

STARS AND STRIPES®

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Baby delivered aboard USS Eisenhower

BY CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Anticipating the unexpected is a way of life for sailors aboard a deployed aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf. But few would have anticipated a baby.

Fortunately, the same training that allows USS Dwight D. Eisenhower sailors to adapt to a variety of scenarios allowed the ship's medical department — with practitioners trained in childbirth and newborn care — to successfully deliver a baby

in the middle of deployment.

A sailor assigned to carrier Air Wing Three and embarked aboard the Ike was admitted to the ship's medical department after complaining of abdominal pain, officials said. She later gave birth to a baby girl.

"As the baby was born at sea aboard an operational unit, the main focus for the U.S. Navy, the ship and its crew is the safety and well-being of the baby and the mother," 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Bill Urban said in a statement to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

The date of the baby's birth was not disclosed.

The baby and mother were flown with a medical escort to Bahrain and taken to a shore-based hospital for follow-on care, Urban said. The mother and the baby are healthy and doing well.

Sailors are supposed to notify their chain of command within two weeks of receiving confirmation of a pregnancy from their health care provider, according to Navy Personnel Command's website.

The website also says preg-

nant servicewomen may remain onboard up to the 20th week of pregnancy while the ship is in port. Those found to be pregnant while the ship is underway should be transferred ashore as soon as possible.

Urban said that the sailor hadn't reported being pregnant and that the chain of command wasn't aware of her pregnancy.

Formula, diapers and an incubator for the baby's evacuation were flown to the ship, Urban said, as medical personnel had deemed that those items were necessary.

Iran threatens to fire on US Navy patrol aircraft

BY TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Iran threatened to fire on two U.S. Navy aircraft in three separate incidents last weekend, the latest escalation of tension between the two countries, the Navy said Tuesday.

The patrol aircraft, which Fox News identified as a P-8 Poseidon and an EP-3 Aries, were on separate routine surveillance patrols Saturday over the Strait of Hormuz, the southern entrance to the Persian Gulf.

"An Iranian Air Defense station challenged the two aircraft ... informing them that they were flying near Iranian airspace, and if they did not change course immediately that 'we will fire Iranian missile,'" said Cmdr. Bill Urban, a Bahrain-based Navy spokesman.

The two aircraft replied that "this is a coalition aircraft conducting routine operations in international airspace" and

continued their respective missions, he said.

Neither aircraft was in danger because they were outside the known ranges for Iranian surface-to-air weapons, Urban said.

The incidents Saturday follow a series of recent run-ins with Iranian warships in the Strait of Hormuz. At its narrowest point, the strait is only 21 miles across, and Iran and pro-U.S. Oman claim the 12 nautical miles off their coasts as territorial waters.

The United States has cited the international right of innocent passage to send warships through the strait to escort commercial vessels after harassing incidents by Iranian patrol craft.

Among other incidents, on Sept. 4, patrol boats of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard harassed the USS Firebolt, a coastal patrol ship. In that incident, the Firebolt was forced to maneuver around one Iranian boat to avoid a collision.

Philippines rejects joint patrols

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday he won't allow government forces to conduct joint patrols of disputed waters near the South China Sea with foreign powers, apparently scrapping a deal his predecessor reached with the U.S. military earlier this year.

Duterte also said he was considering acquiring defense equipment from Russia and China. The Philippines has traditionally leaned on the U.S., its longtime treaty ally, and other Western allies for its security needs.

The remarks were the latest from a Philippine president who has had an uneasy relationship with the U.S. but also has tried to mend relations with China strained over South China Sea disputes.

Duterte said he wanted only Philippine territorial waters, up to 12 nautical miles offshore, to be patrolled by Filipino forces, but not other offshore areas that are contested. He added he opposes Filipino forces accompa-

nying foreign powers like the U.S. and China in joint patrols that could entangle the Philippines in hostilities.

"We do not go into a patrol or join any other army from now because I do not want trouble," Duterte said. "I do not want to ride gung-ho style there with China or with America. I just want to patrol our territorial waters."

Like in other security pronouncements, Duterte did not provide details, but his rejection for joint patrols apparently goes against such an arrangement announced in April by the U.S. and the Philippine defense chiefs.

While visiting Manila, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter disclosed for the first time in a news conference with then-Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin that U.S. ships had carried out sea patrols with the Philippines in the South China Sea, a somewhat rare move.

Carter insisted that the U.S. did not intend to be provocative and was "trying to tamp down tensions here."

Commander picked to fill Naples post

Stars and Stripes

Navy Rear Adm. Christopher W. Grady has been tapped as the next commander of the Naples, Italy-based U.S. 6th Fleet, the operational arm of U.S. Navy efforts in Europe, the Pentagon announced.

Grady, who now serves as commander of the Naval Surface Force Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Va., will be promoted to the rank of vice admiral if his nomination by the president is confirmed.

Grady will replace Vice Adm. James G. Foggo III, who is set to leave Naples for a top Navy post. Foggo will serve as the next director of Navy Staff at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington.

Besides leading the 6th Fleet, Grady will serve as deputy commander to U.S. Naval Forces Europe; deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and Joint Force Maritime Component commander Europe.

