

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Iranian boats again harass US warship

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An American warship was forced off course after seven Iranian fast-attack boats swarmed it Sunday in the central Persian Gulf, continuing a recent pattern of Iranian harassment of U.S. military ships, a Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday.

One of the small Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps watercraft stopped directly in the USS Firebolt's path where it turned to face the American coastal patrol ship, said U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. After several attempts at radio communication, the Firebolt was forced to maneuver to avoid a collision. The American ship came within about 100 yards of the boat.

It was at least the fifth time in the last two weeks the Revolutionary Guard boats, controlled by hard-line, anti-American clerics close to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, harassed U.S. Navy ships. In one of those incidents, another American coastal patrol ship, the USS Squall, fired three warning shots before the Iranian boats fled. In the previous encounters, the closest the two sides had come was about 200 yards, military officials have said.

"This is clearly a pattern, and it is one we are not happy about," Davis said on Tuesday. "We would like to see this type of behavior to stop."

In Sunday's incident, at least three of the Iranian boats sped within 500 yards of the Firebolt, tailed the ship in "an unsafe and unprofessional manner" and left

the area once it changed course. It was not immediately clear how long the incident lasted.

The Iranian boats were clearly armed, Davis added. Crewmembers aboard the vessels were manning machine guns, but the weapons were never aimed at the Firebolt.

"We would like all players operating in international waters to do so professionally," Davis said. "When they don't act professionally, there is risk of collision or accident, or risk of miscalculation or unnecessary escalation."

Just last week, Gen. Joseph Votel, head of U.S. Central Command, called out the recent actions by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, and warned that continued provocations could cause "an international incident."

"If they continue to test us, we are going to respond, and we are going to protect ourselves and our partners," Votel said during a visit to the Pentagon. "Ultimately, we will prevail here. I'm very, very confident of that, and we certainly don't want that to come to pass, and that's why I call on them to act in the professional manner that they espouse to act, particularly in international waters."

The Iranians have typically ignored the Americans' stated concerns about such actions, saying they have the right to investigate or confront vessels near their shoreline.

The Navy estimates about 10 percent of all its interactions with Iranian military vessels since the beginning of 2015 have been unprofessional.

## Taliban claim responsibility for attack in Kabul

BY CHAD GARLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban have claimed responsibility for an overnight raid that ended early Tuesday when police killed three attackers who had seized the offices of an aid organization in a residential and business area of the Afghan capital.

The attack came just hours after a double bombing near the Defense Ministry that the insurgents also claimed. Officials on Tuesday said the toll of the earlier twin bombings had risen to 35 dead and more than 100 wounded.

Hours later, shortly after 11 p.m., a suicide car bomb exploded in Kabul's Shahr-e-Naw neighborhood outside the compound of CARE International, a nonprofit with programs in edu-

cation, women's empowerment, rural development and emergency response. Three gunmen then raided the compound. They were killed about 10 a.m., after a firefight and blast, said Faraidon Obaidi, head of criminal investigations for the Kabul police.

"Our priority was to evacuate the civilians from the scene and surrounding houses; that is why the operation went slow," Obaidi said, adding that more than 40 people were evacuated.

"Once all the civilians were taken out, our security forces started their operation, and in a short period of time, all of the attackers were killed," he said. No police were harmed, he said.

Besides the three attackers killed, casualties included one dead and at least six injured, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said on Twitter.

Obaidi confirmed that six civilians were injured, but he said four were treated and sent home.

There was no immediate information on who was killed. CARE International said in a statement that all of its staff members in Afghanistan had been evacuated and were safe. The organization said it believed the intended target was a neighboring government building.

Late Tuesday, the Taliban confirmed that they had been behind the attack. In an online statement, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the target was a "secret intelligence center of foreign forces to which [officials] had given the fake name of guest house."

Mujahid said the building was used by security forces to plot attacks against the insurgent group and had been under

surveillance for three months.

The initial blast Monday night caused a brief blackout in the area, which is home to several guest houses where foreigners and diplomats reside. Eyewitnesses reported billowing smoke and some tracer fire.

Police, including special, quick-reaction teams, responded to the attack within minutes. Roads in the area were closed overnight, and police cut power to the area. The streets in Shahr-e-Naw were opened later Tuesday morning but remained quiet.

Local media published photos showing a deep crater in the dirt road where the attack occurred and nearby sidewalks covered with glass shards from storefront windows blown out from the explosion.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

# Nuke-armed missile now seen costing \$85B

Bloomberg

The U.S. Air Force's program to develop and field a new intercontinental ballistic missile to replace the aging Minuteman III in the nuclear arsenal is now projected to cost at least \$85 billion, about 36 percent more than a preliminary estimate by the service.

Even the \$85 billion calculated by the Pentagon's Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation office is a placeholder number that's at the low end of potential costs, according to an Aug. 23 memo from Pentagon weapons buyer Frank Kendall to Air Force Secretary Deborah James. It includes \$22.6 billion for research and development, \$61.5 billion for procurement and \$718 million for related military construction.

Lockheed Martin Corp., Boeing Co. and Northrop Grumman Corp. are all competing to build the new ICBMs. But the latest estimate may add to debate about the cost and need for the planned modernization of all three legs of the U.S. nuclear triad of land, air and sea weapons. The nuclear modernization plan contributes to what defense

analysts call a gathering "bow wave" of spending in the coming decade on major weapons that future presidents will face.

