

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Stepping up security Military advises on anti-terrorism

WASHINGTON — Spurred by terrorist attacks on three continents, the U.S. armed forces are putting new emphasis on advising their personnel how to avoid making themselves inviting targets for attack.

The advice comes against the background of the murders of four Marine embassy guards at an outdoor cafe in El Salvador in June, the slaying of Navy diver Robert Stethem aboard a hijacked TWA jetliner in Beirut in July and a car-bombing that killed two people at the Rhein-Main Air Base in West Germany in August.

Many of the security tips fall into the realm of common sense and most are not new, but there has been a renewed emphasis on them, officials say. The Army, for instance, in mid-September instructed commands worldwide to tighten security generally.

Elaine Henrion, an Army spokeswoman, said soldiers going abroad also "are counseled a little bit" about making themselves less conspicuous in

their appearance and behavior.

Army Lt. Col. Arnold Williams, a public affairs specialist on terrorism for the Defense Department, said this involves cautions such as not to choose as off-duty apparel like "cowboy hats with feathers in the band and belt buckles the size of pie plates" and "not to congregate in a particular place habitually."

Williams said an Army newspaper he edited in Germany ran regular security tips so that increased attention to safety would not be taken as alarmist but simply an attempt to keep up the safety awareness of troops.

An Air Force spokesman, Capt. Jim O'Brien, said personnel in his service are given a "local threat briefing" upon their transfer to an overseas base. The service members are expected to pass these precautions along to their dependents, he said.

Along with the renewed awareness of personal security have been physical

improvements to the security arrangements of bases, especially those overseas, O'Brien said. Some are as obvious as huge concrete flower pots that serve as barricades and others are more subtle, he said, declining to be more specific.

The service wide directives followed immediate steps taken by some field commanders after terrorist incidents.

Because Stethem's military affiliation was uncovered by the fact he was traveling with an armed forces identification card and written orders instead of a passport, the commander of U.S. naval forces in Europe, Adm. Lee Baggett, ordered sailors and Marines in his region to obtain civilian passports.

Similarly, days after the slaying at the Salvadoran Cafe, Col. Walt Boomer, commander of the Marine Security Guard Battalion, urged embassy guards to forego the close-shaven "high and tight" haircut many favor and grow their hair out to the permitted three-inch length.

Americans 'the most educated,' Census Bureau study shows

WASHINGTON — Giant strides in schooling since 1940 "have made the American people the most educated in the world," but the quality of U.S. schools sagged in the 1970s, a Census Bureau study concluded Wednesday.

The special demographic study by two Census analysts also found evidence that the "return" on a college education — the edge in earnings that college graduates have over high school graduates — is growing again after shrinking in the 1970s.

"Less than 45 years ago...a solid majority of young adults were either high school dropouts or had never gone beyond elementary school," said the report. "Today...high school dropouts have been reduced to a small minority."

In 1940, only 38 percent of those ages 25 to 29 had attained a high school diploma, and a mere 6 percent had college degrees. Now, the report said, 86 percent of those surveyed by the

Census Bureau said they have high school diplomas and 22 percent possess college degrees.

"These are very large trends and they have made the American people the most educated in the world," said the report, "Education in the United States; 1940-1983," by Dave M. O'Neill and Peter Sepielli.

It cited surveys showing that in 1980-81 almost 32 percent of all U.S. adults 25 or older had at least some college education, compared with 17.3 percent of East Germans, 17.2 percent of Canadians, 15.5 percent of Swedes, 14.5 percent of Japanese and 7 percent of Hungarians.

The Census figure on high school graduation is markedly higher than that used by the U.S. Department of Education, which says that 26.1 percent of the students who were high school freshmen in 1979 failed to grad-

uate in 1983. Alan Ginsburg, Education's director of planning, said the 26.1 percent figure does not include those who later obtain high school equivalency diplomas.

Numerous groups of educators, civic and business leaders have deplored the state of U.S. high schools in recent years and called for steps to make them more rigorous.

The report said, "Contrary to most current opinion, the market for college graduates may be reviving."

