



Babe backs up for sixth year
Cowboy's Laufenberg continues to smile despite sitting on sidelines.
See Page 5

Vol. 89 No. 188 USPS 045360 6 Pages

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Pentagon may expand troops to 250,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pentagon plans call for sending up to 250,000 ground troops to Saudi Arabia's defense in the face of a continued Iraqi military buildup in Kuwait, Pentagon sources and administration officials said Thursday.

The substance of the military's so-called "detail planning" came as the White House hinted at a possible naval blockade to choke off Iraq's oil exports in the face of its week-old invasion of Kuwait.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told reporters that the U.S. movement of troops continued on Thursday and would take "many days" to complete.

Williams declined to specify the force level the United States intends to deploy.

However, an administration official, speaking privately, said, "There's a certain minimum force we have to put over there as a deterrent, and, for now, we're marching ahead with it."

A Pentagon source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the United States was prepared to put "many divisions" in Saudi Arabia.

"We have contingency plans that could result in the insertion of up to 250,000 to 250,000 ground forces before it's all done," said this source, who spoke on condition that further identification be withheld.

Such a deployment could take up

to 60 days to complete, the sources said.

Both sources said the future deployment of U.S. forces depends upon President Saddam Hussein's moves, as well as the response to Washington's call for international support in its quest to oust Hussein from Kuwait territory.

Earlier in the day, the Pentagon reported that 50,000 combat units were moving south inside Iraq, and that if they entered Kuwait, the total invasion force would number "about 170,000." Only a day earlier, the intelligence estimates had put the Iraqi force at 100,000 men.

A Pentagon statement said there "seems to be some gathering" of Iraqi troops on the Turkish border, but the statement added that analysts had "no good estimates of numbers and types."

Meanwhile, the White House prodded other nations to join the armed defense of Saudi Arabia, and more U.S. fighter planes arrived in the tense Persian Gulf area to bolster the buildup of American combat troops.

The White House prodded other nations Thursday to join its armed defense of Saudi Arabia and assured Turkey that NATO would provide protection from Iraq. More U.S. fighter planes arrived in the tense Persian Gulf to bolster the buildup of American combat troops.



The Pentagon said Iraq had an estimated 120,000 troops in Kuwait and had improved its air defenses there. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said more Iraqi units were heading south into Kuwait. He described their actions as "moving sand, digging in tanks."

Bush Jr. commends Ogden at fundraiser

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

George Bush Jr. commended the sacrifices of Steve Ogden, Republican candidate for state representative, to those of Texas Rangers pitcher Nolan Ryan Thursday night.

Bush, co-owner of the Rangers, spoke to about 300 people at a \$50-a-plate fundraising dinner for Ogden at the College Station Ramada Inn.

After last season's unsuccessful attempt at a comeback, Bush said Ryan was less worried about his individual record of 5,000 strikeouts and more concerned that he had let 23 teammates down.

"The reason I love that story, particularly in a political context, is that it really does speak to what individual candidates are willing to do," Bush said.

Candidates, like Ogden, who run for office are saying that they are willing to give up the comforts of a family life to serve, Bush said.

"He's willing to go out every night and knock on doors because he believes in a cause — a philosophy," Bush said. "He worries about his kids. This is what Steve Ogden is saying to me."

"Therefore it is important for us to understand the sacrifices he's making and rally behind him — to pitch in," Bush said.



George Bush Jr.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

"Sacrifice is what public life must be about and should be about and that's why I'm here. I'm convinced this man is doing this for the absolute right reasons."

As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a nuclear engineer in the submarine corps, Ogden said he can understand and address the scientific and technological problems of Texas in the 90s.

Because he received an M.B.A. from Texas A&M in 1987 and has business experience during the good and hard times, Ogden said he can also address Texas' economic and business problems. Ogden has been an independent oil and gas producer since 1983 and owns Ogden Resources and Impala Drilling.

Ogden will face his opponent, Democrat Jim James, at the polls Nov. 7.

Texas National Guard helps out in Saudi Arabia

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas National Guard personnel will be used to support the deployment of troops to Saudi Arabia, Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday.

