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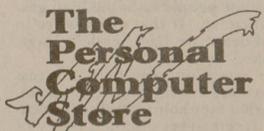
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Pentagon opposes tilt-rotor aircraft

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Pentagon has formed an internal group to oppose the Bell Helicopter's V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft in Congress, and may cite test results that show the craft is "far from flawless," according to a Pentagon memo obtained by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The memo, written by one of the Pentagon's top legislative strategists, outlines the Defense Department's intentions to fight the V-22 as the House prepares for a vote on the 1991 defense budget next week.

Events in the Middle East had raised supporters' hopes that Congress would continue paying for the tilt-rotor, an aircraft that can take off and land like a helicopter and fly like a regular plane.

The newspaper reported Wednesday that the Pentagon apparently remains committed to killing the program when the 1990 fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

Support for the program is growing in Congress and in the state. A group of Texas political and business leaders plan to meet. The House is considering a draft bill that sets aside \$403 million for the project.

The V-22 is being developed jointly by Bell Helicopter Textron of Fort Worth and Boeing Helicopters of Ridley Township, Pa. About 2,000 workers in Texas and 500 in Pennsylvania would lose their jobs if the program is canceled.

In the two-page memo obtained by the newspaper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Patty Howe outlined strategy for a "V-22 working group" within the Pentagon to build a case against the tilt-rotor through briefing papers, "talking points and speeches."

The Aug. 16 memo was sent to three high-ranking members of Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's staff.

Howe suggested that the Pentagon may use preliminary test results to question the aircraft's effectiveness, arguing that "it is too early to move into production" without further study.

In her memo, Howe said, "In a perfect world, with endless funds, the department would probably buy the V-22. However, as our piece of the fiscal pie gets smaller, defense priorities and not special interest priorities must drive our defense decisions."

Howe declined comment and referred questions to the Pentagon's public affairs office. A spokeswoman for Rep. Pete Geren, D-Fort Worth, a leading V-22 supporter, said she is unaware of any negative test results and pointed out that a Pentagon study earlier this year found the V-22 superior to competing aircraft.

Bell officials familiar with the V-22 were attending the Farnborough International Air Show in Farnborough, England.

In Advance

A&M Human Resources Dept. hosts job fair

Texas A&M's Department of Human Resources will host a "Saturday Morning Special" job fair from 9 a.m. to noon at A&M's Employment Office in Westgate Center on Wellborn Road in Bryan.

"Saturday Morning Special," held three times a year, is an opportunity for individuals seeking employment at A&M who are un-

able to visit the employment office during regular business hours.

Those attending the fair can view detailed job descriptions of available positions, complete applications, take typing tests and meet employment office interviewers.

For more information, contact the employment office at 845-5154.

U.S. oil, natural gas rigs increase active expansion

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of working oil and natural gas rigs in the United States rose again this week, climbing by 10 to 1,012, Baker Hughes Inc. reported.

A week ago, the count had increased by 15 to total 1,002. The count a year ago this week was 936, Baker Hughes said Tuesday.

The Houston-based oil toolmaker company has kept track of the rig count — the widely watched index of drilling activity — since 1940. The count represents the number of rigs actively exploring for oil, not those producing oil.

Ike Kerridge, keeper of the count at Baker Hughes, said Tuesday that the increase in oil prices caused by the Middle East crisis probably is beginning to have some positive impact on the rig count.

"Some of it (the count increase) may be a reflection of higher prices — although it is the season when (the count) goes up anyway," Kerridge said. "And the increases have been modest. But if it (the Middle East crisis) hasn't begun to affect it yet, I think it will very shortly."

Kerridge said there is no absolute way to judge exactly how rising oil prices affects the domestic rig count.

At the height of the oil boom in December 1981, the rig count reached a peak of 4,500. But the rig count plunged to a low of 663 after oil prices collapsed in the summer of 1986.

Among major oil-producing states, Kansas added seven rigs to its count, followed by California and Wyoming, which each gained five.

What's Up

Thursday

TEXAS A&M CYCLING TEAM: will have a team meeting to discuss fall racing season at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will have a general discussion at 6-7:30 p.m. Call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280 for more information.

BONFIRE RELOAD CREW: applications are available for crew assistant positions in 103 YMCA. Applications due Friday.

CLASS OF 1992 COUNCIL: applications for committees can be picked up and returned in 216 MSC through Sept 12. Call Jennifer at 847-1057 or Greg at 847-6048 for more information.

