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Inequality in 'command sponsorship'

Dual-military couples, enlisted based overseas face obstacles to normal family life

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Dual-military couples and married, junior servicemembers based overseas say they face obstacles to normal family life that do not exist for most of their co-workers.

The military requires civilian children and family members living with servicemembers to obtain "command sponsorship," a concept with varying rules among services and overseas locations.

Command sponsorship confers legal residence abroad and gives families access to military benefits and services. Without it, some family members may be left behind in the U.S., or face difficulties when they arrive in a foreign country.

In Japan, where about 50,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed, servicemembers married to others in the service have found that they can't always get command sponsorship for their newborns — even though babies born to servicemember-civilian marriages are granted sponsorship at birth.

The same Navy regulations grant command sponsorship to spouses of sailors in grades E-4 and above, while a subset of lower-ranking sailors may face separation from their spouses for three years, based on a ship or unit commander's discretion.

Commander, Naval Forces Japan has relayed the difficulties faced by its sailors to officials at higher headquarters in Hawaii and Washington. Meanwhile, it is issuing waivers to affected sailors and studying the problem to see what changes it should make to regional policy.

"What we can do here at

CNFJ is try to make sure we have processes that can quickly fix what we can, so that we take care of the sailors," said Cmdr. Ron Flanders, command spokesman.

A different process

Chief Petty Officer Jennifer Brett was deployed when her husband, also a Navy chief, received paperwork necessary to bring their family on orders to Japan. Since the Navy's rules won't let two units sponsor the same children, Brett's husband became the sponsor.

For more than two years, Brett wasn't able to obtain school, medical and other basic services for her children without presenting a power of attorney document that allows her to act on her husband's behalf.

"Sometimes I feel like a second-class citizen," Brett told an audience of fellow chiefs during an assembly with Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens at Yokosuka in June. "I don't understand why command sponsorship can't be a dual thing."

If it were, the Brett family wouldn't have faced its final command sponsorship hurdle. When Brett last spoke with Stars and Stripes, her husband was set to retire in eight days. His command still hadn't yet transferred the paperwork to release sponsorship authority to her command.

If either of the Bretts was a civilian to start, there wouldn't have been any difficulty. One would be the civilian "dependent" and both would be able to tend to their children's needs under Navy regulations.

"If a servicemember's spouse is command-sponsored, children born of that marriage dur-

ing the current tour of duty are command sponsored at birth," according to regulations published online by the Navy Personnel Command.

The CNFJ regulation on command sponsorship quotes the same sentence, but later states that "children born of a dual military family are not command sponsored at birth."

The reasoning goes back to the Navy's servicewide regulation, Flanders said. Servicemembers and civilian spouses go through an overseas screening application process before moving. Since the family has been screened once, they don't need to go through it again when the family gains new members overseas.

However, in some cases, dual-military couples with newborns are automatically denied command sponsorship when they do apply, according to policy.

Navy regulations bar command sponsorship to new family members whose dual-military parents have less than a year left on their tour. Sailors must instead apply for an exception-to-policy waiver.

Creating anxiety

However, until and unless they obtain the waiver, the regulation bars their noncommand-sponsored family member from living with them, and threatens servicemembers with punishment "including but not limited to eviction from government quarters."

While there is no one at CNFJ advocating kicking parents out of their house for taking care of their babies, sailors say the regulation creates anxiety because their accompanied family members must be listed in their personnel records.

"Pretty much everybody says, 'What am I supposed to do with my newborn?'" said Petty Officer 1st Class Rachel Thao, whose spouse is also an active-duty sailor.

Thao gave birth to her child before her tour wound down to the one-year mark, but her family still deals with the same difficulties as the Bretts.

Thao said she has also witnessed the negative effects of a provision within the regional command sponsorship regulation unrelated to dual-military couples. The regulation bars sailors E-3 and below from gaining command sponsorship for their spouses and children "unless an unusual circumstance exists."

Ship-commanding officers and other unit commanders have enough leeway to interpret that as they see fit. However, Thao has known sailors married during "A school" — where sailors gain advanced skills after basic training — but after they've already been selected for orders to Japan.

"We have junior sailors often not granted command sponsorship because they came on unaccompanied orders," Thao said. "They go home on leave, but they can't bring their spouses out, even paying out of pocket."

