

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, October 14, 2019

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Syrian troops enter towns in northeast

Turkish leader warns of wider offensive

The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — Forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad took up positions Monday in several key towns across northeastern Syria, state media and a war monitoring group reported, following a last-minute agreement with local Kurdish fighters to ward off a Turkish assault.

Syrian troops deployed to Ain Issa and Tabqa — on the outskirts of Raqqa — and raised the Syrian flag over government buildings in cities such as Qamishli and Hasakeh, according to pro-government media. One report, in al-Watan newspaper, said government forces had reached the towns of Kobani, a garrison for Syrian Kurdish militants, and Manbij, where U.S. troops had been stationed.

In Ain Issa, the headquarters of the Kurdish-led administration, government troops arrived atop pickup trucks waving Syrian flags, according to images published by state news agency, SANA.

The return of Assad's forces to northeastern Syria, while welcomed by some residents amid the Turkish offensive, marks a stunning reversal for Syrian Kurdish authorities, whose fighters controlled a wide swath of territory and enjoyed U.S. military and financial support in their battle against Islamic State.

On Monday, President Donald Trump suggested, without evidence, that Kurdish forces may have purposely released some ISIS prisoners amid the fighting to prevent U.S. troops from withdrawing from the region.

On Sunday, hundreds of ISIS family members escaped a detention camp in Ain Issa after

Turkish shellfire hit the area.

"Europe had a chance to get their ISIS prisoners but didn't want the cost," Trump said on Twitter, referring to citizens of European nations who had joined ISIS but are now in captivity in Syria.

"Kurds may be releasing some to get us involved," he said. "Do people really think we should go to war with NATO member Turkey?"

Turkish officials view the Kurdish fighters — known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF — as terrorists for their links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a decadeslong war for autonomy inside Turkey. Its military launched the operation with allied Syrian rebels last week to oust the SDF from the Syrian-Turkish border, where it planned to install a buffer zone. The operation has helped unravel the U.S. mission in northern Syria, prompting Trump to order the withdrawal of all U.S. troops in the coming weeks.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hinted Monday at a broadening of the Turkish offensive, saying Turkey was "in the process of implementing our decision on the subject of Manbij," a Syrian town about 25 miles west of the Euphrates River. Turkey had long demanded that the United States expel Kurdish fighters from the town and complained that a deal struck with Washington to remove the fighters was not being implemented.

It was not clear whether Erdogan was suggesting that an offensive on the town was imminent, amid reports that Syrian government troops were also headed to Manbij. "When Manbij is evacuated, the real own-

GIs scramble for exits, prepare to evacuate gear

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. troops scrambled for Syria's exits Monday while the Trump administration threatened economic penalties on Turkey for an invasion that opened the door to a resurgence of Islamic State — the fighters who were the reason U.S. forces went in the first place.

The Turks began attacks in Syria against the Kurds, longtime U.S. battlefield allies against ISIS, after President Donald Trump declared U.S. troops would stay out of the fight.

American troops consolidated their positions in northern Syria and prepared to evacuate equipment in advance of a full withdrawal as Turkish forces pressed an offensive against the Kurds, a U.S. defense official said.

The preparations, triggered by Trump's decision Saturday to expand a limited troop pullout into a complete withdrawal, came as Trump's national security team considered imposing what he called "big sanctions" on NATO ally

Turkey.

The U.S. pullout raised many questions, including how and whether the Trump administration would continue putting military pressure on ISIS in Syria without a troop presence on the ground. U.S. forces have been there since 2015, arming and advising a Kurdish-led Syrian group of fighters who largely eliminated ISIS control of Syrian territory but were still working to prevent an ISIS resurgence.

The defense official, who was not authorized to be quoted by name, said U.S. officials were weighing options for the future of a counter-ISIS campaign, including the possibility of waging it with a combination of air power and special operations forces based outside Syria.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Sunday that the U.S. withdrawal would be done carefully to protect the troops and to ensure that no U.S. equipment was left behind. He declined to say how long that might take.

ers will enter there," he said, referring to Syrian Arabs.

The announcement by the SDF that they had reached an agreement with Assad's Iran- and Russia-backed government further undermined the prospect of any continued U.S. presence in the country. The deal will bring forces loyal to Assad back into towns and cit-

ies that have been under Kurdish control for seven years.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper told CBS News on Sunday that Turkey decided to send ground troops into northern Syria despite the U.S. urging Ankara to reconsider, and that the fighting put U.S. forces in an untenable situation.

Japan cancels fleet review after typhoon

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force canceled an international fleet review planned for Monday to focus instead on disaster relief in the wake of Typhoon Hagibis.

The deadly storm battered Sagami Bay, the scheduled site of the review, as it moved eastward from the Izu Peninsula, where it made landfall about 7 p.m. Saturday, to the Miura Peninsula, where Yokosuka Port is located.

The JMSDF canceled the event to “expand all possible means to disaster relief efforts,” according to a Sunday news release.

Officials were unsure of the number of casualties on Monday. Japanese media re-

ported that Hagibis had left dozens dead, nearly 200 injured and many missing with rescue efforts for stranded residents still underway.

The storm, described as the strongest to hit Japan in decades, brought heavy rain and sustained winds of up to 90 mph.

