

U.S. helicopter crash kills two Texas Marines

By the Associated Press
Two Texans were among the four Marines killed Sunday in a helicopter crash in eastern Saudi Arabia, U.S. military officials said Monday.

The crash of the Marine Corps UH-1 helicopter, killing the two pilots and both door gunners, raised the total number of U.S. aircraft lost in Operation Desert Storm to 23, nine of them from non-combat causes. The accidental crashes have taken eight lives.

The deaths raise to five the number of Texans reported killed since Operation Desert Storm began Jan. 16.

The Pentagon on Monday released the names of the four Marines killed in the helicopter crash. They are: Capt. David R. Herr, 28, of Fort Worth, Texas; Capt. James K. Thorp, 30, Valley Station, Ky.; Cpl. Kurt A. Benz, 22, Garden City, Mich., and Cpl. Albert G. Haddad Jr., 22, Denton, Texas.

A friend of Herr's parents, Dr. David and Connie Herr of Fort

Worth, said the pilot was a graduate of Fort Worth Country Day School and Washington and Lee University, where he received a business degree.

"He was a very, very, exceptionally bright man," said friend Jimmie Thompson. "He wanted to be a Marine for many years."

Haddad, a 1986 graduate of Lewisville High School, is survived by his parents, Albert and Linda Haddad, formerly of Lewisville, and his wife of nearly a year, Cindy. Haddad was stationed at Camp

Pendleton near San Diego.

"Al was one of the choice young men of our community, and his life blood has been mixed with the history of our nation for our freedom, and for that we are eternally grateful," Lakeland Baptist Church minister Ben Smith said.

"We all admired what he was doing. He was a brave person and proud of his country," said Haddad's sister-in-law, Lori Moseley of Lewisville.

"Al belonged to the whole com-

munity, just as the rest of your husbands and loved ones do," Moseley told the families of service members during a support group meeting at Lakeland Baptist Church Monday night.

Moseley said Haddad had recently received a commendation for his actions during Operation Desert Storm.

The copter crash raised to 34 the number of Americans reported killed in Operation Desert Storm, including 22 non-combat deaths.

Marine Lance Cpl. Arthur Garza, the first Texas serviceman to die in connection with Operation Desert Storm, was buried Monday afternoon in his hometown of Killeen.

About 300 friends, family and supporters of U.S. troops crowded into Saint Martin's Catholic Church to remember Garza.

"Arthur had been given much of his life and through his death given much back," said Father James Fohler.

Gunmen kill rain forest activist Radio Baghdad urges terrorism

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — A well-known union leader who fought to save the Amazon rain forest and had received death threats was assassinated outside his office, the National Rural Workers Movement said Monday.

Expedito Ribeiro de Souza, president of the Farm Workers Union in Rio Maria in the northern state of Para and a father of nine, was shot Saturday night as he left his office, said the movement.

The New York-based human rights group, Americas Watch, on Monday expressed its "deepest concern" about the murder and called on the Brazilian government to launch an investigation.

Major Brazilian newspapers headlined the killing, and compared Souza to Amazon campaigner Chico

Mendes, who was fatally shot in 1988 in a western Amazon town. A cattle rancher and his son were convicted of the Mendes murder.

"All we can say at this moment is that Souza was shot in the head four times by one gunman, probably hired by ranchers or gold miners," Isaias Vedovatto, a director of the Rural Workers Movement said by telephone.

He said Souza "was always denouncing ranchers who destroy the rain forest to create pasture for their cattle and who hire gunmen to expel and often kill landless workers who occupy their land. He was also an enemy of gold miners who pollute the rivers with mercury."

In April, Souza requested police protection in the aftermath of the murders of four rural activists from Rio Maria.

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — In a renewed call for terrorism in support of Saddam Hussein, Radio Baghdad on Tuesday ordered activists to strike hard at the interests of countries siding against Iraq in the Persian Gulf war.

The broadcast was followed by a series of cryptic messages and a call from "Central Command."

"To strugglers in all revolutionary cells," the radio announcer said. "Fight them with all your force, in all their dens, wherever they are."

"Do not spare any interest of any

of the countries taking part in the aggression against your brethren in Iraq, against an Arab and Islamic nation," the broadcast said.

The call, monitored in Nicosia, was repeated at least twice early Tuesday.

"Let the traitors and cowards remain sleepless," it said.

The broadcast described President Bush as "the slaughterer of the age," and told King Fahd of Saudi Arabia that he "will taste bitter death."

Earlier, the radio broadcast mysterious messages from "Moon" in "Central Command" to people named Kutayba, Mudar, Aliman and Muntaser.

It was impossible to determine the messages were coded instructions for agents abroad or part of a psychological campaign.

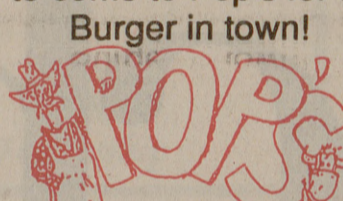
Kutayba's instructions were "Implement what's on the table, and what's outside it." Mudar was told "Do not hesitate to do anything. Go be with you."

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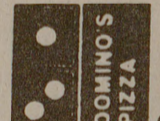
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