Region Command Master Chief Joe Fahrney is assembling a working group on command sponsorship that will include CNFJ's chief of staff and a mix of single and married sailors.

The group will assess the scope of command sponsorship-related problems before CNFJ considers changes to regional policy.

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US, Philippines paid price for raid on bomb maker

Tribune Washington Bureau

MANILA, Philippines — Before dawn on Jan. 25, a Philippine National Police commando team crept toward a thatched hut in the marshy jungles of Mindanao. They were hunting Marwan, an elusive bomb maker with a \$5 million U.S. bounty on his head.

But they weren't hunting alone.

Five or six U.S. counterterrorism advisers assisted from a police command post nearby, tracking the assault team in live video from a U.S. surveillance aircraft circling overhead.

As the 13 commandos closed in, one stepped on a buried mine. The explosion wounded him and brought a burst of gunfire from the hut.

After a firefight, the American-trained team rushed in and radioed "Bingo, Mike One" to the command post. "Operation Exodus" appeared a success. The wispy-bearded target was dead.

To make certain, they sliced

the right index finger off the corpse. DNA tests by the FBI later confirmed that it belonged to Marwan, nom de guerre for a Malaysian-born, U.S.-educated engineer linked to multiple terrorist attacks, including a 2002 bombing that killed 202 people on Bali, Indonesia.

But his death came at a dreadful cost: 44 police commandos and four civilians were killed, along with 17 militants, in a fierce, daylong battle after the initial assault. The bloodshed triggered bitter recriminations in one of America's closest allies in Asia, and put sharp, new strains on Manila's security relationship with Washington.

Within weeks, the Pentagon announced it was withdrawing a special operations task force that had become a model for U.S. counterterrorism teams later deployed around the globe. Philippine President Benigno Aquino III's government delayed plans to give U.S. troops, warships and aircraft wider access to military bases.

Train hero Stone to receive Airman's Medal

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Spencer Stone will receive the Airman's Medal and the Purple Heart at a Pentagon ceremony Thursday for his heroics aboard a Paris-bound train last month.

Stone's Purple Heart honor, first announced by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James on Aug. 24, was contingent upon investigators determining that the attack he helped prevent was an act of terrorism. The Airman's Medal is the Air Force's highest non-combat award.

Stone was one of three Americans — with Army Spc. Alek Skarlatos, of the Oregon National Guard, and Anthony

Sadler — who were among a small group of passengers that subdued Moroccan Ayoub El-Khazzani, 26, who opened fire on the Paris-bound train in late August.

Skarlatos will receive the Soldier's Medal for noncombat heroism, and Sadler will receive a defense civilian award, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Valor.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter will present the awards, a defense official said.

It's been a pretty good week for Stone, whose thumb and hand were deeply lacerated in the attack. Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel awarded him a brand new Chevy Camaro convertible last week.

Taliban attack prison and free 355 inmates

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents stormed the central prison in Afghanistan's eastern Ghazni province early Monday and freed 355 inmates, including militants, the Interior Ministry said.

It was the biggest jailbreak in Afghanistan since 2001, when nearly 500 inmates escaped in the southern city of Kandahar.

The Taliban attack demonstrates that the insurgents remain a force to be reckoned with despite recent dissent within the ranks over who should lead the movement following revelations in July that founder Mullah Mohammad Omar had died two years ago.

Four guards died and seven were wounded in the nighttime attack, which was initiated by a suicide bomber who drove his car up to the gates before detonating it, said Shafiq Nang, spokesman for the provincial governor. After the blast, a squad of Taliban guerrillas fought their way into the compound and allowed the prisoners to flee through the broken gate.

A total of 355 prisoners fled during the firefight, an Interior Ministry statement said later

Monday. It said 148 of those who escaped were jailed for "crimes against national security," while the remaining 207 were common criminals. Just three were recaptured on Monday, the ministry said, adding that a team had been sent to Ghazni to investigate the incident.

Ghazni, a city of about 150,000, is some 120 miles southwest of Kabul. The province is considered a stronghold of the Taliban movement.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement posted on the group's website that the insurgents had staged the surprise raid. He said several dozen guerrillas attacked the central prison and the nearest military base in Ghazni town at the same time. He claimed that 400 prisoners had been freed.

In the 2001 incident in Kandahar, 480 prisoners, many of them Taliban guerrillas, escaped through a 1,000-foot-long tunnel the militants had dug from a house across the street. No violence was involved, and the jailers found out about the escape only when they went to check on the inmates in the morning.

