Esper eyes an ‘enduring’ presence for unit in Europe

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes
WASHINGTON — The Army’s 2nd Cavalry Regiment might retain an “enduring” presence in Eastern Europe even after the unit’s soldiers leave Germany, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Tuesday.

Esper said he is close to or has reached agreements with defense officials in several Eastern European nations to host rotations of American forces as the United States works to withdraw about 12,000 troops from Germany. In July, the defense secretary announced the plan to move troops out of Germany, saying the 2nd Cavalry Regiment — now the only brigade-sized U.S. ground combat unit stationed full time in Europe — would be relocated to the continental United States.

“Since that announcement, as well as the signing of the defense cooperation agreement with Poland, my recent meetings with defense ministers from Romania and Bulgaria, and correspondence received from Baltic states, there is now the real opportunity of keeping the 2nd Cavalry Regiment forward in some of these countries on an enduring basis,” Esper said in a speech at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank.

Esper’s initial force restructuring plan was announced July 29 as President Donald Trump ordered the Pentagon to remove troops from Germany, speeding up a long-planned review of the U.S. military footprint in Europe.

SEE EUROPE ON PAGE 5

Women on the watch

Women have been serving on Navy ships for a quarter-century, although the deck department — especially the bridge watch sections responsible for steering the ship and keeping a lookout for hazards — have remained a mainly male preserve.

That changed with USS Gerald R. Ford’s underway last month — all the deck department sailors assigned to the boatswain’s mates bridge watch teams were women. They call themselves the Iron 9.

“They did great. If there’s a grade higher than ‘A’, that’s what I’d give them,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Faeline Matthews, the boatswain’s mate who leads the team and whose job is to make sure the relatively young sailors in a bridge watch section are qualified to do the work. “I think it shows what we can do.”

While one of the Iron 9, Seaman Adriyanna Jones, thinks the group’s achievement will influence how female sailors are seen for years to come, she believes they also showed something about the deck department.

“They showed that we can do the job. Sometimes deck department is overlooked as an essential asset, but recently there’s been a lot more acknowledgement towards what we do,” she said.

SEE WOMEN ON PAGE 5
DETROIT — General Motors plans to spend $2 billion to convert its Spring Hill, Tenn., assembly plant into a third U.S. site to build future electric vehicles. The Detroit automaker also says it will spend another $1.53 million to upgrade five Michigan factories for future vehicles.

The company will build the Cadillac Lyriq, a small electric SUV, at the Spring Hill factory. Gasoline-powered Cadillac SUVs will continue to be built at the plant, but it will also get additional unspecified electric vehicles, GM said in a statement Tuesday.

“We’re investing in U.S. manufacturing to ensure that GM can build the vehicles that customers love today as well as transition to an all-electric future,” Gerald Johnson, GM’s executive vice president of global manufacturing, said during an online announcement. “We want to put everyone in an electric vehicle.”

The Lyriq is due in showrooms sometime late in 2022. GM also is expected to announce details of an all-electric GMC Hummer pickup truck this week. They’re among 20 electric models the company plans to sell globally by 2023.

The Spring Hill facility employs about 3,400 hourly workers who make the Cadillac XT5 and XT6 gas-powered SUVs as well as GM’s biggest in North America, also makes four engines that go into GM trucks and SUVs. Renovation of the plant will begin immediately, GM said.
Drunken behavior, gas theft lands chaplain in jail

By Jennifer H. Swan
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A series of bad decisions, from his wife for years, busted

The theft occurred when Wood, a Full Gospel chaplain, drove off from his wife for years, busted

US jets intercept Russian bombers off Alaskan coast for 14th time this year

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — F-22 Raptor stealth fighter jets scrambled late Monday to intercept Russian long-range bombers and fighters flying off Alaska’s coast, the North American Aerospace Defense Command said Tuesday.

The fighters intercepted a formation of two Tu-95 Bear bombers, two Su-35 Flanker fighter jets and an A-50 airborne early warning aircraft, according to a NORAD statement. The Russian aircraft never entered U.S. airspace, which extends 12 nautical miles from American shores.

NORAD said the aircraft flew within about 30 nautical miles of Alaskan shores and “footloose” within the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone for about 90 minutes. The zone is a stretch of mostly international airspace some 200 nautical miles off the Alaskan coast where American officials expect aircraft to identify themselves in the interest of national security.

“NORAD forces remain on alert 24/7/365 to respond to potential aerospace threats with the appropriate response at the right time,” the statement said.

The intercepts on Monday were categorized as routine. It was the 14th such incident off Alaska’s coast in 2020, said Air Force Capt. Cameron Hillier, a NORAD spokesman. He said NORAD has averaged about six or seven intercepts near Alaska since 2007, when Russia restarted its long-range aviation program.

In a statement Tuesday on Twitter, Russia’s military said the bomber formations flew the scheduled 12-hour training flight over “neutral waters of the seas of Bering, Okhotsk, as well as Chukchi and Beaufort seas.” It acknowledged they were intercepted by F-22s for a portion of the flights.

As just the U.S. regularly intercepts Russian aircraft near its borders, Russian aircraft intercept American flights near its airspace, including several in recent months.

In one such intercept in August, NATO said a Russian Su-27 fighter jet entered Danish airspace during an intercept of a U.S. B-52 bomber over the Baltic Sea. The U.S. also accused two Russian fighter jets of conducting an “unsafe and unprofessional” intercept of another B-52 in just over the Black Sea, flying within about 100 feet of the bomber.

Army rules Vanessa Guillen’s death as ‘in line of duty,’ grants benefits

By Heather Osbourne
Austin (Texas) American-Statesman

AUSTIN, Texas — Fort Hood officials on Tuesday said the family of U.S. Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen received word that the Army classified the soldier’s death as “in line of duty.” Army officials spoke with the Guillen family of Houston, saying the new classification would allow them to receive Army benefits on behalf of the 20-year-old who is thought to have been killed by a fellow soldier on post, Fort Hood officials said in a written statement.

Typically, those benefits include compensation to help the family with expenses, a funeral with full military honors, life insurance and final pay and allowances.

The Guillen family will not utilize the funeral offered to them by the Army, however, because the soldier was buried in August.

Guillen was last seen while working in a Fort Hood weapons room in April. Her dismembered remains were found a few months later near the Leon River in Bell County.

Investigators believe a fellow soldier, Spc. Aaron David Robinson, beat Guillen to death with a hammer in the early hours of April 22. Robinson fatally shot himself July 1 when local authorities confronted him off post, Killeen police said.

Authorities have accused Robi-

nson’s 22-year-old girlfriend, Cecily Aguilar of Killeen, of helping Robinson dismember, burn and bury Guillen’s body within 20 miles of the post. Aguilar has been charged in federal court with conspiracy to tamper with evidence.

The soldier’s family continuously called for a congressional investigation into Fort Hood’s handling of the case, saying Army officials failed to property search for the missing soldier, identify suspects or take allegations that Guillen was sexually harassed by fellow soldiers seriously.

While U.S. Army officials say no substantive evidence proves Guillen was sexually harassed, the family’s allegations led to the viral hashtag #IAmVanessaGuillen, which inspired former and active service members to share stories of sexual misconduct in the military.

Several investigations are ongoing at Fort Hood, looking into leadership and how they handle cases of missing soldiers and sexual assault claims.

The Guillen case reached the White House in July, when President Donald Trump invited the family to share their grievances with him in person.

Trump during the meeting promised resources to help look into the family’s complaints involving Guillen’s case and that of other slain soldiers.

He also offered to help pay for Guillen’s funeral expenses, but the family explained that the service and burial costs were already covered.

The family added that they did not want to have a military funeral, but one that honored the soldier’s personality and heritage.

The Guillen family instead held a private ceremony in their hometown of Houston.

The soldier was placed in a casket painted with her name, accompanied by an American flag, Mexico’s coat of arms and, to represent her favorite sport, a soccer ball.

Army officials on Tuesday said they remain in contact with the Guillen family to keep them informed of additional actions being taken at Fort Hood.
Gender integration study set for USMC boot camps

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY Stars and stripes

WASHINGTON — The University of Pittsburgh is conducting a study between the Marine Corps and the University of Pittsburgh to see how they can be adapted to the Marine Corps, he said.

The study will specifically address "the sociological effects of increased gender integration, and consider training models which maintain the same level of discipline, physical fitness, attention to detail, and camaraderie," according to the Marine Corps statement.

Last month, Marine Commandant Gen. David Berger said the Marine Corps faces two challenges with fully integrating the boot camps: finding enough female Marines to be drill instructors and infrastructure.

Parris Island has limited barracks space for women, and San Diego has none, so even getting women and men to train on both coasts immediately cannot happen, Berger said.

"It’s definitely not as simple as build a couple buildings, and we’ll be there," he said about infrastructure concerns at boot camps.

In the meantime, the Marine Corps will conduct its own study in the winter by sending a group of female drill instructors to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to see how the service can train female recruits at the base for the first time, Berger said last month.

Despite the challenges, Berger said in five years he would like to see as many companies as possible training platoons composed of men and women.

Senators seek to delay, study Army’s new fitness test

BY MISSY RYAN The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Democratic senators appealed Tuesday for the Army to delay its new fitness test, which was adjusted for the first time, a "leg tuck," which requires soldiers to lift themselves to a standing position.

The test, which was adjusted for age and gender and included pushups, pullups and a two-mile run.

Army officials say the test is a product of years of research and is designed to better prepare troops for conditions they would encounter in combat. It places a higher emphasis on muscular strength than the previous Army fitness test, which was adjusted for age and gender and included pushups, pullups and a two-mile run.

Officials have also said troops can do an alternate to the leg tuck, a two-minute plank, while the test is being finalized.

