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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

American warplanes buzz N. Korean coast

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. bombers and fighter jets buzzed North Korea's coast this past weekend in a bid to put some military muscle behind recent threats from President Donald Trump amid an intensifying war of words between the two sides.

The Guam-based B-1B Lancers and Okinawa, Japan-based F-15C Eagles flew in international airspace over waters east of the divided peninsula on Saturday, making the northernmost flight for any such aircraft this century, the Defense Department said.

The mission came four days after Trump mocked North Korea's leader during his U.N. General Assembly address, saying "Rocket Man is on a suicide

mission" and warning he would "totally destroy" the North if forced to defend the United States or its allies.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un fired back in a rare first-person statement on Friday, calling the U.S. president "mentally deranged" and saying he was seriously considering the "highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history."

His foreign minister followed up by saying his country may test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean.

Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, who took the General Assembly stage on Saturday, also said Trump's insults made plans to fire rockets at the U.S. mainland "inevitable."

"None other than Trump himself is on a suicide mission," he added.

Trump responded with a tweet: "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!"

Behind the bellicose rhetoric are rising fears that the two sides are moving closer to military action as punishing sanctions and diplomatic pressure has failed to stanch the North's progress toward developing a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the U.S. mainland.

Underscoring the jitters, a magnitude-3.5 earthquake near North Korea's main nuclear testing facility on Saturday prompted concern of another test, but South Korean officials and outside experts said it appeared to be a natural tremor.

The U.S. military frequently responds to North Korean mis-

sile and nuclear tests by sending bombers and other strategic assets to the region. But the bombers and jets deployed Saturday flew to the farthest point north of the Demilitarized Zone off the peninsula's coast than any others this century.

Defense Department spokeswoman Dana White announced the flyover in a statement, saying, "This mission is a demonstration of U.S. resolve and a clear message that the president has many military options to defeat any threat."

U.S. Pacific Command spokesman Navy Cmdr. Dave Benham declined to discuss flights so far north in previous decades but noted in an email that "the 21st century encompasses the period North Korea has been testing ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons."

Most in US trust military more than Trump on N. Korea

The Washington Post

Two-thirds of Americans oppose launching a pre-emptive military strike against North Korea, with a majority trusting the U.S. military to handle the escalating nuclear crisis responsibly but not President Donald Trump, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll finds.

Roughly three-quarters of the public supports tougher economic sanctions on North Korea in an attempt to persuade it to give up its nuclear weapons, while just about one-third think the U.S. should offer the isolated country foreign aid or other incentives.

The Post-ABC poll finds 37 percent of adults trust Trump either "a great deal" or "a good amount" to responsibly handle the situation with North Korea, while 42 percent trust the commander in chief "not at all." By comparison, 72 percent trust U.S. military leaders, including 43 percent saying they trust them "a great deal."

A scant 8 percent of Americans surveyed think North Korean leader Kim Jong Un can act responsibly.

Overall, Trump's image continues to be

negative, with 39 percent of Americans approving and 57 percent disapproving of the president's job performance. But the poll finds that clear majorities approve of Trump's response to recent hurricanes and support the agreement he struck with Democrats providing emergency disaster-relief funding and raising the nation's debt limit.

A war of words last week between Trump and Kim may have opened a potentially dangerous new chapter in the North Korea crisis.

Trump's use of aggressively personal taunts — the president nicknamed Kim "Rocket Man" in an address at the United Nations last week — defies convention and is seen by veteran diplomats as exceedingly risky.

The large gap in confidence between Trump and the U.S. military, as measured in the new poll, comes as Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and other national security officials have emphasized a diplomatic approach to North Korea. Although Mattis has made clear that the U.S. is prepared and willing to retaliate to any attack with overwhelming force,

he also has shied away from the rhetorical bombast employed by his boss.

Faith in Trump's handling of the biggest foreign policy crisis of his presidency is colored sharply by partisanship. While 11 percent of Democrats and 36 percent of independents say they trust Trump to act responsibly in dealing with North Korea, more than three-quarters of Republicans say they trust the president, although just over half trust him "a great deal."

Partisans are relatively united, however, in their concern about nuclear-armed North Korea. A record high 70 percent of Americans say North Korea poses a "serious threat" to the U.S., including roughly 7 in 10 Democrats and independents and about 8 in 10 Republicans.

Trump's overall job approval rating has stabilized at 39 percent in the new poll after slipping to 36 percent in July. The shift is within the poll's margin of sampling error but is mirrored in the small rise in other recent national polls. Still, more Americans "strongly" disapprove of his job performance, 48 percent, than approve of it either "strongly" or "somewhat."

More sleep for sailors under new order

BY TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors will get more sleep at sea under a directive issued Wednesday by the head of Naval Surface Forces.

Vice. Adm. Tom Rowden has ordered ship captains to establish routines no later than Dec. 20 that will give sailors predictable watch schedules and sleep periods, according to a copy of the directive obtained by Stars and Stripes.

