

## Marines test 'backpackable' warfare system

BY FRANK ANDREWS  
*Stars and Stripes*

Marines aboard the USS New Orleans have launched a portable, electronic-warfare system on drones for the first time at sea, according to the Marine Corps.

A backpackable electronic attack module, or BEAM, uses its technology to detect the radio frequency of a specific threat, a hostile drone, for example, locate it and take it out, according to the Marine officer in charge of the 10 Marines and sailors taking part.

"It is set apart from other systems because of its ease of use," said Marine Capt. Jesse Schmitt, assistant intelligence officer for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. A 31st MEU spokesman, Capt. Brett Lazaroff, provided Schmitt's responses to Stars and Stripes' questions on Oct. 8.

"A basically trained rifleman can be taught to use the system in the course of an afternoon, making it easily deployable alongside Marines in any climate and place," Schmitt said.

His team of 31st MEU radio experts, Puma drone pilots and sailors spent two days connecting nodes to drones and then

launching them off the New Orleans' flight deck. The trial took place in July off Australia's northeastern coast in the Coral Sea, according to the Marine Corps.

The BEAM system works through nodes, which are devices that can create, receive, store and communicate information with one another. Three or more nodes form a network.

"Several nodes are networked together to create a web of sensors that can both detect and take action against hostile electromagnetic emitters," Schmitt said.

The Marines' BEAM uses three nodes that can be configured for specific battlespaces. Nodes attached to a Puma provide the Marines knowledge of their surroundings at sea and on land, according to Schmitt.

"The idea is you have three squadrons or platoons wandering around doing their assigned mission, and they are each carrying BEAMs with them, creating a network of sensors to aid situational awareness," he said. "If any of those nodes detects something, it will alert all of the connected BEAMs, and any of

those BEAMs could choose to begin jamming the enemy if desired."

BEAM technology is not equipped with artificial intelligence, but its computer processing capabilities make it "pretty smart," according to an April article in Signal magazine.

The BEAM radios communicate with one another to "find the best formation to grab the most information about the enemy," Philip Root, a program manager at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency who helped develop BEAM starting in 2016, told Signal.

Root said Marines and Special Forces consider the BEAM system another team member rather than another tool.

"They would give the BEAM system the mission, and it would modify its behavior depending on the threat it saw and where they were in the mission, where it saw high-value targets," Root told the magazine.

Working aboard the New Orleans, Schmitt's team used BEAM on drones in coordination with a 36-foot, rigid, inflatable boat, "which was something

that had never been tested before," he said.

The New Orleans is an amphibious transport dock ship homeported at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan. It supports aircraft and amphibious vehicles and transports Marines for deployments and training events.

"We wanted to ensure that the BEAM could feasibly be employed from a variety of platforms used in a littoral environment," Schmitt said.

DARPA began to explore BEAM along with other technologies, including artificial intelligence, Root told Signal in April.

The retired Army lieutenant colonel said his experience tells him the military may not want artificial intelligence systems that are superior to humans.

"That doesn't mean we shouldn't try to develop good AI," Root said in the article. "It just means that instead of trying to replace the wisdom and experience of the small unit commander, we should try to create AI that helps support the wisdom and experience of the most junior Marine on the team, and sometimes that junior Marine is a robot."

## 2 Navy Triton drones back on Guam after 1st Japan trip

BY ALEX WILSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Two Navy unmanned surveillance aircraft are back on Guam after wrapping up their debut deployment to Japan.

The MQ-4C Tritons recently returned to Andersen Air Force Base, according to a news release Wednesday from Indo-Pacific Command. The drones arrived May 15 at Misawa Air Base in northeastern Japan and departed for Guam on Oct. 12, accord-

ing to an email from U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokeswoman Cmdr. Katie Cerezo on Thursday.

Naval Forces Japan and Misawa Air Base directed all questions about the Tritons' deployment to Naval Air Systems Command, which did not respond to multiple emails from Stars and Stripes.

Assigned to Unmanned Patrol Squadron 19 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., the Tritons

were accompanied by approximately 80 personnel, including four pilots. The pilots launch the Tritons before handing control over to Jacksonville.

During its first three months in Misawa, one Triton flew approximately 20 missions, a drone pilot told Stars and Stripes in August.

Similar to the Air Force's RQ-4 Global Hawks, the Triton is designed for maritime surveillance rather than terrestrial scouting.

"It provides high-resolution,

all-weather imagery across large geographic areas, which offers an important capability in support of the Japan-U.S. alliance," Cerezo said in August.

The aircraft also complement the capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon surveillance planes, according to the Navy.

The Tritons will continue to operate from Andersen to "provide maritime surveillance and persistent intelligence" to the 7th Fleet, according to the Navy.

# Centenarian: Marines helped shaped life

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

A decorated World War II veteran who rubbed elbows with world leaders and royalty on the way to becoming one of the most respected figures in the global thoroughbred horse industry celebrates his 100th birthday Tuesday.

But for James E. “Ted” Bassett III, the “most meaningful phase” of the past century was not the one in which he ascended to the pinnacle of achievement in business. It was his service as a U.S. Marine.