At this stage of the ICBM program, "there is significant uncertainty about program costs" because "the historical data is limited and there has been a long gap since the last" such development program, Kendall wrote.

The \$85 billion estimate must be revised no later than March 2018, once missile designs are more advanced, technical risks are reduced and the service has a better understanding of overall costs, Kendall said in the memo.

Nonetheless, Kendall approved proceeding with early development and efforts to reduce the technology risks of the new ICBM. He directed the service to move toward buying 642 missiles at an average cost of \$66.4 million each to support a deployed force of 400 weapons and to budget at least \$1.25 billion annually from 2036 to 2040 for operations and support costs.

The Pentagon's ability to estimate the cost of the new Ground Based Strategic Deterrent was

limited by the "incompleteness and significant age of" the "data for comparable ICBM and submarine launched ballistic missiles dating back to the 1960s through the early 1990s," Kendall wrote.

The Pentagon and Air Force are "accepting greater risk by going with" the \$85 billion estimate that's at the lower end of its calculations, Kingston Reif, an analyst with the Arms Control Association in Washington who follows the program, said in an email. "From a good-government perspective" it is "better to build in contingency and plan for and prioritize around a bigger bill now, lest a sudden big cost increase threatens to wreck the budget and the program five to 10 years from now."

Kendall wrote that inflation assumptions and the defense industry's capability to produce the missiles are major sources of cost uncertainty. Still, he said the \$85 billion placeholder is "the most reasonable estimate of program cost at this point."

In addition to the new nuclear systems, the bow wave of coming costs includes nine Air Force conventional systems and plans for increased construction of

naval vessels such as a second Ford-class aircraft carrier.

For the air component of the nuclear triad, Northrop defeated a Lockheed-Boeing team in October for the right to build a new dual-use bomber that can carry both nuclear and conventional weapons, a project valued at as much as \$80 billion.

At sea, the Navy is planning to replace its Ohio-class nuclear-armed submarines through a production program now estimated at \$122 billion, which doesn't include development. That estimate will be updated by year's end as the Pentagon reviews moving the program into full development.

Kendall's decision to let the ICBM program move forward marks the official beginning of the technology development stage, with spending increasing from about \$75 million this year to \$1.6 billion in 2021 and \$2.6 billion in 2022, according to the Pentagon estimate.

The "program plans to buy enough missiles to maintain a 400-missile deployed force through 2075," Air Force spokeswoman Leah Bryant said in an email.

## Duterte defiant after Obama cancels meeting

Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte defiantly reaffirmed his controversial campaign against drugs Tuesday and called for a redoubling of crime-fighting efforts across Southeast Asia as he prepared to face two prominent critics of his policy: President Barack Obama and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

"We shall not be cowed. We must press on," he declared in a speech at a business and investment conference on the sidelines of a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which he is attending. He called for increased use of intelligence gathering and more arrests.

The summit has been overshadowed by his use of profane language toward Obama. Duterte also threatened earlier to pull the Philippines out of the United Nations over criticism of his crackdown on the illegal drug trade that has led to a wave of extrajudicial killings. More than 2,000 people have been killed since June 30, when he took office after winning the election on a promise to fight crime and corruption.

On Wednesday, he is to attend a gala dinner with both Obama and Ban, as well as join a meeting that the two leaders will have with ASEAN heads of state and government.

Earlier Tuesday, Duterte expressed regret over his "son of

a bitch" remark while referring to Obama — in a rare display of contrition by a politician whose wide arc of profanities has unabashedly targeted world figures including the pope.

In a statement read by his spokesman, Duterte said his "strong comments" in response to questions by a reporter "elicited concern and distress, we also regret it came across as a personal attack on the U.S. president."

Duterte made the intemperate remarks Monday before flying to Laos. He had been scheduled to meet Obama separately on Tuesday, but the White House canceled the meeting.

Even though Duterte's statement did not amount to an apol-

ogy, the expression of regret is unusual for the tough-talking former mayor, who is unapologetic about his manner of speech and liberally peppers casual statements with profanities.

Duterte's aides are likely to have realized there would be a price to pay for insulting the president of the United States.

The U.S. is one of the Philippines' largest trading partners and a key security ally in its fight against Muslim militants in the country's south. Manila also needs Washington's help in dealing with a more assertive China in the disputed South China Sea. The U.S. provides hundreds of millions of dollars in annual assistance to the Philippine military.



# Trump, Clinton clash on national security

88 retired generals, admirals back GOP nominee, cite 'hollowing out of our military'

Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — With Labor Day behind them, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are battling over national security in the South's top presidential battlegrounds.

Trump, the Republican nominee, released an open letter early Tuesday from 88 retired generals and admirals citing an urgent need for a "course correction" on America's national security policy.

"We believe that such a change can only be made by someone who has not been deeply involved with, and substantially responsible for, the hollowing out of our military and the burgeoning threats facing our country around the world," the military leaders wrote. "For

this reason, we support Donald Trump's candidacy to be our next commander-in-chief."

Clinton's campaign is spending big to undercut Trump's message in a new TV ad released Tuesday titled "Sacrifice."