But some soldiers have privately voiced fears the test could make it even harder for the Army to secure personnel for high-demand fields like cyber and say the exercises aren’t relevant for gender-blind standards and integrate recruits in all levels of training, years at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

The Marine Corps wants "an independent, scientifically credible study of the models of entry-level military training to identify best practices," Bradley Nindl, a co-principal investigator and senior adviser for the study, said in a statement Tuesday.

The study is a $2 million contract between the Marine Corps and the University of Pittsburgh is conducting a study to help the Marines address gender integration at its two boot camps, the service announced Tuesday.

The test consists of six events, requiring soldiers to lift themselves to a standing position, lift an object to their chest, lift an object to their shoulders, do a sit-up, run a 2.25-mile course and perform a 12-minute stationary sit-up.

The test was piloted last year at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and the Marine Corps will conduct its own study in the winter by sending a group of female drill instructors to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to see how the service can train female recruits at the base for the first time, Berger said last month.

Despite the challenges, Berger said in five years he would like to see as many companies as possible training platoons composed of men and women.
NATO members’ military spending up for 6th year

**By John VanDiver**
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Military spending among the U.S.’s allies in Europe and Canada increased for the sixth consecutive year in 2020 as one-third of member states reached a key alliance benchmark, a NATO report released Wednesday said.

But Germany, which has been accused by President Donald Trump of not spending enough on defense, spent only 1.57% of gross domestic product on its military, the report said.

Germany’s defense spending was cited by Trump as a reason for issuing a directive to pull nearly 12,000 U.S. troops out of the country, although a plan to do so is still being developed by the Pentagon and it is unclear when a withdrawal would happen.

Ten of NATO’s 30 members were estimated to be spending at least 2% of their GDP on their militaries, up from only three in 2014, the report said.

“We expect this trend to continue,” NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters.

NATO members have been under intense pressure to ramp up defense spending by the Trump administration. It increased by 4.3% among European allies and Canada for the year, Stoltenberg said.

Collectively, NATO members including the U.S. spent roughly $1.03 trillion on defense for 2020, said the report, which was released a day ahead of a meeting of NATO defense ministers, including U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper, where spending will be on the agenda, Stoltenberg said.

In 2014, when allies agreed that all members would meet a 2% of GDP defense-spending target by 2024, only the U.S., Greece and the United Kingdom were in compliance. Now, NATO data shows Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, France and Norway meeting the target.

Trump has taken credit for an overall boost in allied defense spending in recent years, and Stoltenberg has praised the U.S. president for making it a priority. But the increases date back to 2014 when Russia’s military intervention in Ukraine led allies to reverse a downward trend in spending that began when the Cold War ended.

For some allies, especially those along NATO’s eastern flank, Moscow’s aggressive moves were a motivating factor in boosting expenditures.

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Europe: Pentagon plan to reorganize troops could face obstacles in Congress

From Front Page

Positioe of American forces throughout Europe.

While that initial plan called for returning the regiment’s 4,500 soldiers and 2,000 other troops to the United States, Esper said he would also work to position troops closer to Russian borders to better reassure allies closest to the rival nation.

“We need to move a little bit further east [because it helps us with the time [and] distance challenges, if you will, in case there is some type of really aggressive action by the Russians,” he said Tuesday.

Esper’s initial plan envisioned the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and other U.S.-based Stryker brigade combat teams conducting heal-to-toe rotations to train with NATO partners primarily in the Black Sea region. Now, Esper said he wants troops constantly training in those countries, as well as Poland and the Baltic states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He indicated Tuesday that the role could permanently belong to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, however Pentagon officials said later Tuesday that was not the current plan.

For now, the Pentagon is continuing with the plan to move the 2nd Cavalry Regiment to a new home station in the United States, said Army Lt. Col Thomas Campbell, a Pentagon spokesman. However, it remains unclear when the unit could leave its current home station in Vilseck, Germany, or where it will be stationed.

“The planning process for the projected moves continues, which includes consultations with our allies and partners in the region, as well as members of Congress,” Campbell said.

The Pentagon’s plan to reorganize troops in Europe could face obstacles in Congress, where some Democrats and Republicans have questioned the move. The House-passed version of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act includes a provision that would halt the withdrawal of forces from Germany. The Senate-passed version of the same bill, which sets annual Pentagon policy and spending priorities, does not include such language. The two versions of the NDAA have not yet been reconciled, so it remains unclear if the final version will address the issue.

In a House Armed Services Committee hearing last month to examine the plans, Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., said Pentagon officials had not been transparent about their planning. Smith, the committee’s chairman, added he did not think Esper’s plan was particularly well thought out.

Esper has long defended the plan, which Trump said was in retaliation for what the president has characterized as insufficient defense spending by Germany.

On Tuesday, Esper called on NATO countries to spend more money on defense. In 2014, the alliance’s nations set a target for each to spend at least 2% of their gross domestic product on their own defenses by 2024. To date, only 10 countries have reached that objective.

“We have a lot more work to do,” Esper said. “We need countries to contribute more, and not because it’s some arbitrary threshold. I think it’s a solid floor upon which to build upon, because if you have that capability … we will deter conflict [with Russia] and we won’t have to worry about the things that we concern ourselves about right now.”

FROM FRONT PAGE

Women: Ford’s bridge watch team is all female

How necessary we are to the ship.

What a bridge watch section does requires concentration and focus.

At the helm, a post that on the Ford combines as he helps coordinate and respond to what navigators, the engine room and sailors on radar lookout do on other carriers, a sailor has two screens, with dials displaying the Ford’s current direction and trim.

Keeping a 100,000 ton carrier capable of 30 knots on course can be a strain, which is why the drill is for the helm, the bridge messenger and the three lookouts in the section to spell each other. They rotate every hour through the watch.

Not that being a lookout is stress-free. The job traditionally been mostly male.”

“I think it sends a great signal to the Ford, and to the whole Navy,” he said. “The deck department’s workday has been mostly male.”

He’s got high hopes for the Iron 9. “It’s basically OJT (on the job training),” he said. “They have specific things they have to do and get checked off on … then BM2 Matthews tests them to be sure they’ve got it.”

And, as far as he’s concerned, Matthews and the Iron 9 are the future of the Navy.

“These boatswain’s mates have the best work ethic I’ve ever seen in my career,” he said. “I can easily see some of these sailors commissioning during their time in the Navy. The sky’s the limit for this crew.”

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By Steve Beynon
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thousands of Tricare beneficiaries will be required to pay new enrollment fees in 2022.

The Department of Defense announced Tuesday that Tricare Select Group A retirees will be required to pay new fees starting Jan. 1, 2022. An individual’s monthly enrollment fee will be $12.90 or $15.00 annually.

Monthly family fees will be $25 or $300 annually.

There are 407,431 beneficiaries of Tricare Select, according to 2019 data from the Defense Department.

The new fees were mandated by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act’s reorganization of Tricare, the health care program for service members, retirees and their families.

Any service member who joined the military before Jan. 1, 2018, is in Select Group A. Select Group B are those who enlisted or commissioned after Jan. 1, 2018, and have already been paying enrollment fees. The Defense Health Agency said there are no changes to Group B.

Beneficiaries will need to contact their Tricare regional contractors and set up their enrollment payments.

The Tricare regions are: Humana Military in the eastern United States, Health Net Federal Services in the west, and International SOS Government Services oversees.

“In order to maintain health coverage unless waived by law, Tricare Select Group A retired beneficiaries must take action and pay their Tricare Select enrollment fees,” according to a statement from the Defense Health Agency, which oversees health care for the military.

However, enrollment fees are waived for Chapter 61 retirees, their family and survivors of deceased service members.

Chapter 61 refers to veterans who were medically retired from military service with a rated disability of 30% or greater, according to the Army’s Human Resources Command.

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Space Force swears in its first recruits

By Steve Beynon
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The first seven recruits for Space Force, the military’s newest service branch, were sworn in Tuesday by Gen. David Thompson, the vice chief of space operations.

Space Force has roughly 2,000 “space professionals” serving.

Until now, all the branch’s members were transfers from the Air Force. This new batch of recruits are the first service members to enlist directly into Space Force.

“Today is an important milestone as we stand up the Space Force,” Thompson said in a statement. “Until now, we’ve been focused on building our initial ranks with transfers from the Air Force. With these new recruits, we begin to look to the future of our force by bringing in the right people directly to realize our aspirations of building a tech-savvy service that’s reflective of the nation we serve.”

The new recruits all hold the IC6 military occupation specialty — space systems operations, according to Lynn Kirby, a Space Force spokeswoman.

The job focuses on detecting sea-launched ballistic missiles and tracking satellites to assisting in rocket launches and space flight operations.

“Space Force leadership has previously stated diversity among its ranks is one of its priorities in standing up the new service,” according to a service statement.

Among the recruits, two are women and five are men, and two are Black and five are white. They are from Colorado, Maryland, and Virginia, and range in age from 18 to 31.

All seven are bound for seven and a half weeks of basic training at Air Force basic training, which is located at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

There are no Space Force recruiting stations yet. Kirby said the Air Force is recruiting for both branches. Space Force hopes to recruit 300 enlisted service members in 2021 and have 6,500 members overall in a year.

Most will come from Air Force transfers.

“We’re excited to see this happen,” said Chief Master Sgt. Roger A. Towberman, senior enlisted adviser for Space Force.

“The Air Force team at basic military training has been outstanding and deserves most of the credit for making this happen quickly. To watch these first Space Force recruits take their oath for the first time is something I will never forget. They are the future, and it’s incredible to be in their service!”

Super Hornet pilot ejets safely as jet crashes in Calif.

By Caitlin M. Kenney
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A fighter pilot ejected safely Tuesday as the F/A-18E Super Hornet he was flying crashed in California, officials said.

The pilot was able to eject safely and was taken to a local medical facility to be examined, Harrell said. Navy and local authorities are investigating the incident.