A Naval Postgraduate School study shows that 21 hours without sleep results in im-

pairment equivalent to being legally drunk, Rowden said in the directive.

“You would not operate your car under these conditions; we should not ask our crews to stand watch and operate shipboard systems in a similar mental and physical state,” he said.

Irregular schedules can disrupt sleep patterns and make it hard for people to fall asleep or stay awake, according to the National Sleep Foundation.

Some have suggested that tired and overworked sailors may be partly to blame for recent accidents involving Navy

ships in the Pacific that killed 17 sailors. A Government Accountability Office report released earlier this month said crew size reductions have left some sailors on ships working more than 100 hours a week, creating safety risks.

The new sleep schedules may not be suitable in some training situations, and commanders should use their best judgment, Rowden said.

Littoral combat ships and mine-countermeasure and coastal patrol vessels are exempt from the guidance, but Rowden said he expects com-

manders of those ships to implement them to the best of their abilities.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Cole Breedlove, a fire controlman aboard the Yokosuka, Japan-based USS McCampbell, said rested sailors would mean less chance of accidents.

“You can’t ask something from someone who has been sleep deprived,” he said. “Trying to do that task with no sleep, there is a really high chance that they’re going to do it wrong and something could end up happening that gets somebody injured.”

US wraps training with Ukrainian forces

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

U.S. soldiers concluded training Friday with Ukrainian forces on tactics that local troops will use in their long-running battle against Russia-backed separatists in the country’s east.

Some 1,600 troops from 14 nations took part in the U.S. Army Europe-led Rapid Trident exercise, which served as a testing ground for a Ukrainian military going through a modernization overhaul.

“The training that we’re doing here ... is applicable in any theater or situation they may deploy their forces in,” said Col. David

Jordan, commander of the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine. “The fact they’re taking on an exercise of this scale while they’re modernizing their entire military structure and dealing with an active conflict on their eastern border is really quite impressive.”

The drills took place in western Ukraine’s International Peacekeeping Security Centre near Yavoriv, far from the fighting in the east.

For three years, Ukraine has fought separatists in a bloody conflict that persists while an internationally negotiated ceasefire deal is routinely violated.

The U.S. Army has expanded its training in the country during that time, starting off with a program to develop the country’s national guard. That grew into working with regular forces deploying to Ukraine’s eastern front.

One of the challenges in training the Ukrainian soldiers was the difference between how they used their sergeants. The old Ukrainian military doctrine undermined much of the leadership that a noncommissioned officer could wield.

Training with U.S. and NATO allies has encouraged their NCOs to take on a larger role.

Petraeus: World has returned to era of ‘great power rivalries’

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO, Japan — The world has returned to an era of “great power rivalries” not seen since the Cold War, former CIA director and retired four-star Army general David Petraeus told reporters in Japan on Saturday.

“The rise of China is a major development,” Petraeus said at a conference organized by the University of Southern California at Tokyo’s Grand Hyatt Hotel. “China is certainly an economic superpower ... and building a more impressive military with each passing year. The most important relationship in the world now is that between the United States and China.”

U.S. defense spending is still four times that of the Chinese, and American military capabilities such as aircraft carriers and amphibious ships are vastly superior, he said.

China’s help will be important for the world to deal with North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs, he added.

Kin of Japan’s fallen honor dead at Pearl Harbor

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL, Hawaii — In a brief, silent ceremony Thursday, each of 32 Japanese men and women successively stepped forward, bowed and laid a single white flower in the shrine room that holds the names of the hundreds of U.S. sailors and Marines who died on the USS

Arizona 75 years ago.

It was a particularly poignant act for the group who, as members of the Japan War-Bereaved Families Association, lost close family members during World War II, which America entered after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

“I think this is very significant,” said Byrnes Yamashita, 65, a Hawaii native whose father

served with the U.S. Army’s famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprising soldiers of Japanese descent. He spent the day with the group touring Pearl Harbor.

“As you can see, many of these folks are advanced in age,” he said. “They were young children at the end of the war. Almost all of them lost fathers. I think this is kind of a closure experience for them to kind of leave that behind.”

More senators likely against Republican health care bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Susan Collins on Sunday all but closed the door to supporting last-ditch Republican health care bill, leaving her party's drive to uproot President Barack Obama's health care law dangling by an increasingly slender thread.

And Phil Novack, spokesman for Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said that the lawmaker said in Austin, Texas, on Sunday that "right now, they don't have my vote," further dimming the measure's prospects.

GOP senators Rand Paul, of Kentucky, and John McCain, of Arizona, already have said they would vote against the legislation, and if Collins, a Maine moderate, were to join them, the bill would die. All Democratic senators oppose the measure, so "no" votes from three of the 52 GOP senators would kill the plan.

"It's very difficult for me

to envision a scenario where I would end up voting for this bill," Collins said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Cruz said he doesn't think Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, supports the measure. A Lee aide did not immediately answer a request for comment.

