

17 apparently killed in 2 military crashes

HARLEM, Mont. — Two military cargo jets collided after refueling during a training flight and crashed, apparently killing all 13 aboard, authorities said Tuesday.

In another Air Force crash Monday night, a B-1B bomber on a low-level training flight crashed into a cliff and exploded in western Texas. The fate of the four crewmen was unknown. It was the fourth crash of a B-1B, designed to deliver nuclear bombs, since September 1987.

The causes of both crashes were unknown.

In Montana, the wreckage of the two C-141B cargo planes was strewn over 21 square miles of the state's north-central prairie about 30 miles south of the Canadian border.

Nine bodies had been found by midafternoon, said Col. Dick Fanjoy, vice commander of the 43rd air refueling wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls.

The planes crashed late Monday while on a training mission with two other C-141Bs and a Washington Air National Guard KC-135 tanker, said Ray Martell, a spokesman for McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Wash., where the transports were based.

"A great, big piece fell out of the sky. It looked like a meteorite," said Brenda Mohar, a teacher from Turner, northeast of the crash area.

The KC-135 had finished refueling the cargo planes before the collision, said Lt. Col. Joe Jimenez, a spokesman for Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash., where the tanker is based.

Master Sgt. David Jones of McChord said it was too early to say what caused the collision, but no mechanical problem was suspected. Weather also wasn't believed to have been a factor, Fanjoy said. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lee Fryer in Seattle said the weather was clear at the altitude the planes were flying, 24,000 to 27,000 feet.

Large sections of the planes lay on the scorched prairie, including about two-thirds of one fuselage that ap-

peared to have fallen intact and cracked open like an egg. Some wreckage was about a mile from a farmhouse.

Mike Bachmeier, police chief in Harlem, about 10 miles from the crash, said there were "bodies all over."

Six people were on one of the planes and seven on the other, said Gloria Rayford, spokeswoman for the 62nd Airlift Wing at McChord.

The four-engine C-141 Starlifter is used to ferry large loads of equipment and troops. It can carry 120 people.

In western Texas, the B-1B bomber crashed and burned on a ridge between 6,185-foot Capote and Needle peaks in a rugged area of the Sierra Vieja Mountains, about 20 miles south of Valentine.



Somalian relief workers press for military security

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Relief officials on Tuesday urged the United Nations to quickly authorize more military muscle to guarantee that aid reaches hundreds of thousands of starving Somalis.

As the U.N. Security Council debated whether to take up a U.S. offer of a force of 30,000 to deliver the food, some of the officials worried that an influx of foreign troops could spark retaliation against foreigners.

Somali gunmen will feel that their livelihood is threatened.

"This is a very complex society with very tough, proud people divided into competitive clans," said Brigitte Doppler of Doctors With-

out Borders. "None of the relief agencies know how their programs will work under military mobilization."

Without security, said Per Hammerstedt of U.N. Operation Somalia, the relief operation is pointless.

"Why should we stay here when the food is looted and we can't even bring it out of the harbor?" he said.

In London, Nicholas Hinton, director general of the relief agency Save The Children, said any U.N. military operation in Somalia must be part of a five-year international com-

mitment to rebuild the shattered African nation.

Hinton said a suggestion that soldiers "can somehow simply go in, clean the place up and get out in two weeks is ridiculous."

By U.N. estimates, at least 300,000 people have died from the combined effects of drought and warfare this year and another 2 million are threatened.

As much as half the 200,000 metric tons of food delivered to the Horn of Africa nation have been stolen by bandits. At least 12,000 metric tons are stored at port warehouses but cannot be

delivered because of banditry in the area. On Monday, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recommended using military force to guarantee food deliveries, in what would be the first full-scale armed U.N. intervention to support humanitarian activities.

In Washington on Tuesday, House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., told reporters the United States is very close to sending ground troops into Somalia.

"I think the circumstances warrant it," Foley said.

A major force from the United States or any other country would likely encounter little organized resistance from marauding warlords.

Economic signs up strongly, but analysts wary

WASHINGTON — New reports Tuesday showed the government's chief economic forecasting gauge, construction spending and manufacturing all up strongly.

The Commerce Department's Index of Leading Economic Indicators rose 0.4 percent in October, the biggest gain in five months. The department also said construction spending in October advanced robustly for the second consecutive month, reaching the highest level in two years.

Since the economy lapsed into recession in July 1990, analysts have been burned twice by prematurely predicting a return to better times, once in mid-1991 and again early this year. Each time a dip or a stall in activity prevented the economy from attaining a self-sustaining recovery.