Rivers draining the Kanto Plain, home to many Tokyo-area military bases, surged over their banks in some places, flooding wide swaths.

The city of Yokosuka, where the ships were gathering, was hit by power outages, torn roofs, and downed trees and traffic lights in the storm.

Monday’s review would have involved 46 vessels and 40 aircraft from Japan and seven other nations, including the U.S., Canada, Singapore, the United Kingdom, India, Australia and, for the first time, China.

The Chinese guided-missile destroyer

Taiyaun arrived Thursday at Yokosuka Port ahead of the storm and less than a mile from Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

The JMSDF had already canceled preview events, including public access to its vessels on Saturday and Sunday, as forecasts put Hagibis on track for eastern Japan.

However, ticket holders who expected to board those ships during preview events or the review itself were told they could still do so at Yoshikura and Funakoshi piers in Yokosuka and the Kisarazu public pier in Chiba prefecture from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, according to the JMSDF statement.

The JMSDF does not plan to reschedule this year’s fleet review; the next one is set for 2022, according to a spokesman. Government spokespersons in Japan commonly provide information on condition they are not personally identified.

US Military court to hear double jeopardy case

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

An Army colonel convicted in military and federal courts of possessing child pornography is challenging his military conviction based on double jeopardy in an appeal to be heard Wednesday.

The issue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces is not whether Col. Robert J. Rice is guilty of his crimes but whether his military conviction should be thrown out based on the Fifth Amendment. Known as the double jeopardy clause, the amendment does not allow successive prosecution for the same offense after conviction. Before pleading guilty in military court, Rice was found guilty by a jury in federal court.

During federal sentencing in the Middle District of Pennsylvania and in a previous appeals case with the Army Criminal Court of Appeals, judges recognized that Rice was charged twice for certain aspects of his crimes. Instead of removing the military conviction, the judges

took other actions to appease his constitutional rights.

The Army appeals court heard Rice’s case last year and described it in their written opinion as a “debacle.”

“What happened in this case should not happen again,” Lt. Col. Deidra Fleming, a judge for the Army appeals court, wrote in the opinion released Dec. 18. “Divvying up charges in a constitutionally dubious manner imperils the fair and efficient administration of justice.”

However, when Rice was sentenced in federal court, his attorneys filed a motion related to the duplicated charge, and Rice was not sentenced for it. For that reason, the Army appeals court believed that “as long as the results of one trial go away, the Constitution is not offended,” wrote Lt. Col. Stefan R. Wolfe, senior judge on the Army appeals court.

Stephen Vladeck, an attorney in Austin, Texas, on Rice’s legal team, said that’s not how the double jeopardy clause works.

“The whole point is to prohibit the second trial, period, no matter what happens with

the first trial,” he said. “It’s a weird case because it’s a very unusual problem.”

The team looked for other examples where double jeopardy was identified and the remedy was something other than dismissal. They said they did not find one.

“The central question before the court of appeals is what is the proper remedy when a servicemember is tried in a court-martial in a way that violated the double jeopardy clause?” he said.

It’s also rare, Vladeck said, “that you have the case that the lower court refers to as a debacle. Especially when it doesn’t prevent the debacle from occurring” again.

If Rice prevails and the military conviction is dismissed, the Army would likely have to revisit Rice’s standing in the service. His military sentence issued October 2016 included four years in prison and a military discharge upon release.

However, Vladeck said if Rice loses, it “would give servicemembers far less protection from double jeopardy than

everybody else.”

Rice, 37, an Army veteran, received a 12-year sentence in federal court in December 2016 and is currently serving his federal and military sentences concurrently at Midwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., according to court documents.

Rice was indicted in May 2014 on federal charges of possessing and receiving child pornography while stationed at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., according to court documents. His wife suspected Rice was using dating websites to cheat on her, so she purchased and installed software on his computer to gather evidence.

Upon discovering child pornography on the computer, she turned the information over to local police.

During the investigation, about 10,000 images were found on Rice’s personal computer and on an external hard drive.

Rice’s case will be heard Wednesday at J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Envoy to say deal denial came from Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. ambassador is expected to tell Congress that his text message reassuring another envoy that there was no quid pro quo in their interactions with Ukraine was based solely on what President Donald Trump told him, according to a person familiar with his coming testimony in the impeachment probe.

Gordon Sondland, Trump's hand-picked ambassador to the European Union, is among administration officials being subpoenaed to appear on Capitol Hill this week against the wishes of the White House.

It's the latest test between the legislative and executive branches of government as the impeachment inquiry by House

Democrats deepens.

On Monday, the House panels leading the investigation expect to hear from Fiona Hill, a former top National Security Council expert on Russia.

Sondland's appearance, set for Thursday, comes after a cache of text messages from top envoys provided a vivid account of their work acting as intermediaries around the time Trump urged Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to start investigations into a company linked to the son of a chief Democratic presidential rival, Joe Biden.

