

Haitian military tries new tactic to evade U.S. troops

Troops disguised as citizens in new "strategy of evaporation"

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's military is planning a "strategy of evaporation," preparing to disappear in civilian clothing and carry out guerrilla attacks rather than confront a U.S.-led invading force, sources close to the military say.

The plan reflects the seriousness with which Haiti's military leadership considers the possibility of an invasion to reinstate exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. President Clinton has not ruled out intervention if army commander Raoul Cedras does not step down as he pledged under a U.N. peace plan.

The strategy is already in effect at many of the 20-odd posts and stations in greater Port-au-Prince, one source said. Many of the 1,500 armed servicemen in the capital now wear civilian clothing and are mixing with the population.

While the retreat of Haiti's poorly armed, 7,400-member military makes sense given the firepower of an invading force, it is unclear whether ground troops would engage in guerrilla warfare.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity in interviews over the past week, said only a few snipers would be needed for guerrilla attacks. They hoped any retaliation by invaders would cause indiscriminate casualties among ordinary Haitians, cutting support for the invasion.

There has been no formal announcement, but the "strategy of

evaporation" has been discussed among senior military leaders and key supporters of Aristide's overthrow in 1991. It was not clear when or where the strategy originated.

In a nationwide address Sunday, the military-backed president, Emile Jonassaint, recalled Haiti's use of guerrilla warfare to win independence from France in 1804.

President Clinton announced new sanctions Friday:

-  Commercial flights will be suspended.
-  U.S. bank transactions will be cut off. But to spare Haiti's poorest citizens, those with relatives in the United States can receive up to \$50 per month in wire transfers.
-  Existing sanctions: Air cargo service and charter flights to and from Haiti have been prohibited since May 21.
-  A U.N. oil embargo took effect last fall.
-  Exports have been banned.

AP/Carl Fox

He also invoked voodoo deities and alluded to unconventional weapons such as poisons and spells to stop foreign invaders.

"We have unsuspected means" with which to fight the enemy, Jonassaint declared in a state-of-emergency message.

Haiti's powerless but internationally recognized premier, Robert Malval, questioned just who the enemy was.

If Haitians are helpless to liberate themselves from the "thugs," the Aristide-backed premier told private Radio Tropic FM, then help "from foreigners

would be welcome."

That view was echoed Monday by people in the boat-building village of Luly, 30 miles north of the capital, where some have gone to church to pray for an invasion.

"I would like to see an invasion, so we could live in peace," boat-builder Smith Elmond said. "I think a lot of (coup supporters) will run."

Many traditional bases of Aristide's support have been repressed since the coup.

Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest, remains very popular among ordinary Haitians, although hostility is broad in the organized sectors of Haitian society.