“It completely changed me, my outlook, attitude and will to succeed,” Bassett told *Stars and Stripes*. “I shall forever be grateful to the Corps for providing me the opportunity to serve.”

Bassett was born in Lexington, Ky., on Oct. 26, 1921. He graduated from Yale in the early 1940s, and shortly thereafter he deployed to the Pacific as an infantry officer in the 4th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division, where he led a rifle platoon during the Battle of Okinawa.

He was wounded twice, but recovered in time to participate in allied forces’ initial landing on Japan. He later received the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Bassett has often attributed the success

of his later civilian endeavors to his early military training and combat responsibilities. One of his first civilian posts was director of the Kentucky State Police from 1964 to 1967, at the height of the Civil Rights era.

His work to revamp the force and build trust in the community caught the attention of John Y. Brown, a future Kentucky governor who then owned the fast-food chain Kentucky Fried Chicken.

“I admired what I had heard about him and interviewed him to see if he would be interested to become the president of Kentucky Fried Chicken,” Brown said in an interview.

Brown still jokes that Bassett made the wrong decision when he turned down his lucrative offer for a job at a racetrack that paid considerably less.

The job Bassett chose was at Keeneland, an internationally renowned racecourse in Lexington and the thoroughbred industry’s leading auction house.

Bassett would go on to serve as president, chairman of the board and trustee at Keeneland over the years, and much of the venue’s success has been linked to his leadership, particularly his ability to forge relationships.

“He has got the best human touch of any-

body I’ve ever been around,” said Jim Host, whose friendship with Bassett goes back to the late 1960s. “He has no ego. He’s the kind of person who can sit comfortably with Queen Elizabeth, or he can be just as comfortable sitting with the cooks, waitresses and waiters in the track kitchen.”

Bassett did, in fact, sit with Queen Elizabeth II when she made her first visit to an American track at Keeneland in 1984. She was one of many high-profile visitors Bassett helped attract to the venue. Some years later, the royal family of Dubai made the first ever \$10 million bid for a horse there.

Bassett was also a key architect of the Breeders’ Cup, an annual series of horse races that began in 1984. In addition, he served as president of the Thoroughbred Racing Association and the Thoroughbred Club of America, cementing his legacy in the horse racing industry.

People still visit Bassett regularly for advice and wisdom; one relative likened these sessions to “an audience with the pope.”

Many of the lessons he shares were learned during his time as a Marine, former Lexington Mayor Jim Gray said.

“Ted Bassett is still a shining example of that mission, of the character that it took to carry us through that period and really until today,” Gray said.

## Iwakuni Marines conduct annual base stress test

By JONATHAN SNYDER  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — A two-week base-defense exercise is underway at this seaside Marine Corps base near Hiroshima and will finish up on Friday.

Active Shield is an annual exercise by U.S. and Japanese forces that share the installation. It rehearses various elements of the air station’s defense plan to ensure it can support its mission.

The air station is home to the Navy’s Carrier Air Wing 5, fighters and other aircraft attached to the aircraft carrier

USS Ronald Reagan; Marine Aircraft Group 12, which includes fighters and aerial refuelers; and Fleet Air Wing 31 of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

Active Shield, like similar exercises underway at other U.S. installations in Japan, including Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, means a level of inconvenience for base residents: Gate delays, blocked roads, limited parking and a scheduled power outage impacting the entire base, according to a statement on MCAS Iwakuni’s Facebook page.

“Every man, woman and child associated with MCAS Iwakuni is a participant in Ac-

tive Shield,” base commander Col. Lance Lewis told *Stars and Stripes* in an email Thursday. “Prior to the full-scale conduct of the exercise, the air station carried out an emergency evacuation drill to practice our response to a natural disaster or other emergency.”

During the exercise, “we rehearse and refine our installation’s base defense plan to protect our personnel and critical assets so that we maintain ourselves as a platform for force projection in the Indo-Pacific,” Lewis said.

The exercise is a stress test that allows the command to evaluate and improve its capa-

bilities as a base for combat power and of support for contingency operations, Lewis said.

“Each year, my goal has been to improve upon the lessons learned from previous years and to ensure we make MCAS Iwakuni a more capable, and defendable, advanced naval base,” he said.

Navy spouse Morgan Dover likened the event to a giant game of cops and robbers.

“They get to have some fun and make sure they are up to standards,” she told *Stars and Stripes* on Friday. “But I don’t mind; it’s a mild inconvenience for about a week and a half, and I’m not bothered by it.”

# Facebook knew of impact of language gap

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — As the Gaza war raged and tensions surged across the Middle East last May, Instagram briefly banned the hashtag #AlAqsa, a reference to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's Old City, a flash point in the conflict.

Facebook, which owns Instagram, later apologized, explaining its algorithms had mistaken the third-holiest site in Islam for the militant group Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, an armed offshoot of the secular Fatah party.

For many Arabic-speaking users, it was just the latest potent example of how the social media giant muzzles political speech in the region. Arabic is among the most common languages on Facebook's platforms, and the company issues frequent public apologies after similar botched content removals. Now, internal company documents from the former Facebook product manager-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen show the problems are far more systemic than just a few innocent mistakes, and that Facebook has understood the depth of these failings for years while doing little about it.