The U.S. 6th Fleet, a major theater during the Cold War, has received new attention in recent years because of the Syrian civil war, the spread of militant groups in North Africa and Russia's growing assertiveness.

A date for a change of command at Sixth Fleet headquarters is yet to be announced.

Trilateral training doubles as show of force to N. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Two U.S. supersonic bombers roared over South Korea on Tuesday as part of a trilateral training drill with Japan that doubled as a show of force in response to North Korea's latest nuclear test.

The flyover came four days after the North conducted its fifth and most powerful atomic blast, deepening tensions that have been building since the last one occurred in January followed by a long-range rocket launch and several missile tests.

The growing threat from Pyongyang raises the stakes for the U.S. and its allies, who have seen little effect from tough economic sanctions that were imposed in an effort to rein in the communist nation.

"North Korea's nuclear test represents a dangerous escalation and poses an unacceptable threat," Army Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Forces Korea and the combined forces, said on the tarmac after the morning flyover at Osan Air Base.

"The United States has an unshakable commitment to defend allies in the region and will

take the necessary steps to do so," said Brooks, who pointed to plans to deploy an advanced U.S. missile defense system known as a THAAD to South Korea.

The anti-missile battery is also a source of tension with China, which fears it could be used against its military. China, a traditional ally of North Korea, has joined in condemnation of the nuclear test, but analysts say it may hesitate before supporting stronger measures against Pyongyang.

Brooks, who addressed reporters with South Korean Gen. Lee Sun-jin, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said the bombers are just one example of the "deep arsenal" available to the U.S. and its ally South Korea.

On the diplomatic front, the U.S. envoy for North Korea said Tuesday that Washington and Seoul were considering unilateral measures in addition to a new sanctions push at the U.N. Security Council.

"Our intention is to secure the strongest possible resolution that includes new sanctions as quickly as possible," Sung Kim told a news conference after talks with South Korean officials in Seoul.

The Guam-based B-1B Lancers flew low over Osan — about

40 miles south of Seoul and 50 miles south of the heavily militarized border that divides the peninsula — in two separate passes, flanked by U.S. and South Korean fighter jets.

The U.S. Pacific Command said the flights occurred after the bombers from Andersen Air Force Base conducted interception training in the vicinity of Japan with fighter aircraft from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force.

The B-1Bs were then handed off to the South Korean pilots in international airspace before doing the flyover and returning to Guam, it said.

"These flights demonstrate the solidarity between South Korea, the United States, and Japan to defend against North Korea's provocative and destabilizing actions," Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., the head of the Pacific Command, said in a statement.

Friday's underground explosion was recorded as magnitude-5.3 and had an explosive yield of about 15 to 20 kilotons, according to preliminary reports. North Korea called it a nuclear warhead and claimed it has the ability to produce them in significant numbers and mount them on "strategic ballistic missiles."

Pentagon review could upgrade 1,357 medals

By TARA COPP

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The military services have identified 1,357 medals awarded in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that could qualify for higher honors, according to Pentagon officials.

In January, the Pentagon launched an extensive review into the number of Medals of Honor, Silver Stars and service

crosses awarded for action taken in Iraq and Afghanistan. The review could lead to upgrades to certain medals, depending on the outcome. The initial estimate suggested about 1,100 medals were being reviewed. The Army is reviewing 785 Silver Star and Distinguished Service Cross awards.

The Navy, including the Marines, is reviewing 425 Navy Cross and Silver Star medals. The Air Force is reviewing 147

medals, including 135 Silver Stars and 12 Air Force Crosses.

The Navy and Air Force said their reviews should be complete by spring. The Army said its review would be completed by the Sept. 30, 2017, deadline set by the secretary of defense.

That there are more medals under review than previously estimated is encouraging, said Maj. Ben Sakrisson, a Pentagon spokesman.

When the Pentagon an-

nounced the review in January, it was to address concerns that few Medals of Honor were awarded for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in which millions of Americans have served.

No medals are at risk of being downgraded. Instead, the review will look at two things: recommendations that did not result in a medal to determine whether one was merited and medals awarded to determine whether the honors should be upgraded.

Vets' bill could expedite a war on terrorism memorial

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Legislation introduced Monday evening by two congressmen could pave the way for a national memorial honoring the veterans of America's longest and most recent wars — the post-9/11 conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Reps. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., and Seth Moulton, D-Mass., who both served in Iraq, submitted the bill that would exempt the proposed Global War on Terrorism Memorial from a 3-decade-old law that prohibits the building of a national war memorial “until 10 years after the officially designated end of such war or conflict.”

“Unlike most monuments that are built post-conflict, this would be a memorial that recognizes not only those that we have lost but it is also a memorial that recognizes that this is a nation that remains at war,” Zinke said Monday. “The global war on terrorism is far from over, but building this memorial to those who have fought and those who will fight in the future would be an impressive message both for veterans and for America.”

The retired Navy SEAL officer said he anticipated widespread support for the bill that he and former Marine Corps officer Moulton authored. Twelve Republicans and four Democrats co-sponsored the bill, which is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“This is a very bipartisan, pro-American issue,” Zinke said. “I would be shocked if anyone would not support it.”

