

Experts warn against online voting for troops

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Lawmakers should nix an effort in pending legislation that would pave the way for online voting for military troops stationed in remote areas, dozens of elections security experts told senators in a letter this week.

“We believe that service members deserve the highest standard of safe and verifiable voting,” reads the Oct. 13 letter sent to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee by democracy watchdog and voting rights organizations and more than two dozen individuals with backgrounds in elections and cyber security. “For the foreseeable future, internet voting cannot meet that standard, and places military voters’ votes—and the trustworthiness of elections themselves—at risk.”

The authors labeled moves toward online voting “recklessly premature.”

At issue is language in the House-passed version of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act — the must-pass annual bill that sets Pentagon policy and spending priorities — which would instruct the Defense Department to begin planning to provide “end-to-end electronic voting services” to troops deployed in locations with “limited or immature postal service.” End-to-end services would allow voters to check if their ballots had been received and counted. The House passed its version of the bill last month. The Senate has yet to vote on its version.

In their letter, the signees warned that the House language lacks clarity about precisely who or what locations would qualify

for such internet voting. More so, it warns that online votes could be vulnerable to hackers.

The authors — which include the organizations Common Cause, Protect Democracy, Free Speech For People, Verified Voting and the U.S. Vote Foundation — implored lawmakers to find other solutions to ensure service members overseas can vote. Among them, they suggested automatic voter registration for eligible service members, automatic mailing of ballots to registered troops, improved efforts to track overseas ballots, and extending the deadlines for military ballots to be received in all states.

Last year, the Homeland Security Department and the FBI issued warnings about security problems with online voting after determining the U.S. government does not have the means to

ensure the security of online voting. They recommended overseas Americans continue to vote via mailed paper ballots.

Military voting for troops registered in states where they don’t live or who have been stationed overseas has long been a problem. The Federal Voting Assistance Program estimates that thousands of service members routinely fail to receive absentee ballots, including about 90,000 in the 2020 general election.

The experts’ letter comes almost one year after the 2020 U.S. presidential election, whose results have been challenged by former President Donald Trump.

At a time of ongoing complaints about the U.S. elections system, this is not the time to pursue vulnerable online voting, the authors wrote.

USS Ronald Reagan returns to its Yokosuka homeport

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan steamed into Tokyo Bay and its homeport on Saturday, ending a five-month deployment, during which it covered U.S. troops withdrawing from Afghanistan.

Despite a spattering of rain, the Reagan’s crew arrived to find live music, food and hundreds of sailors and family members — fanfare that was largely missing from warship homecomings since the pandemic began in March 2020.

However, with cases of COVID-19 dropping and pandemic restrictions loosened, the Reagan was once again met by loved ones at the pier holding signs that sported messages such

as “We missed you!” and “You’re my superhero!”

The crew lined the rails as the Reagan approached its berth. The approximately 4,500 crew members began to disembark within two hours.

The Reagan left Yokosuka in May and headed to the Arabian Sea to relieve the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. The carriers supported the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, which concluded Aug. 31 and ended the longest war in U.S. history.

Longer than the typical three-month deployment by U.S. aircraft carriers, the Reagan’s absence proved a challenge for some at home, several family members told Stars and Stripes.

“I’m excited to have him home,” said Zayra Garcia, wife to Reagan sailor Petty Officer 3rd

Class Christopher Garcia.

During the Reagan’s deployment the ship and its strike group covered more than 49,000 miles over 150 days, according to Capt. Fred Goldhammer, the Reagan’s skipper. In that time, the Reagan’s F/A-18 Super Hornets flew missions over Kabul to protect U.S. and allied assets during the withdrawal.

“We were there just in case as an emergency measure if things didn’t go according to plan or if there were additional combat actions that were required to support the evacuation,” Goldhammer said at a news conference.

Outside of flight missions, the Reagan’s sailors also provided logistics support to the U.S. withdrawal and offered humanitarian aid to civilians.

“As people were flown out of

Afghanistan through Bagram [Airfield] — they were going to all sorts of different places — so we were just making sure they had all their health care needs, food, that kind of thing,” Goldhammer told Stars and Stripes. U.S. forces pulled out of Bagram Airfield on July 1.

Goldhammer said the Reagan also worked with a variety of other nations’ militaries during the deployment, including the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, France and Germany.

The Reagan was preceded into the naval base by the cruiser USS Shiloh, which returned to Yokosuka on Wednesday. Another member of the Reagan’s strike group, the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey, returned to its homeport in Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Oct. 4.

Cadets work on growing food in space

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Some Air Force Academy cadets have proposed that the service fund a facility to study farming techniques that could someday be used on the moon to feed U.S. troops deployed in space.

The cadet club USAFA Green designed an agricultural testing facility for entry into the Air Force's annual Spark Tank innovation challenge. While it would be based in Colorado Springs, Colo., it would allow research for "any environment," they say.

The cadets envision a site to experiment with various farming methods that they said could support airmen and Space Force guardians deployed anywhere from the Middle East to Antarctica and far beyond.

