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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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DOD halts collection of Guard bonuses

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Amid growing public pressure, the Pentagon intervened Wednesday in the latest Army National Guard recruitment scandal by temporarily stopping the service from reclaiming wartime re-enlistment bonuses.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter halted the collection efforts and ordered a review of the service's bonus program by January, providing some relief for 6,400 soldiers and veterans from California who are being forced to repay the bonuses of \$15,000 or more given out during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. An additional 3,200 troops were also flagged but their cases had not yet been processed, meaning they too could face repayment, the National Guard Bureau said Wednesday.

The Pentagon move came after days of outcry from veterans groups, criticism from leadership in Congress and a newly launched probe by a House oversight panel. It was the second time Washington has intervened in a National Guard scandal over the past year — Congress in November banned its paid patriotism tributes at sporting events — and the latest in a string of recruitment controversies.

Carter said the Pentagon is aiming to resolve all of the California National Guard bonuses by July. The cases represent about \$40-\$50 million.

“Ultimately, we will provide for a process that puts as little burden as possible on any soldier who received an improper payment through no fault of his or her own. At the same time, it will respect our important obligation to the taxpayer,” Carter

said in a released statement.

His order did not address soldiers and veterans in other states who have also been ordered to repay bonuses that the National Guard believes were fraudulently or mistakenly given out.

Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the majority of bonus cases are in California.

The Army National Guard began paying re-enlistment bonuses in 2005 as it sought to boost troop numbers for the wars. Auditors later discovered fraud in 2012, triggering years of efforts to reclaim the payments, Lengyel said. Some soldiers and veterans said the service has used aggressive debt-collecting techniques and that repayments can add up to hundreds of dollars per month.

Congress was notified of the fraud problems after the audits, Lengyel said. But the

repayments triggered bipartisan outrage on Capitol Hill this week and lawmakers demanded that the collection efforts stop. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee launched an investigation by requesting the National Guard turn over all documentation on the bonuses.

“Everybody wants to make a strong statement. There's just a willingness to fix this and fix it ASAP,” said Tom Porter, the legislative director for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, who has been working closely with Congress on the issue.

Porter's group is also urging the Pentagon to permanently stop collections and pay service-members back.

Lengyel, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said most of the soldiers unintentionally broke the rules when they collected the bonuses.

Philippine president wants foreign troops out in 2 years

BY ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Wednesday he wants all foreign troops out of his country and may need to “revise or abrogate agreements,” which could include a base-sharing agreement with U.S. troops.

“I want, maybe in the next two years, my country free of presence of foreign military troops,” Duterte said during a visit to Japan. “I want them out.”

It was the latest rejection of the bilateral relationship by Duterte, who has bristled at what he perceives as President Barack Obama still trying to run the Philippines as a colony by interfering in his bloody drug war. He says he is being treated

like a “dog barking for crumbs” instead of a true ally.

Under Duterte's predecessor, the U.S. and the Philippines signed a deal in April allowing U.S. troops to use specific military bases in the Philippines.

Canceling the deal would undermine Washington's strategy of building networks with Southeast Asian countries to block Chinese expansion.

It would also deal a severe blow to Obama's plan to refocus U.S. military and diplomatic assets in East Asia after decades of deepening involvement in the Middle East.

During a speech at the Philippine Economic Forum in Tokyo, Duterte said the U.S. is a “great country” that has helped his nation “in many ways,” but also one that “lived off the fat of my

land.” He called for an end to U.S. assistance, even if his people have to pay a price.

“We will survive without the assistance of America — maybe a lesser quality of life — but I said we will survive,” he said. “There is one thing I'd like to prove to America, that there is such a thing as the dignity of the Filipino people.”

Duterte announced a “separation” from the U.S. while in Beijing last week, but later said he would not attempt to end the U.S.-Philippine security alliance, which requires the U.S. to come to his country's aid in the event of an attack.

Washington values access to Philippine bases for its global anti-terror efforts, and for their proximity to the South China Sea — a key global trading

area where China has militarized reefs claimed by several nations.

The U.S. remains popular in public opinion surveys, but so does Duterte, whose election this year came largely on an anti-crime platform.

Duterte said his China trip last week was only about economics and that military alliances were never mentioned.

However, he told reporters in Beijing that he might go to Russian President Vladimir Putin and tell him that “there are three of us against the world — China, Philippines and Russia. It's the only way,” according to Reuters.

That comment worried Japanese leaders, who said they would seek to clarify Duterte's intentions.

Mosul becomes a tale of two wars

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

BARTELLA, Iraq — The battle to push Islamic State militants out of Mosul, their last remaining stronghold in Iraq, could be described as a tale of two wars when viewed from the differing perspectives of U.S. and Iraqi forces.

And that is as it should be, according to U.S. officials from whom “it’s an Iraqi fight,” is a common refrain.

While some U.S. special operations forces are working directly with Iraqi and Kurdish peshmerga troops at the frontlines, most American personnel are at outposts farther back.

A razorwire-ringed compound, where a task force of 101st Airborne Division soldiers is helping Iraqi army and peshmerga fighters to coordinate their attacks, appeared relatively secure Tuesday. The most exciting thing happening there was a black and white video feed from unmanned aircraft beamed to a tent serving as a Joint Operations Center for the U.S., Iraqi and Kurdish forces.