Specifically, the ad shows military veterans watching some of the New York billionaire's more provocative statements, including his claim to know more about the Islamic State group than military generals and his criticism of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a former prisoner of war. It also features Trump's claim that he sacrificed a lot compared with families who have lost loved ones in conflict.

"Our veterans deserve better," reads a line at the end of the ad, which is airing in Ohio, Florida, Iowa, Nevada and

Pennsylvania.

The conflicting messages come as the candidates prepare to court voters in Southern states with significant veteran populations. The pair is also set to appear at an MSNBC forum on Wednesday night on national security.

Trump is scheduled to campaign Tuesday in Virginia and North Carolina, two critical states in his path to the presidency. Trump's afternoon event in Virginia Beach will focus on national security, and he's expected to meet with parents of soldiers later in the day.

Clinton and her running mate, Sen. Tim Kaine, of Virginia, were making a pronounced pitch on national security and defense policy Tuesday, fanning

out to the military-rich communities of Tampa, Fla., and Wilmington, N.C. At every stop, Clinton argues that Trump is temperamentally unfit to serve as commander in chief, warning that his bluster would damage the nation's longstanding alliances.

A Clinton victory in Florida would make it virtually impossible for Trump to overcome her advantage in the race for 270 electoral votes.

Clinton has gotten help from the Republicans in questioning Trump's capacity to serve as commander in chief. Dozens of GOP national security leaders released a letter last month warning that Trump would risk the nation's "national security and well-being."

## Cabinet member decries Merchant Marine Academy woes

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has concluded that sexual harassment and assault and other misconduct at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy are so serious the school needs to hire a team of outside experts to address the campus culture, officials said.

Leaders of the federal service school outside New York City also are enlisting the help of Vice President Joe Biden's office, which is leading a nationwide public awareness campaign to end sexual assault on college campuses.

Foxx's announcement means that the four-year academy's training year at sea for midshipmen on commercial ships, a marquee program the Obama administration canceled this summer amid concerns about sexual misconduct, will be on hold indefinitely — and some students may not graduate on time.

Here's the full, no-holds-barred statement from Department of Transportation

spokesman Michael Novak on Foxx's thinking: "Secretary Foxx issued a halt to the Sea Year program for Midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) after incidents of bullying, coercion, sexual harassment and assault continued despite consistent efforts by the Department of Transportation, the Maritime Administration, and the [school] to address these issues. While the Sea Year program has partially resumed, the more we dug into the problem, the more evident it became that the inappropriate behaviors we are trying to stem at sea cannot be addressed without addressing the campus culture. The Secretary is interested in a transformational change at the Academy; one that creates a culture that protects these young women and men and ensures respect for everyone. By bringing in outside experts experienced in examining and assessing an organization and its culture to look at the Academy, he intends to find a way forward to correct

these serious issues."

The small academy at Kings Point on Long Island Sound, the least-known of the five federal service schools, has the highest rate of sexual assault and harassment, federal data show.

The year at sea, considered a rigorous training opportunity for future mariners who will work for the federal government or in the shipping industry, leaves young men and women isolated for months at a time on vast ships as apprentices to commercial crews.

While Kings Point received just one report of sexual assault in the 2014-15 academic year, government surveys show that 63 percent of women and 11 percent of men experienced unwanted advances or other sexual harassment, either at sea or back on campus. And 17 percent of women and 2 percent of men reporting some kind of sexual assault, defined as unwanted contact, from groping to rape.

The school also is in danger of losing its accreditation for management and other failures

that include a poor prevention and training program to prevent sexual misconduct.

Foxx ordered the Sea Year stand-down in hopes that the industry and the agency at DOT that oversees the academy, would reach consensus on an approach to stopping harassment and assault and the retaliation against students who report it.

The outside experts for Kings Point have not yet been hired, officials said, and it is unclear how long their review will take, what they will recommend and when and how Sea Year will be reinstated.

The academy found berths for most midshipmen on state academy training ships or federal vessels. But those arrangements will leave some midshipmen short of offshore days they need to graduate on time, officials said.

Many Kings Point parents and alumni are furious about the stand-down and have pressured congressional representatives to get their sons and daughters back to sea.

## Ailes settles ex-Fox anchor Carlson's suit

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former Fox News Channel anchor Gretchen Carlson settled her sexual harassment lawsuit against Roger Ailes for a reported \$20 million and a public apology Tuesday, ending the case that triggered the downfall of Fox's chief executive.

Filed two months ago, Carlson's lawsuit alleged that she was demoted and let go at Fox because she rejected Ailes' sexual advances and complained about workplace harassment.

In a statement, Fox parent company 21st Century Fox said, "We regret and apologize for the fact that Gretchen was not treated with the respect and dignity that she and all of our colleagues deserve."

Carlson was paid \$20 million, according to a person familiar with the settlement who spoke on condition of anonymity because the terms of the agreement were confidential.

The former Miss America spent several years on the "Fox & Friends" morning show before being shifted to the afternoon and told in June that her contract wasn't being renewed.

Carlson said she is ready to move on to the next chapter in her life and promised to work to help women in the workplace. She thanked "all the brave women" who came forward to tell their own stories and others who supported her.

"All women deserve a dignified and respectful workplace," she said.