"Our warfighters will need to feed themselves in any terrestrial

or extraterrestrial environment," Cadet 2nd Class Caroline Harshbarger says in a 2 1/2-minute video submitted last week.

The cadets' proposal calls for a facility with three areas to test different growing methods, including a greenhouse focused on researching aeroponics and hydroponics, techniques that use air or water, respectively, as a growing medium instead of soil. Other areas would study mushroom cultivation and more traditional methods.

The video cites a renewed U.S. focus on space, as evidenced by the launch of the Space Force in 2019 and the creation of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to take humans back to the moon for a long-term stay and eventually to Mars.

"As we get closer to having bases on the moon and further

space exploration, it is vital we have dependable and viable solutions to grow food in space," Cadet 1st Class John Subick says in the video.

From early on, astronaut program foods were based on military survival rations or developed with the services, according to the National Air and Space Museum website.

In 1962, John Glenn was the first American to have a meal in space. It consisted of applesauce packed in an aluminum tube and sugar tablets with water.

For later Gemini and Apollo missions, freeze-dried meals were developed and produced with the help of the U.S. Army Laboratory in Natick, Mass., the museum website says.

Now, NASA's Food Systems Laboratory at Houston's Johnson Space Center and the Space Food

Research Facility in College Station, Texas, develop and produce space flight foods similar to military meals ready to eat. They're meant to feed NASA astronauts on the International Space Station and the Orion spacecraft, which is designed to take crews to the moon and beyond.

NASA has also been researching how to grow fresh food in space, conducting experiments at a desert test site in Arizona over a decade ago and aboard the International Space Station beginning in 2014.

It might also be possible for a Mars colony to one day farm the red planet. After the release of the 2015 film "The Martian," in which Matt Damon plays a stranded space botanist who grows potatoes to survive, NASA said the soil there does actually have the nutrients needed to support plant life.

Marines in Japan ready for Corps' 246th birthday

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Marines in Japan plan to resume their annual birthday ball celebrations this year despite Commandant Gen. David Berger canceling his soiree in Washington, D.C.

Berger announced his decision Wednesday, citing an "abundance of caution due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Ryan Bruce wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes a day later.

"Marines have always thrived under difficult circumstances and the 246th year of the Corps is no different," Bruce said. "We encourage all Marines to celebrate our birthday traditions and history in ways that keep them safe and healthy."

The III Marine Expeditionary

Force, headquartered on Okinawa, Japan, plans to hold a ball this year "unless otherwise directed by higher headquarters or local COVID-19 conditions prove prohibitive," III MEF spokesman 2nd Lt. Zachary Voss wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes on Friday. The event is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Nov. 10 at the Butler Officer's Club in Camp Foster's Plaza Housing.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, tentatively scheduled its ball Nov. 5 at IronWorks South Gym, Diddams said. About 900 guests from the headquarters and headquarters squadron are expected.

The installation plans further balls, two squadrons at a time, until they are completed, he said. COVID-19 mitigation measures will be in place.

Yokosuka Naval Base unveils 6-seat anti-sub warfare trainer

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors will be able to hone their submarine tracking skills in a virtual setting with the debut of a new simulator at the home of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

The Center for Surface Combat Systems Detachment Yokosuka cut the ribbon on its new anti-submarine warfare trainer at 10 a.m. Friday. The facility features a six-chair simulator that enables sailors to learn and improve their skills in tracking enemy vessels.

The system also provides a more cost-efficient and expedited method of training, according to Lt. Cmdr. Michael Arnold, head of the Yokosuka detachment. Training sailors at Yokosuka saves weeks and thousands of dollars over flying them to another U.S. facility, he said.

"This brings advanced tactical training directly to the waterfront," he told Stars and Stripes on Friday. "The only comparable training you can do is onboard your own ship."

Training in the new area can take a variety of formats: interactive 3D models, simulated "gaming" courses, instructor-led exercises and the simulator itself. Officially called a Virtual Operator Trainer, the system offers realistic interfaces that emulate the actual process of tracking a submarine.

Arnold said the trainer can also use data from actual encounters between deployed ships and submarines to mimic real-world scenarios for added immersion.

"We can bring those tapes in here and show the next ship that's going out that this is what to look for," he said.

Biden honors police who thwarted Capitol rioters

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Framed by the Capitol, President Joe Biden paid tribute Saturday to fallen law enforcement officers and honored those who fought off the Jan. 6 insurrection at that very site by declaring “because of you, democracy survived.”

Biden spoke at the 40th Annual National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service to remember the 491 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in

2019 and 2020. Standing where the violent mob tried to block his own ascension to the presidency, Biden singled out the 150 officers who were injured and the five who died in the attack’s aftermath.

“Nine months ago, your brothers and sisters thwarted an unconstitutional and fundamentally un-American attack on our nation’s values and our votes. Because of you, democracy survived,” Biden said. “Because of

these men and women, we avoided a catastrophe, but their heroism came at a cost to you and your families.”

