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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Ukrainians bring battle to Russia's doorstep

The Washington Post

After a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive in the northeast of the country, the messy war that Russian President Vladimir Putin started is now being fought directly on his doorstep, with artillery strikes hitting military targets in Russia and Russian officials in cities and towns along the border ordering hasty evacuations.

On Saturday, a new round of strikes hit the Belgorod region in Western Russia, killing at least one person and wounding two.

On Friday, Ukraine reportedly struck the base of the Russian 3rd Motorized Rifle Division near Valuyki, just nine miles north of the Russia-Ukraine border. Russian officials did not acknowledge that a military target was hit but said one civilian died, and the local electrical grid experienced a temporary disruption.

Russia blamed the attacks on Ukraine, but Kyiv did not claim responsibility for striking targets in Russian territory.

Kyiv has assured U.S. officials that donated weapons would not

be used to strike targets inside Russia proper. But Ukrainian forces are now so close to the border that they can hit targets using their own less-advanced weaponry.

That Russian citizens are starting to seriously feel the impact of the war directly is another new source of pressure on Putin, who returned home this weekend from a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan where he faced a remarkable public rebuke by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and questions about the war from Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In a stunning public rebuke, Modi told Putin that “today’s era is not an era of war, and I have spoken to you on the phone about this.” That followed an acknowledgment by Putin that he had heard “concerns and questions” about the war from the Chinese president.

Ukraine has made stunning advances in the Kharkiv region, in the northeast of the country, in the past two weeks. During its ad-

vances, it has also uncovered hundreds of mass graves and stories of Russian forces terrorizing residents in the liberated city of Izi-um.

Ukrainian officials have cited the gains and the evidence of torture and killings to reiterate pleas for modern battle tanks and other heavily armored vehicles that NATO allies have been slow to send.

Valuyki and Krasny Khutor are among dozens of small settlements in Russia that the Russian military uses as a staging ground, putting them in the middle of Moscow’s faltering invasion and Kyiv’s mounting counteroffensive.

The local governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov, has ordered the evacuation of hundreds of people and shut down schools in border towns over the past months.

But now the authorities in Belgorod are under increasing pressure from unnerved residents who are experiencing what many Ukrainians have lived with for months: nighttime explosions, destroyed homes and sometimes

casualties.

Russian forces have been depleted after battlefield blunders and are scrambling to find personnel and working equipment to hold their ground in northeastern Ukraine. A recent hasty retreat from Izi-um and Balakliya as well as concerns among local Russians who fear the war is coming home appear to have prompted Moscow to reinforce the border with young conscripts.

Russian soldiers who had been conscripted to serve in the 1st Guards Motor Rifle Regiment of the Taman Division as part of this year’s spring draft are reportedly being transferred from the Moscow region to “protect the state border.”

The BBC Russian Service, citing the families of troops, reported that many conscripts in the Taman Division had died at the beginning of the invasion and those who survived were returned to the Russian territory.

But instead of returning to headquarters in Naro-Fominsk near Moscow, they were stationed in Valuyki.

US-backed Syrians find ISIS sleeper cells in sweep of camp

Associated Press

BEIRUT — U.S.-backed Syrian fighters said Saturday they have concluded a 24-day sweep at a sprawling camp in northeast Syria housing tens of thousands of women and children linked to Islamic State.

Dozens of extremists were detained and weapons were confiscated in the operation at al-Hol camp, which began on Aug. 25, the U.S.-backed forces said. The U.S.-backed force said two of its fighters were killed in clashes with extremists inside the camp during the operation.

ISIS sleeper cells preparing a

new generation of militants — boys and girls being fed extremist ideology to eventually try and set up a second so-called Islamic State caliphate — were also uncovered, the statement by the Internal Security Forces said. It added that the operation was assisted by the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces as well as members of the U.S.-led coalition.

The operation at al-Hol in the northeastern province of Hassakeh also led to the release of two Yazidi girls taken from Iraq as sex slaves years ago and four non-Yazidi women, who had been

chained and subjected to torture.

“The operation was launched following the increasing crimes of killing and torture committed by ISIS cells against the camp residents,” said the statement from the U.S.-backed forces, using another acronym for Islamic State.

The statement also said that 226 people, including 36 women, were detained in al-Hol — widely seen as a breeding ground for ISIS.

Some 50,000 Syrians and Iraqis are crowded into tents in the fenced-in camp. Nearly 20,000 of them are children; most of the rest are women, wives and wid-

ows of ISIS fighters. In a separate, heavily guarded section of the camp known as the annex are an additional 2,000 women from 57 other countries — they are considered the most die-hard ISIS supporters — along with their children, numbering about 8,000.

The camp was initially used to house the families of ISIS fighters in late 2018 as U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces recaptured territory in eastern Syria from the militants. In March 2019, they seized the last ISIS-held villages, ending the “caliphate” that the group had declared over large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014.

Charges dropped for retired admiral in 'Fat Leonard' case

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

A federal judge dismissed all charges against a retired Navy rear admiral implicated in a corruption scandal that saw dozens convicted over dealings with a now-on-the-run Malaysian businessman who defrauded the service of at least \$35 million.

On Thursday, Judge Janis Sammartino of the U.S. Southern District of California granted prosecutors' motion to dismiss charges of conspiracy, bribery and fraud against Bruce Loveless, according to court documents.

