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Officials detail Noriega's attempt to flee

QUARRY HEIGHTS (US SOUTHCOM PAO)—After initial interviews with numerous former PDF officers now in U.S. custody, SOUTHCOM officials have been able to put together additional details surrounding Noriega's attempt to flee from U.S. forces.

Just prior to the initial attack, Noriega was in Colon where he had visited a new facility near Coco Solo. He was aware of increased U.S. force activity but discounted the notion of an attack, passing the increased activity off as more U.S. posturing.

He returned to Panama City around 6 p.m. on Dec. 19 and went to the PDF officer's club (La Siesta) near the military side of Omar Torrijos airport at Tocumen. There, he was provided a prostitute by one of his aides—apparently a routine occurrence.

When Tocumen was attacked just prior to 1 a.m. Wednesday by U.S. forces, Noriega drove from the officer's club and evaded U.S. forces by driving around the city in circles.

He spent the next several days at different locations, but allegedly most of the time at the home of a relative of one of his closest conspirators Marcella Tason, his personal secretary.

Sources say he was highly agitated and avoided contact with other PDF officers, fearing a trap had been set.

He was never in command of his forces, spending all of his time worrying about his own personal safety.

At one point, according to these sources, he allegedly made contact with the Cuban ambassador but was fearful of being apprehended near the Cuban embassy. Many of his cohorts tried to get him to leave the city, but he never made that decision. Becoming more and more disillusioned, his aides apparently left him and in desperation he made his way to the Papal Nuncio. (Details here are conjecture as he apparently made his way singlehandedly.)

Other details that have emerged are as follows:

Sources called him a conditioned drinker.

During the initial U.S. attack, informants say Noriega's first action was not to call his wife, but rather his mistress, Vicky Amado and her family. According to sources, he never attempted to call his wife.

He moved several times during his frantic search for safety, and one time sources say he had to low crawl to get to a phone to make his clandestine radio broadcast.

One of our sources who spoke very little English, heard something about a million dollars, but said that if he had known it was a bounty, would have turned Noriega in himself.

During his attempts to avoid capture, he lost his voodoo paraphanelia which he thought warded off evil. One source close to Noriega said that the dictator even wore red underwear to ward off the "evil eye."

Noriega allegedly made the decision to turn himself in when he heard that Lt. Col. Del Cid had agreed to surrender.

At one point in time, Noriega

considered fleeing to the mountains to mount an insurgent attack, but he was concerned about his heart while living in difficult terrain without the opulent luxuries and intensive medical care to which he had become accustomed.

The story of this truly evil man continues to unfold with bizarre evidence of his incredible lifestyle. We will keep you updated on other details as they become available.



U.S. military officials confiscated several passports and credit cards from Manuel Noriega's home. (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt. Pat Nugent)

U.S., Vatican working to resolve stalemate

VATICAN CITY (AP) - The Vatican likely will allow Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega to go into exile in another country rather than turn him over to the United States to face drug trafficking charges, sources said Tuesday.

Vatican and U.S. diplomats were at work Tuesday to resolve the diplomatic stalemate involving Noriega, who took refuge in the

Vatican Embassy in Panama City on Sunday after four days of eluding American invasion troops.

An embassy spokesman said the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, Thomas P. Melady, has been discussing the case with high-ranking Vatican officials but gave no details.

The Vatican's deputy spokesman, Monsignor Piero Pennacchini, said contacts were under way between the

concerned parties, including the newly installed Panamanian government, the United States and the Vatican.

Very delicate

"It's very delicate situation," Pennacchini said. "It has to be treated with much discretion to find the best solution for all of the parties."

A State Department source in Washington said Monday the United States had demanded "in extraordinarily tough terms" that the Vatican turn Noriega over to U.S. custody for trial on drug charges.

But church authorities had rebuffed the request and were trying, so far unsuccessfully, to find another country to take Noriega, the Washington official said.

"We want him alive to stand trial in the United States," the U.S. Embassy spokesman in Panama City, Terrence Kneebone, said. "We see this as a criminal matter. This is not a case of political or religious persecution."

But a Rome diplomatic source, who is close to those involved in negotiations, on Tuesday said the possibility of the Vatican handing over Noriega to U.S. authorities was "very dim" and he would more likely go to another country.

Spain, Cuba and the Dominican Republic have been mentioned as possible refuges.

Senior official

A senior Vatican official, who is not directly involved in the case but follows foreign policy issues, said "no rules of any kind" would permit the Vatican to turn over Noriega to U.S.

invasion forces.

"They could only hand him over to the country where he's held or arrange safe passage to another country," said the official, adding that exile in a third country was the more likely solution of the two.

A Rome diplomatic source, who is close to those involved in negotiations, on Tuesday said the possibility of the Vatican handing over Noriega to U.S. authorities was "very dim" and he would more likely go to another country.

Noriega's representatives had negotiated with the United States in the past and again this year about the possibility of stepping down and taking up exile in another country.

The official also wondered how eager Washington is to bring Noriega to the United States for trial, referring to published reports that he might reveal embarrassing details of former links with the CIA.

On Monday, chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said "I don't think so" when asked if the Vatican would simply turn over Noriega to the Americans, noting the Holy See does not have an extradition treaty with the United States.

There were reports from Washington and Panama that the Vatican was having trouble finding another country to accept Noriega.



BRAVE SOLDIER — Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney presents Pvt. 2 Louis Miller, D Co., 4th Bn., 6th Inf., the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device at a breakfast ceremony Monday. Miller was recognized for his actions while assaulting La Comandancia during Operation Just Cause. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vince F. Warner)

Lightfighters delay their 1989 Panama Christmas

by Cpl. J. Andrew Malcolm

COLON, PANAMA (5th Public Affairs Det) — Plans for a large Christmas celebration for Fort Ord infantrymen deployed in Panama were shattered last week when American forces initiated a massive offensive directed towards Manuel Noriega's dictatorial regime.

The soldiers, members of the 7th Infantry Division's (Light) 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry were in Panama as part of the Presidential order, an operation dubbed Just

Cause. Once the fighting started, soldiers lost any hope for having a peaceful Christmas away from their families.

Other units at Fort Ord, looking forward to spending Christmas at home or with loved ones were also torn away from their plans when they were ordered to deploy to Panama to assist troops already engaged in fighting.

Four days into the operation, dubbed Just Cause, the troops had all but forgotten their Christmas plans, according to Chap. (Capt)

Tom Evans, 4-17 Inf. battalion chaplain. Now, the only thing on their minds was accomplishing the mission at hand and staying alive.

"There had been plans for a big Christmas get-together," Evans said. "However, since activities began, the plans have had to be pushed aside.

"Christmas day is going to be just another work day as far as the soldiers are concerned," Evans explained.

Soldiers continued Christmas day patrolling the city and conducting battlefield operations in the area. Christmas was no different from any other day since the fighting had begun. Religious services supplied the soldiers with the only reminder that Dec. 25 was somehow different.

On Sunday and throughout Christmas Day, Army chaplains conducted religious services at different points in the city where the soldiers were congregated. The first services were held Christmas Eve with approximately 60 soldiers

gathering at Guardia Vega High School, in Colon, to attend a non-denominational service performed by Evans.

During the Christmas Eve services soldiers joined in prayer and sang Christmas carols while soldiers stood guard outside the building.

"Morale is good," Evans said. "The soldiers have seen their buddies wounded and have dealt with the grief and have been encouraged by the response of the Panamanian people."