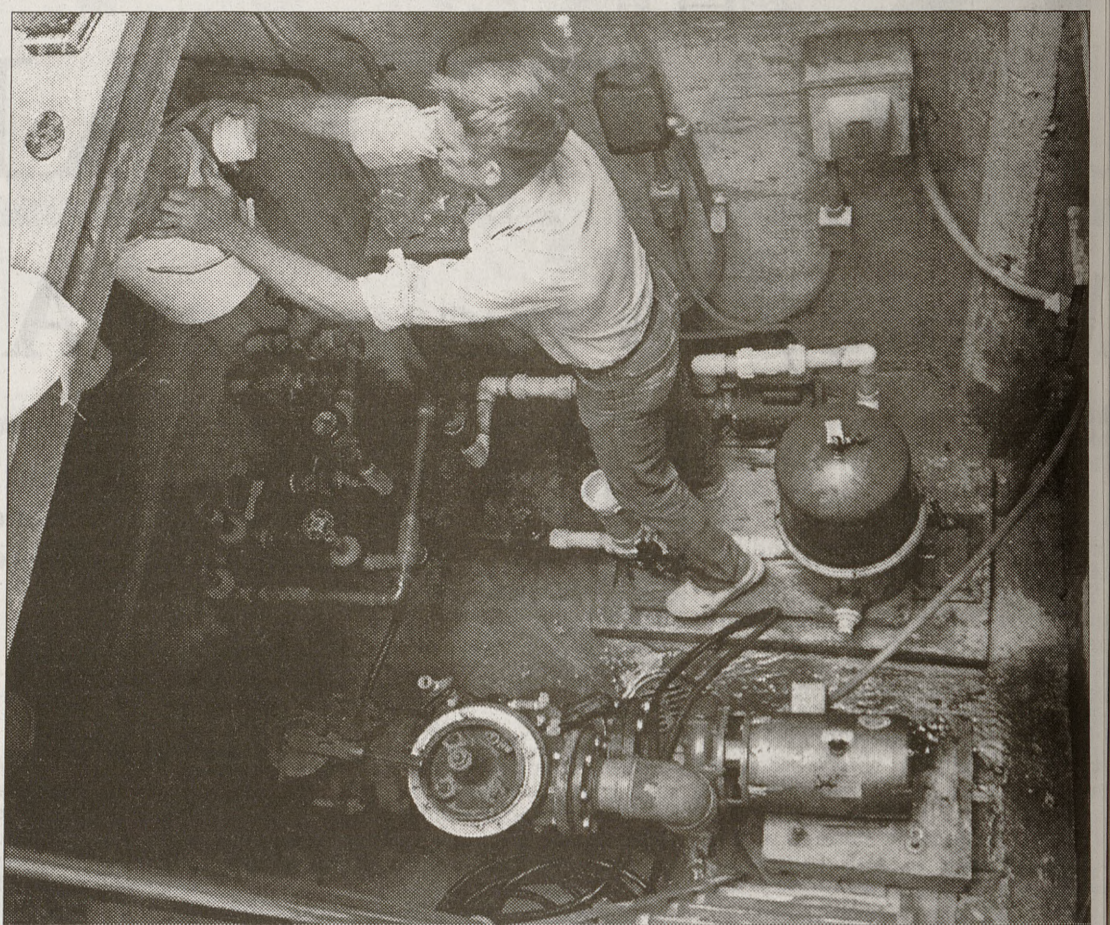
The provincial power structure has maintained order in the countryside since Aristide's overthrow.

Businessmen fear plundering and class vengeance. Their patriotism has been revived as many blame the U.N. economic embargo of Haiti rather than the military coup for their economic ills.

Diplomats say they have heard of the "strategy of evaporation." They also noted that the Tonton Macoutes, the private militia that terrorized Haitians during the 29-year Duvalier dictatorship, did not engage in guerrilla attacks following the popular uprising in 1986 that sent Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier into exile. Hundreds of Macoutes were killed in retaliatory attacks.

This time, the military and former Macoutes are on the same side. In Petionville, a suburb of the capital, Port-au-Prince, youths who support the army coup that ousted Aristide

in September 1991 have been enrolled as police auxiliaries. They swell the ranks of the thousands already roaming the streets.



Stew Milne/The Battalion

More than just a bulletin board

Kivan Flatt from Facility Services adds chlorine to the pump that powers Rudder Fountain. The pump is located inside the bulletin board kiosk in the Rudder/MSO plaza. Flatt also cleans the debris from the fountain every two days.

Gas facility near Brenham denied permission to reopen

AUSTIN (AP) — Seminole Pipeline Co. is considering its options after the Texas Railroad Commission voted to revoke its permit to operate an underground hydrocarbon storage cavern that was rocked by a fatal explosion in 1992.

Seminole had wanted to re-open the salt dome storage facility near Brenham and to expand the capacity for storing natural gas liquids.

The company has 20 days to ask the commission to reconsider Monday's ruling. If the commission refuses to do so, Seminole can file an appeal in state district court.

"We are obviously disappointed, and we disagree with the decision," Rick Neal, vice president of governmental affairs for Seminole, told The (Brenham) Banner-Press. "We'll step back now and look at our various alternatives."

The Railroad Commission followed the recommendation of state hearings examiners, who said in a report to the three-member panel, "Seminole failed to prove that the Brenham storage facility is a safe facility that will be operated in a safe and prudent manner to protect fresh water, the public welfare, and physical property."

The examiners found that the company failed to show the safety mechanisms and geological formation were sufficient to assure that natural gas liquids could not escape.

They also found that Seminole failed to show that training, emergency response and hazardous

material handling would be adequate for operating the cavern.

