel occupancy tax.

The victory "meant a ton for Mike," Rivers said. "It wasn't

talked about a lot on the team but veteran players ... I felt it. Not that I expected it if it didn't go well. I had no idea but you also you are not playing dumb. We knew we had to get this thing going in a hurry."

**Finally finishing:** What changed from those brutal losses, when the Chargers blew late leads? "It was a mindset for us to go out there and finish, and everyone knew we were going to finish this game," Liuget said.

They need to keep it up. Their next two games are at Atlanta and at Denver. San Diego has lost 10 of its last 11 road games.

**Broncos' boss:** The defending Super Bowl champion Broncos were coached by special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis after head coach Gary Kubiak was ordered by doctors to sit this one out because of a migraine condition that mimics strokes.

"I'm sick to my stomach because I hate to lose," DeCamillis said. "We've got a lot of grit and determination. We'll bounce back."

**Rolling Rivers:** Rivers, in his 13th season with the Chargers and 11th as starter, has 43,094 career yards passing. Fouts threw for 43,040 yards in 15

seasons with San Diego.

"This was one was definitely special," Rivers said about passing Fouts. "Making it even more special was wearing the uniforms we had. That color blue was what they wore back in that era when Dan was playing."

Rivers threw a 5-yard scoring pass to rookie tight end Hunter Henry to cap the game's first possession. Rivers finished 18-for-29.

Otherwise, the Chargers had to settle for Lambo's career-high four field goals of 37, 21, 31 and 32 yards, plus a safety.

**Late-firing:** The five-time defending AFC West champion Broncos (4-2) were mostly sluggish behind Siemian, who was back at quarterback after rookie Paxton Lynch struggled in a loss to Atlanta. They lost their second straight game and had their NFL-record 15 straight divisional road victories snapped.

"We didn't make the most of our opportunities, especially early in the game, but we showed a lot of resilience at the end. It was too little, too late," said Siemian, who was 30-for-50 for 230 yards, with a 5-yard scoring pass to Bennie Fowler midway through the fourth quarter.

## Running games key when Ohio State, Wisconsin meet

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin linebacker T.J. Watt would like a unique birthday gift this year.

A win over Ohio State might be more cherished than any present.

The second-ranked Buckeyes will visit Camp Randall Stadium on Saturday night in a Big Ten showdown, when the No. 8 Badgers hope they can make Watt's weekend extra special.

"A Big Ten game in prime time, I know they're going to be juiced up," Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett said.

Just like on Oct. 16, 2010, when Wisconsin handed then-No. 1 Ohio State its first loss of the season, 31-18. It was Watt's birthday weekend, and he was sitting in the stands as a spectator watching older brother J.J. Watt get two sacks for the Badgers.

"A lot of people say it was the loudest they have ever heard the stadium," T.J. Watt said.

Watt is following in the pass-rushing footsteps of his older brother and Houston Texans star, though he hasn't needed much advice.

"Just kind of lets me do my own thing right now," the

younger Watt said.

Whatever he's doing is working since Watt has 5½ sacks in Wisconsin's five games.

Ohio State is ranked fifth in total offense (537.6 yards per game) and third in scoring offense (53.2 points). The Buckeyes run for 323.6 yards per game, third-best in the country.

Wisconsin is allowing just 90.4 yards per game, the sixth-best run defense in the nation.

Some notes and other things to watch on Saturday night:

**Buckeyes pass:** Ohio State hopes to get its passing game going again after it sputtered

in last week's 38-17 win over Indiana. Barrett was just 9 of 21 for 93 yards, with one touchdown and an interception. Coach Urban Meyer cited communication, in part, as an issue. Barrett was focused this week on getting all 11 players on the offense in sync for every play.

**Clement time?:** Senior running back Corey Clement is Wisconsin's best breakaway threat, though he's waiting for his breakout game this year. Clement did have 111 yards on 21 carries against Akron before getting hurt. He's averaging 3.9 yards a carry, 2 yards less than his career average.

# Penguins outlast Capitals in shootout

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Marc-Andre Fleury spent the better part of the Pittsburgh Penguins' push to a fourth Stanley Cup watching from the bench while rookie Matt Murray backstopped the franchise to a title.

Yet rather than trade the winningest goaltender in team history in the offseason, the Penguins hung onto him, confident they could find a way to make their two-goalie tandem work.

Maybe they're right.

With Murray out with a broken hand, Fleury made 39 saves in regulation and overtime, then stuffed Washington star Alexander Ovechkin in the fourth round of a shootout as the Penguins edged the Capitals 3-2 in the season opener on Thursday night.

Fleury had a chance to end things after three rounds but let Nicklas Backstrom slip the puck past him and extend the game. Pittsburgh's Phil Kessel then beat Braden Holtby with a wrist shot initially ruled no goal before being overturned on replay and Fleury stuffed Ovechkin to help the Penguins improve to 5-0 all-time against Washington in openers.