No other information was provided Tuesday by the Navy regarding the condition of the pilot, the pilot’s unit, or what caused the “mishap.”

In June, two aviators from the “Black Knights” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 154 from Naval Air Station Lemoore were flying an F/A-18F Super Hornet for routine pilot proficiency training when they had to eject over the Philippine Sea. The aviators were assigned to the carrier wing on the USS Theodore Roosevelt at the time of the incident.

NAS Lemoore is located about 37 miles south of Fresno and is home to the Navy’s Strike Fighter Wing Pacific that supports its Pacific Fleet, according to the base’s website.

NASW China Lake supports the Navy’s research, testing, and evaluation missions, according to the website.

The Hubertus, Wis., native was in Georgia for routine training at Hunter Army Airfield, the 2nd ID said.

Brigade commander Col. Aaron Mulder said the “Talon team” has been working hard to prepare the 2nd Infantry Division since November 2018.

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Brigade commander Col. Aaron Mulder said the “Talon team” was deeply saddened by the loss of our friends and teammates and expressed deepest condolences to his friends and loved ones.

“It was an honor to serve with a trusted professional like Craig. During his time here, he served with distinction. Craig’s ability to brighten someone’s day with a joke was unparalleled,” Martin said.

“He was an optimist who believed in constantly moving forward. His efforts will have a lasting impact on the soldiers he served with, instructed and trained, and our operations in Korea,” Martin added.

Mulder completed two deployments to Iraq.

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Soldier dies while in training

By Kim Gamel
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korea-based American soldier died while being responsive in the water off a beach in Georgia where he was participating in routine aviation training, the military said Wednesday.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Craig W. Mulder, 39, was found in the water Sunday at Tybee Island and later pronounced dead by the Chatham County coroner, according to a press release.

“The case remains under investigation, but all indications are that he drowned,” a Army spokesman Lt. Col. Mary C. Crichton told Stars and Stripes.

Mulder, a native of the Longbow pilot stationed at Camp Humphreys, had been with the 2nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division since November 2018.

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MILITARY
Marines, sailors home after helping quell Calif. wildfires

BY WYATT OLSON  Stars and Stripes

The roughly 250 Marines and sailors who spent the past month assisting wildfire firefighting operations in California returned to Camp Pendleton on Tuesday, the U.S. Army said in a news release.

The troops, from the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, helped suppress the Creek Fire in Central California and the August Complex in Northern California. Their mission began Sept. 21.

The battalion was one of two active-duty units that trained to become wildland firefighters this fire season, the Army said. The 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion from Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash., supported efforts to combat the August Complex from Joint Base Lewis-McCord.

The roughly 250 Marines and sailors learned and adapted quickly to wildland firefighting while maintaining their crew’s safety in the midst of August season wildfires, the Army said.

Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commander of U.S. Army North, said in the news release, “I am so very proud of the young men and women who supported our local, state, and federal partners during this record-breaking wildland fire season.”

The 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act excluded hemp products from the definition of marijuana, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

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Kadena says another base worker has tested positive for coronavirus

**BY JOSEPH DITZLER AND AYA ICHIHASHI**

**Stars and Stripes**

TOKYO — A food-service worker at Kadena Air Base has tested positive for the coronavirus, the third case this month involving a base employee, the installation announced Wednesday.

Okinawa prefecture confirmed the report, but a public health official declined to provide further information.

The employee worked at the Kazoku Place restaurant inside Rocker Enlisted Club and contracted the virus from a family member who also tested positive, according to a Facebook post by Kadena.

Four close contacts of the employee were also quarantined, and the Rocker was closed for deep cleaning, the post said. The Rocker and Kazoku Place restaurant will reopen at 6 a.m. Thursday.

The employee complied with all standard prevention measures “to include proper handwashing and mask wear while at work,” according to Kadena. The base referred to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which states that no evidence exists to show people can get the virus by eating or handling food.

“An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting from 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person has any symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19,” the Kadena post said. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The infected employee “did not work the two days prior to symptom onset,” according to Kadena.

Two other base employees, both Japanese civilians, tested positive on Oct. 10 and 13. The first, a man in his 50s from Okinawa city, works at the base arts and crafts shop, the second, a man in his 40s from Naha city, works at the base Pizza Hut. Neither had contact with customers, the base said in earlier statements.

Kadena announced four other cases on Monday, all members of the same family that arrived Oct. 3. They tested positive over the weekend in a test required by U.S. Forces Japan prior to exiting quarantine. The four had been isolated since their arrival in Japan, the base reported.

Okinawa prefecture reported one death and 37 new cases Wednesday, which brought the pandemic total to 3,013 cases, according to the public health official.

In southern Japan, Sasebo Naval Base on Wednesday announced it cleared three people of the virus, leaving the base with one active case.

The base commander, Capt. David Adams, on Oct. 7 reimposed tight travel restrictions as four, and ultimately five, new cases appeared at Sasebo. He lifted those restrictions four days later, in time for his command to take advantage of the Columbus Day holiday.

USFJ now has about 20 active coronavirus cases at any one time, Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Vinegardner Jr. said during a Facebook Live question-and-answer session with American Forces Network on Wednesday.

“We’re doing really, really well,” he said from Yokota Air Base, USFJ headquarters in western Tokyo.

In response to questions, Vinegardner said local resources and a way to help a lot of election officials fill some of the gaps that may have,” Hofland said, noting that guardsmen also have provided an “extra layer of support” on cybersecurity in many states.
NATION

Trump tends to his electoral map. Biden eyes Obama boost

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is hoping from one must-win stop on the electoral map to the next in the leadup to a final presidential debate that marks his last, best chance to alter the trajectory of the 2020 campaign.

As Democrat Joe Biden hunkers down for debate prep in advance of Thursday's faceoff in Nashville, Tenn., he's hoping for a boost from former President Barack Obama, who will be holding his first in-person campaign event for Biden on Wednesday in Philadelphia. Obama, who has become increasingly critical of Trump over the three-and-a-half years since he left office, will address a drive-in rally, where supporters will listen to him over the radio inside their cars.

It comes a day after Trump, trailing in polls in many battleground states, stopped in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. Trump was bound for North Carolina on Wednesday as he delivers what his campaign sees as his closing message:

"This is an election between a Trump super recovery and a Biden depression," the president said in Erie, Pa. "You will have a depression the likes of which you have never seen." He added: "If you want depression, doom and despair, vote for Sleepy Joe. And boredom.

But the Republican president's pitch that he should lead the rebuilding of an economy ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic has been overshadowed by a series of fights. In the last two days, he has attacked the nation's leading infectious disease expert and has a lingering cough and would not say if he would be vaccinated before leaving the White House.

Before leaving the White House for Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Trump taped part of an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired after he lost the election to Biden. The interview did not come from federal lands. The vast majority of oil and gas does not come from federal lands.

Trump, who spoke for less than an hour, showed the crowd a video of various Biden comments on fracking in a bid to portray the Democrat as opposed to the process. The issue is critical in a state that is the second leading producer of natural gas in the country. Biden's actual position is that he would ban new gas and oil permits, including for fracking, on federal lands only. The vast majority of oil and gas does not come from federal lands.

The justices on Monday provided no explanation for Katrina痈's ruling. They remanded the case to the appeals court for Bush's cause in 2000, Roberts said, "but they are likely not the requisite five votes to upend a federal appeals court order that has blocked a six-day extension of the time to receive and count absentee ballots in Wisconsin. That case is pending at the Supreme Court. The court's conservatives, Roberts included, have regularly sided with state officials who object when a federal court relieves election rules, even if the changes arise from the coronavirus pandemic."

At the same time, the Supreme Court generally won't disturb state court rulings that are rooted in state law. But civil rights lawyers and election law experts said the voter access questions the court could address and the controversy they could create:

"One more vote, provided by a hard-right, Trump-nominated justice, could be the difference between voting rights and voting suppression," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Tuesday.

President Donald Trump has already signaled that one reason for Barrett's speedy nomination, just eight days after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, was to have her confirmed and installed on the court in time for any election lawsuit that might reach the justices.

The last time that happened was in 2000, when the court effectively decided the presidential election in favor of George W. Bush by a 5-4 vote.

If nothing else, the split vote Monday strongly suggested there would not be the requisite five votes to upend a federal appeals court order that has blocked a six-day extension of the time to receive and count absentee ballots in Wisconsin. That case is pending at the Supreme Court. The court's conservatives, Roberts included, have regularly sided with state officials who object when a federal court relieves election rules, even if the changes arise from the coronavirus pandemic.

At the same time, the Supreme Court generally won't disturb state court rulings that are rooted in state law. But civil rights lawyers and election law experts said the vote in the Pennsylvania case indicates that at least four conserva tives may be willing to look at state court election-related decisions in a way that calls to mind Bush v. Gore.

Pennsylvania Republicans relied in part on an opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas and two other conservative justices in Bush v. Gore to argue that the Supreme Court should get involved in the case because the state court had improperly taken powers given by the U.S. Constitution to state lawmakers when it conducted a presidential election.

The court ruled for Bush on other grounds, that ballots were being handled differently across the state in violation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

"Based on Judge Barrett's record, there is every reason to believe that she would have been a Bush vote in favor of the Supreme Court upstressing its bounds and interfering with a non-federal issue that would have jeopardized voter access," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The group opposes Barrett's confirmation.

The justices on Monday provided no written explanation of their votes, so it is impossible to say exactly why Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Thomas would have granted the Republican request or why the other half of the shorthanded court didn't.

The Supreme Court has never cited Bush v. Gore in an opinion of the court, and in its unsigned majority opinion the court wrote:

"Our consideration is limited to the present circumstances."

But two lawyers who worked for Bush's case in 2000, Robert and Kavanaugh, now sit on the court. And they soon could be joined by a third, Barrett.