Following the services, it was back to work or back to sleep for the 7th Infantry Division soldiers. There is little time for anything else, according to Evans.

"The soldiers are exhausted. They continue to operate on very little sleep," Evans said. "It is work or sleep - sleep is a very precious commodity right now. Christmas falls somewhere after mission and sleep."

Action was 'hot, heavy'

PANAMA CITY (5th Div PAO) —Operation Just Cause began Dec. 19 with elements of Joint Task Force South simultaneous strikes at various positions around the country. Crucial among them was the attack on the Comandancia near the Bay of Panama. Assigned to the task of leading that mission were two companies of 4/6 Infantry Battalion. According to battalion commander Lt. Col. James Reed, companies B and D were the first units to arrive at the Comandancia complex, headquarters for the Panama Defense Forces.

Gathering of intelligence by the PDF allowed forces at the headquarters to be ready and waiting for the mechanized units' assault on the area.

Delta Company's SFC Anthony Marteen claims his men were under fire practically from the time they rolled out of the gates at Fort Clayton. Reed described the area as "hot and heavy" when his units arrived. The road blocks were covered by rocket-propelled grenades, and atop the roof of the PDF stronghold was a sniper position that menaced the soldiers as they advanced. Marteen explains, "We took out the position with an AT4. (shoulder fired missile system)."

Snipers had dug in other places as well points out Pvt.2 Everett Morris,

Co. D. "The only thing I could think was, 'somebody get those suckers!'" Shoveling out the snipers was the job of .50-caliber gunner Sgt. John Skipworth. Both Morris and Marteen agreed Skipworth was more than adequately proficient at his job. Marteen suggests, "He's probably the reason our platoon made it."

Only later could La Comandancia be called secure. Later Wednesday morning the first elements actually entered the building searching for hangers-on. Although firing has yet to completely subside in the area, the bullet-riddled structure is occupied by U.S. forces.

Now that the operation is over and only eliminating the small pockets of resistance remains, the soldiers involved in the siege can look back at that morning. Marteen can't really describe combat because "when you've got live rounds coming at you, the only thing you can think of is get low and return fire." Morris echoed, "I didn't take time to think about it, I was just watching out for my platoon."

The watching that Morris did for his platoon illustrated what Reed meant when he said, "There was a lot of personal courage. Their discipline was incredible." Standing in the Comandancia, surveying the ruin of the defunct headquarters, Reed said of his men simply, "They demonstrated great bravery."

U.S. seeks hold of Noriega

VATICAN CITY, (Reuter) - The United States has told the Vatican it wants ousted Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega handed over but has presented no demand for extradition, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Noriega took refuge from U.S. troops in the Vatican mission in Panama City Sunday.

The sources said U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Thomas Miledy met Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli to explain the American position that Noriega must be handed over to face drug trafficking charges in the United States.

Casaroli returned hurriedly from vacation Christmas Day to face the delicate diplomatic dilemma caused by the Noriega case.

The sources said no progress had

been made so far in the talks between Washington and the Vatican and there had been hardly any diplomatic activity on the case in Rome Tuesday, a public holiday.

They said more movement was expected Wednesday when the Vatican returns to normal working.

The sources said Miledy presented no demand for extradition but explained the U.S. position which is, that Noriega is a criminal and not a political refugee eligible for asylum.

The Vatican has no extradition treaties with other states.

A Vatican spokesman declined comment Tuesday except to say talks on Noriega's fate would continue.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Monday Noriega had not yet been given asylum. But he added he did not expect him to be handed over to the United States.

Estados Unidos detendrá a Noriega

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, (Reuter) — Los Estados Unidos le ha dicho al Vaticano que quiere en sus manos al depuesto hombre fuerte Panameño General Manuel Antonio Noriega, pero fuentes diplomáticas dijeron el Martes que no se ha presentado demanda de extradición.

Noriega buscó refugio de las tropas Estadounidenses internándose en la misión del Vaticano en Panamá el Domingo.

Las fuentes dijeron que el embajador de Estados Unidos en el Vaticano, Thomas Miledy, se reunió con el Secretario de Estado, Cardenal Agostino Casaroli, para explicar la posición Americana de que Noriega debe ser entregado en los Estados Unidos.

Casaroli regresó apresuradamente de vacacionar en día de Pascua para afrontar el delicado dilema diplomático causado por el caso Noriega.

Las fuentes dijeron que no se había progresado en las conversaciones

entre Washington y el Vaticano y casi no hubo actividad en torno al caso el Martes en Roma, ya que era día feriado.

Dijeron que esperaban mayor actividad el Miércoles cuando el Vaticano retorna a sus labores rutinarias.

Las fuentes indicaron que Miledy no presentó demanda de extradición, explicando que la posición de Estados Unidos es que Noriega es un criminal y no asilado político elegible para el asilo.

El Vaticano no tiene tratados de extradición con otras naciones.

Un vocero del Vaticano se negó a comentar el Martes excepto para decir que continuarán conversaciones para decidir el destino de Noriega.

El vocero principal del Vaticano, Joaquín Navarro Valle dijo el Lunes que a Noriega aun no se le había concedido asilo. Pero añadió también que no esperaba que fuera entregado a los Estados Unidos.



Panamanians greet members of the 7th Inf. Div. (Light) 5th Bn., 21st Inf., during their arrival at the city of David Tuesday. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. J. Andrew Malcolm)

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U.S. forces invade, search La Comandancia

by Spec. John Moreland

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) — The area of Panama City near Panama Defense Forces Headquarters, La Comandancia, resembled a crumbling ruin after the U.S. invasion. Fighting had been reduced to sporadic ammunition volleys between U.S. servicemen and largely disbanded PDF. Although gunfire was isolated, the area was ablaze and vultures circled overhead in testimony to battles fought there half a day earlier.

Most PDF have surrendered; however, desperate PDF members remain at large attempting to evade capture.

Execution of Operation Just Cause began at approximately 1 a.m. Wednesday. Combat units based here teamed with stateside units and launched four offensives simultaneously at the outset of the U.S. initiative.

The operation entailed a number of objectives. Task Force Bayonet, comprised of the 193rd Infantry Brigade (Light) and elements from the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), were given the mission to take La Comandancia.

"When you have rounds coming at you, you react. You get low and return fire."

SFC Anthony Martern

Although success on all battle fronts was mission essential, when Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry, and two companies from the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), from Task Force Bayonet seized La Comandancia, it was the beginning of the end for Noriega loyalists.

Assaulting the 15-building compound was a major objective of U.S. forces. It was also where Americans faced the stiffest resistance.

Seventeen hours into the assault, Charlie Company paratroopers, with the assistance of a reinforced Ranger company, cleared and secured the compound.

Manuel Noriega's downtown command post was shredded. The area was quiet except for frequent sniper fire.

However, the battle was anything but serene.

While sitting in Noriega's once-posh, second-floor office, SSgt.

"People can watch all they want. But if they are looking at us through binoculars, they're a potential threat. I can't verify them as combatants, so I can't shoot them. But I want to encourage them to keep their heads out of windows."

--when you don't know the internal construction, or who is on the other side of a door trying to shoot you. You have to psych yourself up and run on automatic," Wentworth said. "We've been through the clearing drill hundreds of times."

