AETC News Clips

News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply

29&30 Sep 01
1 Oct 01

Express-News: Military

War fueling argument over base-closure plan

By Sig Christenson
Express-News Military Writer

Web Posted : 09/30/2001 12:00 AM

After years of trying to convince Congress to authorize a new base closure round, the Pentagon may get its wish.

But some lawmakers say now is not the time to close more bases, because it's asking too much of the Pentagon to run a war and a base-closure round.

With most of the Defense Department working the war, one veteran Senate observer said, no one is left to properly scrutinize the nation's 398 installations.

But the Pentagon's top spokesman says the department can handle both tasks.

"We have a deep bench," Rear Adm. Craig Quigley said.

The division between optimists such as Quigley and the pessimists, a bipartisan band fearful of losing jobs as installations close, boils down to whether they back more base closures.

Experts and observers in San Antonio and elsewhere disagree as well, though most think a new closure round is inevitable.

The move toward creating a new Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, or BRAC, will take a critical step early this week.

The Senate is expected to take up a $343 billion defense bill that calls for a base-closure round in 2003.

If the bill is approved, the most political of military footballs will be kicked into the hands of House and Senate conferees.

Former White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta gives the proposal a better than even chance of passage, but he knows BRAC advocates have a hard sell on their hands as Americans grapple with terror fatigue and a deepening economic downturn.

Express News
Page 23A
Date 30 Sep 01

"Politically, you want to unify the country and those votes behind everything you're trying to accomplish, and it is very hard to unify people who are scared to death that you're going to literally not only attack terrorists but attack their communities," he said.

Tens of thousands of jobs around the country are at stake in a new BRAC, and support for more closures has been thin.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and a long line of generals have argued another closure round is needed because up to 25 percent of the Pentagon's remaining 398 major domestic bases are unnecessary.

Texas boasts 30 major active-duty and reserve installations, with San Antonio's Brooks AFB and Fort Sam Houston considered possible targets of a new BRAC.

The city's other Air Force bases — Lackland and Randolph — appear safe.

The Pentagon has cut 97 installations in four rounds since 1988, including Kelly AFB. It closed July 13, ending an 85-year reign as the oldest continuously operating base in the Air Force. More than 10,500 jobs were lost.

For that reason, base closure angst is real in the Alamo City. But some on Capitol Hill also worry that with the Pentagon focused on war, there aren't enough people left to do a thorough assessment of bases, and that mistakes could be made.

"This is not the time to be doing that," said Rep. Ciro D. Rodriguez, D-San Antonio.

"The timing is bad because we cannot allow our military to be spending hundreds of hours of military time checking to see what bases they're going to close while we've got a war going on," contended Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi.

Panetta said the White House can competently run a war and a BRAC, and he thinks the services have done their homework on the issue, perhaps even listing the bases likely to be shuttered.

The Pentagon long has denied that such lists exist, and retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Roberson doubts the Defense Department is that far along.

BUILT BY Machete MEDIA

Questions or comments about the site?

About Us | Advertising Info | Help | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use
Express-News Editors | KENS 5 Editors | Circulation Department
Letters to the Editor | Archives

POWERED BY rackspace

Portions © 2001 KENS 5 and the San Antonio Express-News. © 2001 MyWay. All

2

A key figure in the city's efforts to protect Kelly when the last BRAC was done in 1995, Roberson said he believes most of the work then was done just before recommendations were made. He also has "a lot of confidence" in Rumsfeld.

"If the leadership believes they can do it, I would take that at face value," said Roberson, executive director of KellyUSA, the city agency transforming the base into an industrial park.

Quigley pointed to history in supporting his position. A Pentagon led by then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney trimmed its large Cold War force while managing a BRAC round and the Persian Gulf War, he said.

"What an incredible irony, but it was handled very well," Quigley said. "We are blessed today with having just as deep a bench strength as that administration did."

Among the unconvinced, however, is Rep. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio. He said a House concerned about maintaining a strong military in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks will shy away from drastic action.

"And so I honestly feel the Senate language will disappear during the conference committee and when we see the final bill the BRAC language will not be in it," he said.

"It will never happen," Greater Kelly Development Authority board member Bob Bomer agreed. "I just think that with the national emergency going on, people won't support it."

One-time congressman and Clinton insider Panetta said BRAC's biggest problem is the tangled web on Capitol Hill.

President Bush will need the help of House and Senate Armed Services Committee members, he said, as well as sympathetic lawmakers with bases back home.

Those leaders could "hold the Pentagon hostage on their bases if they're put in a position where they fear their bases may be closed and yet they're being asked to vote a certain way on a defense bill," Panetta predicted.

"Neither the Pentagon nor the White House will want to have to jump through those hoops," he added, "because their focus will be on winning the war."

sigc@express-news.net

09/30/2001

Portions © 2001 KENS 5 and the San Antonio Express-News. © 2001 MyWay. All rights

3

SAN ANTONIO TEACHERS CREDIT UNION
Get Behind the Wheel of Your New Car...

Express-News: America in Agony

Uncle Sam's big ears

By Roy Bragg
San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/30/2001 12:00 AM

America is listening.

Using systems with names such as Echelon or Carnivore, top-secret spy agencies have built an electronic net around the world.

When federal agents are on the lookout for a name, phone number or even a single word, they can dip it into the global information stream — trillions of bits of data flowing in all directions — and pluck out a single phone call, fax or e-mail message.

"Anything that goes through the airwaves can theoretically be monitored," said Marc Enger of Digital Defense, a San Antonio-based information security firm. "They can pick a signal out, they can isolate it and then they can do something with it."

Case in point: the contents of the sealed federal affidavit that led to the detention of San Antonio radiologist Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi as a material witness in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Within 24 hours of the plane crashes in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, federal agents had determined:

A trinket was purchased with Al-Hazmi's credit card at the White House gift shop earlier this year.

Al-Hazmi purchased airline tickets from online travel firm Travelocity, the same Internet site used by some of the terrorists who hijacked the doomed jets.

Al-Hazmi had gotten his U.S. visa in the same Saudi Arabian city where some of the terrorists had obtained theirs.

Someone with the same last name as terror suspect Osama bin Laden made a phone call to Al-Hazmi's Northwest Side home two years ago.

"It's pretty clear," said a source familiar with the Al-Hazmi case, "that he's been on their radar screen for a while."

4

Though Al-Hazmi subsequently was cleared of any involvement and released last week, the federal affidavit used to detain him, through omission, paints a picture of near-omnipotent intelligence-gathering capabilities.

From nondescript computer rooms in American embassies, or from satellites floating in geo-synchronous orbit, or even from military jets whipping across the sky, very little electronic communication outside the nation's borders escapes U.S. intelligence agencies.

Federal officials at the highly secretive National Security Agency wouldn't comment on anything, declining even to speak generally about the agency's technological capabilities.

The NSA is a so-called "black budget" agency whose mission is so secretive that information about its purchasing, payroll and programs isn't even made available to lawmakers.

Nor would the FBI, which handles domestic surveillance, comment on the investigation that led them to Al-Hazmi.

The NSA, located in suburban Maryland, is charged with international surveillance of threats to U.S. security.

Under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and restrictions flowing from Executive Order 12333, the agency is prohibited from using its electronic muscle on U.S. citizens, an agency spokeswoman said.

And it can only spy on U.S. citizens abroad if the agency has demonstrated probable cause that there's a need to do so, Enger said.

The primary system being employed by NSA is dubbed Echelon, which has drawn fire from civil libertarians here and from European officials who are concerned it is being used on behalf of American corporations to give them a commercial advantage.

True to form, federal officials won't even acknowledge Echelon's existence.

Enger says Echelon works with antennas that are capable of picking up all kinds of electronic signals.

Large computers run by sophisticated software sorts the information out by type, and then algorithms are programmed that can pick up specific words, numbers or even dialects of specific languages.

"There aren't analysts sitting in an office who read two terabytes of data daily," Enger said.

"The real problem is trying to narrow your search down. You outline what you want collected, which way to collect it, and then do it depending on intelligence capabilities."

5

The breadth of the U.S. efforts depends on money, said Wayne Madsen, a former NSA analyst who now works for the Washington-based Electronic Privacy Information Center, an organization that promotes free speech and privacy on the Web.

During the last years of the Cold War, when he worked at NSA, the agency wanted "total hearability," spy jargon for an around-the-clock, around-the-world, global ear, Madsen said.

"That could be done, but it would eat up 80 percent of the federal budget every year," he said.

Instead, the agency focuses satellites on hot spots. Two months ago, it might have been North Korea.

"Rest assured that now, northern Pakistan and Afghanistan are fully covered," he said.

While Echelon remains a secret, a little more is known about Carnivore, the FBI's e-mail wiretap system, Enger says.

Agents who want to monitor computer conversations can easily get a court order, which lets them tap into a server at the target's Internet service provider's office.

The FBI then can copy the stream of data that flows to and from the target. That information, in turn, can be used to expand the investigation to more intrusive techniques and other individuals.

When a case crosses from overseas into the United States, such as the phone call attributed to Al-Hazmi two years ago, NSA officials are required to contact the FBI or other domestic security agencies, who then must follow their own procedures to initiate surveillance, Enger said.

"That's what they're supposed to do," a skeptical Madsen said. "But how do they know that this guy is not a U.S. citizen?"

Agency rules require it to confirm the national identities of parties it monitors before it proceeds, Madsen said.

"They say they police themselves," Madsen said. "I'm not sure about that. The general counsel is supposed to handle that, but he works for the NSA. I doubt there's much independence there."

The NSA begs to differ. In testimony before a congressional committee, NSA Director Lt. Gen. Michael V. Hayden defended his agency's adherence to the law.

"Let me put a fine point on this," Hayden said. "If, as we are speaking here this afternoon, Osama bin Laden is walking across the Peace Bridge from Niagara Falls, Ontario, to Niagara Falls, N.Y., as he gets to the New York side, he's an American person. And my agency must respect his rights against unreasonable search and seizure, as provided by the Fourth

NEWS

Complete coverage

Express-News

KENS 5

Associated Press

Photos
Slide show

A World Mourns

Video
Entire video coverage

Searchable victim database

Print your own flag

Guidelines for flying American flag

Links
Searchable victim database

Official donations

Fraudulent charity warning

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Time line of attacks

Attack discussion

How to talk to children

6

Amendment to the Constitution."

"That's laughable," Madsen said. "I don't believe that. I don't necessarily agree with it, either. If he came, I'd hope they'd be listening to him."

In the case of Al-Hazmi, security experts theorize that federal agents felt he was a threat two or more years ago.

Armed with that probable cause, they monitored his phone calls, Madsen and Enger theorize.

They also flagged his credit cards and made sure they had copies of his immigration records, though it's likely no one looked at any of the information.

But when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred, Al-Hazmi's name and his electronic records already were in a database.

"He obviously fit some profile," Madsen said. "And profiling isn't good. For whatever reason, he came up as a possible individual who could have been involved in the attacks."

Hence the mistaken set of coincidences that led to Al-Hazmi's detention by federal authorities, said Chris Hoofnagle, legislative counsel with the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

"An innocent person could have a conversation with a criminal and from then on," he said, "the Department of Justice can make that individual the subject of a type of warrant."

Questions or comments about the site?

About Us | Advertising Info | Help | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use
Express-News Editors | KENS 5 Editors | Circulation Department
Letters to the Editor | Archives

Portions © 2001 KENS 5 and the San Antonio Express-News. © 2001 MyWay. All rights reserved.

7

SAN ANTONIO TEACHERS CREDIT UNION
Get Behind the Wheel of Your New Car...

Express-News: Metro and State

Camp Bullis trains soldiers and provides a backdrop for movies.

By Scott Huddleston
San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/30/2001 12:00 AM

For nearly 85 years, the sights and sounds of combat have been set against the rugged, natural beauty of a military preserve north of San Antonio.

After World War I, Camp Bullis was a demobilization point for soldiers returning from Europe.

Express-News file photo
Army reservists with the 340th Supply and Service Company practice drinking from canteens while wearing protective suits designed for chemical warfare. The reservists were preparing for deployment to Saudi Arabia.

It served as a prisoner of war camp and infantry training ground during World War II, a stretcher obstacle course prior to the Korean War and the site of a make-believe village during the Vietnam War.

The 28,000-acre reservation remains under the control of Fort Sam Houston, which dates to 1870.

Established in 1917 amid a threat of war in Europe, the camp was named after Gen. John Lapham Bullis, who commanded a company of Seminole Indians that defended Texas settlers against Indian raids of the 1800s.

During World War I, the camp had maneuver grounds and small-arms firing ranges for troops from Fort Sam.

Portions of two silent movies were filmed at Bullis in 1926. For "The Rough Riders," infantry and cavalry troops were used as extras to tell the story of the military unit organized by Teddy Roosevelt during the Spanish-American War.

For "Wings," which in 1927 won the first Academy Award in the Best Picture category, a mock French village was built at the camp.

The film, about two men who become World War I fighter pilots and vie

8

for the same woman, used U.S. soldiers in German and American uniforms.

In 1931, a 10-bed infirmary, officers' mess hall, vehicle sheds, landing field and swimming pool were built at the camp.

Besides being used heavily as an infantry training facility during the war, Bullis also was used to train medical technicians and nurses by 1944.

In the last years of the war, up to 800 German prisoners, captured mostly in Africa, were kept at the camp and used to maintain its grounds.

By the mid-1950s, commercial aviation and urban growth forced the camp to restrict heavy mortar and artillery fire.

In the 1960s, the camp was used for medical training and weapons training and ground maneuvers in preparation for Vietnam.

During the 1970s, more than 1,000 acres on the camp's periphery were transferred to the city and county to allow for development of roads and parks, including the city's Eisenhower Park, which opened in the late 1980s.

In 1973, troops from Fort Hood were airdropped onto the camp as the Army began emergency deployment readiness exercises.