The charges were dismissed with prejudice, meaning Loveless cannot be tried again on the same charges in federal court.

Loveless was one of five former Navy officials on trial earlier this year for accepting luxury hotel stays, expensive dinners, fancy wine and cigars, prostitution services and other gifts from military contractor Leonard Glenn "Fat Leonard" Francis, court documents show.

In June, jurors deadlocked and did not reach a verdict on the charges against Loveless but convicted former Navy Capt. David

Newland, James Dolan and David Lausman and former Cmdr. Mario Herrera of conspiracy, bribery and fraud.

Tom O'Brien, an attorney for the firm that represented Loveless, said dismissal of the charges was the "correct result based on the complete lack of evidence of criminal wrongdoing presented during the four-month-long trial," according to a USNI News report Thursday.

Francis pleaded guilty in 2015 to bribing military officials to obtain classified and unclassified information to benefit his Singapore-based business, Glenn Defense Marine Asia Ltd., ultimately allowing him to overcharge the service at least \$35 million for servicing ships.

The bribery scheme took place from 2006 to 2014, mostly targeting Navy officials and others associated with U.S. 7th Fleet.

Francis was under house arrest and scheduled for sentencing later this month. But nearly two weeks ago, he cut off his GPS ankle bracelet and left his Southern California home, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported Sept. 6.

South Korea mulls history with Japan amid fleet review invitation

BY DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — South Korea's Defense Ministry is considering an invitation from Japan to stage a naval fleet review together, but old enmities and unresolved disputes stand in the way, according to South Korea's defense minister.

South Korea is determined to build "future-oriented" ties with Japan and their military relationship "should be improved" if mutual cooperation, along with that of the United States, can boost security in the region, South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup told Yonhap News on Wednesday.

"Japan-[South Korea] defense cooperation is under the influence of the overall relations between Japan and South Korea," he

said. "The conditions to improve Japan-[South Korea] ties are currently being set."

But cooperation between the two countries have been hampered by long-standing territorial and historical differences, Lee said.

For decades, the two countries have feuded over the recognition of South Korean comfort women forced into prostitution by Imperial Japan during World War II.

The surviving victims and South Korean lawmakers across political aisles have alleged that previous apologies from Japanese officials fell short and demanded their government formally acknowledge its history.

"The Japan-[South Korea] relationship is still in a difficult situation due to issues in its past history," Lee said.

Testing finds PFOS, PFOA in excessive levels at Yokosuka

BY ALEX WILSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Two rounds of tests in June and July confirmed the presence of toxic organic compounds in wastewater from this base's treatment facility, according to the city of Yokosuka.

Levels of PFOS and PFOA in samples of discharged water in July exceeded the limit — 50 parts per trillion — imposed by the Japanese government, according to the news release.

U.S. Forces Japan, under the bilateral agreement Japan Environmental Governing Standards, has a 50 parts per trillion limit on drinking water but no established limit for wastewater.

Samples taken by the U.S. military on July 6 found combined concentrations of 15 parts per trillion at the entrance of the treatment plant and 112 parts per trillion in samples from the plant's discharged water, according to the release.

A sample from Tokyo Bay taken June 30 by the South Kanto Defense Bureau found the chemicals in combined concentrations of 3.3 parts per trillion, well below the limit, according to a Sept. 12 news release from the city. A sample taken further away from shore showed a concentration of 1.6 parts per trillion.

Tests in May first showed that an "unusual foam" at the treatment plant contained trace levels of PFOA and PFOS.

Officials at the treatment plant discovered the foam on May 4 and two surveys on May 9 found PFOS and PFOA in combined concentrations of 112 parts per trillion and 57 parts per trillion.

Since discovering the two toxins in its wastewater, the base has removed all firefighting foam containing the chemicals and is installing a granular activated carbon filter, according to Cmdr. Katie Cerezo, spokeswoman for Naval Forces Japan.

"We will continue to sample the wastewater plant regularly until the cause has been identified and resolved," she said in an email Thursday.

Marine Corps jets practice advanced basing

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Marine Corps stealth fighter pilots and support crew honed the skills they'll need to operate far from home while training last month at one of Australia's most isolated military bases.

Sixty Marines and six F-35B Lightning II fighters from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, operated out of Royal Australian Air Force Base Curtin, 1,000 miles north of Perth in Western Australia.

The austere base, which has no units permanently assigned to it, is 1,800 miles from Singapore.

The Marine aviators also flew in the Pitch Black air power exercise involving 17 nations between Aug. 19 and Sept. 8.

Two weeks before they got to RAAF Curtin, Australian troops arrived there and set up a mess hall, medical facility, and command post, said Maj. Colton Bowser, who commanded a detachment in Australia

from Marine Aircraft Group 12, also based at MCAS Iwakuni.

The "bare bones" facility, according to the Australian air force, includes a 10,000-foot runway that has been open since 1988.

The Marines who went there in mid-August were practicing expeditionary advanced basing operations, Bowser, 36, of Kansas City, Mo., said by phone Tuesday.

"We were rehearsing to operate from an austere bare base," he said.