After 15 years of war, it is time to begin preparations to construct a national monument to honor the nearly 2.8 million Americans who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, said Andrew Brennan, the founder and executive director of the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation. The legislation introduced Monday would name Brennan's foundation the official nonprofit organization in charge of the memorial.

Planning and building the memorial is expected to take eight to 10 years, said Brennan, a former Army helicopter pilot who served in Afghanistan. Though American troops remain committed to conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan for the foreseeable future, Brennan does not want to see his generation of veterans stuck waiting decades for recognition on the National Mall as World War II and Korean War veterans did.

Brennan highlighted the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as an example of the power such a monument can have on a generation of veterans. The Vietnam Wall was dedicated in 1982, about nine years after the U.S. role in the conflict ended.

“That has given Vietnam veterans 30-plus years for group healing,” Brennan said Monday.

USMC: Drill instructor hazed Muslim recruits

*The (Hilton Head Island, S.C.)
Island Packet*

The drill instructor who allegedly hazed recruit Raheel Siddiqui moments before his death was the same instructor who had previously ordered a Muslim recruit into a commercial clothes dryer and interrogated him about his religion and loyalties.

That instructor had called Siddiqui, 20 — a Muslim, Pakistani-American from Taylor, Mich. — a “terrorist” at some point during the recruit's brief time at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., according to a Corps official, speaking on background Monday.

New details about Siddiqui's death — which the Corps has ruled a suicide — show he initially survived the nearly 40-foot fall he took on the early morning of March 18 at the depot.

Recently released information from the Corps — stemming from three command investigations linked to Siddiqui's death — further confirms the recruit was trying to request medical treatment the morning he was hazed and struck in the face.

On Nov. 5, 2015, the Corps began investigating the drill instructor for allegedly stuffing another Muslim recruit in a dryer. This same drill instructor slapped Siddiqui moments before he jumped.

The dryer incident took place

in summer 2015, according to officials. Three former members of Platoon 3054, Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, reported the incident after their class had graduated. The Corps began investigating the matter a few days later.

One night, the drill instructor, accompanied by a colleague, allegedly made a recruit march to the shower and do pushups, crunches and high-knees exercises. The recruit was then taken to the laundry room and ordered to get in the dryer. The recruit was 6 feet tall and weighed 152 pounds.

The drill instructor told the recruit it was his job to “weed out spies” and asked him if he was part of the 9/11 attacks.

The dryer door was closed and the machine turned on for 30 seconds or so. Then, the drill instructor asked the recruit who he was working for. The recruit replied, “Nobody.” The dryer was turned back on for roughly 30 more seconds.

Then, the recruit was asked what his religion was.

He replied, “Islam.”

The dryer was turned back on, this time for a longer period.

Then, the recruit was asked if he was still a Muslim.

He replied, “Yes.”

The dryer was turned on one last time. The recruit was alleged to have suffered burns on his neck and shoulders, officials said.

Navy squadron commander charged with attempted rape

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The commander of a Guam-based Navy helicopter squadron was arrested Monday in San Diego on charges of attempted rape and assault, according to records from the county sheriff's department.

Cmdr. John M. Neuhart II, commander of Andersen Air Force Base's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 on Guam,

was arrested by San Diego police, a Navy spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday morning. The Navy was “fully cooperating” with the investigation and the Naval Criminal Investigation Service was notified of the incident, said Lt. Leslie Hubbell, a spokeswoman for Naval Air Forces Pacific.

“Any allegations of criminal misconduct, including allegations of sexual assault, are taken seriously and thoroughly investigated,” Hubbell said, adding

any further Navy comment on the incident “would be inappropriate” as the investigation is ongoing.

The squadron's executive officer, Navy Cmdr. William G. Eastham, has been named acting commander until a permanent commander is appointed, Hubbell said.

Neuhart, 39, was booked into jail about 3:30 p.m. PST after his arrest, according to the jail records. He was released about 5 a.m. Tuesday after posting a

\$100,000 bond and is expected to make an initial court appearance Sept. 19, according to the records. Additional information about Neuhart's alleged crimes or a police report about the incident were not available Tuesday.

Neuhart, whose call sign is “Spike,” has commanded the squadron since July.

He has flown 36 combat missions over Iraq, according to his official Navy biography.

Tech experts to testify on Clinton email

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans are keeping up their attacks on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's emails by calling for testimony from the tech expert who set up her private server and representatives from the company that maintained the system.

Bryan Pagliano, a former information resource management adviser at the State Department, was scheduled to appear Tuesday at a hearing before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Pagliano spoke previously to the FBI under immunity, telling the bureau there were no successful security breaches of the server. But he said he was aware of many failed login attempts that he described as "brute force attacks."

Pagliano refused to answer questions last year before a House panel investigating the deadly 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya. His lawyers said at the time that Pagliano did not want to relinquish his rights under the U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination.

Two officials from Platte River Networks also are scheduled to appear before the committee. In June 2013, after Clinton had left office, the server was moved from her Chappaqua, N.Y., home to a data center in northern New Jersey, where it was maintained by

the Denver-based technology company.