One witness who may not be called before Congress is the still-anonymous government whistleblower who touched off the impeachment inquiry. Top Democrats say testimony

and evidence coming in from other witnesses, and even the president himself, are backing up the whistleblower's account of what transpired during Trump's July 25 phone call with Zelenskyy. Lawmakers have grown deeply concerned about protecting the person from Trump's threats over the matter and may not wish to risk exposing the whistleblower's identity.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said Sunday, "We don't need the whistleblower, who wasn't on the call, to tell us what took place during the call. We have the best evidence of that."

Schiff said it "may not be necessary" to reveal the whistleblower's identity as the

House gathers evidence. "Our primary interest right now is making sure that that person is protected," he said.

But Trump strongly objected.

"Adam Schiff now doesn't seem to want the Whistleblower to testify. NO!" the Republican president tweeted early Monday. "We must determine the Whistleblower's identity to determine WHY this was done to the USA."

The impeachment inquiry is testing the Constitution's system of checks and balances as the House presses forward with the probe and the White House dismisses it as "illegitimate" without a formal vote of the House to open impeachment proceedings.

Trump 'strongly condemns' violent parody video

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The White House said Monday that President Donald Trump "strongly condemns" a graphically violent parody video that depicts a likeness of him shooting and stabbing his opponents and members of the news media. The parody was shown at a meeting of Trump supporters at his Miami resort.

Journalists covering the White House have called on

Trump to condemn the video, in which Trump's critics and media members are portrayed as parishioners in a church fleeing his gruesome rampage.

The fake Trump strikes the late Sen. John McCain in the neck, hits and stabs TV personality Rosie O'Donnell in the face, lights Sen. Bernie Sanders' head on fire and shoots or otherwise assaults people whose faces are replaced with news organization logos.

Trump's face is superimposed on a killer's body. Among the targets: former President Barack Obama, Black Lives Matter, Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, Bill and Hillary Clinton and Rep. Adam Schiff, who as Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee is leading the impeachment inquiry of Trump.

Press secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a tweet that Trump hasn't yet seen the

video but will soon do so. She said, "Based upon everything he has heard, he strongly condemns this video."

The video and its screening were first reported by The New York Times.

The "unauthorized video" was shown last week "in a side room" at an American Priority conference at Trump's Doral Miami resort, the event's organizer, Alex Phillips, said in a statement.

3 deaths linked to California wildfires; evacuations end

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three people died at the scene of Southern California wildfires last week, authorities said Saturday, as firefighters aided by diminishing winds beat back a blaze on the edge of Los Angeles that damaged or destroyed more than 30 structures and sent a blanket of smoke across a swath of neighborhoods.

Los Angeles officials said the fire in the city's San Fernando

Valley area hadn't grown significantly since Friday, and ground crews were tamping down lingering hot spots. Evacuation orders were lifted in all of Los Angeles County and in parts of Riverside County, where a second blaze was burning.

Shortly before 5 p.m., the Los Angeles Police Department said in a tweet, "We thank members of the community for promptly heeding the evacuation orders and their patience

as we worked to contain the fire."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti told residents to be cautious returning home to neighborhoods where fire crews could still be operating.

In Los Angeles, one man who tried to fight the blaze died of a heart attack, and one firefighter reported a minor eye injury.

The fire's cause is under investigation, and authorities warned that the threat of flare-ups remained.

At the site of the second blaze east of Los Angeles, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department said a second body was found at a mobile home park where 74 structures were destroyed Thursday in Calimesa.

The department said one of the Calimesa victims has been identified as Lois Arvikson, 89. Her son, Don Turner, said she had called him to say she was evacuating but he never heard from her again.

Nobel Prize awarded to 3 for research on global poverty

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — The 2019 Nobel Prize in economics was awarded Monday to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for pioneering new ways to alleviate global poverty.

Banerjee and Duflo are at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while Kremer is at Harvard University.

The three have often worked together.

Duflo, who phoned into the news conference where the prize was announced, said receiving it was “incredibly humbling.” The 46-year-old, born in Paris, is the youngest person ever and only the second woman to receive the economics prize. The first was Elinor Ostrom in 2009.

She noted that the profession is not always a welcoming one for women.

“Showing that it is possible for a woman to succeed and be recognized for success I hope is going to inspire many, many other women to continue working and many other men to give them the respect that they deserve like every single human being,” she said.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

said the three economists pioneered new ways to fight global poverty by focusing on smaller, more manageable issues like education or child health.

They said Kremer showed the power of that approach in the mid-1990s in fieldwork in Kenya.

The academy said that as a direct result of the winners’ studies, 5 million Indian children benefited from remedial tutoring in schools.

Colleagues applauded the news.

“Fantastic decision!!” Max Roser, a University of Oxford researcher who founded the Our World in Data project, wrote on Twitter. “Even after two centuries of progress against global poverty I think it is clearly one of the very biggest problems in the world today.”

Banerjee’s mother, Nirmala Banerjee, also an economist, told news channel NDTV in India that the prize was unexpected.

“He has been trying to get economics away from the theoretical part, but using theory to understand the world as it is,” she said from her home in Kolkata. “The way it works, the way poverty is, the way people handle poverty.”

Parliament start marks rituals amid Brexit strain

Associated Press

LONDON — Brexit may have Britain’s political system in turmoil, but the State Opening of Parliament on Monday provided a return to reassuring rituals dating back centuries.