Democrats: Justices' 4-4 tie in election case is ominous sign

By MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON — With Amy Coney Barrett expected to join the Supreme Court as early as next week, the court's action in a Pennsylvania voting case has heightened fears among Democrats about the court being asked to decide a post-election dispute over the first Trump-Biden encounter last month.

This time, Trump and Biden each will have their microphone cut off while their rival delivers an opening two-minute answer to each of the six debate topics, the commission announced. The mute button won't figure in the open discussion portion of the debate.

Trump was to have been joined in Erie by first lady Melania Trump, in what would have been her first public appearance since she and the president were sickened with COVID-19. But her chief of staff, Stephanie Grisham, said Tuesday that Mrs. Trump has a lingering cough and would not accompany the president.

As Trump was on the road, Biden was meeting at his lakeside home in Wilmington, Del., with senior adviser Ron Klain, who is in charge of debate preparation. Also on hand was a group of aides that the campaign has purposely kept small to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

Associated Press

A worker processes mail-in ballots at the Bucks County Board of Elections office prior to the primary election in Doylestown, Pa.
Parents of 545 kids separated at border still can’t be found

By Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Court-appointed lawyers said Tuesday that they have been unable to find parents of 545 children who were separated at the U.S. border with Mexico early in the Trump administration.

The children were separated between July 1, 2017, and June 26, 2018, when a federal judge in San Diego ordered that children in government custody be reunified with their parents.

Children from that period are difficult to find because the government had inadequate tracking systems. Volunteers have searched for them and their parents by going door-to-door in Guatemala and Honduras.

More than 2,700 children were separated from their parents in June 2018 when U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw ordered an end to the practice under a “zero-tolerance” policy to criminally prosecute every adult who entered the country illegally from Mexico. The administration sparked an international outcry when parents couldn’t find their children.

While those families were reunited under court order, authorities later discovered that up to 1,556 children were separated under the policy going back to the summer of 2017, including hundreds during an initial run at family separation in El Paso, Texas, from July to November 2017 that was not publicly disclosed at the time.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which sued over the practice, said a court-appointed steering committee located parents of 485 children, up 47 from August. That leaves 545 still unaccounted for among the 1,030 children for whom the steering committee had telephone numbers from U.S. authorities.

About two-thirds of parents of those 545 children are believed to be in their countries of origin, the ACLU said.

Volunteers have “engaged in time-consuming and arduous on-the-ground searches for parents in their respective countries of origin,” the ACLU said in a court filing. Those searches were suspended after the coronavirus outbreak but have resumed in a limited way.

The steering committee has also promoted toll-free phone numbers in Spanish to reach families.

The judge has scheduled a hearing on Thursday to discuss status of reunification efforts.

Spacecraft grabs rubble from asteroid

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA spacecraft descended to an asteroid Tuesday and, dodging boulders the size of buildings, momentarily touched the surface to collect a handful of cosmic rubble for return to Earth.

It was a first for the United States — only Japan has scored asteroid samples.

“Touchdown declared,” a flight controller announced to cheers and applause.

“Sampling is in progress.”

Confirmation came from the Osiris-Rex spacecraft as it made contact with the surface of the asteroid Bennu more than 200 million miles away. But it could be a week before scientists know how much, if much of anything, was grabbed and whether another try will be needed. If successful, Osiris-Rex will return the samples in 2023.

“I can’t believe we actually pulled this off,” said lead scientist Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona. “The spacecraft did everything it was supposed to do.”

Osiris-Rex took 4½ hours to make its way down from its tight orbit around Bennu, following commands sent well in advance by ground controllers near Denver.

Bennu’s gravity was too low for the spacecraft to land — the asteroid is just 1,670 feet across. As a result, it had to reach out with its 11-foot robot arm and attempt to grab at least 2 ounces of Bennu.

Tuesday’s operation was considered the most harrowing part of the mission, which began with a launch from Cape Canaveral in 2016.

A van-sized spacecraft with an Egyptian-inspired name, Osiris-Rex aimed for a spot equivalent to a few parking spaces on Earth in the middle of the asteroid’s Nightingale Crater. After nearly two years orbiting the boulder-packed Bennu, the spacecraft found this location to have the biggest patch of particles small enough to be swallowed up.

The spacecraft was programmed to shoot out pressurized nitrogen gas to stir up the surface, then suck up any loose pebbles or dust, before backing away.

By the time flight controllers heard back from Osiris-Rex, the action already happened 18½ minutes earlier, the time it takes radio signals to travel each way between Bennu and Earth.

“We’re going to be looking at a whole series of images as we descended down to the surface, made contact, fired that gas bottle, and I really want to know how that surface responded,” Lauretta said. “We haven’t done this before, so this is new territory for us.”

Pictures taken during the operation will give team members a general idea of the amount of loot; they will put the spacecraft through a series of spins Saturday for a more accurate measure.

Osiris-Rex could make two more touch-and-go maneuvers if Tuesday’s sample comes up short. Regardless of how many tries it takes, the samples won’t return to Earth until 2023 to close out the $800-plus million quest. The sample capsule will parachute into the Utah desert.

10th hurricane of busy season moves toward Bermuda

MIAMI — Hurricane Epsilon, the 10th of this very busy Atlantic season, was moving toward Bermuda on Wednesday.

Epsilon is expected to make its closest approach to the island on Thursday night, and there is a risk of a direct impact, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

A tropical storm watch is in effect for Bermuda and residents have been urged to closely monitor the storm.

Large swells generated by Epsilon are already affecting Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, and the Leeward Islands, and are expected to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions along the coast of New England and Atlantic Canada during the next couple of days.

The Miami-based hurricane center said Epsilon had maximum sustained winds of 85 mph Wednesday morning. The storm was located about 450 miles east-south-east of Bermuda, and was moving north-west at 14 mph.

This year’s hurricane season has had so many storms that the Hurricane Center has turned to the Greek alphabet for storm names after running out of official names.

Epsilon also represents a record for the 10th hurricane of the season.
McConnell still resistant as relief talks inch ahead

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Negotiations on a huge COVID-19 relief bill have taken a modest step forward, though time is running out and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the announced leader of Donald Trump's most powerful Senate ally, is pressing the White House not to move ahead.

McConnell told fellow Republicans that he has warned the White House not to divide Republicans by sealing a bipartisan, $2 trillion relief deal with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi before the election — even as he publicly said he'd slate any such agreement for a vote.

 Pelosi's office said talks with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin on Tuesday were productive, but other veteran lawmakers said there is still too much work to do and not enough time to do it to enact a relief bill by Election Day.

McConnell appears worried that an agreement between Pelosi and Mnuchin would drive a wedge between Republicans, forcing them to choose whether to support a Pelosi-blessed deal with Trump that would violate conservative positions they've stuck with for months.

California

SACRAMENTO — California will let fans back into outdoor stadiums for pro sports games this weekend, counties with low coronavirus infection rates, but isn't ready to allow Disneyland and other major theme parks to reopen, the state’s top health official said Tuesday.

San Francisco and neighboring Alameda and Santa Clara are the only counties that meet the threshold for pro sports. Immediately after the announcement, however, officials in Santa Clara, home to the San Francisco 49ers, issued a statement saying they weren't prepared to allow even a limited number of fans into Levi's Stadium.

San Francisco officials are reluctant to blame restrictions on the size of public gatherings on changing patient counts, but also was "reckless."

Fat Katz Food and Drink restaurant in Richland related the state’s emergency order, their own equipment not only violated the charges.

New York City Transit Interim President Sarah Feinberg, right, hands out pink masks to people on a subway to draw attention to Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Tuesday in New York.

New Hampshire

CONCORD — The attorney general’s office has fined a New Hampshire restaurant where at least 18 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in an outbreak.

Fat Katz Food and Drink restaurant has been fined $2,000 for violating emergency orders related to the coronavirus after it moved a karaoke event. The Hudson restaurant told authorities that it moved the event inside after receiving noise complaints and due to colder weather.

In issuing the fine, the state in a letter to the restaurant said the decision to move the event inside after being told it wasn’t allowed indoors and allowing individuals to participate without bringing their own equipment not only violated the state’s emergency order, but also was "reckless."

The new higher education guidelines now require the colleges to provide isolation and quarantine facilities for Greek system houses, communal off-campus homes, and students and workers who live on campus if they don’t have a place to go.

The loans added up to about $1.1 million, prosecutors said. Each defendant faces up to 30 years in federal prison if convicted.

Carpenter's lawyer, Arthur Horne, said Tuesday that he was gathering information about the case but his client plans to fight the charges.

Washington

SEATTLE — Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee will now require colleges and universities to provide quarantine facilities for all students if they are exposed to COVID-19.

The governor on Tuesday issued more restrictions for higher education campuses as the University of Washington struggles to contain an outbreak among its fraternities and sororities. There have been outbreaks in Whitman County, home of Washington State University, as well.

Also Tuesday, state health officials warned of an upcoming “fall surge” in coronavirus infections, noting that western Washington counties are hitting near or above previous peaks in the rate of infections.

The new health guidelines now require the colleges to provide isolation and quarantine facilities for Greek system houses, communal off-campus homes, and students and workers who live on campus if they don’t have a place to go.

Washington state colleges without dorms or residential facilities must create a plan on how to address student and staff needs for isolation and quarantine in the event that they are exposed.
The settlement does not include jail time for top executives or the owners, the wealthy Sackler family. But the resolution does not mean any executives or the Sacklers are immune to potential future criminal charges, according to the Justice Department.

The $8.3 billion global settlement includes a criminal fine of $3.544 billion, criminal forfeiture of $2 billion and a civil settlement of $2.8 billion. The Sackler family separately agreed to pay $225 million in damages to resolve a civil False Claims Act case.

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes
WASHINGTON — White employees who applied for management positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs were promoted at twice the rate of Black workers, according to VA data released last week.