Such errors are not limited to Arabic. An examination of the files reveals that in some of the world's most volatile regions, terrorist content and hate speech proliferate because the company remains short on moderators who speak local languages and understand cultural contexts. And its platforms have failed to develop artificial-intelligence solutions that can catch harmful content in different languages.

In countries like Afghanistan and Myanmar, these loopholes have allowed inflammatory language to flourish on the platform, while in Syria and the Palestinian territories, Facebook suppresses ordinary speech, imposing blanket bans on common words.

"The root problem is that the platform was never built with the intention it would one day mediate the political speech of every-

one in the world," said Eliza Campbell, director of the Middle East Institute's Cyber Program. "But for the amount of political importance and resources that Facebook has, moderation is a bafflingly under-resourced project."

This story, along with others published Monday, is based on Haugen's disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which were also provided to Congress in redacted form by her legal team. The redacted versions received by Congress were reviewed by a consortium of news organizations, including The Associated Press.

In a statement to the AP, a Facebook spokesperson said that over the last two years the company has invested in recruiting more staff with local dialect and topic expertise to bolster its review capacity around the world.

But when it comes to Arabic content moderation, the company said, "We still have more work to do. ... We conduct research to better understand this complexity and identify how we can improve."

In Myanmar, where Facebook-based misinformation has been linked repeatedly to ethnic and religious violence, the company acknowledged in its internal reports that it had failed to stop the spread of hate speech targeting the minority Rohingya Muslim population. The Rohingya's persecution, which the U.S. has described as ethnic cleansing, led Facebook to publicly pledge in 2018 that it would recruit 100 native Myanmar language speakers to police its platforms. But the company never disclosed how many content moderators it hired or revealed which of the nation's many dialects they covered.

Despite Facebook's public promises and many internal reports on the problems, the rights group Global Witness said the company's recommendation algorithm continued to amplify army propaganda and other content that breaches the company's

Myanmar policies following a military coup in February.

In India, the documents show Facebook employees debating last March whether it could clamp down on the "fear mongering, anti-Muslim narratives" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's far-right Hindu nationalist group, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, broadcasts on its platform.

In one document, the company notes that users linked to Modi's party had created multiple accounts to supercharge the spread of Islamophobic content. Much of this content was "never flagged or actioned," the research found, because Facebook lacked moderators and automated filters with knowledge of Hindi and Bengali.

Arabic poses particular challenges to Facebook's automated systems and human moderators, each of which struggles to understand spoken dialects unique to each country and region, their vocabularies salted with different historical influences and cultural contexts. The Moroccan colloquial Arabic, for instance, includes French and Berber words, and is spoken with short vowels. Egyptian Arabic, on the other hand, includes some Turkish from the Ottoman conquest. Other dialects are closer to the "official" version found in the Quran. In some cases, these dialects are not mutually comprehensible, and there is no standard way of transcribing colloquial Arabic.

Facebook first developed a massive following in the Middle East during the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, and users credited the platform with providing a rare opportunity for free expression and a critical source of news in a region where autocratic governments exert tight controls over both. But in recent years, that reputation has changed.

Scores of Palestinian journalists and activists have had their accounts deleted. Archives of the Syrian civil war have disappeared. And a vast vocabulary of everyday words have become off-limits to speakers of Arabic, Face-

book's third-most common language with millions of users worldwide.

For Hassan Slaieh, a prominent journalist in the blockaded Gaza Strip, the first message felt like a punch to the gut. "Your account has been permanently disabled for violating Facebook's Community Standards," the company's notification read. That was at the peak of the bloody 2014 Gaza war, following years of his news posts on violence between Israel and Hamas being flagged as content violations. Within moments, he lost everything he'd collected over six years: personal memories, stories of people's lives in Gaza, photos of Israeli airstrikes pounding the enclave, not to mention 200,000 followers. The most recent Facebook takedown of his page last year came as less of a shock. It was the 17th time that he had to start from scratch.

He had tried to be clever. Like many Palestinians, he'd learned to avoid the typical words for "martyr" and "prisoner," along with references to Israel's military occupation. If he mentioned militant groups, he'd add symbols or spaces between each letter.

But Slaieh's tactics didn't make the cut. He believes Facebook banned him simply for doing his job. As a reporter in Gaza, he posts photos of Palestinian protesters wounded at the Israeli border, mothers weeping over their sons' coffins, statements from the Gaza Strip's militant Hamas rulers.

"If you posted about militant activity without clearly condemning what's happening, we treated you like you supported it," said Mai el-Mahdy, a former Facebook employee who worked on Arabic content moderation until 2017.

In response to questions from the AP, Facebook said it consults independent experts to develop its moderation policies and goes "to great lengths to ensure they are agnostic to religion, region, political outlook or ideology."

"We know our systems are not perfect," it added.



# Moderna: Low-dose shot works for kids 6 to 11

*Associated Press*

Moderna said Monday that a low dose of its COVID-19 vaccine is safe and appears to work in 6- to 11-year-olds, as the manufacturer joins its rival Pfizer in moving toward expanding shots to children.