Outside, a few Americans stood next to a couple of mortars while combat engineer Pfc. Neesy Sanders, 29, of Columbus, Miss., scanned the horizon over her machinegun from behind a sandbag. Nearby, Pfc. Juan Flores, 26, of Ontario, Calif., sat on a camp chair man-

ning a radio while Spc. Jordan Bryan, 21, of Milwaukee, and some other soldiers opted for the shade of armored vehicles.

But in the town of Bartella, which Iraqi elite forces liberated from the Islamic State on Saturday, the contrast was stark.

The road into Bartella, a Christian town, is strewn with shell casings and there are numerous craters where improvised explosive devices detonated. Dozens of the makeshift bombs and jerry cans full of home-made explosives neutralized by the advancing forces have been dumped on the side of the road.

Artillery thudded in the distance and jets screamed overhead.

There’s not much left of some of Bartella’s buildings but most are still standing and some are housing the Iraqi troops as they wait to push forward again.

“The Americans were helpful from the air,” said Col. Falah Alabaidi, commander of the so-called Golden Division soldiers in the town, the special operations troops. The airstrikes “target car bombs and groups of fighters.”

He stood in a church courtyard in front of a headless statue. To reach the church, the Golden Division cleared hundreds of roadside bombs, survived 17 car bombs and killed 120 enemy fighters, he said.

A captured Katyusha rocket

launcher sits in the cemetery behind the church. The Islamic State fighters have used some of the headstones there for target practice. They broke into a tomb and pulled the lid off a coffin belonging to someone named Hanna Eleas Hanoosh, who died in 1990, aged 65, according to an inscription. Alabaidi said the militants mess with the tombs because they object to Christian burial practices.

Alabaidi is a Muslim but said it’s his duty to protect all Iraqis, whatever their religion. The Golden Division, formed with the help of U.S. Special Forces in 2004, has every religious group in Iraq in its ranks, he said.

“The division’s commander is Kurdish. This guy is a Sunni and this guy is a Shiite,” he said, pointing to soldiers on his left and right.

Bartella is free of militants but there’s still a sniper nearby who makes travel down one road out of town unsafe.

Getting to newly freed villages east of Mosul involves driving over a one-lane bridge that peshmerga built for the offensive. The Islamic State had destroyed the original two-lane bridge as they retreated.

In one neighborhood the soldiers have set up artillery pieces and mobile rocket launchers. In another a tank sits in front of somebody’s house while black Golden Division Humvees,

trucks and armored personnel carriers are parked nearby.

In the nearby village of Karamlis there appeared to be fighting going on Wednesday with a plume of black smoke rising and Iraqi troops were quick to fire shots to warn off our approaching vehicle.

One of the division’s soldiers in Bartella, Sgt. Ahmed Faisal, 25, a Sunni from Baghdad said he joined up six years ago and fought in the battles to push the Islamic State out of Ramadi and Fallujah before the Mosul operation.

Since the Mosul operation started, Faisal said, he’s been in several fire fights with the enemy and all have been exciting.

“We are taking back these areas and giving them back to the Christians,” he said.

In fields near Bartella shepherds are rounding up sheep to be returned to owners who fled the Islamic State.

The sheep are herded to a checkpoint where the owners gather clutching papers proving ownership of the animals.

One of the men is Ahmed Eyob, 39, a Sunni Muslim who fled the nearby Bashika village when the Islamic State arrived two years ago. Eyob’s relatives stayed behind and looked after his flock of 20 sheep, he said.

“I love them all equally,” he said of the sheep but added that he’d kill one and have a party to celebrate their return.

Intel chief: Efforts to stop N. Korean nukes ‘a lost cause’

By **KIM GAMEL**
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Efforts to force North Korea to give up its nuclear program are “a lost cause” and the best that can be hoped for is probably a cap on its activity, the U.S. intelligence chief says.

James Clapper’s comments come as U.S. policy toward the North faces a possible turning point with the Nov. 8 election looming. Critics say a new ap-

proach is needed after years of punishing sanctions and diplomatic pressure have failed to stop Pyongyang from pursuing its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could target the U.S. mainland.

Tensions have risen sharply since North Korea conducted its fourth underground nuclear test in January, followed by an even stronger blast on Sept. 9. The isolated country also has test-fired about two dozen bal-

listic missiles, including two failed attempts last week.

“I think the notion of getting the North Koreans to denuclearize is probably a lost cause,” Clapper said Tuesday during a forum at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. “They are not going to do that. That is their ticket to survival.”

State Department spokesman John Kirby rejected Clapper’s statement, saying U.S. policy toward the North has not

changed.

“We want to continue to see a verifiable denuclearization of the peninsula,” he told reporters in Washington. “We want to see a return to the six-party talk process, and that means we need to see the North show a willingness and an ability to return to that process, which they haven’t done yet.”

Talks involving the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia broke down in 2009.

Afghan official: Taliban kill 26 they kidnapped

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban insurgents Wednesday killed 26 Afghan civilians after abducting them in the remote central province of Ghor the previous day, officials said, the latest brutal attack targeting the local population in one of the country's most lawless areas.

The slain civilians were from a group of 33 taken by the militants near the provincial capital of Ferozkoh, according to Ziauddin Saqib, the deputy provincial police chief. Earlier reports suggested 20 were killed but the death toll rose later in the day.