Of the Black employees who applied for promotions, 2.5% were selected in 2019 and 2020. White workers were selected at nearly twice that rate: 4.7% in 2019 and 4.4% so far in 2020. The data was obtained by the American Federation of Government Employees, a union representing hundreds of thousands of VA workers.

AFGE and the VA have sparred in recent months over the agency’s treatment of Black workers, and the union claims this latest data points to an underlying bias at the VA against Black employees.

“These troubling statistics … validate the complaints our members have shared regarding the systemic racism they face every day while simply trying to serve our nation’s veterans and war heroes,” said Everett Kelley, the national president of AFGE.

Taylor was shot five times and died at the scene. A grand jury last month charged a third officer who also fired his gun with endangering Taylor’s neighbors, but none of the three were charged in Taylor’s death.

Mattingly, 44, said the protests and media reports that followed the shooting unfairly compared Taylor’s death to the slaying of George Floyd in Minnesota and Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia.

“It’s not a race thing like people wanna try to make it to be. It’s not,” he said. “This is not us going, hunting somebody down. This is not kneeing on a neck. It’s nothing like that.”
LAGOS, Nigeria — Nigerian protesters demanding an end to police brutality defied a curfew as gunfire rang out where they were setting up a blockade Wednesday, a day after shots were fired into a crowd of demonstrators singing the country’s national anthem.

That disturbing turn drew global outrage.

It’s not clear if any protesters were killed in Tuesday night’s shooting at the Lekki toll plaza in the West African country’s sprawling commercial capital. Lagos’ governor said more than 20 were injured but no one was killed, but Amnesty International had earlier said there were fatalities and that it had “credible but disturbing evidence” that security forces were responsible.

Police fired tear gas at one point, and smoke could be seen billowing from several areas in the city’s center. Two private TV stations were forced off the air at least temporarily as their offices were burned.

Demonstrations and gunfire were also reported in several other Nigerian cities, including the capital city, Abuja.

Young people have taken to the streets for more than two weeks after anger over heavy-handed policing flared in response to a video of a man being beaten, apparently by officers with the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, known as SARS.

In response to the #EndSARS movement, the government announced it would disband the unit. But that has failed to satisfy demonstrators, who are now demanding more widespread reforms to end human rights abuses committed by security forces and pervasive government corruption.

Gunfire erupts as Nigerians protest

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 11 women were trampled to death when a stampede broke out Wednesday among thousands of Afghans waiting in a soccer stadium to get visas to leave the country, officials said. Attaullah Khogyani, the spokesman for the governor of the eastern Nangarhar province, said another 13 people, mostly women, were injured at the stadium, where they were trying to get visas to enter neighboring Pakistan.

It was the deadliest attack since the Taliban and the Afghan government began holding long-delayed peace talks last month, part of a process launched under a deal signed between the United States and the insurgents in February. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, speaking to Parliament, asked “why are the Taliban killing Afghans?”

He said the Taliban still believe in a “false narrative of conquest” following a spate of recent attacks, especially in Helmand province. The Pakistani Consulate in Nangarhar was closed for almost eight months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Anticipating a large crowd, officials decided to use the stadium and assigned 320 staffers to help manage the process, Khogyani said.

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FL

TALLAHASSEE — Flying squirrels were being trapped in Florida, driven to Chicago and shipped to South Korea, Florida wildlife officials said while announcing charges against seven people they say ran an illegal wildlife trafficking operation.

Poachers captured as many as 3,600 flying squirrels over a three-year period. They sold the squirrels to a licensed wildlife dealer who claimed they were bred in captivity, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said. Flying squirrels are a protected species.

The seven people charged face a total of 25 felonies, including racketeering, money laundering and scheming to defraud.

Agency: Flying squirrels illegally shipped to Asia

IA

DUBUQUE — A Dubuque man faces charges after police say he bit off the nose of another man during a fight.

Blayre Ward, 24, of Dubuque was arrested on suspicion of willful injury, assault causing injury, harassment and other counts, the Telegraph Herald reported.

Police documents said Ward and another man fought with Scott Plumley, 44, of Dubuque and that Ward bit Plumley’s nose, “biting the majority of it off.” Plumley was taken by ambulance to a local hospital and later transported to an Iowa City hospital for specialized surgery to reconstruct his nose.

Man accused of biting off nose of another man

SC

KIawah ISland — Volunteers checking sea turtle nests on a South Carolina beach came upon a rare sight: a white sea turtle hatching crawling across the sand.

The town of Kiawah Island posted on its Facebook page that the Flying Squirrel Turtle Project had found a lone white baby sea turtle. Photos show a tiny turtle that’s a creamy white color rather than the more typical gray or green of a sea turtle.

The Olive Ridley Project, a sea turtle conservation group, said sea turtles with the genetic condition called leucism typically have a hard time surviving because of a lack of camouflage.

Rare white sea turtle found on beach

Follow the tentacled road

Dylan Kassner, 5, rides his bike on the newly painted Haulover Beach Park Skate Park and Pump Track in Miami Beach, Fla. The mural by artist Roy Jaffet resembles octopus tentacles, and was commissioned by “SkateSafe,” a program of the KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Health System.

THE CENSUS

$75K

The approximate worth of two Australian lace monitor lizards that were recovered after being stolen last year. The Long Beach, Calif., Police Department said that the lizards were stolen from JTK Reptiles in Long Beach in November, The Los Angeles Times reported. Police tracked the lizards, which can grow to be more than 6 feet long, to a Panorama City house. Jose Luis Macias Jr., 30, and Kassandra Marie Duevas, 27, were arrested and charged with second-degree robbery. Department spokesman Brandon Fahey declined to say how detectives found the reptiles.

Police find more than 200 animals in home

Nevada and left behind the rest of the animal.

Brayden Norton of Washington, Utah, was arrested in May 2019 after new information developed in the killing of the deer near Caliente in November 2016, Nevada Department of Wildlife officials said.

Norton pleaded guilty in Lincoln County to unlawful possession of big game and wasting edible portions of a deer.

In addition to the fine, he must complete 290 hours of community service and 12 months probation.

Police find more than 200 animals in home

Welcome to your local nation’s capital.

Today’s edition of Stars and Stripes features:

Follow the tentacled road

Dylan Kassner, 5, rides his bike on the newly painted Haulover Beach Park Skate Park and Pump Track in Miami Beach, Fla. The mural by artist Roy Jaffet resembles octopus tentacles, and was commissioned by “SkateSafe,” a program of the KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Health System.

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Packing the court would destroy it

By Kathleen Parker
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Court-packing is suddenly all the rage these days. In the wake of the Garland pick went nowhere.

Wait, wait, I know. Yes, of course, it’s hypocritical for Republicans to argue then that the next president should choose Justice Antonin Scalia’s replacement to and more balanced. Theorically, it’s all that made the Garland pick go nowhere.

When it comes down to it, Republicans want to pack the court in the expectation that a liberal-dominated Supreme Court will act against the decision of the Republican Congress. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at omбудсман@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.826.0003.

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OMBUDSMAN

Enrie Gates

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The Stars and Stripes Ombudsman is director of Army Emergency Relief. Retired Lt. Gen. Jack Klippenstein is commander of the Military Assistance Society. Special to Stars and Stripes

By Raymond Mason, Jack Klippenstein, and Kaelen Thomas

TROOPS HAVE KEY ALLIES WHEN NATURAL DISASTERS STRIKE

By Raymond Mason, Jack Klippenstein, and Kaelen Thomas

B y now, we’re all too familiar with the devastating impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic since the coronavirus was declared a pandemic in March: businesses closing by the thousands, workers losing jobs by the millions, and more American lives lost than were caused by World War I and the Vietnam War combined. America’s military families have not been immune. Even for those military families who have escaped direct harm from the pandemic, it has still caused significant disruption to their daily lives: by pushing back planned permanent change of station (PCS) moves, throwing their children’s academic futures into disarray, and getting somber news about deployments, weddings, retirements and other life milestones on hold.

But all of the attention justifiably paid to their suffering has been negligent to the insidious threat to military families: the incredible power of hurricanes, fires, floods and other natural disasters. Case in point: just weeks ago, two storms simultaneously made landfall along the Gulf Coast for the first time in a hurricane record; the avoidable casualties have already hit the continental United States, which has never happened before. This year’s 2020 “Hurricane Season,” which ends Nov. 30, is still at a dangerous point — even as California struggles to contain dangerous wildfires and the Midwest continues to clean up from this summer’s devastating line of tornades.

As federal and state resources are stretched to the breaking point by COVID-19, natural disasters have the potential to be costlier and more dangerous than ever this year. And in some ways, the military families are at higher risk for these impacts than the average American, given where many military bases are located. With this in mind, it is more important than ever that military families prepare for natural disasters ahead of time. Whether the threat is hurricanes, fires, floods, or earthquakes, military families have resources outside of the military when the usual avenues of assistance aren’t available should a hurricane, fire or flood occur. Here’s how:

The St. Louis Board of Education has assisted emergency assistance. As the Coast Guard continues to respond to these hard-hit communities, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance distributed $3 million in 78 years of service. Going back to 2005, when hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma hit the Gulf Coast, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society helped almost 6,000 families with about $2.6 million in post-disaster recovery assistance. As the Coast Guard mutual assistance organizations, the difference it makes is clear.

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They’re still alive
Pearl Jam parks tour bus, but band remains political

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

S tone Gossard made serious promises this campaign season. Pearl Jam fans who answered FaceTime calls from the rhythm guitarist got something extra for taking a vote-by-mail pledge — the latest offering from the band in a career full of activism and advocacy for political causes.

Gossard offered free tickets to the next Pearl Jam show in an individual’s city.

“They were really happy when I told them I’d get them into the show,” Gossard, 54, said with a laugh.

