

Decision 2016

Trump Basks In McCain Takedown

BY JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Republicans' swift condemnation of Donald Trump's disparaging comments about Sen. John McCain's military service marks a turning point in the party's cautious approach to the billionaire-turned-presidential candidate.

But Trump simply may not care; indeed he seemed to bask in his McCain takedown.

After dismissing McCain's reputation as a war hero because he was captured in Vietnam and "I like people who weren't captured," Trump declared "I will say what I want to say." He insisted he would stay in the GOP primary field, despite rivals who

say he's now shown he doesn't merit the presidency.

"It's not just absurd," Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "It's offensive. It's ridiculous. And I do think it is a disqualifier as commander in chief."

Numerous other GOP candidates, including Jeb Bush, Rick Perry and Scott Walker, were similarly critical of Trump. The Republican National Committee also put its thumb on the scale, issuing a statement saying "there is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably."



Trump

As the furor unfolded, Trump spoke dismissively of his rivals and the GOP establishment in an interview with The Associated Press, recalling his years of helping to bank-roll candidates.

"You know the Republican Party — of course I was one of their darlings when I was a contributor," he said. "I went from a darling to somebody that they're not happy with because I'm not a politician."

Asked whether he now thought McCain was a war hero, Trump merely referred to his previous day's comments, when he said "perhaps" he was while seeming to mock McCain for being captured.

Until now, Republicans have been largely cautious in their handling of

Trump and his provocations.

While officials privately fretted about the damage he could do to the party, they are also worried about alienating voters drawn to his celebrity, brashness and willingness to take on establishment Republicans. He's emerged as one of the favorites early in a race that is bound to see shifts in the standing of many of the candidates.

Trump has made other eyebrow-raising comments since declaring his candidacy, most notably his assertion that Mexican immigrants are rapists and drug dealers. Many GOP candidates were slow and halting in their response to those comments, underscoring a continuing struggle to hit the right notes on immigration

when they want to appeal to Hispanics without alienating traditional GOP voters.

But for a party that prides itself on its support for the military, Trump's comments about McCain were an easy opening. McCain, the 2008 GOP presidential nominee, spent more than five years as a prisoner of war, enduring torture and refusing release ahead of fellow captives.

Democrats reminded voters about the tepid response to his earlier bombast. Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton said it was shameful "that it took so long for most of his fellow Republican candidates to start standing up to him."

Pentagon Chief To Confer With Israelis

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Sunday he has no expectation of persuading Israeli leaders to drop their opposition to the Iran nuclear deal, but will instead emphasize that the accord imposes no limits on what Washington can do to ensure the security of Israel and U.S. Arab allies.

"Our ability to carry out that strategy is unchanged," Carter told reporters aboard his plane en route to Tel Aviv.

The Obama administration reserves the right to use military force against Iran if necessary, he added, although the nuclear deal is intended to preclude that by resolving the issue diplomatically.

Carter is scheduled to meet with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon on Monday and with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday before traveling to Saudi Arabia and Jordan to consult on the implications of the Iran deal and to assess progress in the regional campaign against the Islamic State group. One of the bases used for U.S.-led training and arming of moderate Syrian rebels is in Jordan, and the Jordanian air force has carried out strikes against Islamic State militants in Syria. One Jordanian pilot was captured and killed by the militants.

Netanyahu has been harshly critical of the Iran nuclear deal, asserting that it clears the way for Iran to build nuclear weapons that would threaten Israel's existence and ultimately diminish U.S. and global security.

Black Trainer's Death Raises Tensions

STONEWALL, Miss. (AP) — It's a tiny little memorial in the yard of an aging mobile home in a down-on-its-luck Mississippi mill town. Poster boards with votive candles form hearts, there are silk flowers and red, white and blue balloons. There's a sign demanding "Justice 4 Jonathan."

Here on Artesia Avenue is where Jonathan Sanders died after 10 p.m. on July 8, following a physical encounter with a white police officer for the town of Stonewall. What happened that night when Sanders — a 39-year-old black man riding in a two-wheel buggy pulled by a horse — crossed paths with Kevin Herrington — a 25-year-old part-time officer — is intensely disputed.

Lawyers for the Sanders family and witnesses who live in the mobile home say Herrington engaged in an unprovoked attack on Sanders after the two saw each other at a convenience store about a mile across town. C.J. Lawrence, the lawyer for three witnesses, said Sanders was doing nothing illegal and didn't resist while Herrington choked him to death.

A lawyer for Herrington, though, said the officer found Sanders with what appeared to be illegal drugs. Sanders and Herrington struggled in the grass and Sanders grabbed Herrington's gun from his holster, only to drop it in the grass, attorney Bill Ready Jr. said.