Congressional Republicans last month issued subpoenas to Platte River Networks and two other companies — Datto Inc. and SECNAP Network Security Corp. — after they declined to voluntarily answer questions to determine whether Clinton's private server met government standards for record-keeping and security.

The email issue has shadowed Clinton's candidacy, and Republicans have been steadfast in focusing on her use of a private server for government business, with several high-profile hearings leading up to the election. Democrats insist the sole purpose of the hearings is to undermine Clinton's bid for the presidency.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, on Monday escalated the GOP's battle with the FBI over its decision in July not to recommend criminal charges against Clinton for her use of the private email system by serving a top FBI official with a subpoena for the full case file.

The move by Chaffetz underscores mounting frustration within the GOP over what Republicans see as stonewalling by the FBI over the Clinton probe.

Clinton tries to blunt fallout from sickness

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Hillary Clinton was diagnosed with pneumonia late last week, she informed a handful of her closest advisers but pressed on with a busy campaign schedule and did not inform the public that she was sick.

"I just didn't think it was going to be that big a deal," she said.

Clinton's first comments about her health condition came in a CNN interview late Monday, a day after a dizzy spell caught on video forced the Democratic nominee to disclose her illness and cancel a West Coast campaign trip.

The incident reinforced Clinton's reputation as a public figure with a predisposition for privacy. While her top campaign aides conceded they were too slow in providing the public with information about Clinton's condition, it was unclear how quickly they themselves had been informed by the candidate.

In a move aimed at quieting questions about transparency, Clinton said she would

be releasing more medical information this week. Her campaign has sought to turn the matter around on Republican opponent Donald Trump, who has released only a glowing letter from his doctor, though the real estate mogul said that he, too, plans to make public additional information in the coming days.

Less than two months from Election Day, Clinton's handling of her health incident added to Democrats' growing sense of uncertainty about the presidential race. While Democrats said the matter is unlikely to fundamentally alter the presidential race, they worry the race with Trump is too close for comfort.

Clinton abruptly left a 9/11 anniversary event Sunday in New York and was seen on video stumbling and being held up by aides. After roughly 90 minutes of silence from her campaign, aides said Clinton left because she was overheated. Several hours later, her doctor acknowledged she had been diagnosed with pneumonia two days earlier.

Trump: Clinton's 'deplorables' remark disqualifying

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Donald Trump criticized Hillary Clinton for her characterization that half of his supporters belonged in "a basket of deplorables," denouncing the comment as "an explicit attack on the American voter" and suggesting that it makes her unfit for the presidency.

No stranger to making his own sweeping negative characterizations of large groups of people, Trump nonetheless deployed

the remark Monday as the foundation for a new campaign theme. The message: Clinton is divisive, while Trump is the only candidate representing "all Americans."

"You cannot run for president if you have such contempt in your heart for the American voter," Trump said. "You can't lead this nation if you have such a low opinion of its citizens."

In a speech to the National Guard Association conference

in Baltimore, Trump said Clinton's comments were aimed at those in uniform, whether in the military or in law enforcement.

"These were the people Hillary Clinton so viciously demonized," said Trump, who demanded that Clinton issue a full apology. At a rally in North Carolina hours later, Trump expanded the definition to those slighted as a cross-section of his supporters.

"While my opponent calls you

deplorable and irredeemable," he said in Asheville, "I call you hard-working American patriots who love their country and want a better future for all our people."

Clinton has said she regrets using the term, "half," to describe the proportion of Trump supporters she considers "deplorables." But she didn't back down from describing his campaign as largely built on prejudice and paranoia.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Good Samaritan hurt in attack is recovering

KS SHAWNEE — A woman has been released from the hospital and a good Samaritan who came to her aid is recovering after a suburban Kansas City Wal-Mart parking lot attack in which a suspect was killed.

Police said the Kansas City, Kan., woman was putting her baby in her car Sunday afternoon in Shawnee when two suspects hit her in the head from behind. Shawnee police Maj. Dan Tennis said a Kansas City, Mo., man in the parking lot who tried to help was shot several times and is recovering after undergoing surgery.

Another good Samaritan from De Soto, Kan., has been interviewed and released after fatally shooting John Simmons III, 28, of Kansas City, Mo.

Authorities continue looking for the second suspect after determining that a man arrested afterward wasn't involved.

Mayor accused of using funds for lots of alcohol

HI HILO — The deputy attorney general prosecuting Hawaii County Mayor Billy Kenoi on theft charges has accused the mayor of using his government-issued credit card to buy "exorbitant amounts of alcohol."

The Hawaii Tribune-Herald reported that Deputy Attorney General Kevin Takata filed court documents saying a majority of the 15 card receipts presented to jurors of Kenoi's personal purchases were related to alcohol. He also says the purchases made on his card weren't reimbursed until media requests seeking copies of the mayor's card records were filed.

A grand jury indicted Kenoi in March on charges of theft,

tampering with public records and making a false statement under oath relating to the alleged misuse of his card.

NYC woman attacks 2 Muslims with strollers

NY NEW YORK — Authorities said a New York City woman attacked two Muslim women who were pushing their young children in strollers and tried to rip off one woman's hijab.