Activities at the camp in the 1980s included construction of a combat assault landing strip in 1983 and landing exercises by amphibious assault Marines.

Soldiers preparing in 1990 to deploy to Saudi Arabia trained with protective suits designed for chemical warfare.

Bullis still is heavily used for military training. But if a future base closure commission finds problems with urban encroachment around the camp, Fort Sam's mission could be threatened, since the post uses the camp to train its medics.

Stickers, sticky fingers

Rudy Garza, Bexar County's tax assessor-collector at the time, warned local motorists a decade ago to watch for people stealing color-coded tags from their license plates.

A local car dealership had 600 stickers stolen after a 1991 law required proof of insurance when getting the vehicle-registration stickers.

In 1994, the Texas Department of Transportation began phasing in registration decals that go on the inside of the windshield, reducing the potential for theft and insurance violations.

shuddleston@express-news.net

9

SAN ANTONIO TEACHERS CREDIT UNION
Get Behind the Wheel of Your New Car...

Express-News: America in Agony

Attacks may hurt local charities

By Scott Huddleston
San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/01/2001 12:00 AM

Local charities are hoping a new trend of patriotic giving may shield them from economic shock waves that the tragedies in New York and Washington could propel nationwide.

With the local United Way's annual campaign and holiday fund drives of smaller nonprofit groups approaching, some fear that publicity focused on the recovery on the East Coast could hurt local causes, from the arts to housing for the homeless.

Charities already are bracing for an indirect impact from job losses in the airline and tourism industries, smaller corporate profits and diminished returns on investments by private foundations, officials of a few nonprofit agencies said last week.

Another concern is that donations that might have stayed in Texas could go instead to New York. But some are hopeful that South Texans who contributed to the more than $150 million raised by the Sept. 21 "A Tribute to Heroes" telethon, and to the $120 million in the September 11 Fund in New York, will remember local charities as well.

"I think some people may be scared, and have decided not to give. But all of this also has softened some hearts," said Sallie Steves Peacock, director of development with the San Antonio Area Foundation, which donated more than $7.5 million to local causes last year, and has raised more than $20,000 for recovery from the Sept. 11 events.

Project Mend, an 8-year-old nonprofit organization that helps low-income, disabled Texans, will see its city funding fall from $28,000 last year to $15,000 when fiscal 2002 starts today. Executive Director Murlin Johnson hopes to avoid any further impact from the Sept. 11 attacks.

The charity, which buys or repairs wheelchairs, prosthetic limbs and other equipment, plans to spend about $300,000 this year, but would like to spend $500,000, to cope with a growing number of Hispanics with diabetes who are forced to undergo amputations. A prosthetic leg costs up to $10,000, but can be a lifesaver, Johnson said.

NEWS

Complete coverage

Express-News

KENS 5

Associated Press

Photos
Slide show

A World Mourns

Video
Entire video coverage

Searchable victim database

Print your own flag

Guidelines for flying American flag

Links
Searchable victim database

Official donations

Fraudulent charity warning

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Time line of attacks

Attack discussion

How to talk to children

10

"Some people lose their leg, and they just give up on living," he said.

Palmer Moe, executive director of the Albert and Bessie Mae Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, said national fund-raising campaigns would likely be hit hardest. The foundation, which has donated more than $56 million since 1998 to a broad range of charitable interests, expects to lose about 5 percent of the value on its securities, and will have to reduce its allocations accordingly next year, he said.

"It clearly is going to be less next year," said Moe, whose foundation last year announced grants of up to $2.3 million over four years to help the San Antonio Symphony.

While corporations may have less to spend on charity, private foundations stand to draw less on their investments, Moe said. But he said Americans might be inspired to give.

"It will depend on where confidence levels are," based on economic indicators in weeks and months ahead, Moe said.

Officials with the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County said it is too early to say how recent events will affect the organization's fund drive, which runs from Oct. 11 to mid-December. Companies such as H-E-B, Valero Energy Corp. and USAA, which already have asked employees to donate through payroll deductions, have had a good response, said Gary Wilson, vice president of resource development for United Way.

The United Way hopes to raise $36.7 million from civilian and government employees.

"There may be a redistribution of funds" favoring the American Red Cross and other agencies providing relief in New York, Wilson said.

Dusti Scovel, executive assistant at San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, which is supported by government and private grants, personal donations and the United Way, said she's seen more homeless men and families at the ministry's downtown shelter in the past six months. Even before Sept. 11, some major corporations warned that they expected to reduce charitable contributions, she said.

"We're afraid that foundations and corporations also may look at higher-profile giving," Scovel said. "They want to be investing in something that's getting a lot more exposure. The homeless in San Antonio may have to suffer.

"Our biggest concern is knowing the need (to help the homeless) will be greater," she said.

shuddleston@express-news.net

10/01/2001

NEWS

Complete coverage

Express-News

KENS 5

Associated Press

Photos
Slide show

A World Mourns

Video
Entire video coverage

Searchable victim database

Print your own flag

Guidelines for flying American flag

Links
Searchable victim database

Official donations

Fraudulent charity warning

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Time line of attacks

Attack discussion

How to talk to children

11

Military can receive earnings credit

Question: I am retired military and recently received a statement showing what I'm projected to receive at age 62 and later. There was a sentence in this report that said the benefits projected would change if you retired from the military. What kind of a change should I expect in my benefit?

OSCAR GARCIA

SOCIAL SECURITY AND YOU

Answer: As you already may know, the amount you get from Social Security depends on your lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings, the higher your Social Security benefit.

Under certain circumstances, special earnings can be credited to your work record for Social Security purposes. The extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings, which are not credited until you file for benefits, may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

For instance, here's when the additional earnings are granted if you were in service in 1978 and later. For every $300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional $100 in earnings up to a maximum of $1,200 a year.

If you enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, and did not complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings.

Here's how it works if you were in service between 1957 and 1977:

You are credited with $300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay. If you were in the military between 1940 and 1956, you did not pay Social Security taxes.

However, your Social Security record may be credited with $160 a month in earnings for military service from Sept. 16, 1940, through Dec. 31, 1956. You cannot receive these special earnings credits if you already are receiving a federal benefit based on the same years of service.

For more information on this subject, visit our Web site at www.ssa.gov and click on "Frequently Asked Questions." Remember, there is no offset of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement benefits.

Q: I turned 62 in September, and I am no longer working. I understand the yearly earnings limit for someone my age is $10,680 this year. I already have earned well over this limit. Will I still be able to receive my Social Security retirement for the remainder of the year?

A: If you are no longer working, the answer is yes. Sometimes people who retire late in the year already have gone over the limit by the time they stop working. That is why there is a special rule that applies to earnings during the first year of retirement.

Under this rule, you can receive Social Security retirement benefits for any months you do not earn over the monthly limit regardless of your total yearly earnings.

In 2001, a person under full retirement age is considered retired if monthly earnings are less than $890.

For example, let us say that you earned $45,000 for the year when you retired at age 62 at the end of September. Since you do not plan to work any longer, you would be entitled to your monthly retirement for October, November and December. This is because we only count your earnings beginning with the month you file for benefits.

If you decide to work during any of those three months, you still can receive your benefit if you remain under the $890 monthly limit. If you earn more than $890 in any of those months, then you would have to return your retirement benefit for that month.

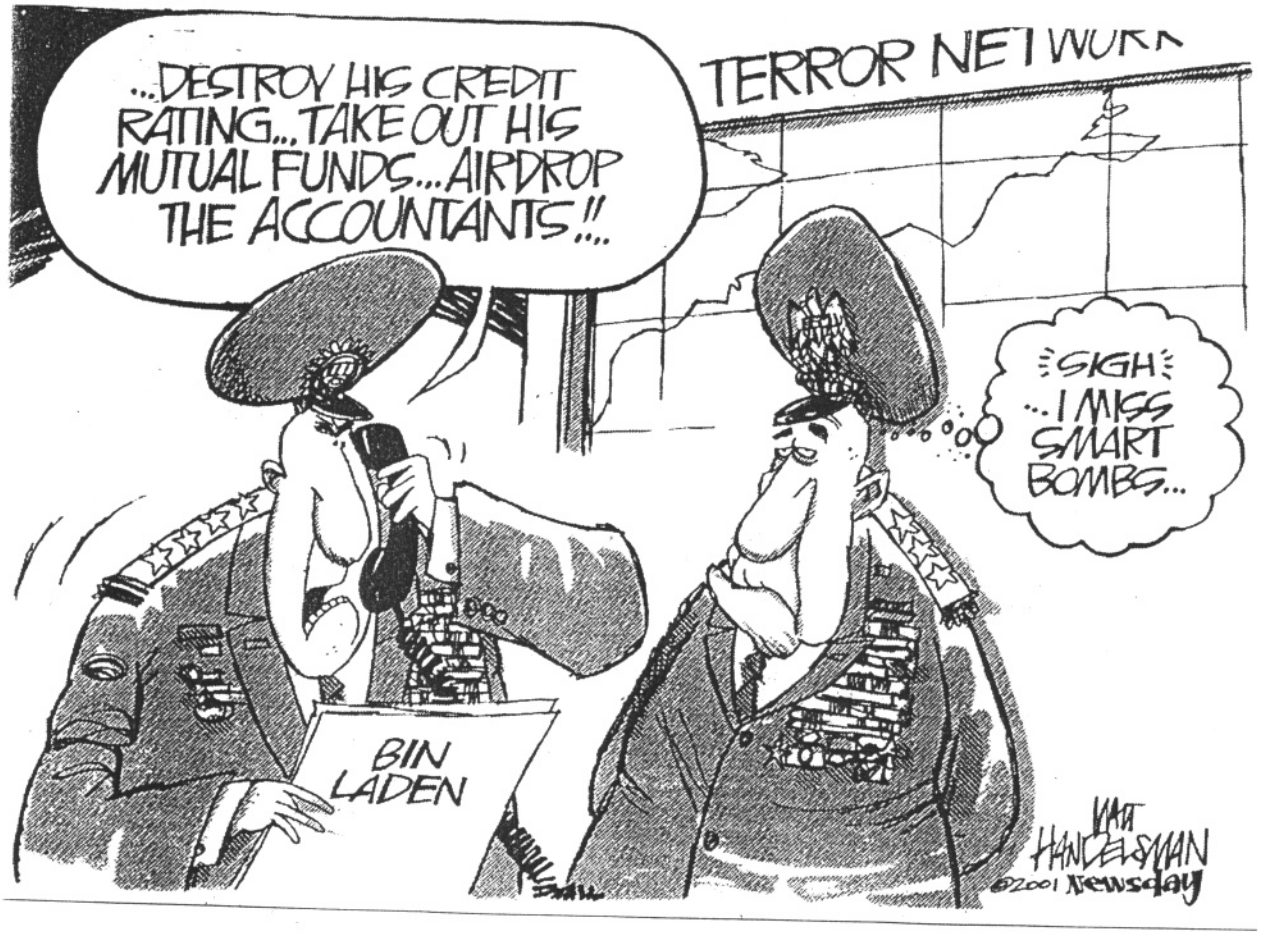
Beginning in 2002, only the yearly limit will apply to your earnings.

To learn more about this, call (800) 772-1213 and ask for the pamphlet "How Work Affects Your Benefits."

Oscar Garcia is a public affairs specialist at the Social Security Administration. Contact Garcia at oscar.h.garcia@ssa.gov. You can write Garcia at Social Security Administration, 8020 Alamo Downs Parkway, San Antonio, Texas 78238.

12

Express News
PAGE 3D
DATE 1 Oct 01



13

Express News
PAGE 4B
DATE 1 Oct 01

God "wants me to be patient and he wants me to forgive."

DR. AL-BADR M.H. AL-HAZMI

Prayers answered

Dr. Al-Hazmi details how faith aided him during his detention.

BY MACARENA HERNANDEZ
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

On the eighth day, they gave him a Koran.

Opening the Islamic holy text at random, Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi sat alone in a small, locked room and read the first verse from the book of Shura: "For those who are patient and forgiving, it is the most righteous of deeds."

Ever since federal agents had arrested him Sept. 12 — the day after the terror attacks in New York and Washington — the San Antonio radiologist had been praying for a quick return home.

God finally answered him.

"He wants me to be patient and he wants me to forgive," he recalled thinking. "I will be patient and I will forgive."

Al-Hazmi believed that once he sat down with officials, he could explain his innocence. Like most of the country, he had watched in horror as the hijacked planes crashed.