Pfizer's kid-size vaccine doses are closer to widespread use. They are undergoing evaluation by the Food and Drug Administration for youngsters in nearly the same age group, 5 to 11, and could be available by early November. The company's vaccine already is authorized for anyone 12 or older.

Moderna hasn't yet gotten the go-ahead to offer its vaccine to teens but is studying lower doses in younger children while it waits.

Researchers tested two shots for the 6- to

11-year-olds, given a month apart, that each contained half the dose given to adults. Preliminary results showed vaccinated children developed virus-fighting antibodies similar to levels that young adults produce after full-strength shots, Moderna said in a news release.

The study involved 4,753 children ages 6 to 11 who got either the vaccine or dummy shots. Moderna said that like adults, the vaccinated youngsters had temporary side effects including fatigue, headache, fever and injection site pain.

The study was too small to spot any extremely rare side effects, such as heart inflammation that sometimes occurs after either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, mostly among young men.

# Sudan's military seizes power and arrests PM

*Associated Press*

CAIRO — Sudan's military seized power Monday, dissolving the transitional government hours after troops arrested the prime minister. Thousands of people flooded into the streets to protest the coup that threatens the country's shaky progress toward democracy.

Security forces opened fire on some of the crowds, and three protesters were killed, according to the Sudan Doctors' Committee, which said 80 people were wounded.

The takeover comes more than two years after protesters forced the ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and just weeks before the military was supposed to hand the leadership of the council that runs the country over to civilians.

After the early morning arrests of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and other senior officials, thousands poured into the streets of the capital, Khartoum, and its twin city of Omdurman. They blocked streets and set fire to tires as security forces used tear gas to disperse them.

As plumes of smoke filled the air, protesters could be heard chanting, "The people are stronger, stronger!" and "Retreat is not an option!" Videos on social media showed large crowds crossing bridges over the Nile to the center of the capital, while the U.S. Embassy warned troops were blocking off parts of the city.

"We call for the military to immediately cease violence, release detained officials, and ensure the safety of Sudanese citizens demonstrating for democratic and civilian leadership," the embassy said, urging a return to a civilian-led government.

Pro-democracy activist Dura Gambo said paramilitary forces chased protesters through some neighborhoods of Khartoum. She said the sporadic sound of gunshots could be heard in many parts of the capital.

In the afternoon, the head of the military, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, announced on national TV that he was dissolving the government and the Sovereign Council, a joint military and civilian body created soon after al-Bashir's ouster to run the country.

The general declared a state of emergency and said the military will appoint a technocratic government to lead the country to elections, set for July 2023. But he made clear the military will remain in charge.

# Drought-stricken California hit with major storm after wildfire

*Associated Press*

SAN FRANCISCO — A powerful storm barreled toward Southern California after flooding highways, toppling trees and causing mud flows in areas burned bare by recent fires across the northern part of the state.

Drenching showers and strong winds accompanied the weekend's arrival of an atmospheric river — a long and wide plume of moisture pulled in from the Pacific Ocean. The National Weather Service's Sacramento office warned of "potentially historic rain."

Flooding was reported across the San Francisco Bay Area, closing streets in Berkeley, inundating Oakland's Bay Bridge toll plaza and overflowing rivers in Napa and Sonoma counties. Power poles were downed and tens of thousands of people in the North Bay were without electricity.

By Sunday morning, Mount Tamalpais just north of San Francisco had recorded a half foot of rainfall during the previous 12 hours, the weather service said.

"Some of our higher elevation locations could see 6, 7, 8 inches of rain before we're all said and done," weather service meteorologist Sean Miller said.

About 150 miles to the north, the California Highway Patrol closed a stretch of State Route 70 in Butte and Plumas counties because of multiple landslides within the massive Dixie Fire burn scar.

"We have already had several collisions this morning for vehicles hydroplaning, numerous trees falling, and several roadways that are experiencing flooding," the highway patrol's office in Oroville tweeted on Sunday. "If you can stay home and off the roads today, please do. If you are out on the roads, please use extreme caution."

The same storm system also slammed Oregon and Washington state, causing power outages affecting tens of thousands of people. Two people were killed when a tree fell on a vehicle in the greater Seattle area. Eastside Fire & Rescue responded to the scene of the fatalities near Preston, Wash., which is about 20 miles east of Seattle.

In California's Colusa and Yolo counties, state highways 16 and 20 were shut for several miles due to mudslides, the state Department of Transportation said.

Burn areas remain a concern, as land devoid of vegetation can't soak up heavy rainfall as quickly, increasing the likelihood of flash flooding.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Gates installed on bat cave to protect habitat**

**AL** ANNISTON — Gates have been installed at the mouth of a cave in eastern Alabama to protect the habitat of two endangered species that live in the cavern, the state wildlife agency said.

Mined by the Confederacy during the Civil War for saltpeter, a component of gunpowder, Weaver Cave near Anniston is an important home for gray bats and tricolored bats, according to a release from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The cave was purchased by the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust in 2020, and gates were installed to prevent people from entering using money from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The barriers are meant to keep out humans but protect the winged mammals, said Nick Sharp of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division.

**Mackerel fishing ended for the year in Atlantic**

**ME** PORTLAND — The federal government is shutting down the harvest of an important species of fish for the rest of the year because of concerns about overfishing.