The band postponed its 2020 tour that was set to promote its latest album, “Gigaton,” and it just released the single “Get It Back” on streaming services. There are tentative start dates for a 2021 tour that includes a European leg, but any true kickoff for a band rocking into its fourth decade still remains unknown in the pandemic.

“We’re mostly just thankful that we can actually stop for a year or two and everything’s going to be OK,” Gossard said. “For the majority of people out there, that reality is not the same. We’re going back to touring. We’re going back to making records; we’re going to play ‘Gigaton’ live. We’re going to make more records and eat club sandwiches on the road. We just want to do that when it makes sense. It might still be a little bit of time.”

Gossard and Pearl Jam lead guitarist Mike McCready told The Associated Press on a recent Zoom that tour rehearsals off the band’s first studio album in seven years were completed.

“We put the record out a while ago and then just kind of went, OK, now what do we do?” McCready said. “We’re going to keep going. We’re going to keep moving forward, hopefully.”

The band, which signs up fans for a voting pledge by texting a five-digit number, hoped the tour would wind through swing states like Pennsylvania closer to the Nov. 3 election where they could push from their stage their PJ Votes campaign — vote by mail, recruit three friends and don’t wait.

Frontman Eddie Vedder posted step-by-step photos on his Instagram page on how to vote by mail. Vedder has long been a critic of President Donald Trump, cursing out during shows and on “Gigaton.”

“We definitely have grown to be more active, for sure, and it’s become part of our identity,” Gossard said. “Everybody in the band plays a role in it at this point, for sure. We feed off each other. When one of us is successful in terms of raising awareness or generosity and really doing something that’s really helpful, it really inspires all of us to continue that tradition and support that across the band.”

Pearl Jam played its first show 30 years ago on October 22, 1989, and the hiatus culminated an anniversary celebration.

Pearl Jam plans to situate fans with the release Thursday of an April 28, 2016, show front Bonnaroo when it played for only the second time its debut album, “Ten.” From beginning to end on a night a banner was raised to the rafters celebrating 10 South Philadelphia sellouts.

The stream is available Thursday for the newly mixed 32-song, three-hour-set available on nugs.net for $14.99, with a portion of each ticket going to support the work of Pearl Jam’s Vitalogy Foundation.

McCready and Gossard said Philadelphia has long been of importance to Pearl Jam’s most fervent supporters.

“The level of engagement we get from our fans there is kind of unprecedented,” Gossard said. “To talk to folks that took the pledge and are really into it and really strategizing about their own votes and how they’re doing it and why they’re doing it has been inspiring.”

The band targeted Pennsylvania because the battleground state plays a central role in the contest between Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden.

Gossard says his campaign promise of a few free tickets will be kept — as long their fans take the pledge.

“We want to make sure that everybody participates, really,” he said. “I’m hoping for a shift in the national direction.”

Altered photo shows Ice Cube, 50 Cent in ‘Trump 2020’ hats

From wire reports

An altered photo of rappers Ice Cube and 50 Cent in hats that appear to show support for President Donald Trump circulated widely on social media Tuesday, fueled in part by a tweet by Eric Trump.

“Two great, courageous Americans,” Trump’s son tweeted.

He removed the tweet with a photo of the two rappers in hats saying “Trump 2020” after being called out by Ice Cube on Twitter.

In the original photo, both entertainers were wearing the baseball caps with sports logos. Ice Cube’s hat says “Big3,” a reference to a 3-on-3 basketball league he co-founded, and 50 Cent wears one with the New York Yankees logo. Ice Cube shared the original photo on his Twitter account July 6 with a birthday message to 50 Cent.

“Happy birthday to the homie #50Cent,” he tweeted with the photo.

The manipulated image was shared thousands of times on Twitter and Facebook since it began gaining attention on Monday.

Ice Cube, whose real name is O’Shea Jackson, has come under fire for appearing to work with the Trump administration on his “Contract with Black America,” which calls for a new dynamic for how the country is run to address racial issues. In a recent interview with CNN, he said both the Trump campaign and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden’s campaign reached out to him about his contract.

“One campaign said ‘we love what you have but let’s really dig into it after the election,’ and one campaign said we love what you have, ‘do you mind talking to us about it’ and that’s what I did,” he said on CNN. “The Trump campaign came to me and asked me to explain to them some of the Contract with Black America.

“Ice Cube clarified that he has not endorsed either campaign.

“Whovern is in power I am going to work with,” he said on CNN.

On Monday, 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis James Jackson III, took to Instagram to say “Vote for Trump.”

Director Daldry exits ‘Wicked’ film adaptation

The long-gestating film adaptation of the Broadway hit “Wicked” has hit another snag. Director Stephen Daldry is exiting the project, a studio representative confirmed Tuesday.

The industry trade website Deadline first reported the news.

“The Billy Elliot” director has been associated with the adaptation since 2012. Writer Winnie Holzman, who wrote the musical, wrote the script with “Wicked” composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz.

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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1 News anchor
2 Smith of CNBC
3 Crow's cry
4 Jog
5 Jeansmaker
6 Strauss
7 Flamenco cry
8 Actor's quest
9 Calif. neighbor
10 Quick swim
11 Tosses in
12 French novelist
13 Ceasefires
14 In the manner of
15 Docs' org.
16 Morrison
17 and Croce
18 Frat fete
19 Tic-tac-toe win
20 Rock's Brian
21 Before
22 Supported
23 Kin of IMHO
24 -cone
25 Hooting bird
26 Dress sangle
27 Engaged in family fights
28 Hosp. areas
29 "That hurts!"
30 "Fly — the Moon"
31 Scottish hillsides
32 Zia's sister
33 Actor McGregor
34 Beer, slangily

DOWN
1 Thick chunk
2 Wife of Zeus
3 Satan's forge
4 Eyes with
toppings
5 New England seafood treats
6 "The Greatest"
7 Sobbed
8 Psychological injury
9 Baseball player
born in Panama
10 Shoppe
description
11 Dick Tracy's love
12 Pacino of "Serpico"
13 21 Knock
14 Average guy
15 Charged bit
16 26 Trio on '70s TV with "The"
17 Compass dir.
18 Mars, e.g.
19 Numerical prefix
20 Evergreen type
21 Burdens
22 Marseilles
23 monach
24 Water park rides
25 You and I
26 Bloodline
27 sharers
28 Beige
29 Russian refusal
30 Morning droplets
31 47 Coup d' —
32 48 Puts on
33 51 Eggs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

10-22

CRYPTOQUIP

EBYY-LHIEH CISSAHZ IXYUE
EGI EITYV PKTACX VBUVYM
AHL XI PXIQ SBAHZ QTCPTBV:
SAYYM XGB PKTAV.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SOMETIMES HAVE AN IRRESISTIBLE URGE TO BECOME COMPETITIVE. THEY CALL IT IMPULSE VYING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals W
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana wanted its next coach to take the franchise in a new direction.

The Pacers were sending someone who could communicate with today's players, who was open to a new offensive philosophy and who could win some postseason games.

On Tuesday, president of basketball operations Kevin Pritchard found his man in Toronto assistant Nate Bjorkgren.

"Nate is the right coach for us at the right time," Pritchard said in a statement released by the team.

"He comes from a winning background, has experiences in championships success, is innovative and his communication skills along with his positivity are tremendous."

Terms were not immediately available though several reports said the 45-year-old Bjorkgren agreed to a multiyear deal.

He comes to Indiana after spending two seasons as an assistant on Nick Nurse's staff in Toronto. There, Bjorkgren helped the Raptors capture their first NBA title in 2019 and was part of a team that earned the Eastern Conference's No. 2 seed each of the past two seasons.

He also won a G-League title while working for Nurse in 2010-11 with the Iowa Energy.

And though he will be Bjorkgren's first head coaching job in the NBA, he went 126-74 in four seasons as a G-League head coach with the Dakota Wizards, Santa Cruz Warriors, Energy and Bakersfield Jam.

Bjorkgren was expected to be introduced Wednesday on a Zoom call.

"This is something I have prepared for during my career," Bjorkgren said in a statement, thanking those involved in the process.

"I want to thank Nick Nurse for giving me my first professional coaching job 14 years ago. I'm looking forward to working with this great team to achieve our goal as NBA champions.

"I'm excited to begin coaching and finding some postseason games would be a start."

Despite making five straight playoff appearances, the Pacers haven't reached the Conference Finals since losing to the Washington 4-2 in the 2014 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Since then, Indiana is 8-20 in the playoffs and has endured three first-round sweeps the past four seasons — the franchise's only four-game sweeps since joining the NBA in 1976.

Bjorkgren replaces Nate McMillan, who was fired after 28 games. The former Indiana Pacers assistant agreed to a four-year contract.

"The Pacers have a talented roster and a bright young core," McMillan said. "I want to thank the Pacers for the opportunity to be their head coach."

Los Angeles Clippers forward Patrick Beverley, who won two NBA championships with the Golden State Warriors in 2017-18, is also among the list of candidates for head coach.

Beverley played for the Clippers in 2012-13 and has said he's interested in the position.

"The pieces we need are in place for a successful partnership in helping the Pacers move forward," Pritchard said.

The Pacers are an established franchise with a lot of winning history. But they were just 3-16 in their last 20 games.

Clippers confirm Lue

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday confirmed their hiring of Tyronn Lue as coach to replace Doc Rivers as coach.

Lue spent last season as an assistant on Rivers' staff. Rivers coachesed the Clippers for the last seven seasons and is now guiding the Philadelphia 76ers.

"We all look forward to a long, successful partnership in helping the Pacers move forward," Pritchard said.

By MICHAEL MAROT

Associated Press

Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday confirmed their hiring of Tyronn Lue as coach to replace Doc Rivers as coach.

Lue spent last season as an assistant on Rivers' staff, as the Clippers went 128-83 in seven seasons and is now guiding the Philadelphia 76ers.