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Miss Georgia crowned new Miss America

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell is the new Miss America, but her crowning moment was nearly overshadowed by a three-decade-old pageant scandal and a still-raw debate over whether the NFL's reigning champions cheated on their way to a Super Bowl victory.

Cantrell rode an opera performance of "Tu Tu Piccolo Iddio" from "Madame Butterfly" to the title in Atlantic City's

Boardwalk Hall on Sunday night, besting 51 other competitors in the pageant.

She won a \$50,000 scholarship along with her title.

The pageant also marked the return of Miss America 1984 Vanessa Williams, who was back for the first time after resigning the crown in 1984 following a nude photo scandal. Pageant executive chairman Sam Haskell apologized to Williams, who served as head judge, on behalf of the pageant.

From The Associated Press

Djokovic claims second US Open title

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After winning a point in the U.S. Open final, and bent on proving a point, Novak Djokovic leaped and roared and threw an uppercut, then glared at some of the thousands of spectators pulling for Roger Federer.

Following another point in that game, Djokovic nodded as he smiled toward the stands. And moments later, Djokovic shook his right arm, bloodied by an early fall, and screamed, "Yes! Yes!" to celebrate a missed forehand by Federer.

Djokovic appeared to be all alone out there in Arthur Ashe Stadium, trying to solve Federer while also dealing with a crowd loudly supporting the 17-time major champion proclaimed "arguably the greatest player in the history of the sport" during prematch introductions.

In the end, Djokovic handled everything in a thrill-a-minute final on a frenetic night. Thwarting Federer with his relentless defense and unparalleled returning, Djokovic took control late and held on for a 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory Sunday to earn his second U.S. Open title, third major championship of the year and 10th Grand Slam trophy in all.

"We pushed each other to the limit," the No. 1-ranked Djokovic said, "as we always

do."

Djokovic, who is 63-5 in 2015, including 27-1 at majors, said he understood why the crowd backed Federer but hopes to someday get that sort of support.

"You do let sometimes certain things to distract you," Djokovic said about interacting with the fans. "But it's important to get back on the course and go back to basics and why you are there and what you need to do."

Certainly was able to do that.

Contorting his body this way and that, sneakers squeaking loudly as he changed directions or scraping like sandpaper as he slid to reach unreachable shots, Djokovic forced the 34-year-old Federer to put the ball into the tiniest of spaces. Federer wound up with 54 unforced errors, 17 more than Djokovic.

Another key statistic: Djokovic won 10 of the first 12 points that lasted at least 10 strokes.

Perhaps the most pivotal of all: Djokovic saved 19 of the 23 break points he faced, while winning six of Federer's service games.

"Some of them, I could have done better, should have done better," the second-ranked Federer said.

From late in the third set to 5-2 in the fourth, Djokovic took control against a

wilting Federer by claiming eight of 10 games. Federer made one last stand, breaking to get within 5-3 and holding for 5-4, but a forehand return that flew long left Djokovic as the champion, pointing to his heart.

After all the attention paid to Serena Williams' bid for the first calendar-year Grand Slam, which ended with a semi-final loss at the U.S. Open, it's Djokovic who reached all four finals. He beat Andy Murray at the Australian Open in January, lost to Stan Wawrinka at the French Open in June, then beat Federer at Wimbledon in July.

The 28-year-old from Serbia also won a trio of majors in 2011 — including his only other title in New York in five previous finals — and his career total ranks tied for seventh-most in history behind Federer.

Djokovic evened his head-to-head record with Federer at 21-all. They have met in three of the last six Grand Slam finals, and Djokovic is 3-0 in those. It is as spectacular a rivalry as there is in tennis right now, with contrasting styles of play.

"Being back in a final is where you want to be," said Federer, who owns five U.S. Open titles but last played for the championship in 2009. "Playing a great champion like Novak is a massive challenge."

His coach, Stefan Edberg, figures an

18th major title is still not out of reach, even though no one Federer's age has won the U.S. Open since 1970.

"You still cannot count him out," Edberg said. "If he keeps playing at this level, he'll get another shot."

Djokovic sounded as if he agreed, saying about Federer: "He's just not going away."