The abductions took place while battles were underway between the Taliban and Afghan security forces on Tuesday that saw two militant commanders killed, Saqib added. Both commanders were infamous figures in Ghor and were involved in many anti-government activities, Saqib also said, adding that the "cowardly insurgents killed innocent civilians in revenge for their commanders killed by security forces."

There was no immediate statement from the Taliban on the incident in the largely lawless Ghor. However, Abdul Hai Khateby, the spokesman for the provincial governor, said he is convinced the militants behind the attacks and abductions were a renegade Taliban group that had sworn allegiance last year to Afghanistan's Islamic State affiliate.

"The group is former Taliban who just a year ago announced their support to their Islamic State group and changed their white flag to black," Khateby told The Associated Press, speaking over the telephone from Ghor.

The two different statements could not immediately be reconciled. Khateby also said he believed the abductions and killings were in revenge for the deaths of the two commanders.

The civilians who were abducted are all poor people from the area, mainly villagers and shepherds, and there were even children among those taken, said Khateby.

US general: Syrian allies to lead assault on Raqqa

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces will lead the impending assault on Raqqa, the Islamic State group's stronghold in Syria, despite the objections of the Turkish government, a top U.S. general said Wednesday.

In the coming weeks, the SDF will move toward Raqqa, where its roughly 30,000 troops will work with other local forces to isolate and attack the terrorist organization in the city, said Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the commander of the counter-Islamic State coalition. SDF commanders will plan the operation with advice from American and coalition troops.

The campaign will begin "pretty soon," Townsend said, without providing a specific time.

The battle for Raqqa will overlap with the ongoing fight to push the Islamic State group from its final stronghold in Iraq — Mosul. It was not clear Wednesday what role, if any, Turkey will have in the Raqqa offensive. The Turkish government has long expressed a desire to participate in the city's liberation and has been instrumental in recently clearing the Islamic State group from a long portion of its border with Syria. But Turkey has told the U.S. that it will not participate if the largely Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces are involved.

Beginning the offensive is urgent, Townsend said, based on intelligence reports that the Islamic State group is planning terrorist attacks from Raqqa. The general said the U.S. would continue to negotiate and plan with Turkey, but he was adamant that only the SDF, which in addition to the Kurdish YPG includes Syrian Arabs and others, is prepared to defeat the Islamic State group.

"The only force that is ca-

Activists seeking casualty data

The Washington Post

Airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition appear to have killed hundreds of civilians in Syria, a leading rights group said Tuesday, urging the Pentagon to share more information about alleged civilian casualty incidents.

Following a detailed study, Amnesty International concluded that a series of attacks from September 2014 to July 2016 had killed at least 300 people. Some of the raids by the United States and its allies, the group said, may have violated international humanitarian law.

"Our understanding is that there have been far greater civilian deaths than have been accounted for," said

Neil Sammonds, a Syria researcher with Amnesty. "For the most part it doesn't look as if they've done adequate, thorough investigations, so we would like to be assured that they would be done."

Amnesty provided the findings to the Pentagon in a memo in September, but has received no response, the group said. U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in Syria and is responsible for examining civilian casualty allegations, said it was examining the allegations linked to the 11 purported incidents, which Amnesty selected because they were seen to be particularly clear-cut instances of civilian deaths.

pable on any near-term timeline are the Syrian Democratic Forces," Townsend told reporters Wednesday at the Pentagon during a video briefing from Baghdad. "We think there's an imperative to get isolation in place around Raqqa."

The SDF and the local forces that it is recruiting around Raqqa should be a force large enough to expel the Islamic State group from Raqqa, he said. Nonetheless, Townsend expects the operation in Syria will likely last longer than the assault on Mosul, which U.S. officials have said could take several months.

The general said the 10-day-old operation in Mosul has gone as planned, for the most part. More than 30,000 Iraqi security forces, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and other local units have moved within miles of the city, backed by more than 2,100 bombs, rockets and artillery rounds launched by the coalition at Islamic State group tar-

gets. Townsend said the ground forces have "a lot of momentum" as the Iraqi troops are close to entering the city where they anticipate a brutal urban battle with the roughly 5,000 militants that they believe are still there.

The ongoing civil war in Syria will complicate the Raqqa offensive and could cause the battle for the city to last longer, Townsend said. Syrian regime forces backed by Russian troops are battling opposition forces in close proximity to the coalition forces preparing to attack terrorists in Raqqa.

"All these things overlap right there, and it is extraordinarily difficult," Townsend said.

There are about 300 U.S. special operators in Syria. The general left the door open to sending more American troops to Syria, saying he was confident he would be provided the necessary assets to defeat the Islamic State group.

Trump halts campaigning to laud hotel

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's campaign is defending his eyebrow-raising decision to spend precious campaign time promoting his business in the final days of the long presidential campaign as his poll numbers sink.

With less than two weeks left before Election Day, the Republican candidate took a break from full campaigning Wednesday to formally open his new hotel in Washington. Meanwhile, he dispatched running mate Mike Pence, to play political defense in Utah, which hasn't backed a Democrat for president in 52 years. Trump's hotel stop follows a visit Tuesday to another of Trump's properties, Doral golf course outside Miami. The odd travel schedule less than two weeks before the Nov. 8 election illustrates a Republican ticket pulled in two directions while Democrat Hillary Clinton surges.