The new parliamentary session was opened by Queen Elizabeth II, 93, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, in the magnificent setting of the House of Lords.

The queen was accompanied by her eldest son, Prince Charles, because her husband, Prince Philip, has largely retired from public life at age 98.

The state opening marks a rare convergence of the House of Lords, the House of Commons and the monarch.

It includes a House of Lords official known as “Black Rod” — for the first time, a role filled by a woman, Sarah Clarke — who is rebuffed when she tries to enter the House of Commons to summon members to hear the queen.

The door is slammed in Black Rod’s face to symbolize the House of Commons’ independence from the monarch — then opened after Black Rod knocks three times on the door with an ebony rod.

The queen’s arrival at the Sovereign’s Entrance in Parliament was carefully choreographed. She travels from Buckingham Palace in a horse-drawn state carriage, escorted by the Household Cavalry.

Before she arrived, the priceless Imperial State Crown and other regalia used in the ceremony was brought to Parliament in a separate, heavily guarded carriage.

The crown includes 2,868 diamonds, including the Second Star of Africa diamond, and many other gems. The crown was made for King George VI’s coronation in 1937, based on a crown designed for Queen Victoria in 1838.

Catalan leaders convicted in secession bid

Associated Press

MADRID—Spain’s Supreme Court on Monday convicted 12 former Catalan politicians and activists for their roles in a secession bid in 2017, a ruling that immediately inflamed independence supporters in the wealthy northeastern region.

The court sentenced ex-Catalan regional Vice President Oriol Junqueras to 13 years for sedition and misuse of public funds following one of Spain’s most important trials since democracy was restored after the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco in 1975.

Eight others also received lengthy prison terms in Catalonia’s attempt to break away from Spain following an illegal independence referendum, while three received lesser sentences.

Junqueras said the verdict wanted to “destroy lives.”

“But above all, they have shown one thing, that we Cata-

lans do not have an alternative,” he wrote in a letter published by his Republic Left party. “Independence is today closer than ever before.”

Although prosecutors had requested convictions for the more severe crime of rebellion, which under Spanish law implies the use of violence to subvert the constitutional order, judges convicted nine defendants of sedition, implying that they promoted public disorder to subvert the law.

Junqueras and three other former Cabinet members — Raul Romeva, Jordi Turull and Dolors Bassa, who were sentenced to 12 years — were also convicted for misuse of public funds.

The former regional parliament speaker, Carme Forcadell, was given 11½ years in prison; ex-Cabinet members Joaquim Forn and Josep Rull 10½ years each; and grassroots pro-independence activists Jordi Sanchez and Jordi Cuix-

art nine years.

Three other former members of the Catalan Cabinet — Santiago Vila, Meritxell Borrás y Carles Mundo — were fined for disobedience.

All of them have been barred from public office.

Reacting to the verdict, hundreds of students and civil servants immediately protested in different parts of Catalonia and its capital, Barcelona. Grassroots pro-secession groups had warned that if any of the defendants were found guilty they would organize protests and “peaceful civil disobedience.”

Spanish authorities have deployed hundreds of extra police to the region.

“Today, they have violated all their rights. It is horrible that Europe doesn’t act,” civil servant Deni Saball, 60, said while protesting in the street. “I don’t want to be European. I don’t want to be Spanish.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sewage dumped in manholes; 2 arrested

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Two men have been charged with illegally dumping raw sewage down Florida manholes, spilling some down sidewalks.

West Palm Beach police said Thomas Fucarile, who owns Advantage Rooter, and Lavioris Grisby, who is his driver, were charged Friday with three counts of illegal dumping of human waste.

A witness recorded three incidents on his cellphone. One of the alleged incidents shows a worker pump out community septic tanks at a condo and repeatedly empty the content into a city manhole.

According to a police report, the truck held 3,500 gallons of sewage, weighing about 15 tons. A witness said some of the raw sewage spilled everywhere.

2 charged at farm where pigs escaped

VT ORANGE — Two people have been charged in a burglary at a Vermont farm where hundreds of pigs got loose.

WCAX-TV reported that, according to court records, a woman and her boyfriend admitted to stealing tools from the Sugar Mountain Farm in Orange in August.

That's two weeks after the pigs broke free.

Walter Jeffries, the owner of the farm, said the pigs escaped from the enclosure after someone cut his fences.

2 arrested after 57 dogs are seized

NC CHAPEL HILL — A mother and son were arrested in North Carolina after

authorities seized 57 dogs and puppies from two properties.

WRAL-TV reported that Chapel Hill residents Cynthia Riggan, 65, and Taylor Doar, 35, have been charged with animal cruelty.

The station reported that officials searched the properties after receiving information Wednesday about malnourished animals and unsanitary conditions.

Bob Marotto, director of the Orange County Animal Services Department, said all dogs will undergo medical evaluations and receive necessary treatment.

He added that the animals will remain at a county-run facility throughout the legal process.

Famed deli shuttered for sanitary violations

NY NEW YORK — New York health officials have shut down one of the city's oldest, best-known delis for sanitary violations including mice and roaches.

The New York Post reported that health department inspectors visited Barney Greengrass on Manhattan's Upper West Side last week.

The six violations also included not keeping food hot enough and lack of vermin-proofing. In addition, inspectors described employee clothing as "soiled" and food not protected from contamination.