It said many people have been concerned "about a glut of college graduates" and that the value of a college degree "will not hold up if too many people get college educations."

Buttressing those fears were studies in the late 1960s and 1970s showing an erosion in the traditional edge in earning power that college graduates had over those with only high school diplomas.

Chiefs of Staff obsolete, report says

WASHINGTON — The military Joint Chiefs of Staff have become obsolete, unable to give effective advice, and should be abolished because they pose an obstacle to effective joint operations by the military services, a Senate staff report said Wednesday.

The report, the product of 2½ years of work by the bipartisan staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, recommends that the joint chiefs be replaced with a Joint Military Advisory Council.

It would be composed of five four-star officers, each of whom would be on his last tour of service, in order to "create a source of truly independent military advice, uninhibited by service responsibilities and pressures."

The ranking officers of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force would continue to head their services but would lose their role as direct military advisers.

At present, the report said, the chiefs wear two hats, as military advisers

and service heads, and consequently are not able to do either job well.

Identifying 34 problem areas, the report makes 91 specific recommendations for change, many aimed at improving the effectiveness of military operations involving more than one service.

The committee was told the current system is "fundamentally flawed and in need of critical structural reform."

The report was unveiled at a committee hearing in which most members agreed change has become essential.

But debate flared over how radical that change should be.

"There will be those who say the system ain't broke, don't fix it," said Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., the committee chairman who is a major general in the Air Force Reserve and was his party's 1964 presidential candidate.

"However, it is broke and we need to fix it," said Goldwater, who is retiring at the end of his present term. "If we

don't, our military effectiveness will be seriously impaired. If we have to fight tomorrow, these problems will cause Americans to die unnecessarily. Even worse, they may cause us to lose the fight."

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., a former secretary of the Navy, disagreed. He said some of the proposed remedies would subject the armed forces and the Pentagon to "open heart surgery."

And he said Goldwater's characteristic outspoken candor may undermine morale and cause more damage.

"I disagree with your bluntness in saying this system is broke," Warner said. "We must proceed with extreme moderation and care. . . I would suggest we not characterize the whole system as broke, but act in a manner to preserve the morale of the armed services."

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., the committee's ranking Democrat, said "the facts overwhelmingly establish that there are real problems."

Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

Kathryn "Kit" Boesch, 37, the executive director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women, has been named Lancaster County's new human services director. Boesch begins the job Nov. 1.

Lincoln Police Capt. James Baird has received a Bronze Key Award from the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs. The Bronze Key is the highest volunteer award available to a local affiliate. Baird was honored for his contribution to the establishment of the Cornhusker Place Detoxification Center and the Lincoln Employee Assistance Program, as independent, non-profit organizations.

A Chinese shoe-industry conference in Inner

Mongolia has set maximum heights for high heels, a fashion rage among young people in the world's most populous country. Conference participants set limits of 2½ inches for women's heels and 1½ inches for men's heels, "out of consideration for health."

Applications will be taken until Nov. 15 for licenses to hunt Montana's biggest big-game animal — bison — that wander out of Yellowstone National Park. A random drawing will be held to select 500 names. When buffalo come out of the park into Montana, the hunters will be contacted in the order their names were drawn. When they arrive at the hunt site, hunters will be assigned animals. For example, the first hunter on the roster would have first chance to shoot a bull, if one was available.

In Brief

Israelis release tape of Abbas

A man Israel said was PLO official Mohammed Abbas speaking to the Achille Lauro's hijackers told them in tapes of radio conversations released Wednesday to explain "our objective" to the cruise ship's passengers and not to harm them.

Israel said the conversation occurred Oct. 9, the day after American passenger Leon Klinghoffer was shot twice and thrown overboard off the coast of Syria.

Abbas was with the four hijackers on the Egyptian airliner U.S. Navyjets forced down last Friday at a NATO base in Sicily, Italy. The United States and Israel accused him of directing the piracy and the Reagan administration demanded that he be held, but Italy let him go and its splintered coalition government may collapse as a result.