He continued, "The way the men

SSgt. Roscoe Wentworth

Roscoe Wentworth, 3rd squad leader, 1st platoon, and his men scanned the area for snipers. Here Wentworth remembered tense moments for him and his squad. Wentworth's unit followed an assault by the Mech units. "We expected the majority of the resistance to be squelched," Wentworth said, referring to the mechanized assault.

However, according to Wentworth, many PDF soldiers, fearing the destructive power of the armored personnel carriers, fled the compound and took up sniper positions in surrounding buildings. From the buildings they fired on his unit.

It was the snipers Wentworth and his squad searched for. While discussing his squad's actions, a spotter located a possible sniper, and the team went into action. "I got one. Two floors down. Second window from the right," relayed Wentworth's spotter.

In the time it took to turn his chair around to face the window, Wentworth had shouldered his weapon. He fired within two seconds. He fired high on purpose. "People can watch all they want. But if they're looking at us through binoculars, they're a potential threat," he said. "I can't verify them (the people in the windows) as combatants, so I can't shoot them. But I want to encourage them to keep their heads out of windows."

Wentworth continued his account of the assault.

"It's difficult to clear a building --moving from position to position

performed was beautiful. Everything we trained for melded together. I never doubted our capabilities, but this was an opportunity to put our training to the test. For grunts, the ultimate test is combat. We've got a bunch of guys who did well."

PFC Douglas Burns, a 19-year-old Kentucky native, is one of them. "It puts a little fear in you. But I had a weapon and rounds, and I used them, my training too," Burns said. "We had a mission to do and we did it."

Although Burns has been in his unit only nine months, he gained experience most soldiers hope they never acquire. "My advice to soldiers who haven't experienced it (combat) is simple. Follow orders and have faith in your leaders. You'll be fine. Our squad didn't lose a man," Burns said.

"It puts a little fear in you. But I had a weapon and rounds, and I used them, my training too. We had a mission to do and we did it..."

PFC Douglas Burns

The airborne company teamed up with the mechanized infantry to secure the Comandancia. For Bravo and Delta Companies of the 5th Infantry Division's 4th Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment, the trip to the comandancia was unforgettable. According one soldier, his company was under fire from the time they left the safety of Fort Clayton.

As units rolled across the four-lane street that separated the neighborhood near Noriega's headquarters and the old Canal Zone, the companies came under intense small arms and rocket fire.

"Hot and heavy," is how Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. James Reed, described the scene. Barricades, narrow streets and snipers hampered armored personnel carriers.

How soldiers react to hostile fire varies. Pvt.2 Everett Morris, Company D, reacted without thinking. "I don't take time to think about it, I watch what is going on and react to it," he said.

Another Company D soldier had similar feelings. "When you have rounds coming at you, you react," said SFC Anthony Martern. "You get low and return fire."

Reed summed up his battalion actions. "They showed a lot of personal courage and their discipline was incredible."

While airborne and mechanized infantry companies fought for Noriega's headquarters, 5th Battalion, 87th Infantry battled for several key Panamanian buildings in Balboa.

Company C secured the National Department of Investigations (DENI) station and the Department of National Transportation (DNTT) buildings.

The company's first platoon arrived by military bus and duece-and-a-half trucks. "We arrived in the bus so we wouldn't attract attention," said Spec. Brad Harbottle. "Third squad secured the building's front; first squad secured the rear."

First squad received fire from the PDF first. It was easily suppressed. While first squad secured the rear, third squad was pinned down by small arms and grenades. They called their support unit for help.

"When we arrived we laid down suppressive fire with M-60 machine guns, squad automatic weapons and a 90mm recoilless rifle," said Pvt.1 Joey Archer of the support unit. The support unit forced the PDF soldiers to flee the rear the building where they ran into a first-squad ambush. The action took about an hour.

"At first, it was scary, but when the shooting began it was easier," Harbottle said. "I didn't think about the battle, I just did my job."

"They showed a lot of personal courage and their discipline was incredible."

Lt. Col. James Reed

Archer said the scariest part was riding to the building. "I could hear the sounds of the other battle -- the small arms fire, mortars and see the helicopters firing rockets." Archer finally calmed when his unit got into position and they started doing their job.

1st Sgt. David Baughman, of Company C, 1/508th, was especially proud of his men. He said his soldiers have been training for this, and were ready. "They did their job and were professional throughout."

Baughman was commenting about his soldiers, but that kind of praise could be heard from team leaders to task force commanders. Baughman went on to say, "It's going to be a sad Christmas for a lot of people -- Americans and Panamanians. Now it's time to rebuild and move on."



A Company B armored personnel carrier enters a neighborhood near the Comandancia to begin security operations one day after the assault on Manuel Noriega's headquarters. (U.S. Army photo by SFC Cecil Stack)



(Left) U.S. military officials confiscated more than \$3 million from Manuel Antonio Noriega's home in Panama City. (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt. Pat Nugent)

(below) Thousands of rifles, handguns and automatic machine guns were confiscated by military personnel from Panamanians during Operation Just Cause. Other items being stored at Albroom AFS are tear gas, helmets, uniforms, rockets and hand grenades that were made in countries all over the globe. (U.S. Air Force photo by Amn. Steve Rys)



Rounds of unused high-caliber ammunition sit in this warehouse at Albroom AFS after American troops seized them from the Panamanian military. There were more weapons and ammunition confiscated than there are PDF troops available to ever use according to a military official. (U.S. Air Force photo by Amn. Steve Rys)

Troops catalog confiscated goods at Albroom 'Warehouse of Fortune'

by A1C Michael Louis Amato

HOWARD AFB (24 COMPW PA) — Albroom Air Force Station is the new home to thousands of confiscated Panamanian Defense Force weapons and vehicles, including the personal limousine of former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

Hidden inside a large spacious area, thousands of items such as hand grenades, AK-47 machine guns, helmets, clothing and even versions of the New Testament, are scattered throughout every corner of the room. They were brought there through the efforts of the 193rd Infantry Brigade, based at Fort Clayton.

"After battles with the PDF are over, our guys move in and confiscate everything we can lay our hands on, load it on trucks and bring it here for separation," said CWO3 Steven Goes, property book officer with the 193rd. "When the items are brought here, we put everything into categories and identify them with tags." Hundreds of weapons and ammunition are confiscated daily.

Members of the 193rd have been working more than 16-hour shifts since Wednesday morning, in an effort to keep up with the load. On Wednesday morning, they worked, even though their building was being peppered by distant PDF gunfire.

Among the confiscated items are machine and shotguns, hundreds of

different pistols, artillery shells, lethal tear gas, cases of brand new miniature rockets and long-distance launchers. They are made in diverse

countries such as Brazil, Belgium, Spain and, of course, the Soviet Union. Net worth: millions of dollars.

At a nearby spot, rows of former PDF vehicles, most riddled with huge bullet holes, sit quietly — no longer in the heat of battle. Noriega's personal Cadillac limousine with the front, driver's side windshield shattered, is now motionless, and will never again transport the fierce dictator — like a representative of Panama's tainted past.

Directly next to the limousine is a dark blue Mercedes Benz, Noriega's private car. Through the scratched and tinted windows, a Panamanian driver's license is casually placed in the console between the front seats. The license bears the notorious visage of Noriega. Add "Driving Without a License" to the list of Noriega's crimes.

Also on the lot are tanks, police cars, jeeps, motorcycles and even school buses.

Exactly what the Army plans to do with all of the confiscated materials is currently undecided, according to Goes. But one thing is for sure, there's enough equipment at Albroom to start a small war. All that's missing is one crazed dictator and several thousand disillusioned followers.