Clements said he approved a Pentagon request to allow the participation of 11 personnel of the 136th Tactical Airlift Wing, based at Hensley Field in Grand Prairie.

"These troops volunteered to participate in activities supporting the movement of U.S. troops to the Persian Gulf to help the armed forces of Saudi Arabia enhance their defensive capabilities," Clements said.

Thousands of American combat troops took up defensive positions Thursday in the heart of Saudi Arabia's vital oil-producing province.

GIs, diplomats tighten positions

Associated Press

American GIs dug into position in Arabia's searing sands Thursday while American diplomats worked the air-conditioned corridors of power, both tightening a vise, step by step, on an increasingly isolated Iraq.

The dangerous U.S.-Iraqi standoff in the desert rattled nerves across the Middle East.

Israel fired off a test missile as a warning to the Iraqis. Air raid sirens wailed mysteriously in Jordan. Turkish villagers said Iraqi tanks had rumbled into position near the Turkey-Iraq border. And Iraq closed its frontiers for foreigners, heightening concerns about hundreds of Americans stranded in Iraq and Kuwait.

The tension reached as far as the hills of Tennessee and farms of Wisconsin, where local Air National Guardsmen were hurriedly called from their civilian jobs to help ferry U.S. troops and gear the 5,000 miles to Saudi Arabia.

American leaders believe that oil kingdom could be the next target of an Iraqi invasion force that conquered Kuwait last week.

Arab leaders, desperate to defuse the explosive crisis, gathered in Cairo in search of a peaceful resolution — possibly an all-Arab force to act as a border buffer between the Saudis and Americans on one side and the Iraqis on the other. The summit was postponed a day until today.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent a delegation to Cairo. Its leader, Taha Yassin Ramadan, asserted that the U.S. force in Saudi Arabia, which unofficial reports said could reach 50,000 men, would be used to attack Iraq.

Any such move "will be answered decisively," he said. Iraq's ambassador to Greece suggested the Iraqis would unleash poison gas on any attacking American troops.

While the Arab presidents and sheiks marked time in Cairo, American diplomacy pressed forward in world capitals:

- Secretary of State James A. Baker III, in Ankara, told Turkish leaders they could depend on their NATO allies in any showdown with neighboring Iraq.
- In Paris, a U.S. envoy reassured a 21-nation energy conference that Washington would tap its huge emergency oil stockpile if the crisis causes shortages.

Police ticket driver for wreck

By HOLLY BECKA
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University Police cited the driver of a car that veered into the fence surrounding the Zachry parking lot Wednesday night for failure to control her vehicle's speed.

A&M senior Julianne Leonard, a 22-year-old marketing major from Bryan, was driving a 1987 Toyota when it struck a curb and then a 7-foot steel fence on University Drive at about 11 p.m. Wednesday.

Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said the accident report stated Leonard lost control of the vehicle after she turned off South College onto University Drive.

Leonard told University police that as she was turning, another vehicle turned opposite her car and startled her. Wiatt said Leonard said

this caused her to veer and hit the curb.

Wiatt said several witnesses have made statements that conflict with Leonard's.

"The witnesses did not see any other vehicle that might have caused her to be distracted," he said.

"What we believe now is that she was coming off South College onto University at a high rate of speed and lost control of the car," he said.

Leonard was cited for failure to control her vehicle's speed and for not wearing a seatbelt. Passenger Julie Lane, 21, a senior accounting major from Rockwall, also was cited for not wearing a seatbelt.

The two women were taken to Humana Hospital following the accident and were treated for minor injuries and released early Thursday morning.

Professor: Survey exaggerates benzene danger

By MIKE LUMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

A recent consumer survey reported levels of benzene in gasoline vary throughout the United States, and people in certain regions are more likely to develop cancer from the toxic substance than others.

But a Texas A&M professor said the findings were exaggerated, and removing benzene from gas would force oil companies to change their refining process and raise already high prices.

"The survey needs to say how much it (benzene) really matters; how much it affects people," said Dr. Richard Davison of the A&M Chemical Engineering Department.

