

# Endeavour's crew spots smoke on Iraq-Kuwait border

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Endeavour's astronauts saw smoke rising from the Iraq-Kuwait border on Monday as the shuttle soared 127 miles overhead on a radar-mapping mission. The source of the smoke was not immediately known.

Astronaut Thomas Jones, who used to work for the Air Force and CIA, reported smoke in southern Iraq marshes as well as what appeared to be small, black plumes of smoke rising from the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Diane Evans, a project scientist on the ground, said she did not know what might be burning. Smoke usually rises from Kuwait's oil fields as waste is routinely burned off.

Hours after U.S. troops landed in Kuwait on Monday to counter an Iraqi buildup along the border, Iraq announced it was pulling its forces back.

Endeavour is carrying an air-pollution monitor and a powerful radar system for mapping the Earth's surface in detail. The astronauts on the environ-

mental study mission are also photographing the planet.

Evans said the Pentagon made no requests for radar images or photographs of Iraq and Kuwait. The shuttle's survey of that area was planned long before the military action there, she said.

Besides, the \$366 million radar isn't capable of picking out details like troops and tanks, Evans said.

"We don't have high enough resolution required for surveillance," she said.

Endeavour and its crew of six are scheduled to land at 11:37 a.m. Tuesday at Kennedy Space Center, although rain and low clouds were forecast. NASA could send the shuttle to Edwards Air Force Base in California later in the day.

As of Monday, the radar instruments had collected enough data to fill 67 miles of tape, officials said. The radar was used largely to examine volcanoes, forests, deserts, oceans and rivers.

## New York doctor offers abortion drug

NEW YORK (AP) — American women barred access to the French abortion pill RU-486 still can end their pregnancies with drugs, according to a doctor who gives patients that option.

Dr. Richard Hausknecht, a New York gynecologist and abortion rights advocate, says he's sidestepping medical custom to make "a political point."

The treatment combining two readily available drugs, although given without Food and Drug Administration approval, is apparently legal, The New York Times reported Monday.

"Even if RU-486 gets approved — and it may not be if the political climate changes — it won't be available for another two years," Hausknecht told the Times.

The alternative technique has two steps. Patients get an injection of methotrexate, a tissue-growth inhibitor used to treat cancer, arthritis and psoriasis. Four days later they use a vaginal suppository containing misoprostol, an ulcer medicine that also hastens labor.

Dr. Mitchell Creinin, a researcher who has FDA approval to experiment with the same drugs, told The Associated Press he was upset Hausknecht had gone public with what he is doing.

**"[Dr. Hausknecht] is ruffling some feathers because we feel he would be more protected if he had institutional support, and his patients would be protected with oversight."**

— Dr. Eric Schaff, University of Rochester School of Medicine

"People want it yesterday," said Creinin of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. "But the first person who gets harmed ... will be the first person to say, 'You should have done more research.' And they also want to be the first person in line to sue."

"He is ruffling some feathers because we feel he would be more protected if he had institutional support, and his patients would be protected with oversight," said Dr. Eric Schaff, of the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

Schaff added, "I do believe he has provided a service to women in his practice by making it available. ... He should be applauded for raising people's consciousness."

Hausknecht's office said Monday he would have no immediate comment. He told the Times he gave 126 patients the treatment this year and five required surgical follow-up.

In Schaff's study, 23 women have received the treatment since July and none required surgical follow-up. Possible side effects include diarrhea, vomiting, cramps and bleeding.

Schaff said the drugs can be given by doctors in general practice, or even by nurse practitioners or physicians' assistants. The major drawback is that the treatment cannot be performed beyond the eighth week of pregnancy.

Hausknecht charges \$500 for the drug treatment. In Rochester, said Schaff, it can be done for \$125 per person, because those patients do not receive an expensive ultrasound exam. He said a surgical abortion costs \$325 to \$700.

Creinin's study began in January 1993. Its sixth trial started in June in Wichita, Kan., San Francisco and Pittsburgh.

Very early results show the drug combination is effective more than 90 percent of the time. Creinin said his researchers have studied only one-third to half of the 300 patients needed for a strong statistical sample.

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