Hundreds of officers and their families sat on chairs assembled on the Capitol’s west front. Some in the audience dabbed their eyes as the president drew connections with their loss and his own history of grief, including the deaths of his first wife and two children, comparing it to “losing part of your soul.”

Biden also underscored the heavy burden placed on law enforcement officers and rebuked the “defund the police” political movement, saying that those gathered before him would get “more resources, not fewer, so you can do your job.”

“We expect everything of you and it’s beyond the capacity of anyone to meet the total expectations,” Biden said. “Being a cop today is one hell of a lot harder than it’s ever been.”

Some defendants in Capitol riot represent themselves

Associated Press

Some of the defendants charged in the storming of the U.S. Capitol are turning away defense lawyers and electing to represent themselves, undeterred by their lack of legal training or repeated warnings from judges.

That choice already has led to some curious legal maneuvers and awkward exchanges in court.

A New York man charged in the Jan. 6 insurrection wants to bill the government for working on his own case. A Pennsylvania restaurant owner is trying to defend herself from jail. A judge told another New Yorker that he may have incriminated himself during courtroom arguments.

The right to self-representation is a bedrock principle of the Constitution. But a longtime judge cited an old adage in advising a former California police chief that he would have “a fool for a client” if he represented himself.

And Michael Magner, a New Orleans criminal defense lawyer and former federal prosecutor, observed, “Just because you have a constitutional right to do something doesn’t necessarily mean that it’s smart.”

The decision by at least five defendants to defend themselves is bound to create a host of challenges, mainly for those in jail. They risk getting themselves in more

legal trouble if they say the wrong thing in court. They have to sift through the mountain of evidence investigators have collected in the attack. And the strategy is already testing judges’ ability to maintain control of their courtrooms.

“I would never represent myself if I were charged with a crime,” U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth told Alan Hostetter before allowing him to handle his own defense against riot charges. The judge warned the ex-police chief that he has never seen anyone successfully represent himself since his appointment to the bench in 1987.

Hostetter was arrested in June along with five other men on charges that they conspired to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden’s victory in the presidential election. The indictment links four of Hostetter’s co-defendants to the Three Percenters, a wing of the militia movement.

Hostetter, who began teaching yoga after more than 20 years as an officer, told Lamberth that the “corruption of this investigation” is one reason he wants to represent himself. His finances also were a factor.

“I believe that it’s a governmental strategy and tactic that if they can’t convict you, they at least want to bankrupt and destroy you,” Hostetter said.

Lawsuits demand unproven ivermectin for virus patients

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mask rules, vaccination mandates and business shutdowns have all landed in the courts during the COVID-19 outbreak, confronting judges with questions of science and government authority. Now they are increasingly being asked to weigh in on the deworming drug ivermectin.

At least two dozen lawsuits have been filed around the United States, many in recent weeks, by people seeking to force hospitals to give their COVID-stricken loved ones ivermectin, a drug for parasites that has been promoted by conservative commentators as a treatment despite a lack of conclusive evidence that it helps people with the virus.

The lawsuits, several of them filed by the same western New York lawyer, cover similar ground. The families have gotten prescriptions for ivermectin, but hospitals have refused to use it on their loved ones, who are often on ventilators and facing death.

In a September case on Staten Island, state Supreme Court Judge Ralph Porzio refused to order the use of ivermectin in a situation where a man sued a hospital on behalf of his ill father, citing its unproven impact.

“This court will not require any doctor to be placed in a potentially

unethical position wherein they could be committing medical malpractice by administering a medication for an unapproved, alleged off-label purpose,” he wrote.

In some cases, an order to give the drug has been reversed later.

Hospitals have pushed back, saying their standards of care don’t allow them to give patients a drug that hasn’t been approved for COVID and could potentially cause harm, and that allowing laypeople and judges to overrule medical professionals is a dangerous road to go down.

Ralph Lorigo doesn’t see it that way. The attorney from Buffalo, N.Y., filed his first of several ivermectin lawsuits in January after being approached by the family of an 80-year-old woman who was in the hospital on a ventilator. His second case was later that month, for a hospitalized 65-year-old woman.

In both cases, judges ordered hospitals to give the women ivermectin as their families wanted. Both women survived their hospitalizations.

Lorigo is adamant that ivermectin works. Health experts and federal agencies have said that any evidence of it being effective against COVID-19 is slim and more research needs to be done. Studies are currently underway.

Navy set to review 9 years of 'bad paper' discharges

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy has agreed to review more than nine years' worth of "bad paper" discharges given to thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or certain other trauma-related health conditions.

That announcement follows preliminary court approval Tuesday of a settlement of a 2018 lawsuit alleging that a Navy board had improperly denied a Marine Corps veteran's request for a better discharge status.

The suit was filed by Tyson Manker and the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress. Manker, who served from 1999 to 2003 and earned multiple awards and commendations, received an other-than-honorable discharge for smoking marijuana.

The settlement would require the Navy to review discharge status upgrade applications made to the Naval Discharge Review Board between March 2, 2012, and the effective date of the settlement.

