

Crash of secret aircraft caused general's death

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Defense sources said Tuesday a three-star general killed in a crash on a Nevada test range last week was flying a top-secret experimental "Stealth" F-19 fighter designed to elude radar.

Lt. Gen. Robert Bond, 54, vice commander of the Air Force Systems Command, and a

fighter pilot during the Korean and Vietnam wars, was killed when the plane crashed Thursday at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Pentagon spokesmen said Bond was qualified to fly single-engine aircraft.

Officials of the Pentagon, the Air Force and the Systems Command declined to com-

ment on the crash or to identify the type of plane, saying only that it was a "specially modified test craft." Some Pentagon officials insisted that identification of the plane as the F-19 was wrong.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was asked at a National Press Club luncheon about the crash that killed Bond and replied, "I will not be making any comments about programs that are classified."

In the absence of official confirmation, speculation arose that the aircraft could have been a late model Soviet-built MIG fighter that had been acquired by the United States, the sources said.

But the sources, who requested anonymity, said it was a

F-19, which has been under development by Lockheed Corp.'s Advanced Projects Facility at Burbank, Calif., since the late 1970s. The program was started during the Carter administration.

About 20 of the planes have been built and all are based at Nellis, the sources said. The single-seat fighter, said to have a small twin tail, embodies special features in its design and paint that give off a low radar signature, the sources said.

Some of those characteristics are embodied in the SR-71, the high-flying strategic reconnaissance plane also built by Lockheed.

One-woman university offers unique subjects

United Press International

BOSTON — When Sandi Serkess graduated from college a decade ago, there were no jobs open for the teaching training she was so anxious to use.

Faced with an oversupply of elementary school teachers, she found employment and frustration in one job after another — from clerk to stand-up comedienne.

Now at age 31 she describes herself as a "one-woman university," teaching 25 different subjects in a 10-week semester and qualified to teach 25 more. She says the ideas all come from her rocky emotional and professional past.

"My teaching dream has finally come true," she said.

The classes she teaches include basics such as grammar, writing skills, vocabulary building and spelling and extending through a huge repertoire dealing with psychology, business skills, preparation for graduate school exams and the histories of psychoanalysis, economics, holidays and humor.

"But I'm always looking out for new subjects," she said. "I'd try teaching almost anything."

Miss Serkess, who has written a book on improving memory, teaches at the Cambridge and the Boston Centers for Adult Education. She has a master's degree in counseling.

"My courses are my autobiography," she explains, going

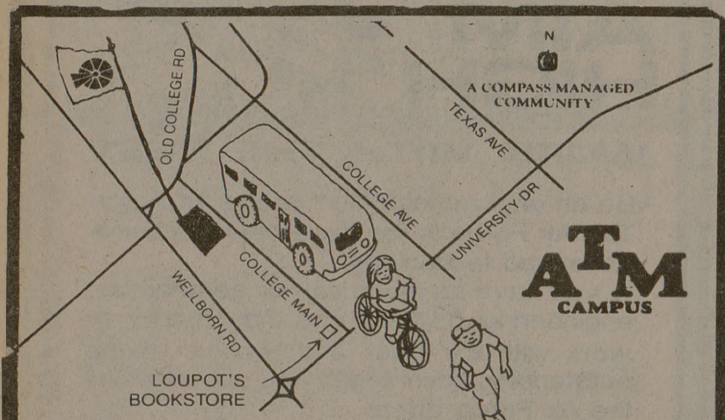
through a list four or five long. "If you read the you'll know me."

"Sharing anxieties in a supportive environment encourages adults to tackle what they fear, whether it be math, fractions or the problems found in everyday life."

"Together we balance checkbooks and learn to do the most for the money shopping trips."

Some classes focus on group behavior, communications systems and sexual harassment in the workplace, she said.

Some classes deal with unspoken rules, handling office pest and answering such questions as, "Is it to be an eager beaver?"



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High court asked to hear custody case

United Press International

WASHINGTON — An interracial couple who convinced the Supreme Court that child custody rulings must be color blind asked Chief Justice Warren Burger Tuesday to help them regain the wife's 6-year-old daughter.

Linda Sidote Palmore, of Seffner, Fla., asked Burger to let her immediately go back to a Florida court to argue she is entitled to regain custody of her daughter from her former hus-

band, Anthony Sidote.

The nation's highest court used Palmore's case last Wednesday to rule unanimously that race cannot be considered in family court when a judge decides where a child should live.

But Sidote, of Bryan, won an order from a Texas judge last Thursday, one day after the high court ruled, preventing Palmore from taking any action to regain 6-year-old Melanie.

The Brazos County judge is-

sued an order preventing Palmore from interfering in any way with Sidote's possession of the minor child or even talking about the case to anyone.

