

STARS AND STRIPES®

Friday, October 28, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Trump, Clinton split on plans for defense

Candidates' views on military's present status, future path at odds

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump calls the U.S. military “depleted.” It urgently needs more planes, ships, troops and nuclear weapons, he says, to ensure American predominance in the world.

Hillary Clinton has a much different view of military challenges facing the next president. Her prescriptions are largely echoes of the Obama administration. She begins with the argument that the U.S. military already is head and shoulders above any competitor and does not require a major overhaul.

Here's a summary of their proposals:

Bigger military?

Trump: Echoing concerns of many Republicans, Trump argues that the military is too small to accomplish its assigned missions. He would increase the size of the active-duty Army to 540,000. The current total is 475,000 soldiers, which is due to shrink to 460,000 by the end of the current budget year in September 2017. He also would put the Navy on track to increasing its active-duty fleet to 350 ships, compared with the current Navy plan of growing from today's 272 ships to 308 sometime after 2020.

He has not said how he would pay for these increases, other than calling for an audit of the Pentagon's books and economizing in broad ways like “reducing duplicative bureaucracy.”

Clinton: The former secretary of state has offered fewer specifics in her defense plan. Her emphasis has been on

military innovation rather than military growth. Her website says she would “invest in innovation and capabilities that will allow us to prepare for and fight 21st-century threats.” She has offered few details, however, while making broad promises like “modernizing” the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Air Force and sharpening America's ability to defend itself against cyber intrusions and attacks.

Nuclear weapons

Trump: He has asserted that the U.S. military has fallen dangerously behind Russia in nuclear capability. This does not square with the facts, and Trump has demonstrated only a limited knowledge of U.S. nuclear weapons.

The implication of his remarks is that he would endorse the Obama administration's embrace of a complete modernization of the nuclear arsenal, and perhaps even accelerate it. He has suggested that the nuclear arms treaty negotiated by the Obama administration during Clinton's tenure at the State Department, known as New START, has put the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage.

Clinton: This is one of the few areas of defense policy where the Democratic candidate has been specific about her intentions. She has defended the New START treaty as benefiting the U.S., and she has promised that early in her presidential term she would undertake a top-to-bottom review of the nation's nuclear weapons requirements and capabilities. That could set the stage for changes more significant than any President

Barack Obama has made. For example, Clinton has told her supporters that she sees little need for a new-generation nuclear-armed cruise missile, which the Obama administration has supported as part of a broader nuclear modernization program.

Defense budget

Trump: He has said he would work with Congress to repeal what Washington calls “sequestration,” or across-the-board budget cuts. Without that repeal, or other legislative action to stabilize the defense budget, Trump would have little or no room for the kinds of increased spending he has proposed.

He has promised, for example, to invest unspecified amounts in a “serious” missile defense network to protect the United States from potential long-range missile strikes from North Korea and Iran.

Clinton: She has emphasized eliminating sequestration for defense and non-defense spending. Like Obama, she has argued that American military strength requires not just a big defense budget but also a commitment to strengthening alliances like NATO and building partnerships with countries that are not treaty allies.

She has promised “good stewardship of taxpayer dollars,” said she would put a high priority on “curbing runaway cost growth” in military health care and pledged “defense reform initiatives.”

Defeating Islamic State

Trump: He says his administration would “crush and de-

stroy” the Islamic State group, arguing that his approach would be more aggressive and more effective than Obama's. The outlines of his plan, however, are similar to what the Obama administration has been trying to do. Trump says he would pursue “international cooperation to cut off” the extremists' funding, expand intelligence sharing with allies and partner nations, and use cyberwarfare to “disrupt and disable their propaganda and recruiting.”

Clinton: She has called for intensifying the air campaign in Iraq and Syria but has not said how that would be done, including whether it would require deploying more U.S. troops.

She also has advocated increasing the flow of arms to local Arab and Kurdish forces in Iraq and Syria, and she has broken with the Obama administration by calling for the establishment of “safe zones” for civilians in Syria that would be protected by U.S. and coalition air power. Like Trump, she says more can be done to interrupt the extremists' use of the internet to communicate and to recruit new fighters.

What of Afghanistan?

Neither candidate has said much about one of the most vexing problems that will face the next president: What to do about Afghanistan, where Obama tried but failed to end U.S. military involvement and where the government, after 15 years of fighting of the Taliban, currently controls only about two-thirds of the country's population.

Number of bonus cases still not known

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The National Guard and Pentagon on Friday still could not say how many soldiers in the United States might have their wartime re-enlistment bonuses reclaimed, despite claiming days ago that cases outside of California only number “in the dozens.”

A Pentagon spokesman said the Defense Department had not finished compiling the figures from all states and territories. The chief of the National Guard Bureau, which promised Wednesday to release the number of affected soldiers to Stars and Stripes, said Friday that it was still working to compile the information.

Both have said the efforts to recollect bonuses of \$15,000 or more and education benefits

from soldiers are mostly confined to California.

The Army National Guard caused public outrage earlier this week when reports revealed it might reclaim the re-enlistment bonuses of nearly 10,000 soldiers from California who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 100 House members wrote a letter Wednesday saying the National Guard has confirmed bonus overpayments occurred in every U.S. state and called for legislation to provide relief.