Trump's campaign manager defended the stops, arguing that Clinton took time

off to prepare for the debates and that stops at Trump's hotels highlight his business experience. "Hillary Clinton took five days off to prepare for one debate and everyone looked at that as some kind of noble exercise," Kellyanne Conway said, on NBC's "Today" show. "He's got the most active campaign sked of the two candidates by far."

Still, Trump's hotel visits dominated the campaign news Wednesday at a time when Republicans see reports of rising Obamacare premiums and the hacked email of a Clinton campaign staffer as far more potent political arguments.

Clinton, meanwhile, has turned some of her focus to the post-election period, describing the difficulty of unifying the country after a divisive race. Deep in transition planning, people familiar with her effort say Clinton plans to impose strict ethics rules on how lobbyists may participate in her effort.

"What Trump has done is to make it possible for people who had racist, sexist, and

all kinds of prejudices and bigotry to put them right out there," Clinton said on the "Breakfast Club," a syndicated radio show based in New York City. "I'm not going to be able to wave a magic wand and change everybody's thoughts."

Trump's hotel appearance comes amid signs that his presidential campaign has hurt his corporate brand. Rooms at the overhauled \$212 million hotel that bears his name at Washington's Old Post Office Pavilion have been heavily discounted and smartphone data suggest fewer people are visiting his properties compared to rival venues nearby.

At Doral, employees, many of them Hispanic women, offered testimonials Tuesday about how happy they are working for him — touting Trump's job-creating prowess. He also promoted the workers as examples of people affected by rising "Obamacare" premiums, though the golf course's general manager later clarified that most workers receive their insurance through Trump as their employer.

Thoughtless Halloween costumes draw ire

The Washington Post

Until recently, for \$3.99 plus shipping, consumers could purchase an item called "Razor Blade Suicide Wound Latex Costume Make Up" from Wal-Mart's online store.

It offered exactly what was in the description. Judging by the social media outcry, few people will wear it trick-or-treating this Halloween. The mock gashes simulating a suicide attempt were, according to a Change.org petition that ran over the weekend, "not a joke, not a costume, and not funny." The wound makeup was also indicative of a wider trend of treating mental illness as a scary Halloween curiosity.

The retail giant agreed to pull the product. "This costume is appalling and it was unacceptable for a third-party seller to list it on our marketplace," said Wal-Mart in a statement, according to WABC 7.

Along with collecting candy and carving pumpkins, pointing out racist, offensive or ill-conceived costumes has become something of an annual Hal-

loween tradition. Colleges and universities have entered the fray this year, cracking down on outfits that stereotyped or sexualized minorities.

In early October, the University of Florida sent out a reminder it had a 24-hour phone line for counseling, should anyone be troubled by a costume. The university also issued a warning: "Also, keep in mind that social media posts can have a long-term impact on your personal and professional reputation."

That is true even if the costumes are not worn, but discussed. In December 2015, a Yale University lecturer resigned after penning an email in a measured defense of students' choice to wear costumes that were "a little bit inappropriate or provocative or, yes, offensive."

More recently, Brock University in Ontario, Canada, issued a costume protocol for its annual Halloween party. The guidelines, according to the Brock University website, were designed to pay respect to "stories and experiences of marginalized groups." Outfits barred from the party included religious headdresses,

Day of the Dead makeup or "any costume of Caitlyn Jenner."

The shortlist of controversial costumes in 2016:

■ Clowns. In Mississippi's Kemper County, wearing a clown costume will carry a \$150 fine until Nov. 1, thanks to an ordinance approved in mid-October by the Kemper County Board of Supervisors.

New York American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Rowland disagreed with the Mississippi county's prohibition, arguing that most outfits were protected as speech under the First Amendment. It was "a ridiculous use of government authority," Rowland told the AP, "to dictate which Halloween costumes people can wear."

The county joined several high schools and school districts around the country, from California to New Jersey, that have banned clown costumes following the wave of "creepy clown" sightings.

■ Maui from Disney's "Moana." The Polynesian demigod Maui, who will be played by Dwayne Johnson in the upcoming animated movie "Moana,"

was depicted in a costume released by Disney in September. The costume, a full-body suit that included tribal tattoos and fake brown skin, was met with derision and anger on social media, as The Washington Post reported.

Disney stopped selling the Maui costume just a few days later, telling CNN in a statement, "The team behind Moana has taken great care to respect the cultures of the Pacific islands that inspired the film, and we regret that the Maui costume has offended some."

■ Kidnapped Kim Kardashian. In the wake of a robbery at gunpoint at the beginning of October, the normally prolific social media star Kim Kardashian went quiet.

That did not stop costume retailer Costumeish.com from offering, euphemistically and fleetingly, the \$69.99 "Parisian Heist Robbery Victim Costume Kit."

The costume, which included a mouth gag and black wig, was removed from the Web store on Oct. 11.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police arrest jumping, dancing, naked driver

MA SPRINGFIELD — Police in Massachusetts have arrested a Connecticut man they say got out of his car naked and started jumping and dancing in the street after striking a curb and getting a flat.

Springfield police said an officer on patrol spotted a speeding car with its lights off running stop signs at about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The vehicle failed to negotiate a turn before striking the curb and blowing out the tire.

The driver eventually complied with verbal commands to get on the ground so officers could handcuff him. He was taken to the hospital for an evaluation.