The review applies to Navy and Marine Corps veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan era who were given general or other-than-honorable discharges and were partially or fully denied upgrade relief, the Navy said Wednesday.

The settlement also expands reapplication rights for eligible applicants who were discharged and received an adverse review board decision between Oct. 7, 2001, and March 2, 2012, the Navy said. In addition, the Navy agreed to provide discharge review board members and staffers with annual training in PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, military sexual trauma and other behavioral or mental health conditions, according to the settlement.

The board adjudicates applications from Navy and Marine Corps veterans seeking to upgrade their general or other-than-honorable discharges.

Those discharges, also known as "bad paper," stigmatize veterans and keep them from receiving health care, education and other military service benefits.

Suspect named in deadly attack on UK lawmaker

The Washington Post

LONDON — The man arrested on suspicion of fatally stabbing a long-serving British lawmaker has been identified as Ali Harbi Ali, according to several British media outlets.

David Amess, who represented Southend West in Essex for the ruling Conservative Party, was attacked Friday while meeting with constituents in a church building in his home district, about 40 miles east of London.

Authorities said they are treating the killing as terrorism, potentially motivated by Islamist extremism. Police did not reveal the man's identity. But several media outlets in Britain named the 25-year-old suspect late Saturday night, describing him as a British national of possible Somali heritage.

Police said Saturday evening that a warrant of further detention was granted, meaning detectives have until Friday to question the suspect regarding ties to terrorism. The BBC said that several years ago,

Ali had been referred to Prevent, the government's counterextremism program, but that he was not known to the security services.

Police said they searched three sites for possible evidence in the killing of Amess, who died after being stabbed multiple times.

The suspect was not on a terrorism watch list, authorities said. No group has come forward claiming responsibility for inspiring or directing the attack.

Early Saturday, the counterterrorism division of London's Metropolitan Police force formally declared the incident an act of terrorism.

"The early investigation has revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism," a police statement said, adding that police believe the man acted alone.

"We are not seeking anyone else in connection with the incident at this time," police said.

Amess died at the scene.

17 missionaries taken in Haiti

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — A gang blamed for kidnapping five priests and two nuns earlier this year in Haiti is now accused of kidnapping 17 missionaries from a U.S.-based organization, including a 2-year-old, police said Sunday.

The 400 Mawozo gang kidnapped the group — which also included some elderly people — in Ganthier, a commune that lies east of the capital of Port-au-Prince, Haitian police inspector Frantz Champagne said.

The gang, whose name roughly translates to 400 "inexperienced men," controls the Croix-des-Bouquets area that includes Ganthier, where they carry out kidnappings and carjackings and extort business owners, according to authorities. Haiti is once again struggling with a spike in gang-related kidnappings that had diminished in recent months, after President Jovenel Moïse was fatally shot at his private residence on July 7 and a 7.2-magnitude earthquake killed more than 2,200 people in August.

The missionaries were on their way home Saturday from building an orphanage, according to a message from Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries sent to various religious missions.

"This is a special prayer alert," the one-minute message said. "Pray that the gang members would come to repentance."

The message says the mission's field director is working with the U.S. Embassy, and that the field director's family and one other unidentified man stayed at the ministry's base while everyone else visited the orphanage.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States is in touch with Haitian authorities to try to resolve the case.

Gangs have demanded ransoms ranging from a couple hundred dollars to more than \$1 million, according to authorities. Last month, a deacon was killed in front of a church in the capital of Port-au-Prince and his wife kidnapped, one of dozens of people who have been abducted in recent months.

At least 328 kidnapping victims were reported to Haiti's National Police in the first eight months of 2021, compared with a total of 234 for all of 2020, according to a report issued last month by the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti known as BINUH.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

New high-tech buoy coming to Buzzards Bay

MA BOSTON — A high-tech buoy designed to enhance maritime safety is being installed in Buzzards Bay, state environmental officials said.

The buoy that measures wave height, wave period, wave direction and surface water temperature every 30 minutes will be placed about four nautical miles southwest of Cuttyhunk Island, according to a statement from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The buoy is a joint project involving the state, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems.

“Adding this new buoy in Buzzards Bay will expand Cape Cod’s marine safety network and help ensure safe passage for mariners traveling through these important waters,” state Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides said.

State intends to scrap school letter grades

LA BATON ROUGE — Louisiana’s top school board agreed to shelve letter grades for public schools this year because of the coronavirus outbreak, assuming the federal government signs off on the move as expected.

The action from the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education means that grades and school performance scores that are usually released in November will be set aside amid classroom upheaval and falling test scores blamed on the

pandemic.

The Advocate reported that state Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley said he’s confident the waiver request will win federal approval. At least 45 other states have gotten federal clearance to cancel school rating procedures, and the U.S. Department of Education encouraged states to apply for waivers because of the pandemic.

Man sentenced after son detonated explosive

MI NEWAYGO — A man whose son accidentally detonated a homemade explosive at a school in western Michigan was sentenced to four years in prison.

David Saylor Sr. didn’t have a direct role in the incident that day, though he “may have turned a blind eye to his son’s actions creating these devices,” defense attorney James Scozzari said in a court filing.