Peter Levine, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said Wednesday the number of cases in other states are “in the dozens” but did not specify how many states.

“This is a California problem for us,” he said.

The Pentagon on Friday could not immediately reconcile

Levine’s comment with its lack of specific numbers.

The National Guard Bureau told Stars and Stripes on Friday that it had reviewed a statistical sampling of 9,641 cases of bonus payments across the country but did not have additional statistics of how many included fraudulent or wrongly awarded bonuses or benefits.

“The issues found were administrative in nature and rapidly remedied by the state,” according to Maj. Shannon Thomas, a Guard spokeswoman.

Thomas said the service needs more time to compile figures showing wrongly paid bonuses and how many soldiers face collections.

Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said Wednesday the service examined the bonuses in every state and had determined the number of incorrect payments

was small.

“I can tell you they did look at every state ... they did find some contracts were dispersed erroneously. There were small numbers and I can get you those numbers,” Lengyel told Stars and Stripes.

A National Guard spokeswoman said Friday it still had not compiled the figures for release.

The Pentagon on Wednesday temporarily halted the repayment of bonuses for California National Guard soldiers after outcry from veterans groups and Congress. The bonuses and education benefits were aimed at bolstering troop numbers during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered a review of the repayments by January and said he wants all California cases resolved by July.

Russian, US aircraft come within half-mile of colliding over Syria

BY TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Russian fighter jet and a larger U.S. aircraft came within about a half-mile of colliding in midair nearly two weeks ago during a night mission over Syria, the Pentagon said Friday.

“The Russian jet passed in front of the coalition jet close enough that the jet wash from that flight was felt within the larger aircraft,” said Col. John Dorrian, a Baghdad-based spokesman for Operation Inherent Resolve.

However, Dorrian would not provide additional details on what kind of coalition aircraft was involved in the near crash on Oct. 17.

A separate defense official confirmed to Stars and Stripes on the condition of anonymity that the coalition aircraft was flown by the U.S.

Russian, U.S. and coalition aircraft have operated in the same Syrian airspace since September 2015. Later that fall, Russia and the United States established a contact system in which they could notify each other of areas where their pilots

would be flying to avoid collisions. The regular phone calls between operations centers have continued even as official diplomatic talks over a cease-fire in Syria have stalled.

Dorrian said Friday that he did not know whether there had been a phone call the day of this near crash, and did not know whether there had been other incidents.

However, Lt. Gen. Jeff Harrigian, commander of Air Force Central Command, told NBC News that near-miss incidents occur roughly every 10 days.

Dorrian said there was immediate contact between the two aircraft moments after the Oct. 17 incident and then a follow-up call between the command centers. He said U.S. Central Command does not think the near crash was an intentional act by the Russian aircraft.

Dorrian said the issue was not made public immediately to avoid escalation of the incident.

The contact system is intended “to keep the temperature down between us and the Russians in that very crowded and confused at times battle space,” Dorrian said.

Army general’s death a suicide

SAN ANTONIO — Maj. Gen. John Rossi, who was found dead days before he was to take command of Army Space and Missile Command, died by suicide, the Army announced Friday following an investigation.

Rossi, 51, was found dead July 31 at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. Since 2014, he had been the commanding general for the Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

“Maj. Gen. Rossi was a respected leader, valiant warrior and trusted friend who gave more than 33 years of service to this nation,” the Army said in a statement.

John Cummings, a Redstone Arsenal spokesman, said Rossi arrived on post about a week before his death, but hadn’t taken command.

The Army’s statement on Rossi included candid language about suicide, an unshakable issue that has troubled the Pentagon in recent years, creating several prevention efforts in the wake of climbing rates.

“This is also a painful reminder of the tragedy of suicide as we continue to better understand its causes and warning signs,” the release stated.

The Pentagon’s most recent yearly data found 269 active-duty troops and 169 reserve and National Guard members were found to have killed themselves in 2014, according to its Suicide Event Report.

From staff reports

Jury acquits defendants in Ore. refuge standoff

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A jury delivered an extraordinary blow to the government in a long-running battle over the use of public lands when it acquitted all seven defendants involved in the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in rural southeastern Oregon.

Tumult erupted in the courtroom Thursday after the verdicts were read. An attorney for group leader Ammon Bundy demanded his client be released immediately and repeatedly yelled at the judge. U.S. marshals tackled attorney Marcus Mumford to the ground, used a stun gun on him several times and arrested him.

U.S. District Judge Anna Brown said she could not release Bundy because he still faces charges in Nevada stemming from an armed standoff at the ranch of his father, Cliven Bundy, two years ago.

The Portland jury acquitted Bundy, his brother Ryan Bundy and five others of conspiring to impede federal workers from their jobs at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, 300 miles southeast of Portland. The jury could not reach a verdict on a single count of theft for Ryan Bundy.

Even attorneys for the defendants were surprised by the acquittals.

“It’s stunning. It’s a stunning victory for the defense,” said Robert Salisbury, attorney for defendant Jeff Banta. “I’m speechless.”

The U.S. Attorney in Oregon, Billy J. Williams, issued a statement defending the decision to bring charges against the seven defendants: “We strongly believe that this case needed to be brought before a Court, publicly tried, and decided by a jury.”