Palmore asked Burger to allow her to ignore the Texas judge and a high court rule that says a case does not become final and enforceable until 25 days after it is issued by the court.

She asked Burger to order that Sidote not frustrate or circumvent the high court's ruling

by pursuing the case in Texas courts when Florida courts have jurisdiction over the custody battle.

The Supreme Court had sent the case back to the Florida court last week.

"The effects of racial prejudice, however real, cannot justify a racial classification removing an infant child from the custody of its natural mother" if she is otherwise able to maintain custody, Burger wrote.

Palmore and Sidote were di-

vided in May 1980 and today was originally awarded to the mother. The next year, married Clarence Palmore, Sidote, 29, sought custody of the child.

Florida Judge Morris sided with Sidote, ruling "despite the strides that have been made in bettering relations between the races in this country, it is inevitable that racial stigmatization that is a byproduct of the color of the skin will continue to be a factor in the lives of all people."

Bell hike may hurt long distance services

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Public Utility Commission granted Southwestern Bell Telephone an \$816.7 million rate increase Tuesday — far less than the \$1.7 billion it first requested but more than triple its last rate hike in 1982.

Although the new rates, expected to take effect in mid May, will boost local residential phone bills by an average of only 38 cents per month, it was expected to greatly increase long distance charges levied by long distance specialty compa-

nies. As part of the rate hike, Bell also won a 10 percent increase in its intrastate LD service.

The commission's 3-0 vote on the compromise plan capped the longest running rate case in the utility regulatory agency's history and marked the largest rate increase ever granted by the three-member panel.

Bell originally filed for a \$1.7 billion increase last June to address the effects of the Jan. 1 divestiture from American Telephone & Telegraph

Co., but later trimmed its request to \$1.3 billion.

The commission's decision pleased neither the company nor consumer advocates, and could face an appeal in the courts.

But Bell vice president Richard Harris said it would be a week or more before the company decides on an appeal. He refused to speculate on when Bell might file another rate case with the PUC.

"The total dollars approved today by the Texas Public Utility Commission are not suffi-

cient to meet Southwestern Bell's documented needs in this rate case, a rate increase of \$1.3 billion," said Harris. "Our need is still there despite the PUC's decision."

Carol Barger, director of Consumers Union Southwest district office, and Jim Boyle, PUC public counsel, both blasted the rate hike as excessive. Of the total revenue granted Bell, AT&T Communications and other long distance specialty companies would be required to pay Bell more than

\$720 million for access to exchanges.

Those charges are expected to eventually run up the cost of LD service in Texas, said Barger, who said the rate hike would be paid by MCI and U.S. telephone

Harris warned that by increasing the LD companies to the brunt of the rate hike might cause some of the drop off the Bell system eventually cause Texas consumers to pay more for service.

Houston oil companies to fund organ donor airlift

United Press International

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A Houston-based airlift program for organ transplants will provide free flights for the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences, one of the nation's major transplant centers, officials said Tuesday.

The project, made available

through the use of corporate jets and chartered flights owned or paid for by oil and natural gas companies, is dubbed Oil Industry Lifesaving Flights, or OIL Flights.

J.B. Coffman, president and chief executive officer of Amnol Inc. of Houston, founded the program after learning

about problems doctors and families experienced when trying to line up emergency flights to transport highly perishable donor organs such as hearts or livers.

"It was easy to determine there was a need, and that the need was on a nationwide basis," Coffman said.

The program, launched in January, has 45 participating companies and 51 aircraft in 18 cities, Coffman said. The program will supplement a Memphis program involving 14 firms with aircraft that carry organ retrieval teams, donor organs, patients and families.

"We are limited to flights that require very rapid transportation," he said. "The heart can be out of a donor only four hours — the pancreas or liver, about eight hours."

Dr. James C. Hunt, chan-

cellor of UTCHS, said the program would also help bring down the cost of transplant services, major after they are rolled into the cost of a transplant, Hunt said.

UTCHS was the first to start special contract with OIL Flights, he said. "The most significant what this does for transplant patients," said James Williams, head of UTCHS transplant program. "Without some access to travel, a family would have to come to Memphis to wait for a transplant."

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Egypt says don't move embassy

United Press International

CAIRO, Egypt — President Hosni Mubarak, in a move apparently directed by the United States, threatened Tuesday to break diplomatic relations with any country that moves its embassy to Jerusalem.

Egypt, along with most Arab states, does not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. It condemned the Jewish state's annexation of the old city, which Israel captured from Jordan in 1967.

Egypt broke diplomatic relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica last week to protest their decision to move their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The Egyptian president said a May Day rally this was a "manent principle" of Egyptian policy that would be applied to all countries without exception.

Egypt has criticized the international pressure on the Egyptian administration to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and all of the praised Reagan's opposition to the move.

Political sources said the move, which depends heavily on American aid, was unlikely to risk a breach with Washington.

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