The deli on Amsterdam Avenue, which opened in 1908, remained closed Saturday.

Camera could help in fight against python

FL ORLANDO — A new camera that uses special wavelengths of light could help Florida in its fight against the invasive Burmese python.

Researchers at the University of Central Florida and the nonprofit company Imec developed the camera to help expose the snake. The python is typically very difficult to detect because of its camouflage markings. Thermal imaging doesn't work because pythons are cold-blooded and adopt the temperature of their surroundings.

The Palm Beach Post reported that researchers plan to attach a drone that will allow the camera to identify a python and alert hunters.

11 injured when car crashes into hayride

IL LITTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP — A northern Illinois woman was ticketed for driving her car into a hayride wagon carrying 14 adult passengers, injuring 11 of them.

The Kendall County Sheriff's Department said a car driven by Kaitlin Minick, 22, of DeKalb slammed into the rear of the wagon being towed by a tractor Saturday in Little Rock Township. Authorities said she was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Little Rock-Fox Fire Chief Greg Witek said three of the wagon passengers were hospitalized in serious condition.

Fire officials said Minick's vehicle flipped over in the crash. She was treated at the scene.

Police: Man used Uber to transport meth

UT PROVO — An Uber passenger in Utah is facing charges after police said he used the ride-hailing service to transport nearly 11 pounds of methamphetamine.

The Provo Daily Herald reported that Edgar Esteban

Ramos Valdez was arrested Friday following a confrontation with a Provo officer who spotted the Uber passenger acting nervously.

According to a police report, an Uber driver picked up Valdez, 22, at a Provo hotel and he got into the vehicle with the bag of meth.

The Uber driver drew police attention by following too closely and making improper lane changes. The suspicious officer brought in a K-9 to the scene and found the bag of drugs.

Man tells jailers he shouldn't be released

OH CLEVELAND — An Ohio man who told jailers he shouldn't be released is back behind bars at a county jail in Cleveland.

Cleveland.com reported that Francisco Cruz, 36, called a Cuyahoga County judge after his release from the county lockup earlier this month and asked how he could return to jail.

A state prison term for drug possession and domestic violence ended Oct. 2, the same day Cruz was sentenced to a community corrections facility for another drug possession conviction.

He was released despite telling officials he was supposed to remain in jail until his transfer to the other facility, where he'd receive drug treatment.

Judge John Russo called the facility on Cruz's behalf and learned it only accepted inmates from jails.

Cruz met with his parole officer Thursday and is back in jail.

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®

Astros' Correa homers in 11th to tie ALCS

Associated Press

HOUSTON — In a battle of the bullpens, Carlos Correa felt the greatest relief.

Injured down the stretch and slumping all month, Correa hit a leadoff, walk-off home run in the 11th inning that lifted the Houston Astros over the New York Yankees 3-2 Sunday night, tying the AL Championship Series at one game apiece.

Correa, who earlier lined an RBI double and made a sensational play at shortstop, connected for an opposite-field shot to right off J.A. Happ.

"Not playing a couple of weeks before the playoffs and then not producing for or my team offensively, obviously it's tough, getting hurt and everything," the All-Star said. "But it's all worth it for moments like this, moments like this where you give your team a chance to win every day, it's worth it, man."

Hours earlier, Correa was confident this would be the day he turned things around. About time, too, after starting out 3-for-22 in the postseason after returning from back problems.

"I've got my swing back," he said then. "I'm going to hit a

homer tonight."

And with a swing that kept Houston from falling into an 0-2 hole, he did just that.

"Going into that last inning I thought: 'I got this. I feel like I got this,'" Correa said. "And I had the right approach against him. I've been successful against him going the other way. And that's what I try to do, I saw a good pitch down the middle and I drove the other way."

Correa watched the ball sail, tossed his bat, put his hand to one ear to soak in the roars of the crowd and then held up one finger as he rounded the bases. As he approached home plate, he tossed his helmet as if shooting a basketball at the crowd of teammates waiting for him.

"As soon as I hit it I knew it was going to go over the fence," he said. "The adrenaline started pumping like crazy. I don't even know what I did. I've got to go watch the video. But I know I was so hyped."

Correa's big night gave him 27 RBIs in the postseason to pass Lance Berkman for the most in franchise history. And it was a familiar scene — in Game 2 of the 2017 ALCS

against the Yankees, Correa hit a walk-off double in the ninth.

"You look at his RBI totals in the postseason, you look at his walk-offs, you look at the big moments, he's a pretty special man," manager AJ Hinch said.

Game 3 is Tuesday afternoon at Yankee Stadium. Gerrit Cole, who is 18-0 in his last 24 starts and led the majors in strikeouts, starts for the Astros against Luis Severino.

"The game of baseball, it's a beautiful game," Correa said.

The Yankees tied a League Championship Series record by using nine pitchers. The eight relievers had permitted only one run and two hits with 11 strikeouts in 7²/₃ innings before Correa homered, ending a game that took 4 hours, 49 minutes and finished just before midnight.

Houston's five relievers combined for 4¹/₃ innings of one-hit shutout ball after taking over for Justin Verlander. Going into this best-of-seven series, the Yankees were considered the better team in the bullpen — the Astros amply held their own in this one.