Fishermen from Maine to North Carolina commercially harvest Atlantic mackerel, which is used as food as well as bait. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said it closed the fishery starting Oct. 15.

NOAA said the most recent as-

essment of the species found it is overfished and that the level of overfishing has increased slightly. The agency said it's implementing the new closure to slow down catch of the fish.

Fishermen have usually caught between 10 million and 20 million pounds of Atlantic mackerel per year in recent years. The most productive states are Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Maine.

**City's 1st female police chief officially sworn in**

**MS** HATTIESBURG — Another Mississippi city has a woman as police chief for the first time.

Hattiesburg Mayor Toby Barker swore in career police officer Peggy Sealy on Thursday, the Hattiesburg American reported.

The city council approved Barker's nomination of Sealy for police chief in August. Sealy had been interim chief since Anthony Parker retired as the city's top officer in December.

After Sealy's swearing-in, she promoted 13 Hattiesburg officers whose formal proceedings had been delayed since January because of COVID-19 precautions.

**\$12M seized in money laundering scheme**

**MI** DETROIT — Federal prosecutors in Detroit have seized about \$12 million in cash that they alleged was part of a money laundering scheme operating between the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

A forfeiture complaint unsealed Thursday in U.S. District

Court in Detroit alleges that some of the laundered money was used to buy armored vehicles for an illegal drug trafficking operation based in Michigan, the Detroit Free Press reported.

The forfeiture complaint alleges that "The Shadow Exchange" moved cash from the United Arab Emirates to the U.S. using shell companies, mostly located in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Those shell companies allegedly used fake invoices and other methods to disguise the origins of money, sent to banks — including major U.S. banks — using dozens of wire transfers.

**Authorities seize nearly 63 pounds of cocaine**

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — Authorities seized almost 63 pounds of cocaine during a traffic stop in Sioux Falls.

Police and the South Dakota Highway Patrol said it's likely the largest amount of cocaine seized in the city in recent history.

The Argus Leader reported that the investigation into the cocaine trafficking started last year and police received a tip that drugs were being transported to Sioux Falls on Tuesday.

Troopers arrested two men from Houston during the traffic stop. They are being held on \$500,000 cash-only bonds.

**Beach shipwreck to be moved over a year later**

**NC** MANTEO — An abandoned vessel that ran aground on a North Carolina beach over a year ago will finally be removed.

Most of the former scallop boat

was initially visible along the shoreline. But it has been slowly sinking in sand along the beach south of Cape Hatteras National Seashore's Oregon Inlet Campground. Now, more than half of it is buried.

The haunting 72-foot-long shipwreck became a popular lure for tourists after it ran aground in March 2020. The crew was rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard. The National Park Service, however, has been warning people to stay away. They said exploring the vessel is dangerous because of unstable sand shifting beneath it.

The removal project is expected to cost around \$295,000. It is expected to take roughly a month to complete.

**\$200K worth of stolen band gear found by cops**

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A high school's stolen truck that was filled with about \$200,000 in band equipment has been recovered, according to Albuquerque police.

On the day of a major competition just a few hours before they were supposed to perform, the Las Cruces High School marching band discovered that all their equipment and instruments were gone. School officials said some of the stolen equipment was new and some of it wasn't insured.

Other schools reached out to help by lending the band some band equipment so the Las Cruces High Bulldogs could compete in the Zia Marching Band Fiesta, a major competition at the University of New Mexico.

Police said the truck was later found Saturday in Albuquerque.

— From wire reports

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Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Rivals: Astros, Braves have plenty of history

Associated Press

Freddie Freeman swinging onto baseball's biggest stage for the first time, Jose Altuve & Co. back for more. Luis Garcia, Framber Valdez and a fresh set of Houston arms facing Ozzie Albies, Austin Riley and these eager, young Atlanta bats.

And the endless quest for Mr. Dusty Baker.

Braves-Astros, a lot to savor in this World Series — even a family faceoff. Atlanta manager Brian Snitker's son, Troy, is a Houston hitting coach.

"It's like the Snitkers are going to have a World Series trophy in their house here," dad said Saturday night. "I don't know who is going to own it, but we're going to have one. So that's a pretty cool thing, too."

A matchup six decades in the making, pairing former National League rivals who've played more than 700 times, including five postseason series. Think of The Hammer and The Toy Cannon teeing up home run derby at the Astrodome, or Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz vs. Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio on a June evening on TBS.

Because of scheduling and COVID-19, the Astros and Braves haven't seen each other since 2017. They'll now meet for Game 1 on Tuesday at Minute Maid Park, with Valdez starting against Charlie Morton, a former Houston ace.

The Astros opened as a 3-2 favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

But before we begin, let's just say it: There are many baseball fans who might not be thrilled to see either team here in October. Altuve and Astros teammates Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman and Yuli Gurriel will forever wear the label of cheaters after being part of a team that devised an illegal, sign-stealing scheme on its way to the 2017 championship.

At home, they're cheered. At every other ballpark, they're heckled — and worse — seen as the game's worst villains. "Ever since the news came out, the bad news that we've had to deal with about what happened in 2017, I think we've all wanted to prove what kind of class of players that we are and team that we are," AL Championship Series MVP Yordan Alvarez said.