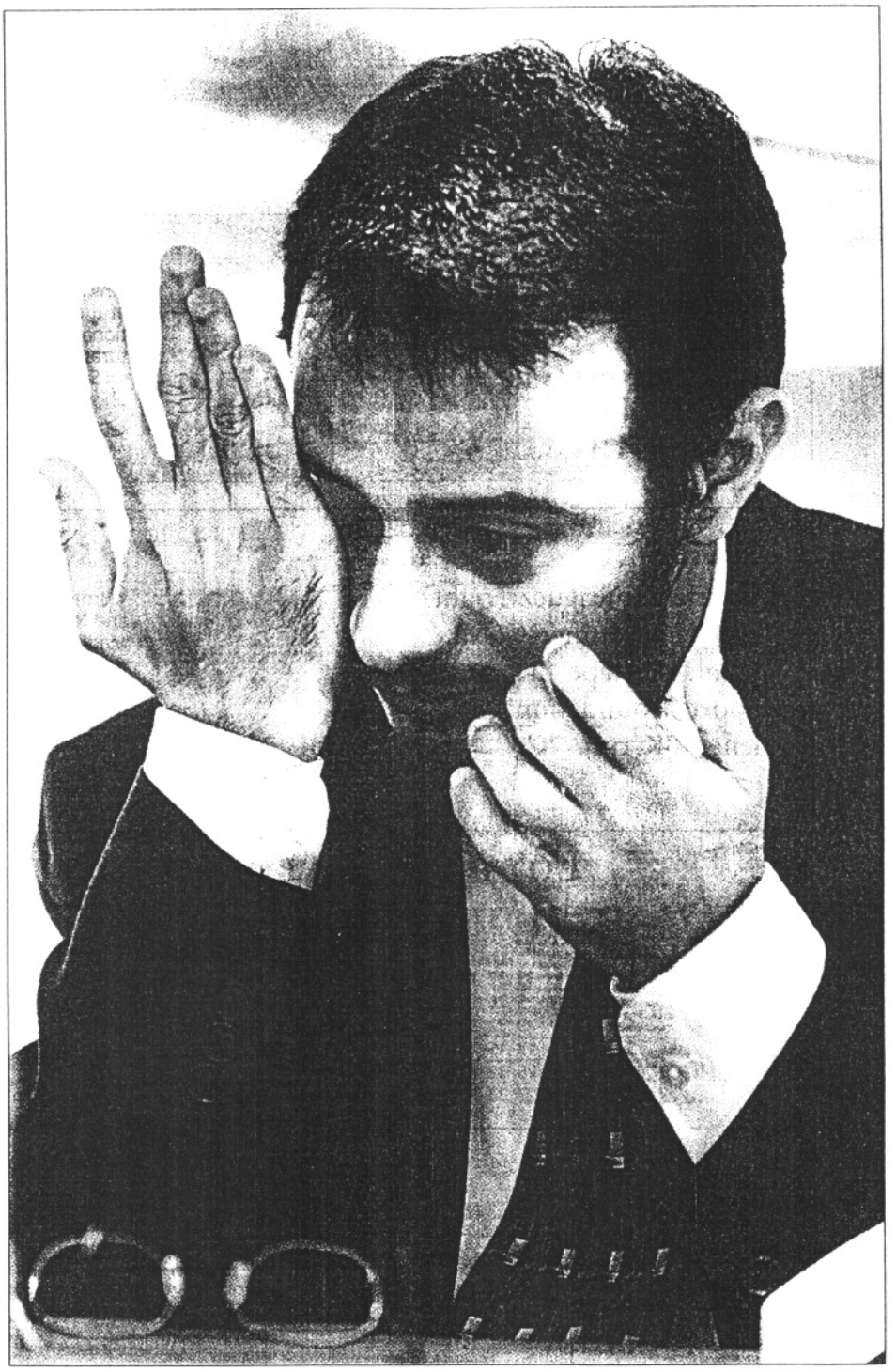
The Saudi Arabian knew authorities believed he might have had something to do with those "insane acts." But it would be more than a week before he would get the opportunity to clear his name.

It wasn't until Sept. 23 that he got his chance. And within 24 hours after answering their questions, he was released.

The doctor returned to San Antonio almost two weeks after he was led away from his Northwest Side home in handcuffs.

In an exclusive interview with the San Antonio Express-News, Al-Hazmi recounted his harrowing ordeal.

See LOCAL /12A



BAHRAM MARK SOBHANI/STAFF

Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi breaks down Saturday while talking about his two weeks in custody and the effects the ordeal had on his family.

Express News 14
PAGE 1A
DATE 30 Sep 01

Local radiologist details his detention

BAHRAM MARK SOBHANI/STAFF

Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi gestures during an interview Saturday at the Islamic Center of San Antonio.

15

Express News
PAGE 12A-1
DATE 30 Sep 01

Local Radiologist... cont'd (1)

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Sept. 12

It began, he said, at 5 o'clock the morning after the attacks.

Al-Hazmi had gotten up early that morning to study for the radiology board exams he was scheduled to take in three days in Dallas. While his wife and children slept, Al-Hazmi answered the door to find five FBI agents.

"They said, 'Dr. Al-Hazmi? Keep quiet,' " he recalled the FBI agents saying. "I told them, 'You keep quiet because my kids are upstairs and I don't want them to get up now (and) see the guns.' "

For the next six hours, the agents searched his home. Al-Hazmi said he prayed, called his lawyer and an hour before he was taken away, he had breakfast with his wife and children.

"After a while, (the agents) started asking questions and I said, 'I'm not speaking without a lawyer,' " he said, but that didn't stop the agents from trying.

He said they asked if he had been to Boston and Washington.

"Yes," he replied.

They asked if he knew Mohamed Atta, Nawaf Alhazmi and Salem Alhazmi.

"No," he told them.

"I came later to realize those are suspects, hijackers," he said in the interview with the Express-News. "But I told them Al-Hazmi family name is like Smith and Jones in the United States."

By noon, the FBI agents had taken his home computer, copies of Islamic magazines, a copy of a Time magazine, his degree certificates and medical textbooks, he said.

Then they took him outside, out of his children's sight, and informed him he was under arrest.

"I said, 'What's my guilt?' " They said, 'We'll explain it to you later.' "

By 1 p.m., Al-Hazmi was sitting handcuffed in an FBI office in San Antonio, still wearing his blue pajamas, and answering questions about his brothers and sisters and where they lived.

"Nobody explained to me anything, they just kept saying, 'Later, later,' " he said. "I said, 'I need to call my lawyer.' They said, 'Later.' 'I need to call my wife.' They said, 'Later.' "

FBI officials then took Al-Hazmi to the waiting area of the local immigration office to have his picture and fingerprints taken.

There, he met two Mexican citizens. When one of them noted Al-Hazmi didn't look like he belonged there, the doctor shared what had happened.

"One of them said, 'Listen, you are stronger than them and you are going to survive it. It might take one week or two weeks, and you will be released.' "

For the first time that day, Al-Hazmi said, he felt that someone at least understood his anguish and confusion. He, too, offered them his sympathy. One of the men told him they were used to the process of deportation.

"He said, 'I come and work for a couple of months, and they get me and deport me and I come back, so don't worry about me,' " Al-Hazmi recalled one of the men telling him.

Still, the two strangers asked for his prayers.

But that night, it was Al-Hazmi who needed prayers.

Al-Hazmi, who had never even visited a jail, spent that night alone in a cell at Comal County Jail in New Braunfels.

Sept. 13

The next day, agents drove him back to the INS building for more paperwork, fingerprints and pictures.

When he returned to the jail, Al-Hazmi noticed he was being treated differently than before. The thin, slightly built doctor said he was placed in a "cold room, with no bed, just a mattress." The green shirt and pants he had been given were replaced with a flimsy dark blue gown that looked like an "apron," and only covered him up to his mid-thigh.

"The guy said, 'Merry Christmas' to add to my pain when he handed me the suit," he said. "It was a terrible night because I hate cold weather. And I couldn't sleep and I kept shifting between right and left, trying to get some sleep because I was tired and I was hungry."

Al-Hazmi said he prayed for a quick resolution. He was running out of patience, he said. He prayed for his family.

Sept. 14

Two days after being taken into custody, FBI agents had him on the move, in handcuffs and shackles. Al-Hazmi, who is nearsighted, said the FBI agents took away his glasses, making it almost impossible for him to see. He said they drove him to the San Antonio airport where he boarded a small commercial jet. Two Indian passengers were there, accompanied by a U.S. marshal and an immigration officer.

One of the Indian men, who had the name Ayub printed on his wristband, kept crying, Al-Hazmi recalled. The other one sat there "emotionless," he said.

Al-Hazmi offered Ayub words of encouragement. As he did so, he thought of his 2-year-old son back in San Antonio.

For the first time since his detainment, Al-Hazmi broke down.

"When we arrived to (New York), it was as if an army was waiting for us. U.S. marshals, soldiers with guns, many cars, armed vehicles and I got scared at that point. I said, 'Oh, my God, where are we going?' " Al-Hazmi recalled.

Law enforcement officials took each detainee in separate cars. Al-Hazmi was taken to a facility he believes was the Manhattan Detention Complex.

By then, Al-Hazmi had given up asking to be allowed to make phone calls to his wife and lawyer. He was handed a hotel-sized bar of soap and placed in a small cell with a bed, toilet and shower. They handed him an oversized orange jumpsuit. Agents would repeatedly search him.

Although he skipped dinner, he slept "like a baby" for the first night since his arrest.

Sept. 15, 16 and 17

Those next three days and nights in New York City ran together for the doctor.

With few exceptions, Al-Hazmi spent most of his time in isolation, praying in his room and waiting to meet with his lawyer and FBI officials. But it wasn't until the fourth day in New York City that Al-Hazmi would get the opportunity to meet with an attorney, a man named "Gary," who had been appointed by the court.

For the first time since his arrest six days earlier, Al-Hazmi learned why he was being held.

"Before he read the allegations I asked him, 'Do you think this thing will be done before the board exams or after the board exams?' " Al-Hazmi recalled. "He said, 'You have no idea of the seriousness of your situation. Let's get real here. Don't worry about your board exams. We are worried about your life.' "

The attorney read from an affidavit that outlined the string of coincidences that led officials to link Al-Hazmi to the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history.

One was a receipt for about $21 for a meal at the National Mall in Washington. Another was his choice for online travel reservations — Travelocity. A third was the place where Al-Hazmi got his visa, the same city in which some of the hijackers got theirs.

Agents also questioned why Al-Hazmi had wired $10,000 to a Houston friend months before he came to San Antonio in 1997. They wanted to know about his plans to fly to San Diego on Sept. 22, a date that had ignited rumors and speculation in the media about a second round of attacks.

The "evidence" against him included a couple of phone calls to Al-Hazmi's home in 1999 from a man named Abdullah bin Laden.

One by one, Al-Hazmi explained the accusations against him. The Washington meal was purchased in May, when Al-Hazmi was there studying at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for six weeks.

Travelocity is one of the most popular airline reservation services on the Internet.

As for the visa, Al-Hazmi obtained it in Jeddah, only a one-hour flight from where he lived in Gizan, his wife's hometown.

Regarding the phone calls from Abdullah bin Laden, Al-Hazmi explained the man works with the World Assembly of Muslim Youth.

16

Express News
PAGE 12A-2
DATE 30Sep01

Local Radiologist ... cont'd ②

Al-Hazmi had exchanged about five phone calls with the man two years earlier, trying to obtain books and videotapes for the Islamic Center of San Antonio. Al-Hazmi said he has no idea if the man is related to Osama bin Laden. They have not spoken since.

As for the money he wired to his friend in May 1997, Al-Hazmi said he sent it so it would be waiting for him when he got to Texas.

"They said, 'What did you do with that money?' I said, 'Go to Lack's (furniture store) and get the receipts. I also bought a car with $6,000.' "

As for the trip to San Diego, it was for him and his family.

When he heard the allegations, Al-Hazmi said he was relieved.

"I was happy. Well, not happy, but relieved to hear those stupid allegations," he said. "I said it is just a matter of time and they will know that I am innocent."

Sept. 19

His eighth day in detention, Al-Hazmi finally was allowed to meet with San Antonio attorney Gerry Goldstein, who was hired by ARAMCO, the Saudi Arabian oil company sponsoring his medical studies here.

"He said, 'The bad news is that you have a cancer,' " Al-Hazmi recalled Goldstein telling him. " 'The good news is that you have the best treatment.' "

But it still would be another four days before Al-Hazmi would get the opportunity to sit down with an attorney and the FBI to answer questions.

Sept. 23

Almost two weeks after he had been detained, Al-Hazmi, accompanied by an attorney who had been hired for him by the Saudi Arabian Embassy, met with the FBI.

By Monday, the FBI had cleared Al-Hazmi and released him. The next morning, he flew to San Antonio.

"My advice to anybody, who is approached by the FBI, American or non-American, is: 'Don't talk to (the FBI), just wait for a lawyer.' It is better that you wait for two weeks or three weeks than to talk to them because they can be tricky," he said.

Sept. 25

When he arrived in San Antonio on Tuesday, Al-Hazmi had no idea about the rabid media attention that had been focused on him since his detainment.

The passport photograph he had given his wife two weeks before the attacks had been duplicated in many major newspapers throughout the world.

At home, his three children had been told their father was in New York City helping with rescue efforts. And for about a week, at Al-Hazmi's request, his wife kept his whereabouts a secret from his mother.

But it wasn't long before news of the arrest reached his parents' neighbors in Gizan, the village of about 300 where the doctor grew up modestly in a large family of nine children. Although his parents both are illiterate, they sent all nine children to college.

Reflection, celebration

Al-Hazmi said he called his mother as soon as he was released. Throughout the interview with the Express-News, he spoke of his newfound strength and of his wife's support.

Several dozen families from his mosque marked his return Friday.

On a white plastic table covering laid flat on the floor where the worshippers usually pray, members placed rice and meat dishes from more than 10 different countries. In the women's section of the mosque, Al-Hazmi's wife, Entsar, 27, walked around smiling and serving coffee with sugar-coated dates.

Their daughters, Ebtehal, 8, and Afnan, 6, ran around the parking lot with their friends, who they hadn't seen since their father's arrest.

In the men's side of the mosque, Abdulrahman, who is almost 2, walked around staring at a picture of his father from a recent newspaper article. Al-Hazmi's wife said their only son hardly slept while her husband was gone and only stopped crying when he got a picture of his papa.

Al-Hazmi broke down only once during the interview, recalling his anguish at being so far away from his little boy.

During his detention, he squeezed in some extra prayers at night, the time of day Muslims believe is a good time to talk to God, when everyone else is asleep. And he cried, he said.

"I know that while I was crying, asking for help, God was watching me and seeing how strong and how weak I was," he said. "He knows that we are weak and that is why his mercy is always with us."

He said at times he would question why this was happening to him, and he would lament how his name had been stained. But then he would remind himself of the thousands of people who had died in the Sept. 11 attacks.

"My pain was nothing (compared to the victims' families). That is one of the reasons that kept me strong through the whole thing," he said.

---

mhernandez@express-news.net
Assistant City Editor Nora Lopez contributed to this report.