Saylor’s son brought a homemade explosive to Newaygo High School and accidentally detonated it, injuring himself and others. The teen lost both thumbs.

Saylor admitted that he and his son designed and made explosives for two years.

Vendor sells Nazi gear at motorcycle rally

FL DAYTONA BEACH — A vendor at a major motorcycle rally in Florida briefly sold hats emblazoned with Nazi symbols, saying she considered them a tribute to World War II veterans who helped defeat the Germans.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported that the vendor was selling the hats embroidered with swastikas and a skull-and-bones logo used by the Nazi SS at

a stand during Biketoberfest, an ongoing festival that draws thousands of bikers to the Daytona Beach area.

The vendor said she had sold the hats at other biker rallies around the country without complaint. The woman, who would only give her name Jenny, also sings rings, wallet chains and hats without Nazi logos. The owner of the property where Jenny was selling her goods ordered her to remove the Nazi merchandise and she complied.

Man indicted, said to run illegal funeral home

OH TOLEDO — An Ohio man accused of running unlicensed funeral operations was indicted on corpse abuse and other charges weeks after authorities removed two bodies from a Columbus building that prosecutors alleged he used for makeshift funeral services.

Shawnte Hardin was charged with 37 counts, mostly felonies. They include representing himself as a funeral director while unlicensed, tampering with records, theft, passing bad checks, identity fraud and engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity. The list also includes a misdemeanor charge alleging a body wasn’t properly refrigerated or embalmed.

He previously denied allegations that he was running an illegal funeral home, saying during an interview with WBNS-TV in Columbus that what he offered was lower-cost services for transporting and washing bodies.

Officer accused of having sister shoot him

WA SHELTON — A Department of Corrections officer who was shot in

Washington state was arrested and accused of having his sister shoot him.

Community corrections officer Christopher Floe called 911 and said he had been shot by an unknown person, KING-TV reported. It sparked a search for a “potentially armed and dangerous person” in downtown Shelton.

Charging documents showed investigators found inconsistencies in Floe’s statement and that when interviewed again, he said he talked his sister, Caroline Floe, into shooting him.

Charging documents showed that his sister told investigators that her brother had asked her to shoot him and provided her with a gun.

Both were arrested and booked into Mason County Jail on suspicion of conspiracy to commit assault, conspiracy to commit a drive-by shooting, assault and other charges.

Man jailed after his girlfriend is set on fire

NC KENANSVILLE — A North Carolina man was jailed on a \$1 million bond after investigators said he set his girlfriend on fire, a sheriff’s office said.

The Duplin County Sheriff’s Office said in a news release that deputies responded to a call in which a woman said her boyfriend doused her with rubbing alcohol and set her on fire. The woman suffered severe burns over a large portion of her body, the sheriff’s office said.

Deputies arrested Raeford Bell, 64, and charged him with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury.

— From wire reports



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Red Sox hit two grand slams in victory

Associated Press

J.D. Martinez and Rafael Devers helped the Red Sox have a grand old time in Houston.

Boston became the first team to slug two grand slams in a postseason game, with Martinez and Devers connecting in the first two innings of a 9-5 win over the Astros on Saturday that tied their AL Championship Series at one game apiece.

Game 3 is Monday night in Boston. It's the first of three consecutive home games for the Red Sox, back in the playoffs for the first time since winning the 2018 World Series after downing Houston in the ALCS.

Martinez made it 4-0 with his opposite-field shot off rookie Luis García with two outs in the first. It was the first career playoff slam for the four-time All-Star, who began his career with the Astros.

"That situation, the pressure is on him, it's not on me to come through there," Martinez said. "It's the first inning. He has bases loaded. I'm trying to tell myself that, trying to stay relaxed and just looking for a pitch so I can just put a barrel on it."

García exited with right knee discomfort after walking the first batter of the second inning. Jake Odorizzi took over, and shortly after a 13-minute delay while the right-hander warmed up on the field, Devers connected with one out for slam No. 2.

"J.D.'s swing was huge to get us on the board early, and then Raffy, same thing, an-

other granny," red-hot teammate Kiké Hernández said. "Has that ever happened before?"

It has now.

Hernández, who Boston manager Alex Cora referred to Friday night as "en fuego" after a two-homer performance in Game 1, remained on fire Saturday. He had two hits, highlighted by a solo homer in the fourth inning.

Hernández has been this postseason's hottest hitter, leading all players with 16 hits, five homers and four doubles. His nine extra-base hits are also the most in these playoffs and tied a Red Sox postseason record with Mike Lowell (2007), Kevin Youkilis (2007) and David Ortiz (2004 & 2007). His five homers are also tied for most in team history with Ortiz (2004, 2013) and Todd Walker (2003).

"The importance of the game is allowing me to stay focused and stay locked in," Hernández said.

Red Sox starter Nathan Eovaldi permitted five hits and three runs in 5 1/3 innings.

The Astros captured a 5-4 win in the series opener as they rallied behind homers from Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa before falling into the huge hole early in this one.