The Oregon case is a continuation of the tense standoff with federal officials at Cliven Bundy’s ranch in 2014. Cliven, Ammon and Ryan Bundy are among those who are to go on trial in Nevada early next year for that standoff.

While the charges in Oregon accused defendants of preventing federal workers from getting to their workplace, the case in Nevada revolves around allegations of a more direct threat: an armed standoff involving dozens of Bundy backers pointing weapons, including assault-style rifles, at federal Bureau of Land Management agents and contract cowboys rounding up cattle near the Bundy ranch outside Bunkerville.

Daniel Hill, attorney for Ammon Bundy in the Nevada case, said he believed the acquittal in Oregon bodes well for his client and the other defendants facing felony weapon, conspiracy and other charges.

NSA contractor had intel officers’ names

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Classified information stolen by a former National Security Agency contractor included the names of covert intelligence officers, according to a federal court filing on Thursday.

The public defenders for Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Md., will ask a federal judge Friday to consider freeing Martin from custody as his case proceeds.

U.S. Magistrate Judge A. David Copperthite denied that same request last week, agreeing with prosecutors that Martin is a flight risk, given that enemies of the United States would love to learn more about the top-secret information found at his home.

In arguing that Martin should remain locked up, federal prosecutors said in their filing that a “substantial portion” of the 50 terabytes of digital information seized from Martin at his home was “highly classified.”

That information included the names of intelligence officers who operate “under cover outside the United States” and could endanger their lives and the safety of those they work with, and could compromise American intelligence

operations.

Martin’s public defenders, James Wyda and Deborah Boardman, have argued that the former U.S. Navy lieutenant was merely a compulsive hoarder and a voracious learner who got carried away, taking home documents in a misguided effort to be more skilled at his job.

They said “he loves his family and his country” and that there’s no evidence he shared the information with a foreign nation or intended to.

Edward Snowden was also a Booz Allen Hamilton employee and contractor for the NSA when he stole and leaked highly classified documents to journalists, revealing the NSA’s bulk collection of millions of Americans’ phone records.

Booz Allen Hamilton fired Martin as soon as the company learned of his arrest and said in a statement Thursday that it had hired former FBI Director Robert Mueller to review its security practices.

Spokesman Craig Veith said Mueller has been reviewing the company’s security, personnel and management processes and practices since Oct. 19 and that the company is “determined to learn from this incident.”

Ex-Va. Guardsman admits supporting Islamic State

The Washington Post

In the spring of this year, Mohamed Bailor Jalloh said he often thought about carrying out an attack to support the Islamic State. The northern Virginia man drew inspiration from Nidal Hasan, the Army major who killed 13 people at Fort Hood, Tex., in 2009.

But Jalloh, a former member of the Virginia National Guard, also questioned whether he could “ensure his heart would be strong and not fail him” during an attack, court records show. If he could not take part in an operation, he suggested, he could help by providing money or weapons.

Jalloh, 27, pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court in Virginia to attempting to provide support to the terrorist group. Court records show that the case came together largely because one person Jalloh was communicating with was an FBI source.

Jalloh, who was born in Sierra Leone, lived in Loudoun County and is a United States citizen. His family has declined to comment, and neighbors said they kept to themselves. Authorities have said Jalloh had a job at the time of his arrest in July but did not say where.

It was on a 2015 trip to his native country that Jalloh came into contact online with a member of the Islamic State, according to prosecutors.

Jalloh traveled to Niger, where he boarded a truck to Libya with plans to join the terrorist group. But he backed out, later saying he was not ready to fight.

Around January, just before returning from his six-month trip, Jalloh began communicating online with Abu Sa’ad Sudani, a now-deceased Islamic State member who was plotting an attack in the United States.

In April, according to court papers, Sudani asked Jalloh if he wanted to “[join] the brothers for the operation.”

“I really want to, but I don’t want to give my word and not fulfill it,” Jalloh told Sudani. Another time, he said, “I just want to live a good Muslim life and die as a shaheed,” or martyr.

FBI reopening probe into Clinton emails

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI informed Congress on Friday it is investigating whether there is classified information in new emails that have emerged in its probe of Hillary Clinton's private server. The FBI said in July its investigation was finished.

The disclosure raises the possibility of the FBI reopening the criminal investigation involving the Democratic presidential nominee just days before the election, although it is not clear if that will happen.

Clinton's campaign didn't immediately respond to request for comment.

In a letter sent to congressional leaders, FBI Director James Comey said new emails have come to light recently that have prompted investigators to take another look at the sensitive government information that flowed through the private email server Clinton used while serving as secretary of state.

It was not clear from Comey's letter where the new emails came from or who sent or received them. WikiLeaks has published tens of thousands of confidential emails from Clinton campaign insiders that U.S. intelligence officials have said were hacked in a series of cyberattacks they blamed on the Russian government. The FBI, which did not respond to ques-

tions about Comey's letter, is investigating the recent hacks.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the department learned about the FBI letter from news reports and did not get any notification from the FBI. Toner pledged the department would "cooperate to the full extent that we can."

House Speaker Paul Ryan said Clinton has "nobody but herself to blame."