Rain began falling about 10 minutes before they were supposed to head out from the locker room, and the start of the match was delayed for more than three hours, beginning after 7 p.m. Won't happen again: The U.S. Tennis Association is in the midst of constructing a retractable roof expected to be ready for next year's tournament.

In the third game, Djokovic slipped as he raced forward and fell, ripping skin off his hand, elbow and knee. Shaken, he lost six of the next seven points, then got treatment from a trainer.

If there were many folks in favor of Djokovic in the 23,771-capacity arena, they were tough to hear. Instead — and make no mistake, Djokovic noticed — a vast majority were on Federer's side, even applauding faults by Djokovic, considered poor tennis etiquette.

Lowrie's HR caps Astros' five-run rally in 9th

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Houston Astros were down three runs and down to their final out. Preston Tucker was down to his last strike, with nobody on base and dominant Angels closer Huston Street on the mound.

With fans chanting "Sweep! Sweep!" Tucker hit a fastball into the stands.

Four batters later, Jed Lowrie also circled the bases in ecstatic disbelief.

"It's about as dramatic of a momentum shift or comeback as you're going to see," Lowrie said. "But what's made this team great all year is that we've literally fought to the last pitch."

Lowrie delivered a pinch-hit, three-run homer to complete an astounding five-run rally off Street with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Astros stunned the Los Angeles Angels 5-3 Sunday in a win that could be a defining moment in their breakthrough season.

"That was an incredible, resilient effort," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said. "I love September."

Tucker started the rally with a two-strike solo homer for the Astros, who got five consecutive hits off Street (3-3), the AL saves leader.

"I figured, 'Hey, why don't we get something started? We've got the team to do it,'" said Tucker, who had just one at-bat in the previous five games. "And we did just that. It was awesome. After I hit that home run, everyone realized we could get something going."

George Springer put a triple just be-

yond the reach of diving right fielder Kole Calhoun, and he scored on Jose Altuve's bloop single. Carlos Correa followed with an infield single when his hard-hit grounder became lodged in the webbing of Taylor Featherston's glove, something that had never happened to the second baseman before.

"I couldn't throw my glove all the way to first base," Featherston said.

Lowrie then hit a hanging changeup into the short right-field corner, and Calhoun appeared to be inches away from making the catch. Calhoun reached into the crowd and came up empty.

Street blew his fifth save of the season, allowing a career-high five runs.

"I was pretty frustrated afterward, more in disbelief," Street said. "It's a brutal loss in the way it happened, obviously, trying to go for the sweep and what it does to the standings. The changeup to Lowrie was a bad pitch, probably the only bad pitch in the entire inning."

Chad Qualls (2-4) got two outs in the eighth for Houston, and Luke Gregerson pitched the ninth for his 27th save while the crowd watched in numb silence.

With their improbable ninth inning, the Astros (77-66) won for just the second time in the first six games of their 10-game road trip, which concludes at Texas (75-67). The second-place Rangers are 1½ games behind Houston, while the Angels (72-70) dropped three games behind Texas for the second wild-card spot.

The Angels were one strike away from wrapping up a nine-game homestand with their fourth straight win and their

eighth in 11 games in September.

C.J. Cron hit two homers and Mike Trout also connected for the third-place Angels, who got agonizingly close to turning the AL West into a real three-team race.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 0: NEW YORK — With New York closer to missing out on a wild-card berth than winning the AL East, Masahiro Tanaka pitched like the ace the Yankees needed him to be.

Tanaka allowed four hits over seven innings, and the Yankees stopped a five-game losing streak.

Rangers 12, Athletics 4: Adrian Beltre homered twice to drive in five runs and Choo Shin-soo also went deep as host Texas kept pace in the AL West.

Indians 7, 2; Tigers 2, 9: J.D. Martinez drove in three runs as the Detroit Tigers scored four times in the fourth inning to defeat host Cleveland and split a doubleheader. Rookie Cody Anderson out-pitched Justin Verlander for the second time in a week in the first game.

Nationals 5, Marlins 0: Max Scherzer (12-11) won for the first time since July 30 at Miami, allowing five hits in eight innings with no walks and six strikeouts. Scherzer, who lowered his ERA to 2.91, has been 0-3 in his seven previous outings.

Cardinals 9, Reds 2: Tommy Pham hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the sixth inning and pinch-hitter Matt Adams added a two-run drive in a five-run eighth for his first home run since July 5 as visiting St. Louis rallied from a 2-0 deficit to avoid getting swept in the four-game series.