Expeditionary advanced base operations involve sending hard-to-target units into austere, temporary locations such as islands of the Western Pacific, from which they may block an adversary or resupply friendly forces, according to the Marine Corps.

The Iwakuni Marines have incorporated advanced basing operations in all their training this year, including a detachment sent to Guam while deployed to the USS *Tripoli* earlier this summer, Bowser said.

Six F-35Bs from Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 121 and 242, also from MCAS Iwakuni, operated from RAAF Curtin Aug. 23-25.

To support the jets, a pair of KC-130 tankers from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, also from Iwakuni, flew troops and equipment from the Northern Territory to RAAF Curtin.

Members of Marine Support Squadron 171 arrived on the aircraft Aug. 21 along with equipment to set up a forward arming and refueling point, Bowser said.

The Marines established a small command post and communication links to the fighters as well as their headquarters back at RAAF Tindal, 200 miles south of Darwin, he said.

The Marines' short-takeoff, vertical landing F-35Bs flew missions from RAAF Curtin and linked up with Australian conventional takeoff and landing F-35As flying out of RAAF Darwin, Bowser said.

Study: Veteran suicide rate 37% higher than reported

By **NANCY MONTGOMERY**
Stars and Stripes

An exhaustive study four years in the making has found nearly a 40% higher rate of veteran suicides than that reported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The study's interim report, based on service records from the Defense Department and death records from eight states, examined suicides and "self-injury mortality" — or deaths

classified as accidental or undetermined — in people aged 18 to 64 from 2014 to 2018.

America's Warrior Partnership, a suicide prevention group, contracted with the University of Alabama and partnered with Duke University to gather state-provided death data and coordinate with the DOD to corroborate military affiliation.

It was funded by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation.

The study identified a 37% greater suicide rate than reported by the VA. That was because "Operation Deep Dive," as the study is called, worked to get specificity of the decedent's demographics, military experience and death details.

The VA, by contrast, gets its suicide numbers reported by the county authorities where the death occurred. The study found that method failed to identify veterans about 18% of

the time.

"It's not the VA's fault. The issue is the counties," said Jim Lorraine, an Air Force veteran and president of America's Warrior Partnership.

The VA did not return phone calls or an email for comment.

The states that provided death information for the study were Alabama, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana and Oregon.

Australia's first Triton drone can share data with US Navy

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

The first of up to seven Australian MQ-4C Triton maritime surveillance drones was rolled out during a ceremony Wednesday in California.

The drone, made by U.S. aerospace company Northrop Grumman, will complement Australia's P-8 Poseidon manned surveillance planes when it enters service in 2024, the Australian Defence Depart-

ment said in a statement on the day of the unveiling.

Australia announced plans to buy the Triton in 2014. It is a maritime version of America's largest unmanned aircraft, the RQ-4 Global Hawk.

The U.S. Navy operates Tritons out of Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and deployed some of the drones to Misawa Air Base in northeast Japan last summer.

Australia has one of the lar-

gest exclusive economic zones in the world, encompassing vast swathes of the Pacific and Indian oceans. Its proximity to developing nations in Southeast Asia means authorities there must grapple with issues such as terrorism and human traffickers operating in small boats.

The Triton provides real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance over ocean and coastal regions, according to Northrop Grumman.

"The aircraft can fly over 24 hours at a time, at altitudes higher than 10 miles, with an operational range of 8,200 nautical miles," the company's website states.

The Triton looks like the Global Hawk, which has seen extensive service in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the resemblance is skin deep.

The Australian drones are part of a partnership with the U.S. Navy.

Storm battering Alaska causes flooding

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A powerful storm sweeping north through the Bering Strait on Saturday caused widespread flooding in several western Alaska coastal communities, knocking out power and sending residents fleeing for higher ground.

The force of the water moved some homes off their foundations, and one house in Nome floated down a river until it got caught at a bridge.

The potent storm — what remains of Typhoon Merbok — has been influencing weather patterns as far away as California, where strong winds and a rare late-summer rainstorm were expected.

In Alaska, no injuries or deaths were immediately reported, said Jeremy Zidek, spokesperson for the Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Officials had warned some places could see their worst flooding in 50 years and that the high waters could take up to 14 hours to recede.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy issued a disaster declaration during the day.

The nearly 1,000-mile storm front has damaged roads and potentially other infrastructure, Dunleavy said at a Saturday evening news conference.

Officials will evaluate any effects on water and sewer systems, seawalls, fuel storage areas, airports and ports.

Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives were already in Alaska before the storm, and Dunleavy said they will stay to help assess damage.

“Our goal is to get the assessments done as soon as possible,” he said. “We’re going to move as quickly as we can to provide relief, provide recovery, provide the essentials that people need.”

Among the hardest hit communities was Golovin, a village of 170 or so residents who mostly sought shelter at a school or in three buildings on a hillside. Winds in the village gusted over 60 mph and the water rose 11 feet above the normal high tide line and was expected to rise another 2 feet Saturday before

cresting.

“Most of the lower part of the community is all flooded with structures and buildings inundated,” said Ed Plumb, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fairbanks.

Clarabelle Lewis, the facility manager for the tribal government, the Chinik Eskimo Community, was among those who sought refuge on the hill overlooking Golovin. She and others were riding out the storm in the tribal office after securing items at their homes from the high winds and helping neighbors do the same.

