

World and Nation

Vietnamese to send U.S. 21 MIA's remains

WASHINGTON — The Vietnamese government, as part of what appears to be a greater effort to locate missing American servicemen, soon will turn over the remains of 21 additional people and begin investigating live-sighting reports, a Pentagon official said Tuesday.

The Vietnamese also are planning to conduct their own excavation of a possible U.S. airplane crash site, have accepted for study a list of five crash sites the Pentagon would like to excavate, and have agreed to send a team to Hawaii to study U.S. investigation and identification techniques, he said.

Richard L. Armitage, assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, discussed the latest developments in the long-running effort to locate missing servicemen during a briefing on the outcome of a recent meeting of technical experts in Hanoi.

That meeting was the 11th technical meeting between the two sides since 1982, but the first since a new pledge by Vietnam to resolve the status of missing American servicemen within two years.

6 dead, over 100 injured after storms hit 3 states

Associated Press

Wreckage littered parts of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, and National Guardsmen patrolled against looters Tuesday, after a barrage of tornadoes and high wind killed six people, injured more than 100 and caused damage estimated at more than \$20 million.

Utility crews worked to restore power after up to 70,000 customers were blacked out in the three states, though most were back in service Tuesday.

Some roads remained blocked by debris, states of emergency were declared in two Kentucky cities, and the governors of Kentucky and Indiana set out to survey damage from the tornadoes that struck late Monday.

At least three people were charged with looting in Covington, Ky.

San Juan Romero, air traffic control manager at Cincinnati's airport, across the Ohio River near Erlanger, Ky., said, "It's a complete disaster. A bomb could not have done the damage this has done."

A survey of the hangar area Tuesday found 24 aircraft were damaged, 14 of them beyond repair, down from earlier estimates, airport spokesman Ted Bushelman said.

Indiana's tornado season usually

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doesn't begin until about March 20, the day targeted this year as tornado awareness day, said weather service meteorologist John T. Curran at Indianapolis.

There were at least 12 reported tornado touchdowns in 13 central Indiana counties, Ed Yess, a weather service hydrologist, said.

Curran said earlier there were at least six tornadoes, more than in all of last year and the two previous years.

A roof at a day care center caved in on 130 pre-schoolers in Johnson County, Ind., south of Indianapolis, but only three suffered minor injuries, said Rhea Furry, the center's director. A tornado destroyed an elementary school in the eastern Indiana town of Lynn about 40 minutes after some 400 students were dismissed.

Two men died in Indiana, one of them when a barn collapsed on him after he had sought refuge inside. Three people died in Ohio when twisters flattened mobile homes. One death was reported in western Kentucky.

Kentucky Gov. Martha Layne Collins visited damaged areas late Monday and returned Tuesday, and Indiana Gov. Robert D. Orr walked through the hardest-hit communities of Acton and Lynn. Ohio Disaster Services Agency officials were sent out to check damage and report back to Gov. Richard Celeste.

Officials of Covington, in northernmost Kentucky across the river from Cincinnati, declared an emergency and warned non-residents to keep out after high wind knocked out power and ripped the roofs from dozens of buildings.

The storm cut a swath 21 blocks long and five blocks wide through Newport, and 40 to 50 homes were destroyed, with another 40 seriously damaged. Police Chief Rick Huck said he believed at least 150 people were homeless.

At least 25 people were reported injured and several hundred buildings were severely damaged in Covington and Newport. Covington reported three people were charged with looting.

NASA chief: New shuttle to cost \$2.8 billion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The space agency's acting administrator said Tuesday it would cost \$2.8 billion to replace the lost Challenger, and congressional analysts reported that just modifying the shuttle boosters will run more than \$200 million.

William R. Graham told a House committee that it will be "very appropriate" to redesign the boosters before any shuttle flies again.

He said overall design modifications made in response to the Jan. 28 explosion of Challenger will cost \$350 million and that it will probably

be at least one year before a shuttle flies again.

Graham was not specific about the modifications, but a staff working paper from the Congressional Budget Office put the cost of modifying the shuttle boosters at \$200 million to \$225 million.

Putting the space program back together in the wake of the Challenger accident, the study said, "could require an additional \$1 billion in NASA's annual budget through 1990" and calls into question the future federal role in the commercial and scientific development of space.

The paper, obtained by the Associated Press, said also that NASA's \$350 million estimate might prove low, if only a few of the 700 items on a "criticality one" list must be reworked. Criticality One is NASA's term for parts and systems whose failure would result in the loss of life.

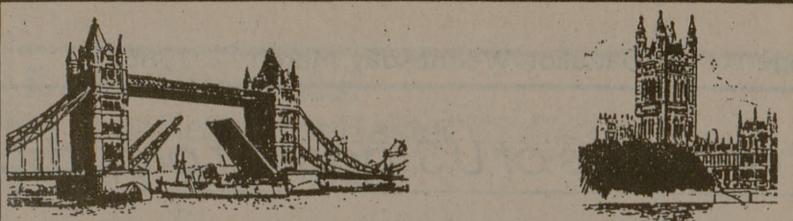
The budget office sees a bleak outlook for flying either scientific payloads or commercial satellite on the shuttle once flights begin again, with only space equal to three shuttle cargo bays open on 20 flights through September of 1989.

"A reduced flight rate implies that

national security payloads will dominate the post-accident shuttle workload," the study said.


"Reduced system capability, stacked-up national security payloads . . . leave little if any room on the manifest before 1989 for discretionary space science or new paying commercial and foreign payloads," it added.

Graham told the panel it would be possible to fly another shuttle in six months, but that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration does not anticipate launching another one for at least a year.



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