A showdown vote would have to take place this week for Republicans to have any chance of prevailing. When September ends, Republicans will lose procedural protections that have prevented Democrats from killing the legislation by filibuster — meaning there is a window through month's end for passage with 51 votes, which could include Vice President Mike Pence as a tie-breaker.

Collins' all-but-certain opposition leaves the White House and party leaders with one immediate option: trying to change at least one of the opponents' minds. Collins and other Republicans have said leaders

are considering changing the bill to attract votes.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, has yet to decide how she'll vote. She voted against earlier versions of the bill this summer. Murkowski has said she wants to see how the measure would affect her state, which has extremely high medical costs because of the remoteness of many communities.

The measure would repeal much of Obama's 2010 health care overhaul and would shift money and decision-making power to the states.

Collins said she was troubled by the bill's cuts in the Medicaid program for low-income people. She expressed concerns that the measure would result in many people losing health coverage and didn't like a provision that would let states make it easier for insurers to raise premiums on people with pre-existing medical conditions.

New rules expected as travel ban expires

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is expected to announce new restrictions on travel to the United States as his ban on visitors from six Muslim-majority countries expires Sunday, 90 days after it went into effect.

The Department of Homeland Security has recommended the president sign off on new, more targeted restrictions on foreign nationals from countries it says refuse to share information with the United States or haven't taken necessary security precautions.

Officials haven't said which countries will be affected by the new restrictions, which could take effect as soon as Sunday.

"The acting secretary has recommended actions that are tough and that are tailored, including restrictions and enhanced screening for certain countries," said Miles Taylor, counselor to acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke.

The current ban bars citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen who lack a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States" from entering the United States.

Officials said they have been working for months on the new rules in collaboration with various agencies and in conversation with foreign governments.

The recommendations are based on a new baseline developed by the DHS that includes factors such as whether countries issue electronic passports with biometric information and share information about travelers' terrorism-related and criminal histories. The United States then shared those benchmarks with every country in the world and gave them 50 days to comply.

The citizens of countries that refused could now face travel restrictions and more stringent screening measures that would last indefinitely until their governments complied.

Aid begins to flow into Puerto Rico

Associated Press

GUAJATACA, Puerto Rico — Large amounts of federal aid began moving into Puerto Rico on Saturday, welcomed by local officials who praised the Trump administration's response but called for the emergency loosening of rules long blamed for condemning the U.S. territory to second-class status.

In northwest Puerto Rico, people began returning to their homes after a spillway eased pressure on a dam that cracked after more than a foot of rain fell in the hurricane's wake.

The opening of the island's main port in the capital allowed 11 ships to bring in 1.6 million gallons of water, 23,000 cots, dozens of generators and food. Dozens more shipments are expected in upcoming days.

The federal aid effort is racing to stem a growing humanitarian crisis in towns left without fresh water, fuel, electricity or phone service. Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is in charge of the relief effort, said they would take satellite phones to all of Puerto Rico's towns and cities, more than half of which were cut off following Maria making landfall Wednesday.

The island's infrastructure was in sorry shape long before Maria struck. A \$73 billion debt crisis has left agencies like the state power company broke. As a result the power company abandoned most basic maintenance in recent years.

A federal control board overseeing Puerto Rico's finances authorized up to \$1 billion in local funds to be used for hurri-

cane response, but Gov. Ricardo Rossello said he would ask for more.

A group of anxious mayors arrived in the capital to meet with Rossello to present items they urgently need. The north coastal town of Manati had run out of fuel and fresh water, Mayor Jose Sanchez Gonzalez said.

"Hysteria is starting to spread. The hospital is about to collapse. It's at capacity," he said. "We need someone to help us immediately."

The death toll from Maria in Puerto Rico was at least 10, including two police officers who drowned in floodwaters in the western town of Aguada. That number was expected to climb as officials from remote towns continued to check in with officials in San Juan.

First lady to US Invictus team: Bring home gold

Associated Press

TORONTO — U.S. first lady Melania Trump on Saturday encouraged the American team participating in an Olympic-style competition for wounded servicemembers and veterans to take their “fighting spirit” and “bring home the gold.”

Trump also applauded the team members for their contributions, calling them “our heroes.”

“On behalf of my husband and our entire country, I want to thank you and your families for all you have sacrificed to keep us safe,” she said at a reception in Toronto for the nearly 100 U.S. athletes competing in the Invictus Games, a creation of Britain’s Prince Harry.

“I also want to wish you good luck, though I know you won’t need it in these games,” she said. “Take that fighting spirit that I know you have and bring home the gold.”

During the opening ceremonies Saturday night, Trump joined Prince Harry in a VIP box and stood and applauded when Team USA was introduced. She also stood for Canada’s team.

Earlier, the first lady shook hands with some of the athletes and posed for photos before she departed for a reunion with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose country is hosting the games; his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau; and two of the couple’s three children. Trump had seen Trudeau last week in New York during the U.N. General Assembly.

Her first piece of business after arriving earlier Saturday was to visit with Prince Harry.

Trump was heard telling the prince, whom she was meeting for the first time, that she had just arrived on a flight from Washington. President Donald Trump was spending the weekend at his golf club in central New Jersey.

Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for the first lady, said Trump and Prince Harry chatted about the competition during their approximately 20-minute meeting and joshed about which country would take home the most medals. She also invited him to the White House the next time he visits Washington.

The first lady led a U.S. delegation to the third annual games that included Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, professional golfer Nancy Lopez and entertainer Wayne Newton, a celebrity spokesman for a memorial to honor American Indian and Alaska Native veterans.

Prince Harry, a military veteran who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan, established the Invictus Games in 2014 for sick and wounded servicemembers and veterans from around the globe. More than 550 people from 17 countries are expected to compete in various sports, ranging from cycling to wheelchair tennis to sitting volleyball, during the weeklong competition.

Life, death hang in balance for Mexico quake survivors

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — In a hospital room blocks away from where he survived 26 hours buried under the rubble of his nine-story apartment building, Jose Luis Ponce lay sedated and on a respirator, alive but with fractures to multiple bones and damage to his lungs and a kidney.

“You said you would be with me always,” his daughter, Claudia Ponce, 30, told him. “Now is not the moment to leave.”

As rescuers dig through the remnants of 38 collapsed buildings in Mexico City, they have pulled dozens of lifeless bodies from the wreckage but numerous survivors, too.

Mexico’s marines, considered the nation’s most elite troops, said they have recovered 102 bodies and have rescued 115 people in the aftermath.

Many of those survivors are now in Mexico City hospitals with injuries ranging from fractures and bruises to severe brain injuries. After long, desperate hours and days holding out hope their loved ones would be found alive, relatives consider themselves the lucky ones.

When the ground began trembling, Jose Luis Ponce was in his second-floor apartment with his daughter, Marisol Souza, 33.

Seven floors of concrete fell on top of them. Claudia Ponce, 30, was traveling with her family in Colombia at the time.

They rushed back as quickly as possible, getting contradicting reports in the meantime on whether they were dead or alive.

One day and two hours after the quake, Jose Luis Ponce was carefully removed from the mass of twisted metal and concrete.

Souza was not as lucky. A search team later pulled her lifeless remains from the rubble.

Now Claudia is permanently stationed at her father’s bedside and in the plastic chairs in the sparse hospital’s waiting room.

Brenda Clement, 36, also was pulled from rubble after the earthquake. She’d gone out that day with her 3-year-old son to buy him a new pair of shoes in Jojutla, where streets were left in ruins after the quake.

Rodrigo Solorzano, 35, her husband, tried calling her cellphone for an hour. When he finally got a response, the voice of a man he didn’t recognize answered.

It was the person who had rescued her.

While family members posted pictures of Solorzano’s missing son on social media he went to the hospital to be with his wife.

Five hours after the quake, he received more good news. Someone had seen the family’s social media posts and recognized their son. He was alive and returned safely to his family, a few scrapes the only hint of the calamity.

Seismic activity at Bali volcano heightens fears of eruption

Associated Press

BALI, Indonesia — More than 35,000 people have fled a menacing volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, fearing it will erupt for the first time in more than half a century as increasing tremors rattle the region.

The numbers Sunday from disaster officials are more than double previous estimates and are continuing to rise, they say. They include people who left voluntarily as well as those told to evacuate from a 6- to 8-mile zone around Mount Agung.

Authorities raised the volcano’s alert

status to the highest level Friday following a “tremendous increase” in seismic activity.

Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, a senior Cabinet minister, said Sunday that the districts surrounding the volcano “must be prepared for the worst.”

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency praised the welcoming response of local communities on Bali to the flood of evacuees.

Thousands are living in temporary shelters, sports centers, village halls and with relatives or friends. Some return to the danger zone during the day to tend to livestock.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ex-cop accused of giving drugs to woman

VT BURLINGTON — A former police officer in Vermont has been charged with taking heroin seized in a drug raid and giving it to an addict with whom he was having an intimate relationship.

Former Royalton officer John Breault appeared in U.S. District Court in Burlington on Friday for an initial court hearing on a heroin distribution charge. He was released with conditions and is to appear in court in October.

His lawyer said Breault, who resigned earlier this month, was trying to help a friend and has never done drugs.

The criminal complaint said the woman was an opioid addict and Breault removed heroin and prescription medicines from a police evidence closet in July and supplied her with enough to get through the week without going into withdrawal, the FBI said in the complaint.

Small pet pig believed stolen is found dead

OH CLEVELAND — A Cleveland couple say their pet miniature pig, which they believe was stolen during a break-in, has been found dead.

The owners of the 15-pound pig, named Spam, said the body was found Thursday. They said the previous week that the pig was stolen from their home in a burglary along with jewelry, TV and a camera.

WEWS-TV reported that donors raised more than \$1,000 to offer a reward to help find the pig. The couple said that money will be returned or donated to the Animal Protective League, which is performing a necropsy on the pig.