Police said Dereck Dent, 30, of Enfield, Conn., faces several driving charges and was wanted on several warrants.

City trying to find cause of neighborhood stink

NE SOUTH SIOUX CITY — City officials are trying to determine what's causing a horrible odor that's forced some residents to leave their South Sioux City neighborhood.

City Administrator Lance Hedquist said the sewage odor is coming from 15 houses in a five-block area. An estimated 40 people live there. Hedquist also said a "horrific" odor is coming from the Big Ox Energy plant about 2 miles away.

Denmark, Wis.-based Big Ox is a renewable energy firm that converts organic industrial waste into methane gas. A company official didn't immediately return a call Monday from The Associated Press. Hedquist said Big Ox and the neighborhood share the same sewer line. He said he thinks

the problem may be faulty plumbing drain traps that are supposed to stop sewage odors from escaping.

\$300K worth of drugs seized from a home

AK BETHEL — Authorities have arrested seven people following a drug bust that resulted in an estimated \$300,000 worth of heroin and crack cocaine being seized from a Bethel home.

The Thursday raid was the result of an ongoing investigation by the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit and Bethel police. The Department of Public Safety reported that officers had posed as buyers and purchased drugs from the suspects as part of the undercover investigation.

Authorities said they recovered more than 47 grams of heroin, more than half a pound of crack cocaine and \$64,000 in cash from the Bethel home.

Those arrested include four men and one woman from Bethel, one man from nearby Quinagak and two California men.

Teen crashes stolen SUV onto house, dies

GA ATLANTA — Officials said a teen has died after crashing a stolen SUV on top of a house in southwest Atlanta.

The Fulton County Medical Examiner's office told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Terrell King, 16, of Stone Mountain, died of his injuries Wednesday. Police said King had been speeding Oct. 18 when he lost control. The vehicle went airborne, tearing down tree limbs and power lines before coming to a halt with the back half of the SUV propped against the roof of a home.

King was ejected from the

vehicle and found unconscious. No one else was injured in the wreck.

Checkers closes after worker's viral video

PA PHILADELPHIA — A Checkers restaurant in Philadelphia was shut down and several employees were fired after a worker posted a video describing how he wiped the floor and blew his nose using hamburger buns and spit and sneezed on food, and he claimed workers were having sex with customers in the kitchen.

The drive-thru on Stenton Avenue remained closed Tuesday morning. A manager said he planned to reopen the restaurant on Thursday.

The Checkers corporation went into immediate crisis mode after learning the video had gone viral over the weekend.

"The employees involved will be terminated. The restaurant will be fully sanitized and re-inspected before it opens and all of the team members will be fully retrained," said a statement released by Checkers' media relations department.

Deputy stabbed with needle during arrest

MS FLORENCE — A Rankin County deputy was stabbed with a needle while trying to arrest a suspect in Florence.

News outlets reported that the incident happened Saturday after deputies responded to a domestic dispute in which Don Summerlin, 39, was accused of attacking two women. Sheriff Bryan Bailey said Summerlin left the scene before deputies arrived.

After he was spotted and stopped, authorities said Summerlin acted like he was going

to flee and then reversed his vehicle into a patrol car. Deputies then attempted to arrest Summerlin.

During the arrest, Bailey said, Summerlin pulled out a hypodermic needle and stabbed the deputy. Both were taken to the hospital for testing.

Authorities: Skydiver dies after hitting sign

IL WEDRON — Authorities said a person has died while skydiving in Illinois.

The LaSalle County Sheriff's Department said in a statement that the male skydiver drifted off course on Sunday and struck a large sign in the Wedron area, where his parachute became entangled. He was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The skydiver's name wasn't immediately released.

Woman who led police on chase had pipe bomb

NM SANTA FE — Authorities said a Santa Fe woman led police on a chase in a stolen vehicle that had a pipe bomb inside.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported that officers were able to disarm the pipe bomb and arrest Jamie Tippett, 22, on Saturday night. Police said an officer was responding to a vehicle crash with his emergency lights and siren on when he got stuck behind Tippett, who had refused to yield.

The suspect then took off, and other officers located her near an intersection, at which she refused to pull over. She was taken into custody after running over a spike strip.

Lt. Sean Strahon said Tippett reported getting the vehicle from a friend and said she didn't know where the pipe bomb came from.

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Kluber shuts down Chicago in Game 1

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Corey Kluber and the Cleveland Indians are off to a pitch-perfect start in the World Series.

The Chicago Cubs, meanwhile, fell completely flat in their first appearance since 1945.

Kluber dominated into the seventh inning, Roberto Perez had four RBIs with a pair of home runs and the Indians beat the Cubs 6-0 in Tuesday night's opener of a highly anticipated matchup between the teams with baseball's longest championship droughts.

"It's almost like you have that extra level of intensity," said Kluber, who became the first Series pitcher to strike out eight batters in the first three innings.

AL Championship Series MVP Andrew Miller escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the seventh and stranded runners at the corners in the eighth, preserving a three-run lead and delighting the sellout crowd of 38,091 in Cleveland's first-ever Series home opener.

"The atmosphere in the World Series is so great," Miller said. "You can't help but get caught up in it and enjoy it."

The Indians pitched their fourth shutout in nine games this postseason. After stifling two dangerous lineups in Boston and Toronto during the AL playoffs, Cleveland shut down a hard-hitting Cubs team that scored 23 runs against

the Dodgers in the final three games of the NLCS.

