Ralph Lauren unveils crisp white Team USA Olympic uniforms

AP photo

Athletes Daryl Homer (Fencing), left, Jordyn Barratt (Skateboard) and Heimana Reynolds (Skateboard) participate in the Team USA Tokyo Olympic closing ceremony uniform unveiling at the Ralph Lauren SoHo Store on April 13, 2021, in New York. Ralph Lauren is an official outfitter of the 2021 U.S. Olympic Team.

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — With a crisp white graphic look and roomy pockets, the uniforms to be worn by Team USA at the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics were unveiled Wednesday by official outfitter Ralph Lauren.

The uniforms, along with Ralph Lauren-designed Olympic Village attire for the American athletes, had been ready to go when the Games were postponed last summer due to the pandemic.

"It seems like we're all go now," David Lauren, the company's chief branding and innovation officer, told The Associated Press ahead of the reveal. "They had been designed, produced and ready to roll."

The Games are now scheduled to open July 23 and end Aug. 8 as organizers continue to figure out how to hold them with the pandemic still raging and just 100 days to go. In the meantime, Ralph Lauren is ready with opening and closing parade gear for the more than 600 Team USA athletes, those participating in the Paralympics and Olympic-themed items for sale to the public.

Opening ceremony uniforms will be unveiled in July.

Lauren, the son of the fashion giant's founder, said sustainability was top of mind this Olympic go around.

Ralph Lauren, which has been outfitting Team USA since 2008, worked with Dow on a cotton pre-treatment dyeing process that uses less water, chemicals and energy than more traditional methods. The process was used for a navy Polo shirt each athlete will receive.

A leather alternative using plant-based materials and agriculture biproducts free of synthetic plastics was used for a patch on the closing ceremony's white stretch denim pant, which is made of U.S.-grown cotton. And like the lightweight drawstring jacket, a striped red, white and blue belt to be worn by the athletes is derived partially from recycled plastic bottles.

Watchdog lays bare Capitol Police's riot security failures

WASHINGTON (AP) — A blistering internal report by the U.S. Capitol Police describes a multitude of missteps that left the force unprepared for the Jan. 6 insurrection — riot shields that shattered upon impact, expired weapons that couldn't be used, inadequate training and an intelligence division that had few set standards.

The watchdog report released internally last month, obtained by The Associated Press before a congressional hearing Thursday, adds to what is already known about broader security and intelligence failures that Congress has been investigating since hundreds of then-President Donald Trump's supporters laid siege to the Capitol.

In an extensive and detailed timeline of that day, the report describes conversations between officials as they disagreed on whether National Guard forces were necessary to back up the understaffed Capitol Police force. It quotes an Army official as telling then-Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund that "we don't like the optics of the National Guard standing in a line at the Capitol" after the insurrectionists had already broken in.

Inspector General Michael A. Bolton found that the department's deficiencies were — and remain — widespread. Equipment was old and stored badly, leaders had failed to act on previous recommendations to improve intelligence, and there was a broad lack of current policies or procedures for the Civil Disturbance Unit, a division that existed to ensure that legislative functions of Congress were not disrupted by civil unrest or protest activity. That was exactly what happened on Jan. 6 as Trump's supporters sought to overturn the election in his favor as Congress counted the Electoral College votes.

The report comes as the Capitol Police force has plunging morale and has edged closer to crisis as many officers have been working extra shifts and forced overtime to protect the Capitol after the insurrection. Acting Chief Yogananda Pittman received a vote of no confidence from the union in February, reflecting widespread distrust among the rank and file.

The entire force is also grieving the deaths of two of their own — Officer Brian Sicknick, who collapsed and died after engaging with protesters on Jan. 6, and Officer William "Billy" Evans, who was killed April 2 when he was hit by a car that rammed into a barricade outside the Senate. Evans laid in honor in the Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday.

The Capitol Police have so far refused to publicly release the report — marked throughout as "law enforcement sensitive" — despite congressional pressure to do so. House Administration Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., issued a statement in March that she had been briefed on the report, along with another internal document, and that it contained "detailed and disturbing findings and important recommendations." Bolton was expected to testify before her panel on Thursday.