The liner ended its voyage of terror Wednesday, steaming into its home port of Genoa, Italy, and Leon Klinghoffer's body, found Sunday near Syria, was flown to Rome for an autopsy.

The hijackers, Israeli officials and Abbas' Palestine Liberation Front have said the initial plan was for a terror attack when the ship reached the Israeli port of Ashdod. Italian prosecution sources quoted the Palestinians, who claim to be PLF members, as saying they decided to seize the ship after a waiter saw them with weapons.

Americans, W. German win Nobels

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Two Americans whose work in determining molecular structure has been used to develop hundreds of modern drugs won the 1985 Nobel Prize for chemistry Wednesday.

Sweden's Royal Academy of Sciences on Wednesday also gave the 1985 Nobel Prize for physics to West Germany's Klaus von Klitzing, who made a discovery that is expected to lead to better quality electronic goods.

Americans Herbert Hauptman, 68, and Jerome Karle, 67, are both physicists, but Nobel officials took the exceptional step of awarding them the chemistry prize because their work in finding a method to determine crystal structure has become indispensable to chemists.

Nobel officials credited Hauptman and Karle with working out equations and procedures for use by scientists trying to analyze crystal structure through radiation.

"Almost all we know about the structure of molecules is a result of this method," said Ingvar Lindqvist, a Nobel chemistry juror who said Hauptman and Karle had found an "ultimate" method, which would not be improved.

Ground broken for Holocaust memorial

WASHINGTON — Breaking ground Wednesday for the United States' official memorial to the 6 million victims of the Nazi Holocaust, survivor Elie Wiesel mixed the first shovel of dirt with soil from five of the most feared camps and implored his audience to, "Come and see. Come and learn. Learn what other human beings can do to others human beings."

Wiesel, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, told an audience of about 400 at the memorial and museum site near the mall that the museum "is not intended to awaken hatred nor to separate people — quite the opposite: It is meant to bring people closer together. Faced with our memories, the visitor will have no choice but become more sensitive to his or her fellow beings' anguish."

The museum is designed to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, virtually all European Jews, and to provide public education programs.

Breaking ground for the 300,000-square-foot building, Wiesel mixed the first shovel of earth with soil from the sites of the Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Theresienstadt and Treblinka concentration camps and from the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery.

Work on the museum began Oct. 4.

80,000 Chrysler workers on strike

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. — A strike by 80,000 U.S. and Canadian autoworkers shut down most of Chrysler Corp.'s car, truck and parts plants Wednesday as negotiators reopened talks in hopes of a quick settlement.

United Auto Workers Union President Owen Bieber, leader of 70,000 U.S. strikers, returned to Chrysler headquarters 10 hours after announcing the first U.S. Chrysler strike in 12 years.

Bieber said Chrysler had failed to meet the union's demand that it accept the pattern of wage, benefit and job security provided for in UAW contracts reached a year ago at General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co.

The strikes, called at 12:01 a.m. following a collapse in the separate bargaining in the United States and Canada, stopped operations at most of Chrysler's 50 plants and warehouses in the two countries.

U.S. Chrysler assemblers make an average \$13.23 an hour, or 6 cents less than those at GM and Ford.

EPA agrees to Union Carbide request

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency agreed to a Union Carbide request not to require an automatic alert to local government agencies at the West Virginia plant making methyl isocyanate, because false alarms would be frequent, an EPA official said Wednesday.

Methyl isocyanate or MIC is the pesticide ingredient that killed more than 2,000 people in Bhopal, India, after it leaked from a Union Carbide plant there last December.

After that accident, the company stopped making MIC at Institute, W. Va., to review safety procedures.

With \$5 million worth of new safety equipment installed, MIC production resumed May 4.

Before the plant was restarted, there was "a lot of discussion" between EPA and the company about whether to install a system that would trigger alarms in the sheriff's office and other places if temperatures or pressures in the MIC process exceeded certain values, said Stan Laskowski, deputy regional EPA administrator.

"We were convinced by the company it might be set off every time there was a small release or a belch at the plant. That area should be discussed in much more detail," Laskowski said.