"Our bullpen was nasty, gave us a chance to win the game,"

Correa said.

Gary Sanchez struck out looking to end the Yankees' 11th with runners on first and second. The pitch appeared outside — it came right after he swung and missed with two strikes, but was ruled a foul ball.

New York lost for the first time this postseason after four wins.

"It was a struggle tonight," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "They're tough to score runs off, especially on a night when Verlander is out there."

Aaron Judge put the Yankees on top 2-1 with a two-run shot off Verlander in the fourth. It was his first homer this postseason and the eighth in his playoff career.

George Springer tied it in the fifth with his franchise-record 12th career postseason home run. The 2017 World Series MVP homered on the first pitch after reliever Adam Ottavino entered.

"Just back and forth — the two best ballclubs in the game," Judge said. "I wish we could have come away with two here, but now time to regroup and get ready for Tuesday."

Yankees' bullpen buckles after Paxton pulled

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Yankees went to the bullpen early and kept a parade of relievers going to the mound — even CC Sabathia.

But New York's bullpen buckled in the 11th inning when Carlos Correa led off with a home run off J.A. Happ, the Yankees' ninth pitcher, to give the Houston Astros a 3-2 win Sunday that tied the AL Championship Series at one game apiece.

On a night starter James Paxton lasted just 2¹/₃ innings and 51 pitches, Yankees manager Aaron Boone treated the third inning like he would the sixth during the regular season.

"Just felt like we were covered as far as today with getting some length and having guys rested. Obviously going into an off day

tomorrow we're just going to be aggressive," Boone said.

Paxton allowed Correa's RBI double in the second, escaped further trouble, then was replaced by Chad Green with one on and one out in the third.

"Thought he was struggling with his command," Boone said.

Green retired six straight batters, and Yankees went ahead 2-1 on Aaron Judge's two-run homer in the fourth off Justin Verlander.

Adam Ottavino came on with one out in the fifth and George Springer homered on his first pitch, a flat slider.

"He didn't miss it when I made the mistake," Ottavino said.

Tommy Kahnle pitched 2¹/₃ hitless innings, Zack Britton worked around a one-out walk

in the eighth and Aroldis Chapman struck out the side in the ninth with a two-out walk, a taxing inning that took 25 pitches.

Sabathia made only the third relief appearance of his career when he entered to start the 10th, falling behind Michael Brantley 3-0 in the count before retiring him on a grounder. The 39-year-old former AL Cy Young Award winner, who plans to retire after this season, caused teammates to laugh when he left the mound after the first one-batter appearance in his big league career.

"That run in almost killed me," burly Sabathia said, repeating what he told Boone about going to the mound from the bullpen in deep left field.

Out of high-leverage relievers, Boone brought in Jonathan Loaisiga, who walked two

batters, then was replaced by Happ. The 36-year-old left-hander escaped the jam, striking out rookie Yordan Alvarez and retiring Yuli Gurriel on a flyout.

Happ tried to elevate a fastball to Correa on his first pitch of the 11th.

"He put a good swing on it and got it," Happ said.

Boone said he never really worried about running out of pitchers. Luis Cessa and Tyler Lyons were the only New York relievers not used.

"You're playing it to win the game. You're not playing it to ... what if we go 13?" Boone said. "The bottom line is we end up giving up a third run in the 11th inning. I'd say from a run prevention standpoint it went pretty well."

NFL roundup

Watson, Texans outduel Mahomes' Chiefs

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Deshaun Watson threw for 280 yards and a touchdown while running for two more, outdueling Chiefs counterpart Patrick Mahomes in a matchup of former first-round picks and leading the Houston Texans to a 31-24 victory over Kansas City on Sunday.

Carlos Hyde added 116 yards rushing and a touchdown against the team that traded him to Houston (4-2) before the start of the season. DeAndre Hopkins hauled in nine passes for 55 yards.

None was bigger than his last, when the Texans star made a sliding grab on fourth-and-3 from the Kansas City 27 with just under 2 minutes to go. That allowed Houston to run out the clock and deal the Chiefs (4-2) their second consecutive loss — both at Arrowhead Stadium.

Mahomes, who was selected two spots ahead of Watson in the 2017 draft, finished with 273 yards passing and three touchdowns, though he also threw his first interception of the season.

Star wide receiver Tyreek Hill returned to action for the first time since Week 1, when he broke his collarbone, to catch five passes for 80 yards and two of the Chiefs' scores.

Seahawks 32, Browns 28: Chris Carson scored on a 1-yard touchdown run with 3:30 left, Russell Wilson threw two TD passes and ran for one and Seattle rallied past mistake-prone Cleveland, improving to 3-0 on the road for the first time in 39 years.

The Seahawks (5-1) gave up touchdowns on Cleveland's first three possessions before storming back.

Wilson connected with Jaron Brown for two scores, and Seattle's cool quarterback scampered 16 yards for a TD. The Seahawks last won their first three road games in 1980, when they went 4-12.

The Browns (2-4) were hurt by their own miscues. They couldn't overcome four turnovers, a blocked punt or quarterback Baker Mayfield's hip injury and fell to 0-3 at FirstEnergy Stadium.

