

World and Nation

Explosion aboard USS Iowa kills 47

From Associated Press reports

NORFOLK, Va. — A huge gun turret packed with gunpowder exploded in flames on the battleship USS Iowa near Puerto Rico on Wednesday, killing at least 47 people in one of the worst peacetime military disasters in recent U.S. history, the Navy said.

The death toll from the accident "could go higher, but we don't know at this point," said Lt. Cmdr. Steve Burnett, a spokesman for the Atlantic Fleet, based in Norfolk.

He said the number of crewmen injured had not been determined.

Crewmen put out a fire inside the forward turret, which supports three of the ship's 16-inch guns, flooded several compartments holding explosives as a precaution, and declared the ship no longer in any danger, said

Lt. Cmdr. Chris Baumann, another spokesman for the fleet.

The Iowa rendezvoused at mid-afternoon with the nearby aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea, which carries three doctors and has full medical facilities, Baumann said. Helicopters from the Coral Sea brought medical equipment to the Iowa and transferred some of the injured to the carrier.

The Iowa will proceed on Thursday to Roosevelt Roads, a Navy base in Puerto Rico, Atlantic Fleet Cmdr. Robert Franzmann said.

Navy officials were personally notifying family members of the deaths, Baumann said.

The explosion occurred while the ship was taking part in a gunnery exercise about 330 miles northeast of Puerto Rico, said Burnett.

The ship's guns were being test-fired, and the turret was "full of gunpowder," Baumann said. The 16-inch guns can fire 2,700-pound shells a distance of 23 miles.

A gun turret is normally occupied by 27 people, but can hold up to 60 or 70 people, Baumann said.

"We don't know how many people were in there at the time," he said.

The training exercise to improve fleet readiness began April 13 and involved 19,000 people aboard 29 U.S. ships, three allied ships and shore-based aircraft, Baumann said.

There were 1,600 people aboard the ship, including Vice Adm. Jeremiah Johnson, commander of U.S. 2nd Fleet.

In Washington, President Bush was asked during a photo session with congressional leaders to comment on the explosion.

"It is a great tragedy and a matter of terrible sadness," he said.

"I will take this opportunity to express my regrets, especially to the families of the kids that were killed," Bush said. "It is a terrible tragedy. . . . I lose a lot of fine young lives."

In addition to its massive 16-inch guns, the 887-foot Iowa is equipped with 12 5-inch guns and Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles. It was the model for three other Iowa-class battleships and is among the most heavily armored of U.S. warships.

The Iowa and its sister ships, the New Jersey, the Missouri and the Wisconsin, are the largest battleships ever built except for two Japanese ships, the Yamato and the Musashi.

The Navy, in accordance with policy, would not confirm or deny whether the ship was carrying nuclear weapons.

Soviet scientist apologizes for denouncing Sakharov

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — Andrei Sakharov's campaign speech before fellow Soviet scientists was upstaged Wednesday when one of his colleagues publicly apologized for denouncing the nuclear physicist nine years ago.

Sakharov is running for one of the seats in the new Soviet parliament reserved for the Academy of Sciences. He and other reformist candidates at Wednesday's election meeting criticized a new decree on dissent and authorities for the deaths of 20 protesters in a clash in Soviet Georgia.

The scientist who followed the human rights activist to the podium at Moscow State University, however, was the one who electrified the hall.

The elderly man, who identified himself only as Vonsovsky, said he was ashamed to admit that he signed a letter to the Soviet

News in Brief

Presidium denouncing Sakharov after the physicist criticized the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

"I committed a very bad act," Vonsovsky said in front of hundreds of top Soviet scientists.

Senator halts S&L proposal

WASHINGTON — The Senate attempted Wednesday to complete action on a 10-year, \$157 billion bailout for depositors in failed savings and loan institutions, but a single senator's demands that banks provide more customer services threatened to stall the bill's passage.

More than a dozen senators had amendments pending to what will be the biggest government financial rescue in history.

Parking

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graduate students spaces relatively close by."

The Transportation and Parking Office told Merritt the number of spaces that would be available in L lot is between 30 and 80, he said. The Student Parking Allocation Committee has estimated the number to be 45.

Most of the spaces in L lot have been re-allocated to the PR lot, a new perimeter lot near P lot, he said.

The P bus route is being re-routed to better serve residence halls, Gardner said. It will go past every residence hall except Whitehead, Old East and Old West, he said.

"I think it is as convenient as it can possibly be made."

The bus will run from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., Sunday through Friday. On Saturday it will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"You're not on the average going to have to wait more than 10 minutes," Gardner said. The bus will run every 13 minutes in the morning and

afternoon peak hours, every 20 minutes during midday and every 30 minutes at night.

Gardner said he worked with students from the Residence Hall Association and student government to formulate the bus service.