Court documents say Emir-jeta Xhelili approached the women near her Brooklyn home Thursday afternoon, punching one of them in the head as she screamed obscenities and told her to leave America.

Authorities said Xhelili pushed the woman's stroller toward the ground and later tried to grab the second woman's stroller away from her. Xhelili faces charges including assault, menacing and endangering the welfare of a child. The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office has described the incident as a hate crime.

Xhelili is being held on \$50,000 bond or \$25,000 cash bail.

Officials resume use of 'snooper' bucket trucks

RI JAMESTOWN — The Rhode Island Bridge and Turnpike Authority has resumed use of the type of "snooper" bucket truck that tipped over on the Sakonnet River Bridge last month.

The Providence Journal reported that the authority temporarily suspended the use of the bucket trucks during bridge inspections following the Aug. 29 accident, which left two employees dangling high above the Narragansett Bay. They were unharmed.

But authority officials said one of the trucks in question

was utilized by employees for several days during last week's inspection of the Mount Hope Bridge. The trucks feature a long boom used by inspectors to get to hard-to-reach places on the state's bridges.

Man given 21 years in beating of ex's father

NJ HACKENSACK — A northern New Jersey man has been sentenced to 21 years in prison after he was convicted of breaking into his ex-boyfriend's family home and beating the man's father.

The Record reported that Julio Pina-Catena, 44, of Rutherford, was sentenced last week in the 2011 beating of Nelson Martin, then 56.

Authorities said Pina-Catena broke into the Martins' Wallington home six years after his relationship ended with Martin's son, Adrian Martin. They said Pina-Catena cut out the eyes of family photographs, smashed a television, trashed Adrian Martin's bedroom and hacked into his computer. Prosecutors said he then beat Nelson Martin, leaving him with severe brain damage.

Driver crashes into home; no one injured

NH CONCORD — Police said no injuries were reported after a distracted driver plowed through the front of a home in New Hampshire's capital city this past weekend.

WMUR-TV reported that the vehicle, driven by an unidentified motorist, veered off Ridge Road and crashed into a house in Concord just before 8 p.m. Sunday. Police said the driver was looking at a cellphone immediately prior to the crash.

Fire Capt. Derek Kelleher said firefighters were called to the scene to make sure that the structure was stable following

the accident.

The crash remains under investigation.

3 troopers involved in series of car accidents

MS BOGUE CHITTO — Three Mississippi Highway Patrol troopers were involved in a series of car accidents in Lincoln County.

MHP spokesman Brandon Fortenberry said the series of wrecks began after the first trooper responded to a crash Sunday afternoon. Severe weather caused him to lose control of his car and he crashed into a tree.

A second trooper responded to the wreck and found the first trooper unconscious. He decided to take him to seek medical attention, but on their way to the hospital, the second trooper lost control of his car and crashed. A third trooper responding to the first wreck also crashed his car.

The first trooper was eventually taken to the hospital and is in stable condition with serious injuries. The other two didn't suffer any injuries.

Plane runs out of gas, lands on interstate

GA COVINGTON — A small airplane had to make an emergency landing on Interstate 20 in Newton County after running out of gas.

The Georgia Department of Transportation told local media that the landing occurred about midnight Sunday near Mile Marker 95 between Covington and Social Circle.

Covington-Newton County 911 said in a Facebook post that the aircraft had run out of fuel but managed to land safely with no injuries. The plane landed on the road without hitting any cars and then continued onto the grass.

From wire reports

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49ers' defense ruins Rams' LA return

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Carlos Hyde outran the more heralded Todd Gurley, San Francisco's defensive front proved more fearsome than Los Angeles' line and the resumption of the all-California NFC West rivalry after a more than 21-year wait proved to be decidedly one-sided.

Hyde ran for 88 yards and two scores and the 49ers defense did the rest, shutting down Gurley and the Rams running game in a 28-0 victory that spoiled the first NFL game for a Los Angeles-based team since 1994.

"That wasn't what we expected, certainly not what I expected for the first game back in L.A.," coach Jeff Fisher said. "We have some work to do obviously."

Shaun Draughn also ran for a score and Blaine Gabbert threw a touchdown pass to Vance McDonald to help the 49ers win their first game under coach Chip Kelly in con-

vincing fashion.

Case Keenum threw for just 130 yards with two interceptions, Gurley was held to 47 yards on 17 carries and the Rams barely even threatened the Niners as they were held to 185 yards and 10 first downs all game.

"The defense had to carry the weight this week, and I think we did that," said linebacker NaVorro Bowman, who had an interception. "Todd Gurley is looked at as one of the best running backs in the league, and we took that personally tonight."

Here are some other takeaways from the game:

Goff waits. Despite the struggles by Keenum, who was frequently off-target and struggled to get the ball down field at all, Fisher is not ready to turn the offense over to No. 1 overall draft pick Jared Goff. The Rams traded a boat load of draft picks to acquire Goff in the spring but made him inactive as the third-stringer in the opener.

"This doesn't change anything as far as the quarterbacks are concerned," Fisher said.