"She was entrusted with some of our nation's most important secrets, and she betrayed that trust by carelessly mishandling highly classified information," Ryan, R-Wis., said in a statement.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., the chairman of the House Ju-

diciary Committee, said the FBI's decision reinforces the committee's view that the more that is learned about the server, "the clearer it becomes that she and her associates committed wrongdoing and jeopardized national security."

A yearlong investigation by the FBI focused on whether Clinton sent or received classified information using the private server located in the basement of her New York home, which was not authorized to handle such messages.

Comey said in July that his agents didn't find evidence to support any criminal charges or direct evidence that Clinton's private server was hacked.

After flip against Trump, some in GOP embrace flop

The Washington Post

Only a few hours had passed since Donald Trump was exposed on videotape bragging about kissing and grabbing women without their consent when Rep. Jason Chaffetz joined the growing group of Republican officeholders willing to publicly break with their party's presidential nominee.

"I'm out," he said on a Salt Lake City evening newscast. "We have a 15-year-old daughter, and if I can't look her in the eye and tell her these things, I can't endorse this person."

Less than three weeks later, Chaffetz has now joined another club: that of GOP lawmakers who broke with Trump after The Washington Post published the 2005 "Access Hollywood" recording, only to later make clear that Trump has their vote.

Chaffetz tweeted late Wednesday that he "will not defend or endorse" Trump but that "I am voting for him." Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, he added, "is that bad."

The high-profile chairman of

the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is only the latest Republican officeholder to back off what appeared to be principled rebukes of Trump in the face of a political wake-up call: Most Republican voters are a lot more loyal to Trump than they are to the Jason Chaffetzes of the world.

"There is an intensity to the Trump voter that I haven't seen in my life in politics," said veteran Republican pollster Frank Luntz. "These people don't care what Trump says or what people say about Trump. They will follow him to the end of the earth, and they will follow him if he says to oppose these people for congressional leadership. That's the calculation right now."

An NBC News/SurveyMonkey poll published Tuesday exposed the electorate that GOP officeholders will face on Nov. 8 and beyond. Asked whom they trust more to lead the Republican Party, Trump or House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., nearly two-thirds chose Trump over Ryan, who routinely has criticized Trump's most controversial remarks.

Senator questions opponent's American heritage, service

The Washington Post

In a stunning moment during a Thursday night debate, an embattled U.S. senator cast doubt on his opponent's military and ethnic heritage.

Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., seeking to unseat Republican Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk, invoked her family's military service while answering a debate question.

"My family has served this nation in uniform going back to the Revolution," Duckworth said. "I am a daughter of the American Revolution. I've bled for this nation. But I still want to be there in the Senate when the drums of war sound. Because people are quick to sound the drums of war, and I want to be there to say this is what it costs, this is what you're asking us to do. ... Families like mine are the ones that bleed first."

Kirk was offered a chance to rebut. "I'd forgotten that your parents came all the way from Thailand to serve George Washington," he said.

Duckworth's mother, Lamai, is Thai, but her late father, Franklin, was a Marine veteran whose family roots in this

country trace to before the American Revolution. Tammy Duckworth was severely wounded in the Iraq War, losing her legs while serving as a helicopter pilot.

The moderator moved on to the next question, but a panelist gave Duckworth time to respond by detailing her family history — including the fact that the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a statue of her in Mount Vernon, Ill.

Democrats immediately slammed Kirk for the attack. A spokeswoman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee called the remark "offensive, wrong and racist."

"A struggling political campaign is no excuse for baseless and despicable attacks, and Senator Kirk owes Congresswoman Duckworth and her family an apology," said the spokeswoman, Lara Sisselman.

A statement issued by Kirk campaign spokeswoman Eleni Demertzis did not include an apology from the senator or any claim that Duckworth has misrepresented her family heritage.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman found dead on road after car towed

TX SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio police said a woman found dead on a road appears to have been dragged and run over while trying to stop a tow truck from taking her car.

Investigators said the woman apparently was trying to stop the tow truck from hauling her vehicle from an apartment complex parking lot.

Police are trying to determine whether her clothing or another personal item got caught on either vehicle. Investigators are also trying to determine whether the tow truck driver was aware the woman was nearby.

Pickup truck crashes into council chambers

FL ORANGE CITY — Officials in Orange City will need to find a new place to meet after a pickup truck crashed into their council chambers.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported the crash occurred in the small central Florida city Wednesday morning.

Police Lt. Jason Sampsell said a 29-year-old man was driving on nearby road when he lost control of his truck, moved through a gas station parking lot, hit two other vehicles and smashed through the building's wall. The truck was completely inside when it stopped.

The driver was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. No one else was in the building at the time of the crash.

Woman advocating right to go topless

MD OCEAN CITY — An Eastern Shore woman said women should have the right to go topless in public.

Chelsea Covington, a national

advocate for the "topfreedom" movement, earlier this year requested that the Worcester County State's Attorney look at laws on toplessness at Ocean City's beach.

Since then, Ocean City Mayor Richard Meehan said Worcester County State's Attorney Beau Oglesby determined the law was unclear, so he has asked for an opinion from the Maryland Attorney General's Office. Covington said she was told the opinion is three to nine months away.

