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Shots fired on U.S. forces in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — U.S. military forces in Kuwait came under gunfire Monday for the second time in a week, this time without any casualties.

Shots were fired from two civilian vehicles on U.S. Army soldiers near a northern Kuwait training area, U.S. officials said. Nobody was injured and the soldiers did not return fire, according to a U.S. Embassy statement and a U.S. military spokesman at Camp Doha in Kuwait.

Within a few hours, Kuwaiti officials began privately suggesting the targets may have been pigeons, not American forces. Bird hunters start heading out this time of year as temperatures drop below 100 degrees.

The U.S. military official, however, said the troops involved had "no doubt" the shots were meant for them. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The shooting came six days after two Kuwaiti assailants opened fire on Marines taking a break from war games on an island off Kuwait. One Marine was killed and another wounded before the assailants were shot dead. The following day, a U.S. Army soldier fired a shot at a civilian vehicle overtaking a military Humvee. U.S. officials said the civilian vehicle's occupant had pointed a gun.

President Bush said Monday the attacks on

U.S. troops in Kuwait, as well as a deadly bombing in Bali and the bombing of a French oil tanker in Yemen point to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network and the need for a global coalition to fight it.

"This is a reminder of how dangerous the world can be if these al-Qaida are free to roam," Bush said, adding the attacks raised concerns al-Qaida is on the move again and could strike the United States.

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— George W. Bush
United States president

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheik Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah said it was too early to say if Monday's shooting was a terror attack.

But he said Kuwaitis and Americans are re-examining security measures near training areas because such incidents "affect not only the friendly military forces, but also Kuwait as a state." He did not say what new measures were being considered.

Despite the attacks, the U.S. military spokesman said troops remain comfortable in Kuwait and denied they've come to feel like targets.

Fifteen Kuwaitis, many of them cousins or nephews, have been arrested in last week's fatal attack. Of them, Islamic Affairs and Justice Minister Ahmed Baqer said "five or 10" are affiliated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. The rest were involved in selling weapons, he said, but had no al-Qaida connections.

Research

Continued from page 1

members are National Academy members. Faculty members received 21 awards and are ranked 27th among public universities.

"The more research the faculty does, the more it gets transformed into the classroom and labs and students get to interact," Perry said.

The Center's ranking is only one of the factors considered in bench marking for A&M's Vision 2020 plan, Perry said. This report is different from the U.S. News & World Report, which bases its rankings on peer assessment, graduate and

retention rates, and faculty and student resources.

The University follows the U.S. News & World Report as well as The Center's report when eyeing the progress A&M is making toward reaching the goals of Vision 2020, Perry said.

A&M has the capacity to become a great university, but the rankings are more of a numbers game than a real evaluation of schools, said Dr. Peter McIntyre, professor of physics.

"If you call a physicist, an economist or Pulitzer prize winning author and ask that person to name the 12 universities that come to mind in their game, A&M will probably not come to mind, but we have to strive to

make things in our house that will make us great," McIntyre said.

The Vision 2020 advisory council studies the numbers and changes in The Center's and the U.S. News & World Report rankings annually.

"It is important to look at a lot of different perspectives of the University and ask yourself if there is a change, what it means," Perry said.

The numbers have not changed significantly over the last year, Perry said.

"We don't plan things to hype ratings," Perry said. "We improve academics for research programs and if we do that right we can pursue excellent ratings that reflect that."

Senate

Continued from page 1

is the only complaint in this resolution, and it completely changes the tone."

After the Senate had voted down the report last month, Strawser said Ruth Schaeffer, a sociology professor, resigned her position on the committee and refused to participate in

any redrafting of the proposal.

Minority faculty had an extremely negative reaction to the failure of the report to pass, Strawser said.

"People are frustrated," said Dr. Jonathan Smith, a geography professor. "It is the job of the body to criticize where they see fit. Any browbeating of the Senate would be out of order."

Clark's proposal to strike the paragraph failed to pass by a vote of 41 to 15.

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