At IS Camp, Kids Told To Behead Dolls

SANLIURFA, Turkey (AP) — The children had all been shown videos of beheadings and told by their trainers with the Islamic State group that they would perform one someday. First, they had to practice technique. The more than 120 boys were each given a doll and a sword and told, cut off its head.

A 14-year-old who was among the boys, all abducted from Iraq's Yazidi religious minority, said he couldn't cut it right. He chipped once, twice, three times.

"Then they taught me how to hold the sword, and they told me how to hit. They told me it was the head of the infidels," the boy, renamed Yahya by his IS captors, told The Associated Press last week in northern Iraq, where he fled after escaping the IS training camp.

When Islamic State extremists overran Yazidi towns in northern Iraq last year, they butchered older men and enslaved many of the women and girls. Dozens of young Yazidi boys like Yahya had a different fate: The IS sought to re-educate them. They forced them to convert to Islam from their ancient faith and tried to turn them into jihadi fighters.

Rampage Shatters Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — A single "pop" cut through the quiet morning. Those who heard it had a moment to ponder the noise.

On this ordinary Thursday, some thought a car had backfired, or maybe a tire had blown. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Dodge looked up from his computer in an Army recruiting office in a strip mall, more curious than alarmed.

Then a young man in a rented convertible re-aimed his rifle and unleashed a frenzy of bullets. These were the opening shots in a single-handed rampage against the military that seized this city for hours and reignited American fears about radicalization and homegrown terror. The shooter's motive remains a mystery.

Glass shattered, televisions exploded, bullets whizzed past the heads of servicemen at their desks and rooted in the walls behind them. In nearby restaurants and hair salons and shops, people dived for cover or stood paralyzed by fear.

Inside the five side-by-side recruiting offices, one for each branch of the military and the National Guard, no one panicked.



GINA FERAZZI/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Blackened terrain and burned vegetation surround a dirt road after the North Fire burned 3,500 acres Saturday in Baldy Mesa, Calif.

Rain Calms Calif. Fire That Jumped Freeway, Burned Cars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A rare summer storm allowed firefighters to contain 60 percent of a wildfire that swept across a California interstate, torching vehicles and sending people running for their lives.

Light rain and moist air dampened the blaze in the mountainous Cajon Pass 55 miles north-east of Los Angeles, the main artery between Southern California and Las Vegas.

The wind-driven fire started Friday afternoon below the elevated lanes of Interstate 15. Pushed by 40 mph winds, it raced up a hill and onto the traffic-clogged freeway, trapping hundreds of people amid a cauldron of smoke, flames and ash.

The flames destroyed 20 vehicles on the freeway before heading into the neighboring community of Baldy Mesa, where it burned seven homes and destroyed 44 more vehicles.

In all, the fire burned about 8 1/2 square miles.

Two people were injured. Both suffered minor smoke inhalation, authorities said, but they declined medical attention.

California is in the midst of severe drought, and wildfires are common. Some break out near freeways, but it's unusual to have vehicles caught in the flames.

It being a Friday afternoon, however, I-15 was typically jammed with vehicles traveling between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Adding to the congestion was construction in the area.

Another wildfire that broke out Friday night in the San Gabriel Mountains forced the evacuation of 300 campers in nearby Wrightwood. It was 40 percent contained by midday Sunday after burning about 200 acres.

Christmas In The Capitol? Congress' To-Do List Grows

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress' midsummer to-do list may take until Christmas to clear.

At the top are managing the flow of highway funding, easing automatic budget cuts to the Pentagon and domestic agencies, renewing tax breaks and raising the debt limit. A misstep at any of several points could trigger a partial government shutdown.

"We're going to leave that fight till September, October, November, December," Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas, told reporters last week, referring to spending issues and raising the prospect of Christmas in the Capitol.

Such a stack of unfinished business would be a time-consuming challenge in a well-oiled capital. But Washington has a case of chronic dysfunction, meaning there's little sense of urgency and the real potential for policymakers to end up doing the bare minimum — keeping the government on autopilot and avoiding an economy-rattling debt default.

"We ought to be meeting right now," said Rep. Steny

Hoyer of Maryland, the second-ranking Democrat. "We're not doing that. There have been no discussions."

An eventual repeat of a government shutdown is a real possibility, though a short-term government-wide funding measure is likely in September and would buy time for negotiations. One of the biggest challenges involves finding spending cuts acceptable to Democrats and Republicans to pay for increases demanded by President Barack Obama for domestic priorities such as education and public works projects. Otherwise, agency budgets will largely be frozen by the return of automatic spending curbs.

If talks do not pan out, the sides may have no choice but to basically keep the government on autopilot, with spending frozen at current levels for another year, denying all but the most important increases.

The administration says Obama would veto such legislation, setting up a potential partial closing of the government similar to the 16-day shutdown in 2013 that was fueled by conservative activists and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, over Obama's health care law.