"That's a tough team," Cora said. "It's never comfortable with them because they're a swing away from getting back in the game."

The Red Sox were up 9-0 when Houston

got on the board with an RBI double by Kyle Tucker with two outs in the fourth. The Astros cut the lead to 9-3 when Yuli Gurriel followed with single to right field that scored two more.

Gurriel and Jason Castro added solo homers in the ninth off Darwinzon Hernandez before Ryan Brasier got the final out.

"At the end, it was a little too close for comfort, but we got it done," Hernández said.

Manager Dusty Baker isn't sure how long García will be out, but he said that he'd been dealing with this issue "on and off" but didn't tell anyone about it.

"It wasn't bothering him enough not to pitch," Baker said. "We'll make a determination in a couple of days."

The injury to García is another blow to a Houston team trying to reach the World Series for the second time in three years. The Astros are already reeling after an injury to staff ace Lance McCullers Jr. that kept him off the roster for this series.

They won the championship in 2017, a crown tainted by the team's sign-stealing scandal.

When McCullers went out, Baker said the team would just have to "hit more" to absorb the loss.

So what is he asking from his offense now?

"Do some more," he said with a chuckle while shaking his head. "You don't have much choice, so we just have to do some more. That's all."

Riley's game-winning single in 9th lifts Braves

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A couple of clutch swings from breakout slugger Austin Riley got the underdog Atlanta Braves off to a fast start in the NL Championship Series.

Riley homered and drove in the winning run with a single in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Atlanta a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 on Saturday night.

Blake Treinen struck out Freddie Freeman to open the ninth before giving up Ozzie Albies' bloop single to center field. Albies stole second and Riley followed with his line drive into the left-field corner.

"That was my mindset — put

something in play and see what happens," Riley said after delivering the first walk-off hit of his career.

The 24-year-old slugger spread his arms in celebration as he rounded first base before getting mobbed by teammates in a happy swarm that carried into shallow center field.

"You dream of that as a little kid," Riley said.

Albies told first-base coach Eric Young Sr. he would be taking off to steal second so he could get in scoring position.

"I knew (Riley) was going to do the job," Albies said.

"As soon as he hit it, I took off. I started yelling, screaming all the way to home plate."

Riley also homered in the

fourth. The third baseman set career highs across the board for NL East champion Atlanta this year in his third major league season, batting .303 with 33 homers, 107 RBIs and an .898 OPS in a league-leading 160 games.

"He's come a long way in a short time, I feel like. Even last year, I think that he didn't have all these tools. He can beat you in so many ways now, and he always had that power, but now he's putting together such good at-bats," Dodgers infielder Trea Turner said.

"He's a polished hitter and hats off to him, because I think he's gotten to the point where he's been a really good player and there's a reason why fans

are chanting MVP for him."

Riley's big game was especially important as Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman struck out four times against four different Los Angeles pitchers after having only one four-strikeout game in the regular season.

Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said Riley has proven he can take that lead role.

"I think that kid has definitely taken the next step forward," Snitker said.

The teams are meeting in the NL Championship Series for the second consecutive season. The Dodgers rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win last year's playoff in seven games before also winning the World Series.

Wisconsin gets big takeaway late to top pesky Army

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The one big weakness of Wisconsin's otherwise outstanding defense this season has been its inability to force turnovers.

But the Badgers finally produced a takeaway at a critical moment Saturday late in the fourth quarter and outlasted a pesky Army team 20-14.

Army (4-2) trailed 13-7 and had the ball when Leo Chenal delivered a punishing hit that knocked the ball loose from quarterback Jabari Laws. Wisconsin's Keanu Benton recovered the fumble at Army's 1-yard line with 2:55 remaining.

On the next play, Graham Mertz scored on a quarterback keeper for his second touchdown run of the night.

"It was definitely the game-changing moment we needed," Benton said.

Wisconsin (3-3) entered the weekend having allowed the second-fewest yards per game of any Football Bowl Subdivision program, but the Badgers were among the nation's worst teams at forcing turnovers.

Laws' fumble was Wisconsin's fourth takeaway of the season.

"We always want to be going for that ball," said Chenal, who also had a career-high 17 tackles. "We need to be creating more turnovers than we are right now."

Army cut the lead to 20-14 on A.J. Howard's 6-yard touchdown run with 38 seconds left, but Jack Sanborn recovered the ensuing onside kick to seal the victory.

"When we practiced it this week, I actually messed up that exact same play and our onside team recovered it in practice," Sanborn said. "I told everyone that I got it out of the way that day and that Saturday I would get it. I knew it was coming my way."

Wisconsin's Braelon Allen rushed for 108 yards on 16 carries, including a 33-yard touchdown.

This marked the second straight game in which Allen rushed for at least 100 yards. The 17-year-old freshman ran for 131 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries last week in a 24-0 victory at Illinois.

"I definitely feel myself getting more comfortable and confident," Allen said. "My line's done a great job. I've had huge holes to run through these past two weeks."