Woman, 85, faces retrial in poison case

PA WILKES-BARRE—A Pennsylvania woman is facing a retrial next year on charges that she poisoned her son's girlfriend with antifreeze, leaving her near death.

A Luzerne County judge scheduled a trial date of March 19 for Helen Galli, 85, who is charged with aggravated assault.

Galli was convicted in 2013 and was sentenced to 5½ to 12 years. But a judge ruled that Galli's attorney was ineffective for not objecting to testimony that she told her son's girlfriend to consume the antifreeze-laced drink.

Prosecutors appealed the decision, but a three-judge Superior Court panel upheld it in June.

Prosecutors said Galli intentionally poisoned the woman in 2010 out of jealousy, while the defense argued that the victim poisoned herself.

Substitute teacher fired over Hitler salute

VT GEORGIA — A school superintendent in Vermont says a substitute teacher was fired after being accused of showing elementary school children how to make the Nazi salute to Adolf Hitler.

WCAX-TV reported that Georgia Elementary School superintendent informed parents of the Thursday decision. In an email to parents, Superintendent Ned Kirsch said the children were seen standing with arms out and the teacher modeling the salute. He said she raised her arm slightly and then said, "Now we say, 'Heil Hitler.'"

The television station reported that the unidentified woman apparently had filled in at the school for several years.

'Nuisance' benches demolition is paused

OH CINCINNATI — Cincinnati has torn down some concrete benches frequently used by the homeless near its pro football stadium, but is pausing demolition of other benches so city council members can discuss it first.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported some council members and advocates for the homeless were surprised when city officials started removing the benches near Paul Brown Stadium.

The director of the Department of Transportation and Engineering said the benches kept some of the homeless out of the view of police. The plan is to replace the benches with transparent ones.

Prairie dog holes dusted to halt plague

AZ FLAGSTAFF — Prairie dog holes around northern Arizona are being dusted with an insecticide to help prevent the spread of the plague.

Fleas carry the disease and spread it through host animals like prairie dogs, foxes, coyotes, badgers and pets.

Fleas infected with the plague have been found recently north of Williams and west of Flagstaff.

Crews dusted prairie dog holes near Red Lake outside of Williams and 1.3 square miles near Garland Prairie.

Woman gets prison for plot to injure rival

NJ MORRISTOWN — A woman who used her work computer to find private information on a romantic rival she wanted physically harmed is headed to prison.

Natasha Rivera, 35, received a three-year sentence Friday. The Dover woman had pleaded guilty in June to computer criminal activity.

The mother of two admitted using her work computer at a Morristown-based collections company to access private medical and confidential information on a woman she believed was having a sexual relationship with her boyfriend.

Raccoon jumps onto police van, takes ride

CO DENVER — A Colorado Springs police officer heading to an accident scene in a van got a big surprise when a raccoon jumped onto the front windshield of the vehicle and stayed there until the officer pulled over.

The Denver Post reported that officer Chris Frabbiele was responding to an accident scene in a large van used by police to investigate crashes when the raccoon landed on its windshield. Police spokesman Lt. Howard Black said the raccoon hopped off the van after Frabbiele stopped.

Police: Baby left alone by couple out drinking

CA OROVILLE — A couple being booked on suspicion of public intoxication in Northern California told police they left their 1-year-old son home alone while they went to a bar.

Police in Oroville said officers who arrested Alex and Krystal Williams, both 27, on Friday night went to the couple's house to find the child asleep in the living room and apparently unharmed.

The baby was taken to child protective custody and his parents were booked additionally for felony child endangerment.

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Jaguars blow out Ravens in London

Associated Press

LONDON — The Jacksonville Jaguars are finally starting to feel at home at Wembley Stadium.

Mercedes Lewis caught three of Blake Bortles' four touchdown passes as the Jaguars routed the Baltimore Ravens 44-7 on Sunday in their fifth game in Britain's capital.

Allen Hurns and Leonard Fournette also scored touchdowns for the Jaguars (2-1), who have won each of their last three games played at the venue.

This one, by far, was the easiest. The Ravens (2-1) managed just 186 yards of total offense, including minus-1 yard in the first quarter. They managed 15 yards

in the first half, and picked up only 12 first downs.

A 6-yard pass from Ryan Mallett, who entered in relief of Joe Flacco in the fourth quarter, to Benjamin Watson with 3:24 remaining prevented the shutout. It was their worst defeat since Nov. 9, 1997, when they lost 37-0 at Pittsburgh.

Baltimore crossed midfield three times — and not until the third quarter, when Terrance West gained 7 yards to reach the Jaguars 45.

On the next play, West failed to secure a handoff and fumbled, leading to linebacker Telvin Smith returning it 52 yards to set up Lewis' third touchdown.

Jacksonville punctuated the victory with

a fake punt minutes later, with Corey Grant taking a direct snap 58 yards before Fournette punched the ball in from the 3.

Flacco, who finished 8 for 18 for 28 yards, was intercepted twice, once by A.J. Bouye in the second quarter and once by Jalen Ramsey in the third.