"I wasn't here with the team in 2017, but I've gotten booed just as equal as anybody else. So I think we all have the same mental-

ity that we really want to win a World Series to demonstrate that we are just a great team," he said.

When the scene shifts to Atlanta on Friday, Houston will figure out how to keep Alvarez's bat in the lineup as the DH or no DH debate is revived in the World Series.

The Astros are in the Fall Classic for the third time in five years and got there minus ace Justin Verlander, who missed the season while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

The Braves overcame a season-ending knee injury to dynamic star Ronald Acuña Jr. in July and surged after being stuck at 52-55 in early August. Boosted by NL Championship Series MVP Eddie Rosario, Atlanta is making its first appearance in the World Series since 1999.

Yet while the roster and stadium have changed, the sights and sounds in Atlanta still remain. Throughout the NLCS, fans at Truist Park emphatically chopped and chanted during big moments for the Braves.

In an era of social reckoning that saw the Cleveland Indians change their name to the Guardians and Washington's NFL team get rid of a name considered racist, the scene in Atlanta is sure to draw increased attention.

On the field — and the bench — a lot of eyes will be on Baker.

He won the World Series as a player with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1981 and has taken five teams to the playoffs as a manager but never won the crown.

Baker took this job in 2020 in the wake of Houston's cheating scandal — "there's a few things I still hadn't accomplished" — and at 72, with a lifetime of credentials, gets another chance.

"Last year I felt like a substitute teacher, really," Baker said. "But this year, they made me feel like I was one of them and they were definitely always one of me. That's what it's all about. Everybody talks teamwork, they talk about a team, but it's a feeling that you get for each other."

Baker's history in this matchup runs especially deep. Playing with Braves great Hank Aaron in 1968, he got his first major league hit at the Astrodome in a loss to Jimmy Wynn and Houston.

Over the years, these teams met a lot, starting when the 1962 expansion Houston Colt .45s took on the Milwaukee Braves.

## Bucs' Brady reaches another NFL milestone

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady's latest milestone is another untouchable one.

Brady became the first player to throw 600 career touchdown passes and then tacked on two more in Tampa Bay's 38-3 rout over Chicago on Sunday.

Seven Super Bowl rings, 602 TD passes, 81,479 yards passing and he's still going strong at age 44.

"Yeah, the numbers, they're staggering and they'll probably never be broken," Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians said. "I say that, but who knows when the next Tom Brady is going to come. They are staggering, but when you watch him practice every single day, you don't see the age."

Brady is on pace to throw a career-best 51 TD passes this season as the defending champions (6-1) aim for a repeat. Even if he called it quits now, 602 seems quite safe.

Consider this: Aaron Rodgers is fifth on the all-time list and trails Brady by 175 TD passes. Rodgers, who turns 38 on Dec. 2, would have to average 35 TD passes per season for five more years after Brady retires to catch him. Ben Roethlisberger (403), Matt Ryan (359) and Matthew Stafford (301) round out the top five among the active QBs. They have no chance.

Russell Wilson is next on the active list with 277 TD passes. He's injured and turns 33 on Nov. 29. Wilson averaged 30 TD passes over his first nine seasons. That wouldn't cut it. He would need to throw 36 per season for nine more years once Brady hangs up his cleats to surpass him.

Patrick Mahomes is way behind with 132 TD passes, but has been so prolific that he could potentially challenge the record if he stays healthy and keeps playing for at least another decade. The 26-year-old Mahomes averaged 38 TD passes his first three seasons as a starter and is on pace to throw 44 this year despite his recent turnover struggles. Mahomes would need to average 38 TDs for 12 ½ more years once Brady is finished playing.

With passing numbers on the rise across the NFL and an extra game added to the regular season, it's realistic to think single-season records will be broken, whether it's Peyton Manning's mark of 5,477 yards or his 55 TDs.

Brady set another record Sunday by simply showing up to face the Bears and 22-year-old rookie Justin Fields, making it the largest age gap between starting quarterbacks.



# Bruins snap Sharks' season-opening streak

Associated Press

BOSTON — Brad Marchand scored 28 seconds into the game and added an assist as the Boston Bruins beat San Jose 4-3 Sunday, snapping the Sharks' season-opening four-game win streak.

David Pastrnak and Derek Forbort each had a goal and an assist, and Jake DeBrusk also scored for Boston. Linus Ullmark finished with 23 saves for the Bruins, who held on after San Jose scored back-to-back goals late in the third period.

Jasper Weatherby, Tomas Hertl and Timo Meier scored for the Sharks, who were trying to go 5-0 for the first time since 2013. Adin Hill was pulled after allowing four goals on 14 shots in the first 21:28. James Reimer replaced Hill and stopped all 20 shots he faced, keeping San Jose close before goals 1:49 apart in the third made it a tight finish.

**Predators 5, Wild 2:** Roman Josi had a four-point game, Connor Ingram won his first NHL start, and Nashville ended host Minnesota's season-opening win streak at

four games.