Phillies 7, Cubs 4: Ryan Howard hom-

ered and drove in three runs for host Philadelphia.

Red Sox 2, Rays 0: Rusney Castillo had a go-ahead two-run single in the 13th inning off Andrew Bellatti after visiting Boston loaded the bases.

Mets 10, Braves 7: Daniel Murphy hit a tying three-run homer in the ninth against Ryan Kelly and Kirk Nieuwenhuis scored the tiebreaking run on third baseman Hector Olivera's throwing error.

Twins 7, White Sox 0: Torii Hunter hit a three-run homer and an RBI single for visiting Minnesota, which improved to 13-6 against Chicago this season.

Pirates 7, Brewers 6: Josh Harrison hit a winning single in the 11th inning off Tyler Thornburg (0-1) as host Pittsburgh opened a four-game margin for the NL wild-card lead.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 3: Zack Greinke won his fourth straight game and pitched eight scoreless innings to lower his major league-leading ERA to 1.61 to lift visiting Los Angeles.

Giants 10, Padres 3: Mike Leake pitched six strong innings and hit a three-run homer to help host San Francisco complete a three-game sweep.

Rockies 3, Mariners 2: Nolan Arenado hit a sacrifice fly for his 110th RBI of the season as visiting Colorado scored a pair of runs on Kyle Seager's throwing error.

Orioles 8, Royals 2: Chris Davis hit his league-leading 42nd home run, Jonathan Schoop added two solo shots and host Baltimore won for the fourth time in five games to preserve its playoff hopes.



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Romo, Witten connect to sink Giants

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Tony Romo found Jason Witten for the winning touchdown after a series of Dallas mistakes put the New York Giants in position to beat the Cowboys in an opener for the first time.

Now the Dallas quarterback has to figure out how to make the comeback turn into more victories without All-Pro receiver Dez Bryant, who will miss four to six weeks with a broken right foot.

"We'll try to reassess that and figure out where to put guys," Romo said after his 11-yard scoring toss to Witten with 7 seconds left gave the Cowboys a 27-26 win over the Giants. "No one can replace Dez Bryant, but it's my job to help that whole situation."

The Cowboys drove 72 yards in 1:27 after stopping New York at the 1 and forcing Josh Brown's fourth field goal when a touchdown would have sealed the Giants' first victory in an opener against Dallas.

The defending NFC East champion Cowboys are 8-0 against their division rival in openers, and have beaten them five straight times.

Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie returned a fumble 57 yards for a touchdown, and the Giants had to go just a yard for their other TD after Trumaine McBride's interception.

The Giants tried to throw on third down from the Dallas 1 with a 23-20 lead, but the Cowboys weren't fooled by the play-action fake. Eli Manning threw the ball away instead of taking a sack, stopping the clock and giving Romo the final 1:34 to try to win.

"It was bad clock management," said Manning, who had 193 yards passing with no touchdowns after throwing for 12 TDs in his previous four games against Dallas. "It was definitely an option to take a sack and run 40 seconds off the clock and give them less time. That's 100 percent on me."

But coach Tom Coughlin took the blame as well.

"The decision to throw the ball on third down was not a good decision," he said. "It should have been a run, whether we scored or not."

On the winning play, Romo picked up ball after a low snap and found Witten — who finished with eight catches for 60 yards and two TDs — shielding defenders at the goal line. The 13-year veteran made the catch, stayed on his feet and left no doubt about getting the ball in the end zone for yet another huge connection between one of the most prolific quarterback-tight end combos in NFL history.

"With what I've experienced here, he's always great in 2-minute, especially him and Witten," Giants cornerback Prince Amukamura said. "You can tell he's very poised and you definitely don't want the ball in his hands in the final two minutes. But whenever that's the case, the defense has to step up."

Romo, who threw for 356 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions, led two quick touchdown drives in the fourth quarter after McBride's interception set up Rashad Jennings' 1-yard scoring that put the Giants up 23-13 with 8 minutes to go.

Rams 34, Seahawks 31 (OT)

ST. LOUIS — The Rams stopped Seattle running back Marshawn Lynch short of a first down Sunday, making Greg Zuerlein's 37-yard field goal in overtime decisive.