Army (4-2) played a second straight game without usual starting quarterback Christian Anderson, who is dealing with a shoulder injury. The Black Knights lost 28-16 to Ball State without Anderson two weeks ago.

Purdue tops No. 2 Iowa

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The pressure, Purdue coach Jeff Brohm said, was all on No. 2 Iowa.

The Hawkeyes started the season with six consecutive wins and the program had ascended to its highest ranking since 1985.

"For us," Brohm said, "let's go out there and swing, and keep swinging, and hope for the best."

The Boilermakers connected, just as they've been doing against the Hawkeyes in recent seasons.

Aidan O'Connell threw for 374 yards and accounted for three touchdowns, David Bell had a career-best 240 yards receiving, and Purdue continued its recent mastery over Iowa with a 24-7 upset Saturday.

The Boilermakers (4-2, 2-1 Big Ten) have won four of their last five games against the Hawkeyes (6-1, 3-1). The loss ended Iowa's 12-game winning streak, including nine consecutive in Big Ten play.

Purdue beat its highest ranked opponent on the road since a victory at No. 2 Notre Dame in 1974. It was the second time in four seasons Purdue has knocked off a No. 2-ranked team. The Boilermakers won at home against second-ranked Ohio State in 2018.

"Basically they outdid us in every category," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "The bot-

tom line is we didn't get it done."

The Hawkeyes tried to be positive heading into their bye week. Their Big Ten West Division title hopes are still there, and they could still find themselves in the College Football Playoff picture if they win out.

"Our goals are all in front of us at this point," quarterback Spencer Petras said. "One thing we can't do is be undefeated, but everything else is out there for our taking. We've done a lot of good the first seven weeks, a lot of bad, most of that today. We have to regroup."

But, Ferentz said, they had no answer for the Boilermakers, who took control of the game early. They never let Iowa's offense get into a rhythm, and they kept the ball away from a defense that came in leading the nation in takeaways and turnover margin.

"We knew if we found a way to get a lead it would definitely help us," Brohm said.

Purdue was 9-for-16 on third down, and two of the Boilermakers' touchdown drives lasted 10 plays.

"They came out ready to roll," Iowa linebacker Jack Campbell said.

O'Connell was 30 of 40 passing with two touchdowns, and he also ran for a score. He got the most work on a day when Purdue used backup quarterbacks Jack Plummer and Austin Burton in select situations.

Roberts, Air Force get by Boise State

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Brad Roberts rushed for 138 yards and two touchdowns, Air Force's defense turned in another stifling performance and the Falcons knocked off Boise State 24-17 Saturday night.

Air Force (6-1, 3-1 Mountain West Conference), which hasn't started a season this well since 2002 when the Falcons began the season 6-0 before finishing 8-5, snapped a four-game losing streak to the Broncos.

After giving up two touchdowns on Boise State's first three possessions, Air Force's defense took over.

"We really settled in after the first three series and made some big plays when we really needed them," Air Force coach Troy Calhoun said. "We were able to keep them out of the end zone and came up with some key stops, even at the end of the game to hold them to just a field goal."

Boise State (3-4, 1-2) lost its third home game of the season, the first time that has happened since 1998. It's also the first time

the Broncos have lost three straight at home since 1997.

"Everyone knows what the standard is here, whether it's on the road or at home," Boise State coach Andy Avalos said. "The standard is the competitive nature and the standard we have on the field is that it gives us an opportunity to be successful. ... We had some opportunities and we didn't execute."

After the win, Air Force players lingered on the field, taking selfies on Boise State's famed blue turf and relishing a victory in Boise for only the second time in the program's history.

And Calhoun tried to keep the win — and Air Force's best start in his tenure — in perspective.

"It's trite — and I say it over and over — but it's one game," Calhoun said. "We need to enjoy this one, but we need to get better and have some things we need to fix. We made a good number of mistakes, but we hung in there and persevered."

Jaguars hit 53-yard FG on last play to end skid

Associated Press

LONDON—The Jacksonville Jaguars ended their 20-game losing streak when Matthew Wright kicked a 53-yard field goal as time expired in a 23-20 victory over the Miami Dolphins on Sunday in London.

Trevor Lawrence connected on a short slant pass to Laviska Shenault Jr. and the Jags (1-5) called timeout with 1 second remaining after the Dolphins (1-5) gambled on a fourth-and-1 from their 46 and came up short.

Lawrence threw for 319 yards and a touchdown as he and coach Urban Meyer finally earned their first NFL victories—even if it required a trip to Europe to get it done in a “home” game at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Dolphins lost their fifth consecutive game, spoiling the return of Tua Tagovailoa, who made his first start in a month. The second-year quarterback threw two touchdown passes to Jaylen Waddle.

Wright had tied the game at 20 on a 54-yard field goal with 3:40 remaining.

The Dolphins took a 20-17 lead when Tagovailoa finished a seven-play, 91-yard drive with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Waddle with 10:22 left in the game. Waddle caught the ball and stuck it over the goal line as cornerback Nevin Lawson tackled him.

