

World and Nation.

Bush defends membership in NRA

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday defended his life-long membership in the National Rifle Association (NRA) while voicing support for a "constitutionally sound" further crackdown on semiautomatic weapons.
 "We are in different times now and I am convinced that reasonable men and women can work together to find an answer to the problem," he told a group of female state legislators at the White House.
 Meanwhile, White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater called for a cooling down of emotions in the gun-control dispute, saying "the president feels we don't need to be threatening each other."
 He was referring to news reports that NRA officials had indirectly threatened drug czar Bill Bennett with political retaliation if he pursues a course toward more firearms restrictions — allegations that the gun owner's lobby denied anew Monday.
 "This is not a time to be threatening

people, but rather a time to try to work together to solve a problem that clearly needs to be solved," Fitzwater said.
 The administration last week announced it was banning the import of semiautomatic weapons. Bush had said the move reflected a "pulse change" on his part on the subject of gun control, which in the past he has steadfastly opposed.
 "Clearly there's been some evolution of his (Bush's) thinking" on gun control, Fitzwater said Monday.
 Bush has directed Bennett to review the entire subject of semiautomatic weapons. Fitzwater said neither an expansion of the ban nor other new restrictions on guns would be proposed during the overall review that Bennett is overseeing.
 The president told his audience: "On the NRA, of which I'm a proud member, I might add I believe that we can find accommodation between the legitimate interests of the sportsman and the interest of the police

chiefs in protecting their people who put their lives on the line every single day."
 "The country needs to know that there is some answer to this. I don't yet know what it is," he said.
 While much of the answer rests with the states, "we have a responsibility" at the federal level as well, Bush said.
 "We have got to give the police proper support when they lay their lives on the line for us. And so we'll find some answer that is constitutionally sound and that also protects the lives, as best one can from Washington, of police officers."
 Sources who spoke on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press last week that Bennett had been receiving warnings from the rifle association through third parties hinting that NRA's campaign fundraising abilities might be used against him if he ever sought political office.
 Bennett said through a spokesman, Don Hamilton, that "there have been a lot of phone calls, a lot of pressure.

Let's cool off."
 Wayne LaPierre, legislative director for the NRA, said Monday that "we never made a threat in the first place. It's not the way we operate, it's not the way the NRA functions. I don't know how to be any clearer than that."
 He said that the NRA shares the nation's "heightened outrage about violent crime" on the nation's streets.
 "We want to be a part of the solution, we're going to be in there in a constructive way."
 But, LaPierre said in an interview, "we don't believe we should be pushed into a cosmetic solution that won't address the real issues and won't solve the real problems."
 "There's nothing new about semiautomatic firearms. They've been around for a century," he said. He claimed the problem was failure to use existing laws to prosecute drug dealers who use guns illegally. "It's not that we don't know who these people are: they glow in the dark."

Official says Pan Am ignored security recommendations

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — Pan American World Airways has yet to implement many steps recommended by a security consultant who in 1986 warned that the airline was doing little to prevent bombs from being smuggled onto aircraft, a congresswoman said Monday.
 According to Rep. Cardiss Collins, D-Ill., the Israeli security firm KPI Inc. cautioned the carrier more than two years ago that it was "highly vulnerable" to terrorist attacks.
 "The fact that no major disaster has occurred to date is merely providential," KPI wrote in September 1986, Collins said.
 Last Dec. 21, Pan Am's Flight 103 was blown from the skies over Scotland by a bomb authorities say was placed in a radio-cassette player, killing 270 people.
 Collins, chairwoman of the Government Operations transportation subcommittee, wrote a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration Monday quoting portions of reports the security company wrote to Pan Am in September and November 1986.
 She wrote that "within days" of the completion of the September 1986 paper, a terrorist attack in Karachi, Pakistan, killed 18 Pan Am passengers and crew members.
U.S. removes surveillance plane
WASHINGTON — The United States has withdrawn a second AWACS radar-surveillance plane from Saudi Arabia because of the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war, the Pentagon said Monday.
 The withdrawal of the huge

News in Brief

early-warning plane earlier this month leaves two other such aircraft still in Saudi Arabia. The Saudis have purchased five of the planes themselves, but the United States deployed additional AWACS during the height of fighting in the Persian Gulf two years ago.
 The U.S. planes, in cooperation with the Saudi aircraft, flew surveillance missions over the gulf 24 hours a day while U.S. Navy ships were escorting oil tankers.
 The Iran-Iraq cease-fire took effect in August and, while little progress has been made on a peace treaty, both sides continue to respect the truce. As a result, the United States also has begun withdrawing some of its naval forces in the region.
 The Pentagon withdrew its first AWACS plane in January.