Woman calls lottery a waste — until she wins

NC LEICESTER — A North Carolina woman who bought a scratch-off ticket to show her husband that lottery tickets are a waste of money has won \$1 million.

Glenda Blackwell told WLOS-TV that her husband asked her to buy two Powerball tickets, but she bought a \$10 Carolina Millions scratch-off ticket instead.

Blackwell said she was trying to show her husband that no one ever wins and buying tickets is a waste of money.

Now she's eating her words — and enjoying every bite.

Blackwell, 57, said she's going to use the \$415,500 lump sum after taxes to buy a home and pay for her granddaughters' college.

Student ditches class for Series, gets pass

OH CLEVELAND — An Ohio college student who ditched class to head to the opening game of the World Series in Cleveland won a reprieve from his professor by being honest.

Ohio University professor Damian Nance said Charlie Turner checked into his Tuesday class by swiping a card, but

he wasn't there when Nance took attendance at the end of the session.

Turner came clean after Nance emailed him, asking for an explanation. Turner told the professor his father had gotten him tickets to the game against the Chicago Cubs, and he had left for Cleveland after checking in. He included a picture of himself and his brother at Progressive Field.

Nance told The Associated Press he let Turner off the hook because the student "fessed up."

Thief returns car with apology and money

OR PORTLAND — A Portland woman said her Subaru was stolen from her driveway — and then it reappeared with an apology note and gas money.

Erin Hatzi told The Oregonian/OregonLive that her husband noticed the missing vehicle Tuesday night, and she posted security camera stills on Facebook, asking for help finding her car.

Police caught a woman returning the vehicle to Hatzi's driveway Wednesday evening. The accidental thief had instructions from a friend to pick up a different red Subaru in Hatzi's neighborhood and returned when the friend said it wasn't her car.

Police told Hatzi some older Subaru keys are interchangeable.

Pooper scooper said he was Secret Service

PA PITTSBURGH — A man whose company scoops up pet poop has been charged with flashing a fake Secret Service ID card and badge when he was pulled over by a police officer.

Christopher Diiorio, 53, was arraigned Thursday on charges of conspiracy, using a false badge and a fraudulent official seal. Reserve Township police said Diiorio flashed the ID card after an officer pulled him over for a faulty brake light on July 22.

Dog attacks on mail carrier halt deliveries

PA WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service said it's halting mail delivery to one block in western Pennsylvania because a carrier has repeatedly been attacked by a pit bull.

Renee Scholato said her dog, Tank, is just friendly, though she acknowledges the animal sometimes escapes from her home and did jump on the carrier. But she said the dog wasn't attacking.

The Postal Service has told residents that mail won't be delivered to Scholato's block in Washington, Pa., until the dog is properly restrained. Until then, those residents can pick up their mail at the post office.

Tow truck driver takes sports car for a spin

TX PEARLAND — A tow truck driver found a \$110,000 sports car just too tempting and decided to give it a spin after towing it from a Houston-area home.

But the driver was unaware the Nissan GT-R is equipped with a sophisticated system that records video, audio and speed. The car's owner, Brian Montgomery, of Pearland, was able to watch the video of the joyride after the car was returned to him.

Montgomery said the car recording shows it was driven at 75 mph through residential neighborhoods.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news
updated 24/7 from bases
around the world.
Now online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Cubs' Schwarber playing for more than just a ring

Associated Press

CHICAGO—Kyle Schwarber signed a baseball for Campbell Faulkner, and Faulkner gave Schwarber a green wristband. Twin acts of kindness, and a friendship was born.

The slugger with the big Ohio heart, and the sunny boy with a life-threatening illness. A bond that made each of them better.

Some 1,700 miles away from Wrigley Field, no one is enjoying Schwarber's comeback from a major knee injury more than Faulkner and his family.

The 10-year-old Faulkner stays up to watch his buddy in the World Series, and Schwarber proudly wears his Campbell's Crew wristband while trying to help the Chicago Cubs to their first championship since 1908.

"He's a kid who can always put a smile on my face," Schwarber said.

Faulkner has a rare mitochondrial disease. His body doesn't know how to use food and oxygen properly.

Doctors knew something was wrong with Faulkner just days after he was born. The youngest of Carrie and Shane Faulkner's four children never cried and was never hungry.

On Day 4, he was labeled "failure to thrive," his mother, Carrie Faulkner said. He got his first feeding tube in his stomach when he was 4, and a second tube at 7. He struggles to stand and walk for extended periods of time.

"On the outside he looks perfect," Carrie Faulkner told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "On the inside, it's just a trainwreck, it's a disaster in there."

So when Carrie Faulkner heard about what Schwarber said after one of the biggest games of his life, she just lost it. Moments after Schwarber hit two RBI singles in Chicago's 5-1 victory over Cleveland in Game 2 on Wednesday night, he was

asked about his green wristband. The son of a retired Ohio police chief jumped on the question like a belt-high fastball.

"Yeah, Campbell Faulkner, he's a kid that I met down in Arizona. He's got a rare genetic disease, and I met him my first spring training," Schwarber said. "Really young, smart kid, and he's just always got a big smile on his face."

Schwarber kept right on going.

