

# Kerrey: Soldiers shouldn't die for cheap oil

WASHINGTON (AP) - Declaring that young Americans shouldn't die in battle just to keep gasoline prices low, Sen. Bob Kerrey on Sunday said the U.S. should abandon the notion of cheap oil.

The Nebraska Democrat, a Vietnam veteran and Congressional Medal Of Honor recipient, said he supported President Bush's decision to send troops to the Persian Gulf, but only as a means of preventing an Iraqi invasion of Saudi Arabia.

"I question the response that says

that we're going to go there and have our young people die so that we can have cheap oil here at home," Kerrey said in an appearance on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

"The only justification that I find that is legitimate is that . . . we're the only nation that could move quick enough to prevent an invasion of Saudi Arabia."

Congressional Democrats have generally supported Bush during the Middle East crisis, although there has been some grumbling that the presi-

dent should clarify his long-term objectives in the Persian Gulf region.

American troops were sent to the area after Iraqi forces easily conquered Kuwait in an Aug. 2 invasion. Iraq annexed the oil-rich emirate six days later.

Like most members of Congress, which has been recessed in August, Kerrey has been in his home state while the tense situation in the Persian Gulf has unfolded.

Kerrey suggested that American

demand for cheap oil contributed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's rise to power in the Middle East.

"We in general have been blinded by money . . . and as a consequence, we put into place policy that encouraged Hussein to become extremely strong," he said.

Kerrey said Americans are being very tolerant of higher oil prices that have resulted from the gulf tensions, "even though they are grumbling a bit about it."

# Nebraska reserves called up

The Associated Press

An undetermined number of Nebraska Naval Reserves have been called to active duty to support U.S. efforts in the Persian Gulf.

Lt. Kathy Isgrig said a handful of medical personnel based at the Naval Reserve Center in Lincoln and Omaha were processed Saturday for destinations that included military hospitals in California, South Carolina and Virginia.

The Lincoln reserves weren't expected to travel overseas as part of the U.S. military effort to keep Iraq from invading Saudi Arabia. Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, precipitating the crisis.

The orders issued Saturday eventually will activate six to 10 of the 60 reserves based in Lincoln, although others could be requested later, Isgrig said.

Nationally, about 3,000 naval reserves are expected to be among more than 40,000 reservists President Bush last week authorized for call-up, Isgrig said.

All of the Lincoln reserves are doctors, nurses and others with medical backgrounds, Isgrig said.

They will fill vacancies created at military hospitals when full-time members of the armed forces are shipped overseas, Isgrig said. None of the Lincoln reserves were expected to be shipped overseas.

Lt. Cmdr. Merewyn Lyons confirmed that Omaha-based reserves received activation orders Saturday.

Meanwhile, about 30 U.S. Army Reserve leaders in Kansas and Nebraska were scheduled to report to their units Saturday to select personnel to be used if the units are called to active duty.

Skeleton crews from the 89th Army Reserve Command were to report in response to the Persian Gulf crisis, said Lt. Col. John Sampson, a public affairs officer. He said company commanders, first sergeants and other administrators will identify about 300 reserves.

The units affected included the 1012th General Support Company out of Fremont, whose primary mission is general support, such as mess, laundry, supplies and maintenance, and the 1012th General Support Detachment out of Norfolk, also a general support unit.

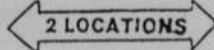
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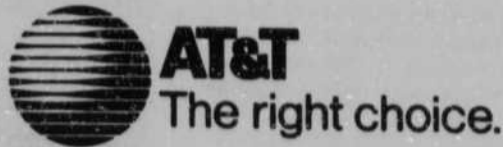
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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE. Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 436-9993. Subscription price is \$45 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1990 DAILY NEBRASKAN