The president "will not

accept a bill that locks in" the automatic spending limits, White House budget director Shaun Donovan said recently.

More pragmatic lawmakers want a sequel to a deal negotiated by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., that traded longer-term budget savings and user fees for two years of relief from the automatic agency cuts.

The most recent public posture from the White House is that Democrats and Republicans should take the lead in sorting it out. Republicans, however, are in no hurry for negotiations and say it's up to the White House to offer concrete spending cuts known as offsets to finance relief for agency budgets.

What Obama wants most is a break for domestic agencies that, on average, face a freeze in their day-to-day operating budgets. What Republicans want most is comparable help for the Pentagon. But agreeing on how to cut elsewhere in the long-term budget to pay for new spending now is a huge challenge, especially because a 2013 agreement vacuumed up many of the easier budget savings and new fees.

Lobbying On Iran Accord Begins

BY DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Israel's ambassador to the United States raced in and out of offices on Capitol Hill, trying to persuade lawmakers that the nuclear deal with Iran is a historic mistake.

On the other side, liberal groups ramped up the pressure, warning of political consequences for Democrats who undermine the agreement and casting opposition as a vote for war.

The lobbying fight is on over the pact that the U.S. and other world powers just signed with Iran. The State Department said Sunday it had submitted the agreement to Congress, kicking off a 60-day review period on Monday.

Multimillion-dollar ad campaigns are underway by politically influential groups in each camp. Some echo the views of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a staunch opponent of the agreement with Iran, which has threatened to annihilate his nation.

Vice President Joe Biden was on Capitol Hill twice last week for arm-twisting sessions with Democrats. Secretary of State John Kerry and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz — key U.S. negotiators — are set to brief lawmakers this coming week, and they blanketed the Sunday news shows. "I hope there are enough minds still open, ready to consider this on its merits, that could be persuaded," Kerry told "Fox News Sunday."

President Barack Obama used his weekend radio address to try to counter what he predicted would be "a lot of overheated and often dishonest arguments" in the weeks ahead about the agreement, and he sent Defense Secretary Ash Carter to talk with officials in Israel as well as Jordan and Saudi Arabia, U.S. allies whose leaders also are worried about the deal's implications.

Think tanks are releasing reams of reports and analyses. Experts on nuclear weapons and foreign policy are testifying at committee hearings. Right-wing radio hosts are using the airways to condemn Obama for what they say was his caving in to a country that supports terrorist groups. Peace groups are shouting their support.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., ran into Ambassador Ron Dermer three times.

"He is a very informed and persuasive advocate for the Israeli perspective and he is a persistent and thorough critic of the context of these negotiations and he made some very strong points," Coons said.

Advertise Here!
Call 665-7811

ARCH SUPPORT

Boston Shoes To Boots
312 West 3rd, Yankton, SD
605-665-9092

AUTO BODY

Justras Body Shop
2806 Fox Run Parkway
Yankton, 665-3929

Riverside Auto Body
www.riversideautobody-gonegreen.com
402-667-3285

BANKING

Services Center
Federal Credit Union
609 W. 21st, Yankton, SD



First Dakota
National Bank
225 Cedar St., 665-7432
2105 Broadway, 665-4999

CONVENIENCE
STORE

TJ's Convenience Store
and Bait Shop
3703 W. 8th St., 665-5070

ELECTRICAL

Johnson Electric, LLP
Commercial • Residential • Trenching
500 W. 12th, Yankton
605-665-5686

L&S Electric
Harry Lane, Contractor
665-6612 • 661-1040

Also online at www.yankton.net

Advertise
Here!
Call The
Advertising Dept.
For More Info
665-7811!

FAMILY
MEMORIALS

Yankton Monument Co.
325 Douglas, Yankton
605-664-0980

FUNERAL/CREMATION

Wintz & Ray

FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
Yankton • 605-665-3644
Garden of Memories Cemetery

Wintz

FUNERAL HOME
Hartington, Coleridge & Crofton
402-254-6547
wintzrayfuneralhome.com
Trusted For Generations

FURNITURE

slumberland

920 Broadway
Yankton, SD
57078
605-665-3719
Slumberland.com

Advertise Here!

Call 665-7811



INSURANCE

Missouri River
Associates, LLC
2800 Broadway Ave.
605-665-6885

LANDSCAPING

Harley's Curb Appeal
Landscaping, Inc.
3109 Old River Rd.
Yankton, SD 57078
605-661-0856

MEDICAL CLINIC

Lewis and Clark
Family Medicine
2525 Fox Run Parkway, Ste. 200
Yankton, SD • (605)260-2100

HEATING
& COOLING

Larry's

HEATING
& COOLING

920 Broadway, Yankton
665-9461
Carrier
Turn to the Experts

Also online at www.yankton.net