Of the index's 11 forward-looking indicators, the most positive was a 13.7 percent drop in average weekly unemployment benefit claims, the steepest since December 1982.

George Stephanopoulos, a spokesman for President-elect Clinton, said no decision has been made about whether the improving economic outlook would cause Clinton to scale back a planned short-term economic stimulus package.

"We're encouraged by the news we've seen over the last several weeks and we hope it continues," Stephanopoulos said. "But... we just can't tell yet whether or not we're going to have a real, long, sustained recovery with job growth and income growth."

Five other indicators in the leading index were positive. Two were neutral and three were negative.

The other positive indicators were:

- An increase in the average work week of manufacturing employees.
A jump in unfilled orders at factories, a sign that manufacturers are not as easily keeping up with new orders and may need to hire soon.
A rise in orders for business equipment and buildings.

World AIDS Day observed Tuesday around globe

LONDON — In Copenhagen, demonstrators in Santa Claus costumes danced around a giant condom in Town Hall Square.

In Russia, doctors gave free consultations at the Moscow Satire Theater. And in Brazil, protesters called for more government funding.

World's AIDS Day was observed Tuesday in a variety of ways, from whimsical demonstrations to solemn vigils demanding more funds to fight the deadly disease.

Hundreds of marchers in Banjul, Gambia, converged to hear speeches and pray for people with AIDS. The West African nation's health minister, Landing Jallow Sonko, warned that AIDS may increase child mortality rates by as much as 50 percent in much of sub-Saharan Africa in the 1990s.

U.S. plane hit; Bosnian airlift suspended

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The humanitarian airlift to Bosnia was suspended Tuesday after small-arms fire struck part of the steering system of a U.S. Air Force transport plane on its landing approach to Sarajevo.

Bosnia's president urged "decisive stands" by Islamic states to aid his country.

The C-130 Hercules that was shot in the rudder while approaching the Bosnian capital was able to land safely, unload its relief supplies and return to Zagreb, Croatia, said Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Kessler said the airlift to the Bosnian capital was likely to remain suspended at least through Wednesday while U.N. liaison officers investigate the source of the shooting.

Twenty flights carrying food, medicine and other relief supplies were scheduled to land Tuesday in Sarajevo, but only 10 arrived before the airlift was suspended.

Earlier, Bosnia's army command had accused the Serbs of shelling the airport runway overnight "with the intention of destroying the radar system and thus stopping the humanitarian flights."

More than 17,000 people have been

handing out information packets at a rally in the Ginza shopping district.

In Beijing, World Health Organization official Bernard Kean told a gathering at the Great Hall of the People that the Chinese government must do more to educate people about the disease.

At a prison in the Polish city of Wroclaw, 43 inmates infected with

There is a rapidly expanding portion of the population that is mobile and affluent... who patronize prostitutes or use drugs.

World Health Organization official

Yeltsin sidesteps impeachment attempt

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin survived an impeachment attempt by hard-liners at the rowdy opening of Congress on Tuesday and then proposed a compromise to trim presidential powers but continue market reforms.

His proposal drew strong opposition. Early votes indicated that neither Yeltsin's supporters nor opponents had the strength to force through their ideas, leaving them groping for middle ground that would avoid a stalemate.

Yeltsin urged lawmakers to resist the champions of "hard-line Bolshevism" who threaten to "divide the society, to set the executive and legislative branches against each other in

a final clash, to weaken the state and breed chaos."

His proposal was aimed at generating new momentum for his economic reforms by preventing the Congress of People's Deputies, dominated by hard-liners elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union, from hobbling the more radical Cabinet.

Hard-liners want to slow the economic changes and drop acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar. Gaidar was scheduled to speak Wednesday.

In an hour-long speech in the Grand Kremlin Palace, Yeltsin accused lawmakers of putting "their own ambitions, careers, demagoguery and cheap political effects above the truth, the

interests of the people and the state."

Outside the Kremlin, several hundred demonstrators carrying red Communist hammer-and-sickle banners pushed through a police line and endured zero temperatures to chant anti-Yeltsin slogans as lawmakers crossed Red Square.

Hundreds of pro-reform coal miners also shouted at deputies as they entered Spassky Gate.

Yeltsin's compromise proposal drew sharp criticism from the 1,041-member body. Even reform lawmakers said prospects were slim for the plan, which would preserve many of the sweeping powers Yeltsin has held since the failed hard-line coup in August 1991.

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