

# Air marshal program faces reduced funding

By Leslie Miller  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration wants to reduce funding for air marshals even as the government is warning about the possibility al-Qaida may try more suicide hijackings. The TSA is seeking approval from Congress to cut \$104 million from the air marshal program to help offset a \$900 million budget shortfall. It's unclear how many of the estimated several thousand air marshal jobs would be affected. "When we are faced with more priorities than we have funding to support, we have to go through a process of trying to address the most urgent needs," TSA spokesman Robert Johnson said.

News of the air marshal program budget cutback comes as the Department of Homeland Security is warning of the possibility of hijackings and increasing screening of certain overseas passengers. A TSA official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the agency sent a directive to U.S. airlines on Monday telling them to immediately begin more intensive screening of travelers flying out of a foreign airport into the United States, then connecting to another foreign destination.

Those affected are non-U.S. citizens who do not have U.S. visas. They previously have been allowed to stay in secure areas while passing through U.S. airports but have not been subjected to more intensive screening because they aren't staying in the country. President Bush noted the hijacking threat during a White House news conference Wednesday and said U.S. officials are talking to foreign governments about it. "There are still al-Qaida remnants that have designs on America. The threat is a real threat," he said. "We obviously don't have specific data. We don't know when, where, what... I'm confident that we will thwart their attempts."

A copy of the advisory, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, suggests an attack could take place by the end of the summer. The warning said terrorists may use five-man teams to take over airplanes just after takeoff or before landing and crash them into buildings. "The hijackers may try to calm passengers and make them believe they were on a hostage, not suicide, mission," said the warning, which was distributed over the weekend to airlines and law enforcement agencies said. "The hijackers may attempt to use common items carried by travelers, such as cameras, modified as weapons."

After his arrest, Dotson told The Associated Press that he "didn't confess to anything." Dotson, 21, remains jailed without bond in his home state of Maryland and awaits extradition to Texas, which could take as long as three months. Dotson's attorney, Grady Irvin, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Wednesday. A gun found near Dennehy's body was a .32-caliber revolver

that belonged to him, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported Wednesday, citing an unidentified source close to the investigation. Near the gun, authorities found a number of live rounds from a .32 that had been spilled from a .32-caliber ammunition box, the newspaper reported. There was no evidence the .32 had been fired, but officials recovered nearby shell casings from a 9mm pistol, the paper reported.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms traced the ownership of a gun found near Dennehy's body, said Mark Curtin, a spokesman in the Austin office. He declined Wednesday to reveal those results. McLennan County sheriff's Capt. Paul Wash on Wednesday declined to say if any weapons were found near Dennehy's remains. Dennehy was killed in the

# Business continues without Democrats

By Natalie Gott  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — With 11 Democratic senators away in New Mexico to protest congressional redistricting, Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst pressed forward with business Wednesday, naming senators to panels to study school finance and higher education.

He also was firm in saying that if some of the Democratic senators show up in Texas, the Senate sergeant-at-arms will be asked to instruct them to return to the Senate chamber, though they would not be handcuffed. "You're not going to see senators brought back in handcuffs as long as I am lieutenant governor," Dewhurst said.

The Democrats, meanwhile, attacked Republican Gov. Rick Perry, who called the second special legislative session on congressional redistricting after a bill on the subject failed in the first special session. They said their message to Perry is this is not the time for gamesmanship and photo opportunities that misrepresent what they have fought for in the Senate. "This is about real issues, about real people and real results. Our constituents know where we stand. They know where the governor has failed to lead," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, chairwoman of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Perry's office did not immediately respond to the criticism. The Democrats have been in Albuquerque since Monday when they broke a quorum and halted Senate business. They are opposed to the Legislature redrawing congressional districts and to Dewhurst's decision to change a tradition to make it easier for a redistricting bill to win approval.

Republicans are pushing for a majority in the Texas congressional delegation. Democrats now have a 17-15 advantage in the congressional delegation. Dewhurst's decision to move ahead on

the topic of school finance could put the Democrats in a tough spot.

Democrats have been complaining that there are more important issues than redistricting that lawmakers should be addressing, including changes to public school finance.

When asked whether he was appointing senators to the committees to try to compel the Democrats to come back to work, Dewhurst said: "I told our senators last week that I would appoint the joint committees (in the) early part of this week and that's what I am doing."

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— David Dewhurst  
Republican Lt. Governor

committee, Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, said work groups could begin meeting as early as Thursday.

"As far as getting organized, I think we've got an obligation to the people of Texas to use the time that we have here as effectively as we can, take advantage of the senators here to start work," Dewhurst said. "This is an important subject."

Dewhurst said he also is interested in seeing the Democrats return and said there is no constitutional right for the Democrats to break a quorum. He said he has talked to some Democrats since they left.