Efficient Gabbert. Kelly picked Gabbert as his starting quarterback over Colin Kaepernick in part because of his consistency through the offseason. That's basically how Gabbert played in the opener, avoiding the big mistakes with no turnovers or sacks but making few big plays with only one completion that went for more than 20 yards. Gabbert finished 22 for 35 for 170 yards and the TD.

"He was very efficient with the ball," Kelly said. "He did not turn the ball over and did not put the ball in harm's way. He did some good things in critical situations and got a lot of different guys involved in the passing game."

Lost composure. Rams defensive lineman Aaron Donald was ejected in the fourth quarter when he made contact with an official. The infraction came after Rams linebacker Alec Ogletree gave an extra push to Gabbert following a scram-

ble. As players on both teams started jawing, Donald pushed a 49ers player and then made contact with an official. Donald was called for two personal fouls on the play and ejected.

"I let my emotions get the best of me," Donald said. "No excuses."

Small-play Austin. The Rams gave receiver Tavon Austin a contract extension worth a reported \$42 million this summer because of his ability to make big plays. Those were lacking against the Niners. Austin touched the ball five times on offense for just 15 yards. He caught four of the 12 passes thrown his way for 13 yards and added 2 more on an end-around. His biggest play of the night was a 28-yard punt return.

"We have to stretch the field," he said. "We need to keep doing what we were doing. We were open a lot out there today. We just couldn't connect. That's the main thing. We'll connect on it."

Williams helps carry Steelers past Redskins

Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Two more weeks without Le'Veon Bell doesn't sound so bad for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Pittsburgh's starting running back wasted no time tweeting "1-0" after the Steelers' 38-16 victory over the Washington Redskins on Monday night. That came with Bell serving the first game of his three-game drug suspension and DeAngelo Williams filling in more than admirably like he did last season.

Williams rushed for 143 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries during the Steelers' offensive onslaught that also featured three passing touchdowns from Ben Roethlisberger, who set the tone after a stumbling start. All-Pro wide receiver Antonio Brown impressed under the lights with eight catches for 126 yards and two touchdowns, but coach Mike Tomlin was quick to single out Williams' play.

"You can't say enough about DeAngelo Williams and his performance," Tomlin said. "But we've come to expect that from him. That's why we're completely confident in his ability to deliver during the time that Bell is out. We'll continue to ride with him."

Williams showed no signs of being 33 years old as he cut through Washington's defense and kept the pressure off Roethlisberger, Brown and the Steelers' passing game. It looked like a continuation of Williams' 2015 season, in which he tied for the NFL lead with 11 rushing touchdowns and also put up 1,274 total yards from scrimmage.

"The offensive line does a great job of opening holes," Williams said. "I was running through a lot of holes tonight."

Here are other things we learned:

Big money wasted. All-Pro cornerback Josh Norman spent most of the game on the opposite side from Brown, leaving Washington teammate Bashaud Breeland on him. Breeland had a rough night when the Redskins didn't shift gears to put their \$75 million cornerback on Brown.

"I'm not going to lose faith in Breeland," coach Jay Gruden said. "He got beat by a great player today and some great passes that I don't know what corner could defend, really."

Red-zone D. The Redskins got inside the red zone five times and came away with one touchdown and three field goals. Pittsburgh

was at its best close to its goal line, including an interception in the final minute by veteran linebacker James Harrison.

"That's kind of been our M.O.," Tomlin said. "That kind of defined us a year ago [and] hopefully it's still a strength of ours in terms of being able to stand up when the field is short."

Brown delivers. Of Brown's eight catches, his best came with double coverage on him on fourth-and-1 from the 29 and the Steelers down 6-0. Tomlin said the Steelers "play to win."

"Great throw by Ben," Brown said. "Great situational call by coach Tomlin. That's the way to make them right and make a play."

Losing balance. The Redskins passed 43 times and attempted only 12 runs. Sure, they spent much of the game trying to come from behind, but that kind of imbalance usually spells disaster for an offense.

"I may be ignorant, but it seemed to me that we just weren't in a situation in the game where we had a lot of run attempts," Kirk Cousins said.

NCAA pulls 7 events from North Carolina

Associated Press

Basketball-crazed North Carolina has lost its next chance to host NCAA men's basketball tournament games along with several other championship events due to a state law that some say can lead to discrimination against LGBT people.

And the fallout may not be over.

After the NCAA announced it is pulling seven championship events from North Carolina for this year, Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner John Swofford — whose league hosts many sporting events in the state, including its football championship game — said the ACC's council of presidents was set to discuss the law at a previously scheduled meeting later this week.

The ACC football championship game, held in Charlotte since 2010, is the last marquee college sporting event left in the state during the 2016-17 season. While Swofford said it would be "premature" to make any decisions about holding events in North Carolina for now, he also issued a clear

statement against the law.

"On a personal note," Swofford said, "it's time for this bill to be repealed as it's counter to basic human rights."

In a news release Monday, the NCAA said the decision by its board of governors came "because of the cumulative actions taken by the state concerning civil rights protections."

The law — known as HB2 — requires transgender people to use restrooms at schools and government buildings corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates. It also excludes gender identity and sexual orientation from local and statewide antidiscrimination protections.