"We stay in contact through email. He's a smart kid, man," he said. "The kid's, I think, got an IQ of like a college kid for being so young. That tells you how smart he is. And that's a person you want to look up to right there."

A day later, Carrie Faulkner was still floored.

"I don't even have words," she said Thursday. "I have tears. ... Oh my heavens what an amazing man to think of my son at that moment."

For Campbell, it was no big deal. After all, they're friends. "It made me feel good, and I knew that he was thinking of me," he said.

Faulkner was a guest of an organization called "Steve's Dream," which provides tickets for Cubs' spring training games to families. They were tailgating when Schwarber stopped and signed a ball for Faulkner, who returned the favor with the wristband to make Schwarber a member of Campbell's Crew — a support group for Faulkner with its own Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Schwarber promised to wear the green band, and the connection only grew from there. Schwarber got Faulkner his own Dinger Bat. They exchanged autographed pictures and started emailing each other.

"He'll just give me, like, support, and he'll say he's praying for me," Faulkner said.

Faulkner was at Chase Field

in April when Schwarber got hurt in an outfield collision with Dexter Fowler, spraining his ankle and tearing two ligaments in his left knee. He was ruled out for the year, just three games into the season.

A crestfallen Faulkner was quiet when he got home. He took his hat off, put it in his lap and prayed. Then he sent an email to Schwarber pointing out he had "a lot of doctors" and offering to help the slugger get in touch with them.

"Campbell literally went into protective mode to take care of Kyle," Carrie Faulkner said.

And that's when that one fleeting moment in the heat of spring training returned to Schwarber in a major way. As Schwarber embarked on the long, difficult process of rehabbing a major injury, he found inspiration in the example of his precocious friend in Arizona.

"It means a lot," Schwarber told the AP. "I wasn't going through near as much time as what that kid's going through his whole life right now. That just gives me that extra motivation going through this rehab that I still have to go through after the season."

Schwarber made it back quicker than anyone expected, surprising everyone with the Cubs. Following an encouraging checkup on Oct. 17 in Dallas, he was cleared to hit. He spent a few days in the Arizona Fall League, enough time for a short visit with Faulkner, before rejoining the NL champions in time for the World Series.

He is still not cleared to play the field, making him a pinch hitter for the next three games in Wrigley Field. But he took the news in stride.

"Not disappointing at all," a smiling Schwarber said. "It was a long shot at the most."

It was an answer Faulkner would have loved.

Maryland hoops coach Turgeon gets extension

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland coach Mark Turgeon has received a four-year extension on his contract, which now runs through the 2022-23 season.

Turgeon enters his sixth season at the school with a 114-59 record. The Terrapins have reached the NCAA Tournament in each of the past two years, including a berth in the Sweet 16 last season.

Turgeon was Big Ten coach of the year in 2014-15 after leading Maryland to a school-record 26 regular-season wins.

Source: Pistons in talks about downtown move

DETROIT — The Detroit Pistons could be starting their final season at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

The team is in advanced discussions about moving downtown to play at the Detroit Red Wings' new arena, according to a person with knowledge of the talks. The person, speaking on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the Pistons have not commented, said there is no deal yet, but the intent would be for the franchise to start playing downtown next season if possible.

Anaheim signs holdout Lindholm to 6-year deal

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Ducks have signed holdout defenseman Hampus Lindholm to a six-year, \$31.5 million contract.

Lindholm, 22, is arguably the Ducks' top defenseman, scoring 92 points in 236 games over the past three seasons while honing his two-way game.

The Swede missed the Ducks' first eight games while holding out as a restricted free agent. He has been working out at home with a Swedish Elite League team.

Lindholm agreed to a deal worth slightly less than the six-year, \$32.4 million deal signed by Buffalo defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen this month.

From The Associated Press

Wade shines in debut with hometown Bulls

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Dwyane Wade scored 22 points in a triumphant Chicago debut, Jimmy Butler had 24 and the Bulls won their season opener, beating the Boston Celtics 105-99 on Thursday night.

Wade nailed a three from the corner in the final minute to make it a five-point game. Taj Gibson added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and the new-look Bulls got off to a winning start after missing the playoffs last season for the first time since 2008.

Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 25 points. Avery Bradley had 16, and Jae Crowder 14 points, but the Celtics came up short after opening with a win over Brooklyn the previous night.

The Bulls remade their roster in the offseason, jettisoning one hometown superstar and welcoming another when they traded Derrick Rose to New York and signed Wade to a two-year deal worth about \$47 million in a move that stunned Miami.

The three-time NBA champion and 12-time All-Star is off to a good start with the Bulls after 13 seasons with the Heat. Wade

hit four of six three-pointers in this game after making just seven all of last season.

Hawks 114, Wizards 99: Dwight Howard dominated the boards in his Atlanta debut, Paul Millsap scored 28 points and Tim Hardaway Jr. ignited the new-look Hawks in a victory over visiting Washington.

Howard grabbed 19 rebounds to go along with 11 points, just what the Hawks expected from their new center, and it certainly wasn't unusual for three-time All-Star Millsap to lead the way in scoring.

But Hardaway's performance was totally unexpected given the way he struggled in his first season with the Hawks, when he was largely confined to the bench and even forced to spend time in the D-League.