Dozens of Panamanian Defense Forces vehicles were impounded by United States military personnel and stored at Albroom AFS during Operation Just Cause. Vehicles include Manuel Antonio Noriega's private limousine and personal Mercedes-Benz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Amn. Steve Rys)

Bush administration wants to freeze assets

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration announced its intention Tuesday to freeze millions of dollars in assets that deposed dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega allegedly shipped out of Panama, while it continued diplomatic efforts to bring him to trial in the United States on drug charges.

Justice Department spokesman David Runkel said the assets are all liquid and are primarily in bank accounts in half a dozen countries, many of them in Europe. They amount to "in excess of \$10 million," he said.

He refused to name the countries where Noriega placed his money, which the spokesman referred to as "illegal drug money."

Noriega touched off a behind-the-scenes diplomatic struggle on

Sunday when he presented himself at the Vatican Embassy in Panama City and asked for asylum. U.S. troops have surrounded the facility.

President Bush remained at his Camp David retreat, while an aide said he was monitoring the situation closely. Bush sent roughly 14,000 troops to Panama a week ago in an effort to restore democracy there and apprehend Noriega.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters Tuesday the administration has told the Vatican "very directly" of its desire to Noriega returned to the United States to stand trial.

At the same time, Fitzwater declined to rule out the possibility that some other option might be under consideration in the international negotiations that began

over the weekend when Noriega turned up at the Vatican Embassy in Panama City requesting asylum. Sources have said the discussions have included sending Noriega to a third country.

Runkel told reporters that Noriega has "10 associate thugs" in the Papal Nunciature with him. Runkel said he did not know their names.

"Our position is we mean to bring him back to the United States," Fitzwater said.

He said this was the primary goal, although he would not rule out the possibility that some other option might be under consideration. The Vatican has ruled out simply turning Noriega over to the United States, according to a spokesman who noted that the Holy See does not have an extradition treaty with the United States.

Fitzwater said U.S. troops would continue to ring the Vatican Embassy "as long as he's there."

Although Bush has not directly communicated with Pope John Paul II on the subject, or with other Vatican officials, "we told them very directly what our feelings were," Fitzwater said.

The spokesman said that the United States had offered Noriega, wanted in Florida on drug trafficking charges, a deal as recently as October in exchange for his stepping down from power voluntarily. But he did not accept it and now such deals are off, Fitzwater said.

Earlier, an administration source said that the United States was talking in "extraordinarily tough terms" in its bid to convince the Vatican to turn over Noriega.

Army rescues 11 Smithsonian Institute workers

story and photo
by Spec. Bob Blocher

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) — Although not a luxury flight, riding on an Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter seemed "first-class" to 11 Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute workers flown here Friday after being held hostage for two days.

Lunch was even catered. Two days earlier, they weren't sure they'd ever have lunch again.

The group was taken hostage 9 a.m. Wednesday by a PDF boat patrol on "Smithsonian Tupu" island, part of the San Blas island chain off Panama's Atlantic coast.

Five U.S. citizens, including a Smithsonian Institute staff scientist and her 4-year-old daughter, were among the hostages. There were also four Panamanians, one Venezuelan and one Pole.

The group was listening to radio reports of the U.S. invasion when they spotted a 20-foot PDF patrol boat docking on their island. With no time to run, or even put on shoes, they surrendered.

The PDF split up the hostages and loaded them onto three boats: the patrol boat and two Boston Whalers stolen from the research center.

The hostages were taken to Carti Airstrip on the Atlantic coast. The PDF said they'd be flown to Panama City, but the plane wasn't there. After waiting a few minutes, the PDF led them into the jungle.

"I thought they were going to line

us up and shoot us," said Steve Travers, a research assistant. Several tense minutes passed as they huddled on the ground, guarded by three PDF.

The situation eased when one guard started talking with the hostages. "He was a carpenter and only a part-time soldier," Travers said. Conversation melted through their fear.

"They never pointed a gun directly at any of us," Dr. Nancy Knowlton, the staff scientist, remembered. "They never yelled anti-American slogans and didn't abuse us."

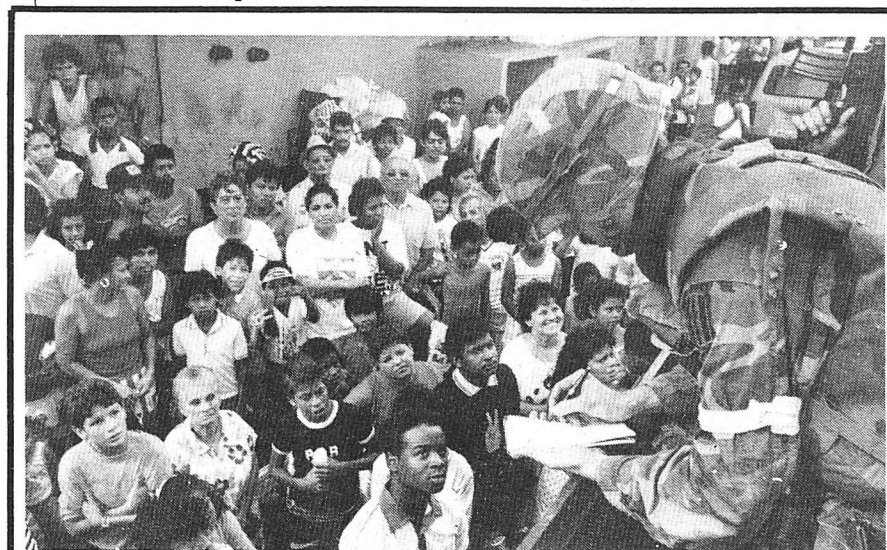
After 30 minutes, the PDF loaded them back on the patrol boat and

headed for another island. However, a PDF air force captain in another stolen boat intercepted the patrol boat and waved them back to Carti.

The captain said the group was being held for their own safety. Knowlton argued they felt safer on Smithsonian Tupu.

"This is war, and we're taking you hostage for pressure against your government," the captain replied, contradicting his earlier statement.

Once again, the hostages were led into the jungle. They marched 21 kilometers to Nasugrandi, a Cuna Indian research station. Because the hostages were barefoot, the pace was slow and painful.



GATHERING INFORMATION—A member of Company C, 5/87th Infantry gathers information from a crowd of Panamanians as to the location of arms caches and fugitive members of the PDF and Dignity Battalion. (U.S. Army photo by Paul L. Sweeney)

"Most of us weren't in shape to walk 20 kilometers—even with shoes," Knowlton said. "It was brutally exhausting."

The PDF sent two hostages, Reinaldo Tapia and Elizabeth Padron, back to the island for food, water and shoes. The two hostages also picked up a radio.

By the time Tapia and Padron finally rejoined the others, they were marching only five minutes between rests. When they reached Nasugrandi, the captain had a change of heart.

"We got the feeling he didn't want us anymore," Knowlton said. The captain arranged for the hostages to be taken to a farm house until they could be released. On the way, Tapia and Padron stalled for time, so they could radio for help. But the captain became suspicious.

"We told him the rescue was underway," Knowlton said. At that point, the captain revealed that he planned to quit fighting.

"He asked us to tell the Army that all his people left their weapons and abandoned the unit," Knowlton said.

The hostages were picked up by the Army helicopter and flown here, where they had a chance to shower and relax. Despite their ordeal, Knowlton said she supported the Army's attack on Panamanian General Manuel Noriega.