Ailes, who denied Carlson's allegations when the lawsuit was filed, had no statement Tuesday, his lawyer said.

Carlson's case led 21st Century Fox to launch its own investigation, and other women came forward with stories of being harassed by Ailes, including Fox News star Megyn Kelly. A few women told their stories publicly.

Two weeks later, Ailes was gone, reportedly with a \$40 million payout, and is said to be informally advising Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

# House's GOP panel chairman seeks new Clinton email probe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican chairman of the House committee investigating Hillary Clinton's email practices asked a federal prosecutor Tuesday to determine whether she and others working with her played a role in the deletion of thousands of her emails by a Colorado technology firm overseeing her private computer server in 2015.

The written request by Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and obtained by The Associated Press, is based on recent revelations from the FBI, which decided not to press for criminal charges after its own yearlong investigation.

Clinton and her longtime aide and lawyer, Cheryl Mills, told FBI investigators during questioning that they had no knowledge of the technology company's deletions. Those occurred separately from the

email deletions overseen by the former secretary of state's legal team last year before she turned over 33,000 work-related messages to the State Department. The FBI's recently released summaries of its investigation did not offer any evidence contradicting their statements.

In a separate letter also obtained by the AP, Chaffetz — the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman — warned the Denver-based tech firm, Platte River Networks, that one of its engineers who deleted Clinton's electronic files last year could face federal charges of obstructing evidence for erasing the material. That's because the congressional inquiry into the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, in which four Americans were killed, had issued a formal order to preserve such records.

The moves by the GOP led-House committee amount to

new political complications for Clinton's presidential campaign, which was spared a legal ordeal in July when FBI Director James Comey upbraided Clinton for careless email practices but declined to seek criminal charges.

But the sparse evidence laid out in Chaffetz' letters — highlighting a March 2015 phone discussion between the tech firm and Clinton lawyers that FBI agents were unable to detail — also shows the uphill climb the committee faces in turning up any significant new information beyond what the FBI already learned in its inquiry.

The new requests follow a similar attempt last month by Republican-led committees in the House and Senate to prod new information from the Denver firm as the presidential race between Clinton and Republican candidate Donald Trump enters its critical final months.

## Congress returning from long break with 1 goal: No government shutdown

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congress returns Tuesday after a seven-week summer break with one major task to accomplish: Don't shut down the government.

Lawmakers have four weeks to hammer out a spending deal before the fiscal year ends Sept. 30, but some are already warning the task will not be easy.

The tension surrounds how long a stopgap funding bill keeping the government open, known as a continuing resolution, should last.

Conservatives want to pass a six-month continuing resolution that would kick the larger budget fight into next year with a new president and Congress in place. They argue that coming back after the election to complete the annual budget work during a "lame-duck" session

will result in a massive legislative package that increases spending and contains policies sought by special interests.

But Democrats and some moderate Republicans want to finish the annual budget work later this year after the election.

Both sides are digging in for a fight.

"We are not going to agree to a long-term [continuing resolution]," Senate Minority Leader Harry M. Reid, D-Nev., told reporters Thursday — his comments coming with the implicit threat of a filibuster against any deal Democrats don't support. "We are not doing anything into next year. Republicans should be aware of that right now."

The potential stalemate over spending is a headache for Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell, R-Ky., and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who would like to avoid any whiff of a shutdown threat just weeks before the election. Neither has publicly weighed in on how long a stopgap spending bill should last, with aides saying it's an issue that will be discussed with members when they return to Washington this week.

The opposition to a lame-duck spending deal in the House is being led by the approximately 40-member House Freedom Caucus with the backing of several prominent conservative groups. The picture in the Senate is less clear, but Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a member of leadership, has said he prefers kicking work on a final spending agreement into next year.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man accused of painting dog purple

**MA** OAK BLUFFS — Police said a man broke into a home on Martha's Vineyard and painted the resident's dog purple.

The Cape Cod Times reported that Felix Reagan is charged with breaking and entering with the intent to commit a felony, cruelty to animals, larceny of a motor vehicle and related crimes.

Police responded around 2:30 p.m. Saturday for a report that a man had stolen a vehicle, crashed it and then fled on foot. Soon after, officers were called to a nearby home where the resident reported someone had forced in a first-floor window, stolen items and painted their dog purple.

Officers located Reagan, who had purple paint on his pants.

## Inductees for Hall of Honor are selected

**ND** BISMARCK — The first members of the state's new Native American Hall of Honor will be inducted during an upcoming ceremony.

The State Historical Society of North Dakota said an induction ceremony for the seven individuals is scheduled Thursday.

The Historical Society said the hall is meant to recognize Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribes and cultures. It will recognize achievements in athletics, culture and arts, veteran and military affairs, and leadership.

The inductees are Robert Eaglestaff, Marcellus Red Tomahawk and Harriett Skye, of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Arnold Charging and Nathan Goodiron, of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; An-

thony McDonald, of the Spirit Lake Nation; and Richard Marcellais, of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

## Rarely used adultery charge still felony

**ID** BOISE — When allegations erupted this summer that two Idaho lawmakers, Rep. Christy Perry and Sen. Jim Guthrie, were caught in an extramarital affair, many supporters were quick to say their actions were a mistake, not a crime.