St. Louis survived an 18-point fourth quarter rally by the Seahawks, who famously passed from the 1 in last February's Super Bowl and were intercepted by New England to lose.

Down 31-24 with 53 seconds left, the Rams tied the game after Seahawks defensive back Dion Bailey stumbled on Lance Kendricks' 37-yard touchdown catch. Cary Williams' strip of Nick Foles and 8-yard return had put Seattle up by a touchdown.

The Seahawks opened overtime with an onside kick; Bradley Marquez caught Steven Hauschka's popped-up attempt. Officials ruled the ball was kicked directly in the air, so Marquez was OK to signal for a fair catch.

The Rams sacked Russell Wilson six times.

Titans 42, Buccaneers 14

TAMPA, Fla. — Marcus Mariota made it look easy, throwing four touchdown passes and outplaying No. 1 overall draft pick Jameis Winston to lead Tennessee over Tampa Bay.

The highly anticipated debut for the rookie quarterbacks was one-sided from the start, not unlike many of Mariota's dazzling performances in college at Oregon.

The 2014 Heisman winner threw for 209 yards without an interception to join Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton as the only players to throw four or more TD passes in their first NFL game.

Tarkenton did it for Minnesota against the Chicago Bears on Sept. 17, 1961.

Winston, the 2013 Heisman winner, did something rare, too, becoming the first quarterback since Brett Favre in 1991 to have his first NFL pass intercepted and returned for a touchdown.

Packers 31, Bears 23

CHICAGO — Aaron Rodgers threw for three touchdowns, two to James Jones, as the Packers beat Chicago to spoil John Fox's debut as Bears coach.

The Packers got all they could handle from the rebuilding Bears, but took control down the stretch to beat them for the 10th time in 11 games, including the postseason.

Rodgers improved to 13-3 lifetime against Chicago. The 2014 MVP completed 18 of 23 passes for 189 yards.

Jones, who spent seven seasons in Green Bay before signing with Oakland last year, caught four passes for 51 yards. That included a one-handed grab on a 13-yard score late in the first quarter and a 1-yard TD in the third — a good start after being released by the Raiders in the spring and by the Giants on the final roster cut.

Bills 27, Colts 14

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Tyrod Taylor engineered three touchdown drives and Rex Ryan's attacking Buffalo defense put the clamps on Andrew Luck.

In his first career start, Taylor went 14 of 19 for 195 yards, including a 51-yard opening touchdown pass to Percy Harvin. Boobie Dixon and rookie Karlos Williams scored touchdowns rushing to deliver Ryan a win in his debut as Bills head coach.

The Bills built a 24-0 lead by scoring on four consecutive possessions into the third quarter. And Buffalo's defense did the rest.

The retooled Luck-led Colts attack was limited to 148 yards offense and nine first downs on its first five drives before scoring two touchdowns in the final 16 minutes.

Luck finished 26 of 49 for 243 yards and two touchdowns, and was intercepted twice.

Chiefs 27, Texans 20

HOUSTON — Alex Smith threw for 243 yards and three touchdowns in the first half against the mistake-prone Texans.

Travis Kelce caught two touchdown passes in the first quarter, the first coming after Kansas City intercepted Brian Hoyer on his first throw as a Texan.

The Chiefs were up by 14 in the second quarter when Justin Houston sacked Hoyer, forcing a fumble. Kansas City recovered it and a 7-yard touchdown reception by Jamaal Charles pushed the lead to 27-6.

Hoyer struggled in his debut before Ryan Mallett took over with about six minutes left and led Houston on two scoring drives to cut the lead to a touchdown.

Dolphins 17, Redskins 10

LANDOVER, Md. — Jarvis Landry returned a punt 69 yards for a touchdown with 10:22 left to give Miami its first lead.

Landry's score broke open a tight game in which the Redskins amassed more yards and dominated the time of possession, but could not pull away.

Kirk Cousins went 21-for-31 for 196 yards and two interceptions for Washington. Robert Griffin III was inactive after only recently recovering from a concussion.

Miami trailed 10-0 in the second quarter, cut it to 10-7 at halftime and pulled even when Andrew Franks kicked a field goal. The Dolphins then forced a punt. Landry took the ball in the center of the field and darted up the middle, dodging would-be tacklers along the way.

On the ensuing drive, Cousins threw a sideline pass that cornerback Brice McCain intercepted at the Miami 2.