Bortles also left the game early, replaced by Chad Henne on the Jaguars' first drive of the fourth quarter after completing 20 of 31 passes for 244 yards.

Fournette, who finished with 59 yards on 15 carries, became the first Jaguars player to rush for a touchdown in each of his first three games, while Lewis matched Brandon Lloyd as the only players to score three touchdowns at Wembley.

Trump comments lead to protests around NFL

Associated Press

The owners of the Baltimore Ravens, the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots and other teams on Sunday joined a chorus of NFL executives criticizing President Donald Trump's suggestion that they fire players who kneel for the national anthem.

The statements, including those from Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti, contrasted a morning tweet from Trump and further escalated the political drama of the league's game day, which was expected to be one of the most-watched for non-sporting reasons in years.

Bisciotti said he "100 percent" supports his players' decision to kneel during the national anthem. At least seven of them did, joined by more than a dozen Jacksonville Jaguars, before the teams played at Wembley Stadium in London.

Other players linked arms — and Jaguars owner Shad Khan joined them, standing between tight end Mercedes Lewis and linebacker Telvin Smith. He called it a privilege to do so.

Kraft, who has been a strong backer of the president, expressed "deep disappointment" with Trump and said politicians could learn much from the unifying spirit of a competitive, team-oriented enterprise like football.

"Our players are intelligent, thoughtful, and care deeply about our community and I support their right to peacefully affect social change and raise awareness in a manner that they feel is most impactful," Kraft said in a statement.

Cleveland Browns owners Jimmy and Dee Haslam wrote that they didn't want to let "misguided, uninformed and divisive comments from the President or anyone else deter us from our efforts to unify," and Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin told CBS his team wouldn't be on the field when the anthem plays before the Steelers game in Chicago. He doesn't want his players to be divided between those who kneel and those who stand, he said.

"We're not going to be divided by anything said by anyone," Tomlin said. "We're not going to let divisive times or divisive individuals affect our agenda."

Haslam's brother, Bill, is the Republican governor of Tennessee.

Quarterback Colin Kaepernick started the kneeling movement last year when he played for the San Francisco 49ers, refusing to stand during "The Star-Spangled Banner" to protest the treatment of black people by police. Kaepernick became a free agent and has not been signed by a new team for this season.

Without identifying Kaepernick, Trump aimed a Friday talk at a Huntsville, Alabama, rally at those players who have knelt for the anthem.

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, you'd say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired,'" he said to loud applause.

Again in a Sunday morning tweet, Trump urged his supporters to take action: "If NFL fans refuse to go to games until players stop disrespecting our Flag & Country, you will see change take place fast. Fire or suspend!"

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin followed up Sunday on ABC's "This Week" defending Trump, saying the NFL has many rules governing what players can and cannot do.

"I think what the president is saying is that the owners should have a rule that players should have to stand in respect for the national anthem," Mnuchin said. "They can do free speech on their own time."

Trump's remarks provoked team owners and the NFL to stridently defend the sport and its players. Commissioner Roger Goodell, who has taken heat for Kaepernick's struggle to find a team, quickly condemned Trump's comments.

"The NFL and our players are at our best when we help create a sense of unity in our country and our culture. There is no better example than the amazing response from our clubs and players to the terrible natural disasters we've experienced over the last month," Goodell said.

San Francisco 49ers owner Jed York was among the league power brokers who issued condemning statements through their clubs.

"The callous and offensive comments made by the president are contradictory to what this great country stands for," York said.

"Our players have exercised their rights as United States citizens in order to spark conversation and action to address social injustice. We will continue to support them in their peaceful pursuit of positive change in our country and around the world."

Academies

Aztecs
slip past
Falcons

Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Rocky Long didn't make any halftime adjustments. He couldn't. There wasn't an intermission because the teams kept right on playing.

The San Diego State coach more than got his point across during an 88-minute lightning delay in the second quarter. The impromptu break provided the perfect opportunity to recharge his sluggish bunch.

Rashaad Penny scored three times, including a 53-yard scamper with 5:39 remaining, and No. 22 San Diego State held off Air Force 28-24 on a dreary Saturday night.

Penny, the nation's leading rusher entering the game, struggled early in the soggy conditions. But he finally found some running room as the Aztecs (4-0, 1-0 Mountain West) began their quest to capture a third straight conference title. Penny finished with 128 yards rushing, which was 68 below his season average.

Tulane 21, Army 17: On host Tulane's first offensive play, Dontrell Hilliard ran 75 yards for a touchdown, which came 11 seconds into the game.

On the Green Wave's last offensive play, Jonathan Banks ran 4 yards for a touchdown with 23 seconds left in the game.

Navy 42, Cincinnati 32: Quarterback Zach Abey ran for 128 of host Navy's 569 rushing yards.

Navy (3-0, 2-0) amassed the second most rushing yards in program history, just three yards shy of the record of 572 set in 2007 against North Texas.

It was the first game between the two schools since Oct. 20, 1956, when Navy beat Cincinnati, 13-7, in Annapolis.