“The winds were howling; it was noisy,” she said.

Most communities experienced wind gusts ranging from 41 mph to 67 mph, but Cape Romanzof had peak winds of 91 mph, the weather service said.

Lewis has never experienced a storm like this in 20 years living in Golovin.

“We’ve had flooding in the past a few times, but it was never this severe,” she said. “We’ve never had homes moved from their foundations.”

EU proposes to suspend billions in funds to Hungary

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union’s executive branch recommended Sunday that the bloc suspend around \$7.5 billion in funding to Hungary over concerns about democratic backsliding and the possible mismanagement of EU money.

The European Commission, which proposes the bloc’s laws and ensures that they are respected, said it was acting “to ensure the protection of the EU budget and the financial interests of the EU against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary.”

EU Budget Commissioner Johannes Hahn said that despite measures Hungary has proposed to address the deficiencies, the commission is recommending the suspension of funds “amounting to an estimated amount of \$7.5 billion.”

The money would come from

“cohesion funds” granted to Hungary.

This envelope of money, one of the biggest slices of the bloc’s budget, helps countries to bring their economies and infrastructure up to EU standards. EU countries pay around 1% of their gross national income into the budget. Hungary is slated to receive at least 50 billion euros in all from the 2021-27 budget, according to commission estimates.

Any action to suspend the funds must be approved by the EU member countries, and this requires a “qualified majority,” which amounts to 55% of the 27 members representing at least 65% of the total EU population.

They have one month to decide whether to freeze Hungary’s funds, but can in exceptional circumstances extend that period to two months.

California enacts law aimed to help LGBTQ military veterans

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A new law in California will help military service members who were discharged under “don’t ask, don’t tell” policies because of their sexual or gender identities to reestablish their eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Saturday.

“For decades, our bravest heroes, men and women who wore the uniforms of the armed services had to hide who they really were, and many were other than honorably discharged if their sexuality was discovered,” Newsom said in a statement.

Gays and lesbians were banned in the military until the 1993 approval of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” which allowed them to serve only if they did not openly acknowledge their sexual orientation. Rather than helping, advocates say, the policy created more problems. In

its entire history, the military dismissed more than 100,000 service members based on their sexual or gender identities — 14,000 of them during “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

Repeal of the law was approved by Congress and then-President Barack Obama in late 2010 and took effect nine months later, allowing lesbian, gay and bisexual people to serve openly.

The Department of Defense subsequently created a path for veterans who had been discharged under the policy to receive the full range of veterans’ benefits.

“But many veterans sadly don’t know or can’t even access this important process,” Newsom said, adding that some veterans trying to reclaim benefits have had to hire expensive legal counsel and other assistance to navigate the process. “We’re taking steps to fix this.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ATF: Ammunition stolen from shipping containers

NC RALEIGH — Large amounts of ammunition were stolen recently from freight line shipping containers in North Carolina, according to federal officials.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives alerted firearms dealers that a sizable amount of Winchester 9 mm ammunition was taken from containers in Wilmington, Raleigh and Durham, news outlets reported. The ATF warned that those responsible for the thefts might try to sell the ammunition to federal firearms licensees in the area. Officials also ask anyone who encounters suspicious activity that might be related to the theft to contact the nearest ATF field office.

Rower's body found after lightning strike hit nearby

FL ORLANDO — The body of a missing student who fell off a rowing team's boat after lightning caused it to capsize on a lake in north Orlando on Thursday was found Friday night, according to the Orlando Fire Department.

OFD spokesperson Jenny DeSantis said the body of the boy, a student at the K-9 Annunciation Catholic Academy in Altamonte Springs, was recovered at 5:15 p.m. by Orange County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit.

She said five rowers from the North Orlando Rowing club were in the boat when it flipped about 5:50 p.m. Thursday on Lake Fairview. When rescuers arrived, they found four of the rowers, one of whom had been injured and was taken to AdventHealth for Children. The fifth

rower was missing.

The current condition of the rower who was taken to the hospital was not available Friday.

Ferry closed due to low water levels on river

KY HICKMAN — A ferry that carries vehicles across the Mississippi River between Kentucky and Missouri has closed temporarily due to low water levels, officials said.

When the river gets too low, it becomes difficult for vehicles to load and off-load from the Dorena-Hickman Ferry at both landings, the Kentucky Transportation Department said in a statement. It wasn't clear when the ferry will resume operations. Water levels were forecast to continue dropping over the next two weeks, the agency said in a statement.

Ex-cartel boss gets life for drug conspiracy

TX BROWNSVILLE — A Mexican national who headed the Gulf Cartel from 2003 to 2012 was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to pay a \$5 million forfeiture after pleading guilty in a U.S. court to drug smuggling conspiracy.

A federal judge in Brownsville, Texas, sentenced Jorge "El Cos" Costilla-Sanchez, 51, for conspiring to ship cocaine and marijuana from Mexico into the United States. Costilla-Sanchez was arrested in 2012 in Mexico and extradited to the U.S. in 2015. He entered his plea in 2017.

U.S. District Judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr. noted that Costilla-Sanchez led an organization

that used guns and intimidation to maintain control, resorting to violence and killing to keep power.