However, in Idaho, adultery has been considered a felony since 1972. The law remains on the books as a relic of America's long history of regulating sexual activity inside marriage.

Adultery is illegal in 21 other states, but Idaho is one of a few to classify it as a felony.

Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loebs said he could not recall using the charge in his nearly 25 years in office.

"It's there because the Idaho Legislature is making a statement that (adultery) should be discouraged," Loebs said. "If you try to remove it, you're asking should we make this type of behavior OK."

## Police: Man claimed to be immune from arrest

**LA** SLIDELL — Police in Louisiana said a Mississippi man claimed to be a "sovereign citizen" who's immune from arrest during a traffic stop.

Slidell officers on Friday charged James Doyle Webb, 54, of Bay St. Louis, with several violations, including not having a driver's license, a license plate or insurance. He was also charged with resisting an officer.

A news release from the Slidell Police Department said Webb requested the names and

badge numbers of officers who stopped him, then would not produce documents officers requested after he wrote down their information.

Instead of a license, he had a homemade "Constitutional Protection Travel Identification."

## Driver fired for incident caught on bus video

**ID** BOISE — A bus driver in southern Idaho has been fired after a video of her pouring water on a student and telling him to speak English surfaced on social media.

The North Side Bus Co. confirmed Saturday that Mary Black had been let go following the incident.

The video posted Thursday involves Jerome Middle School student Miguel Martinez, who said Black confronted him after he dropped a water bottle on the bus. The eighth-grader said Black grabbed the water bottle from him and poured it on him because she thought he had been pouring it on other students.

Black can be heard in the video demanding that when Martinez speak to her he do it in English. She said, "I live in America, and it's an English-speaking country."

## Shelter giving away cats to clear space

**NE** OMAHA — The Nebraska Humane Society is giving away cats free to clear up space in the shelter in Omaha.

The nonprofit said too many cats came in recently, so it is waiving its normal adoption fees. All the felines are spayed or neutered and microchipped.

All cats that are six months or older are free, and kittens will be adopted two for one for \$75.

## Grizzlies are seen for first time in a century

**MT** BUTTE — State wildlife biologists are trying to figure out whether grizzly bears spotted this year in the Upper Big Hole River area for the first time in about a century came from Yellowstone or northern Montana.

Grizzly bear sightings have been confirmed on several occasions this summer in the Upper Big Hole River area.

Kevin Frey, of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, confirmed photographs and tracks seen this summer are of a grizzly bear. He told the Montana Standard that it's hard to say whether it is one bear or multiple bears.

Officials said the grizzly bear presence in the Big Hole is a sign of their overall population recovery.

## Prof ends hunger strike over tenure

**PA** EASTON — A professor at a Pennsylvania college said he's ended the hunger strike he began last week over the denial of his tenure application.

Lafayette College professor Juan Rojo said on his Facebook page that the decision was "an act of good faith."

Rojo had said on Aug. 30 that he planned to consume only water and sports drinks until the issue was resolved but would continue teaching.

Rojo has taught Spanish language and literature at the college since 2008. A committee voted in December to recommend him for tenure, but college president Alison Byerly denied his tenure, saying he didn't exhibit "distinctive" teaching abilities.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# Expect the usual 4 to contend for NFC

Associated Press

The last four teams to play for the NFC championship have the same goal: Super Bowl or bust.

Carolina, Arizona, Seattle and Green Bay are still the class of a conference that has far more pretenders than contenders. It's a smart bet one of the four teams will be in Houston playing for the Vince Lombardi Trophy in February.

Reigning NFL MVP Cam Newton led the Panthers to a 17-1 record before Von Miller and the Broncos stifled them in the Super Bowl. Carolina returns the bulk of its roster except All-Pro cornerback Josh Norman, now in Washington. The offense should be even better because star receiver Kelvin Benjamin is back after a knee injury forced him to miss last season.

"Given the talent we have on the offensive side, it's about every guy maximizing their role," Newton said. "We don't want to look back and say we didn't maximize our opportunity with all these talents."

The last eight teams to lose the Super Bowl have won at least 10 games the next season. But no team has reached the title game a year after losing since the 1993 Bills.

"You can never be satisfied," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said. "We didn't win the Super Bowl. So that right there is enough for us to stay motivated and keep moving toward our goal."

The Cardinals were 13-3 last year and are 34-14 under Bruce Arians. A blowout loss at Carolina in the NFC title game was a bitter end to a fine season. Carson Palmer is coming off his best season, but threw four interceptions against the Panthers. Palmer turns 37 in December, so there's urgency to win now.

Seattle also was knocked out of the playoffs by the Panthers. The Seahawks might have even more depth than they did when they almost won consecutive Super Bowls in 2013-14.

Running back Thomas Rawls — Marshawn Lynch's replacement — and tight end Jimmy Graham are back from significant injuries that ended their 2015 seasons early. Russell Wilson led the NFL in passer rating and is still improving.

"We know what it takes to win a lot of games," Wilson said.

Aaron Rodgers and the Packers are looking to rebound after Minnesota ended their four-year reign in the NFC North. Star receiver Jordy Nelson is back after missing the season

with a knee injury. Running back Eddie Lacy slimmed down. Even Rodgers altered his diet after minor knee surgery in the offseason.