Jets 31, Browns 10

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two touchdown passes and Chris Ivory ran for two scores in coach Todd Bowles' debut.

The Jets (1-0) had five takeaways against the Browns, including an interception of Johnny Manziel, who came in late in the first quarter for the injured Josh McCown.

Jets rookie linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin was taken to a hospital after being carted off the field with head and neck injuries.

Brandon Marshall and Eric Decker had touchdown catches for the Jets, who sent the Browns (0-1) to their 11th straight opening-day loss. Fitzpatrick, who became the starter last month after Geno Smith's jaw was broken by a then-teammate's punch, finished 15 of 24 for 179 yards.

Manziel was 13 of 24 for 182, including a 54-yard touchdown to Travis Benjamin.

Panthers 20, Jaguars 9

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Josh Norman returned an interception for a touchdown as the Panthers did just enough offensively.

Norman provided the big play in the third quarter when he stepped in front of a pass intended for rookie running back T.J. Yeldon near the sideline and went untouched the other way for a 30-yard score. Norman pointed at Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles as he trotted toward the end zone and then waved bye-bye.

Carolina managed just 263 yards in winning its second consecutive opener.

Cam Newton, playing in his first game since signing a five-year, \$104 million contract that included \$60 million guaranteed, completed 18 of 31 passes for 175 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for 35 yards and threw an interception.

Broncos 19, Ravens 13

DENVER — Former Ravens safety Darian Stewart, who followed Gary Kubiak from Baltimore to Denver over the winter, snatched the ball from tight end Crockett Gillmore in the end zone with 28 seconds left to seal a win for Peyton Manning and the Broncos.

Joe Flacco drove the Ravens to the Denver 16 in the final minute. One play before Stewart's interception, cornerback Brady Roby got a hand in Steve Smith Sr.'s face and a would-be touchdown catch bounded away from the veteran receiver.

Cornerback Jimmy Smith's 24-yard pick-6 was Baltimore's only touchdown and Broncos cornerback Aqib Talib responded with a 51-yard interception return for a TD that put Denver ahead for good 16-13.

Manning was 24 of 40 for 175 yards and a paltry 59.9 passer rating. His four sacks were his most since Oct. 20, 2013.

Cardinals 31, Saints 19

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Carson Palmer threw three touchdown passes in his first game back from a torn ACL as Arizona opened its season with a victory over New Orleans.

Drew Brees threw for 355 yards, but the Saints had to settle for a Zach Hocker field goal four times.

Arizona's Andre Ellington rushed for 69 yards before being carted off with a right knee injury.

Two of Palmer's TD passes came in the fourth quarter. Darren Fells made a 17-yard fingertip catch for one score and Arizona clinched it with Palmer's 55-yard pass to rookie David Johnson with 1:33 to play.

Palmer, 14-2 in his last 16 starts, completed 19 of 32 passes for 307 yards with no interceptions.

Chargers 33, Lions 28

SAN DIEGO — Philip Rivers rallied San Diego to 30 straight points, including throwing a go-ahead, 13-yard touchdown pass to tight end Ladarius Green early in the fourth quarter, as the Chargers stunned Detroit in what could be their final home opener at Qualcomm Stadium.

Rivers overcame two interceptions, including a 31-yard return for a touchdown by Glover Quin, to complete 35 of 42 passes for 404 yards and two scores.

Green was subbing for Antonio Gates, who's suspended without pay for four games for testing positive for PEDs. Keenan Allen had 15 catches — tying the club record set by Hall of Famer Kellen Winslow in 1984 — for 166 yards.

The Chargers trailed 21-3 after Matthew Stafford threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Eric Ebron midway through the second quarter. But the second half was all San Diego.

Bengals 33, Raiders 13

OAKLAND, Calif. — Andy Dalton threw for 269 yards and two touchdowns and Jeremy Hill ran for two scores to help Cincinnati spoil coach Jack Del Rio's debut in Oakland.

Dalton had it easy all day long as he faced little pressure and often had receivers running free in the Raiders secondary. He connected on two touchdown passes with tight end Tyler Eifert as the Bengals (1-0) broke out to a 33-0 lead and coasted.

The game couldn't have gone worse for the Raiders (0-1), who lost starting quarterback Derek Carr to a hand injury in the second quarter and were held scoreless until midway through the fourth quarter in Del Rio's first game as coach.