"I didn't finish it out, so I was a little mad," Fleury said.

"It was nice to see (Kessel) put that in and I had a chance to redeem myself and finish it out."

Patric Hornqvist and Evgeni Malkin scored as the Penguins capped a celebratory night in which they lifted their latest Stanley Cup banner to the rafters during an electric pregame ceremony by tripping up one of their biggest rivals.

"It felt like a midseason game where you're in position and you pull one of those great wins off," Hornqvist said.

Andre Burakovsky scored twice for Washington and Holtby made 28 stops but allowed three goals in the shootout.

"Obviously they have a lot of energy coming off the ceremony and we've been waiting to play some meaningful games for a while here," said Holtby, who won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goaltender last season. "Two good teams and it always ends up in a pretty good game against them."

**Rangers 5, Islanders 3:** Chris Kreider scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 25 shots in the Rangers' victory over their Long Island rivals.

Michael Grabner, Mats Zuccarello, Brandon Pirri and J.T. Miller also scored for the Rangers at Madison Square Garden

in the opener for both teams.

**Panthers 2, Devils 1 (OT):** Aleksander Barkov scored at 2:48 of overtime to lift host Florida past New Jersey.

Barkov took a pass from Michael Matheson and one-timed the winner past Cory Schneider. Matheson knocked Damon Severson off the puck behind the net, then found Barkov unmarked in the right circle.

**Stars 4, Ducks 2:** Antoine Roussel scored the tiebreaking goal for host Dallas against Anaheim.

Roussel scored on a pass from Adam Cracknell 1:23 into the third period, 22 seconds after Andrew Coglian's second goal for the Ducks tied it at 2. Cracknell later added a goal.

**Lightning 6, Red Wings 4:** Tyler Johnson scored the go-ahead power-play goal off a nifty pass from Steven Stamkos midway through the third period and host Tampa Bay beat Detroit.

Johnson was positioned at the right circle and redirected Stamkos' feed past Petr Mrazek at 8:34 to put the Lightning up 4-3, just 5 seconds after Detroit was called for too many men on the ice.

**Canadiens 4, Sabres 1:** Brendan Gallagher scored twice, including a tip-in on Shea Weber's shot, in visiting

Montreal's victory over injury-depleted Buffalo.

Al Montoya made 30 saves in place of starter Carey Price, who was sidelined by the flu. Andrew Shaw, who was acquired in a trade with Chicago in June, and Torrey Mitchell also scored for Montreal.

**Jets 5, Hurricanes 4 (OT):** Mark Scheifele scored at 2:41 of overtime to give host Winnipeg a victory over Carolina in the opener for both teams.

After the Jets overcame a 4-1 deficit in the third period, Scheifele took a pass from captain Blake Wheeler and beat goalie Cam Ward.

**Bruins 6, Blue Jackets 3:** Brad Marchand had two goals and three assists and visiting Boston overcame a 2-0 first-period deficit to beat Columbus.

David Pastrnak had two goals and two assists, David Backes also scored twice and had an assist, and Tuukka Rask made 28 saves.

**Blues 3, Wild 2:** Nail Yakupov had a goal and an assist and Jake Allen made several big stops and finished with 18 saves to help host St. Louis beat Minnesota.

Alexander Steen and Magnus Paajarvi also scored, and Patrik Berglund had two assists.

Ryan Suter and Charlie Coyle scored for the Wild.

## LeBron: NBPA prioritizing help for retired players

Associated Press

NBA players are pushing for more money in the next collective bargaining agreement — for the players who came before them.

Cleveland Cavaliers superstar LeBron James, vice president of the National Basketball Players Association executive committee, told The Associated Press on Thursday the union has made getting aid for retired players a priority in their talks with NBA owners on a new deal.

The NBA and its players have agreed that the next CBA

will include new league-funded programs to help retired players with education and medical expenses, four people with knowledge of the situation told the AP. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because talks are ongoing.

In exchange for those programs, and pending full approval from both sides, the split of basketball-related income would remain the same "50-50" deal as it is in the current agreement.

Deciding on how to divvy up the revenue pie was the biggest obstacle that led to the

ugly lockout five years ago. But with that issue essentially taken care of this time around, negotiations have gone much smoother as both sides look to reach an agreement on a new deal before the Dec. 15 deadline to opt out.

For James, NBPA President Chris Paul and the rest of the union, taking care of those who are no longer playing is a worthy compromise for trying to recoup any of the financial ground lost during the 2011 labor dispute.

"We got a group of guys that are in there that know the ne-

gotiations, so any way to give back and try to help our former teammates and help former players and things of that nature," James said. "Because we've all built this league together. No matter how big of a guy you were or if you were the 15th guy on the bench, we all built this league into what it is today. But it's not just my idea. I'm not taking any credit for that. But it's all part of the process."

James stressed that the medical and education programs benefiting retirees were not his idea alone.