

Wednesday, April 19, 1989

House approves plan to close 86 military bases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to back a plan to close 86 military bases and scale back five more despite complaints that the move will not save as much as advocates had promised.

By a vote of 381-43, the House rejected a resolution to disapprove the recommendations of the Commission on Base Realignment and Closure, giving the green light for Defense Secretary Dick Cheney to follow through on the panel's proposals beginning in January.

"It is incumbent upon all of us to make sure this base closing list is implemented," the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., said moments before the vote.

The commission's recommendations af-

fect a total of 145 domestic military installations by closing some, reducing the operations of others and changing the missions of additional bases.

The law establishing the commission, the Base Closure and Realignment Act, requires that, once approved by the secretary of defense, the commission's recommenda-

tions proceed unless both houses of Congress vote to disapprove them, in which case none of the proposals would take effect.

The House action means the changes proposed by the commission will proceed. In debate before the vote, opponents of the move said it would not save as much money as the commission projected.

Texas military installations affected by recommendations of the commission

WASHINGTON — Here is a list of Texas military installations affected by the recommendations of the Commission on Base Realignment and Closure, approved Tuesday by the House.

The numbers after each installation indicate a loss or gain of jobs and the amount of annual savings where any is expected.

Bergstrom Air Force Base
Austin
Reorganized, plus 963.

Carswell Air Force Base
Fort Worth
Reorganized, plus 32.

Fort Bliss
El Paso
Reorganized, minus 321.

Galveston Naval Station
Closed, minus 537, \$2.5 million.

Goodfellow Air Force Base
San Angelo

Reorganized, plus 217.

Ingleside Naval Station
Corpus Christi
Reorganized, plus 876.

Red River Army Depot
Texarkana
Reorganized, plus 63.

Sheppard Air Force Base
Wichita Falls
Reorganized, plus 865.

Heart monitor saves patients valuable time

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A briefcase-sized monitor that plugs into a telephone outlet will let doctors for the first time not only monitor but also treat heart patients even before an ambulance can arrive.

The first "MDphone," developed by MEDphone Inc. of Paramus, N.J., was installed recently in the home of a 72-year-old patient who had bypass surgery, said Dr. Edwin Rogers, director of cardiac care at Sacred Heart Hospital here.

Rogers said his patient will have the MDphone for 90 days. "This is the kind of thing you hope would not be used on the patient," he said. "The first three months after a heart attack are critical because this is when a patient is at highest risk of having another cardiac episode."

The MDphone is plugged into a wall jack. If a problem arises, the patient or family member just opens the case and attaches electrode pads. The machine automatically dials the hospital emergency room, setting off alarms. The base unit in this hospital retrieves the patient's records and displays them on one computer screen while another shows the electrocardiogram.

If the patient develops a dangerously erratic heartbeat, known as cardiac arrhythmia, a doctor at Sacred Heart could immediately defibrillate the patient by signaling the device to deliver an electric shock.

MDphone is the first telemetry system that allows treatment in this way, said MEDphone President S. Eric Wachtel.

Coroner: Abbie Hoffman committed suicide

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Yipie founder Abbie Hoffman committed suicide with a "massive overdose" of the drug phenobarbital, the coroner said Tuesday.

"The death was from the combined effects of phenobarbital and alcohol," Coroner Dr. Thomas Rosko said at a news conference.

Hoffman, who held fast to his anti-establishment convictions and made his points with searing humor, was found dead April 12 at his home in New Hope. He was 52.

"I think it is likely that he literally fell asleep and died in his sleep," Rosko said. "Other than that, what occurred in his last hours is strictly speculation."

The autopsy found the residue of about 150 pills, several times the le-

thal dose even without the presence of alcohol, the coroner said. Phenobarbital is a long-acting sedative and an anticonvulsant.

Hoffman's blood alcohol level was .20, twice the legal limit in Pennsylvania, Rosko said.

The coroner said laboratory tests showed two other drugs were present in Hoffman's system. But he said the small quantities of propranolol, used for cardiovascular conditions, and benzo-diazepine, a class of drugs including the sedative Valium, had no connection with Hoffman's death.

Although Hoffman was considered a self-taught expert in drugs, Rosko said there was no evidence he was using drugs for pleasure.

The coroner said he relayed his

findings to Hoffman's family minutes before his news conference.

Although Rosko ruled the death a suicide, Hoffman's brother, Jack, held out hope it was an accident.