17

Express News
PAGE 12A-3
DATE 30 Sep 01

28,000 troops, 300 jets, 2 dozen ships now in area

Even so, say planners, 'All options stink'

By Steven Lee Myers
and Thom Shanker
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The United States has amassed a military force of 28,000 sailors, airmen, soldiers and Marines, more than 300 warplanes and two dozen warships spread for thousands of miles across a military theater with Iraq and Afghanistan at its heart.

The diverse forces, stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea, bring a potent range of military options with them to keep pressure on those two isolated nations, one a long-time foe and one a new target.

But while there's enough firepower to allow President Bush to order strikes at any moment he chooses, senior Pentagon officials acknowledge that the immediate options are in many ways both imperfect and risky.

The buildup continues even while Pentagon officials talk of lightning raids and precise strikes against targets in Afghanistan, because no matter how brief and limited, such operations require a vast and expensive network of bases, command posts, flight decks, refueling outposts and defensive weapons, with all the accompanying logistics.

Although Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld say the campaign against terror will be a new kind of war, the force assembling in the region still consists mainly of sea and air power.

Conventional wars ultimately are won by taking and holding territory, as one military maxim has it, but that's not an option being considered in what the administration has constantly said is no conventional operation.

The Pentagon also has mobilized special operations troops — their numbers are secret — but they're now playing mainly a supporting role to possible air and missile strikes, the officials said.

For now, other ground forces are most likely to play mainly protective roles in places like Kuwait.

The United States dispatched B-52 and B-1 bombers to the region and has Navy F-14s and F-18s aboard nearby aircraft carriers. Air Force F-15s and F-16s routinely enforce no-flight zones over Iraq, where American and British warplanes have continued to skirmish with Iraqi air forces, even since the Sept. 11 attacks.

So far, the Bush administration has resisted temptation to retaliate immediately for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon as it rallies broader international support for the anti-terror war and gleans intelligence on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden and his allies.

The question of how to battle terrorists in their remote and rocky Afghan havens has perplexed military planners in both the Clinton and Bush administrations, some of whom share a darkly comic answer when asked about the war plan.

"It's called AOS," they say, using a barracks abbreviation for "all options stink." Another senior military official said there was "no good option that wouldn't make us look useless."

Even a series of pinpoint strikes would require a vast and expensive network of bases, command posts, flight decks, refueling outposts and defensive weapons, with all the accompanying logistics.

A senior Air Force officer said late this week that the Bush administration still was negotiating for all the support for overflights and for basing aircraft it would like in the region.

John Bolton, the undersecretary of state, ended the week in talks with Central Asian countries that border Afghanistan.

A senior official said negotiations this week in Pakistan had given the United States significant access to bases there, mainly for search and rescue operations and reconnaissance.

"Some people were actually pleasantly surprised how much they agreed to," a Pentagon official said.

Ever since the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the United States has maintained a significant military presence in the region, largely to keep President Saddam Hussein of Iraq in check.

At any given time, those forces number more than 20,000 military personnel, nearly 200 fighter and support aircraft and at least one aircraft carrier and its accompanying warships, which include submarines, cruisers and destroyers able to fire scores of long-range cruise missiles.

Since the terror attacks, Bush has greatly bolstered that force.

Immediately after the attack, he ordered the aircraft carrier Enterprise and its battle group to remain in the region after the carrier Carl Vinson arrived in the Persian Gulf, instantly doubling the naval firepower normally stationed there.

Each carrier has about 75 aircraft — half of which are F-14 and F-18 attack jets — capable of conducting round-the-clock air operations for days at a time.

Two other carriers — the Theodore Roosevelt, headed to the Mediterranean Sea, and the Kitty Hawk, which recently steamed out of its home port in Japan — also could join the operation, but have not yet received orders to do so, officials said.

Bush also ordered the Air Force to send nearly 50 combat aircraft to the region, including B-52 and B-1 bombers now on Diego Garcia, the British island in the Indian Ocean, according to officials familiar with the preparations.

Britain also has a significant force in the region, including more than 20,000 troops, an aircraft carrier, several other warships and dozens of aircraft, all taking part in a previously scheduled training exercise with Omani forces.

The force, Britain's largest single military deployment since the Falklands war in 1982, could easily switch from its training to take part in an American-led operation, officials in Washington said.

18

Express News
PAGE 7A-1
DATE 30Sep01

Revenge can be a dangerous game for the U.S.

"Instead of wanting to go bomb the hell out of them (for what the terrorists did in New York and Washington), we have to attack the root of the problem. Are we doing the right things with our foreign policy? This goes way beyond trying to get revenge."

— Steve Kerr, former Spurs basketball player (quoted in Buck Harvey's Sept. 13 column)

"Let no decent human being forget that the vast majority of Arabs and of other Muslims are neither accomplices to the crime nor rejoicing in it. Almost all of them are as shocked and aggrieved as the rest of humankind."

— Amos Oz, Israeli writer and peace activist (The Irish Times, Sept. 13)

In half a century of trying to write, first as a lawyer doing civil rights and anti-war cases, and now as a columnist, I don't know of anything that has fascinated me more than Buck Harvey's column about Steve Kerr, the former Spurs basketball player, who was quoted as making balanced and articulate comments about the Middle East.

MAURY MAVERICK

That young Kerr would call for peace instead of revenge takes on authority when you think about the fact that his father, Malcolm Kerr, president of the American University in Beirut, was assassinated by the more radical elements of that part of the world.

Here's more of what Harvey quoted Kerr as saying:

"We want revenge but against who? It's an invisible enemy.

"The No. 1 question we should all have is, why do people hate us? Why is there a faction of people in the world so against what we stand for?"

Here's another brave comment by Amos Oz, who strikes me as being the Adlai Stevenson of Israel, which, in my opinion, makes him a good person:

"Being the victims of Arab and Muslim fundamentalism often blinds us so that we tend to ignore the rise of chauvinistic and religious extremism, not only in the domain of Islam but also in various parts of the Christian world and indeed among the Jewish people."

Back to young Kerr's observation, this time with a question: Do you want to risk bombing and perhaps killing innocent people, or do you want to determine the root cause of the dreadful attack on our beloved country so it won't happen again?

What would you think about Vietnam seeking revenge against our country after we waged a war there in violation of the U.S. Constitution (there was no congressional declaration of war), in which, according to Webster's Encyclopedia, "about 900,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, 50,000 Americans and some 400,000 South Vietnamese died"?

We'd better not play the revenge game in what happened to New York and Washington.

Right now, my heroes are Kerr, who says we ought to get at the root of the problem, and Oz, who reminds me of the San Antonio Jews who, more than any other group, stood by me when, as a legislator, I opposed the Joe McCarthy legislation of the 1950s.

A risk in getting revenge is that instead of helping Middle East countries become open societies as America tends to be, we risk becoming a closed society as the countries of the Middle East tend to be.

Postscript: Here are some bombs I'd drop on desperately poor Afghanistan: groceries, medicine, the offer of high-minded young Americans working in the Peace Corps and cooperation by America in seeking good will between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Also, if they would consider it, for all Middle East constitutions, this language from the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble for a redress of grievances."

Then more groceries and medicine, but not bombs.

Cheers for Uncle Sam!

19

Express News
PAGE 3G
DATE 30Sep01

Doctors attend disease classes

'Stealth attacks' on the agenda

By Cindy Tumiel
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Local physicians have been crowding into classrooms during the past three weeks for refresher courses in diseases that most never have seen in their medical careers.

Smallpox, anthrax, plague and tularemia. For years, federal authorities have warned these bugs may be in the hands of terrorists or rogue governments who want to harm Americans.

The Sept. 11 attacks drove that point home to emergency and primary care doctors, who realize it could be up to them to recognize the first signs of a stealth biological attack.

"Bioterrorism is going to be very silent," said Dr. Bernard Swift, owner of Texas MedClinic, which has sent 10 of his physicians and staff to the classes. "People who have been infected are going to start rolling into our emergency rooms and our clinics. We are going to be a first line."

Swift is one of some 200 local doctors who have attended professional seminars on bioterrorism that the Bexar County Medical Society has held in the past three weeks. Within a day of the Sept. 11 attacks, Dr. Charles Bauer, chairman of the medical society's emergency preparedness committee, had organized a refresher class for doctors on how to recognize smallpox and anthrax infections. Two additional sessions have been held since, and more are planned, Bauer said.

"What you look for are things out of context, like a lot of flu in June."

DR. CHARLES BAUER
Bexar County Medical Society emergency preparedness committee

The medical education courses represent one of the reactions by San Antonio's medical and emergency-response workers to the growing awareness that terrorists could have the capability of launching chemical and biological strikes against major U.S. cities.

Local public health agencies, hospitals, public safety departments and disaster coordinators are reviewing plans, talking with each other and organizing classes for medical and emergency workers who would be the first to handle ill or injured civilians if a biological attack were launched here.

Across the nation, there is worry about how well the country is prepared to deal with the deliberate release of chemicals, bacteria or viruses that could sicken and kill millions of citizens. Reports from around the country say people are buying up gas masks and antibiotic drugs used to treat anthrax.

San Antonio has put a lot of effort into planning for such an attack, officials said. The city was one of the first to get funding in 1997 under a new federal program to help local governments prepare for biological or chemical disasters, Bauer noted.

"We've been doing things to get ready for a long time," said Bauer, a professor of surgery and emergency medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center. "People are now suddenly aware and interested."

Since 1997, the Bioterrorism Response Plan has drawn in dozens of agencies, including military and civilian hospitals, fire and police departments and local and state health officials. Thousands have received training, and groups as diverse as ministers, morticians and housekeepers have attended seminars on how to do their jobs safely, Bauer said.

In January, a complex simulation exercise was held in the Alamodome. Dubbed "Alamo Alert," it tested the preparedness for the hypothetical release of a smallpox agent into the air.

"A community cannot ever be so prepared that one cannot feel the potential for such events," said Dr. Fernando Guerra, director of the Metropolitan Health District. "But our community is as well prepared as any community."

Agencies regularly practice their individual piece of the local terror response plan. About once a year, University Hospital runs its disaster drill, which includes mobilizing a decontamination area in a parking garage outside the hospital, said Dr. Ronald Stewart, the hospital's medical director for trauma.

Such an area would be activated during a chemical release, when large numbers of attack victims would be showing up at hospitals immediately. A biological attack, though, such as smallpox or plague, would not be so obvious.

The germs would incubate for days before people began turning up ill, and initial symptoms would resemble influenza, Bauer said. A large burden would fall on family and emergency care physicians to recognize subtle differences, he said.

"It's not something you're going to pick up right at the front — 'This looks like anthrax or smallpox,'" Bauer said. "But if people are knowledgeable, they might go to their books; they might take an X-ray."

Physicians recognize their responsibility is huge, said Swift, noting he has never seen a case of smallpox or anthrax in his 25-year medical career.

"These are diseases you learn about in medical school and then you kind of forget about them, because you never see them," he said.

Disease surveillance, which requires physicians to report certain illnesses to public health authorities, will be key, health officials said. The region's disaster-planning grant allowed the Metropolitan Health District to make large investments in laboratory and surveillance equipment that can spot developing health issues quickly.

"What you look for are things out of context, like a lot of flu in June," Bauer said. "You don't normally see much flu in June, so that would make us investigate it further."

"We want doctors and public health authorities to follow through and report all these reportable conditions," said Dennis Perrotta, an epidemiologist with the Texas Department of Health. "This will help us deal with bioterrorism, because then, we find out about it earlier and we can respond faster and save more lives."

ctumiel@express-news.net

20

Express News
PAGE 14A
DATE 30 Sep 01

OUR TURN

U.S., Pakistan ties must be permanent

Pakistan has emerged as an important ally in the United States' effort to rid the world of terrorists, specifically those holed up in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has vital information about neighboring Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, which has harbored terrorist Osama bin Laden.

In addition to intelligence about the Taliban, Pakistan also is providing needed locations for the U.S. military to use in an armed conflict with Afghanistan.

The cooperation is most welcome, and it followed heavy pressure from the U.S. government.

President Bush's decision to lift economic sanctions against Pakistan was a good gesture to help repay the favors. The sanctions were imposed after Pakistan tested nuclear weapons.

Americans must realize the large risks for Pakistan. Military leader Gen. Pervez Musharraf may pay a big price for helping the United States.

Pakistan, which had friendly relations with the Taliban before the Sept. 11 attack on America, has its own bands of Islamic extremists who support the Taliban and hate Americans. They are working to spread discontent among average Pakistanis about Musharraf's willingness to help the United States.

Regardless of what happens in Afghanistan, the United States is now obligated to help Pakistan deal with the consequences.

The United States has an obligation to help Pakistan face the consequences of helping Americans.

Pakistanis felt the United States abandoned their nation after the Soviet Union pulled out of Afghanistan a few years ago, the New York Times recently reported.

The American government played a role in the Afghan resistance to the Soviets that led to the Taliban's rise. Then this nation walked away.

The United States cannot walk away again. Americans have a long-term stake in what happens to Pakistan.

Americans also can't afford to forget that Pakistan, for better or worse, now is a nuclear power.

It would be unthinkable if extremists won control of Pakistan and its nuclear weapons.

But Pakistan is only one example of nations to which the United States must pay close attention in changing world affairs.

As a general principle, this nation should not abandon other nations that help it.

Unintended consequences have haunted Americans in numerous dealings in the Middle East.

America must stay alert, involved and pro-active to help those who step forward to help it now.