Okinawa water use reduced

TOKYO — Okinawa's worst water shortage in seven years has forced officials to cut water supplies throughout the southern Japanese prefecture for 24 hours every other day, officials said Monday.
 Water in two reservoirs averaged only 11.5 percent of capacity, while five reservoirs were averaging 44.6 percent of capacity, a local government official said.
 An Okinawa weather bureau official said only 0.78 inches of rain fell in the prefecture in February, or 17 percent of thenormal rainfall.

Schools violating inspection codes

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — One in five public or private school agencies is violating a 1987 federal requirement to inspect buildings for asbestos and develop a cleanup plan, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said Monday.
 Thousands of other school districts have been unable to meet the deadline for the inspection and cleanup requirements but are not in technical violation of the law because of extensions granted by state officials.
 The figures released by the EPA provided the first indication as to how effectively public and private school leaders are handling the asbestos problem, which raised widespread concern several years ago and prompted Congress to order inspections and cleanup efforts nationwide.
 According to the EPA, compliance with the inspection and cleanup requirements has been uneven among the states. Ten states show that better than 95 percent of their public school systems and private schools met last October's federal deadline for having inspection and cleanup plans. Six states had fewer than 60 percent of their school agencies in compliance.
 The EPA figures reflect the response to the asbestos requirements by more than 50,000 school entities, many of them private.
 Although the EPA has no complete

figures breaking down compliance rates between public and private schools, a spokeswoman said generally the public school districts have a much better compliance record.
 For example, in Connecticut, New Jersey and Virginia, more than 90 percent of the public school systems were in compliance with the federal requirements, but only about half of the private schools in each of the states were reported in compliance, according to an EPA analysis.
 Six states did not report complete enough statistics to be counted in the national compliance average, officials said.
 Asbestos can cause chronic lung disease and various forms of cancer when its microscopic fibers are inhaled. The 1986 federal law requires schools to hire inspectors approved by the EPA to determine if there is an asbestos danger in school buildings and, if there is, to submit to state officials a detailed cleanup program.
 The 1986 law and implementing regulations by the EPA required the inspections to be completed and cleanup programs submitted to state officials by October 1988. But most school districts missed the deadline. According to data provided the EPA by state officials:
 Forty percent of public school districts and private school programs

met the Oct. 12 deadline for completing inspections and submitting cleanup plans.
 Thirty-nine percent of private and public school entities were granted an extension until this May to comply with the federal requirement.
 Twenty-one percent of public districts or private school agencies fell into noncompliance of the federal law because they did not meet the deadline and either did not request an extension or had a request rejected.
 EPA spokeswoman Alicia Tenute said that the agency had received no information from the states on how

many of the school systems that had been granted extensions are expected to meet the May deadline.
 Under the 1986 federal law, school officials are supposed to have asbestos cleanup efforts underway by July 1989.
 Public school districts or private schools organizations in violation of the requirements will have 60 days to show they have come into compliance or be subject to EPA enforcement action, officials said.
 The 1986 asbestos law allows for the EPA to seek civil penalties of up to \$5,000 a day for violations.