HB2 was signed into law by Republican Gov. Pat McCrory earlier this year. A spokesman with McCrory's office couldn't immediately be reached for comment Monday evening, but a spokeswoman with the state Republican party blasted the NCAA's decision in a statement, saying it is "so absurd it's almost comical."

"I wish the NCAA was this concerned about the women who were raped at Baylor,"

spokeswoman Kami Mueller said Monday night.

The only championship events that can be hosted in North Carolina this academic year are ones determined when a team earns the right to play on its own campus.

The NCAA said it will relocate the men's basketball first- and second-round games that were scheduled for March 17 and 19 in Greensboro. The NCAA will also relocate:

- The Division I women's soccer championship scheduled for Dec. 2 and 4 in Cary, just outside the capital city of Raleigh;

- The Division III men's and women's soccer championships set for Dec. 2 and 3 in Greensboro;

- The Division I women's golf regional championships set for May 8-10 in Greenville;

- The Division III men's and women's tennis championships set for May 22-27 in Cary;

- The Division I women's lacrosse championship set for May 26 and 28 in Cary;

- The Division II baseball championship from May 27 to June 3 in Cary.

The state has been a frequent host for NCAA men's basketball tournament games. In all, the NCAA said North Carolina has hosted 251 men's tournament games since 1951, the most of any state.

Athletic directors at three of the state's ACC schools — North Carolina's Bubba Cunningham, North Carolina State's Debbie Yow and Wake Forest's Ron Wellman — issued statements saying they were disappointed at the loss of events. Duke AD Kevin White went further, saying the school agreed with the NCAA's decision.

"Our position has been clear on this matter, which is that this legislation is discriminatory, troubling and embarrassing," White said.

The campaign spokesman for Democrat Roy Cooper, the state's attorney general and McCrory's re-election opponent in November, also said the law needs to be repealed.

"It seems that almost every day, we learn of a new consequence of HB2," spokesman Ford Porter said. "... We need to repeal this law and get our state back on track."

US has plenty of work to do before hockey's World Cup

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two hard-fought exhibition games against Canada showed the United States exactly what it needs to work on before the World Cup of Hockey begins this weekend.

For coach John Tortorella, it wasn't about the post-whistle pushing and shoving or the intensity that made the tune-up games feel more like the real thing. It's more that the U.S. has to be sharper, especially in the tournament showdown against Canada on Sept. 20.

"We've got some work to do," Tortorella said after practice Monday. "I'm glad we played Canada because they are a really good team — probably the best team in the tournament right now and you'd have to say

that."

The Americans lacked offensive-zone time during a 4-2 win Friday in Columbus and a 5-2 loss Saturday in Ottawa. Canada won gold in Sochi by having the puck in the offensive zone so much that opponents got worn down and couldn't create chances.

Tortorella acknowledged the U.S. isn't the most skilled team in the tournament, and it did fine physically going up against Canada in bump-and-grind, testy situations. But general manager Dean Lombardi said he and his staff wanted to build the U.S. to beat the Canadians, and that means more than just beating them up.

"Obviously we're pretty familiar with their talent level and what they bring," U.S. goal-

tender Cory Schneider said. "It's just getting that intensity, getting that playoff feel to it. I think playing against the best prepares you the best."

The U.S. has one exhibition game left, on Tuesday against Finland, before traveling to Toronto for the World Cup. Its opening game is Saturday against Team Europe.

With Canada serving as the gold standard and two games worth of film to study, the Americans must figure out how to beat the best at their own game of puck-possession hockey. Tortorella has some ideas.

"Everybody talks about puck possession, but sometimes puck possession is you don't have the puck, you put it into an area to get it back and I don't think we did a good enough job there,"

said Tortorella, who won the Stanley Cup in 2004 with the Tampa Bay Lightning while preaching a "safe is death" mantra. "When we did, I just think we need to be closer there. We need to support and outnumber people there, also. That's our biggest weaknesses in the two games, so we have a little bit of work to do as we go through and prepare for the start of the tournament."

Judging from Sidney Crosby's cross-check to the back of Kyle Palmieri and other antics, there's already plenty of animosity built up between the U.S. and Canada going into the first best-against-best tournament since Sochi. The U.S. lost to Canada 1-0 in the semifinals, and players haven't forgotten about that experience.

Cubs' Hendricks loses no-hit bid in 9th

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Kyle Hendricks was so good Monday night he even surprised himself.

The right-hander took a no-hitter into the ninth inning before giving up Jeremy Hazelbaker's lead-off home run, and the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-1 to close in on the NL Central crown.

"I never thought I'd get that close to one," Hendricks said. "A guy who throws to contact and doesn't throw hard, you don't think about it. You can run into one of those special days and you think, why not?"

"My pregame bullpen was probably the worst I've had all year. Hopefully it clicks once the game starts, and it did."

All the way until the ninth inning.

Hazelbaker drove an 0-2 pitch into the right-field stands for his 12th homer before Hendricks (15-7), the major league ERA leader at 2.03, was relieved by Aroldis Chapman.

"If you're going to give it up, at least it's that way and not a cheap hit," Hendricks said. "I just left the ball up and he got it. It was just a change-up and I wanted to throw it in the dirt and get him to chase."