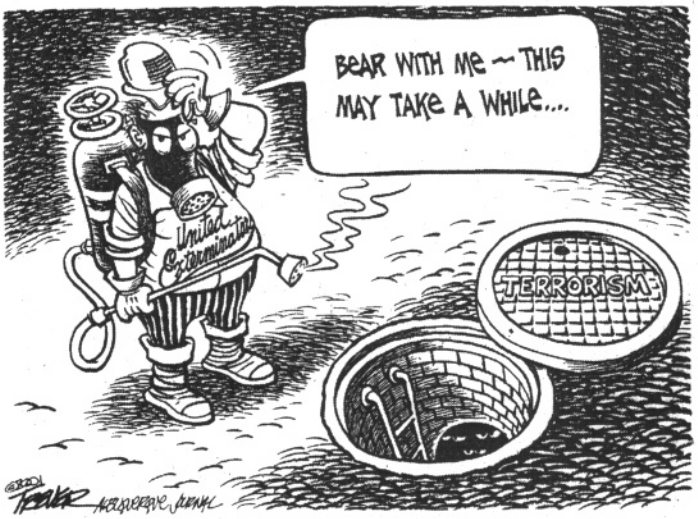
21

Express News
PAGE 2G
DATE 30 Sep 0

22

Express News
PAGE 2G
DATE 30 Sep 01

VIEWS IN THE NEWS



23

Express News
PAGE 3G
DATE 30Sep01

"We're all real aware of that fact that potentially, they could be in harm's way within a year."

COL. KENNETH CROOK

Preparing for war

Combat training for Army medics takes on a new immediacy.

BY SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

Sgt. 1st Class John Stevens (at head of stretcher) instructs medics undergoing a decontamination drill. The training gained an urgency after the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

Positioned behind a clump of fir trees, Pvt. Jason Glass flattens himself against the earth, trains his M-16 rifle at an approaching soldier and fires.

The soldier stumbles as smoke from the mock "shot" drifts through the brush.

"I got you!" cries Glass, 21, of North Chicago, Ill. "You're dead!"

It's almost noon on Friday, with perfect weather for this war game at Camp Bullis. But while the exercise is a welcome break from tedious classroom instruction at Fort Sam Houston, it's also serious business for the 188 combat medics in training.

The Army's medics are trained exclusively at Fort Sam, with 5,400 taking the 10-week-long course each year. After training ends with the five-day field exercise at Camp Bullis, most soldiers will be assigned to their units.

Before Sept. 11, these combat medics were preparing for training in peacetime Army. Now they're preparing for war.

"We're all real aware of that fact that potentially, they could be in harm's way within a year," said Col. Kenneth Crook, who oversees combat medic training at Fort Sam. "The training is critical."

An Army medic's main job in combat is to evaluate and stabilize the wounded. That means they're often on the front lines, dodging gunfire as they treat wounded soldiers.

The Camp Bullis exercise is about as realistic as it gets for medics at this stage of training, Crook said. The craggy hills offer the perfect backdrop for war, sharing a mild resemblance to such far-off areas as South Korea's Camp Casey, where 2nd Infantry Division soldiers are just 20 miles from an always-tense demilitarized zone.

Those "shot" by soldiers like Glass and Staff Sgt. Tracy Wayne, 29, of Madison Heights, Va., will live to fight another day. The bullets are blanks, the tips of their rifles surrounded by a square red adapter that keeps ammunition sparks from hurting anyone. But the atmosphere is at times chilling — especially in the patient "decon" area.

That's where a pair of four-member medic teams decontaminate the wounded as they're rushed from Bullis' mock battlefield, where an unknown nerve agent swirls. Such training is im-

See MEDIC/5B

24

Express News
PAGE 1B/5B
DATE 29Sep01

ROBERT MCLEROY/STAFF

Soldiers pull 'wounded' comrade Pvt. Brian Fulton, 18, of Irvine, Calif., out of harm's way during Army medic training at Camp Bullis.

Medic training takes on immediacy

CONTINUED FROM 1B

perative, given recent reports that Osama bin Laden's terrorist camps may have tested chemical agents.

An Army medic's work in "decon" is difficult and dangerous. Each one wears a gas mask, rubber gloves and heavy plastic aprons.. Stainless steel buckets that would contain a bleach solution to decontaminate troops in a real attack sit near several saw horses.

"One, two, three!" the medics cry.

A soldier limp on a litter is turned on his side. The medics need to know if the bullet that struck his chest has exited. As they work, others tighten a pressure bandage on his torso.

"Tie! Tie! Tie!" barks Staff Sgt. Pedro Perez, a supervisor.

Up the road soldiers are hit by a group known simply as "OPFOR" — or the "opposition force."

Confusion reigns as explosions, rifle fire and the call of wounded men shatter the once-tranquil morning air.

"Help me, medic!" one downed soldier wails.

"Ahhhhh!"

"Come on, let's go!" someone yells.

"You're dead!" Glass yells to a soldier he fired on seconds before. "Get down! You're dead!"

Pvt. Earl E. Bagwell, 20, of Castroville, claims not to worry about the possibility of deploying to Afghanistan, or somewhere like it.

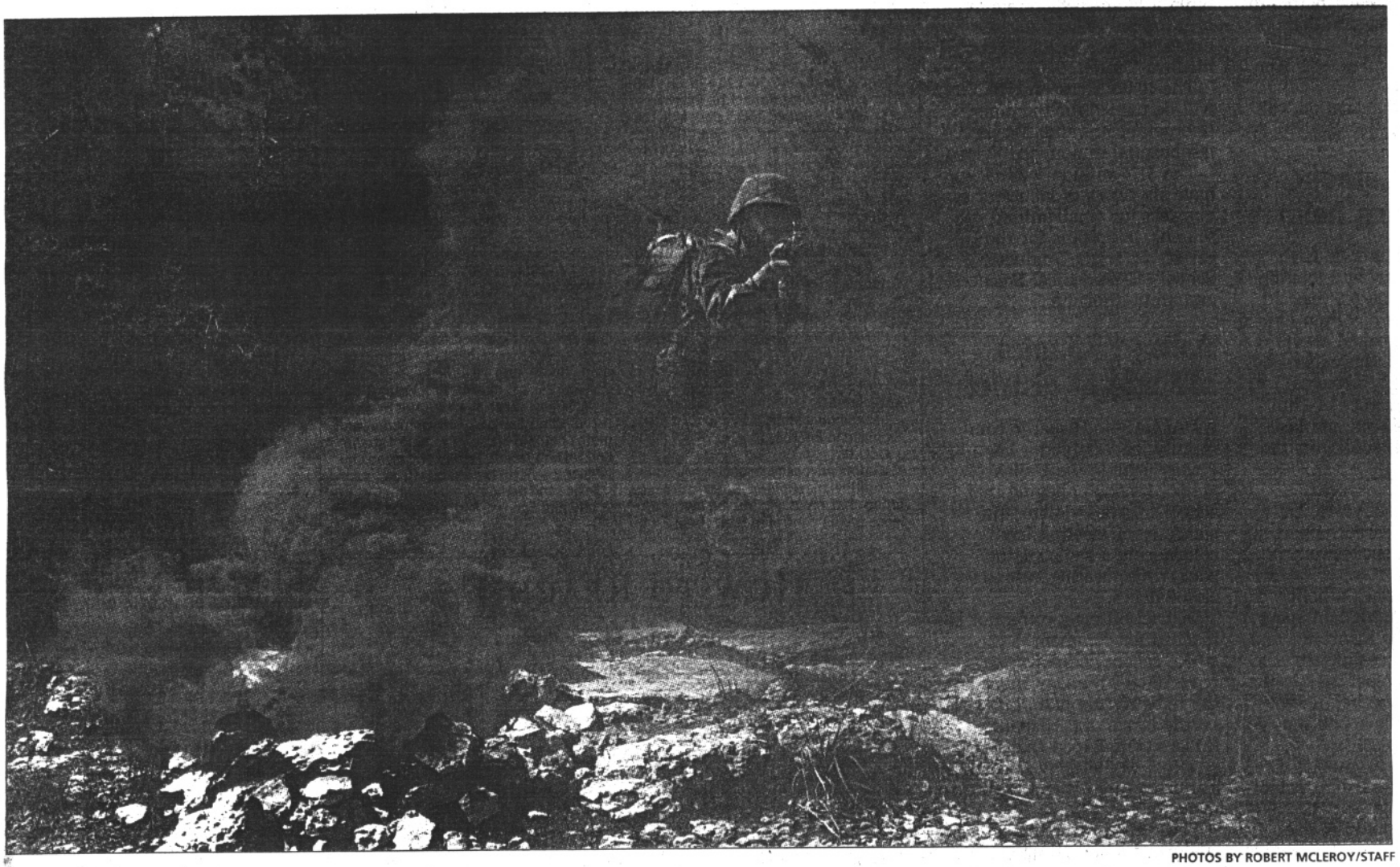
Bagwell, Pvt. Brian Fulton and Pfc. Roy Harrison say they are ready to do their duty and see their task as a high calling.

"We're here to protect everybody, and take care of the ones we can get to and keep them going as long as we can," said Harrison, 33, of Tampa, Fla.

"It means you have to be there for people, you have to put your life in danger for others, your fellow soldiers," Fulton, 18, of Irvine, Calif., said of being a medic. "I like being the lifeline."

sigc@express-news.net

Express News
PAGE 5B-1
DATE 29 Sep 0



PHOTOS BY ROBERT MCLEROY/STAFF

Pvt. Earl Bagwell, 20, of Castroville advances through smoke and foliage during an Army medic training simulation at Camp Bullis.

Express News
PAGE 5B-7
DATE 29 Sep 01

25

Texas Guard members summoned to airport duty

By Peggy Fikac
Chief, Express-News Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — More than 400 Texas National Guard members, from the same division that helped keep the peace in Bosnia, were activated Friday by Gov. Rick Perry in the effort to help keep Texas airports safer.

Like other governors around the nation, Perry was responding to President Bush's call for National Guard assistance to better secure airports in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Guard soldiers, armed and wearing their battle dress uniforms, should be deployed at airports within two weeks and perhaps sooner, said Adj. Gen. Daniel James III, commander of the Texas National Guard.

They will be "highly visible" at security checkpoints, Perry said.

The standard-issue weapon for the National Guard soldier is the M-16 rifle, James said. Officers generally carry a sidearm, the 9 mm Beretta, he said.

Guard members selected for airport security duty will receive three days of training beginning next week from the Federal Aviation Administration, James said.

They also will receive training from Guard leaders to ensure they understand their duties.

The first Guard members will go to the largest airports, in Dallas and Houston, James said.

"Right behind them would be airports like Austin (and) San Antonio," James said.

Guard members eventually will be assigned to each of the state's 27 commercial airports.

The number assigned to each airport will range from up to 80 covering round-the-clock shifts at the largest airports to perhaps a dozen at the smaller airports, James said.

See GUARD/10A

Texas National Guard call-up

- 400 members activated by Gov. Rick Perry
- To undergo three days of training by FAA next week at Camp Mabry in Austin
- After training, will be sent to airports in Dallas and Houston within two weeks
- Additional Guard members later will be sent to other Texas airports
- Duties include assisting law enforcement and monitoring security operations
- Will remain at airports for six months, or until permanent federal security is in place

Texas National Guard at a glance

Commander: Maj. Gen. Daniel James III

Headquarters: Camp Mabry in Austin

Troops: Approximately 20,000 in Texas Air National Guard, Texas Army National Guard and Texas State Guard

Requirements for ARNG and ANG

- U.S. citizenship
- High school graduate, or GED equivalent
- Minimum score on the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
- Between ages of 17 and 35

Training

- New recruits must go through initial training; ANG basic training is held at Lackland AFB
- National Guard members typically attend one drill weekend each month and one two-week annual training period per year.

Compensation

- Depends on rank, time in military
- Paid for four days during weekend drills although the drills typically only last two days
- Paid same as active military during active duty

Texas State Guard

- Volunteers without pay unless called to active duty by the governor
- Members between ages of 17 and 59 and train a minimum of one weekend a month.
- Composed of a headquarters group, support detachments, an air support wing and six military police brigades

Sources: Air National Guard, Army National Guard and Texas State Guard Web sites

MONTE BACH/STAFF

26

Express News
PAGE 1A
DATE 29 Sep 01

Guard members set to watch Texas airports

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Officials at San Antonio International Airport said Friday they're awaiting details on the number of National Guard soldiers who will patrol the airport and on what locations they will concentrate.

"Basically, we're waiting for direction from the governor's office on how to proceed," airport spokeswoman Lisa Burkhardt-Worley said.

Airline passenger Tony Rosenbaum said he expected to see armed guards walking around when he strolled into San Antonio's airport Friday.

Rosenbaum said airport security in San Antonio is much better than it was before the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings on the East Coast, but could be stricter.

"If they could tighten it up even more it wouldn't bother me," said Rosenbaum, who flew to Las Vegas for a vacation. "The tighter the better."

Meanwhile, San Antonio airport officials announced that a federal ban on curbside check-ins that had been enacted because of the terror attacks has been lifted.

At least one airline — United Airlines — resumed curbside check-ins Friday and Burkhardt-Worley said most are expected to do so Monday.

"It will eliminate some of the delays that we're currently having."

Perry said the National Guard troops to be deployed "are the same troops that we had in Bosnia. This is the 49th Armored Division, and these are experienced troops."

The 49th Armored Division, while based at Camp Mabry in Austin, covers almost the whole state, said Master Sgt. Gregory Ripps from the Texas National Guard's public affairs office.

Members of the 49th Armored Division are at three locations in San Antonio, Ripps said. He couldn't say from which locations in Texas the airport troops would be selected.

The San Antonio locations, Ripps said, are the headquarters of the division artillery at the armory on Interstate 35; the headquarters of the 1st Battalion of the 141st infantry at Camp Bullis; and the headquarters of the 2nd Battalion of the 149th aviation at the San Antonio Army Aviation Support Facility, or Martindale Air Field, at Interstate 10 and Ackerman Road.

The Guard members are expected to be in place for six months or until the federal government can enact permanent increased security at the airports, Perry said.