Back in the Series for the first time since 1997, the Indians scored twice in the first off October ace Jon Lester.

Perez hit a fourth-inning solo shot and added a three-run drive in the eighth against Hector Rondon, becoming the first Cleveland player and the only No. 9 batter to homer twice in a Series game.

"Oh, I don't think I've ever had a night like that," Perez said.

He has three home runs in 27 at-bats during the postseason after hitting three in 153 during the regular season.

"I've come a long ways," Perez said.

Francisco Lindor added three hits as the Indians improved to 8-1 this postseason. Cleveland manager Terry Francona is 9-0 in the Series, including sweeps by his Boston teams in 2004 and '07.

The Game 1 winner has taken the title in the last six Series and 17 of 19.

"I have no concerns," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

"It's the first game. I'm fine. We're fine."

Trevor Bauer, trying to come back from a sliced pinkie caused by a freak drone accident, starts Game 2 for the Indians on Wednesday night against Jake Arrieta. Because the forecast called for an increased chance of rain later in the evening, Major League Baseball took the extraordinary

step of moving up the first pitch by an hour to 7:08 p.m.

Kluber painted the corners, and 24 of his 59 strikes were called by plate umpire Larry Vanover. Twelve batters were caught looking, including seven Cubs.

"I think his ball was moving too much today," said Perez, Cleveland's catcher. "We got guys off balance the whole night."

Kluber combined with Miller and Cody Allen to fan 15 — two shy of the Series record for a nine-inning game — and Chicago went 2-for-15 with 10 strikeouts with runners on base.

With the Indians hoping for their first title since 1948 and the Cubs seeking their first since 1908, Lester stumbled in the opening inning.

He entered 3-0 with a 0.43 ERA in three Series starts and got his first two outs on five pitches before Cleveland loaded the bases with two outs. Jose Ramirez had a run-scoring swinging bunt single and Brandon Guyer was hit by a pitch — he led the majors with 31 during the regular season.

"There is an importance on small ball, but you can't try to hit a swinging bunt. That's a little bit of good fortune," Francona said. "Then Guyer got hit, which he is really good at."

Perez connected in the fourth for a 3-0 lead.

"When you're going against a guy like Kluber who's locked in from pitch one, to give up two in the first, that makes it tough,"

Lester said.

Teams that combined for 174 seasons of futility, America's biggest droughts since the Great Plains' Dust Bowl of the 1930s, captivated even many non-baseball fans.

On a night of civic pride, LeBron James and the NBA's Cavaliers received their championship rings next door prior to their season opener, and Cleveland hosted a World Series opener for the first time.

The Cubs had not played in the Series since five weeks after Japan signed the Instrument of Surrender ending World War II.

Kluber, whose win in the All-Star Game gave the AL home-field advantage in the Series, improved to 3-1 in the postseason and lowered his ERA to a sparkling 0.74.

He was pitching on six days' rest, and his two-seam fastball darted through the strike zone. Kluber struck out nine in six innings and walked none.

Kyle Schwarber, making a surprise return in his first big league game since tearing knee ligaments on April 7, doubled off the right-field wall in the fourth — a drive kept in by a stiff wind on a 50-degree night. Kluber then got Javier Baez to fly out.

"I'm confident. I know our guys are, too," Schwarber said. "We put up good at-bats against those guys today. We just didn't come up with a knock when we needed to."

Cubs ace Lester is only ordinary in opener

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Chicago Cubs lavished Jon Lester with a \$155 million contract in the winter of 2014 precisely for moments like the one he faced Tuesday.

On the road. Under the lights. In Game 1 of the World Series, with a chance to take a big step toward ending 108 years of franchise futility.

And for the first time on baseball's biggest stage, Lester faltered. While his performance in Chicago's 6-0 loss to the Indians was hardly a meltdown, the left-

hander managed just 5²/₃ ordinary innings when something significantly more was required to keep up with Cleveland ace Corey Kluber.

"Jonny pitched — wasn't on top of his game, but really gave us a chance to win," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

The Indians didn't so much knock Lester around while sending him to his first World Series setback in four starts so much as they took advantage of the limited opportunities he gave them during a shaky first inning. Cleveland opened a two-run

lead that felt considerably larger the way Kluber was dealing.

Lester took the mound having allowed just one run in 21 innings in the World Series during a career that includes a pair of championship rings he earned with the Boston Red Sox. By the time he got the final out of the first, Cleveland had doubled that total.

"I just didn't execute some things out there tonight," he said. "Maybe if they get out of the first with nothing, maybe things are different."

Spurs rout Warriors, ruin Durant's debut

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kawhi Leonard and the San Antonio Spurs put on such a basketball show they sent the Golden State fans to a rare early exit. What a strange sight at Oracle Arena for opening night and Kevin Durant's long-awaited Warriors debut.

Leonard scored a career-high 35 points and the Spurs emphatically spoiled KD's first game for Golden State in a 129-100 rout Tuesday that the Warriors could hardly believe had just happened.

"We got punched in the mouth," Draymond Green said. "I don't know if it was quite a bad thing for us."

Durant had 27 points and 10 rebounds, but little looked in sync for MVP Stephen Curry and the reigning Western Conference champs in a forgettable first game — and quite a different one after the Warriors dominated at home and came out of the blocks last season with a record 24-0 start.