Mayfield threw three interceptions, raising his NFL-leading total to 11. Trying to bring the Browns back late, Mayfield, who went to the locker room in the third quarter to be evaluated, was picked off by Seattle's K.J. Wright with 2:41 remaining.

Steelers 24, Chargers 17: At Carson, Calif., James Conner scored two touchdowns, Devin Bush recovered a pair of turnovers and Devlin Hodges won his first NFL start as the Steelers held off the Chargers.

Conner had his first game with both a rushing and receiving touchdown and accounted for 119 scrimmage yards (41 rushing, 78 receiving).

Hodges, who was elevated into the starting spot after Mason Rudolph suffered a concussion last week against Baltimore, didn't look fazed. He completed 15 of 20 for 132 yards and benefited from a running game that helped control the clock. Benny Snell led the way with 75 yards on 17 carries for the Steelers (2-4).

Saints 13, Jaguars 6: Teddy Bridgewater found Jared Cook for a 4-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter, and New Orleans held on to beat host Jacksonville and improve to 4-0 without injured starter Drew Brees.

Coming off a 300-yard, four-touchdown performance against Tampa Bay, Bridgewater was less effective against the Jaguars (2-4). But he did enough for New Orleans' defense, going 24 of 36 passing for 240 yards for the Saints (5-1).

Gardner Minshew was sacked twice, hurried often and threw his first interception as a starter. The rookie sensation completed 14 of 29 passes for 163 yards and was held without a touchdown for the first time

this season.

49ers 20, Rams 7: Jimmy Garoppolo passed for 243 yards and ran for a touchdown, and visiting San Francisco remained unbeaten with a dominant defensive performance against struggling Los Angeles.

George Kittle had eight catches for 103 yards for the Niners (5-0), who held Los Angeles' once-unstoppable offense to 157 yards in coach Kyle Shanahan's first victory over Rams coach Sean McVay in a game in which both of these NFC West rivals were playing their starters.

These longtime coaching colleagues' teams are going in opposite directions after this one-sided showdown at the Coliseum. San Francisco used its possession offense and a sturdy defense to stay alongside New England as the NFL's only unbeaten teams, while the Rams (3-3) are on their first three-game losing streak of McVay's 2½-year tenure.

Jets 24, Cowboys 22: Sam Darnold gave the Jets' struggling offense a huge boost by throwing two touchdown passes in his return from mononucleosis, and host New York held on to beat Dallas for its first win of the season.

Darnold, who missed three games while recovering from mononucleosis, finished 23 of 32 for 338 yards — including a 92-yard touchdown toss to Robby Anderson and a 5-yarder to Ryan Griffin.

Vikings 38, Eagles 20: Kirk Cousins threw to Stefon Diggs for three of his four touchdowns, racking up a season-high 333 passing yards as Minnesota ravaged visiting Philadelphia's secondary.

Diggs scored on plays in the first half that covered 51 and 62 yards, becoming the first player since Randy Moss in 2000 to post two touchdown receptions of 50-plus yards in one game for the Vikings (4-2).

Cousins went 22 for 29 with one sack and one interception

on a deflected ball.

Ravens 23, Bengals 17: Lamar Jackson ran for a career-high 152 yards and a touchdown, threw for 236 yards and guided host Baltimore past hapless Cincinnati.

Jackson carried 19 times, including three kneel-downs, and finished tantalizingly short of Michael Vick's single-game record of 173 yards rushing by a quarterback.

Jackson now has three career 100-yard rushing games, tied with Billy Kilmer for most by a quarterback in his first two seasons since 1950.

Regardless of where Jackson went, the Bengals (0-6) were usually a step behind. Jackson was also adept when throwing, going 21 for 33 without an interception.

Redskins 17, Dolphins 16: Rookie Terry McLaurin caught two touchdown passes and Washington stopped host Miami's two-point conversion attempt with 6 seconds left in a matchup between winless teams.

Adrian Peterson more than doubled his season rushing total with 118 yards for Bill Callahan in his first game as interim coach.

Broncos 16, Titans 0: Denver's swarming defense sent Marcus Mariota to the bench and visiting Tennessee to its fourth loss in five games.

The Broncos (2-4) had seven sacks in a game for the first time since their 2015 Super Bowl season and they picked off three passes.

Cardinals 34, Falcons 33: Kyler Murray threw for 340 yards and three touchdowns and host Arizona built a big lead over Atlanta, lost it, and then rallied to win.

Atlanta looked like it would tie the game with 1:53 left after Matt Ryan hit Devonta Freeman on a 12-yard touchdown pass, but 44-year-old Matt Bryant missed left on the extra point, and the Cardinals ran out the clock from there.

Biles next face of Olympics

Associated Press

STUTTGART, Germany — Next stop Tokyo for Simone Biles.

With Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps both retired since the last Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, the U.S. gymnast will be the face of the games for much of the world.

In gymnastics, no one else comes close. Biles won five of the six gold medals at last week's world championships and broke the all-time record of 25 medals by any gymnast, male or female.

"She's just above anything else that we have seen in the sport," five-time Olympic gold medalist Nadia Comaneci said of Biles on Sunday, praising "the domination that she has toward all the other gymnasts that competed here."