The parking deck will be finished in two years, Gardner said. The cost of a parking space in lots comparable to what the deck will be when finished is \$240 this year, he said.

Fewer students have preregistered for a parking permit this year, Cornwell said. Students who preregister now are sent a permit over the summer and can avoid waiting in line next fall.

At this time last year, 45 percent of students applying for parking had registered. Only 25 percent have preregistered this year, she said.

Students who do not get the permit for which they preregister will be put on a waiting list and will receive a space when one becomes available, Cornwell said.

Student Parking Allocation Recommendation 1989-90

| Lot | Grad. | Undergrad. | Hardship | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| A (resident) | 0 | 60 | 10 | 70 |
| I (resident) | 0 | 89 | 15 | 104 |
| K (resident) | 0 | 183 | 20 | 203 |
| L (resident) | 19 | 13 | 13 | 45 |
| M (resident) | 41 | 179 | 20 | 240 |
| Total (resident) | 60 | 524 | 78 | 662 |
| F (commuter) | 240 | 203 | 35 | 478 |
| S5 (commuter) | 170 | 197 | 40 | 407 |
| Total (commuter) | 410 | 400 | 75 | 885 |
| PR (commuter) | 10 | 117 | 5 | 132 |
| PR (resident) | 15 | 333 | 20 | 368 |
| P (commuter) | 225 | 118 | 0 | 343 |
| Total (fringe) | 250 | 568 | 25 | 843 |
| N4 (hardship) | 0 | 0 | 27 | 27 |
| W (hardship) | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| Total (hardship) | 0 | 0 | 36 | 36 |
| Total | 720 | 1492 | 214 | 2426 |

Bill

from page 1

student leaders elected by the student body.

"The student body of a university has the freedom to elect leaders whose job it is to represent their best interests," Raiford said. "Students should have the right to determine how student fees are spent without excessive and unconstitutional interference from the government."

UNC-CH Student Body President Michael Wilson said he believed the various student governments were competent, efficient and ethical in their distribution of fees.

"I vehemently oppose (the bill) because I feel it is a definite infringement on the way we allocate student fees."

UNC-CH Student Body President Brien Lewis said student self-governance in North Carolina was a "sacred trust."

"We are here defending a sacred trust that has been given to us as student leaders of our respective institutions. We're not going to waver from standing by that sacred trust of student self-governance."

All the student leaders said the issue at stake was student government autonomy, rather than gay rights. Several of the UNC-CH representatives, including Davis and David Turlington, have publicly opposed funding the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association (CGLA).

"The issue today is student autonomy, not gay and lesbian rights," said Turlington, UNC-CH's student government state liaison and a former Student Congress member. "Many of us have fought against the funding of such groups on our campuses, but we are all here today, united, to voice our opposition to (the bill)."

Raiford also said whether a gay group should be funded was irrelevant to the gathering. "Whether being gay is right or wrong is not the issue."

Rather, the question is should a campus group — comprised of regularly enrolled students who pay their student fees at the same rate as every other student — be denied access to those funds."

UNC-CH sophomore Peter Hans, a member of the student government external affairs committee, attended the gathering and said he opposed the bill. Last semester Hans was a student representative to Campus Watch, a Durham-based group that called for legislation prohibiting student fees going to homosexual groups.

But Hans said although he still opposed CGLA funding, he now thought the decision should remain at the University level. "On further reflection, and deeper understanding of the sanctity of student self-governance, I feel legislative interference is not the way to go about it."

Turlington said the bill had "the sickening stench of the Speaker Ban Law of 1963." That law prohibited speakers who were known Communists or were suspected to be Communists from appearing on the campuses of state-supported schools in North Carolina. The law was widely condemned and was ruled unconstitutional in 1968.

"We are here to try to prevent a repeat of one of the ugliest events in the history of North Carolina," Turlington said.

Raiford said he didn't believe homosexual groups promoted illegal acts, as Arnold has said. The two groups at NCSU serve an educational purpose, working with RAs and sociology classes and holding forums. "They serve a lot more of a purpose than Steve Arnold seems to think. I hope he will make the effort to become more educated on the subject himself before writing such irresponsible legislation."

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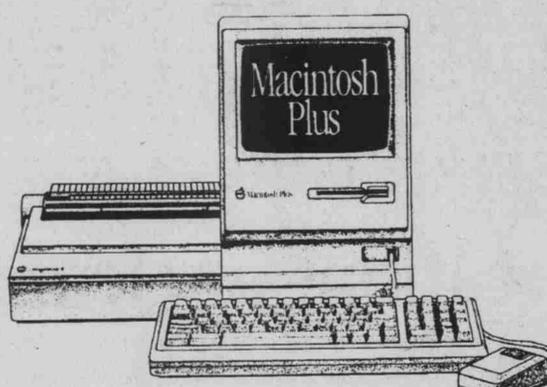


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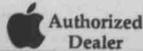
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