Hazelbaker was looking for a change-up.

"I wasn't surprised by it," he said. "He'd been throwing that pitch all night. It was a good pitch he threw me. I was able to handle it like I wanted to."

Ben Zobrist and Dexter Fowler homered for the Cubs, who lowered their magic number to three for clinching the division crown. They lead the second-

place Cardinals by 17 games and can wrap up the NL Central with a three-game sweep in St. Louis.

The Cardinals remained a half-game behind the Mets for the league's second wild card. New York lost 8-1 at Washington.

Soon after Hazelbaker's shot cleared the fence, teammates went to the mound to talk to Hendricks — leading to an animated argument between Cubs manager Joe Maddon and plate umpire Joe West.

Maddon was ejected for the third time this season, and Chapman entered to finish the one-hitter. He got three outs for his 14th save with Chicago, and is 34-for-37 overall this year with the Cubs and Yankees.

After the pitching change, Maddon argued some more

with West before leaving.

"It was a misinterpretation there," Maddon said. "We needed more time there. I needed the catcher to go to the mound. We were denied. I made my stand."

"I truly believe I was proper in that, but this is not about that. This is Kyle's night."

Hendricks, who threw 96 pitches, struck out seven and walked two.

"Pretty special night all around," he said. "It was fun, man."

It was the fourth no-hit bid broken up in the ninth inning this season. Cubs teammate Jake Arrieta tossed the lone no-hitter in the majors this year, winning 16-0 at Cincinnati on April 21.

Rookie De Leon helps Dodgers top Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fans loudly chanted the names of starters in the first inning, waiting for each to acknowledge the salute. Only it was a contingent of Los Angeles Dodgers fans in the left-field corner, not the Yankee Stadium Bleacher Creatures.

"It's always fun when you hear that call go through everybody," Dodgers rookie Corey Seager said. "That's always exciting. It was cool."

Seager singled twice and drove in a run on the former field of his childhood hero, Derek Jeter, and fellow rookie Jose De Leon won in his second big league start to help the NL West-leading Dodgers beat the AL wild-card chasing Yankees 8-2 in Monday's series opener.

Los Angeles (81-62) reopened a four-game lead over second-place San Francisco, which lost to San Diego. After the game, the Dodgers saluted their traveling fans.

"That energy picked us up a lot," manager Dave Roberts said. "We might have caught the Yankees fans off-guard a little bit."

Dodgers fans unfurled a large blue-and-white "LA" banner over their heads in the manner of soccer supporters in the third, prompting boos from the majority of the crowd of 32,058, and they raised a second banner during the seventh-inning stretch. The group calls itself Pantone 294 — named after the Dodgers' official color — and arrived from the West Coast on six flights, according to its website.

De Leon (2-0), a 24-year-old right-hander from Puerto Rico, beat San Diego at home on Sept. 4 in his big league debut, the 15th starting pitcher used by the Dodgers this season.

Nationals 8, Mets 1: Starting pitcher Mat Latos hit a solo home run and Anthony Rendon added a three-run shot as host Washington beat New York.

Red Sox 12, Orioles 2: David Ortiz hit his 536th home run to tie Mickey Mantle for 17th on baseball's career list, and David Price allowed just a pair of solo homers for AL East-leading host Boston.

White Sox 11, Indians 4: Avisail Garcia matched a career high with four hits, includ-

ing a tiebreaking solo homer, and host Chicago routed the AL Central leaders.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 2: Tampa Bay and host Toronto cleared the benches and bullpens after the final out. No punches were thrown.

Steven Souza Jr. hit a liner for the last out and traded words with Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin after a verbal misunderstanding.

Tigers 4, Twins 2: Miguel Cabrera and Ian Kinsler homered and host Detroit scored two runs in the seventh inning on close plays at the plate.

Athletics 16, Royals 3: Khris Davis and Marcus Semien hit three-run homers as visiting Oakland matched a season high with 17 hits while drawing 10 walks.

Padres 4, Giants 0: Paul Clemens fought through flu symptoms to combine with five relievers on a five-hit shutout as San Diego blanked host San Francisco.

Rangers 4, Astros 3 (12): Rougned Odor had three hits and three RBIs, including a solo homer in the 12th inning that lifted visiting Texas over

Houston.

Mariners 8, Angels 1: Leonys Martin went 4-for-4 with three doubles and three runs, and Robinson Cano homered to help visiting Seattle beat Los Angeles for its sixth straight victory.

Phillies 6, Pirates 2: Roman Quinn had two hits, two RBIs, a stolen base and made a big impression in his second major league game, leading host Philadelphia over Pittsburgh.

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 9: Yasmany Tomas hit his first career grand slam, and host Arizona came back from a three-run deficit after squandering a five-run lead to beat Colorado.

Braves 12, Marlins 7: Nick Markakis doubled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning, Tyler Flowers had four RBIs and host Atlanta outslugged Miami.

Reds 3, Brewers 0: Scott Schebler hit a two-run single in his team's three-run first inning and four pitchers teamed up on host Cincinnati's eighth shutout of the season.