Leonard scored 31 points by the end of the third, LaMarcus Aldridge added 26 points and 14 rebounds and Gregg Popovich thoroughly outdid a couple of his close friends on the opposite bench in reigning NBA Coach of the Year Steve Kerr and top assistant Mike Brown.

Yes, San Antonio sent quite a message to the West.

"If there was an outcome I wasn't expecting, it was this one," San Antonio's Manu Ginobili said. "A 29-point lead against a team like them? I truly didn't expect it."

Curry, last season's unanimous MVP, scored 26 points but was just 3-for-10 from three-point range. Green had 18 points, 12 rebounds and six assists, while Klay Thompson was limited to 11 points on 5-for-13 shooting.

The Warriors were sloppy, committing 16 turnovers, and got outrebounded 55-35. They are clearly still finding themselves just as Kerr expected — though maybe not quite like this.

"No, I didn't see losing by 29 points," Kerr said. "It's going to be an ugly tape to watch. ... I think our guys were embarrassed tonight. I know I was."

San Antonio exhibited smooth, crisp ball movement and looked polished in a game that had a playoff feel on Day 1.

Two-time Defensive Player of the Year Leonard shot 10-for-21 and made all 15 of his free throws.

Jonathon Simmons came off the bench to score a career-high 20 points, including a three to beat the halftime buzzer for a 64-46 advantage.

Green dunked off a pass from Curry early in the third to get Golden State within 10, only to pound his chest and yell before being hit with a technical.

The Warriors had flurries of greatness trying to get back in it. San Antonio answered each time — like when Golden State pulled within 50-42 in the second quarter before the Spurs closed the half on a 14-4 run.

"It's a nice little slap in the

face," Curry said. "First game you want to come out and protect your home court and have the energy of the home opener live throughout the game. We didn't do anything to let that happen."

Durant made a 14-footer 65 seconds into the game and hit his first four shots. But he didn't have much help early.

San Antonio led 31-20 after the first, when the Warriors shot 7-for-20 with four baskets by Durant. Golden State's other players were 3-for-15, and the Warriors got outrebounded 17-9.

"What we can't do is let these games pile up," Durant said. "We can't panic. It's Game 1 of 82."

Golden State plays at New Orleans on Friday to begin a stretch of three straight on the road and four of five away from Oracle.

Cavaliers celebrate, then stomp Knicks

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James took time to reflect as the Cleveland Cavaliers raised their championship banner.

Then it was business as usual.

James had his 43rd career triple-double, Kyrie Irving scored 29 points and the Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks 117-88 on Tuesday night in the NBA season opener.

James scored 19 points and added 11 rebounds and 14 assists in front of a raucous home crowd that was on its feet from the pregame ceremony until late in the game, celebrating the city's first championship in 52 years.

"It was great to have a moment like that," he said. "It was difficult to focus on the game but we did a great job, especially in the second half."

James, who got choked up while speaking to the crowd

before the game, continued his perfect record on ring nights. He was 2-0 when the Miami Heat players were presented with their championship rings.

"There were so many emotions," he said. "To see us win the finals and tonight being that last exclamation point to receive your ring in front of your fans was a great moment."

Irving scored 19 points in the third quarter, when Cleveland used a 20-4 run to take a 74-53 lead. Kevin Love scored 23 for the Cavaliers.

Carmelo Anthony led New York with 19 points and Derrick Rose had 17.

Cavaliers guard Iman Shumpert was taken to the locker room late in the third quarter with concussion-like symptoms after colliding with Kristaps Porzingis. Cleveland coach Tyrone Lue said Shumpert was undergoing tests to determine the extent of the injury.

Cleveland's players, coaching staff and front office personnel also received their championship rings in the pregame ceremony, and the sellout crowd chanted Lue's last name.

"That was a really good feeling," he said. "It was great to be a part of it."

The basketball game was only part of a big night in town. The Cleveland Indians played Game 1 of the World Series against the Chicago Cubs across the street at Progressive Field.

The Knicks, who missed the playoffs the last three seasons, are expecting major improvement after acquiring Rose from Chicago to run the offense and signing center Joakim Noah, who was scoreless in 21 minutes.

"We will improve, I guarantee it," Anthony said. "There are just so many moving parts right now. We need to get bet-

ter, but we're not running from that fact."

Trail Blazers 113, Jazz 104: Damian Lillard scored 39 points and Portland extended its winning streak in home openers to a league-record 16 straight games with a victory over Utah.

CJ McCollum added 25 points for the Blazers, who trailed 83-77 at the start of the fourth quarter. They were still down 102-99 with under 5 minutes left before McCollum made a pull-up jumper and three-pointer to give Portland a 104-102 lead.

Lillard made a pair of free throws before nailing a three-pointer that put Portland up 109-102 with 1:02 left and the Jazz couldn't catch up.

Joe Johnson scored 29 points in his debut with the Jazz and Rodney Hood added 26, including a rim-rattling dunk in the third quarter.

Crosby rallies Pens in season debut

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Penguins captain Sidney Crosby is just happy to be playing hockey again.

His teammates feel the same way, as a goal from Crosby in his first appearance of the season was all the Penguins needed to overcome a slow start.

Crosby jump-started a comeback as the Pittsburgh Penguins rallied from an early two-goal deficit to beat the Florida Panthers 3-2 on Tuesday night.