"I'm thrilled about what happened," she said. "I've watched this country deteriorate over the past five years. Now, hopefully, it will turn around."

Sergeant Major of the Army visits Task Force Bayonet

by Spec. Daniel L. Bean

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) — Sergeant Major of the Army Julius W. Gates visited Task Force Bayonet strongholds in Panama's Pacific region Christmas day, to speak with and congratulate soldiers who fought in operation "Just Cause."

"This has been one of the finest operations the Army has ever performed. This was so complex when you look at the total force involved," Gates said. "All the planning can be done upstairs, but it's the men and women who wear the flak jackets that execute these missions."

Gates' tour started with a 6 a.m. breakfast with two soldiers and the

command sergeants major from each Task Force Bayonet unit at the Balboa Department of National Investigations (DENI) Station. The DENI was a primary target during the initial attack because of its location. The DENI is centered between major Pacific U.S. installations, and is a main traffic control point.

The Task Force Bayonet soldiers were from the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry; 5th Battalion, 87th Infantry; 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry, 5th Infantry Division; Military Police Command and the 470th Military Intelligence Battalion. Task Force Bayonet units are under the command and control of the 193rd Infantry Brigade (Light).

After breakfast, Gates toured the former Panama Defense Forces' barracks at Fort Amador. He viewed Manuel Noriega's office, lounge, conference room and personal quarters.

From Fort Amador, Gates went to Balboa High School to tour the refugee center. He also spoke with medics from the 4/6th Infantry who have manned an aid station there since the initial assault.

"You have been outstanding," Gates told the medics. "The wounded were taken care of by the best. Some of your medics should receive the combat medical badge."

Albrook Air Force Station was Gates' next stop. He saw "every weapon imaginable" at the equipment processing and storage

facility. Weapons and equipment confiscated from PDF include: mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, assault rifles and Noriega's armored limousine.

His final stop was the Comandancia in Panama City. Gates saw first-hand the destructive power of the task force.

"I'll bet this got their attention," Gates said, as he pointed to a column of shell holes in the roof. "This is impressive work."

Throughout his tour, Gates relayed the same message to all of the task force soldiers.

"The heart of Christmas is giving, and no one has given as much as you have," he said. "To put your life on the line for democracy, your country and the people of Panama — nobody has given a greater gift."

Noriega's luxurious retreats yield blood, drugs

PANAMA CITY, Panama (Reuter) - Private retreats of fugitive strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega were shown to reporters Friday including a house where four Brazilian witches did his bidding, and a house containing cocaine, blood, pornography and a photo of Adolf Hitler.

The "Witch House," on the Panamanian side of Fort Amador, contained some 50 pounds of cocaine, a bucket of blood, voodoo artifacts and a brewery for making concoctions and potions, said Col. Mike Snell, who was in charge of the area.

It was not known what kind of blood it was or what the potions were used for.

The Army apparently just missed capturing the four witches, said Lt. Curtis Vinyard. "There was still a candle burning," he said. (Military sources said Thursday that Noriega may have been in the house just minutes before its capture.) Reporters also were taken to two offices that Noriega used that also contained unusual collections of items.

His Fort Amador office had such things as two display cases full of plastic frogs, framed pictures of Hitler, Mother Teresa and Muammar Gaddafi and dozens of electronic toys.

At his downtown former headquarters office, U.S. officials showed reporters Christmas trees, more electronics and more frogs.

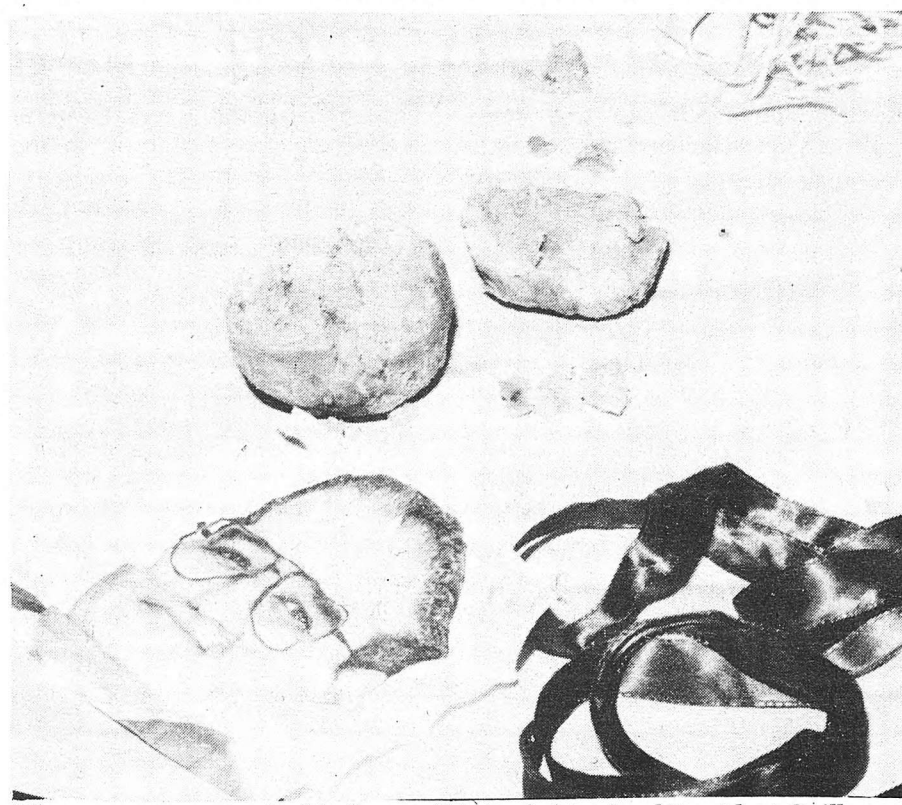
U.S. officials said they also found a Torah, the scrolls used in prayer services in the Jewish religion, Russian vodka, pornography -- including photos of large-breasted women -- and his private brand of cigars and champagne.

Signs of luxury were everywhere, including Noriega's Mercedes-Benz. At his headquarters was a 30-foot French-style, marble dining room.

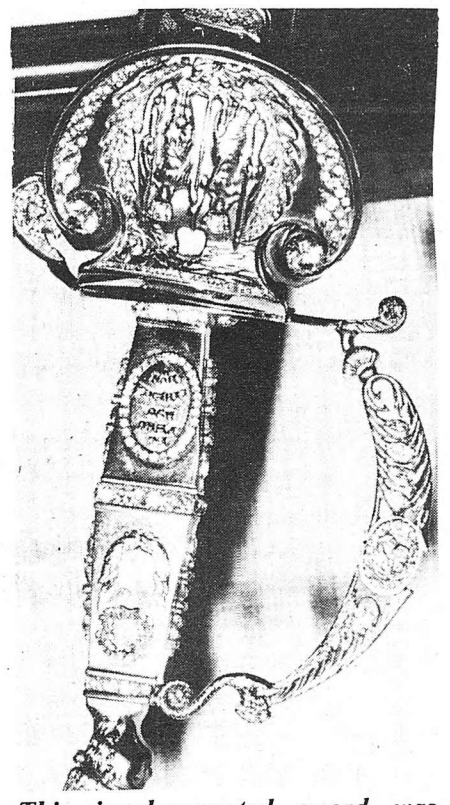
U.S. intelligence officials scoured the offices in the hope of finding records that would help trace Noriega's assets.



