

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 193 USPS 045360 6 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, August 11, 1987

## Texaco supertanker hit by mine near gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — An American-operated supertanker loaded with Iranian oil hit a mine Monday just outside the Persian Gulf, and three reflagged Kuwaiti ships were reported moving slowly toward home under U.S. Navy escort.

Iraq says the gulf will be "full of mines" until the superpowers quit intervening in the region, where Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980. Iraq declared Monday would turn the waterway into a "killing field for the aggressors."

Iraq's warplanes bombed Iranian oil installations for the first time in nearly a month. It said Iran had violated the U.N. Security Council's July 20 cease-fire resolution and demanded "back-breaking, painful blows."

The 247,347-ton Texaco Caribbean loaded a full cargo of oil at Iran's Larak Island terminal, said Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence in London. The tanker had passed out of the gulf through the Strait of Hormuz and was approaching an anchorage in the Gulf of Oman when it hit the mine.

Shipping sources and Texaco said

the supertanker was holed about a yard below the water line and some oil was leaking, but no one was injured.

Some marine executives speculated that the mine drifted down from the strait, where Iran completed four days of naval maneuvers code-named "Martyrdom" on Friday, but a shipping official based in Kuwait said it probably was moored to the sea floor. He said coastal currents move toward Hormuz in this season rather than away from it.

Pentagon sources in Washington said the three Kuwaiti tankers and their Navy escorts were moving north — "taking it slow and easy," as one put it — after anchoring overnight off Saudi Arabia, about 200 miles from Kuwait.

Brent Sadler of the British television network ITN said in a telephone report from a chartered boat, however, that the U.S.-Kuwaiti convoy had not moved by dusk. He said the tankers' lights were visible but the U.S. warships were blacked out.

Sources who monitor ship movements in the gulf said they could not confirm the convoy had sailed.

The Texaco Caribbean struck the mine about eight miles northeast of Fujairah, a port in the United Arab Emirates, and about 30 miles south of the Hormuz entrance. It anchored off Fujairah afterward.

It is owned by Lexington Tankships Ltd., a subsidiary of Texaco Panama Inc. At Texaco's headquarters in White Plains, N.Y., spokeswoman Anita Larsen would not confirm that the cargo was Iranian oil.

The company said the tanker was under a "single-voyage" charter to the Norwegian shipping and trading company Seateam and "under orders to proceed to northwestern Europe with a cargo belonging to that company."

This was the first known mining incident in the busy Gulf of Oman tanker anchorage, a resupply and staging area for ships entering and leaving the gulf. The U.S. Navy uses it as an assembly point for convoys of Kuwaiti tankers sailing under the American flag.

Sources at Fujairah said the Texaco Caribbean left Larak early in the morning and was maneuvering to anchor when the explosion occurred.



Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

### How Much?

Jennifer Steffan, right, her daughter, Sarah, and nephew, Denton Ramsey, try to sell some puppies

near Rudder Fountain. The puppies are 9-week-old white German shepherds.

## Former student killed, officer injured in wreck

By Kirsten Dietz  
Senior Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Public Safety still is investigating the two-car accident which killed a former Texas A&M student and injured a College Station police officer Sunday night, a DPS spokesman said Monday.

Scott Alan Russ, 21, formerly enrolled in the general studies program at A&M, was pronounced dead after being taken to Humana Hospital, said Sgt. Gary Norton of the College Station Police Department. His body was taken to Rockport, and funeral services were held this morning at the Marshall-Ramey Funeral Home chapel.

College Station Officer John Gargotta, 22, was released from Humana Hospital Monday morning after being treated for abrasions and bruises, Norton said. He said Gargotta was kept overnight to check for possible internal injuries. It is believed that Gargotta also suffered a neck vertebrae, Norton said. He said Gar-

gotta is not incapacitated, but will not be in service for a while.

The two vehicles collided after Russ' car left a gas station on the corner of Texas Avenue and Deacon Drive. The patrol car driven by Gargotta was heading north on Texas Avenue responding as backup to another officer, Norton said.

Sherry Nesbitt, an administrative assistant at the Department of Student Affairs, said Russ was last enrolled at A&M during the fall 1986 semester. She said A&M's Student Information Management System lists him as having been enrolled in the general studies program, but no classification was on record. Nesbitt said Russ will not be included in September's Silver Taps ceremony.

Norton said the DPS is investigating the accident because a College Station patrol car was involved. A DPS spokesman said no details of the investigation can be released until the investigation is complete.

## Navy pilot fires missiles at Iranian jet

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Navy F-14 jet fighter fired two missiles over the weekend at a suspected Iranian jet fighter that appeared to be making "hostile moves" toward a U.S. surveillance plane, administration sources and published reports said Monday.

The sources, who demanded anonymity, said the incident occurred shortly after U.S. Navy warships began escorting a group of three Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf.

The sources refused to be more specific about when the incident occurred or to say where it occurred, but it was presumed to be in or near the volatile Persian Gulf.

They sources did say, however, that the missile fired by the Navy jet apparently did not strike anything.

Navy jet fighters attached to the aircraft carrier Constellation, which is believed to be in the northern Arabian Sea close to the Gulf of Oman, were already in the air when a Navy P-3 Orion surveillance plane reported that its radar indicated it was being approached by several airplanes, sources said.

The sources said the Navy F-14s were immediately sent to the area and "it appeared that the targets were threatening the P-3," and the "air crews were convinced that hostile moves were being taken."

Both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* reported in today's editions that an F-14 fired two Sparrow air-to-air missiles at the suspected Iranian aircraft.

The *Times* said the P-3 was approached by an Iranian F-4. Administration officials told the *Times* the Iranian pilot was warned to stay away from the American patrol plane.