19 Marines killed in helicopter crash

From Associated Press reports
SEOUL, South Korea — An American military helicopter crashed Monday during joint maneuvers with South Korean forces, killing 19 Marines and injuring 16, U.S. military officials said.
 The incident was the second fatal American helicopter crash in South Korea in four days. On Friday, all four Marines aboard were killed when a CH-46 assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., crashed in a rice paddy on the east coast.
 On Monday, a CH-53-D Sea Stallion carrying four crewmen and 30 other Marines crashed near the southeastern port of Pohang during the joint exercises, a Marine Corps spokesman reported. He said the injured included a Marine on the ground.
 Marine officials said investigators were at the site to determine the cause of the crash, but no quick result was expected because only charred pieces of the helicopter remained.
 The Marines were from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines of the 1st Marine Division based at Camp Pendleton. The helicopter was

assigned to the 1st Marine Air Wing based at Futenma Marine Corps Air Station in Okinawa, Japan.
 Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, quoted government officials as saying the helicopter appeared to have engine trouble and exploded in the air.
 A Seoul newspaper, Kookmin, quoted a witness as saying one of two choppers hovering at about 250 feet suddenly turned upside down and plunged into a creek. About 10 men jumped out as it struck the ground, the report said.
 Both helicopters that crashed operated from the USS Belleau Wood, a Marine assault ship participating in the annual "Team Spirit" exercises, which began Tuesday.
 Some of those injured Monday were taken to the Belleau Wood and others were evacuated to a U.S. military hospital in Seoul. Marine officials withheld the identities of the dead and wounded pending notification of relatives.
 About 43,000 American soldiers are based in South Korea under a mutual defense agreement and 30,000 have been brought in for the maneuvers from the United States and

elsewhere in Asia.
 This year's exercises involve about 200,000 military personnel from both countries.
 Dissidents demand an end to the joint maneuvers on grounds they increase tension on the divided peninsula and hamper talks with communist North Korea on peace and reunification.
 Four people were injured Monday in a confrontation between police and about 700 villagers demanding an end to U.S. bombing practice at the

Koon-Ni range near a coastal village about 70 miles southwest of Seoul.
 Villagers have held several violent protests around Koon-Ni, the only bombing range in South Korea for U.S. aircraft, demanding it be closed. They complain of noise and of danger from the bombing.
 At one point, Yonhap reported, 72 villagers briefly occupied a small island inside the range and burned targets. There were no reports of arrests.

Late CIA director cited in North trial

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — Former Rep. Michael Barnes testified Monday that former CIA Director William Casey tried to discredit a congressional committee staff member at a time the panel was investigating Oliver North's efforts on behalf of Nicaraguan rebels.
 "He indicated that a member of my staff had met with a representative of the Nicaraguan government," said Barnes, a Maryland Democrat. The CIA, Barnes said, found out about the meeting by intercepting a conversation between the Nicaraguan ambassador and that country's foreign minister.
 Barnes identified the staff member as Victor Johnson, who was staff director of the subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs. At the time, in late 1985 when official aid to the Nicaraguan rebels was forbidden by U.S. law, Barnes' subcommittee was trying to pry information from the National Security Council on its activities.
 The former congressman denied there was anything wrong with Johnson's contact with the Nicaraguan government.

"My memory of what Casey said is that a member of my staff had met with a representative of the Nicaraguan government," Barnes said. "He told them if they were to improve the human rights situation in their country, lifting martial law, restoring freedom of the press... such steps could be of help to members of Congress trying to reject aid to the Contras."
 "Did he indicate to you the staff member gave classified information?" asked Brendan Sullivan, North's lawyer.
 "No sir," Barnes said. "I found the allegation he made basically to be frivolous."
 Casey died in early 1987.

Hall of fame

from page 1
 reporter for the Wisconsin State Journal and a former president of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism.
 Adams said Monday that he was very pleased to learn that he had been selected as a member. "The School of Journalism is one of the best in the country, and it is a great joy to be recognized by it."
 Shumaker attended UNC and has been a professor in the Journalism School since 1972. He was editor of The Chapel Hill Weekly and writes a weekly column for The Charlotte Observer.
 Brinkley, a nationally known correspondent and reporter for ABC-TV, is a native of Wilmington.
 "He has been a major figure in journalism," said Shumaker. "I am surprised he wasn't chosen long ago. He is probably one of the best choices the committee has made."

Agriculture specialist to speak

Dr. Jack Doyle, director of the agriculture and biotechnology project for the Environmental Policy Institute, will speak tonight at 7 p.m. in 100 Hamilton Hall as part of the Great Decisions lecture series.
 Doyle will talk about Farmers, Food and the Global Supermarket.

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