In an acknowledgment that National Guard members must take leave from their civilian jobs to take part in this effort, Perry said: "At this time, I urge Texas employers to show their support for their country and its security needs.

"Texas employers supported the Guard when called to duty in Bosnia. They supported those employees when they were asked to respond to Desert Storm. We need to do the same with duty being asked right here in our home state, on our own shores."

U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, agreed.

"It will take some sacrifice by those individuals who will be activated, because it's going to take them from their families and their jobs," Gonzalez said. "We are going to be asking for a lot of understanding from employers to bear with us in the short term."

The Bush administration wants the National Guard to staff 750 security checkpoints at 420 airports nationwide. Roughly 4,000 to 5,000 Guardsmen will be needed to staff those checkpoints, at an estimated cost of $150 million over a six-month period.

"His plan is a strong first step in the right direction," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, the ranking Republican on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation subcommittee on aviation.

Today in San Antonio, representatives of law enforcement, emergency service personnel and aviation representatives will meet to discuss the Sept. 11 attacks and ongoing measures to secure airports.

Among those attending the open meeting will be FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Roderick Beverly; Kevin Dolliole, aviation director for the city of San Antonio; Col. Douglas Biggerstaff, garrison commander at Fort Sam Houston; and San Antonio Police Chief Al Philippus.

San Antonio has been dramatically affected by the downturn in airline traffic, he said. Tourism and convention business has slowed.

"When I have caught flights out of San Antonio, it is obvious there has been a tremendous reduction in the number of people taking flights," Gonzalez said.

---

pfikac@express-news.net
Staff Writers Gary Martin and Pat Driscoll contributed to this report

27

Express News
PAGE 10A
DATE 29 Sep 01

U.S. commando teams already in Afghanistan

Elite troops have been on bin Laden's trail for two weeks.

By John Donnelly
Boston Globe

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials disclosed Friday that several elite special forces teams of three to five people each have been in Afghanistan for about two weeks, revealing that a military component to the fight against terrorism began only days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

President Bush said Friday that the United States was in "hot pursuit" of those responsible for the attacks, but the White House declined to specifically discuss the reports of U.S. special forces inside Afghanistan.

"I will never comment on any military operations that may or may not be under way," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Fleischer said that while elements of the war against terror would be public, "it is also the nature of this first war against terrorism that there may be areas that people do not know about."

The commando teams — the exact number wasn't revealed — arrived at bases near two Pakistani cities, Peshawar and Quetta, on Sept. 13.

See U.S./8A

28

Express News
PAGE 1A
DATE 29 Sep 01

U.S. reveals commando teams in Afghanistan

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Soon after, they covertly traveled inside Afghanistan on a mission to both hunt for Saudi exile Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida force of Arab fighters as well as to collect intelligence for future military missions, said two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The presence of the U.S. teams first was reported in Pakistani newspapers in both Urdu and English and then by USA Today in Friday's editions.

But the disclosure doesn't necessarily indicate any attack inside Afghanistan is imminent, or that their mission has been terminated or soon will end because their cover has been blown.

One U.S. official said it would come as no surprise to Taliban leaders or to bin Laden that special forces units are in Afghanistan.

"The surprise would be if we weren't there," the official said.

A senior Bush administration official Friday stressed that intelligence gathered by various parts of the investigation, including special force teams, ultimately would determine the nature of a full-fledged military response.

The special forces, who train for several years on a variety of subjects from language to satellite communications to weapons handling, are likely a key component to finding bin Laden's core supporters.

"If the objective is to attack the al-Qaida network and get bin Laden, which it is, you need to know right where he is right now. Not Friday, not an hour ago, where he is right now this instant," the senior U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Intelligence is going to drive this campaign."

The U.S. special forces, made up of Army and Air Force units and backed up by the Blackhawk MH-60K helicopters, are joining at least two other foreign intelligence operations inside Afghanistan.

> *"It's not just cutting off the head of the snake, because if we only do that the body will still be moving."*
> former special operations instructor, speaking on condition of anonymity

The British Defense Ministry confirmed last week that the Special Air Service, or SAS, was in the country after a reported firefight last week near Kabul with Taliban forces.

The Russian's Spetznaz operatives also long have been in northern Afghanistan working alongside the Northern Alliance, which holds control of at least 10 percent of northern Afghanistan.

It was unclear, however, what was the level of cooperation among the three special operations teams.

The U.S. special forces "have been there almost since the attacks happened," a former Pentagon official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We also have the infrastructure to get more special forces in there if we want them."

The team's difficult main objective is to find bin Laden and his fighters who may be hiding in the sparsely populated and mountainous border area near Pakistan, a region the Saudi Arabian exile has grown to know intimately during his last five years of living in the country.

In the past, bin Laden has been known to travel with up to 200 and 300 armed associates in a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles during the night, holing up in caves and possibly man-made tunnels in the Afghan mountains.

Inside Afghanistan, the former U.S. official said, the special operations team is likely to travel on foot, or will commandeer local vehicles, and live off whatever food they can find in the wild or from helpful residents.

"They don't need a lot of support," the former official said. "These guys are incredibly talented. They can live off the land, literally, for long periods of time."

Asked Friday whether special forces could work for weeks inside Afghanistan, a retired U.S. instructor of special forces laughed.

"Weeks? You don't go behind enemy lines unless you know they might not come out of there for six, seven months," said the former instructor, who worked in dozens of countries over nearly two decades and who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "One of the big attributes of the special forces is you plan well. You plan with other forces, such as the Air Force, so when you want to leave, they can get you out of there."

The former special operations instructor said he was certain the main objective of the covert teams would be to hunt down and dismantle bin Laden's entire military operation.

"We could be targeting resources, buildings, banks, communication bunkers, transportation. The idea for that is to choke them, then crush them," the former instructor said. "But the main point is to find bin Laden and his men.

"Just like we have military schools and people come from all over the world to train in them, people come all over the world to train in bin Laden's camps. We'll be going after all of them. It's not just cutting off the head of the snake, because if we only do that the body will still be moving."

The use of the special forces in Afghanistan follows a pattern in other wars, including the Gulf War.

29

Express News
PAGE 8A-1
DATE 29 Sep 01

U.S. military's commandos

The Pentagon is mobilizing the armed forces' commando units for possible use in Afghanistan or elsewhere. The units involved:

Army Special Forces
('Green Berets')

■ **Elite commandos**: 5,000

Ft. Lewis, Wash.
Ft. Bragg, N.C.
Ft. Campbell, Ky.
Ft. Carson, Colo.

Rangers

■ **Rapid-deployment light infantry**: 2,000

Ft. Benning, Ga.
Ft. Stewart, Ga.
Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Delta Force

■ **Super-secret anti-terrorist forces drawn from Rangers, Green Berets**

Ft. Bragg N.C.

Other

■ **Army Long Range Surveillance Units**

■ **Army 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment ('Night Stalkers')**

Ft. Campbell, Ky.
Ft. Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

Navy Seals

Reconnaissance, demolition; some trained for counter-terrorist operations: 2,200

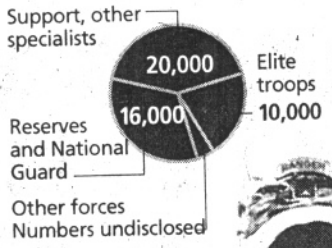
Little Creek, Va.
Coronado, Calif.

Marine Force Recon

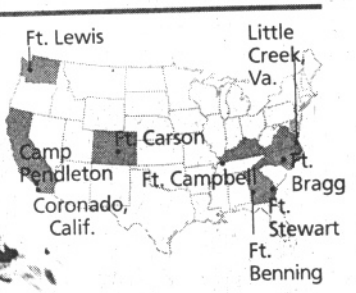
Reconnaissance

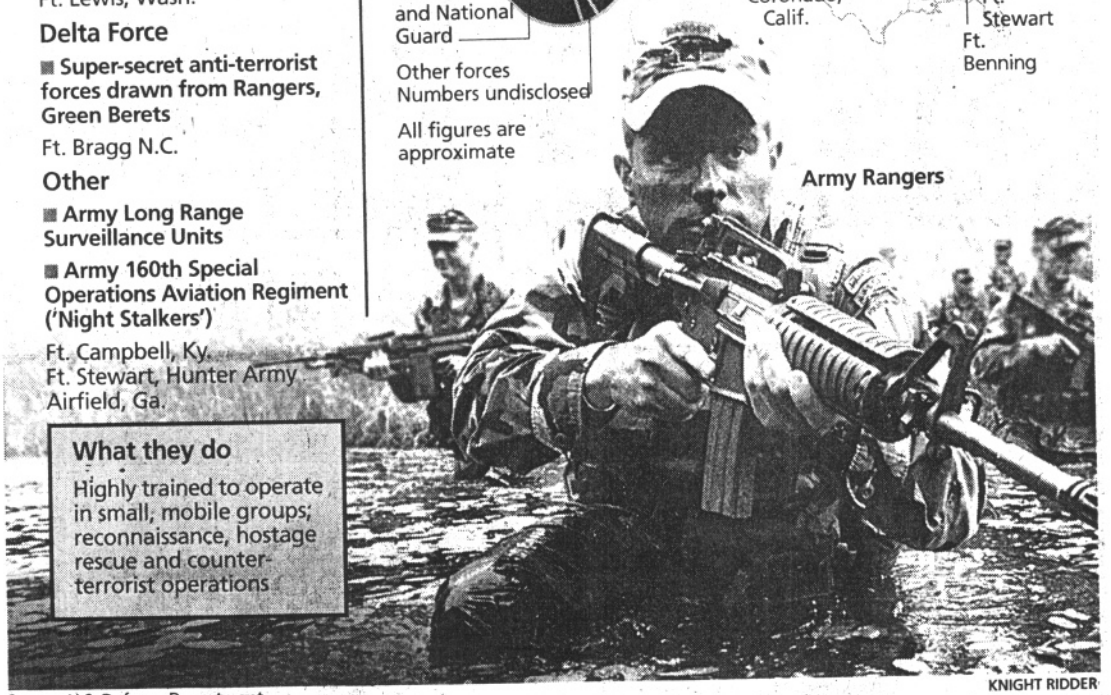
Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Total: About 46,000



All figures are approximate





Army Rangers

What they do

Highly trained to operate in small, mobile groups; reconnaissance, hostage rescue and counter-terrorist operations

Source: U.S. Defense Department

KNIGHT RIDDER

3D

Express News
PAGE 8A-2
DATE 29 Sep 01

Second homecoming at mosque

BAHRAM MARK SOBHANI/STAFF

Dr. Al Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi bows his head in prayer during services Friday at the Islamic Center of San Antonio.

Doctor who was detained is greeted by congregation.

BY MACARENA HERNANDEZ
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

A man in a melodious voice called them to prayer.

Allah is great. Allah is great. Come for prayer. Come for prayer, he said in Arabic.

And two large, yellow banners — one in Arabic, the other in English — outside the city's largest mosque were the first sign that this Friday service was different from most other holy days.

"The Islamic Center of San Antonio Welcomes Home Brother Dr. Al Badr Al-Hazmi," the banners read.

Men dressed in their Friday best, fragrant from their favorite cologne, hugged Al-Hazmi as he walked through the glass doors of the mosque.

"He is such a petite little guy," said one member of the congregation as the doctor passed by. This was the first Friday service the soft-spoken Saudi Arabian citizen attended in three weeks.

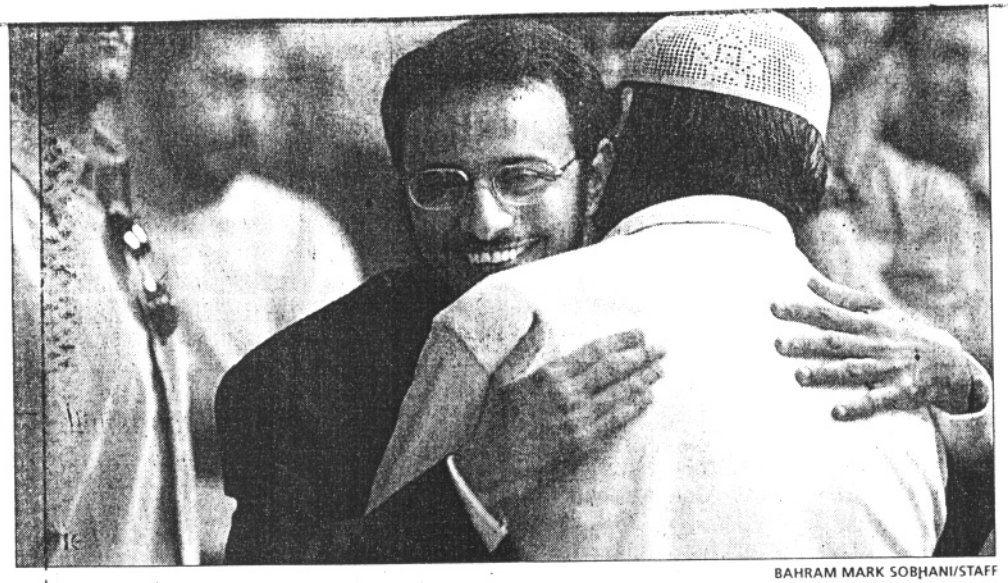
On Sept. 12, a day after suicide terrorists slammed hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, FBI agents took Al-Hazmi from his house near the South Texas Medical Center and detained him as a material witness for about two weeks.

Last Monday, federal authorities released the doctor and cleared him.

See SERVICE/8A

31

Express News
PAGE 1A
DATE 29 Sep 01



BAHRAM MARK SOBHANI/STAFF

A fellow worshipper gives Dr. Al Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi a hug following prayer services Friday at the Islamic Center of San Antonio.

Service at mosque is special for doctor who was set free

CONTINUED FROM 1A

By late Tuesday afternoon, Al-Hazmi was having lunch, prepared by his wife, in his living room with some of his friends from the mosque.

