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Astronaut duty limited for pilots in military

Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The Department of Defense plans to limit the assignment of military pilots as astronauts to five or six years, forcing NASA to search for more civilian pilots who would not come under this restriction.

Duane Ross, manager of the astronaut selection office at the Johnson Space Center, said Tuesday that a small group of astronauts, about 10 to 12, will be selected this spring from about 2,000 applications being reviewed.

Another personnel officer, Teresa Gomez, said the flow of astronaut applications received by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has increased since the Jan. 28 explosion of Challenger that killed seven crew members.

Gomez said the strict military limitation has been under consideration for some time and is not related to the Challenger accident.

There are 95 astronauts in the corps, Gomez said. Forty-five are military officers who can be recalled to active military service, and she said the Department of Defense has served notice that all military pilots in the future will be limited in the amount of time they can spend as astronauts.

Ross said the agency was looking

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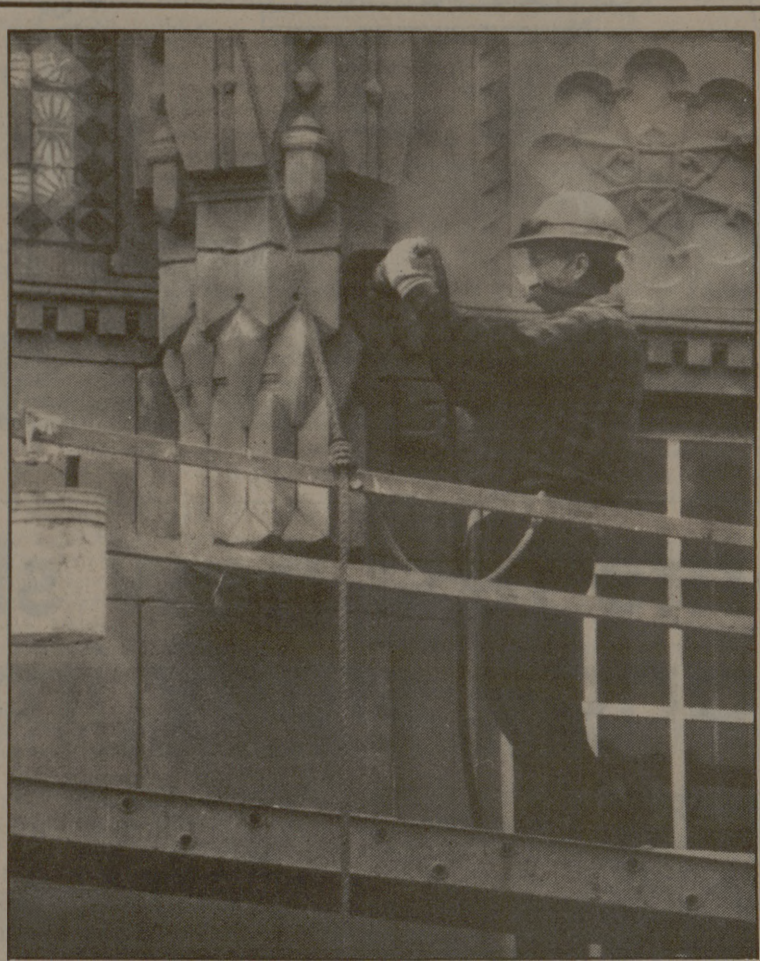


Photo by GREG BAILEY

Sandman

A workman cuts into a piece of sculptured masonry at the Hal-bouty Geosciences Building. Workmen are cutting and sanding the intricate facade as part of ongoing renovation.

Arrests ordered for 2 of Marcos' legislators

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Corazon Aquino's government issued arrest orders Tuesday for two Marcos legislators, now in hiding, who are accused of killing her supporters before and after the Feb. 7 election.

A government news release said Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile ordered the arrests of National Assemblymen Arturo Pacificador, an assistant majority leader, and Orlando Dulay. Both went underground when former President Ferdinand E. Marcos, who had ruled for 20 years, fled to Hawaii on Feb. 26 with his family and retinue.

In other developments:

• Aquino scheduled her first full Cabinet meeting for Wednesday. On the agenda is a proposal to proclaim a revolutionary government and dissolve the National Assembly, in which Marcos' New Society Movement holds two-thirds of the seats.

• Exiled leaders of a Moslem separatist rebellion returned to negotiate autonomy for the Moslem minority. The Philippines also is plagued by a communist insurgency, in which Aquino says she will try to achieve a cease-fire.

• An official U.S. team arrived to spend a week assessing the Aquino government's needs in U.S. military and economic aid.