No. 4 Penn State tops Iowa

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — It was happening like it had so often in the past.

A once-sluggish Iowa team had come to life in the fourth quarter at home under the lights, and another top-five opponent was set to go down.

Trace McSorley, Juwan Johnson and the resilient Nittany Lions flipped the script, scoring on the game's final play to survive a wild Big Ten opener.

Johnson caught a seven-yard TD pass as time expired and fourth-ranked Penn State ral-

lied to stun Iowa 21-19 Saturday night.

Saquon Barkley had 211 yards rushing and 94 yards receiving for the Nittany Lions (4-0, 1-0), who outgained Iowa 579-273 but nearly blew a game that could've been crippling to their postseason hopes.

"Felt like with (Johnson) we had a height advantage and we could slip him through the middle of the field," Penn State coach James Franklin said of the winning play.

Akrum Wadley had a 70-yard TD reception midway through the fourth quarter and a 35-yard touchdown run with 1:42

left to put the Hawkeyes (3-1, 0-1) ahead 19-15.

Penn State went 80 yards on 12 plays and just 1:42 to close out the game, and McSorley found Johnson in a crowded end zone on fourth down.

McSorley finished with 284 yards passing on 48 tries.

Wadley had 80 yards rushing and 75 yards receiving and Nate Stanley threw for 191 yards and two TDs for Iowa.

"It's a tough loss for all of us," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "You can see first-hand why they were the Big Ten champs last year."

TCU knocks off
No. 6 Cowboys

Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — TCU felt ignored heading into its matchup with high-powered Oklahoma State.

The Horned Frogs can't be overlooked anymore. Darius Anderson ran for a career-high 160 yards and three touchdowns, and No. 16 TCU upset the sixth-ranked Cowboys 44-31 on Saturday to stamp the Horned Frogs as a Big 12 contender.

"People can say what they want to say, but we know what we are, and we try to be the best team every day," TCU defensive end Ben Banogu said. "But you don't just get there after one big win, it's throughout the season. If we can keep the ball rolling and keeping doing what we do, then we'll find ourselves in that conversation."

Kenny Hill passed for 228 yards for the Horned Frogs (4-0, 1-0 Big 12), who ran 52 times for 238 yards.

"We want to be relevant, you want to win enough to get noticed," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "It was also an advantage that no one was giving us a chance. We play better that way."

TCU gave Oklahoma State's Mason Rudolph time to throw, but he often couldn't find enough open receivers and settled for short passes or threw the ball away. He completed 22 of 41 passes for 398 yards and two touchdowns, but he threw two interceptions.

James Washington caught six passes for 153 yards and a touchdown and Marcell Ateman caught six passes for 100 yards for the Cowboys (3-1, 0-1).

Oklahoma wins
13th straight

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield had a bit more respect for Baylor after the game. He also had another victory.

After being caught on video before the game with some smack talk directed at winless Baylor, Mayfield threw three touchdowns and the third-ranked Sooners overcame the feisty Bears 49-41 Saturday night to stretch the nation's longest winning streak to 14 games.

"You don't realize that some teams and guys, when they get their backs up against the wall, that's when they play their best," Mayfield said. "I'd compare it to how we went into Ohio State week. Everybody was picking them, and nobody really cared about us. It's the same feeling. You've got to expect that, and we've got to be more consistent."

Asked if he respected the Bears afterward, Mayfield responded, "Absolutely."

Mayfield's last TD pass was the go-ahead score, and came on the next snap after the quarterback's unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. He completed 13 of 19 passes for 283 yards, including TDs on his first two drives, as the Sooners piled up 634 total yards.

Abdul Adams had a 99-yard touchdown for the Sooners (4-0, 1-0 Big 12), his school-record run coming after a botched kickoff return.

Baylor (0-4, 0-1) led 31-28 after Connor Martin's 46-yard field goal late in the third quarter but Oklahoma answered.

"You've got to have perseverance. You cannot expect that every one will be a blowout," Sooners coach Lincoln Riley said. "You've got to hang in there and keep swinging. Our guys do that."

Yanks clinch playoff berth

Associated Press

TORONTO — One year into a rebuild, the New York Yankees are back in the playoffs.

Greg Bird, among the new generation of Baby Bombers, hit a three-run homer that led New York over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-1 on Saturday to clinch no worse than a wild card.

“I feel like our motto in the offseason was: ‘We’re going to surprise people,’” Bird said. “Obviously, we had a good spring, but we knew that wasn’t the real deal. We came out and played our game the whole year, and I feel like we showed people.”

Sonny Gray (10-11), among New York’s midseason reinforcements, allowed one run and four hits in six innings as

the Yankees won for the 11th time in 14 games and at 86-68 matched their season high of 18 games over .500.

“I didn’t know exactly what we were going to be this year, but when I saw the way these kids were playing in spring training and the depth of our talent, it got me really excited and I thought it was possible,” Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Chase Headley reached base three times to help the Yankees reach the postseason for the 53rd time in franchise history. The Los Angeles Dodgers are second with 31.