Benzene is an octane-increasing chemical, or aromatic, used in gas as an alternative to lead.

It is not added to gas, but is formed during processing or already exists in crude oil, Davison said.

Benzene can be removed from gas and sold in

pure form, but refineries must balance the loss against octane needs, he said.

Gas is required to have a minimum octane to prevent engines from knocking. High octane means gas has greater anti-knock properties.

"That's all octane is," Davison said. "High octane does not mean more energy than low, nor is it more explosive."

He said benzene levels vary among refineries and it is difficult to generalize levels state-to-state without examining the source of the gas.

The survey, by Washington-based consumer and environmental group Citizen Action, studied fuel samples in 18 U.S. cities.

The report concluded cities in the West, notably Seattle and Los Angeles, sold gas with up to three times as much benzene as Eastern cities.

Health concerns center on exposure to the chemical during refueling and working in its proximity.

Davison said a study to determine risk would have to examine a large sample group exposed to the substance and find a statistical difference in

their health and the rest of the population.

He said no such studies have been done.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimated there are about eight chances in 100,000 of developing cancer from self-service refueling of motor vehicles during a lifetime.

Clean air legislation before Congress would require reductions of benzene and other aromatics in fuel.

Davison said there is always room to spend more on safety, but costs must be weighed against results.

The lead in leaded gasoline was effective in raising octane. By not using it, refineries were forced to find a different process, he said.

"That's why unleaded costs more," Davison said. "It really does cost more to make. You can't take the benzene out without further processing and cost."

He said A&M has done research on alternatives, including methyl and ethyl additives to boost octane level.



Photo by Eric Roalsen

Charles Boden Miller, Class of '88, jumps for a frisbee Wednesday afternoon at Ultimate frisbee

practice while graduate student Paul Normandin waits for a chance to catch it.

Players enjoy 'Ultimate' sport

By ISSELLE MCALLISTER
Of The Battalion Staff

Fun, fitness and friendship are why Texas A&M's Ultimate Frisbee players are fanatic about their sport.

Ultimate Frisbee is played similar to soccer, except the action is in the air, said Bill McAbee, a senior from Bedford who has been playing for more than a year.

Ultimate is played in an area smaller than a football field with a goal at each end. Each team has seven players who try to catch the disk in the end zones for points.

The players cannot walk with the disk, he explained. It must be tossed from player to player. If the disk is dropped, the other team takes over possession.

Bonnie Zigmond, a graduate student from Adkins and a five-year Ultimate veteran, said the 21-year-old sport started in New Jersey and has spread all over the country.

The Northeast has varsity collegiate teams, she said, but some of the best players can be found in California.

Ultimate Frisbee at A&M is a co-ed extramural sport, McAbee said. The team competes against other universities and attends tournaments throughout the nation.

There are no professional Ultimate teams, but the teams that compete at the national level are excep-

tional, he said.

Zigmond said Ultimate might be the next sport added to Olympic competition. The 1992 Summer Olympics will feature it as an exhibition sport, she said.

Thomas Jackson, president of the A&M Ultimate team, says playing the game "will do a lot for your mind and your body." It is an exhausting sport, he said, but it relieves stress.

"It is a great sport to get fit," Zigmond said. Studies show Ultimate is the most aerobic team sport, she said. Some players lose up to 20 or 30 pounds, she added, because the action is non-stop.

It's addictive, she said, and everyone can play — even the most uncoordinated — because Ultimate skills develop with practice.

And everyone does play. At A&M, undergraduate students, graduate students, professors, lawyers and engineers all play together, she said.

There is a great camaraderie among the players, Zigmond said. Their time together is relaxing.

Susan Saunders, a graduate student from Costa Rica, said players exchange "psych beads" at tournaments and parties. They are strings of colored beads given as friendship tokens.

"It's just a good bull thing to do," she said.

The A&M Ultimate Frisbee team practices every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 6 p.m. at Gen. Ormond R. Simpson Drill Field, but starting in the fall the team will practice at Penberthy Field by Olsen Field.