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Kuwait blocks deployment of 5,000 American troops

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shaky U.S. efforts to maintain a united front against Saddam Hussein hit another snag Sunday. Kuwait, the nation saved in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, temporarily withheld permission for 5,000 additional American troops to be stationed there.

Administration officials stressed they fully expected Kuwait to approve the deployment soon, but critics jumped on the delay as another example of the administration failing to hold together the Gulf War coalition.

"What kind of a lack of consultation with our allies is this that we would end up in this kind of a muddle?" House Speaker Newt Gingrich asked on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"This situation is in terrible disar-

ray. The credibility of the United States is at stake," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said in ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley."

Defense Secretary William Perry, during a visit to Kuwait Sunday, said he had sought permission for the troops from the emir, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah. He was told the matter would be taken up by the emirate's defense committee, Perry said.

It previously was announced in the United States that 5,000 troops from Fort Hood, Texas, would leave for Kuwait, but with soldiers packing on Saturday, the operation was put on hold until permission was granted.

President Clinton, asked by reporters about the Kuwaiti deployment, said the decision was made public "before we had done our regular consultation

and the Kuwaitis had done their regular review. As far as I know, there is nothing irregular or troubling here."

"It is my expectation that we will hear very shortly that they will be delighted to accept these troops," Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on ABC. Already, 1,200 American troops are in Kuwait for training exercises with the Kuwaiti military.

The U.S. military response over the past several weeks to Iraqi President Saddam's military adventures in northern Iraq has been shadowed by inability to obtain the support and participation of most Western and Middle Eastern countries who joined the coalition to drive Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991.

Please see IRAQ on 6

Senator supports Hagel, military-minded leadership

BY CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter



President Clinton's poor decision making in the Iraq conflict is just one reason why Washington needs military-minded leadership, a Republican Senator from Arizona said Saturday.

Sen. John McCain said he wants candidate Chuck Hagel to win the Nebraska senate seat so the Repub-

licans can preserve majority leadership and continue progress on the Republican agenda.

"To lose majority would bring many much-needed reforms to a halt," McCain said.

The last poll of Nebraska voters showed Hagel 21 points behind Democratic candidate Ben Nelson.

Please see McCAIN on 6



MARNI SPECK/DN

LIZAMENDOZA, instructor for the Zapatos Alegres dance group, leads the Mexican Bottle Dance on Sunday at the Hispanic Heritage Festival.

Hispanic Heritage Festival celebrates culture, children

DANCES, STORYTELLING and face painting entertain families to make the celebration a success.

BY TASHA E. KELTER
Staff Reporter

children's area included bilingual storytelling, balloon painting and other crafts, as well as face painting.

"We want families to enjoy this with their children," said Kris Miller, a UNL curriculum instructor. The bilingual storytelling is important because, she said, they want to encourage children to practice their Spanish and English.

Many of the children are bilingual already, Miller said.

Ten years ago, the celebration originated as a small fair in the back of the Hispanic Center, said Hispanic Center volunteer Lon Sorenson. For several years after that, it consisted of one dance group and a few booths

Please see FESTIVAL on 3

Conference trains officials to handle terrorist attacks

BY ERIN GIBSON
Staff Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson will address the threat of terrorism this week with a conference today through Wednesday on East Campus.

The conference, "Managing the Consequences," will train about 150 government officials, police and fire departments, emergency personnel and business leaders to handle the aftermath of a terrorist attack in the Heartland.

"Until the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, the threat of terrorism seemed very distant," Nelson said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, the reality is that a terrorist attack can occur anytime anywhere, and we must ensure that Nebraska is ready to handle an attack."

The conference will be at the Clifford Hardin Nebraska Center for Continuing Education and is sponsored by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) under a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

NEMA public information officer Tim Hergenrader said the terrorist threat is present in Nebraska, and that terrorist attacks pose unique problems for government and emergency personnel.

"It's similar to the aftermath of a hurricane," Hergenrader said. "But the crime scene is very difficult."

Mass casualties and intense media attention compound the difficulty of dealing with an attack, he said.

Extremist and militia groups in northeast and northwest Nebraska, including Posse Comitatus, could pose a threat, Hergenrader said. The

groups oppose taxes and other government "interference" in their lives.

"The purpose of a terrorist attack is to disrupt government functions and people," Hergenrader said. "If we learned something from Oklahoma City, we learned that there are people who will go to any extreme do to that."

The conference will prepare emergency personnel to handle an attack in any locale, he said.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said police are trained to deal with emergency situations, but not specifically a terrorist attack.

"Police do a lot of the same things at any crime scene," Heermann said.

She said the threat of an attack is probably less in Nebraska than in more populated regions.

"But, after Oklahoma City, you could never rule it out," she said. "It's as random as anything."

UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said two sergeants from the UNL police force will attend the conference.

Memorial Stadium on game days could provide an opportunity for disaster, he said.

Dara Troutman, press secretary for Nelson, said the governor is acting responsibly by having the conference.

The conference marks the next step in a continuous process of preparedness against terrorism, she said.

After the Persian Gulf War, security measures were stepped up in federal and county buildings across Nebraska, Troutman said.

The Oklahoma City bombing further awakened Nebraskans to the threat of terrorism, she said.

"It was an unfortunate awakening," Troutman said. "It showed us that we aren't immune."

Regents OK construction bid Minnesota firm to build transplant center

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents approved PennCo Construction of Eagon, Minn., as the construction firm for Omaha's Lied Transplant Center at its meeting Friday.

PennCo Construction was chosen even though the company's bid was \$2.8 million more than the university originally planned to spend. All three companies that made estimates on the project bid over the projected cost of \$49.8 million.

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln proposed

an extensively debated amendment to approve PennCo without approving the budget increase.

NU President Dennis Smith warned that approving the Wilson amendment would, in effect, kill the proposal to hire PennCo.

That would mean a search for new bids and construction delays until a new company could be hired.

Smith said a delay in construction would mean \$8,000 per day in inflationary construc-

Please see REGENTS on 6