"I am talking with them about different procedures which would ensure that they would have full opportunity to be able to state their case (about redistricting) on the Senate floor," Dewhurst said.

Van de Putte said no negotiations are taking place.

In a news conference, Van de Putte said the Democrats would love to return to Austin but she has said they will not return until Perry ends the special session or Dewhurst reinstates the so-called "two-thirds rule" in the Senate.

Democrats were able to block a vote on redistricting during the first special session because of a rule that requires two-thirds of the 31-member chamber to agree to bring a bill up for debate. Eleven Democrats and one Republican opposed consideration, thwarting the measure.

In a the second special session, which started Monday, Dewhurst is arranging the order of bills so that only a majority of senators must vote to debate a bill on the Senate floor.

Dewhurst said there have been between 15 and 20 times in past years when such a move has been made.

But Van de Putte said the decision is wrong.

"So-called selected 'precedents' are no excuse for carrying out a partisan agenda that comes from outside our Senate," she said.

# Report: Player died of gunshot wounds to head

By Angela K. Brown  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO, Texas — Gunshot wounds to the head are what killed Baylor University basketball player Patrick Dennehy, according to a preliminary autopsy report released Wednesday.

Dennehy's official cause of death is homicide, the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas said in its report.

The one-page report was released Wednesday morning to Belinda Summers, a justice of the peace in McLennan County, where the decomposed body was found Friday night in a grassy field four miles from campus. The 21-year-old had been missing about six weeks.

Investigators had searched earlier in the week at nearby gravel pits, a site police say was provided to them by Carlton Dotson, Dennehy's roommate

and former teammate now charged with murder.

Dotson was arrested July 21 after telling FBI agents that he shot Dennehy after the player tried to shoot him, according to the arrest warrant affidavit.



DENNEHY

After his arrest, Dotson told The Associated Press that he "didn't confess to anything." Dotson, 21, remains jailed without bond in his home state of Maryland and awaits extradition to Texas, which could take as long as three months.

Dotson's attorney, Grady Irvin, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Wednesday.

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The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms traced the ownership of a gun found near Dennehy's body, said Mark Curtin, a spokesman in the Austin office. He declined Wednesday to reveal those results.

McLennan County sheriff's Capt. Paul Wash on Wednesday declined to say if any weapons were found near Dennehy's remains.

Dennehy was killed in the

field where his body was found, according to the preliminary autopsy report. It does not specify how many times he was shot, whether he suffered any other wounds or the day he died. The complete autopsy was expected to take several more weeks.

An unnamed informant told Delaware police that Dotson told someone he shot Dennehy in the head with a 9mm pistol as the two argued while firing guns, and that Dotson got rid of his gun on his way home to Maryland, according to court records filed in the case.

Investigators believe the murder weapon was thrown in a body of water between McLennan County and the East Coast, the Waco Tribune-Herald reported.

Dennehy, a 6-foot-10 center, was last seen on campus June 12; his family reported him missing June 19. His vehicle was found abandoned in a Virginia Beach, Va., parking lot six days later.

## Standoff

Continued from page 1

then flew into Austin. The parents of Hawkins' friend at the scene drove the family from Austin to Bryan.

Rawls said having the family members present helped them communicate with Hawkins but they were not allowed to speak directly to each other.

Nearby residents were asked to leave their homes earlier in the day but were allowed back after the standoff ended.

Hawkins' neighbor, Devin Burton, came home from work Wednesday afternoon expecting to finish packing to move, but instead she was told by police that she couldn't return to her home because of the standoff.

"This is so wierd," Burton said. "She seems like a nice girl. She would talk to us and talk to my little girl."

Police said Hawkins and her boyfriend are members of the Marine Corps Reserves.

Joshua Hobson contributed to this report.

## Alcohol

Continued from page 1

occur when a person wanders away from his group.

"There's safety in numbers," he said.

Will McAdams, Corps of Cadets commander, said younger cadets receive conflicting messages about drink-

ing alcohol.

"You've got the upperclassmen trying to drag the sophomores and freshmen to the Chicken, while the chaplains are telling them not to," he said.

Ben Carter, director of CARPOOL, said he thought the forum was very successful.

"The best way to learn about students is from the students themselves," he said.

## POLICE BLOTTER

- CSPD 7/29/03 9:51 a.m. Major accident, George Bush/Timber. Abrasions. 7/29/03 3:23 p.m. Major accident, 313 S. College. Shoulder pain.
- 7/29/03 10:47 p.m. Warrant arrest, 1600 Southwest Pkwy.
- 7/30/03 12:29 a.m. Driving while license suspended, 1600 Southwest Pkwy. One arrest.
- 7/30/03 1:56 a.m. Failure to identify fugitive, 8610 Rosewood. One arrest.

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