Police: Bus driver showed signs of impairment

MD ELDERSBURG — A Maryland school bus driver was arrested after state police said she showed signs of impairment at the scene of a crash.

Maryland State Police troopers were called to state Route 32 in the Eldersburg area for a report of a crash involving a school bus, officials said in a news release. Troopers' investigation found that the bus was traveling southbound when, for unknown reasons, the bus went off the road and hit multiple telephone poles, police said. No students were aboard the bus.

As troopers spoke to the driver, they observed signs of impairment and she was arrested, police said. Charges are pending results of a blood analysis.

Physician charged with injecting drugs into IVs

TX DALLAS — A Dallas anesthesiologist was arrested on charges alleging that he injected nerve-blocking agents and other drugs into bags of intravenous fluids at the surgical center where he works, which led to the death of a coworker and caused cardiac emergencies for several patients, authorities announced.

Dr. Reynaldo Rivera Ortiz Jr. was arrested on a criminal complaint alleging that he tampered with a consumer product causing death and intentional drug adulteration, according to a statement from the U.S. attor-

ney's office for the northern district of Texas. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, a 55-year-old female coworker of Ortiz experienced a medical emergency and died immediately after treating herself for dehydration with an IV bag. An autopsy found that she died from a lethal dose of bupivacaine, a nerve-blocking drug that is often used with anesthesia. Also, an 18-year-old male patient experienced a cardiac emergency during routine sinus surgery, was intubated and transferred to an intensive care unit. Chemical analysis of the fluid from a saline bag used during his surgery revealed the presence of bupivacaine, the stimulant epinephrine and the topical anesthetic lidocaine, according to prosecutors.

2 accused of brass vases theft from 102 graves

LA HAUGHTON — A Louisiana couple desecrated 102 graves at a single cemetery by stealing brass vases and selling them for scrap, authorities said.

The 38-year-old man and 33-year-old woman were arrested after a monthlong investigation of thefts from Hill Crest Cemetery in Haughton, the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Scrap metal records showed that the man sold a large amount of "solid red brass" to a recycling center in Shreveport, according to the news release. It said detectives identified four vase styles and cemetery officials said such vases had been stolen from 102 graves.

— From wire reports



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Álvarez tops Golovkin by unanimous decision

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — After 36 rounds together in the ring over the past five years, Canelo Álvarez finally put a convincing finish on his remarkable trilogy with Gennady Golovkin.

The Mexican superstar decisively won his third ring meeting with Gennady Golovkin on Saturday night, earning a unanimous-decision victory and clear superiority in their rivalry.

Four years after the fighters' most recent meeting ended in a narrow, disputed victory for Álvarez (58-2-2, 39 KOs), the four-division world champion left little doubt about this verdict — even though he won by just 115-113 on two judges' scorecards, with the third seeing it 116-112.

"He's a strong fighter," Álvarez said to the raucous cheers of his supportive Vegas crowd. "For me, I'm just glad to share the ring with him. He's a really good fighter. I'm glad to be involved in that kind of fight."

Even with an injured left hand that he says will require surgery, the 32-year-old Álvarez delivered a comprehensive pummeling of the now-40-year-old Golovkin (42-2-1) in the first eight rounds, repeatedly testing Triple G's famed chin with combinations and overhand rights. Golovkin rallied late, but ran out of time.

Golovkin started far too slowly with no clear strategy to take the initiative away from Álvarez. Fighting at 168 pounds for the first time in his career, the Kazakh middleweight star still had moments of his dynamic best in the later rounds against a

wearier Canelo, but they weren't enough to turn the bout against a younger opponent more comfortable at super middleweight, where he reigns as the undisputed champion.

"Everybody knows this is high level, the best fight for boxing," Golovkin said. "Look at his face. Look at my face. It's high level, because we trained well, and this shows that we did a very good fight, very good quality."

The bitter rivals embraced and spoke warmly to each other after the final bell, perhaps signaling a thaw in their frosty relationship.

Judges Steve Weisfeld and David Sutherland both scored the no-action first round and four of the final five rounds for Golovkin, leading to those 115-113 scores in a bout that Álvarez largely dominated for long stretches. The Associated Press also favored Canelo, 117-111.

Golovkin landed only 23% of his 521 punches, and he only threw 10 punches to Canelo's body, according to CompuBox. Álvarez wasn't much more accurate, landing only 26% of his shots, but the Mexican star landed 85 power punches to Golovkin's 46 and controlled the ring for long stretches.

With a clear victory to wrap up one of the livelier rivalries in recent boxing history, Álvarez rebounded splendidly from only the second loss of his career, a fairly one-sided light heavyweight defeat delivered by Dmitry Bivol last May.

"Thank you so much for your support," Álvarez said to the crowd. "I've gone

through very difficult things in my life. Only thing you can do is continue to move forward. I've gone through difficult times with my defeat, but defeats can show how you can be great, how you can come back and show humility."

Golovkin again said he won't retire after this bout, but the longtime middleweight champion took only his second loss — and the first that was decisive. All three blemishes on his career record are the results of his trilogy with Álvarez.

"I have a great plan," Golovkin said of his future. "I have a lot of appointments. Congrats today, Canelo. Congrats, fans. Remember, I'm still champion at 160. I come back, guys. I'm still champion."