If everyone around him stays healthy, Rodgers should return to MVP form. He had 3,821 yards passing, 31 touchdowns and eight interceptions in a "down" year for him in 2015.

The Vikings round out the top five in the NFC. But they lost quarterback Teddy Bridgewater to a severe injury that prompted them to trade for former Eagles starter Sam Bradford.

Minnesota's offense still relies on Adrian Peterson, who led the league with 1,485 yards rushing last season. If the 31-year-old Peterson slows down, the Vikings could be in trouble.

Whoever wins the East could be an underdog in the playoffs, though a home game comes with winning the division.

The Redskins finished first thanks to a breakout year from Kirk Cousins. They added Norman in free agency to bolster a poor defense. But no team has repeated in the division since the Eagles won four in a row from 2001-04.

The Giants have a new coach, Ben McAdoo, and revamped defense. They re-signed Jason Pierre-Paul and added defen-

sive end Olivier Vernon, defensive tackle Damon Harrison, cornerback Janoris Jenkins and linebacker Kennan Robinson.

With Eli Manning and Odell Beckham Jr. leading the way on offense, New York could end its four-year playoff drought.

McAdoo is one of four new coaches in the NFC. The Eagles hired Doug Pederson to replace Chip Kelly, who took over in San Francisco. Tampa Bay hired Dirk Koetter.

Tony Romo's back injury means Dallas might start the season with rookie Dak Prescott at quarterback. They could turn to Mark Sanchez, signed after he was released by Denver. Either way, it tempers the excitement surrounding running back Ezekiel Elliott, the No. 4 overall pick.

Matthew Stafford and the Lions have to adjust to life without Calvin Johnson. Megatron retired in the offseason.

Drew Brees is playing for a new contract at 37, so the Saints could be a surprise team. The Falcons aim for consistency after losing eight of 11 following a 5-0 start. The Rams try to bring a winner to town in the NFL's return to Los Angeles. The Bears will go as far as Jay Cutler takes them, usually nowhere.

## No all-Williams rematch as Venus ousted

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Venus Williams went from down and out to a point from victory, then back again. In the end, she couldn't quite get past a woman a dozen years younger and never before at this stage of a Grand Slam tournament.

Williams failed to convert a match point and lost 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3) to 10th-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic in the fourth round of the U.S. Open on Monday, despite vociferous support from the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd down the stretch.

"I really played the perfect point there," the sixth-seeded Williams said about her chance to end things while up 5-4 in the third set, and Pliskova serving at 30-40, "and she managed to stay alive."

At 36, Williams would have been the oldest woman to reach the quarterfinals at any major since Martina Navratilova was 37 at Wimbledon in 1994.

Serena followed Venus in Ashe and beat Yaroslava Shvedova 6-2, 6-3 in the fourth round for her 308th Grand Slam match victory, breaking a tie with Roger Federer for most in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

Pliskova managed, just barely, to make it to her first Grand Slam quarterfinal at age 24. Until this tournament, she never had been past the third round in 17 appearances at majors.

Pliskova will face 92nd-ranked Ana Konjuh, an 18-year-old from Croatia who upset No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-4. Also reaching the quarterfinals with a victory Monday was 2014 French Open run-

ner-up Simona Halep, who eliminated No. 11 Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 7-5. Now it's Halep's turn to try to deal with the serve of Serena Williams, who reached a tournament-best 126 mph.

In men's action, 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro became the lowest-ranked man in the quarterfinals in 25 years, advancing when No. 8 seed Dominic Thiem stopped in the second set because of an injured right knee.

The 2012 title winner at Flushing Meadows, Andy Murray, eased into the quarterfinals for the 22nd time in his past 23 majors, beating No. 22 Grigor Dimitrov 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 at night. Murray now faces 2014 runner-up Kei Nishikori, who advanced by beating No. 21 Ivo Karlovic 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (4).



# Florida State rallies past Mississippi

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Deondre Francois was a little concerned after his first couple of drives Monday night.

Things weren't going exactly as Florida State's redshirt freshman quarterback had hoped. Some critical passes floated high, some fell short, and the fourth-ranked Seminoles trailed No. 11 Mississippi by 22 points before the end of the first quarter.

Then it all came together in the second quarter. Francois stood in the pocket and delivered a 16-yard touchdown pass to Travis Rudolph, the first of 33 consecutive points for the Seminoles in a 45-34 season-opening win over Ole Miss — the largest comeback victory in school history.

"Things weren't going right, but I couldn't panic because my team needed me behind the wheel," said Francois, just the fourth freshman to start the season as the Seminoles' quarterback.

"So I just kept chopping. We were down 28-6, but I couldn't let them see me down, I had to portray the image that we were not about to lose this game."

Francois made plays with both his arm and legs while playing in front of his home crowd in Orlando. He completed 33 of 52 passes for 419 yards and two touchdowns, and also rushed for 59 yards.

He led the Seminoles on four touchdown drives and positioned freshman kicker Ricky Aguayo to convert a school-record six field goals while FSU scored on nine consecutive possessions between the second and fourth quarters.

"He's a kid who loves his team," FSU coach Jimbo Fisher said of Francois. "His teammates believe in him, and he's a fighter, and he's a competitor, which I'm very proud of."