“We started off behind the 8-ball there getting down, but we stayed in it and had a big second half,” Crosby said.

Crosby, who scored on the power play, missed the team’s first six games with a concussion.

Carl Hagelin and Eric Fehr also scored for the Penguins, who extended a seven-game unbeaten streak against the Panthers.

Marc-Andre Fleury, who has started the first seven games

of the season for Pittsburgh, stopped 20 shots. Matt Murray, who backstopped the Penguins to a Stanley Cup in June, served as the backup to Fleury after missing the first six games with a broken hand.

Wild 5, Bruins 0: Devan Dubnyk made 27 saves, Charlie Coyle and Chris Stewart scored 12 seconds apart and visiting Minnesota used four second-period goals to beat Boston.

Ryan Suter and Jason Zucker each had a goal and an assist for Minnesota, and rookie Joel Eriksson Ek got his first three NHL assists.

Devils 5, Coyotes 3: Travis Zajac scored twice in the final 2:01 to lead host New Jersey over Arizona.

Taylor Hall also scored twice for the Devils, who are 3-0-0 at home and 0-2-1 on the road.

Lightning 7, Maple Leafs 3: Steven Stamkos matched a career-high with four points — two goals and two assists — and visiting Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Red Wings 4, Hurricanes 2:

Dylan Larkin scored two goals to lead host Detroit to its fifth consecutive win.

Flames 4, Blues 1: Brian Elliott stopped 23 shots in his return to St. Louis, Johnny Gaudreau and Sam Bennett each had a goal and an assist to lead Calgary.

Elliott was traded from St. Louis to Calgary in June, and the 17,337 in attendance serenaded Elliott with chants of “Moose,” his nickname, on his first couple of saves.

Flyers 4, Sabres 3 (SO): Claude Giroux and Jake Voracek scored shootout goals to cap a fantastic Philadelphia rally in a win over visiting Buffalo.

Trailing 3-1, Brayden Schenn and Mark Streit scored the tying power-play goals with 3:05 left in regulation.

Stars 3, Jets 2: Antti Niemi made 28 saves and host Dallas beat Winnipeg to salvage the last game of a home stand. Brett Ritchie, Patrick Eaves and Tyler Seguin scored for the Stars.

Senators 3, Canucks 0:

Ryan Dzingel scored two goals and Craig Anderson made 22 saves for his first shutout of the season and the 34th of his career for visiting Ottawa.

Anderson entered play with a 3.66 goals-against average and an .866 save percentage, but was flawless as Ottawa (4-2-0) opened a three-game road trip through western Canada with a solid defensive effort.

Sharks 2, Ducks 1 (OT): Marc-Edouard Vlasic scored less than 90 seconds into overtime to lift host San Jose over Anaheim.

Joe Pavelski also scored for the Sharks, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Kings 3, Blue Jackets 2: Alec Martinez scored 1:14 into overtime, and host Los Angeles rallied to beat Columbus for its third straight victory.

Drew Doughty scored the tying goal with 5:57 left in regulation for the Kings, who won their third straight overtime game after an 0-3-0 start to the season.

Giants release Brown over abuse reports

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants released placekicker Josh Brown on Tuesday, six days after police documents revealed Brown admitted to repeatedly abusing his former wife while they were married.

The move came shortly after the player issued a statement insisting that he never hit his wife during a six year period when he admits spousal abuse.

Giants President John Mara says the team’s beliefs, judgments and decisions were “misguided” in how it handled its relationship with Brown. He indicated the Giants did not know the full extent of Brown’s problem until last week.

“We hope that Josh will continue to dedicate himself to rehabilitation, and to becoming a better person and father,” Mara said in a statement. “We will continue to support him in his efforts to continue counseling, and we hope that Josh and his family can find peace and a positive resolution.”

It is not immediately clear whether

Brown will receive the rest of his \$1.26 million salary.

Brown was previously suspended for the opening game of the season for violating the league’s personal conduct policy after the NFL investigated his arrest in May 2015 for spousal abuse against his now ex-wife, Molly. Brown was accused of grabbing his wife’s wrist as she tried to reach for a phone, causing a contusion and bruising. He was not charged by local authorities in the case in Washington state.

But documents released by the King County Sheriff’s Office, including journals and emails, detailed a history of abuse far greater than Brown acknowledged when he spoke about being disciplined before the season started.

“I have taken measures to get help so that I may be the voice of change, not a statistic,” Brown said Tuesday. “It is important to share that I never struck my wife, and never would. Abuse takes many forms, and is not a gray area. Through the past several years I have worked to identify and rectify my own behaviors.”

Two days after the admissions became public, Brown was placed on the commissioner’s exempt list on Friday while the league considered further discipline. The league said it tried but failed to get more details from authorities after Brown’s arrest. Molly Brown declined to speak to league investigators, saying she did not trust that the NFL had her best interests at heart, according to a police report.

The documents showed Brown’s wife told investigators that the abuse and other threatening behavior stretched from 2009, when she was pregnant with their daughter, to the Pro Bowl in January 2016. She alleged that during that time he shoved her into a mirror, breaking it, and that he shoved a chair into her leg, bruising it, according to the report.

At the Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Brown’s wife said she called NFL security to move her and her three children to another hotel to avoid harassment from her estranged husband. She said he pounded on their hotel door seeking to get in.