Ryan Johansen scored twice, Josi, Tanner Jeannot and Filip Forsberg had goals and Matt Duchene added three assists for the Predators, who have scored nine goals in two games after scoring eight total in their first four outings.

The 24-year-old Ingram finished with 33 saves.

Nick Bjugstad and Nico Sturm scored for the Wild, which was looking to open the season with five straight victories for the first time since 2007-08.

**Red Wings 6, Blackhawks 3:** Lucas Raymond had three goals and an assist, and visiting Detroit beat winless Chicago.

Tyler Bertuzzi added a goal and two assists. Carter Rowney and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored, and Alex Nedeljkovic made 32 saves.

The 19-year-old Raymond, the No. 4 overall pick in last year's draft, recorded his first career hat trick in his sixth NHL game.

Dominik Kubalik, Tyler Johnson and Henrik Borgstrom scored for the Black-

hawks, who dropped to 0-5-1. Jonathan Toews had two assists.

Chicago played without Patrick Kane, Riley Stillman and Juhar Khaira due to the league's COVID-19 protocol. Assistant coach Marc Crawford also was absent because of the protocol.

The crowd of 19,042 stopped the Blackhawks' sellout streak at 535 games.

**Islanders 2, Golden Knights 0:** Ilya Sorokin made 42 saves, Josh Bailey and Matthew Barzal scored and New York blanked host Vegas.

The Islanders recorded consecutive road shutouts after blanking Arizona 3-0 on Saturday. New York improved to 22-4-4 on the back end of back-to-back games under coach Barry Trotz, who took over in 2018.

Sorokin, who has started all six games for the Islanders, improved to 3-2-1.

Golden Knights goaltender Robin Lehner (1-4-0) made 24 saves in his fifth straight start. Vegas has been outscored 16-6 during a four-game losing streak.

## Larson wins on 17th anniversary of Hendrick team plane crash

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Kyle Larson has only heard stories about the late Ricky Hendrick, the son of his team owner who was killed 17 years ago in a plane crash on the way to a NASCAR race.

The anniversary is a difficult day for Rick and Linda Hendrick, neither of whom made the trip Sunday to the playoff race at Kansas Speedway. Rick Hendrick instead texted Larson before the race and told his driver what a win would mean to the Hendrick Motorsports organization.

Larson delivered with his ninth win of the season, but most meaningful victory to date in his new job with Hendrick Motorsports.

Larson crossed the finish line and as part of his celebration stood on the window ledge of the No. 5 Chevrolet and pointed to the sky for Ricky Hendrick and the nine others killed in the 2004 crash of a team plane en route to a race in Virginia.

"To lose your child and so many other people that day, I can't imagine what the feeling may have been for everybody at that time," Larson said. "So to come here 17 years to the day and win in this paint scheme, with this number, it's just pretty surreal. I've heard lots

of good stories about Ricky and I wish I could have met him."

Ricky Hendrick used the No. 5 during his driving career and the 24-year-old was the heir apparent of NASCAR's winningest team at the time of his death. Larson's car is stylized to resemble Ricky Hendrick's scheme, and hours before Sunday's race, team owner Hendrick texted Larson to stress what a win would mean to him on this date.

When Rick Hendrick texted Larson earlier Sunday, he told his new driver that all four of the Hendrick crews would turn their hats backward on the fifth lap in honor of how Ricky Hendrick wore his caps. He urged Larson to be the leader on the fifth lap and Larson was determined to deliver.

"I didn't ever get to meet Ricky or the other men and women who lost their lives that day," Larson said. "But I felt the importance of this race. So crazy how it all worked out for me to win. So again, thank you to Rick Hendrick, I know this means a lot to you and I'm glad I could get it done."

The victory was Larson's third consecutive and fourth over the last six playoff races. Larson has won three straight races twice this season and is the first driver to do that since the late Dale Earnhardt in 1987.

## Verstappen wins US Grand Prix, extends lead

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — If there ever was a time for Max Verstappen to flinch in this riveting Formula One championship battle with Lewis Hamilton, it would have been Sunday in the closing laps of the U.S. Grand Prix.

The young Dutchman, seeking his first world championship, was being chased by the seven-time champion, and Hamilton was rapidly closing in on the lead under the hot Texas sun at the Circuit of the Americas.

The intensity of the tightest championship race in years might have derailed a different driver — especially when Hamilton pulled within 1 second on the final lap — but Verstappen thrived under pressure and won his eighth race of the season.

"It was exciting, the pressure was on, not knowing how quick Lewis was going to get you," Verstappen said. "We managed to hang on at the end."

The victory doubled Verstappen's lead over Hamilton to 12 points in the standings with five races remaining and could prove to be a pivotal win in this classic championship battle.

# Lakers overcome Morant, Grizz, for first win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Carmelo Anthony got the game ball after the Los Angeles Lakers' first victory of the season.

Anthony had just scored a team-high 28 points, moving into ninth place on the NBA's career scoring list, and was asked to make a speech. The 37-year-old Anthony said he was too tired.

Anthony Davis added 22 points and four blocks, and LeBron James scored 19 points as the Lakers overcame Ja Morant's 40-point game and beat the Memphis Grizzlies 121-118 Sunday night.

