

Gramm reportedly ducking authorities

Witnesses of a 1988 encounter believe Sen. Phil Gramm and two companions engaged in illegal hunting.



HONGA RIVER, Md. (AP) — It is a story told for years among law enforcement officials on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where game wardens fight not only illegal hunting but also political intrusions from nearby Washington. They tell it this way: In a brown pickup truck, Sen. Phil Gramm and two companions eased down a dead-end gravel lane, just a hundred yards or so from Gramm's Chesapeake Bay vacation house. The land was under surveillance by game wardens who had spotted grain there and suspected it was illegally "baited" to lure ducks. The Texas senator and his

friends, one of them hunting companion Harold L. "Sonny" Whiteley, chanced upon Bob Alexander, a law enforcement official with the state Department of Natural Resources who noted they were wearing hunting garb and had shotguns. Whiteley introduced himself and his passengers, then turned his truck around and left. Alexander describes the January 1988 encounter clearly. "When someone introduces you to a senator, you tend to remember it," he said. Six other law enforcement officials confirmed hearing about the incident at the time, when local wardens met to coordinate enforcement activities. Three spoke on the record; three

others confirmed the encounter only on condition of anonymity, fearing job retribution. Through spokesman Larry Neal, Gramm denied the incident ever happened. "There was no trooper, no truck, no shotguns, no hunting garb, nothing. That is a pure, total fabrication," Neal said. He questioned the motives of those who recounted the incident. Whiteley, too, says there was no such encounter. Two former federal officials say Gramm — now a Republican presidential candidate — knew at the time his property was being watched. Just a few weeks earlier the senator had been tipped that his land was under surveillance by Frank H. Dunkle, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Gramm became a part of the Eastern Shore circle of lobbyists, businessmen and hunters in late 1986. He built a two-story, 2,800-square-foot house on

35 acres overlooking the bay, where the Honga River flows into the bay, in the heart of the East Coast flyway for migrating waterfowl. Hunting ducks over an area baited with grain is illegal, and a constant headache for officials trying to preserve and regulate duck populations. In Gramm's case, most of the feed was found on the property of his neighbor, Whiteley, and a pond there was littered with hundreds of shotgun shells. Some feed also was found on Gramm's land, and because surveillance involved a senator, word was sent up the chain of command. After a congressional subcommittee investigated in 1988, Gramm demanded an internal review to ensure that Fish and Wildlife Service records reflected he had not been cited for any violation, according to documents released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Texas militias want to exercise rights, leaders say

Militias believe force may be needed to protect constitutional liberties.

LA PORTE (AP) — Gerald Hollier, like most members of the Texas Constitutional Militia, is rarely at a loss of words for joining the group. "It's very simple," Hollier says, after a militia meeting in La Porte breaks up for the evening. "We're at a standoff somewhere. We are not about terrorism. All we're doing here is continuing to stay organized and a very last line of defense for our constitutional rights." He talks at length about Waco, the Brady Law, GATT, NAFTA, the Crime Bill. Those are reasons, he says, citizens need to take a stand against the federal government, which has become much too large and overpowering. "People are just fed up," said Hollier, a 55-year-old machinist from South Houston. The difference between militias and other dissatisfied citizenry is that some militia members believe the time for talk and voting may be soon over.

They say they are merely a group of individuals showing the government that they will continue to exercise their rights: The freedom of speech, the freedom to vote and the freedom to bear arms. "Some of that feeling is borne out of the idea of 'meet force with force,'" explains Will Blumentritt, commander of the Texas Constitutional Militia's Bravo Unit in Harris County. "People had seen the government using excessive force against people and you don't have to look very far to see it." Or very far back, members say. In the past three years, several events have demonstrated

to some that constitutional rights are being chipped away. There was the federal raid on separatist Randy Weaver's Idaho compound in 1992, the burning of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in 1993. "The supposed crime committed by David Koresh, that of possibly having weapons, didn't comply with ATF guidelines or not having the right permits filed to have those weapons, if he had them, does not warrant people coming in and blasting their way into the facility," said Blumentritt. "I think they could have served a warrant on David Koresh by simply detaining him if he went into town for shopping or something like that." Then there was the passage of the gun registration bill in 1993 and of an assault weapons ban last year. "People feel like this could happen," Blumentritt says. "And they feel the government gets more and more powerful and the people need to show that they have a little force as well and I guess that's the reason it's founded on."

"All we're doing here is continuing to stay organized and a very last line of defense for our constitutional rights."
— Gerald Hollier, Texas Constitutional Militia member

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CHEM 102 3-5 PM	CH 32	CH 30	PRAC. FINAL EXAM-A	PRAC. FINAL EXAM-B
CHEM 102 5-7 PM	CH 32	CH 30	PRAC. FINAL EXAM-A	PRAC. FINAL EXAM-B
CHEM 102 7-9 PM	CH 32	CH 30	PRAC. FINAL EXAM-A	PRAC. FINAL EXAM-B
CHEM 102 9-11 PM	CH 32	CH 30	PRAC. FINAL EXAM-A	PRAC. FINAL EXAM B
PHYS 202 11 PM - 1 AM	CH 41	CH 42	CH 44	PRAC FINAL EXAM

	MON. MAY 1	TUES. MAY 2	WED. MAY 3	THRS. MAY 4
ACCT 229 3-5 PM	FINAL REV. NEW MATERIAL	FINAL REV. PART 1	FINAL REV. PART 2	PRAC. FINAL EXAM
ACCT 230 5-7 PM	FINAL REV. NEW MATERIAL	FINAL REV. PART 1	FINAL REV. PART 2	PRAC. FINAL EXAM
ACCT 229 7-9 PM	FINAL REV. NEW MATERIAL	FINAL REV. PART 1	FINAL REV. PART 2	PRAC. FINAL EXAM
ACCT 230 9-11 PM	FINAL REV. NEW MATERIAL	FINAL REV. PART 1	FINAL REV. PART 2	PRAC. FINAL EXAM
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