Pacificador is wanted in the Feb. 11 assassination of Evelio Javier,

Aquino's campaign chairman in the central Philippine province of Antique, and also faces murder charges in the deaths of seven of Javier's followers. Javier ran against Pacificador in the 1984 National Assembly election.

Prosecutors had recommended action against Pacificador while Marcos still was in power, but nothing was done.

Dulay is sought in a series of killings and kidnappings of Aquino's followers in the northern province of Quirino.

Some of Aquino's advisers want her to proclaim a revolutionary government to make it easier to reform the system Marcos left behind. Others say the action would be superfluous because she clearly gained power through a popular revolution.

The National Assembly declared Marcos the election victor, which it had the power to do under the constitution the former president wrote during martial law in 1973. That proclamation led to the military-civil rebellion that drove him into exile.

Three leaders of a Moro National Liberation Front faction who arrived from Malaysia said they were accepting Aquino's invitation to negotiate autonomy for the southern Mindanao region's estimated six million Moslems, who comprise almost 10 percent of the country's population.

The front began fighting the Marcos government in 1972. Officials said more than 50,000 people were killed in the first four years, when the rebels gained control of substantial areas on Mindanao and other smaller islands.

Spring brings a twist; tornado season's back

From staff and wire reports

Bryan-College Station got a small taste of what the beginning of spring means Tuesday night when the National Weather Service issued a tornado watch until 1 a.m.

The watch, which was canceled for the local area at about 11:20 p.m., included a large portion of north, central and eastern Texas.

This year, weather watchers and emergency service workers are eyeing the onset of tornado season warily, recalling the last two years when twisters brought devastation far from the usual Midwestern "tornado alley."

Twisters in the Carolinas two years ago, and in Ohio and Pennsylvania last year, claimed dozens of lives in a pair of violent outbreaks that left hundreds injured and millions of dollars in damage in their wakes.

Those storms helped remind Americans tornadoes pose a threat in every state, not just the famous tornado alley stretching from Nebraska south through Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, where they are traditionally most common.

This year's first tornado struck Feb. 2, leaving what government meteorologists termed considerable damage in the vicinity of Mineral Wells, Texas.

Tornadoes are the offspring of changing weather. The warmth replacing winter cold can spawn twisters, making the violent storms most common as spring arrives across the nation.

Government statistics show tornadoes increase sharply in March, fatalities peak in April, and the total number of storms reaches its maximum in May.

It was last May 31, that Pennsylvania suffered its worst tornado outbreak ever, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Sixty-three deaths were recorded in the Keystone State.

An additional 11 people were killed in Ohio, and the storms also caused damage in western New York state and Canada.

It was the worst outbreak of tornadoes since the "Superoutbreak" recorded on April 3-4, 1974, when twisters claimed 315 lives in a path through 11 states, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

Overall, 1985 recorded 92 tornado deaths in the United States, slightly below average, while 1984 was above average with 123 fatalities, government records show.

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Security director: Don't be easy victim

Wiatt says A&M not Wonderland

By LOYD BRUMFIELD Reporter

Students need to make themselves aware that they are vulnerable to crime on campus, says Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic at Texas A&M.

Wiatt says many times students are easy victims for crimes such as assaults or thefts because they believe they are safe.

"Students here have to realize that there are people out there who will take advantage of their naivety and vulnerability," Wiatt says.

"Many students here live in an 'Alice In Wonderland' fantasy world," Wiatt says. "They aren't employing basic common sense and they don't believe it can happen to them. Well, it can."

Wiatt says even though more serious crimes like aggravated assaults are a rarity at A&M, students should still take every possible precaution.

Wiatt says the University Police provides offi-

cer escorts for those who want it, but walking alone at night is still dangerous, he says.

"A woman walking alone at 3 a.m. has got to realize she's a high risk," Wiatt says.

Wiatt says most of the people who commit crimes on campus, especially thefts, are students.

"The idea that all A&M students are thieves is not entirely true," Wiatt says. "These people are opportunists, not professional thieves."

Despite the Aggie code of honor, Wiatt says A&M leads all other universities in the state in "these little petty larcenies."

A majority of crimes committed at A&M are thefts of property, Wiatt says.

"Stolen books or backpacks are eating us up," he says. "People don't keep their property safe. They leave their belongings out in the open or their doors unlocked and things get stolen."

Wiatt says assaults on campus are almost nonexistent, and most of the reported cases are fights between students.