The report focuses heavily on failure of equipment and training Jan. 6 as Capitol Police were quickly overwhelmed by around 800 of Trump's supporters who pushed past them, beat them and broke windows and doors to get into the building. It also looks at missed intelligence as the insurrectionists planned the attack openly online, and as various agencies sent warnings that were disseminated incorrectly.

Bolton found that in many cases department equipment had expired but was not replaced and some of it was more than 20 years old. Riot shields that shattered upon impact as the officers fended off the violent mob had been improperly stored, Bolton found. Some weapons that could have fired tear gas were so old that officers didn't feel comfortable using them. Other weapons that could have done more to disperse the crowd were never staged ahead of the rally, and those who were ordered to get back-up supplies to the officers on the front lines could not make it through the aggressive crowd.

In other cases, weapons weren't used because of "orders from leadership," the report says. Those weapons — called "less lethal" because they are designed to disperse, not kill — could have allowed the police to better push back the rioters as they moved toward the building, according to the report.

In terms of the Civil Disturbance Unit, the report said there was a total lack of policy and procedure, and many officers didn't want to be a part of it. There were not enough guidelines for when to activate the unit, how to issue gear, what tactics to use or lay out the command structure. Some of the policies hadn't been updated in more than a decade and there was no firm roster of who was even in the division. The unit was at a "decreased level of readiness and preparedness" because there were no standards for equipment, the report said.

Bolton also laid out many of the missed intelligence signals — including a report prepared by the Department of Homeland Security in December that forwarded messages posted on forums supportive of Trump that appeared to be planning for Jan. 6. One part of that document included a map of Capitol tunnels that someone had posted. "Take note," the message said.

The report looks at a missed memo from the FBI in which online activists predicted a "war" on Jan. 6 — Sund told Senate investigators last month he never saw it. Bolton also details the force's own internal reports, which he said were inconsistent. One Capitol Police report predicted that the protesters could become violent, but Sund testified before the Senate in February that internal assessments had said violence was "improbable."

On intelligence, Bolton said, there was a lack of adequate training and guidance for dissemination within the department. There were no policies or procedures for open source data gathering — such as gathering information from the online Trump forums — and analysts "may not be aware of the proper methods of conducting open source intelligence work."

A timeline attached to the report gives a more detailed look at Capitol Police movements, commands and conversations as the day unfolded and they scrambled to move staff and equipment to multiple fronts where people were breaking in.

The timeline sheds new light on conversations in which Sund begged for National Guard support. Sund and others, including the head of the D.C. National Guard, have testified that Pentagon officials were concerned about the optics of sending help.

The Pentagon eventually approved the Guard's presence, and Guard members arrived after 5 p.m., well after the bulk of the violence.

4/15 PUZZLES

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Rum cake
5 Don't have
9 West of Hollywood
12 Addict
13 Golf bag item
14 "Life — cabaret ..."
15 Herbal tea
17 Part of UNLV
18 Madrid matron
19 Skilled
21 Concerning
22 Disgusted
24 Multitude
27 "No seats" sign
28 Hit on the noggin
31 Mainlander's memento
32 Triumphed
33 Take to court
34 "Damn Yankees" vamp
36 Ninny
37 Sicilian spouter
38 Blow one's top
40 Performing
41 "Real Time" host Bill
43 Necktie
47 Paris pal
48 Reward from an airline
51 Yule quaff
52 Singer India.—
53 Jazzy James
54 Somewhat (Suff.)
55 British big shots
56 Take a gander