Biles has not just got the talent. She's got the character of an Olympic star.

There's the laser-like focus on training, the same easygoing humor that endeared the world to Bolt, and — crucially in the modern era — a savvy social-media style.

International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said Sunday that Biles' star status would make gymnastics a must-see event at the Tokyo Olympics.

"You can have legends confirming their status as we have just seen with Simone Biles, this amazing performance there on the beam, but you also have new stars," he said. "Gymnastics has all the ingredients to be top another time, I must say. A top Olympic event in Tokyo."

Despite its dispute with Biles over the scoring for her new double-double beam dismount — its grade was lessened in part so as not to encourage less-skilled gymnasts to attempt the risky move — the International Gymnastics Federation knows

Biles is crucial to the sport.

Labeling her "wonder woman" and "a hero," FIG president Morinari Watanabe is keen for Biles not to retire after the Tokyo Olympics. "I hope she will continue after 2020, because she is an excellent athlete," he said Sunday.

Biles is certainly the only athlete who could pull off her look in training at the U.S. nationals in August. She caused a stir with a leotard bearing her surname and a goat's head picked out in sequins, a nod to "Greatest Of All Time."

Few disagree, but Biles hasn't yet won everyone over.

"There's no need to turn her into some unbeatable queen. If I was 15 years younger, I'd definitely take the fight to the American," the Russian gymnast Svetlana Khorkina said in comments on the Russian Olympic Committee website Thursday.

Khorkina won 20 world championship medals between 1994 and 2001 and held the women's record until Biles overtook her Tuesday.

One record is likely to remain out of Biles' reach, however. Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina won a record 15 Olympic medals between 1956 and 1964. Biles won five Olympic medals in Rio de Janeiro, and could add six more next year in Tokyo, but appears highly unlikely to stick around until the 2024 Olympics.

However, there's another record to aim for. Matching her world championship performance from last week would make Biles the first female gymnast to win five gold medals at a single Olympics, and the first female athlete to do so in any sport since East German swimmer Kristin Otto in 1988.

NHL roundup

Penguins keep it simple, rout Jets

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Injuries to some key players has forced the Pittsburgh Penguins to play a simpler game, and it's working out quite well for them.

Zach Aston-Reese, Sam Lafferty and Jake Guentzel each had two goals to lead the Penguins to a 7-2 win over the Winnipeg Jets on Sunday night.

Dominik Simon also scored and Aston-Reese also had an assist for the Penguins. Tristan Jarry stopped 27 shots.

"We talk a lot about being hard to play against," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said. "It starts with your own puck possession, the decisions you make, the line changes, when you change. You put your teammates in good positions because you change at the right time. The tracking on the puck and the back pressure on the puck so you have numbers back.

"For me this is the definition of being hard to play against and it's a recipe for success, regardless of who's in your lineup."

Forwards Nick Bjugstad, Alex Galchenyuk, Evgeni Malkin and Bryan Rust are all on Pittsburgh's injured reserve list but the Penguins improved to 4-2-0 with their second win on the road this week.

"We've got different guys stepping up and we've got guys coming out of the lineup," Guentzel said. "So it just kind of happens like that and when you lose star power like that you've just got to be simple and we're getting better at it."

Both teams were playing back-to-back games and lacked zip.

Golden Knights 5, Kings 2: Paul Stastny scored twice on the power play, Max Pacioretty added a power-play goal and visiting Vegas beat Los Angeles.

Reilly Smith and Mark Stone also scored, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 36 saves as the Golden Knights swept their first set of back-to-back games.

Vegas was 3-for-3 on the power play after starting the season 3-for-17 with the man-advantage.

Jonathan Quick allowed five goals on 36 shots for the Kings.

Sharks 3, Flames 1: Tomas Hertl had a goal and an assist to help host San Jose beat Calgary.

Timo Meier and Kevin Labanc also scored as San Jose won its second straight after an 0-4-0 start. Logan Couture had two assists and Patrick Marleau had one in his first home game since rejoining the Sharks. Martin Jones stopped 32 shots after posting a 4.55 goals-against average while losing his first three starts

Rockets focus on hoops, not fallout

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Rockets are back home in Houston, looking to leave behind the distractions from their trip to Asia.

Their two games in Japan were overshadowed by the aftermath of a tweet by general manager Daryl Morey in support for anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, angering fans and officials in China.

In their first practice since returning, the Rockets insisted they wouldn't let the fallout distract them from preparing from the season.

"Guys can handle it," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "We still got good work in. Everything's fine, but you know what happened (is) regrettable, and it happened, but

as I said, our work will get done."

The Rockets were in Hawaii on Oct. 4 to play a preseason game against the Los Angeles Clippers on the first leg of a trip that included two games in Japan when Morey tweeted an image that said: "Fight For Freedom. Stand With Hong Kong." His tweet was in reference to pro-democracy demonstrations in the semiautonomous Chinese territory that has been mired in escalating violence between protesters and law enforcement.

The tweet was deleted soon after it was posted, and Rockets owner and billionaire casino and restaurant owner Tilman Fertitta quickly rebuked his GM with a tweet saying that Morey does not speak for the team.