He scored 21 points, matching his high in an Atlanta uniform, and broke open a close game with back-to-back three-pointers in the fourth. The Hawks, who led only 81-80 heading to the final period, outscored the Wizards 33-19 over the final 12 minutes.

Clippers 114, Trail Blazers 106: Blake Griffin had 27 points and 13 rebounds to lead visiting Los Angeles.

It was the season opener for the Clippers, the last team in the Western Conference to start the season. Portland opened at home on Tuesday with a 113-104 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Paul also finished with 27 points for the Clippers. Lillard led the Blazers with 29 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out late.

Spurs 102, Kings 94: Kawhi Leonard scored 30 points and San Antonio spoiled the regular season opener at Sacramento's new downtown arena.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 16 points as the Spurs clamped down on defense in the second half led by Leonard's strong play to win their second straight game to open the season.

The arena was raucous pregame for its first game that counts as there was plenty of emotion from fans who remembered how close the franchise was to moving to Seattle before Vivek Ranadive bought the team in 2013 and reached a deal to build the arena.

It didn't end as well despite a strong night from DeMarcus Cousins, who led Sacramento with 37 points and 16 rebounds.

Canucks ride 3-goal 3rd to 6th straight win

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Max Pacioretty scored the tiebreaking goal in Montreal's three-goal third period as the Canadiens beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-1 Thursday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Alex Galchenyuk and Torrey Mitchell also scored to help Montreal improve to 7-0-1, remaining the only NHL team without a regulation loss. Carey Price made 29 saves to win for the fourth time in four starts this season.

Alex Killorn scored the lone goal for the Lightning, who lost against an Eastern Conference opponent for the first time this season. Ben Bishop stopped 23 shots.

With the score tied 1-1, Pacioretty got the go-ahead goal at 10:23 by beating Bishop glove-side. Blown coverage by the Lightning left the Canadiens' captain all alone on the edge of the face-off circle, and Bishop couldn't see the shot with Andrew Shaw posted firmly in

front of goal.

Red Wings 2, Blues 1 (SO): Henrik Zetterberg scored in the eighth round of a shootout to lift visiting Detroit past St. Louis for the Red Wings' sixth straight win.

St. Louis' Jaden Schwartz missed a wide-open net early in overtime, and Jori Lehtera was stopped on a breakaway midway through the extra period by Detroit goalie Petr Mrazek.

Penguins 4, Islanders 2: Sidney Crosby scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period to lead host Pittsburgh.

Patric Hornqvist, Evgeni Malkin and Phil Kessel also scored — each getting his third of the season — to help the Penguins win for the third time in four games and improve to 5-0-1 at home.

Crosby, playing for the second straight game after missing the first six with a concussion, scored with 2:25 left as he caught a pass from Scott Wilson at the top of the crease and quickly turned to his forehand to put the puck behind Is-

landers goalie Jaroslav Halak. Kessel added a power-play goal to cap the scoring 32 seconds later.

Maple Leafs 3, Panthers 2: Mitch Marner had three assists and goalie Frederik Andersen bounced back from a horrid outing as host Toronto won for the second time this season.

Andersen was under the microscope heading into the game after another rough start two nights earlier against the Lightning (seven goals on 24 shots).

Coyotes 5, Flyers 4: Martin Hanzal and Brad Richardson scored the decisive goals to help Arizona snap a five-game road losing streak.

Jamie McGinn, Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Ryan White also scored for the Coyotes, whose two wins this season are both against the Flyers.

Kings 3, Predators 2 (OT): Jeff Carter tipped a shot past Pekka Rinne at 4:31 of overtime to lift host Los Angeles to its fourth consecutive victory.

One night after giving up six

goals to Anaheim, the Predators allowed the Kings to come back and tie the game twice before losing in the extra period.

Jets 4, Stars 1: Patrik Laine scored twice on the power play to help host Winnipeg beat Dallas.

Defenseman Tyler Myers got the Jets on the scoreboard 15 seconds into the game and rookie Kyle Connor got his first NHL goal. Connor Hellebuyck had 38 saves.

Wild 4, Sabres 0: Devan Dubnyk made 38 saves for his second straight shutout to lead visiting Minnesota.

Ryan Suter had a goal and an assist, and Joel Ericsson Ek, Jason Zucker and Mikko Koivu also scored. The Wild went 2-1-1 on a four-game road trip to improve to 5-2-1.

Sharks 3, Blue Jackets 1: Tomas Hertl had two goals and Joonas Donskoi also scored to lead host San Jose.

Martin Jones stopped 24 shots to help the Sharks improve to 3-0 at home.

Titans blow out Jaguars 36-22

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans head into the second half of the season believing they're right in the playoff mix now that they've exceeded their win total from last year.

For Gus Bradley and the Jacksonville Jaguars, the future is much less certain.

Marcus Mariota threw two touchdown passes and DeMarco Murray rushed for 123 yards and a touchdown Thursday night as the Titans breezed to a 36-22 victory over the Jaguars. The Titans led 27-0 at halftime and scored on six straight possessions during one stretch.

The Titans are 4-4 at the halfway point of the season, a major step forward for a franchise that went 2-14 in 2014 and 3-13 last year. They've won three of their last four and have a chance to play meaningful games down the stretch if they maintain this momentum.