After their first two fights resulted in a draw and a narrow majority-decision victory for Álvarez, the fighters finally met again four years later, again fighting just off the Las Vegas Strip, the site of all three meetings in the trilogy.

The 32-year-old Álvarez was a 5-to-1 favorite shortly before the opening bell, and he fought like it. Throwing far more punches and taking the initiative away from Golovkin, Canelo largely dominated the first half of the fight while a welt rose on Golovkin's right temple.

Golovkin had no discernible game plan against Canelo's bullying in the first eight rounds, instead absorbing Álvarez's blows and not launching enough of his own. Golovkin finally upped his work rate and made progress against a wearier Canelo in the late rounds, but it wasn't enough.

Army routs Villanova to give Monken landmark win

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Tyhier Tyler ran for three touchdowns, Tyson Riley added a career-high 158 yards rushing and Army returned to its running roots in beating Villanova 49-10 on Saturday, giving coach Jeff Monken a landmark victory.

A week after their first 300-yard passing game since 2007 in an overtime loss to UTSA, the Black Knights (1-2) ran for 472 yards in Monken's 59th win at Army, breaking a second-place tie with Charles Daly (1913-16, 1919-22). Red Blaik (1941-58) is the leader at 121.

"That doesn't have anything to do with me," Monken said of his move up the Black Knights' victory list. "It's these great players and the players that have played here in the last few years that I've been here. I'm very fortunate to be the coach at West Point. I love this place. It's incredible to be able to serve the Army and to serve this institution as the head coach and, you know, I hope there's a bunch more to come."

The Black Knights threw one pass, which was incomplete, while rushing for the most yards ever given up by the Wildcats.

Jakobi Buchanan, listed at 6-

feet, 260 pounds, rumbled 55 yards to help set up Tyler's 7-yard score in the first quarter. That was Buchanan's only carry as he left the game with a left knee injury.

Army is averaging 284.3 yards rushing in its three games and is ranked third nationally.

Villanova (2-1), ranked fifth in the FCS coaches poll, tied the game on Connor Watkins' 5-yard pass to Rayjuon Pringle. But Tyler went 23 yards before spinning into the end zone for a 14-7 lead and the Black Knights led the rest of the way.

Jabari Moore and Marquel

Broughton had first-half interceptions for Army (1-2) with Broughton's leading to Cade Ballard's 6-yard score and a 21-7 halftime lead.

Riley added a 70-yard TD run early in the second half. Tyrell Robinson made it 42-10 with a 73-yard punt return in the final quarter for his fifth career TD of 70 yards or more. The Black Knights are off next Saturday.

Army host Georgia State on Oct. 1. The Panthers are 0-3 after losing on Saturday to Charlotte, 42-41 when the 49ers scored the winning touchdown with 17 seconds left.

Washington stuns No. 11 Michigan State

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Kalen DeBoer knew no matter how well the transition had gone, this was the week that would validate — one way or another — what Washington had showed so far.

Behind a spectacular performance by Michael Penix Jr., the Huskies emphatically stated their case as a contender in the Pac-12 and maybe as a team worth some national recognition.

Penix threw for 397 yards and four touchdowns, and Washington (3-0) toppled No. 11 Michigan State 39-28 on Saturday night.

“We just beat a really good football team in my mind,” Huskies coach DeBoer said. “To get this win now is just going to continue to put the belief in our guys.”

Penix was terrific for three quarters in a primetime national showcase that showed DeBoer’s rebuild is progressing faster than expected. Washington led 29-8 at halftime and 36-14 after three quarters.

Having a star quarterback certainly helps.

“Every game that we’ve seen (Penix) he comes out with the same energy, comes out with the same leadership, mentality. It’s just it’s easy to follow someone like that,” Huskies running back Wayne Tualapapa said.

Appalachian State, 32, Troy 28: Chase Brice fired a 53-yard scoring strike to Christian Horn on the final play of the game and the host Mountaineers pulled out a victory in a Sun Belt Conference opener.

Brice drove Appalachian State (2-1) down the field before throwing incomplete on fourth-and-goal from the 2-yard line with 1:13 left in the game.

Appalachian State tackled Gunnar Watson on first down for a safety to get within 28-26 and took over at its own 47-yard line with 15 seconds left following the kickoff. Brice’s game-winning throw came on fourth-and-10.

No. 1 Georgia 48, South Carolina 7: Stetson Bennett went 16-for-23 for 284 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score as the No. 1 Bulldogs routed the host Gamecocks.

Georgia (3-0) nearly had a second shutout of the season in its Southeastern Conference opener, but the backups allowed a touchdown pass with 53 seconds to go.

No. 2 Alabama 63, Louisiana-Monroe 7: Bryce Young passed for three touchdowns and rushed for a fourth, Will Anderson Jr. scored on an interception return and the host Tide easily beat the Warhawks.

Alabama (3-0) scored on offense, defense and special teams in the first six minutes and raced to a 28-0 first-quarter lead. It was a whirlwind start against 49½-point underdog Louisiana-Monroe (1-2) a week after a much closer-than-expected victory over Texas cost the Tide the No. 1 ranking.

No. 3 Ohio State 77, Toledo 21: C.J. Stroud threw five touchdown passes and the host Buckeyes rolled up 762 yards on the way to a runaway victory over Toledo.

