

World and Nation

Sgt. York gun

Four charged with conspiracy to defraud government

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — James M. Beggs, the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was indicted Monday along with three other present and former executives of General Dynamics Corp. on the Army's ill-fated Sgt. York anti-aircraft gun, the Justice Department said.

General Dynamics and the four men were charged with conspiring to defraud the firm's losses on their Army contract expenses to other government-funded accounts.

The seven-count indictment was returned in federal court in Los Angeles.

The individuals and the corporation were charged with one count each of conspiring to defraud the Department of Defense between January 1, 1978, and Aug. 31, 1981, in its function of administering and paying its contractors. They also were charged with six counts of making false statements.

A government source who did not wish to be identified said \$7.5 million was mischarged, resulting in a \$3.2 million net loss to the government.

Beggs was not immediately reached for comment.

NASA spokeswoman Barbara Selby said the agency planned to issue a statement.

In addition to Beggs, the indictment named as defendants:

bu Ralph E. Hawes, Jr., 54, of

Claremont, Calif., formerly corporate vice president and general manager of General Dynamics' division in Pomona, Calif., and now corporate vice president and general manager of the Valley Systems Division of General Dynamics.

bu David L. McPherson, 45, of Alta Loma, Calif., a General Dynamics employee who was program director for the anti-aircraft program at the Pomona Division.

bu James C. Hansen, Jr., 53, of Upland, Calif., a General Dynamics employee who was assistant program director for the program.

According to the indictment, the company officials fraudulently charged several million dollars worth of expenses on the contract

as "bid and proposal" and independent research and development expenses.

They did this, the indictment said, to reduce multi-million-dollar losses on the firm's \$40 million Army contract for the production of the Sgt. York prototype systems.

Contractors are reimbursed by the Department of Defense for those two types of expenses, but they are not permitted to use the funds for work required by an existing contract.

The Sgt. York (also called DIVAD for Division Air Defense) was a gun mounted on a tank and was designed to protect tanks and infantry against enemy aircraft and helicopters.

White House staff is 'concerned' about defense cuts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan told senior Republican senators Monday that the administration is "quite concerned" about Pentagon spending cuts under a pending balanced-budget plan aimed at wiping out federal red ink by the end of the decade.

Emerging from a Capitol Hill meeting with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., and Budget Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., Regan also said he suggested a way to rise with inflation during the current fiscal year which began Oct. 1.

"We don't want the defense portion crippled by this" by this balanced-budget plan, Regan said.

Regan, budget director James C. Miller III and M.R. Oglesby, the president's assistant for legislative affairs, met with the senators as Congress returned from a week-long Thanksgiving recess.

The president planned to meet at the White House on Tuesday with GOP congressional leaders to discuss the budget legislation, a tax overhaul plan pending in the House and the legislative agenda for the remainder of the year.

Separately, Miller told an American Enterprise Institute luncheon that the president "continues to be very much in favor of" the concept of the pending budget measures although he has serious reservations about how the plan might affect military spending.

Nonetheless, Miller reiterated a pledge that in the budget the president sends to Congress early next year he intends to meet a fiscal 1987 deficit target of \$144 billion, the same level specified in the Senate-passed version of the budget proposal. The deficit in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 was about \$211 billion.

Miller also said Reagan remains adamantly opposed to tax increases to cut the deficit and that such action remains a "last resort."

The House and Senate have each passed measures mandating automatic, across-the-board spending cuts if Congress and the president fail to meet declining annual statutory ceilings on federal budget deficits.

Congressional negotiators seeking to draft a compromise have been at odds on the timing of the deficit targets and what programs should be subject to automatic cuts, particularly how the Pentagon and payments to low-income people would be affected.

Before Congress adjourned for the holiday, the negotiators said they had all but accepted a compromise that would allocate automatic cuts equally between domestic and military spending programs.

"We're trying to get that changed," Regan said, adding "we're quite concerned" about how such a 50-50 split would affect military spending, particularly at a time when arms negotiations with the Soviet Union are underway.

Gay student groups common on campuses

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The group has a table set up on campus to advertise and distribute literature, such as information about AIDS, Bernal says.

He says the group sponsors an AIDS awareness forum each semester and attempts to educate both the gay and straight communities about safe sex.

"We're trying to destroy myths like, 'Teardrops cause AIDS,' or 'If someone coughs in your face, that can cause you to get AIDS,'" Bernal says.

He says he doesn't know if any attitudes toward homosexuality have changed on campus, but says educational programs are important.

"The more people become aware of homosexuality, I think they become more accepting of it," Bernal says.

David Zertuche, treasurer of the GLSA, says that other campus groups have lent help to the group.

"We get a lot of participation from students," he says. "We work in conjunction with lots of progressive organizations."

"As for (acceptance from) the student body, it's hard to say. Personally, we do sometimes encounter things like snide remarks. But that comes with the territory."