DOWN
1 Tampa Bay team, for short
2 Tennis champ Arthur
3 Legume
4 Weapons store
5 Peru's capital
6 "Entourage" role
7 Gen.'s underling
8 Work dough
9 Road marker
10 Now, on a memo
11 Sunrise direction
16 Raw rock
20 Tweak a soundtrack
22 Window coating
23 Billions of years
24 100%
25 Classic car
26 — City (Denver nickname)
27 Trade
29 Sister
30 Mauna —
35 "Right you —!"
37 Canine coat
39 City-based
40 Hosp. areas
41 Gershwin's "The — Love"
42 Book after Joel
43 Sticks around a pool hall?
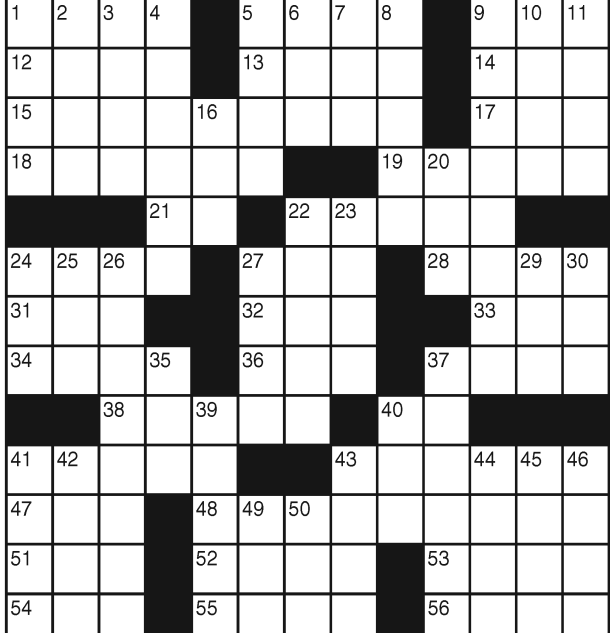44 Corleone patriarch
45 Sax range
46 Ship wood
49 Acapulco gold
50 Pen tip

Solution time: 24 mins.

4/14 answer

BRIDGE

Take a boost from good intermediates


```
                North          04-15-21
                ♠ K J 3
                ♥ 9 2
                ♦ J 4
                ♣ A J 8 7 4 3
West                        East
♠ 10 7 4                    ♠ Q 8 6 5
♥ A 10 8 4 3                ♥ K Q 7 6
♦ Q 9 8 5                   ♦ 10 7 6 3 2
♣ 9                         ♣ —
                South
                ♠ A 9 2
                ♥ J 5
                ♦ A K
                ♣ K Q 10 6 5 2

    Dealer: South
    Vulnerable: Both
South    West    North    East
1♣       Pass    3♣       Pass
5♣       Pass    Pass     Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 5
```

Ambrose Bierce defined childhood as: "The period of human life intermediate between the idiocy of infancy and the folly of youth — two removes from the sin of manhood and three from the remorse of age."

In bridge, children do not give extra value to intermediates — the nines and 10s. But an adult knows they can be extremely valuable.

Take, for example, J-5-4 opposite either A-3-2 or A-10-9. In the former case, you have some 1.7 percent chance for two tricks. But with those intermediates, your odds rise to 76 percent. Always upgrade for intermediates, especially in long suits.

In today's deal, South has been dealt one valuable intermediate. Which card is it, and how did declarer use it to improve his chances in five clubs after West led a diamond?

Following North's game-invitational limit raise, South ought to have bid three diamonds, aiming for three no-trump, but that would have pinpointed the lethal heart lead.

With two heart losers, it looked like South needed the spade finesse to work, but the spade nine improved his chances.

After winning with the diamond ace, declarer drew the missing trump, cashed the diamond king and exited with a heart. The defenders took two heart tricks ending with West. He returned the spade four. However, declarer played low from the board. Here, South was home, but even if East could have put in the spade 10, declarer would have won with his ace and finessed dummy's spade jack. Declarer would have succeeded if West had either the spade queen or the spade 10.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIYAD

NDTAS

TESLET

DANCIR

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Are you giving up fishing?

No. This rod and reel is worthless. I've got others.

HIS OLD FISHING POLE WAS NO LONGER USABLE, SO HE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

4/14 | Jumbles: STAFF   FURRY   UNFOLD   FLABBY
Answer: He knew a lot about car waxes and polishes and was considered to be a — BUFF BUFF

CRYPTOQUIP

4-15

L T H F   N Y K T F   W P O   J H Z Z

N A B Y J H F Y P C Q   F T H F   H V A

V A N A B Y A Q   L T A C   W P O   K A F   F P P

L Y Z B Z W   T H D D W ?   N H C Y J   J O V A Q .

4/14 Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU ARE GRADUALLY CUTTING BACK ON YOUR CARBOHYDRATE INTAKE, YOU COULD BE A BREAD-WEANER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals M

Sudoku

Level: Intermediate

4/14 Solution