Ohio State (3-0) scored on all six of its first-half possessions, with Stroud completing 18 of 20 passes for 297 yards and a pair of touchdown passes each to Marvin Harrison Jr. and Julian Fleming on the way to a 42-14 lead.

No. 4 Michigan 59, Connecticut 0: Blake Corum rushed for a career-high four touchdowns in the first half and added a fifth score in the third quarter to match a school record, helping the host Wolverines rout the Huskies.

Michigan (3-0) led 38-0 at halftime before coasting in the second half. Connecticut (1-3) had just 64 yards of offense in the first half, had a punt blocked and gave up a punt return for a touchdown over the opening 30 minutes.

No. 6 Oklahoma 49, Nebraska 14: Dillon Gabriel threw for two touchdowns and ran for one, and the visiting Sooners hammered the Cornhuskers’ in Nebraska’s first game following the firing of Scott Frost.

The game was put on the schedule 10 years ago as the back end of a home-and-home series intended to celebrate what once was among college football’s greatest rivalries. Instead, it was further confirmation the Cornhuskers are just a shell of the program that decades ago battled the Sooners for conference titles year-in and year-out.

Oklahoma (3-0) posted its most lopsided victory over Nebraska (1-3) since a 45-10 win in 1990. The Sooners have won seven of eight against the Huskers.

No. 7 Southern California 45, Fresno State 17: Caleb Williams threw for 284 yards and two touchdowns and ran for two more scores, Travis Dye and Austin Jones each ran for more than 100 yards and the host Trojans rolled past the Bulldogs.

Williams completed 25 of 37 passes for USC, which has scored at least 45 points in each of the first three games under Lincoln Riley. Dye had his second straight 100-yard game with 102 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown while Jones had 12 carries for 110 yards and a score.

It is the first time since 2018 that USC (3-0) has had a pair of running backs reach the century mark in a game.

No. 10 Arkansas 38, Missouri State 27: Rocket Sanders and Bryce Stephens had long scoring plays in a 2:22 span of the fourth quarter to help the host Razorbacks beat the Bears and former Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino.

Sanders caught a shovel pass for a 73-yard touchdown scamper with 11:38 left and Stephens returned Missouri State’s ensuing punt 82 yards to give the Razorbacks (3-0) their first lead of the game at 31-27.

No. 25 Oregon 41, No. 12 BYU 20: Bo Nix threw for two touchdowns and ran for three more to lead the Ducks over the Cougars and extend Oregon’s home winning streak to 21 games — third-longest in the nation.

No. 14 Utah 35, San Diego State 7: Cam Rising threw for 224 yards and a career-high four touchdowns in three quarters to help the host Utes rout the Aztecs.

No. 16 N.C. State 27, Texas Tech 14: Aydan White returned one of his two interceptions 84 yards for a touchdown to lead a strong defensive effort that carried the host Wolfpack past the Red Raiders.

No. 18 Florida 31, South Florida 28: Trevor Etienne’s 3-yard touchdown run with 5 minutes remaining helped the host Gators rally to beat the Bulls. Spencer Shrader missed a 48-yard field goal with 23 seconds left for South Florida (1-2) that likely would have sent the game into overtime. Shrader had little chance at making the kick after Andrew Beardall dropped the snap while trying to get the ball down.

No. 19 Wake Forest 37, Liberty 36: Liberty scored with about a minute left but the host Demon Deacons stopped CJ Yarbrough’s two-point conversion attempt several yards short of the goal line for a tight home win.

No. 21 Texas 41, UTSA 20: Bijan Robinson ran for 183 yards and three touchdowns and Jahdae Barron returned an interception 44 yards for a score in the third quarter in the Longhorns’ win at home.

No. 22 Penn State 41, Auburn 12: Freshmen Nicholas Singleton and Kaytron Allen combined for 176 rushing yards and four touchdowns as the visiting Nittany Lions cruised past the Tigers.

Notre Dame 24, Cal 17: Drew Pyne passed for two touchdowns and 150 yards in his first career start and the host Fighting Irish overcame numerous mistakes to give coach Marcus Freeman his first victory.

Dodgers notch 10th 100-win season

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Trayce Thompson hit a two-run homer to back Julio Urías' 17th win, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants 7-2 on Saturday night to notch their 10th 100-win season in franchise history and fourth in six years.

Justin Turner hit a pair of RBI singles among his three hits a day after reaching a career-best 35 doubles for the season.

Urías (17-7) struck out eight with one walk over six innings and improved to 4-1 against San Francisco this season. He allowed two runs on five hits.

Los Angeles pounded 13 more hits after getting nine in the series opener and needed the fewest games to reach 100 wins since the 2001 Seattle Mariners.

Thompson connected for his 11th homer against Sean Hjelle, then the Dodgers hit five straight singles off Hjelle (0-2) to start the third inning before Thompson walked.

Guardians 5-7, Twins 1-6, (Game 2, 15 innings): Austin Hedges scored on an error by shortstop Jermaine Palacios in the 15th inning and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat visiting Minnesota for the eighth straight time in the second game of a doubleheader

Amed Rosario, who went 8-for-13 with six RBIs in the twinbill, hit a sharp grounder that Palacios mishandled with two outs. The ball skidded into the outfield, allowing Hedges to score from third and end the 5-hour, 24-minute marathon.