There was plenty of drama in the final minute as Morant was fouled on a three-point attempt by Kent Bazemore with 2.5 seconds left and Memphis trailing by three. Morant had a chance to tie the game, but missed the third and final free throw and the Lakers escaped with the win.

Anthony now has 27,423 career points, moving past Moses Malone (27,409). Shaquille O'Neal ranks eighth in scoring with 28,596 points.

"I keep saying it's an honor and blessing to be on that list and pass Moses (Malone) for what he did for the game of basketball," said Anthony, the third overall pick of the 2003 draft. "It's hard to put it into words. That I'm still here and doing it, that's what I'm excited about, that's I'm here in year 19 and doing what I'm able to do. I'm still passionate about the game, and I'm still passionate about coming to work and getting better."

Los Angeles snapped a season-opening two-game losing streak. The Grizzlies lost for the first time after consecutive wins to open the season.

Morant shot 13 of 21 from the field and made a career-best five three-pointers. He added 10 assists. By halftime, Morant had 17 points, including four three-pointers.

"I really don't care about what I've done tonight," Morant said. "I missed a free throw to tie it. That's pretty much the only thing on my mind."

Davis blocked a Morant layup attempt with 50 seconds left and that appeared to seal it for the Lakers. The teams exchanged free

three throws, then Bazemore fouled Morant. But Memphis failed to complete the comeback.

The Lakers played for the first time since Davis and Dwight Howard had a physical confrontation on the bench during the game against Phoenix. The pair proclaimed that disagreement was over by halftime.

In a scary moment for the Lakers, James fell to the court and held his right leg in some pain in the third quarter after Desmond Bane fell into his leg. James was looked at by trainers and was down for a brief time. He re-tied his shoes, popped back up, jumped up and down a few times and stayed in the game. About a minute later, he had a big block.

James was sitting on the bench next to the 37-year-old Anthony, his teammate and longtime friend, when a video tribute was played to honor his latest milestone and fans chanted "Melo!"

"I think it's always sweeter when you win and even more sweeter when it just happens organically," James said of Anthony's milestone.

# Bench powers unbeaten Hornets past Nets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — LaMelo Ball had a good first three quarters in Brooklyn, then decided it was best if he watched the fourth.

Ish Smith was rolling so well that the Rookie of the Year told Charlotte coach James Borrego to stick with this backup.

"That's big. That just shows where our growth is," forward Miles Bridges said. "As long as he's being mature and we're all being mature, we're going to keep winning."

The Hornets have never done that this well to start a season.

Bridges had 32 points and nine rebounds, Smith added 11 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and Charlotte improved to 3-0 for the first time by beating the Brooklyn Nets 111-95 on Sunday.

Ball had 18 points, six rebounds and five assists, but it was the Hornets' backups who led them in a dominant final

quarter. Cody Martin scored eight of his 12 in the final 12 minutes.

Before that, it was another big night for Bridges, who had his second straight 30-point outing and finished a point shy of his career high.

Kevin Durant scored 38 points for the Nets, who fell to 1-2. James Harden had 15 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for Brooklyn.

It was a disappointing home opener that featured demonstrators outside the arena supporting Brooklyn guard Kyrie Irving and protesting New York's vaccine mandate.

**Warriors 119, Kings 107:** Stephen Curry scored 27 points and became the first player in Warriors franchise history to reach 5,000 assists, helping Golden State win at Sacramento to improve to 3-0.

Curry had 10 assists and seven rebounds. Jordan Poole added 22 points, and Draymond Green had 14 points, six re-

bounds and seven assists.

Harrison Barnes scored 24 points for the Kings, and Richaun Holmes had 16 points and 11 rebounds. They are 1-2.

**76ers 115, Thunder 103:** Seth Curry scored 28 points to help Philadelphia win at Oklahoma City.

Joel Embiid added 22 points and nine rebounds for the 76ers, who are off to a 2-1 start as they work through issues with Ben Simmons, the point guard the team listed as out because of personal reasons.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 29 points, and rookie Josh Giddey had 19 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals for the Thunder. They are 0-3.

Curry scored 23 points in the first quarter and made 6 of 7 three-pointers to help Philadelphia take a 36-26 lead.

**Celtics 107, Rockets 97:** Jayson Tatum had 31 points and nine rebounds and Boston won at Houston to avoid its first

0-3 start since 2013.

Tatum, had 20 points in the first half on 8-of-13 shooting. Al Horford added 17 points, including 11 in the third quarter, and 10 rebounds. Dennis Schröder, who started for the injured Jaylen Brown, finished with 18 points, and Grant Williams added 18 points.

Second overall pick Jalen Green had 30 points, making 8 of 10 on three-pointers, for Houston. Christian Wood had 20 points and nine rebounds.

**Magic 110, Knicks 104:** Cole Anthony had 29 points and a career-high 16 rebounds and Terrence Ross scored all 22 of his points in the fourth quarter in Orlando's win at New York.

Jalen Suggs and Wendell Carter Jr. added 11 points apiece to help the Magic end a season-opening, two-game losing streak.

Julius Randle had 30 points and 16 rebounds for the Knicks, who lost for the first time this season.