

## Army women pressed to make rape claims

**NAACP claims there was a racial motive to accusations.**

ABERDEEN, Md. (AP) — Five women Army recruits accused investigators Tuesday of trying to coerce them into saying they were raped by superiors in the scandal that has civil rights advocates calling for an outside investigation.

The women said they refused to make the rape allegations, and although several servicemen were charged as a result of the women's sworn statements, none were charged with rape, an Army spokesman said.

"They pushed me and pushed me and tried to make me say rape and I wouldn't do it because it's not the truth," said Kathryn Leming, 22, of Harrisburg, Pa.

Officials at Aberdeen's ordnance training school, where the alleged sexual misconduct occurred, denied that investigators tried to coerce the women into making false statements.

"That is certainly not a technique that is used," Lt. Col. Gabriel Riesco said.

The NAACP, which organized the women's news conference, called for an independent investigation into how the military handled the Aberdeen scandal, which prompted investigations into sexual conduct at U.S. military bases worldwide.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has claimed the Army has unfairly targeted black soldiers based on complaints of white female recruits. The five women who spoke out Tuesday are white, and the seven men charged with sexual misconduct are black.

But the Army says the alleged victims also include black women. Riesco

denied race was a factor.

"Race has never been an issue in this investigation at all. It is an investigation of sin, not skin," he said.

Pvt. Toni Moreland, who last week became the only recruit to disavow her statement, told reporters she felt pressured into agreeing with allegations made by the military's Criminal Investigation Division.

"I would just agree. They put it down on paper. All I did was sign it," said Moreland, 21, of St. Louis.

Pvt. Darla Hornberger, 30, of Oklahoma, said she never told investigators she had been raped, but while being questioned, they told her the sexual misconduct she described was rape under the uniform code of military justice.

"I have a lot, a lot to lose by being here," Hornberger said. "I have a family, I have children. And I could just keep my mouth shut and this would all go over, but something really wrong has happened."

A retired Navy investigator said the women's statements could cast a shadow over the validity of all the claims made since the scandal broke in November.

"Now they have a dual scandal going on. Are investigators inflating their charges? And they still have the original sexual harassment scandal," Tony Palm said.

The military sex scandal broke last November at Aberdeen, a base north of Baltimore. Seven drill instructors at Aberdeen have been charged with sexual harassment, rape or consensual sex with recruits. Three face court-martial, and the others have been discharged or dealt with administratively.

About a dozen others were suspended as well and are either under investigation or have already faced administrative sanctions.

## Yeltsin overhauls cabinet

**Russian stock market soars on news of reshuffling.**

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin ordered his Cabinet overhauled Tuesday, following through on promises to shake up a government that has been unable to pull Russia's fledgling market economy out of its rut.

The newly invigorated Yeltsin, who last week castigated his government for lying "motionless" while the economy drifted, only guaranteed the jobs of two Cabinet members—Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his new top deputy, Anatoly Chubais.

Yeltsin gave Chernomyrdin a week to reorganize the government. He said it should be trimmer, with a smaller Cabinet and fewer ministries, although it was not clear how many officials would lose their jobs.

The Russian government has seemed rudderless since at least July, when an ailing Yeltsin won re-election to a second term and then dropped largely out of sight because of heart trouble and a bout with pneumonia. Only in recent weeks has he appeared to be fully back in control.

In the meantime, the economy has stalled on the difficult road from communism to capitalism. Millions of

## Cabinet Shakeup

Russian President Boris Yeltsin began overhauling his government Tuesday, giving Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin one week to appoint a smaller Cabinet.

### New appointees:

Anatoly Chubais, deputy premier in charge of economic reform

Valentin Yumashev, chief of staff

Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, aide to Yeltsin

### Likely on the way out:

Defense Minister Igor Rodionov

workers, both in government and private industry, have gone for months without pay. Taxes have gone uncollected and public disgust has grown.

While Yeltsin will be seeking quick improvements to social and economic problems, he also has stressed the urgency of military reform. That could result in the ouster of Defense Minister Igor Rodionov, who already was rumored to be on the way out.

The Russian stock market soared Tuesday, rising 3.3 percent after news of the government reshuffle was announced. However, with the effect of Yeltsin's actions still unclear, other reactions were somewhat muted.

Chernomyrdin, a reliable but colorless premier who has demonstrated strong survival skills, told reporters the changes would lead to "the deepening of reforms in all directions."