The Guardians, who have won nine of their last 10, opened a 4½-game lead over the Chicago White Sox and is seven games ahead of the third-place Twins.

The ninth Cleveland pitcher, Kirk McCarty (5-2), worked three innings for the win. Dereck Rodríguez (0-1) tossed 3⅓ innings after being recalled from Triple-A St. Paul between games.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 3: Raimel Tapia hit a three-run double, José Berríos pitched six innings to remain unbeaten against Baltimore, and host Toronto strengthened its position atop the AL wild card standings with a win.

George Springer had two hits and two RBIs, and Matt Chapman drove in a run and scored a run as the Blue Jays improved to 13-4 in September. They have won six of their last seven against the Orioles.

Toronto leads the wild card race ahead of Seattle and Tampa Bay.

Rays 5, Rangers 1: Taylor Walls homered and six Tampa Bay pitchers com-

bined on a six-hitter to beat visiting Texas.

The Rays remained ½ game behind Toronto for the top AL wild card. The Rays hold a 5½-game advantage over Baltimore, which is fourth in the race for the three wild cards.

Angels 2, Mariners 1: Shohei Ohtani pitched seven scoreless innings, drove in one run and scored another to help host Los Angeles beat Seattle.

The Mariners entered the four-game series tied for the top spot in the AL wild-card chase but are now two games behind Toronto and a half game in back of Tampa Bay. Seattle holds the final wild-card spot, five games ahead of Baltimore.

Ohtani (13-8) reached base twice in three at-bats, drove in his 89th run and lowered his ERA to 2.43 in 148 total innings. He gave up three hits with one walk and eight strikeouts, and now has 196 strikeouts on the season.

Mets 5, Pirates 1: Eduardo Escobar hit an early three-run homer and Chris Bassitt pitched six shutout innings for his 14th win as host New York topped Pittsburgh.

The Mets maintained their one-game lead in the NL East over the Atlanta Braves.

Pete Alonso drew a bases-loaded walk in the eighth for his 114th RBI, adding to his NL high. New York batters were hit by pitches four times, including Jeff McNeil twice.

Cardinals 5-1, Reds 1-0 Game 2 11 innings: Yadier Molina hit a two-run drive while Albert Pujols went hitless in his quest for 700 homers, and host St. Louis swept a doubleheader against Cincinnati.

Pujols started at first base in the opener and hit second for the first time this season. He went 0-for-3 with two walks in his first two plate appearances. The sold-out crowd of 46,678 loudly booed both walks. He pinch hit and struck out in the second game.

The Cardinals won the night game when Andrew Knizner scored on a throwing error by center fielder Nick Senzel, who was playing third base in a five-man infield.

Brewers 4, Yankees 1: Willy Adames hit a three-run shot for his 30th homer this season to back Brandon Woodruff as host Milwaukee topped New York.

The Yankees' Aaron Judge went 1-for-3 with a double and a walk to remain at 57 homers, four from tying Roger Maris' American League record of 61.

Athletics 8, Astros 5: Seth Brown homered and drove in four runs and Cole Irvin overcame a rocky start to help visiting Oak-

land beat Houston.

Tony Kemp had three hits and scored three runs as the Athletics won for the fourth time in 15 games this month, and snapped the Astros' six-game winning streak a day after Houston clinched a post-season berth.

Braves 4, Phillies 3: Ronald Acuña Jr. homered and drove in four runs off Aaron Nola and flashed some fancy defense in right field, lifting host Atlanta over Philadelphia.

The victory was dampened because Ozzie Albies broke his right pinky finger when sliding head-first into second base. He had just returned from an 81-game absence Friday because of a broken left foot.

Padres 2, Diamondbacks 0: Luis Campusano hit his first homer of the season, Joe Musgrove won for the second time in three months and visiting San Diego beat Arizona.

Campusano's solo shot capped a two-run fourth and Musgrove (10-7) gave up four hits in six innings before the bullpen took over.

Royals 9, Red Sox 0: Brady Singer pitched out of a bases-loaded, nobody-out jam in the third and finished with six shutout innings to lead visiting Kansas City over Boston. MJ Melendez and Vinnie Pasquantino had three hits apiece for the Royals; Melendez scored four runs and Pasquantino drove in three.

White Sox 4, Tigers 3 (11): Yoan Moncada hit a tiebreaking single in a two-run 11th inning to give visiting Chicago a win over Detroit.

With the score 2-2, Elvis Andrus reached on a bunt single leading off the 11th. Gregory Soto (2-9) failed to pick up the bunt on the left side of the mound as automatic runner Selby Zavala advanced to third.

Nationals 5, Marlins 3: Lane Thomas got things started with a leadoff homer for host Washington, which ended up with four solo shots in a win over Miami. The Nationals have the worst record in the majors and entered with an NL-low 122 homers — the AL's Detroit Tigers were at 91.

Rockies 3, Cubs 1: Charlie Blackmon hit a tiebreaking triple and scored in a two-run ninth, and Colorado earned a rare road win by beating Chicago.

Blackmon drove in pinch runner Garrett Hampson with a triple to the right-field corner against Adbert Alzolay (0-1) after C.J. Cron walked with one out. He scored on a single by Elias Díaz.