Jacksonville grabbed a 17-13 lead early in the third quarter on James Robinson's 1-yard run after he rumbled 24 yards on the previous play. The drive included a 29-yard reception by Jamal Agnew and an unnecessary roughness penalty on Miami safety Jevon Holland.

Miami played without starting cornerbacks Xavien Howard and Byron Jones, who were both out injured.

Lightning top Capitals in OT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—This was more like it for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

They needed to stage another comeback, but this time the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions followed a familiar recipe when it mattered most.

Andrei Vasilevskiy was perfect after allowing Alex Ovechkin's 733rd career goal, Steven Stamkos scored in overtime and Tampa Bay came back to beat the Washington Capitals 2-1 Saturday night.

Two nights after a furious, three-goal comeback to win 7-6 in OT at Detroit, the Lightning stuck to their championship process and were rewarded with a hard-fought victory.

“We can run and gun, for sure — we’ve done that in the past,” Stamkos said after scoring with 14.2 seconds left in overtime. “What’s made us successful the last couple years is the ability to play in these types of games: In close games, rely on our good goaltending, rely on our special teams, rely on our solid 5-on-5 play, and we saw a lot of that tonight.”

It came at the cost of two more injuries: 2019 MVP Nikita Kucherov and top-pairing defenseman Jan Rutta left and did not return.

Rangers 3, Canadiens 1: Alexis Lafreniere snapped a third-period tie with a power-play goal in his first NHL game back home, and visiting New York beat Montreal for its first victory under new coach Gerard Gallant.

Lafreniere, the top pick in the 2020 draft, scored for the Rangers just 26 seconds after Jonathan Drouin pulled Montreal even.

New York broke the ice in the second period on its fourth power-play opportunity. Lafreniere's shot deflected off Chris Kreider, then Alexander Romanov, before sliding across the goal line. Kreider was credited with the goal, his third of the season.

Maple Leafs 3, Senators 1: Alexander Kerfoot had a goal and an assist, Michael Bunting scored his first for his hometown team and host Toronto beat Ottawa.

Wayne Simmonds also scored for Toronto, and Jack Campbell made 20 saves.

Sharks 4, Jets 3: Jasper Weatherby scored the tying goal in his NHL debut and William Eklund set up the go-ahead score in his first career game to lead host San Jose past Winnipeg.

Adin Hill made 20 saves in his debut with the Sharks.

Bruins 3, Stars 1: Brad Marchand scored twice, Jake DeBrusk broke a 1-all tie early in the third period and host Boston opened the season with a win over Dallas.

Nick Foligno, Erik Haula and David Pastrnak each had assists, and Jeremy Swayman stopped

27 shots for the Bruins, who never trailed.

Penguins 5, Blackhawks 2: Drew O'Connor scored his first NHL goal, Danton Heinen got his third in three games and host Pittsburgh scored four times in the first period in a win over Chicago.

Marc-Andre Fleury started against his former team, allowed four goals on 10 shots, and lasted less than 12 minutes. Kevin Lankinen stopped 15 shots in relief.

Blues 5, Avalanche 3: David Perron scored two goals, Jordan Binnington stopped 29 shots and visiting St. Louis held on for a win over Colorado.

Justin Faulk had a goal and an assist for the Blues.

Blue Jackets 2, Kraken 1 (OT): Patrick Laine scored at 2:16 of overtime to give host Columbus a come-from-behind win over Seattle.

Eric Robinson scored, and Elvis Merzlikins stopped 19 shots for his second win for the Blue Jackets.

Panthers 5, Islanders 1: Sam Bennett got his second career hat trick, Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 28 shots and host Florida topped New York for a 2-0-0 start for the seventh time in the franchise's 28 seasons.

Jonathan Huberdeau got the 500th point of his career for Florida.

Red Wings 3, Canucks 1: Thomas Greiss made 40 saves and host Detroit made an early lead stand up in a win over Vancouver.

Robby Fabbri and Filip Zadina scored for Detroit, which also got an empty-net goal from Sam Gagner with 58 seconds remaining to provide a two-goal cushion.

Hurricanes 3, Predators 2: Andrei Svechnikov scored with 6:00 left in the third period, and Teuvo Teravainen added a late empty-net goal as visiting Carolina edged Nashville.

Ryan Johansen and Filip Forsberg scored for the Predators.

Sabres 2, Coyotes 1 (SO): Tage Thompson and Arttu Ruotsalainen scored in the shootout, helping host Buffalo beat Arizona.

Cody Eakin scored in the second period for the Sabres, and Dustin Tokarski made 20 saves before stopping two of three shots in the tiebreaker.

Wild 3, Kings 2: Frederick Gaudreau, Victor Rask and Ryan Hartman scored in the second period and visiting Minnesota held on for a win over Los Angeles.

Cam Talbot started for the second straight night and made 29 saves. He stopped 57 of 60 shots to win back-to-back games against Anaheim and Los Angeles.

Oilers 5, Flames 2: Connor McDavid scored three goals for his 11th career hat trick in host Edmonton's victory over Calgary.