"Everything will be all right," he assured Russians.

By sparing Chernomyrdin, Yeltsin may be trying to circumvent the hard-line parliament, which must approve the president's choice of a prime minister.

With Chernomyrdin staying, Yeltsin can make changes in the Cabinet without seeking approval from Communists and other opponents in parliament.

## Can women marry for love? Pakistani court says maybe

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Saima Waheed, a conservative Muslim who has worn a veil outside the home since puberty, never thought she'd fall in love. She did though, and when she got married her parents took her to court.

This week, Pakistan's High Court ruled that Waheed can stay with her husband. But the court made no solid ruling on whether women can marry for love, avoiding a decision on whether a woman can defy the strong Pakistani tradition of arranged marriage.

Waheed always assumed she would marry the man her parents chose for her, whether she loved him or not. That all changed when she was 20, and her parents hired an English-language teacher to tutor her younger brothers.

Waheed fell in love with Ershad Ahmed, and after a brief, secret courtship, he asked for her hand in marriage. Waheed's father refused; he already had decided that she would marry her first cousin.

Last year, in a show of independence that is rare in Pakistan, Waheed defied her father's wishes and married Ahmed.

Her parents were enraged. Her father, whose land holdings made him a relatively rich man, accused Ahmed of abducting his daughter, and Ahmed



MATT HANEV/DN

was thrown into jail for four months.

Waheed moved into a women's shelter, where she has lived for a year. Her parents went to court to try to have the marriage declared invalid. They argued that the tenets of Islam forbid "love marriages" and require a woman's parents to consent before she can marry.

The case went to Pakistan's High Court. Pakistan's legal system, a mix of British common law and Islamic Shariat law, allows the high court to decide on some religious questions.

On Monday, the court handed down its decision: Waheed's marriage is legal. But the judges disagreed over

whether a woman can choose her own husband.

One of the three judges on the panel said the marriage should be annulled. Another said it was legal. The third came out somewhere in the middle, saying women normally need their parents' permission to marry, but that Waheed's parents gave their tacit consent by allowing Ahmed into their home.

"I feel as if I am reborn," Waheed said.

"This verdict proves that one can still get justice in Pakistan and that the rights granted to women in Islam and our constitution are genuine."

## Nation/World

from The Associated Press

### Police identify store clerk killed in Cozad

COZAD — The police are still searching for the man who gunned down a store clerk at an Amoco Service Station along I-80.

A surveillance camera captured the chilling crime Monday morning, giving police some clues. Killed was Leah Rowlands, 41, of Cozad.

The police were searching for a white male in his early 20s, about 6 foot 3 inches tall and about 225 pounds, possibly driving a red Pontiac Grand Am with California plates.

### Palestinians, Israelis clash over foreign involvement

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat infuriated Israel on Tuesday by inviting foreign diplomats to Gaza to discuss the latest Mideast crisis, prompting an Israeli warning that outside intervention could destroy the peace process.

At the same time, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came under new pressure to resolve the impasse, with Arafat suspending most contacts with the Israeli leader, and the king of Jordan, one of Israel's closest friends in the Arab world, saying his trust in Netanyahu had vanished.

The Palestinian invitation for the weekend conference went to local diplomats from the United States, Europe, the Arab world and Japan. "Any attempt for international intervention ... will lead to a freeze in the peace process," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said. "I call on all sides ... not to be dragged into this."

### Rebels move north as Albanian army continues retreating

TIRANA, Albania — Armed unrest spread for the first time to northern Albania on Tuesday, and outgunned soldiers pulled back closer to the capital, showing little will to fight.

With more than a third of Albania in armed insurgents' hands, President Sali Berisha made more concessions to opposition parties to try to cling to power. He agreed to give the prime minister's post to Bashkim Fino of the main opposition Socialist Party, a move welcomed by U.S. diplomats. Fino is a former mayor of Gjirokastra, a southern city rebelling against Berisha.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said Berisha told him he would set up a new government in the next 24 hours in Albania, a Balkan nation slightly larger than Maryland.

Still, the political talks in Tirana had little practical effect Tuesday on the insurgents, who seized more military weapons, looted a state-owned hotel and several army bases and killed a man in southern Albania.

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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 68588-0448, 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 calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Subscription price is \$55 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, Neb.

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