Noriega's office at Fort Amador. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)



These are remnants of a binding spell intended to cloud President Guillermo Endara's thinking and prevent him from taking action. The materials were found in Noriega's home on the causeway. (U.S. Army photo by Spec. Daniel L. Bean)



This jewel-encrusted sword was among many of the weapons found at Noriega's house. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)

Conténian brujería y cocaína

Se rovelan rarezas en guaridas de Noriega

PANAMA (Reuter) — Algunas guaridas privadas del fugitivo otrora hombre fuerte Panameño Manuel Antonio Noriega fueron enseñadas a reporteros el Viernes, incluyendo una casa donde cuatro brujas Brasileras sequían sus órdenes y una casa con cocaína, sangre,

pornografía, y una foto de Adolf Hitler.

La "Casa Bruja," in el lado Panameño de Fuerte amador, contenía unas 50 libras de cocaína, un balde de sangre, artefactos de vudu y una destiladora para preparar pociones y mezclas señaló el

encargado del área, Coronel Mike Snell.

No se supo que tipo de sangre era o para que se usaban las pociones.

Aparentemente el ejército por poco captura a las cuatro brujas, dijo el Teniente Curtis Vinyars. "Todavía estaba encendida una vela," señaló.

(Fuentes militares dijeron el Martes que Noriega pudo haber estado en la casa pocos minutos antes de la captura de la misma).

Los periodistas también visitaron dos oficinas que Noriega usaba que también contenían una rara colección de objetos.

Su oficina de Fuerte Amador tenía cosas tales como dos vitrinas con sapos de plástico, cuadros de Hitler, Madre Teresa, y Muammar Gaddafi, y docenas de juguetes electrónicos.

En la oficina de su antiguo cuartel ciudadano, oficiales Estadounidenses le mostraron a los reporteros arbolitos navideños, más electrónica, y más sapos.

Oficiales Estadounidenses dicen que también encontraron un Torah, los pergaminos utilizados en los rezos de la religion Judía, vodka ruso, pornografía -- incluyendo fotos de mujeres de senos grandes -- y su marca privada de cigarros y champaña.

El lujo era evidente en todos lados, incluyendo en su Mercedes Benz. En su cuartel había un comedor estilo Francés de mármol de 30 pies de largo.

Oficiales de inteligencia escudriñaron las oficinas con esperanza de encontrar archivos que ayuden a rastrear las riquezas de Noriega.



Voodoo and witchcraft materials found at Noriega's "Bucket of Blood" house at Fort Amador. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)

U.S. news

'Ole Man Winter' freezes Deep South

NEW YORK (AP) — The Deep South's deep freeze began abating Tuesday, melting Christmas snow that fell as far south as the Gulf Coast, but thousands of people were without water as frozen, cracked water pipes and mains thawed and leaked.

Temperatures stayed below freezing overnight throughout much of the South. It was 30 degrees in Jacksonville, Fla., at 4 a.m. EST. But temperatures were expected to reach the 60s in the Carolinas by the end of the week, the National Weather Service said.

A new cold front, not as severe as the one that set hundreds of low temperature records last week, swung down from Canada and snow fell Tuesday in an arc from Indiana and Kentucky to Maine, the National Weather Service said.

West of that air mass, the weather was mild in many places and Dickinson, N.D., had a reading of 36 above zero at 6 a.m.

During the weekend, a rare Southern blizzard brought up to 15 inches of snow to Wilmington, N.C.,

the most ever measured there, but much of that was expected to melt Tuesday with highs in the 40s. It was the first white Christmas in more than a century in the coastal city, in Georgia and in Mobile, Ala., on the Gulf Coast. Snow also dusted northern Florida.

Citrus growers in Florida and Texas reported extensive crop damage.

Officials in Texas estimated 70 percent of the state's citrus crop and 80 percent of the winter vegetable crop was destroyed when the temperatures plunged into the low

20s and upper teens as the holiday weekend began.

Citrus losses are estimated at \$200 million so far and could top \$500 million as trees begin to show effects from the freeze, said David Galvan, district director of the Texas Department of Agriculture in Brownsville.

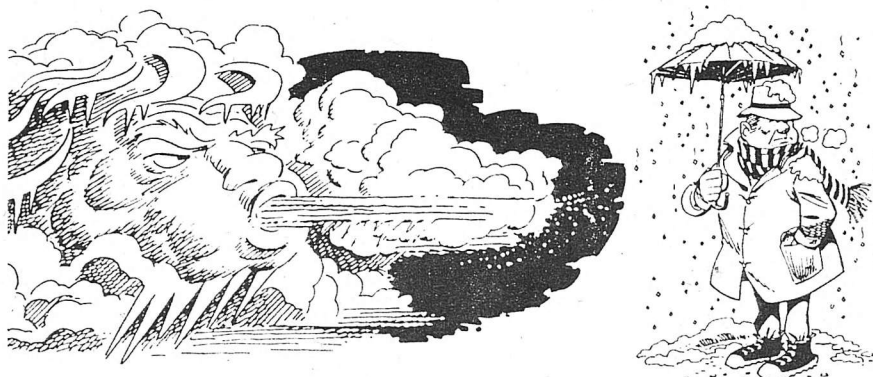
Florida officials hadn't released citrus loss figures yet Tuesday, but damage is likely to be substantial to the state's \$3.5 billion crop since much of it was still on the trees when freezing temperatures began Saturday. Strawberry crops suffered

less damage.

In South Carolina, airlines resumed normal schedules at Charleston Tuesday after reducing flights because of the snow, an airport spokeswoman said. The Myrtle Beach Jetport, closed for a third straight day Monday, also was expected to resume operations sometime later Tuesday; the jetport can operate only during daylight because runway lights are covered with snow, said Todd Crawford, deputy airport director.

In Florida, Mike Mahoney, spokesman for Tampa Electric Co., appealed to families in a six-county area to shut off Christmas tree lights to save energy. Other Florida utilities imposed rotating brownouts, and in some cases, blackouts.

More than 60,000 homes and businesses in Jackson, Miss., were without water or had greatly reduced pressure because of water-main breaks and because the Pearl River had frozen around intakes for the municipal water system. The city government was closed because of the water problem.



Christmas Eve blaze kills 16, injures 50 others

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (UPI) — Fire officials blamed the lack of sprinklers inside a 10-story retirement home for the deaths of 16 people in a Christmas Eve blaze, and the building's owner said, "We wish we'd put in sprinklers now."

At least 50 people were injured by the Christmas Eve fire, which erupted just after dark on the first floor of the John Sevier Center as elderly residents of the apartment house gathered with loved ones to celebrate the holiday.

Black smoke poured up the elevator shaft throughout the 65-year-old brick building, and the residents, many using walkers, canes or crutches, crowded the stairwells to escape, officials said.

Ronald McDavid, one of the center's 145 residents, said he helped three friends flee through smoke so

thick "you couldn't see a hand in front of your face."

"It worried me that there weren't sprinkler systems," he said Monday. "A lot of my friends didn't make it. They were elderly and crippled."

One resident still had not been accounted for Monday. But officials said they believe that resident is out of the state visiting relatives.

"I can't think of a worse time to have a fire, but we may have been fortunate since many residents may have been away visiting for the holidays," said P.C. Snapp, the mayor of this Appalachian city of 50,000. "There hasn't been a worse tragedy in Johnson City history."

