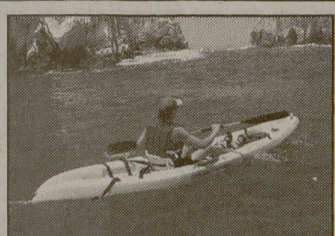


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Bush: Military may get facelift

Goals include new technological devices

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — President Bush pledged Tuesday to modernize the military to face "the dangers of a new era," even if it means scaling back some older systems beloved by the Pentagon and members of Congress.

He called for a new generation of lighter, more mobile and more sophisticated military devices that would harness new technologies.

"Our goal is to move beyond marginal improvements" in older weaponry, Bush said after visiting a joint U.S.-NATO command post on the nation's Eastern Seaboard and viewing an electronic naval battle simulation.

To those who might criticize his plans, Bush suggested they wait until Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld finishes a top-to-bottom review of the military.

He did not suggest which weapons systems he might delay or seek to cancel to make room for new technology.

But later, aboard Air Force One, Bush told reporters, "We must do it. We've got some tough choices to make, but that's why you get elected."

Bush also promoted his proposal for a multibillion-dollar national missile defense shield that would protect

not only the United States but allies from limited ballistic missile attack.

"The defenses we build must protect us all," he told an audience that included emissaries from 18 NATO partners.

European allies have been skeptical about such a system, which is strongly opposed by Russia and China.

"We must prepare our nations against the dangers of a new era," Bush said.

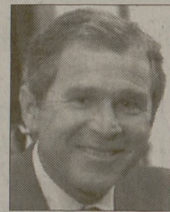
The visit was the second installment on Bush's three-day tour of U.S. military installations.

The president expressed anguish over the loss of life, both in an Army helicopter mishap Monday night on the Hawaiian island Oahu and of Japanese passengers on a fishing boat that was struck by a U.S. submarine just south of the island.

Bush led a silent prayer for the six killed and 11 injured in the crash of two Army Black Hawk helicopters. "Just this morning, we were reminded of the risks of your duty and the sacrifices that you make," Bush said.

Later, he said, "The soldiers are my direct responsibility as commander in chief. I take the responsibility incredibly seriously."

"We need to be very judicious and careful about committing our troops," Bush said in his Air Force One remarks.



BUSH

News in Brief

FBI agent to drink, may prove he was not intoxicated

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A former FBI agent accused of causing a drunken-driving accident that killed two brothers will be allowed to drink beer in a controlled test aimed at proving he wasn't intoxicated.

A judge Monday granted David Farrall's request to waive for one day a condition of his bail that prohibits him from drinking.

Under the supervision of a doctor, Farrall will drink two pitchers and a pint of beer and eat jalapeno peppers, chicken wings

and a hamburger as he did at a bar the night of the crash. The test will take place this week at his lawyer's office.

A technician will draw Farrall's blood three times an hour to determine the rate at which he metabolizes alcohol.

Farrall, 37, is accused of driving drunk and the wrong way on Interstate 95 with his lights off in 1999. His vehicle crashed into a car, killing Maurice and Craig Williams, ages 23 and 19.

Farrall was charged with vehicular homicide and manslaughter and was fired from the FBI. He could get up to 30 years in prison if convicted.

His trial is set for March 19.

Music swappers consider options

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Napster Inc.'s fate notwithstanding, the song-swapping technology it popularized is here to stay. Programmers have developed variations that won't be so easy for the recording industry to stop.

Want "The Real Slim Shady" Launch Napigator?

"Jail House Rock?" Just type the name into Gnutella.

A Bach cello suite? Just a few clicks away on BearShare.

Though more difficult to use than Napster, alternative file-sharing software has staying power because its decentralized technology empowers anyone with a computer to make songs available to millions of users.

The profusion of alternatives underscores how difficult it will be for record labels and artists to eradicate music piracy.

Some people suggest that the current copyright law — not the digital distribution the Internet promotes — that should change.

"The fundamental problem is that copyright pretends that information is property," said Ian Clarke, the developer of the Freenet platform, which can be used to swap all manner of files — music, video, whatever.

"The Internet is the most effective communications technology we've ever had," he said. "It's inevitable that it's going to make it difficult to enforce copyright. I don't think that is ever going to change."

In the nearly two years since Napster's creation, dozens of other programs have emerged to rival the top Internet file-swapping service.

Some have taken pages from Napster's programming book. All have closely watched its court battles.

Napster was the first so-called "killer application" to take advantage of a networking structure known as peer-to-peer, which enables computers to both receive and serve files.

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