In 1985, there were 31 assaults at A&M, Wiatt

says. In the same year, there were three aggravated assaults — cases where someone has suffered severe bodily injury or has been attacked with a weapon, Wiatt says.

"We've been very lucky here," Wiatt says. "We're pretty safe as far as personal attacks are concerned. We've had no murders on campus, and no rapes in almost four years."

At the moment, vandalism is a more serious problem than assault, especially vandalism of cars, Wiatt says.

A favorite spot for car vandals is the Commons area, Wiatt says.

Wiatt says from January 1985 to January 1986 there were seven burglaries of cars in parking annex 24 near the Commons and five cases of criminal mischief.

Criminal mischief is when property is damaged in some way, Wiatt says.

Another area where cars are vandalized is

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Expert says Russians to build space station

Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The Soviet Union may be preparing as early as this week to link up three large craft already in orbit and then launch a trio of cosmonauts to inspect and activate a large space station, an American expert on the Russian space program said Tuesday.

James Oberg, a space engineer and author who closely monitors the Soviet space program, said three unmanned Russian craft launched earlier have now drifted to within four miles of each other and he expects that they soon will be linked to form a large space station.

Oberg said the Salyut 7 space station, which was launched in 1982 and has been manned for long periods of time, is already linked to a craft called Cosmos 1686.

The dual craft, he said, have drifted into a closely parallel orbit now with the Mir, a large Salyut-

type craft that the Soviets have said will form the core of a new space station. The Mir was launched Feb. 20.

Oberg said the Salyut-Cosmos combination is in an orbit of 213 miles and the Mir is orbiting at 209 miles. The craft have orbital periods that differ by only a few seconds.

Three cosmonauts experienced in space walking are prepared to fly in the Soyuz T-15 spacecraft, said Oberg, and could be launched as early as Thursday.

Based on orbital calculations and the techniques usually used by the Soviets, Oberg said the Russians cosmonauts could be launched at 3:35 p.m. Moscow time and then effect a rendezvous and docking with the space station combination the next day. He said a window for the manned launch opens every other day for the rest of the week, with launch time slipping 48 minutes later each day.

Effects of tanning beds debated

By KAREN BOEHNKE Reporter

Tanning beds recently have become popular, but those who use them to get a deep tan throughout the year may be causing irreparable harm to their skin, according to one dermatologist.

Dr. Clyde Caperton, a local physician, says, "Sun booths artificially reproduce ultraviolet radiation, which is the same as sunlight. If it penetrates deep enough, it does damage below the skin, producing skin cancer when you get into your 50s."

However, two owners of tanning bed salons say tanning beds are safer than the sun.

Charles Teague, owner of Perfect Tan, says, "It's a safer alternative than tanning in the sun, no question about that."

He says some people who were initially very negative about tanning beds are changing their minds as they are exposed to more information.

"I can recall when people were being cautioned about using microwave ovens," Teague says.

Both Teague and Charles Barrett, co-owner of TANU, say the older

"You can overeat or overtan. I think done with proper supervision and in moderation, it's very safe and can be extremely worthwhile."

— Charles Teague, owner of Perfect Tan.

tanning booths are harmful, but the new tanning beds are safe.

Barrett says tanning booths emitted a large quantity of the more harmful beta rays, while the tanning beds emit mostly alpha rays and only 2 percent beta rays.

Caperton, however, disagrees.

"They may tell you that this kind of booth won't hurt you as much as others," Caperton says. "That's not true."

"The sun booths are no better or no worse than the sun. If you overdo it, you can harm yourself."

Caperton says many people who go to the tanning salons are the ones who have trouble getting a tan, such as those with blond hair and blue eyes. He says these people are most susceptible to the damages of ultraviolet radiation.

Barrett says any amount of sunlight you get is bad.

Interest in tanning is fueling the growth of new tanning bed establishments in the area. In the past two years at least five tanning salons have opened in Bryan-College Station.

Barrett says the current popularity of tanning beds is not a fad.

"The way technology is increasing with tanning equipment, it's here to stay," he says.

Teague says it takes about three weeks to get a good, safe tan. He says people come in four days before spring break wanting to get a good tan quickly, but that's not possible.

Although Teague says tanning booths are safe, he says some precautions need to be taken to protect the skin and eyes.

"You can abuse anything," he says. "You can overeat or overtan. I think done with proper supervision and in moderation, it's very safe and can be extremely worthwhile."

Caperton says that, in moderation, the ultraviolet radiation emitted from the tanning beds won't hurt a person's skin any more than being in the sun an average length of time. But it's the cumulative effect of radiation which can be detrimental to a person's skin, Caperton says.