The team planned to introduce Lue virtually on Wednesday.

Lawrence Frank, the team's president of basketball operations, said the Clippers conducted "the right process.

"We found that the best choice for our team was already in our organization," Frank said. "He's one of the great minds in our league, and he's able to impart his vision to others, because he connects with everybody he meets."

Lue was on the Cleveland Cavaliers' staff when he replaced fired David Blatt during the 2015-16 season.

Under Lue's guidance, the Cavs and LeBron James went on to win their first NBA championship that season, making Lue one of the few rookie coaches in the league to ever lead his team to a title.

Lue, who won two NBA championships as a player with the Los Angeles Lakers, went 128-83 in parts of four seasons as Cavs coach. He was fired after finishing 36-30 in 2016-17, but both times they lost to Golden State. He was fired after an 0-6 start in 2014-15.

"The pieces we need are in place — committed ownership, smart management, and elite talent, on and off the court, in the NBA's best market," Lue said. "My familiarity with the organization, particularly Mr. (Steve) Ballmer and Lawrence, confirms this is where I want to be."
Talented WRs have Tide in good hands

By John Zenor
Associated Press

If it wasn’t Jaylen Waddle outrunning the Georgia defense, it was DeVonta Smith winning a fight for the ball in the back of the end zone or slipping free on a wheel route.

Not even No. 4 Georgia’s vaunted defense could contain No. 5 Alabama’s speedy, crafty, sure-handed receivers Saturday night.

The question now: Who can?

“Trying to cover outstanding receivers is really a difficult task,” Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban said. “You have to have a really, really good secondary, you have to have really good guys to match up. That’s been an advantage for us. It was a huge advantage for us last year, and it’s an advantage for us this year.”

Smith and Waddle each delivered another huge game in a 41-24 victory over the Bulldogs, easily having the best defense Alabama has faced this season.

It’s one thing to do it against Mississippi, and another altogether to victimize Georgia.

“They made a couple big throws,” Bulldogs coach Kirby Smart said. “They beat us on some bubble plays and a double move with Waddle. They made a lot of big plays on 50-50 balls. Smith and Waddle had some big catches.”

What else is new?

Smith and Waddle rank among the nation’s top seven receivers in yards per game. And John Metchie III had 181 yards and two touchdowns against Texas A&M.

Waddle had a 90-yard touchdown against Georgia and has at least 120 receiving yards in all four games.

Smith has 24 catches for 231 yards and three touchdowns in the past two games, displaying his strong connection with quarterback Mac Jones.

“That’s just us in practice just getting chemistry down and really Mac just believing in me,” Smith said. “I always tell Mac: ‘You believe in me, I believe in you. I will never let you down.’”

Jones, whose three consecutive 400-yard passing games matches Tua Tagovailoa’s career total, said the trust is mutual and that Smith has the confidence to say, “Throw it to me.”

“He says, ‘I don’t care if I’m triple covered, throw it to me,’” Jones said. “It’s hard to turn that down. He’s a (Michael) Jordan-level competitor.

“If you can get him the ball, then he’ll make the play.”

Same goes for Waddle, a dangerous open-field runner who is also a threat as a punt returner. And Metchie, when he gets the chance.

The Tide also displayed their power running game with Najee Harris, who ran 31 times for 152 yards and a touchdown.

“They’re big, they’re physical, they lean on and wear you on and they’ve got a great back,” Bulldogs safety Richard LeCounte said.

“The passing game they use is really creative. They run a lot of the same plays from different formations and they did a good job disguising them with motions.”

Better late than never: Big Ten gets underway

By Eric Olson
Associated Press

The wait is almost over for the Big Ten.

The ACC, Big 12 and SEC have been playing anywhere from three to five weeks amid the pandemic, and all the players and coaches around the Big Ten could do is watch.

“Most of it’s been torture, just not being able to play games,” Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. “There’s been a part of it I’ve actually enjoyed, but for the most part it’s been hard and I just want to be playing, get these guys on the field and get rolling.”

The eight-game, conference-only schedule begins Friday with Illinois visiting No. 14 Wisconsin. The rest of the league gets started Saturday. Every team plays every week through Dec. 12 barring cancellations because of outbreaks of COVID-19.

No. 5 Ohio State is favored to win a fourth straight league title and return to the College Football Playoff. Buckeyes quarterback Justin Fields, with his wide array of weapons around him, is among the Heisman Trophy front-runners after finishing third in last year’s voting.

Defending West champion Wisconsin and No. 21 Minnesota are expected to battle it out again for the division title.

Just getting to this point has been an adventure. The Big Ten initially put out a 10-game schedule on Aug. 5, only to cancel the season six days later in the name of player safety.

As the ACC, Big 12 and SEC pushed forward with plans to play, the outcry against the Big Ten’s decision was relentless. Nebraska hinted it might schedule games on its own and eight of its players sued the conference. Groups of players’ parents demanded further explanation from Commissioner Kevin Warren and demonstrated near league headquarters.

Presidential Donald Trump phoned Warren and encouraged him to play.

The conference reversed course Sept. 16, saying the emergence of rapid virus testing would allow for a season. There are stringent medical protocols, including daily antigen testing, and a positive result would require a player to sit out 21 days.

On Monday, it was announced that Purdue coach Jeff Brohm would have to miss Saturday’s season-opener at home against Iowa because of two positive coronavirus tests.

“It’s been a roller coaster of emotions since we’ve been playing, not playing,” Nebraska tight end Austin Allen said. “It’s been tough for sure knowing (other conferences) are out there playing, but we’ll get our time. We’ve got games coming up and we’ll take care of business.”

Top returnees

In addition to Fields, the 2019 offensive player of the year, fellow Associated Press All-Big Ten first-team picks return in Ohio State offensive lineman Wyatt Davis, Iowa kicker Keith Duncan and Illinois punter Blake Hayes. Also back is the 2019 newcomer of the year, Purdue receiver David Bell.

Davis is among players who rejoined their teams after initially deciding to opt out. Some others are Purdue star receiver Rondale Moore, who was limited to four games because of injury; Minnesota 1,200-yard receiver Rashod Bateman; Ohio State cornerback Shaun Wade; Michigan offensive lineman Jaylen Mayfield; and Michigan State defensive lineman Jack Panasuk.

Schedule scramble

The Big Ten is on the third iteration of its schedule, following the original released in the spring and the 10-game slate put out in early August. The conference championship game is set for Dec. 19. The rest of the teams also will play a ninth game that day against the team that finishes in the same spot in the opposite division.

Nebraska got the toughest schedule, with three of its first four games against Top 25 opponents (at No. 5 Ohio State, vs. No. 14 Wisconsin, at Northwestern, vs. No. 8 Penn State). Northwestern has the easiest crossover games, with their opener at home against Maryland and a trip to Michigan State on Nov. 28.

2 new head coaches

Mel Tucker takes over at Michigan State for Mark Dantonio, who retired after 13 years, and Greg Schiano returns to Rutgers to replace Chris Ash, who was fired four games into last season.

Tucker was 5-7 in his only year at Colorado before he bolted for Michigan State. He was a graduate assistant there under Nick Saban in the 1990s.

Schiano returned to Rutgers after eight years. He led the Scarlet Knights to a 68-67 record and six bowl games from 2001-11. He was the Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach in 2012-13 and Ohio State defensive coordinator from 2016-18.

Streaks and such

Ohio State has the nation’s third-longest active home winning streak at 20 games and second-longest road streak at seven.

Rutgers has dropped 13 in a row on the road and 21 straight conference games.

Nebraska’s NCAA-record 375-game sellout streak, which started in 1962, is on hold.

The Big Ten’s no-fan edict also means Michigan will have fewer than 100,000 fans in the Big House for the first time since 1975.
Dolphins turning to Tua as starter after bye

By Steven Wine
Associated Press

MIAMI — Tua Tagovailoa now has a role to match his jersey number. He's the Miami Dolphins' No. 1 quarterback.

The former Alabama star will make his first NFL start next week for the Miami Dolphins, who are turning to him to replace Ryan Fitzpatrick.

The change by coach Brian Flores will come after the Dolphins' bye this week and has been long anticipated, but the timing was surprising because the team won its past two games to improve to 3-3. Tagovailoa will start at home against the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 1.

News of the change leaked Tuesday. Flores says he regrets that his players found out about the switch through social media, rather than from him.

"The one thing in this situation that's unfortunate is that I didn't get a chance to address the team before this was out in the media," Flores said Wednesday. "It's not the way I or we want to do business. Unfortunately, it's kind of the way of the world right now."

"I'm kind of embarrassed that at all I did address that to the team, and really apologize to them that they had to find out through social media. I don't think that's fair to them."

And Flores says the decision to bench popular veteran Fitzpatrick was difficult.

"Fitz has done a great job," Flores said Wednesday. "He has been productive. His leadership has been great. But we felt like for the team, now, moving forward, this is a move we need to make."

Tagovailoa made his pro debut in mop-up duty at the end of Miami's 24-0 victory Sunday over the New York Jets. He will become the 23rd quarterback to start for the Dolphins since Dan Marino retired following the 1999 season.

At Alabama, Tagovailoa wore Marino's No. 13. That Dolphins jersey is retired, and so Tagovailoa now wears No. 1.

Tooted as a potential franchise quarterback in college, Tagovailoa raises questions about the profile of a team that has been off the NFL radar for much of the past two decades. He was drafted in April with the fifth overall pick — the highest choice Miami has devoted to a QB since Bob Griese in 1967.

Tagovailoa is coming back from a serious hip injury that cut short his Alabama career, and Flores said he was working to prepare him to assume a starting NFL job, as did the coronavirus pandemic that forced the cancellation of offseason drills and exhibition games.

