

Military cautions Bush against striking first in Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is getting conflicting advice on whether he should — or even could — strike against Iraq fast, before the extraordinary coalition of nations that confronts Saddam Hussein unravels.

The military is cautioning against it. Pentagon officials privately say that the American buildup in Saudi Arabia is weeks away from being ready for warfare, especially ground combat.

"Absolutely not," a military source said when asked last week about the possibility of an offensive operation. "We're just not ready yet. We don't have enough force on the ground."

Administration officials say there is some pressure from within Congress and from

abroad to attack even without a provocative act from Saddam, whose forces have pulled back from the "cat-and-mouse" air and sea

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— Roman Popadiuk, White House spokesman

taunts of a few days ago.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, conceded that if too much time

passes, the coalition against Saddam, particularly in the Arab world, "could fragment." At home, he acknowledged, public support might drain away.

Bush seems willing to wait to see if he can strangle Saddam into submission through a worldwide blockade of Iraq.

"The basic pieces of our policy are in place," he said at a news conference Thursday.

So officials say it is unlikely he will launch an unprovoked attack. The White House believes Saddam is on the run, one official said.

White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk characterized as "uninformed speculation" reports of pressure on the administration for a military move.

"We have a strategy in place based on the United Nations resolution and the U.N.-passed sanctions," he said.

"There's not going to be any war unless the Iraqis attack."

— Gen H. Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East

One official cited intelligence reports that Saddam is "trying to use oil as a bargaining chip" to underscore the administra-

tion portrait of the Iraqi president as an increasingly desperate man.

He said Saddam was trying to barter oil for sugar and other commodities. Such overtures have been made to Turkey, the Philippines and elsewhere, he said.

Also arguing against a quick-strike strategy — one powerful enough presumably to remove Iraq as a threat to Western interests for years to come — is the situation on the ground.

U.S. forces are just beginning to assume defensive positions and need more training.

On Friday, Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, said flatly: "There's not going to be any war unless the Iraqis attack."

Rec Sports Highlights



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Week At A Glance

Monday, September 3

- Registration for Flag Football, Pre-Season Flag Football, and the Long Driving Contest begins today at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 4

- Entries close for Outdoor Soccer, Pre-Season Outdoor Soccer, and Table Tennis Singles.

- Today is the last day to renew your recreational lockers!

Wednesday, September 5

- Pre-Season Outdoor Soccer Brackets Posted, 3:00 p.m.
- All recreational lockers that have not been renewed will be cleared.

Thursday, September 6

- Outdoor Soccer Captain's Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in 267 G. Rollie White. Schedules will be available at this time.
- Pre-Season Outdoor Soccer begins tonight at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 7

- Table Tennis Singles Brackets Posted, 1:00 p.m.
- Today is the last day to register for Exercise Classes.



CLUB NOTES...

Interested in Judo? The Texas A&M Judo Team meets Monday through Thursday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in 263 G. Rollie White. No experience is necessary and new members are welcome. For more information, please contact either Bobby Perez at 693-8811 (or 693-1891) or Gary Berliner at 693-6216.

TAMU OUTDOORS

Registration for the following trips is now being taken in the Recreational Sports Office. Participants must pay for the trip at the time they register. For more information about TAMU Outdoors trips, call Patsy Kott at 845-7826.

Windsurfing Fundamentals: Join TAMU Outdoors for an introduction to the exciting sport of windsurfing. The first session of the workshop will be held on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7:00 p.m. in 164 Read and is open to anyone interested in sitting in on the instructional video and presentation. The hands-on practice session is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8 at Bryan Utilities Lake and is available only to those who have registered and paid for the workshop. Equipment is provided. Sign up early because class size is limited. For more information, please call Patsy at 845-7826. Register in the Recreational Sports Office in 159 Read Building.

Canoe the San Marcos Saturday, September 22. Trip fee is \$25.00 for A&M affiliates and \$30.00 for non-A&M. This trip is limited to 12 participants.

Cozumel in December Join TAMU Outdoors on an end of the semester trip to Cozumel. The trip includes airfare, 5 days/4 nights lodging, Mexican hotel tax. The Dive package includes three two-tank boat dives, night dives, unlimited beach diving, tanks and weight belts. Cost for the trip is \$420 for A&M and \$445 for non-A&M. The Dive package costs \$520 for A&M and \$545 for non A&M.

Upcoming Activities

Canoeing
Kayak Roll Clinics

Kayaking Workshop
Rock-Climbing Clinic

GAME PLAN

Registration for the following activities ends
Tuesday, September 11

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| Pre-Season Flag Football \$10.00 per team Tournament Dates: Sept. 13-16 | Flag Football \$30.00 per team Play Begins: Sept. 17 | Long Driving Contest No entry fee Contest Date: Sept. 11 |
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Registration for the following activities will be taken
Monday, September 10 - Tuesday, September 18

Triathlon
No Entry Fee
Date: Sept. 23

Horseshoes Doubles
No Entry Fee
Date: Sept. 25

HELP WANTED

Intramural Medics: The Recreational Sports Department is now accepting applications for Intramural Medics. Applicants must be ECA certified and EMT is preferred. Apply at the Recreational Sports office in 159 Read or contact Chris Koperniak at 845-7826.

Intramural Officials: The Texas A&M Sports Officiating Program trains approximately 400 students throughout the year to officiate intramural contests. Students are paid for complete a week-long culminating in a preseason get-on-the-field experience. Check out the Recreational Sports Calendar for dates and times of meetings throughout the year.

For those students interested in officiating Flag Football, a meeting will be held Monday, September 3 at 6:00 p.m. in 267 G. Rollie White. For more information about officiating, call 845-7826.



Student Maintenance Workers: The Recreational Sports Department is also looking for students to work facility maintenance both indoors and outdoors. Workers are needed indoors Monday-Sunday from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Workers are needed outdoors Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact James Welford at 845-7826.

Intramural Photographers: The Recreational Sports Department needs individuals experienced in black and white photography to take pictures of sporting events. For more information, contact P.J. Miller at 845-7826.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES RENEWALS

Faculty and staff may come by the Recreational Sports Office in 159 Read Building to purchase their recreation ID and intramural validation for the 1990-91 year. Recreation IDs are \$10.00 per year while an intramural validation is \$10.00 per semester. Spouse and dependent cards are also available for \$20.00.

Anyone renting a recreational locker must be sure to renew it by this Tuesday. Lockers that are not renewed by that time will be cleared on Wednesday and locker rentals will begin on all non-renewed lockers on Thursday. Lockers rent for \$12.00 per semester. For more information, call 845-7826.

INTRAMURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Today is the last day for students interested in serving on the Intramural Advisory Committee to pick up an application in the Student Government Office, 221 Pavilion. Applications should be completed and returned to the Student Government Office by this afternoon. For more information, contact Susan May at 845-3051.



Photo by Lynda Bottos

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EXERCISE CLASSES

Exercise classes are being offered through the Department of Recreational Sports. Registrations runs until this Friday. Classes are offered 12:00 noon and after 5:00 p.m. Fees range from \$30.00-\$45.00. For more information, come by the Recreational Sports Office or call 845-7826.