Francois outplayed his much more experienced counterpart, Ole Miss senior Chad Kelly, who threw for 313 yards and four touchdowns but also had three interceptions and a fumble.

Francois didn't commit a turnover and played with poise that earned him his teammates' confidence.

"He just wants to make everything perfect, he wants to perfect his craft," said FSU running back Dalvin Cook. "The confidence he has coming into the huddle, you have no

choice but to go out and execute for him because he is going to lay it on the line for you."

## The takeaway

**Ole Miss:** The Rebels' up-tempo offense is potent, but big mistakes by Kelly under pressure took away any momentum. Kelly had three touchdown passes in the first half but his turnovers (four) brought the offense to a standstill.

**Florida State:** Francois looks like the real deal. His arm is impressive and his willingness to stay in the pocket was bold for a first-time starter. Cook found little running room early, but he contributed big as a receiver with a career-high seven catches for 101 yards. He also rushed for 91 yards on 23 carries.

## Key numbers

**Ole Miss:** The Rebels gave 13 points off turnovers, fueled by Kelly's four giveaways.

**Florida State:** The Seminoles won the time of possession battle 42:39 to 17:21. ... FSU will have to clean up some sloppiness after committing 15 penalties for 127 yards. ... The Seminoles converted 9 of 18 third downs. ... Among the

kickers that Aguayo passed with his team-record six field goals? His brother Roberto, a second-round pick by Tampa Bay this year.

## Injury report

Ole Miss cornerback Ken Webster suffered a knee injury on the Rebels' fourth defensive play when he went up to defend a pass to receiver Kermit Whitfield. Webster came down awkwardly and had to be carted off the field. His injury hurt the secondary because it didn't have a defensive back to leave out on an island in coverage.

## Poll implications

**Ole Miss:** The Rebels should drop some in the polls, but they may not fall far after losing in what was essentially Florida State's backyard. For a while, Ole Miss looked destined for a jump into the top 10, but things unraveled in the second half.

**Florida State:** The Seminoles nearly became the third team in the top five to tumble, but instead they rallied for a huge neutral-site win. With No. 3 Oklahoma losing, FSU should move up to at least No. 3 in the next AP Top 25 poll.

# McIlroy answers three questions with latest victory

Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Rory McIlroy has built a record that would seem to make him immune from too much skepticism about his golf game.

He already had four majors at age 25, including the U.S. Open scoring record (268) and the largest margin of victory (eight shots) in the U.S. PGA Championship. In the 30 years of the world ranking, only Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, and Nick Faldo have spent more time at No. 1 than McIlroy.

Over the long U.S. Labor Day weekend, McIlroy managed to answer three big questions.

He had a reputation for playing his best golf in pristine con-

ditions, strange for a kid who grew up in Northern Ireland.

But when the TPC Boston was at its most dangerous in 40 mph gusts as Hurricane Hermine headed out to the Atlantic, he made seven birdies and closed with a 6-under 65 to make up a six-shot deficit and win the Deutsche Bank Championship.

"Wow, very impressive. Yeah, that's a mighty round of golf," said Paul Casey, who had to settle for a runner-up finish.

Worse yet, McIlroy had a tendency to lose the will to battle when he was falling too far behind. That opportunity presented itself early in the first round, when McIlroy had to make a 15-foot putt to salvage

triple bogey and already was 4-over-par just three holes into the tournament.

He played the next 15 holes in 4 under to get back to even par, which contributed mightily to his 20th victory worldwide.

He shot 67 in the second round, then ended his third round with a 3-iron that caught the lip of the cup on the par-5 18th hole, settling for a tap-in eagle and a 66.

And then he went one shot better in the final round, a 65 that matched Adam Scott for the best score of the final round.

The third answer was his putter, and still to be determined is how long this fix will last.

Good form doesn't last forever. Good putting can have an even shorter shelf life.

He putted so poorly at the U.S. PGA Championship, where he missed the cut last month, that he sought help. It took him to Phil Kenyon, a British putting guru who works with Henrik Stenson and Louis Oosthuizen, and who was working with Justin Rose a month before Rose won the gold medal in Rio de Janeiro.

He also changed away from the Nike putter to a Scotty Cameron mallet last week, and while he was toward the bottom of the pack at The Barclays, he was among the top putters at the TPC Boston.

# Dodgers pound Greinke in LA return

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers mustered just one hit off Zack Greinke through three innings. Then their former teammate faltered and Los Angeles hammered the former Cy Young Award winner for five home runs.

Joc Pederson joined the 20-plus home run club with a solo shot and Los Angeles beat Greinke and the Arizona Diamondbacks 10-2 on Monday night in his first road start against his former team.

"Things were going bad and they were swinging good," Greinke said.

The Dodgers increased their lead in the NL West to a season-high four games over San Francisco, which lost 6-0 at Colorado. They have won three straight and four of five.

"They're not going to quit, so you can't take your foot off the gas," Dodgers rookie shortstop Corey Seager said.

Kenta Maeda (14-8) allowed one run and three hits in 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, struck out eight and walked one to tie Kazuhisa Ishii and Hyun-Jin Ryu for the second-most wins by a Los Angeles rookie, trailing only Rick Sutcliffe's 17 in 1979. The Japanese right-hander has won six of his last seven.