"We are happy that the good brother is back with his family, and that is us. We are his family," said Abdulla Mohammad, 40, who was at the service and also had lunch with the doctor on the day of his return.

On Thursday evening, Al-Hazmi returned to the mosque to pray for the first time since he was taken into custody. After the prayer, Al-Hazmi seemed to begin settling into his old routine when he talked to old friends outside the mosque.

His three children — two girls and a boy — played in the parking lot while the mosque's adopted cats ran around them.

"To see a man that has been tormented through this ordeal and to be so forgiving and humble, that leaves you impressed with his personality and his character and the depth of his faith," said his friend, Marwan Yadak, 43.

Friday's service at the mosque seemed different from last week's.

"Since the tragedy, this is the first time people in the mosque are smiling," Mohammad said. "It is giving you confidence in your faith, and (showing you) that in the midst of a hardship, let your faith get you out of it; don't let your anger. Anger leads to destruction."

"I'd like to thank all the friends — Christians, Jews and Muslims. It is time for all of us to reunite and celebrate our diversity."

DR. AL BADR M.H. AL-HAZMI
physician on his return to his mosque

Imam Muhammad Amin Aziz delivered a passionate message in Arabic about Islam's benevolence toward its followers, which many believed was an appropriate sermon, considering the doctor's release. And before translating it into English, Yadak welcomed Al-Hazmi to his family at the mosque.

"Only someone of his character could endure the last two weeks," Yadak told the congregation.

But probably the most anticipated speech of the afternoon came toward the end of the service when Al-Hazmi walked to the front of the room to address his Muslim brothers.

As he approached the microphone, one of the worshippers yelled, "Allaho Akbar!" (God is great!) And the rest of the men shouted back, "Allaho Akbar!" three times, giving God praise for the doctor's return.

Al-Hazmi thanked those who prayed for him "while I was going through these hardships," the FBI for their "professionalism" and local officials for trying "to calm things down" when the media was "going crazy trying to make a movie out of my life."

"I'd like to thank all the friends — Christians, Jews and Muslims. It is time for all of us to reunite and celebrate our diversity," he said. "It is easy to hate, but it is difficult to love."

Toward the end of his speech, his voice began to tremble and his eyes filled with tears. For the first time, the cost of his anguished separation from his family was laid bare, and the value of his act of forgiveness became clear.

"I would like to thank my wife for being strong and taking care of my kids," he said. "I can't thank her enough. I love her so much."

mrhernandez@expressnews.net

32

Express-News
PAGE 8A
DATE

Al-Hazmi says treatment was fair

But S.A. radiologist didn't expect two-week detention

By Macarena Hernandez
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The San Antonio doctor who was held for nearly two weeks reiterated in an interview televised Friday that he didn't fault authorities for detaining him, but he said he didn't believe he would be held as long as he was.

In a brief interview with NightLine, Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi also indicated he wouldn't be asking for an apology, as U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, has suggested is appropriate.

"With all respect, I might disagree with him because it is not time to point fingers and apologize," the radiologist said. "It's time to cooperate with officials who conduct their investigation and hopefully get the people — or the evils — who are behind this."

Al-Hazmi said FBI agents came to his home at 5 a.m. the day after the attacks. The agents searched his home for five hours, he said, before leading him away in handcuffs.

The doctor said he was held in Comal County Jail for two nights before being taken to New York in a small commercial plane.

There he was held for three nights before he was transferred to another facility, possibly in Brooklyn, he said, where he was allowed to speak to a lawyer for the first time.

It wasn't the lawyer his company had hired for him; it was a court-appointed attorney.

"That is the first time (I knew) the allegations against me," he said.

Among those allegations was that he might be related to two of the hijack suspects who shared his last name, something he emphatically denied.

"There are thousands of people who share the last name," he said. "It's like John Smith in the United States."

As he had when he returned to San Antonio on Tuesday, he said he had no complaints against the authorities.

"The FBI officials, they conducted themselves in a professional manner," he said. "And I would say, given the circumstances and the unusual situation, my treatment was fair."

mrhernandez@express-news.net

33

Express News
PAGE 8A
DATE 29 Sep 01

Fight the real fight

Tuesday night, my home and my daughter's car were "egged" by what I believe were misguided teen-agers who mistakenly identified us as Arabs.

I am retired from the U.S. Air Force. I am a fair-complexioned African-American who saw combat in Korea and Vietnam. My wife and children also could be mistaken for individuals of Middle Eastern descent.

Ordinarily, I would brush off this incident as a teen-age prank. But following the World Trade Center tragedy, this type of mindless retaliation can escalate into personal attacks, drive-by shootings, even murder.

I am asking members of the community to take a timeout and talk with their children. Rethink your prejudices. We're all Americans, and we have a common enemy — terrorism.

If teen-agers want to do something about terrorism, don't throw eggs — put your life on the line for your country like I did. Join the military and fight the real fight.

— Donald Robinson

Greetings, doctor!

Welcome home, Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi!

— N.J. Gard, Windcrest

President on right path

There was another time when a foreign people attacked innocent Americans without mercy or remorse.

BUSH

And then, as now, leaders of nations put aside their differences and joined to fight for the survival of their civilization. Yet the death of Gen. Custer at the Little Big Horn did not alter the inevitable.

As a people and nation we have moved beyond terror and genocide. Let us not play into our assailants' hands by duplicating their inhumanity and blind hatred.

President Bush has done well to steer us away from that path, and I commend him for it.

— Bruce Schaffer

SILVER PEN

The road is obvious

Just over 30 years ago, I left an Afghanistan that was rugged, yet beautiful. I now view an Afghanistan that is in ruins because of decades of war.

I left a proud people who were full of hope for the future. I now see a crushed people who have no future, save for more war.

I left a nation with a constitutional monarchy. I now see, once again, the ugliness of government akin to the worst that the Nazis ever hoped to achieve, this time with religion thrown into the mix.

It appears to be time again for the world, not just the United States, to deal with evil and tyranny. It is not an easy road but a painfully obvious avenue.

As long as the world accepts the likes of the Taliban, it sends a clear message of condoning terror. We cannot, as a people or a world, be held hostage to terrorism.

— Ralph Lay

Up in courage

Pick yourselves up and show the enemy they will not make you cower and give in to scare tactics. Go back to your jobs, your traveling, your enjoyment.

Believe me, if I had the money, I'd be on the first plane out of San Antonio to prove to them they don't scare me and will never break my spirit or my belief in my God.

At 82, I'm up in years, but also up in courage.

— Georgia "Fran" Shepard

Needed a smile

In all the sentiments expressed in the letters, not one has displayed any humor in the face of tragedy. Americans are often prone to laugh when tears and grief are fiercest. I was heartened by the Cryptoquip in last Saturday's puzzle section.

— Don L. Lewis, Bandera

God saw it coming

I have a couple questions for letter writer Luis Rodriquez ("Show compassion," Sunday), who seems upset at those of us who believe God allowed the tragedy in New York to occur.

There is a vast difference in causing something to happen and allowing it to happen.

Do you believe in God? Is your God all-knowing? Did he not know what was coming, or did Satan slip one by?

If he knew what was up and chose not to stop it, he allowed it to happen. If he didn't know, he isn't really God.

The God of the Bible has total knowledge and control over everything. He did not cause it, but had he not allowed it, it could not have happened.

The Bible says it rains on the just and unjust alike; that's what happened in New York. Maybe it's time our country did a reality check to see why we may have lost God's favor.

— Dave Schoellhorn, Bulverde

Isolate the pilots

One way to stop hijackings is to do away with the door between the cockpit and the passenger cabin. Have a separate entrance for pilots. Were this in place Sept. 11, fewer lives would have been lost.

— Buster Krause

Boo hoo for S.A.

I was absolutely disgusted by the Monday article "Attacks hurting S.A. tourism."

In light of the events of Sept. 11, it seems shallow and insensitive to whine about how much money local money-grubbers are going to miss out on because some conventions were postponed.

I bet the people in New York and Washington would be real torn up to know San Antonio is going to temporarily suffer.

When you look at the overwhelming damage — emotional, material and financial — to Manhattan and the Pentagon, that piddling $4.8 million from five postponed conventions seems insignificant and makes us sound like a bunch of whining boors.

I think I'll forward the article to the New York Times and Washington Post. Then let's see how tourism trade suffers.

— Cyndy Myers

34

PAGE 10B-1
DATE 29 Sep 01

Reason for peace?

I think the people lobbying for peace and reconciliation serve an important role.

However, our enemies appear resolute in their determination to kill America. Taking no action means we would have to rewrite our foreign policy and yield our sovereign rights.

The choice to neutralize our enemies should not be represented as a race to war. Many of us feel it is the only way to protect Americans, today and tomorrow.

If the president attempts to rally people around this banner, it could be because our sense of duty has waned.

I applaud the peacemakers, but peace should be sought for humane and consistent philosophical reasons, not because a person is fearful or unwilling to take a stand for his or her country.

— **Bill Reed**

A grateful New Yorker

As this tragedy has unfolded, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of San Antonians. Although I have lived here since 1994, New York is still home to me. So on behalf of my family, friends and fellow New Yorkers, I thank you with all my heart.

— **Alfonso Lopez**

Could have been worse

On behalf of the other 99 percent of Americans, I'd like to thank Jeanie Leonard ("God had enough," Sept. 22) for being the true Christian she is.

If it hadn't been for the chosen few — such as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Ms. Leonard — who lead such worthy lives, God might have become so enraged at the rest of us heathens he'd have given the terrorists atom bombs.

Thanks; we owe you one!

— **Ron Tolle**

Guidelines: Have something to say? Then write us at Letters, Express-News, P.O. Box 2171, San Antonio, 78297, fax to (210) 250-3465, or e-mail to letters@express-news.net. All letters, including e-mail, should have full name (no initials or pseudonyms, please), address and daytime telephone number. Length? The shorter the better – long enough to make your point. All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

35

Express News
PAGE 10B-2
DATE 29 Sep 01

OUR TURN

Anti-terrorism bill raises tough issues

Guardians of privacy and civil liberties must balance concerns with the nation's need to fight terrorism.

Anti-terrorism legislation proposed by Attorney General John Ashcroft would give federal law enforcement authorities sweeping new powers to pursue suspected terrorists and punish those who are convicted.

Liberals and conservatives understandably are hesitant to give up privacy rights and civil liberties, but terrorists pose a real threat to U.S. security. The terrorist offensive is not an imagined foe being hyped to whip up fear.

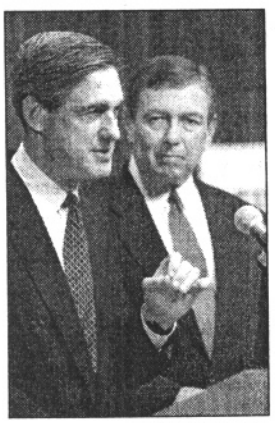
Some loss of privacy is preferable to allowing terrorists to continuing working the loopholes in the U.S. system.

Still, lawmakers should strive to find safeguards that ensure new powers given to the government aren't used to pursue political dissidents.

In part, the legislation updates electronic surveillance rules to match the explosive growth of technology in the age of e-mail and cell phones.

Ashcroft's proposal would make wiretap authority portable, allowing federal investigators to follow a suspect's activities from phone to phone and e-mail-address to e-mail address without getting new authorization each step of the way as required by current law.

This provision is designed to expand the government's ability to trace the numbers a suspect calls, but not expand powers to listen to private conversations.



Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller must make sure provisions in the system won't give way to abuse.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The legislation also gives the government new powers to gain access to information about e-mail accounts, such as whose credit card was used to purchase them.

These provisions are reasonable as long as terrorists remain the target.

Other provisions in the legislation allow information generated by a grand jury's criminal investigation, including the fruits of electronic surveillance, to be shared with the intelligence community if it relates to terrorism probes. Current law keeps such information secret.

Again, these changes are acceptable with safeguards against abuse. Information gathered by grand juries and in other criminal investigations must not be distributed carelessly.

A provision allowing the attorney general to determine whether a non-citizen suspected of terrorism poses a threat to national security and hold that person indefinitely is the most troublesome part of the Bush administration proposal.

A reasonable limit should be imposed on the length of time anyone can be incarcerated without charges being brought.

Some provisions are likely to win approval without controversy. Those include allowing interagency sharing of criminal file information to identify high-risk travelers, the elimination of a statute of limitations on terrorism offenses, increased penalties for terrorism, new powers allowing the government to seize terrorists' property and the strengthening of laws against laundering terrorism money and providing other assistance.

One way to win support for hotly debated parts of the legislation would be to place a sunset provision on those parts of the bill.

If those provisions have to be justified again in a few years, law enforcement authorities would most likely avoid potential abuses to make sure the tools they want are kept in place.

36

Express News
PAGE 10 B
DATE 29 Sep 01

Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza

37

Express News
PAGE 11B+10B
DATE 29 Sep 01

Tyndall can order aircraft shot down

EMERGENCY PLAN: The Pentagon outlines a chain of authority in the event of an airplane threatening a city.

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

WASHINGTON — The decision on whether to shoot down an aircraft that appears to be threatening a city in the contiguous 48 states can now be made at Tyndall Air Force Base in certain situations, the Pentagon said.

Maj. Gen. Larry K. Arnold, commander of the Tyndall-based 1st Air Force, can make the decision if the president or the head of the North American Air Defense Command can't be reached when time is critical. The current head of NORAD is Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart.

If a shootdown decision over Alaska needs to be made, and the president and NORAD commander can't be reached in time, Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz of Elmendorf Air Force Base can now make the decision.

Inside

■ Attacks put Panhandle-based command into front lines of new war.