“We’re a lot better than a lot of people thought we were,” Headley said.

Unless New York overcomes Boston’s four-game lead the

AL East, the Yankees would play in the AL wild card game on Oct. 3, most likely at home against Minnesota. New York lost the wild card matchup to Houston 3-0 at home two years ago and has not won a postseason game since Derek Jeter broke an ankle in the 2012 AL Championship Series opener against Detroit.

Led by Aaron Judge and Gary Sanchez, New York celebrated in a low-key manner on the field after former-Yankee Rob Refsnyder hit a game-ending groundout off Aroldis Chapman, then sprayed bubbly in the visitors’ clubhouse.

“This is just the beginning,” Judge said. “We’ve got a chance to be in the postseason, now we’ve got to keep it rolling.”

MLB’s Maxwell kneels

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Bruce Maxwell of the Oakland Athletics became the first Major League Baseball player to kneel during the U.S. anthem on Saturday, pulling the league into a polarizing protest movement that has been criticized harshly by President Donald Trump.

Before a home game against the Texas Rangers, Maxwell dropped to a knee just outside Oakland’s dugout, adopting a protest started by former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick in response to police treatment of blacks. The rookie catcher pressed his right hand against his heart, and teammates stood in a line next to him. Teammate Mark Canha, who is white, put his right hand on one of Maxwell’s shoulders, and the two hugged after the anthem finished.

“Everybody watches sports and so everybody loves sports, so I felt this was the right thing for me to do personally,” Maxwell said.

Maxwell’s protest comes after Trump blasted American football players and rescinded a White House invitation for NBA champion Stephen Curry in a two-day rant that targeted top professional athletes.

Maxwell informed A’s manager Bob Melvin and general manager David Forst of his intention to kneel before Saturday’s game. He also held a team meeting in which he addressed questions from teammates. Maxwell did not play in Oakland’s 1-0 win.

Maxwell was born in Wiesbaden, Germany, while his father was stationed there in the Army, but he grew up in Huntsville, Ala., which is where Trump made his statements at a rally on Friday.

Roundup

Stanton hits 57th HR in Miami win

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Giancarlo Stanton extended his club record with his 57th home run and set a team mark with his 125th RBI, lifting the Miami Marlins over the Arizona Diamondbacks 12-6 on Saturday night.

Arizona could have clinched a playoff spot with a win, but will have to wait another day at least. The Diamondbacks can lock up an NL wild card on Sunday with a win or losses by Milwaukee and St. Louis.

Red Sox 5, Reds 0: Mitch Moreland ended his long slump with a three-run homer, Eduardo Rodriguez pitched three-hit ball into the eighth inning and visiting Boston took another step toward a second straight AL East title.

Brewers 4, Cubs 3 (10): Travis Shaw hit a two-run homer with one out in the 10th inning off All-Star closer Wade Davis, lifting host Milwaukee over Chicago.

Astros 6, Angels 2: Evan Gattis hit a three-run homer to back a solid start by Charlie Morton and Houston further

dampened the AL wild-card hopes of visiting Los Angeles.

Indians 11, Mariners 4: Francisco Lindor led off the game with his 33rd home run, the most by a Cleveland middle infielder, and the Indians routed host Seattle for their 28th victory in 30 games.

Athletics 1, Rangers 0: Bruce Maxwell became the first major league baseball player to kneel during the national anthem, and Khristian Davis hit his 40th home run to lift host Oakland over Texas.

Padres 5, Rockies 0: Jhoulys Chacin (13-10) kept visiting Colorado hitless until DJ LeMahieu hit a sinking liner that diving center fielder Manuel Margot trapped with two outs in the sixth.

Pirates 11, Cardinals 6: Lance Lynn (11-8) allowed eight runs and six hits while getting two outs for visiting St. Louis (81-73).

Twins 10, Tigers 4: Zack Granite hit his first major league home run, a three-run drive that capped an eight-run eighth. Visiting Minnesota, which over-

came a 3-1 seventh-inning deficit to win its third straight

Royals 8, White Sox 2: At Chicago, Alex Gordon homered, Whit Merrifield drove in three runs and Danny Duffy (9-9) allowed two runs and eight hits in six-plus innings for his first win since Aug. 22.

Rays 9, Orioles 6: Lucas Duda hit a go-ahead, three-run homer, helping eliminate host Baltimore from postseason contention.

Nationals 4, Mets 3: At New York, Daniel Murphy homered in the 10th off Jacob deGrom (0-1) and is hitting .393 with 35 RBIs in 37 games versus his former team.

Giants 2, Dodgers 1: Visiting San Francisco’s Madison Bumgarner (4-9) allowed five hits in 7²/₃ innings, including Austin Barnes’ homer, ending a four-start losing streak. Gorkys Hernandez had three hits and scored both runs.

Braves 4, Phillies 2: At Atlanta, pinch-hitter Johan Camargo hit a go-ahead, two-run double off Luis Garcia (2-5) in a three-run eighth inning and Rio Ruiz homered.