"We're just sick and tired of losing, man," Titans left tackle Taylor Lewan said. "Sick and tired of being a pushover in this division. I think we've had some games that were close and (we) shouldn't even be .500. We should be over .500."

The Jaguars aren't feeling nearly as good about themselves.

A poor performance in a prime-time showcase will turn up the heat on Jaguars coach Gus Bradley, who is in his fourth season and owns a 14-41 record. The Jaguars (2-5) had to score two touchdowns in the last 3½ minutes just to make

the final margin respectable.

"The first half was inexcusable," Bradley said. "We didn't come out to play. I don't know what the answer is. Do we play with some anxiety? Yeah, I can say I felt like we pressed too much, but some of the plays that weren't being made had nothing to do with anxiety."

"I don't know if it's focus. We have a high standard, and we didn't meet that standard."

Here are some things to know about the Jaguars and Titans:

Murray, Henry forming dynamic duo: The Titans acquired Murray and drafted 2015 Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry because they believed a physical running attack could help them turn things around. Those moves are paying off so far. Murray has rushed for 756 yards and already has exceeded the total from his disappointing 2015 season in Philadelphia. Henry rushed for 60 yards against the Jaguars and scored his first touchdown. Murray hurt a toe late in the first half but returned to the game.

Mariota at home: The Titans' quarterback had the best home performance of his career. Mariota had been just 2-8 at home since Tennessee drafted him No. 2 overall out of Oregon in 2015, and he had at least one turnover in each home game this season until Thursday night. Mariota was credited for a fumble on the opening drive for a 12-yard loss, but left guard Brian Schwenke recovered the ball. Mariota's 148.1 passer rating was the second-highest of his career.

Mariota lends helping hand:

Mariota helped the Titans even when he wasn't throwing or carrying the ball. On Murray's 14-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, Mariota attempted a downfield block to help clear the path to the end zone.

"He's a team-first guy," Murray said. "He doesn't care about his stats or anything really. Obviously, he doesn't care about his body either, but we've got to talk about that. It was a huge play by him. He's our leader and to see him do that, it's pretty special."

Mariota downplayed his role in Murray's touchdown. "He really did all the work," Mariota said. "I just kind of got in the way."

Jaguars struggling to run: The Jaguars came in ranked 30th in the NFL running the ball, and their struggles continued Thursday as they ran only 11 times for 48 yards.

Bortles ended up rushing for a team-high 22 yards. Chris Ivory had four carries for just 6 yards, and T.J. Yeldon ran three times for 20 yards.

Bortles bounces back (or does he?): Bradley said earlier this week that he "firmly, firmly" believes in his third-year quarterback. Bortles responded by throwing for 337 yards with three touchdowns, but most of those yards came with the Titans playing prevent defense.

In the first half, Bortles was just 8-for-16 for 64 yards.

Hokies air it out in win over Pitt

BY WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — One of the nation's worst secondaries kept daring Virginia Tech quarterback Jerod Evans to throw. So he did. Over. And over. And over.

The junior shook off a right ankle injury to throw for a career-high 406 yards and two touchdowns to lead the 25th-ranked Hokies to a 39-36 victory over Pittsburgh on Thursday night.

Joey Slye tied the school and Atlantic Coast Conference records by making six field goals to help the Hokies (6-2, 4-1) beat the Panthers (5-3, 2-2) on the road for the first time in 17 years.

Pitt came in with the nation's 120th-ranked pass defense yet played bump-and-run for most of the game, hoping its defensive backs could win more than they lost.

Didn't happen. Instead, three Tech wide receivers topped 100 yards in the same game for the first time in school history. Isaiah Ford's 10 receptions included his school-record 23rd receiving touchdown. Bucky Hodges caught six passes for 145 yards and a score and Cam Phillips added 109 yards on a night the Hokies piled up 556 total yards.

"It's a great feeling when you can do what you love doing and that's throw the ball up and down the field against a pretty good defense," Evans said. "One-on-one coverage. You can't ask for anything better than one-on-one coverage."

Pitt coach Pat Narduzzi built his reputation as defensive coordinator at Michigan State by requiring his secondary to play physical. He's intent on doing the same at Pitt, even as the weeks pass and improvement only comes in sporadic bursts.

Broncos RB Anderson to undergo knee surgery

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — C.J. Anderson was bracing for a prolonged recovery as he prepared to undergo surgery to repair the torn meniscus in his right knee late Thursday.

Before heading into the operating room in Northern California, the Denver Broncos' leading rusher tweeted thanks

to his fans for their prayers and said, "We will not know til after the procedure if i am done for the season or if I can come back to help my team to #51."

Anderson was Denver's offensive star in Super Bowl 50, rushing for 90 yards and a touchdown in the Broncos' 24-10 victory over Carolina. That helped garner a four-year, \$18 million offer from the Dol-

phins in restricted free agency that the Broncos matched. The front-loaded contract paid him \$6 million this year.

Anderson is the Broncos' leading rusher with 437 yards on 110 carries and four touchdowns, including a season-best 107 yards and a TD on 16 carries Monday night against Houston. Rookie Devontae Booker now will become their starter.