Zertuche says the organization currently has about 50 dues-paying (\$5 a semester) members. Between 50 and 70 people attend the regular meetings, and about 15 can usually be expected to show up at an informal weekly gathering at an on-campus cafe.

Another organization, the Gay/Lesbian Law Student Association, exists for those in UT's law school.

President Scott Conrad says a gay service group called Law Students for Human Rights formed

at UT in about 1977, but that it eventually died out.

"It never had much success, possibly because people didn't know what it was with a name like that," Conrad says.

After that organization folded, the current group formed. Conrad describes the organization as a social and professional contact group.

He says that within the law school the group has experienced very few problems.

Gays and lesbians also are represented in the UT Students' Association, a governmental body of students.

The Subcommittee on Lesbian and Gay Issues was formed in February as part of the Minority Affairs Committee.

Mark Moebius, head of that subcommittee, says the group is trying to get a resolution passed calling for sexual orientation to be included in the non-discrimination statement of the university. The effort has the support of both Texas Civil Liberties Union Director Gara LaMarche and State Sen. Craig Washington, Moebius says.

The subcommittee also is conducting a survey of 1,000 UT faculty, students and staff in an attempt to gather opinions on homosexuality, Moebius says.

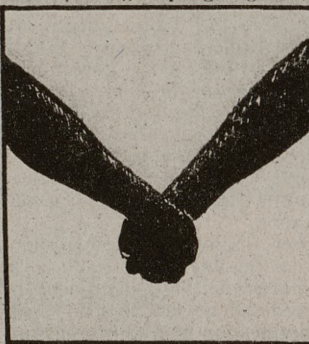
The 10-question survey includes inquiries about how respondents would feel about having a gay or lesbian roommate, lab partner or close friend, Moebius says. Also included is a question asking respondents if they feel discrimination occurs against homosexuals at UT.

Moebius says he is planning for a larger report to be delivered to the university president once the results of the survey are in.

Unlike the Austin groups, a low-profile approach has been taken at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"I'M NOT PARTICULARLY OPEN," SAYS J.B. Keasler Jr., president of UTA's Gay/Lesbian Association. "We advertise in the student newspaper, but our group is small. We haven't been open enough to really know how well we're accepted."

He says the group is going to try



to sponsor a symposium on AIDS in cooperation with other student organizations sometime this year. But for the most part, the group stays out of the public eye.

At the University of Houston, gay students are regrouping this year after having no campus organization last year.

Kevin Besch, secretary-treasurer of UH's Gay/Lesbian Student Association, says negative reactions to the new group have surfaced partly because of problems associated with an earlier gay organization on campus.

Besch says the earlier group, the Gay and Lesbian Resource Group, was negatively perceived even by some gays.

He says the new group plans on

getting as many new members as possible.

At Southern Methodist University, the faculty adviser of a gay student group says that the group is not operating due to the intense opposition it faced on campus.

"There basically is no effective gay student organization at SMU now," says Campbell Read, the adviser. "I attribute this largely to the hostile way the group was treated during about an 18-month period."

Read says from February 1982 to May 1983, the Gay/Lesbian Student Support Organization experienced many difficulties when trying to gain acceptance on campus.

As for A&M, GSS President Marco Roberts says that University administrators have been very cooperative with the group since its court victories.

"I'm sure they don't like us," Roberts says, "but I can't complain."

Negative reaction to the group from other students also has decreased since the group attained official status, Roberts says.

"It's funny the way things have changed," he says. "What I sense now from people is kind of a resigned acceptance. It's not that important (to students) anymore now that it's over."

Roberts says that the court's ruling for GSS gives the group more leverage as an organization than it would have had if it had not pursued any legal recourse. But, he says, the group isn't out to spite anyone who opposed its fight for recognition.

"We haven't gone out of our way to rub anybody's nose in it that we won our lawsuit," Roberts says.

Shuttle Atlantis to land in California Monday

Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Atlantis' astronauts, their pioneering spacewalks completed successfully, packed up equipment and tested spacecraft systems Monday to prepare for today's landing on a California desert runway.

Atlantis will land at Edwards Air Force Base, completing a mission that included the launch of three satellites and two days of construction experiments by astronauts Sherwood Spring and Jerry Ross.

The crew also planned Monday to conduct a news conference from orbit, with questions posed in English by American journalists and in Spanish by journalists from Mexico.

Rodolfo Nori, the first Mexican to fly in space, is a member of the crew. Others on the crew are mission commander Brewster Shaw, engineer Charles Walker and astronaut Mary Cleave, Bryan O'Connor, and McDonnell Douglas.

During excursions into Atlantis' open cargo bay Friday and Sunday, the astronauts built and disassembled a 45-foot tower and a large pyramid. They also manipulated the two structures by hand, proving that astronauts in space can manually control metal framework that could be used to build a space station.

Doug Heard, an engineer from NASA's Langley Research Center where the tower experiment was designed, said data from the spacewalks will aid in planning the nation's first space station.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration plans to build a space station during the 1990s.

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