The explosion at the Seminole facility eight miles south of Brenham on April 7, 1992, killed three people, injured 21 and caused more than \$5 million in property damage.

Investigations by the National Transportation Safety Board and Railroad Commission determined the underground storage cavern was overfilled with liquefied petroleum gas product, and that emergency shutdown systems designed to prevent its release failed to operate properly.

As the liquids reached the surface, they turned into a dense vapor that ignited and exploded.

The storage cavern has been shut down since the explosion and currently is filled with brine.

Jane Meinen, whose 5-year-old son was a victim of the blast, and other local residents and landowners had fought Seminole's application to reopen the facility.

Ms. Meinen said after the commission vote, "You're fighting an industry that's so large. You hear so much that a little voice can't make a difference. But I think God's done some work for us."

Neal of Seminole, said the company believes it met all its legal requirements to reopen the cavern.

"We continue to believe that we've met all the state rules and regulations relative to the application," he said. "And we'll make a decision at this point on how to proceed."

Man killed by swarm of angry bees

PLACEDO, Texas (AP) — An elderly Placedo man has died after being stung hundreds of times by swarming bees.

Eliborio Hernandez, 96, died Monday at a Victoria hospital.

An emergency medical team found Hernandez on the porch of his residence, fighting bees that were attacking him. Officials said he apparently disturbed a nest of bees while mowing his yard Saturday.

Hernandez was listed in stable but guarded condition Saturday night at Citizens Medical Center. But his condition worsened and he was listed in critical condition before he died Monday afternoon, officials said.

Authorities originally estimated that Hernandez had been stung 200 times. Victoria Fire Chief Henry Juenke said Monday that the number may be closer to 300.

Dozens of bystanders tried to help Hernandez as he struggled for more than 20 minutes, offi-

cials said. Simon Zapata, 66, of Placedo said he was stung about 50 times while he sprayed Hernandez with a water hose. Zapata was released from the hospital Monday.

A few bees were sent to the state laboratory at the University of Texas to determine whether they are the Africanized, or so-called killer bees, or the gentler European variety called honey bees.

Placedo is about 15 miles southeast of Victoria.

O.J. Simpson's ex-wife found dead

Police question former football star in connection with death of second wife

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An ex-wife of Hall of Fame football player O.J. Simpson and a man were found dead early Monday outside her condominium.

Police interviewed Simpson, who lives nearby, but Lt. John Rogers said Simpson was in Chicago at the time of the deaths.

The bodies of Simpson's second wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and a 26-year-old man were found after midnight, said Scott Carrier, spokesman for the county coroner's office.

At the bottom of steps leading into the condo, blood was soaked up by white towels.

"We feel as though sharp-force injuries played a part" in the deaths, Carrier said. He said that description could include stabbing.

The man's identity wasn't released because relatives hadn't been notified.

Around noon, Simpson was driven to downtown police headquarters from his nearby Brentwood estate in a police car.

"He's obviously shocked and surprised. They said they wanted to talk to him and he's going to be talking with police," said Simpson's attorney, Howard Weitzman.

Simpson returned from Chicago shortly before noon, Weitzman said.

In 1989, the actor and former college and professional football star was fined \$700 and ordered to perform community service after pleading no contest to wife beating.

Simpson allegedly screamed "I'll kill you" as he slapped and kicked her.

Simpson and his ex-wife filed for divorce in 1992 but friends said they recently discussed getting back together. They have two children.

Police found two young children asleep inside the con-

dominium but wouldn't identify them.

A woman who identified herself as a friend of Mrs. Simpson ran down the street outside the condo, chased by reporters.

"Leave me alone. I don't know who did it. Leave me alone," she said tearfully.

Simpson in recent years has worked as a network TV sports commentator and has appeared in commercials and several motion pictures including the three "Naked Gun" movies and "Towering Inferno."

Simpson first became nationally known as a junior at Southern Cal in 1967.

The following year he won the Heisman Trophy, given to college football's outstanding player.

The Buffalo Bills made him their first-round draft choice the following year, and he became a National Football League star in 1972.

After leading the Bills in rushing for nine straight seasons, he played two years for the San Francisco 49ers. He retired in 1979.

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