Fire Chief Doug Buckles said Monday investigators believe the fire was accidental but had not determined its cause.

The fire was contained to the

bottom two floors, and most of the victims died of smoke inhalation, he said. Among the 16 dead were two relatives visiting the center for Christmas Eve. Four people were found dead in the hallway outside an exit on the sixth floor.

Buckles said the building was converted from a hotel into government subsidized housing for the elderly in 1977 before Tennessee law required buildings to install sprinkler systems.

"There was no sprinkler protection, but there were smoke alarms in each room. As we started going into upper levels, we started finding bodies," Buckles said.

Fire Marshal George Leonard said inspectors last checked the building in January 1989 and found no violations.

"But if the building were built

today, it would have to have major modifications to meet the code," Leonard said. "Sprinklers would have saved lives."

Grant Trivett, whose family owns the building, said he never installed sprinkler systems because "we really always felt comfortable with the building in the past."

"But we were in the process of getting ready to install sprinklers in the spring after the bad weather. It was going to cost around \$100,000. The money was set aside. But our plan wasn't expedient enough," Trivett said.

"We wish we'd put in sprinklers now. We've had a fire from time to time and it never was really a serious problem. We're just stunned that the devastation occurred like it has. I wish it was a merry Christmas, but it's certainly not."

It's almost income tax time again - don't forget!

WASHINGTON (UPI) — An estimated 100 million federal income tax forms for 1989 were mailed Tuesday, and this year taxpayers have an extra day to settle their bill with Uncle Sam, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Tax forms were printed in October and November and, in virtually all cases, were held for mailing by the Postal Service until the day after Christmas, said IRS spokesman Steve Pyrek. Tax returns are due on Monday, April 16, next year because the

traditional April 15 deadline is Sunday.

The Treasury Department estimated the federal government will receive \$480 billion in returns for personal income taxed in 1989. Personal income returns account for 50.7 percent of all taxes received by the government.

Pyrek said 72 million people will use the 1040 Blue Form and half will itemize. Seventy-five percent of filers received a refund last year and the average payback was \$875. The vast majority of

returns are received on time, said Pyrek.

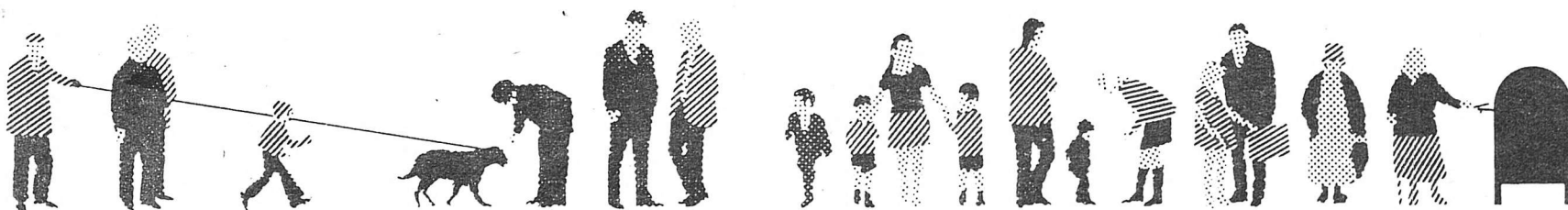
Tax forms basically look the same as last year, but those eligible for certain medical benefits, particularly senior citizens, should ignore the line item for a supplemental Medicare surtax.

The measure, which would have required about 10 million people to pay a tax on a formula of certain Medicare benefits, was repealed by Congress this year. This was to have been the first year of the surtax and the IRS said

it will mail explanatory material about its cancellation.

The IRS said it expects to receive about 111 million individual income tax returns for 1989. Almost 20 million single wage earners will use the 1040 EZ and 20 million other filers will use the 1040 A Form, said Pyrek.

About half of all returns usually are completed by a paid preparer, and Pyrek said peak filings generally occur in February and just before the mid-April deadline.



FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEADLINE

U.S. news

Noriega aide surrenders; faces arraignment

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A top aide to former Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega surrendered to U.S. military forces in Panama and was flown to Miami to face arraignment on drug charges Tuesday, the Justice Department said.

Luis Del Cid is one of five Panamanians, including Noriega, named in 1988 indictments. Del Cid was charged with cocaine trafficking and money laundering in an indictment filed in Miami, said Justice Department spokeswoman Deborah Burstion-Wade.

Eleven Colombians also have been charged in the Miami and Tampa, Fla., indictments.

Burstion-Wade said Del Cid turned himself in to the U.S. forces in Panama Monday. He was arrested by federal Drug Enforcement Agency officials and then flown to Miami, where he was being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Institute.

Del Cid was expected to be arraigned in federal court sometime before 2 p.m. EST, Burstion-Wade said.

In Panama, witnesses said Del Cid announced Friday at 5th military zone headquarters in the western town of San Andres that he would

give up and surrender troops under his control.

"He recognized the errors that the regiment had committed and accepted whatever punishment for

Solid case against Del Cid

MIAMI (UPI) — The U.S. attorney for south Florida said Tuesday he is confident federal prosecutors have enough evidence to convict a top aide to former Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega on drug trafficking charges.

Luis Del Cid, one of five Panamanians, including Noriega, named in 1988 indictments, was scheduled to be arraigned late Tuesday morning before U.S. District Judge William M. Hoeveler.

At a news conference before the court appearance, U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen said prosecutors have a solid case against Del Cid and two others named in the Florida indictments and currently in federal custody.

All together, 16 people are named in the indictments. Eleven Colombians also have been charged in federal courts in Miami and Tampa, Fla.

"Luis Del Cid and others were importing cocaine into our country

his actions," San Andres resident Avelino Saldana Guerra said.

"He said he decided to surrender so there would be no more bloodshed. He was very, very

and destroying our children," Lehtinen said. "We're confident that we have the evidence to convict them."

Del Cid is charged with racketeering, drug trafficking and conspiracy to traffic in cocaine in four counts of the indictment. He faces a possible prison sentence of 70 years, Lehtinen said.

The indictment alleges that Del Cid acted as an emissary and courier for Noriega, who was toppled from power last week during a U.S. invasion of the Central American nation.

Lehtinen refused to say whether his office had discussed a possible deal with Del Cid.

Del Cid turned himself in to U.S. forces in Panama Monday. He was arrested by federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents and then flown to Miami, where he was being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Institute.

nervous. His hands were trembling and his face was pale. The crowd applauded him."

Panama does not have an extradition treaty with the United States, but since Del Cid surrendered, DEA agents were able to spirit him immediately to Miami to face charges.

"We are pleased to have gotten one of the high-ranking Panamanians we have been seeking in this country. We are hoping we will get others. Whether in fact we take possession of them or not depends on conditions in Panama," said David Runkel, spokesman for Attorney General Richard Thornburgh.

Del Cid was "one of Noriega's key people" in the Panamanian Defense Forces, Runkel said.

Noriega surrendered Sunday to the Vatican's diplomatic representative in Panama and asked for political asylum. He has been seeking asylum in a number of foreign countries, trying to avoid extradition to the United States.

President Bush had said one of the principal goals of the invasion of Panama last week by nearly 26,000 U.S. troops was to capture Noriega and bring him to the United States to face charges of drug trafficking and racketeering.

Exxon crews continue search for missing worker

BATON ROUGE, La. (UPI) — Exxon work crews searched the burned-out rubble of several fuel storage tanks Tuesday for a worker missing since a spectacular Christmas Eve explosion rocked a refinery, leaving one known dead and at least five others injured.