"Abbie, as many of you know, was somewhat careless with pills and we always warned him about this kind of thing," Jack Hoffman said at a news conference in Worcester, Mass., the family's hometown.

Hoffman's mother, Florence, declined to comment.

The day after her son's body was found, she speculated that he had committed suicide, saying he had sounded depressed in recent telephone conversations. But the next day, she said the family no longer suspected suicide.

Other relatives and friends men-

tioned suicide. Rosko said Friday there was no indication then that Hoffman killed himself but that preliminary results were inconclusive. Rosko's autopsy report last week also did not elaborate on a trickle of blood reported found caked under Hoffman's nostril.

In June 1988, Hoffman said he was taking painkillers a doctor had prescribed for injuries he suffered in an auto accident.

Hoffman was last seen alive on April 11 by a girlfriend of his landlord. He was found dead by a neighbor, Michael Waldron, who told police Hoffman had been depressed about the car accident.

A memorial service planned Wednesday in Worcester, Mass., is to include a peace march from his mother's house to Temple Emanuel, which Hoffman attended as a child.

Soviets: Mir abandoned in effort to save money

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviets decided to bring home the cosmonauts from their space station next week and leave it temporarily vacant to save money, but a new crew will be launched in August, the deputy flight director said Tuesday.

Viktor D. Blagov said no technical problems had cropped up in the Mir, the 3-year-old orbiting complex that is the showcase of the Soviet space program. He said plans to keep Soviets aboard the station continuously were abandoned for several reasons.

"By this action, we are of course economizing some sum which can be used for other purposes," said Blagov, speaking in a telephone interview from the Mission Control Center in Kaliningrad, north of Moscow.

He did not identify the areas where money would be diverted or say how much would be saved, but the public has called for the untold millions of rubles spent on space to be targeted to end chronic shortages of consumer goods and food.

Blagov also said Soviet scientists were swamped analyzing information gathered from Mir — the Russian word for "peace" — since its launch Feb. 20, 1986. They now must pause to review "what we have accomplished and decide what's next."

Tentative plans call for a module the same size as Mir to be attached to the station at year's end, and until then there is no need for a crew, he said. Wednesday's scheduled launch of a replacement crew has been canceled.

Cosmonauts Alexander Volkov, Sergei Krikalev and Valery Polyakov are to mothball the Mir and return to Earth on April 27. A new crew will be sent up in mid-August to prepare for attaching the module, Blagov said. The attachment contains a space bicycle for cosmonauts, a solar battery to supplement that of the Mir station itself, an East German optical experiment and an airlock through which cosmonauts can pass to take spacewalks.

Teachers strike enters 2nd day in Mexico; conversations begin

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Education Secretary Manuel Bartlett on Tuesday summoned leaders of a dissident teachers movement and the government-backed union in an attempt to resolve a teacher's strike for higher pay and the removal of corrupt union chiefs.

Defying government warnings, thousands of Mexico's public school teachers cut classes for a second day Tuesday to push for a 100 percent pay increase and greater democracy in their union, which, with 1.1 million members, is the largest in Mexico and one of the biggest in Latin America.

Before dawn Tuesday Bartlett summoned leaders of the National Education Workers' Coordinate, a dissident group within the National Education Workers Union, and the government-backed union leadership, a strike activist said on condition of anonymity.

"Our leaders were taken at three in the morning to

the Education Department for meetings with Bartlett," the leader said. "We think the conversations are continuing because they haven't returned to strike headquarters."

The coordinate has rejected a government offer to increase pay by 10 percent and benefits by 18 percent. Teachers earn about \$147.50 per month after taxes.

Bartlett warned over national television late Monday that striking teachers could face disciplinary action if they didn't return to their jobs.

He said teachers in the federal school system will receive a net salary increase of 20 percent once an umbrella 10 percent hike for state and federal teachers goes into effect in May.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari acknowledges that teachers are underpaid, but says his hard-pressed government cannot afford to double salaries.

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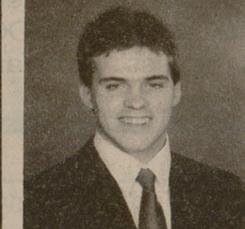
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WHERE: 701 Rudder

REGISTRATION: 6:30 PM

GENERAL SESSION: 7:00 PM

SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR: Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers.

Please note that a Faculty Advisor Workshop is also scheduled for April 20, 1989 in 302 Rudder from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M.

For more information, please call 845-1133

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