See page 6A

"When time doesn't allow (Eberhart or the president to be consulted), the decision then falls onto Gen. Arnold on anything to protect lives of American citizens or infrastructure" in the Lower 48, said a 1st Air Force spokeswoman, Capt. Brenda Barker.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said he crafted the new rules of engagement for military pilots with Gen. Henry H. Shelton, who is retiring as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"The last thing in the world that one of them wants to do is engage a commercial aircraft," Shelton said. "And so don't get the impression that anyone who's flying around out there has a loose trigger finger."

Rumsfeld was asked if Americans should be worried about the policy since passengers could be trying to overcome a hijacker — as people were doing on the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania Sept. 11. That was

See SHOOT DOWN, page 6A

38

TYNDALL AFB FL
THE NEWS HERALD, 28 Sep 01, Page 1A

SHOOT DOWN

From page 1A

the only one of four hijacked planes that did not hit a terrorist target.

"The rules of engagement are addressed on a continuing basis with a great deal of care and sensitivity to all of the points that you've raised and others have raised," Rumsfeld said.

"And I can assure that they are under continuous review and given the carefulest consideration. And it seems to me that is the same kind of assurance that the American people get with respect to a lot of things that the Defense Department's involved in."

White House spokesman Scott McClelland said that every attempt will be made to follow the chain of command from the commander in chief on down before any order to down a plane is issued — and the decision would be made only by very senior-level officials.

"It's an enormous burden to make that decision," McClelland said. "As an absolute last resort, the most senior-level official at the absolute last moment of decision would have the authority to make that decision."

He said the circumstances for the decision would have to involve a plane headed nose down and posing a threat to the safety of Americans

"These are different times we're living in now. It's a different world," McClelland said.

Michael Perini, a spokesman for Colorado Springs-based NORAD, stressed that only under the most extraordinary circumstances could generals act without having consulted with the president, secretary of defense or other higher-ups — only as a last resort and only if there simply was not enough time to consult.

Perini said he could not discuss a specific situation in which the regional commanders might take such action because it would reveal too much about planning for the defense of U.S. airspace.

The move to give other generals shootdown powers follows Vice President Dick Cheney's revelations that in the hours after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President Bush ordered the military to shoot down any commercial airliner that refused to turn away from Washington.

After receiving warnings that commercial planes had veered off course, fighters scrambled over Massachusetts and Virginia on the day of the terrorist attacks. But they were unable to respond in time, officials have said.

After the attacks, Rumsfeld ordered fighter jets at 26 bases nationwide to be prepared to take off on 10-minute notice.

Arnold previously had 14 fighter jets available for such scrambles from just seven bases, including Tyndall.

Reserve units have been called up to supplement the effort in which F-15s and F-16s fly 24-hour patrols over dozens of American cities.

39

TYNDALL AFB FL
THE NEWS HERALD, 28 Sep 01, Page 6A

Attacks put Tyndall on front lines of new war

BILL KACZOR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE — Jet fighters had just been scrambled on reports that two airliners had been hijacked when Maj. Gen. Larry Arnold looked at the televisions in his headquarters that always are tuned to news channels.

"Instantaneously, we saw this smoking hole in the north tower of the World Trade Center," Arnold said in an interview this week.

"We wondered out loud, 'Could this be one of the hijacked airplanes?' not thinking that it was intentionally flown into the World Trade Center but in the course of being hijacked it was some kind of an accident."

The Sept. 11 attacks were not accidents, and they thrust the 1st Air Force, which Arnold commands, onto the front lines of a then-undeclared war against terrorism.

The unit, staffed mainly by Air National Guard members, is responsible for protecting the continental United States against attacks by aircraft and cruise missiles as part of the U.S.-Canadian North American Air Defense Command.

"We were worried about a terrorist attack," Arnold acknowledged. "Because of the way NORAD is structured we were still looking outward and not inward, which was considered a law enforcement issue."

Not anymore.

"Overnight then we had the resources to be able to respond to this sort of event," Arnold said.

By the end of the first day the 1st Air Force's seven alert sites that can scramble fighters in a matter of minutes were expanded to 26.

"As fast as units could generate aircraft we were getting them airborne over 15 population centers across the country," Arnold said.

The jets maintained constant combat air patrols until commercial flying resumed a couple days later and they are continuing on a random basis, Arnold said.

His staff, meanwhile, tripled through activation of National Guard and Reserve troops.

Arnold

The 1st Air Force was in the midst of an exercise when it received a request from the Federal Aviation Administration for assistance following the first hijacking.

The Northeast Air Defense Sector in Rome, N.Y., scrambled two F-15 Eagles from Otis Air National Guard Base in Falmouth, Mass. at 8:46 a.m., about the same time American Airlines Flight 11 was crashing into the World Trade Center.

The fighters were still eight minutes, or about 71 miles away, when the second jetliner, United Flight 175, crashed into the World Trade Center, according to a NORAD timeline.

By then NORAD had been advised that United Flight 93, which later crashed in western Pennsylvania, had been hijacked, Arnold said. Word of Flight 175's hijacking, however, was not received until after it hit the Trade Center.

Two F-16 Fighting Falcons were scrambled from Langley Air Force Base, Va., to intercept American Airlines Flight 77 but they were still eight minutes away when that hijacked jetliner slammed into the Pentagon.

"We responded as quickly as we could, maybe even faster than I think we normally would have," Arnold said. "With seven alert sites around the country looking outward there's no aircraft close enough to the New York area and the Washington, D.C., area to respond in time."

United Flight 93, however, was still in the air.

"We were in a position to be able to intercept that aircraft, but from our perspective the heroes that were in that airplane took that out of our hands," Arnold said.

The cockpit voice recorder indicated a struggle before the jetliner crashed into an empty field. No authorization had yet been given to shoot the plane down, but it could have been obtained before it reached Washington, Arnold said.

Procedures are in place for such an order in case the situation is repeated.

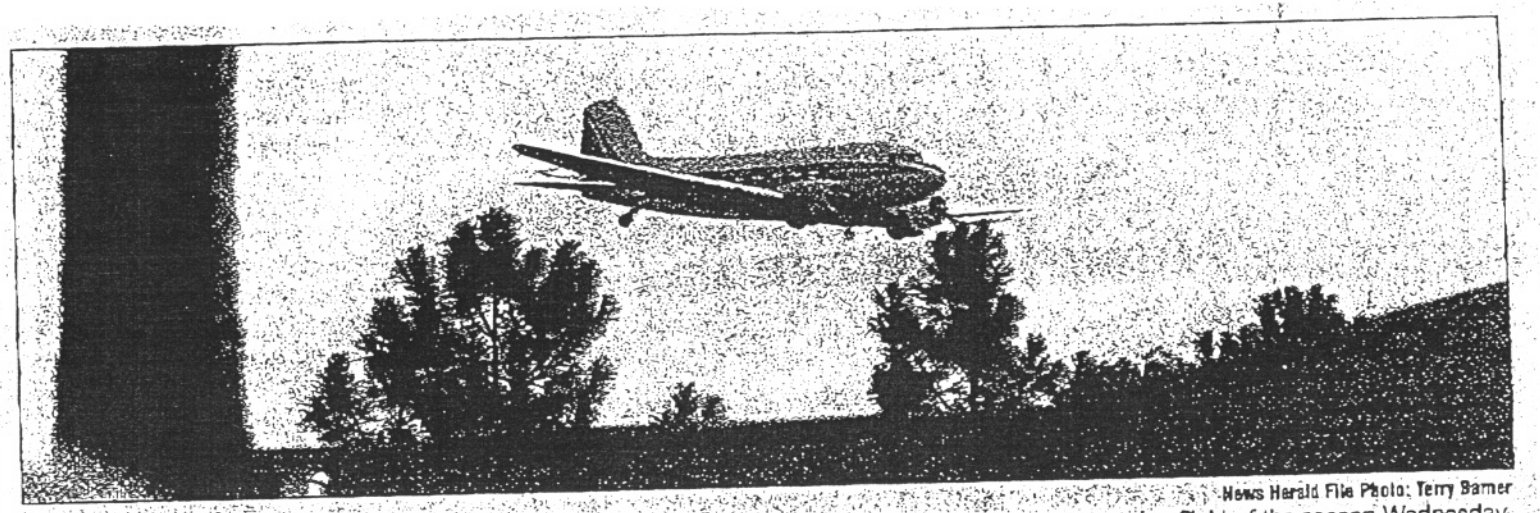
"Before, this was unthinkable that we would stop a civilian aircraft," Arnold said. "The procedure is to move aircraft away from population centers all the way up to including shooting them down if we have to."

The rest of the day there were 21 more reports of planes being hijacked or off course.

"There was a lot of fog and friction of war," Arnold said. "Now we wish we could have stopped it, but that wasn't our mission. Our mission today has changed."

40

TYNDALL AFB FL
THE NEWS HERALD, 28 Sep 01, Page 6A



News Herald File Photo: Terry Barner

This insecticide-spraying DC-3 aircraft, shown over Cedar Grove earlier this month, completed its last spraying flight of the season Wednesday night. Tyndall Air Force Base has received several telephone calls from residents concerned about low-flying civilian and military aircraft.

Night flights make residents just 'plane' jumpy

DAVID ANGIER
THE NEWS HERALD

People are taking more notice of aircraft lately, for good reason.

So when some Bay Countians hear aircraft swirling around overhead at night, they get a little concerned.

Tyndall Air Force Base fielded a few questions Thursday morning from people wondering about air activity in the area.

And there has been a lot of it.

Hurlburt Field near Fort Walton Beach has gone back to its normal air operations at night, which include trips over Bay County.

Its pilots fly C-130 transports — which are exceptionally loud — and helicopters, among other things.

"We've resumed our regular training schedule," said Lt. Rosemary Heiss, special operations wing spokeswoman at Hurlburt Field.

"It won't be unusual for people to hear planes overhead."

Tuesday and Wednesday nights were the last flights this year in Bay County of the mosquito control plane.

The DC-3 twin-engine propeller aircraft flew Wednesday night over eastern Panama City, Parker, Springfield, Callaway and the Deer Point Lake area.

Stephen Sickerman, operational support environmental manager at the Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control, said the DC-3 won't spray Bay County again unless officials determine that the threat of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases has yet to be curtailed.

He said the plane will probably go up this year to spray the beach area for dog flies, however.

Tuesday and Wednesday nights were the last flights this year in Bay County of the mosquito control plane.

The plane, a large World War II-era aircraft, flies at only about 200 feet above the ground and is noisy.

If that wasn't enough, Russ Casey, a Tyndall spokesman, said normal aircraft operations at the base have resumed.

Some sizeable transport and cargo planes were using the airfield Wednesday evening.

Casey said the mosquito control plane was probably what generated the calls to Tyndall Thursday morning.

"I saw it working around dusk" Wednesday, he said.

Casey acknowledged that people are more observant of aircraft these days, including himself.

"I stopped to see what it was doing," he said.

4

TYNDALL AFB FL
THE NEWS HERALD, 28 Sep 01, Page 1B

Open minds

▶ State group dedicated to keeping military bases safe

By Robert Barron
Staff Writer

Mike Cooper was elected co-chairman of a statewide group to help prevent the closing of military bases in the state.

Mike Cooper

The intent of the group is to assist in preventing Oklahoma's military bases from being closed or downsized. Members want to increase the state's input into the federal base closure process and determine how the state can impact the process, once closings have begun, Cooper said.

Enid residents Bob Berry and state Rep. Curt Roggow, R-Enid, also are members.

Chairman of the group is state Rep. David Braddock, D-Altus.

The Bush administration has called for another round of base closings in 2003. The Senate included language for base closings in its Defense Department

See BASES Page A3

BASES

Continued from Page A1

appropriations bill. The House version of the bill did not include such language.

"We are also trying to protect the interests of the military community," Cooper said.

The group will examine ways to encourage relocation of missions from bases that are closed or realigned to Oklahoma bases.

"If another base is closed or realigned, part of its mission is moved, and we want to position ourselves to take over that mission," he said.

By doing that, he said, other missions could be brought to Oklahoma, and Vance Air Force Base in Enid, for example, could do other jobs besides training pilots.

"That would benefit the whole state," he said.

"If another base is closed or realigned, part of its mission is moved, and we want to position ourselves to take over that mission."
— Mike Cooper

According to a state study, Tinker Air Force Base at Midwest City, Air Force bases at Enid and Altus, Fort Sill Army base at Lawton and McAlester Ammunition Depot generate more than $3 billion for the state economy. Almost 45,000 employees work at the installations.

The group also will make recommendations to the Legislature and governor on how the state can have more impact in the process.

The state could assist with money to pay consultants, Cooper said.

"In some states like Mississippi, the state built a sewer and water line to an Air Force base to help with infrastructure improvements to make the base effective, and the military didn't have to pay for it," he said.

Higher education issues also are being studied.

Cooper said the city of Enid helps provide scholarships for Air Force personnel. The Air Force pays 75 percent of college costs, while the city picks up the tab on the remaining 25 percent.

"It may be that the state could help communities with that. Certainly we'd be the only state to do that," he said.

A representative from Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education told the group about a program at Tinker Air Force Base to provide it with a "credentialed" work force — a highly qualified and skilled work force.

"One of the recommendations made was to assess the other bases and apply that principle to Vance, Altus or Fort Sill," Cooper said. "We need to look at those things to utilize state resources to help with protection and enhancement efforts."

At its October monthly meeting, the group will discuss an assessment by regents of education and training at state bases, as well as reports from each community affected about efforts made to prepare for another round of base closings.

"We're also going to hear how we can make these bases receivers for other missions and how the state can assist," Cooper said. "We are trying to get recommendations, and if funding is needed we will try to bring it forward early on in the legislative session next year."

Other members of the task force are state Rep. Forrest Claunch, R-Midwest City; Jim Howell, Midwest City; Aaron Burleson, Altus; Carlton Bass, McAlester; Roger Ford, Del City; and Don Lyon, Stillwater.

Rex Hogan, CNHI Capitol reporter, contributed to this story.

42