"He's been thrown into a very difficult situation in that he didn't have any pre-season, he didn't have any off-season, Dolphins offensive coordinator Chan Gailey said Tuesday, shortly before the news of Tagovailoa's promotion broke.

"Fitzpatrick, 37, described himself during training camp as a placeholder. He is being benched even though he ranks fifth in the NFL in completion percentage, and Miami is on pace for its highest-scoring season since 1986 at 26.7 points per game.

Tagovailoa went 2-for-2 for 9 yards against the Jets.

"Under duress he made an accurate throw," Gailey said. "Then he sat in the pocket on third and made a throw for a first down. For a guy that hadn't played a snap of the season, he had a heck of an off-season.""He's gotten more comfortable," Flores said. "Accuracy, decision-making, all those things have been good in practice. Practice is different from games, but we're comfortable and confident he'll be able to be competitive."
WORLD SERIES

Stars: Dodgers trying to focus on task at hand

FROM BACK PAGE

at Globe Life Field, the new $1.2 billion home of the Texas Rangers, marked the smallest for baseball’s top event in 111 years.

Los Angeles hopes to go home with a title that has eluded the Dodgers since 1988 but tried to guard against focusing ahead.

“It’s hard not to think about winning. It’s hard not to think about what that might be like,” Kershaw said. “Constantly keep poring through that mental picture: tomorrow, win tomorrow, win tomorrow, win tomorrow. And then you do that three more times, and you can think about it all you want.”

A regular-season star with an erratic postseason history, Kershaw looked like the ace who so often stars on midsummer evenings with the San Gabriel Mountains behind him at Dodger Stadium. With these games shifted, the 32-year-old left-hander wound up pitching not far from his offseason home in Dallas.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner allowed one run and two hits, struck out four and walked one. He induced 19 swings and misses among his 78 pitches, including 20 swings and misses on the previous Series starts combined.

“Can you appreciate and totally see why he’s heading to the Hall of Fame, one day when he’s done,” Rays manager Kevin Cash said.

Cash threw nine balls in the first, when he stranded a pair of runners, then threw just nine more over the next three innings. He had a game plan to try to really quiet down things from there and he executed,” said Kevin Kiermaier, who ended the first, when he stranded a pair of runners, then threw just nine more over the next three innings.

“He had a game plan to try to really quiet down things from there and he executed,” said Kevin Kiermaier, who ended the first, when he stranded a pair of runners, then threw just nine more over the next three innings.

Kershaw, a five-time ERA champ, improved to 2-2 in the NL Championship Series last weekend. The Dodgers ahead in Game 7 of the NL Championship on Sunday, shuffled his feet, tapping gently as he crossed the plate and celebrated by toe tapping teammates while dancing back to the dugout, a sign he remembered popping his right shoulder during raucous revelry two nights earlier.

Bellinger capped his evening by leaping to the 6-foot center field wall in the ninth, robbing San Diego’s Tommy Pham of a possible home run.

“I said it today before the game: If I hit one I’m not touching anybody’s arm,” Bellinger said. “I’m going straight foot, and it was pure, plain,funny.”

After a regular season played without fans, MLB resumed selling tickets with a limited amount for the NLCS at Globe Life and kept that up by allowing about 28% of capacity to be filled at the 40,215-seat ballpark, where the roof was open. The crowd was widely dispersed throughout and was the smallest for the Series since 1995, when 5,335 attended Game 6 of the NLCS against the Tigers.

The Dodgers pitched to open Friday night’s doubleheader in this year’s NL Division Series with the San Diego Padres. The NLCS games played at Globe Life Field, the new $1.2 billion home of the Texas Rangers, marked the smallest for base ball’s top event in 111 years.

One of the 11,388 fans allowed in Globe Life Park watches during the seventh inning.
DODGERS’ WINNING BETTS: STAR IS PAYING OFF IN THE POSTSEASON

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Mookie Betts slid headfirst across home plate, then popped up and did a double pump with his right fist. An inning later, he got to trot around the bases after going deep.

That big commitment to Betts is already paying off for the Los Angeles Dodgers this postseason. After run-saving catches in three consecutive potential elimination games to get the Dodgers this far, Betts put his speed, instincts and power on display in Game 1 of the World Series. There was a Ruth-like journey around the bases to score — and that was only second career postseason home run — the other came in the fifth with a walk and multiple stolen bases in an inning during a World Series game was Babe Ruth in 1921.

“Stolen bases are a thing for me. That’s how I create runs and create havoc on the basepaths,” Betts said.

“Once you get on the bases, you’re not a hitter anymore — you run the bases. When you’re in the outfield, you’re on defense. I’m able to focus on the task at hand.”

When Betts led off the sixth with an opposite-field homer to right to make it 7-1, that was only his second career postseason homer — the other came in the 2018 World Series for Boston in a five-game series win over Los Angeles. That made Betts the first player to have a home run, an inning during a World Series game was Babe Ruth in 1921.

“I did a good job but my main responsibility is to win a World Series,” Betts said. “That’s all I’m trying to do.”

The Dodgers, who won their last World Series title in 1988, acquired the four-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove winner from the Red Sox in February, even agreeing to pay Boston $35 million over three years as part of the deal. It also brought Los Angeles left-hander David Price, who opted out of playing this season.

The Los Angeles Dodgers’ Mookie Betts homers during the sixth inning of the Dodgers’ 8-3 defeat of the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.

Already signed to a $27 million, one-year deal that would have made the star right fielder eligible for free agency this offseason, the 28-year-old Betts agreed in July to a $365 million, 12-year contract that includes a $65 million signing bonus guaranteed against work stoppages and shortened seasons such as this one.

“It’s so fun to watch and we’re so lucky to have him on our team,” said Dodgers slugger Cody Bellinger, who also homered.

Los Angeles Dodgers rolled pitcher Kenley Jansen, after earning a save in Game 6 of the National League Championship Series, wasn’t needed Monday in the first game of the World Series. Los Angeles Clayton Kershaw pitched six innings, giving the bullpen some rest.

Winning Game 1 was a sweet way to start the World Series for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

“The cherry on top: all the big arms left on ice,” Roberts said.

Kenley Jansen, Blake Treinen and Brusdar Graterol should be fresh for Wednesday after watch-

ing the Dodgers’ 8-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 1. Clayton Kershaw provided six tidy innings, and Los Angeles closed it out without exhausting the back of its bullpen.

The pitching-sawy Dodgers couldn’t have scripted a better start. They pushed their top arms hard in the NL Championship Series, which came down to a Game 7 on Sunday. Starting pitchers Walker Buehler, Julio Urias, Tony Gonsolin and Dustin May each took the mound during an all-hands-on-deck effort to close out the series over the weekend.

Aces of October past — like Bob Gibson or Tom Seaver — might see one game and be on a short leash after throwing at least one start. But the right-hander should not be on a short leash after throwing just 18 pitches Sunday. A 26-year-old NL Rookie of the Year contender, Gonsolin’s best pitch is a hard-

BS: T A R S  A N D  S T R I P E S *

The Los Angeles Dodgers’ Mookie Betts slides home on a scoring triple by Los Angeles Muncy during the sixth inning of the Dodgers’ 8-3 defeat of the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.

Bullpen saved

Dodgers keep Jansen, rest fresh for Game 2

By Jake Seiner
Associated Press

Coming into the World Series, the Dodgers’ relievers had thrown 48 of the team’s 89 postseason innings.

May could cover multiple innings after throwing just 18 pitches Sunday. Roberts said Urias also would be available, although L.A. would surely like to save him for a potential start in Game 4.

With a day off Thursday, everyone else will be available. The biggest spots will undoubtedly go to Jansen, Treinen and Graterol.

Jansen is trying to shake post-

season demons recent and past. He has blown more saves (three) than he has converted (two) in two previous World Series visits including consecutive botched chances against Boston in Games 3 and 4 of the 2018 Series.

The three-time All-Star lost the zip on his cutter down the stretch this season, and Roberts removed him from the closer’s role after a lousy outing against San Diego during the Division Series.

Jansen got a week off between outings, corrected his mechanics and delivered three perfect out-

ings against Atlanta, including a save in Game 6.

“You know once it clicked, everything is going to come with it,” Jansen said afterward.

The Rays have 2018 Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell tabbed for Game 2. Manager Kevin Cash — uncharacteristically slow to pull starter Tyler Glasnow in late innings Tuesday.

The pitching-weary Dodgers ace Tony Gonzalez and Dustin May could cover multiple innings after throwing just 18 pitches Sunday. A 26-year-old NL Rookie of the Year contender, Gonzalez’s best pitch is a hard-

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The Rays have 2018 Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell tabbed for Game 2. Manager Kevin Cash — uncharacteristically slow to pull starter Tyler Glasnow in Game 1 — also has fresh arms in the bullpen after riding mop-up lefty Josh Fleming to cover the late innings Tuesday.
Baseball’s best team during the pandemic-shortened season showed off its many talents in the first World Series game played at a neutral site, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 8-3 Tuesday night.

With the seats mostly empty, Kershaw dominated for six innings, Bellinger and Betts homered and the Dodgers chased a wild Tyler Glasnow in the fifth inning and coasted home in the opener.

A crowd limited by the coronavirus to 11,388

SEE STARS ON PAGE 22

Both Mookie Betts, left, and Cody Bellinger homered Tuesday for the Los Angeles Dodgers during their 8-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 1 of the World Series in Arlington, Texas.

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas

Clayton Kershaw, Cody Bellinger, Mookie Betts — the Los Angeles Dodgers stars all shined.

Nothing out of the ordinary there, even if the setting was surreal.

Baseball’s best team during the pandemic-shortened season showed off its many talents in the first World Series game played at a neutral site, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 8-3 Tuesday night.

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ERIC GAY, LEFT, AND TONY GUTIERREZ, BELOW/ASSOCIATED PRESS

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