AGGIE SUPPORT GROUPS: people with alcoholic parents support group will meet from 8:30-10 p.m. in 407 Rudder.

METHODIST STUDENT CENTER: will have a mixer at 8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Call 846-4701 for more information.

ALPHA KAPPA PSI: will meet chapter members at 7:30 p.m. in 224 MSC. Call Chris at 693-8209 for more information.

CEPHEID VARIABLE: will have the showing of the animated movie "Heavy Metal" at 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. Freshman free with paid fee slip; others, \$2.

RADIO TELEVISION NEWS DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION: will have a general meeting and orientation of new members at 7 p.m. in the Reading Room of Reed McDonald. Call Kristi Taylor at 846-6486 or Jay Socol at 823-6820 for more information.

AGGIE SISTER'S FOR CHRIST: will have a short informational meeting at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder. Call Janel or Hayley at 764-6978 for more information.

PHI BETA LAMBDA: will have a social at 5:30 p.m. at the Sundance Club in the College Station Hilton. Call Brett Dietz at 823-6614 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a general assembly meeting to welcome new members at 7 p.m. in 108 Harrington. Call Marilu Ballina at 693-2501 for more information.

ASIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION: will have first meeting at 8:30-10 p.m. in 510 Rudder. New members are welcome.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: will have an informational meeting at 7 p.m. in 158 Blocker.

SOCIETY OF MEXICAN AMERICAN ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS: will have its first meeting, introduction of officers and discussion of planned activities at 7 p.m. in 102 Zachry. Call Albert Rodriguez at 696-5923 for more information.

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have an information table on study abroad opportunities at 9 a.m.-noon in 1st floor Blocker.

KOREAN AGGIES ASSOCIATION: will have introduction of the club and discussion of activities at 8:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOURTH DAY: will have a meeting for all who made an Aggie Awakening at 6:15 p.m. in St Mary's Student Center. Call 846-5717 for more information.

ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS: will have an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 202 Physics/Engineering Building. Call Roger Smith at 845-4179 for more information.

PHI BETA LAMBDA: will have a rush social at 5:30 p.m. at Sundance Club, College Station Hilton. Call Brett Dietz at 823-6614 for more information.

SMART: will have an informational meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder. Call Teresa Lamm at 847-2133 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: will have a general meeting and membership drive at 7 p.m. in 158 Blocker. Call Todd Tomlin at 847-1881 for more information.

MEXICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder. Call Alejandro at 696-0098 for more information.

OUTDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND SAILING CLUB: will hold a windsurfing seminar at 7 p.m. in 164 Read. Call Ed Cook at 696-3884 for more information.

KANM STUDENT RADIO: will host a Showtime Comedy Club at 8:30 p.m. at the College Station Hilton.

ACCOUNTING SOCIETY: will have accounting society signups in the lobby of Blocker.

BOWLING CLUB: will have an informational meeting at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

Friday

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: will have a non-denominational Christian fellowship at 7 p.m. in 108 Harrington.

CLUB ESPANA: will have their first official meeting at 7 p.m. in 302AB Rudder. Call Bernade at 823-4710 for more information.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a Lay Minister's Workshop from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center. Call 846-5717 for more information.

UNIVERSITY APARTMENT COUNCIL OF TEXAS AGGIES & UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPT: will have a national night-owl event against crime at 7 p.m. at the University-owned apartments. Call Sandra at 846-5798 for more information.

HILLEL: will have a freshman dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Hillel. Call Rabbi at 696-7313 for more information.

PRE-VET SOCIETY: will have a lock-in at 10 p.m. in 125 MSC. Call 696-4033 for more information.

TAMU PISTOL TEAM: will have tryouts at 7 p.m. at the range in basement of the Military Sciences Bldg. Call Curtis at 846-0906 for more information.

AGGIES WITH KIDS: will have a brown bag lunch & organizational meeting at noon in the Beutal Health Center Conference Room. Call Ann at 845-1741 for more information.

STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE: will have a supper club at 6 p.m. at Casa Thomas. Call Andy at 845-1741 for more information.

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have an informational meeting about studying international business in Denmark from 10 to 11 a.m. in 251 Bizzell Hall West. Call Cathy at 845-0544 for more information.

STUDENT Y: Youth Fun Day applications are available in 208 Pavilion.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

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