## Mexican official: Brain drain feared by low Texas tuition

EL PASO (AP) — A new state program allowing Mexicans to pay in-state tuition at universities in border counties will accelerate a brain drain to the United States, some Mexicans say.

The program allows Mexicans who demonstrate financial need to pay Texas tuition rates at Texas-El Paso, Sul Ross State, Laredo State and Pan American University. It is designed to attract students who had to drop out when Mexico's triple-digit inflation of the early 1980s made out-of-state tuition too high.

Another barrier to Mexican enrollment was the tripling of out-of-state tuition in 1985, from \$40 a semester hour to \$120 a semester hour. UTEP, which had and continues to have the largest Mexican student enrollment, lost more than half the Mexican students enrolled before 1985.

UTEP led the drive for reduced tuition for Mexicans, and state Sen. Tati Santiesteban of El Paso sponsored the bill. The campus planned to hold an orientation session Tuesday for Mexicans considering enrolling as in-state students.

In a telephone interview Sunday

with the *El Paso Times*, a Mexican Socialist Party spokesman in Juarez questioned UTEP's motives.

Sergio Velasco said, "If they were doing it to help that would be one thing, but their basic motives are selfish."

Velasco said his 18- and 21-year-old sons are studying engineering in Juarez, and that he would not advise them or any other Mexican students to transfer to a Texas university to take advantage of lower tuition.

For a Mexican, the cost of attending Monterrey Technological Institute — regarded as the Mexican equivalent of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — is competitive with that of UTEP. In-state tuition at UTEP is \$1,204 a year for two 15-hour semesters; the annual tuition at the Juarez campus of the technological institute is \$1,250, according to Juarez press reports. The figures do not include room, board, books or lab fees.

An area leader of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, told a Juarez newspaper last week that "our most outstanding students and professionals for years have received tempting offers to relocate to the United States."

## Exploding car bomb injures 10 on passing bus in Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A car bomb exploded Monday as a bus carrying U.S. Air Force personnel passed, slightly injuring the nine Americans on the bus, the Greek driver and an Air Force woman walking nearby, police reported.

They said the explosives in the car, which had diplomatic license plates, apparently were detonated by remote control. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Several people in the area reported seeing two young men speed away on a green motorcycle seconds after the explosion, a police official said privately. It was the second attack this year on a bus carrying U.S. military personnel.

The car blew up at 4:48 p.m. as the unmarked bus with Greek license plates approached the Apollon Hotel in the seaside suburb of Voula, about 6 miles from the Hellenikon U.S. Air Force base.

Senior Airman John Hancock said the bus was bound for the Apollon, which is used as a billet for U.S. military personnel temporarily assigned in or near Athens.

The explosion blew out the windshield of the bus and slightly damaged the front end and grill. It ripped the car apart, strewn pieces of the vehicle along the road 200 yards from the hotel entrance.

Government spokesman Yannis Roubatis said the government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu "condemns and denounces terrorism from wherever it comes."

"Such actions are exclusively aimed at harming democracy, the institutions and the country's social and political life," he said.

In Washington, the State Department said Greek and U.S. authorities had begun a joint investigation. A terrorist group calling itself November 17 claimed responsibility for

a bomb that exploded on a low roadside wall April 24 as a bus carrying U.S. personnel drove by, injuring seven of the 25 occupants. The bus was taking the Americans from a Greek base to Hellenikon, which is next to the Athens airport.

U.S. military and diplomatic personnel have been very cautious about their movements in an effort to minimize the possibility of attack, including the use of unmarked buses like the Mercedes Benz that was damaged Monday.

Hellenikon is one of four major U.S. military installations in Greece. The Navy has a communications listening station at Nea Makri, 22 miles east of the capital; the Air Force has its own communications base near Iraklion on the island of Crete, and the Navy uses Suda Bay on Crete's western tip to refuel and maintain the 6th Fleet.

## Justice to be tested at Mayo Clinic for prostate trouble

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice William J. Brennan, the Supreme Court's senior member and leading liberal, is following the advice of two justices with prostate cancer by being tested at the Mayo Clinic for prostate trouble, a court spokesman said Monday.

However, the spokesman, Toni House, said it is not believed that Brennan's prostate trouble, which developed last spring, is due to cancer.

"If things go as anticipated, I expect to undergo a routine prostate procedure later this week," Brennan, who is 81, said in a

statement. "I plan and fully expect to participate in the court's October term."

Brennan arrived at the clinic in Rochester, Minn., on Sunday and is expected to remain there at least through this week, said clinic spokesman Michael O'Hara.

The justice most likely will undergo a transurethral resection, O'Hara said.

A similar procedure was performed on President Reagan in January.

Brennan is the third justice to have prostate trouble this year. Justices Harry A. Blackmun and Lewis F. Powell Jr. both were diag-

nosed as having prostate cancer and both were treated at the Mayo Clinic.

Powell, 80, resigned from the court in June, citing the potential of a recurrence of his health problems.

Blackmun, 78, last week finished the first half of his treatment and plans to return next month to complete it.

Asked if Brennan had prostate cancer, House replied: "The answer is we don't think so. There is no reason to believe at this time his prostate has a malignancy."

She said Brennan's prostate trouble started sometime in the spring, and he decided to

seek testing at the Mayo Clinic because Blackmun and Powell had recommended it.

Brennan said in his statement that his doctors had recommended for some months that he have the prostate procedure done, but he postponed it to finish the court term in June and then deliver a series of lectures in Austria in July.

The statement said additional information on Brennan's condition would be released after the tests are completed.

"Justice Brennan doesn't care to have a lot of details released," O'Hara said.