Greinke (12-5) imploded in his return to Dodger Stadium for the first time since spurning the team as a free agent last December.

He signed a \$206.5 million, six-year deal in the desert after winning 51 games and compiling a 2.30 ERA from 2013-15 as part of a 1-2 punch with ace Clayton Kershaw in Los Angeles.

Greinke gave up eight runs — second-most this season — and nine hits in 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings and struck out six. The five homers — four in the fifth inning — were a career-worst. He hadn't allowed a homer in his last three starts.

"I felt real comfortable out there, just not a good game," he said. "I felt like I was going to make pitches and get every guy out."

Adrian Gonzalez broke open a scoreless game with a two-run shot in the fourth, a preview of what was to come.

"More times than not you are going to get him out with that pitch," Greinke said, "but he is one of those guys that can actually get to it, so I wasn't completely shocked."

After Howie Kendrick grounded out to open the fifth, Greinke gave up five consecutive hits. Pederson's homer was his sixth in as many games against Arizona.

He, along with Justin Turner (25), Yasmani Grandal (24) and Seager (24), give the Dodgers four or more players with 20 or more homers for the seventh time in franchise history.

"Zack is one of the best pitchers in the game," Pederson said. "We were really able to break it open and that's tough to do against a pitcher like him."

Greinke called the 1-2 pitch to Pederson "probably the worst pitch of the night."

Two hitters later, Seager slammed a three-run homer into the pavilion in left field.

With two outs, Grandal homered for the third straight game to right field, making it 8-0. Arizona manager Chip Hale came out to pull Greinke, who walked off with his head down and boos ringing in his ears.

"He's so strategic with everything he throws," Seager said. "So it's fun to kind of play with him. You know everything he does is with purpose."

Last season, Greinke led the majors with a 1.66 ERA, won a career-high 19 games and was an NL All-Star while helping the Dodgers win a third straight division title. Now, they are in pursuit of a fourth, while the D-backs have failed to contend this season and are mired in next-to-last place.

## Ellsbury's 3 RBIs help lead Yanks past Jays

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jacoby Ellsbury overcame a first-inning deficit against R.A. Dickey with a two-run homer on the knuckleballer's third pitch of the game, then added an RBI single to lead the New York Yankees over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 Monday.

In a matchup of teams fighting for playoff berths as the season passed Labor Day, Masahiro Tanaka (12-4) settled down after a shaky first to win his fifth straight decision.

New York (71-65) matched its season high of six games over .500 but remained on the periphery of contention, 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> games back for the AL's second wild card. The AL East-leading Blue Jays (77-60) started the day one game ahead of Boston.

Dellin Betances, the Yankees' sixth pitcher, got three straight outs for his ninth save.

Dickey (9-14) allowed five runs and seven hits in four in-

nings. He is 0-6 in his last nine starts at Yankee Stadium.

**Tigers 5, White Sox 3 (11):** Justin Upton hit a three-run home run in the 11th inning to lift visiting Detroit to its 11th win in 14 games.

Miguel Cabrera homered twice and had four hits off Chris Sale, and Justin Verlander struck out 11 in seven innings as the Tigers stayed tied with Baltimore for the second AL wild card.

**Astros 6, Indians 2:** Rookie Alex Bregman continued his hot hitting with a two-run homer in the third inning and visiting Houston ended Cleveland's six-game winning streak.

**Mariners 14, Rangers 6:** Robinson Cano homered during a five-run first inning and host Seattle knocked out starter Cole Hamels early and pulled away with a six-run sixth inning.

Cano's 32nd homer of the season is one off his career high set in 2012 while with the New York Yankees.

**Cardinals 12, Pirates 6:** Adam Wainwright drove in three runs and survived five occasionally bumpy innings to pick up his first victory since mid-July in a win over host Pittsburgh.

**Orioles 7, Rays 3:** Ubaldo Jimenez threw a two-hitter for his first complete game since 2011, leading visiting Baltimore to the win.

**Mets 5, Reds 0:** Bartolo Colon pitched six innings of five-hit ball and Matt Reynolds homered as visiting New York won for the sixth time in eight games.

**Royals 11, Twins 5:** Brian Dozier hit three home runs for Minnesota, but Kansas City used homers by Kendrys Morales and Eric Hosmer to get the road win.

**Rockies 6, Giants 0:** Chad Bettis threw a two-hitter for his first career complete game, Carlos Gonzalez hit a grand slam and host Colorado beat slumping San Francisco.

**Cubs 7, Brewers 2:** Major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks threw six strong innings and visiting Chicago pulled away for the victory.

**Nationals 6, Braves 4:** Trea Turner and Chris Heisey each homered during a five-run third inning, Max Scherzer pitched seven strong innings for his 16th victory and host Washington beat Atlanta.

**Padres 2, Red Sox 1:** Edwin Jackson struck out 11 in seven scoreless innings to outpitch former teammate Drew Pomeranz, Adam Rosales hit a two-run homer and San Diego edged visiting Boston.

**Phillies 6, Marlins 2:** Freddy Galvis hit a two-run homer and visiting Philadelphia snapped a six-game losing streak.

**Angels 10, Athletics 7:** Kole Calhoun hit a solo home run in the second inning, Albert Pujols had a two-run double in the fourth and Los Angeles held off host Oakland.