It took firefighters 15 hours, until Christmas morning, to put out the flames resulting from the explosion Sunday, which torched millions of gallons of fuel and shattered windows up to 6 miles away.

A Exxon spokeswoman said

Busey now supports using bike helmets

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Gary Busey, recovering from a severe head injury he suffered in a motorcycle accident, says he has changed his mind and now advocates the use of helmets.

"Next time you're doing 45 mph, look at the curb and think about slam-dancing with it once, and you'll start thinking about helmets," Busey said recently on the "Arsenio Hall Show."

Busey was not wearing a helmet a year ago when his motorcycle struck a curb in Culver City, resulting in a severe head injury. In the months following the accident, he insisted on his right not to wear head protection while biking.

Before the accident, Busey and others helped defeat a proposed state law forcing motorcycle riders to wear helmets.

But during the appearance on the syndicated television show, Busey told Hall he had a change of heart.

"I have a whole new attitude about helmeting, my attitude now is becoming helmet-conscious, to wear one," Busey said. The actor, who needed rehabilitation to recover from the injury, said he reflected on the safety of young riders.

company officials had not immediately realized that one of its employees was missing.

"He had been (listed as) accounted for at the time of the explosion and now we learn that he is unaccounted for," spokeswoman Carolyn Courtney said. "We are conducting an extensive search. His family has been notified, and the family is being updated as to the status of the search, but we are not releasing his name at this time."

Explosion

The explosion may have been caused by a gas leak in a fuel storage tank, but it is too soon to determine exactly what happened, Exxon officials said.

"It's going to take us some time to ascertain what happened," Exxon spokesman Dave Gardner said.

The explosion occurred in a field of storage tanks, known as a tank farm, and did not seriously threaten the plant's refinery, the second-largest in the nation with a refining capacity of 455,000 barrels a day.

The initial blast killed Harold Guillory, 30, of Irwinville, a contract worker whose pickup truck was engulfed by flame as he drove by at the instant of the explosion, said Chuck Smith at the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office.

Guillory was employed by Vernon McKenny Enterprise, a subcontracting company doing work at the 2,200-acre refinery.

Three Exxon employees were treated at hospitals and released Sunday, plant manager Ed Galante said.

"Numerous employees had cuts and bruises, but didn't go to hospitals," Galante said.

Initial blast

The initial blast at 1:30 p.m. Sunday was felt up to 15 miles away and was heard as far as 50 miles away. Several smaller explosions

followed as the fire spread through eight storage tanks containing more than 4 million gallons of heating oil and lubricants before it was contained.

About 50 members of the National Guard, as well as state and local

The explosion occurred in a field of storage tanks, known as a tank farm, and did not seriously threaten the plant's refinery, the second largest in the nation with a refining capacity of 455,000 barrels a day.

police, patrolled areas within 2 miles of the plant to guard against possible

looting of stores whose plate glass fronts were blown out.

The fire sent a dense plume of sooty smoke drifting southeastward over the city, but state Department of Environmental Quality experts said there was no toxicity associated with the cloud.

By Christmas night, Exxon had reported receiving about 400 calls from area residents who called to report minor blast damage, mostly broken windows.

The storage tank field where the explosion occurred is within a few hundred yards of the Mississippi River and about a mile from any residential area.

The explosion shattered windows in the state capitol and blew down the doors of the garage of the governor's mansion, both of which are little more than a mile from the blast site.

Galante said he did not expect the fire to have any effect on heating oil supplies. He said the plant had shut down most of its operations.

Retired cop kills spouse

CHICAGO (UPI) — A retired police officer who feared that heart surgery would render him unable to care for his chronically ill wife faced murder charges Tuesday in the woman's Christmas Eve slaying.

Former Chicago police officer Gerald Williams, 67, told investigators he shot his wife in the head to end her suffering. Alice Williams, 67, was killed by a shot from a .38-caliber revolver as she sat in her wheelchair.

Gerald Williams was charged with first-degree murder.

Alice Williams suffered from multiple sclerosis, a crippling disease of the nervous system. Friends said she had the disease for 20 years and that her condition was deteriorating.

"She only came out in the summer. She would sit out on the front porch," said a neighbor, Marie Kitzmiller. "She was totally confined to a wheelchair, and she had taken a turn for the worse in the last six months."

"I know Gerry was taking her to the doctors quite frequently. ... He was a very loving, caring man. He took care of her from morning until night, around the clock," Kitzmiller said.

Recently, Williams was told he needed a coronary bypass operation and no longer would be able to take care of his wife, police Sgt. Fred Bonke said.

Williams retired from the Chicago Police Department six years ago as a patrolman at the Deering District.

Cuba complains to U.N.

UNITED NATIONS, (Reuter) — The President of the Security Council said Tuesday he had received complaints that U.S. troops were holding Cuban diplomats in Panama virtual prisoners in their embassy.

Colombia's U.N. Ambassador Enrique Penalosa, this month's president of the council, told Reuters Tuesday that Cuban officials in Panama and elsewhere had telephoned him about the alleged U.S. actions around the embassy.

"They say they are virtual prisoners in their own mission," Penalosa said. "The (Cuban) ambassador says he has been warned (by U.S. forces) that if he tries to leave he will be arrested."

74 stranded on Coiba

Prisoners ask for help

PANAMA CITY (Reuter) — Soldiers who took part in an October coup attempt in Panama were stranded on a prison island and asking to be rescued by U.S. invasion forces, a relative of one officer said Monday.

Juan Domingo Diaz, a cousin of Capt. Luis Sanchez, told Reuters that Sanchez and 74 other Panamanian soldiers were stranded on Isla de Coiba, off the Pacific coast of Panama.

The men were imprisoned on Coiba last October for participating in the unsuccessful coup attempt against Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, Diaz said.

Noriega, on the run since U.S. forces invaded last Wednesday, is now holed up in the Vatican Embassy in Panama City,

surrounded by U.S. troops.

"The man in charge of the prison, a Capt. Solis, left with all the boats, went to Veraguas province with his men and surrendered to the American soldiers," Diaz said by telephone. Veraguas is about 180 miles west of Panama City.

Diaz said the prisoners took over the barracks and tried to call U.S. army Gen. Mark Cisneros but failed to get through.

Diaz said Sanchez managed to contact a ham radio operator, who passed the rescue plea to the captain's wife Jimara de Sanchez.

Diaz then called news organizations and asked them to spread the word about the stranded prisoners. Diaz said the men are well, and have food, but would like to go home.



SWEARING-IN CEREMONY — Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon (top center), the First Vice-President of the Republic of Panama and Minister of Government and Justice, conducted a swearing-in ceremony Saturday for several hundred men joining the new Police Force and Transit Department. Calderon exhorted the men, most of them rank and file personnel of the now defunct Panama Defense Forces, to uphold and respect the Panamanian constitution, respect human rights, and to fully serve the Panamanian people. He also used the occasion to announce the appointments of Col. Roberto Armijo as Commander of the Public Security Force and Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan as Deputy Commander. (U.S. Air Force photos by TSgt. Kenneth Pagel)



Red underwear fails to ward off 'evil eye'

PANAMA CITY, (Reuter) — The United States Tuesday portrayed Manuel Antonio Noriega after the U.S. invasion as an isolated, exhausted man on the run, wearing "red underwear" to protect himself and barely able to speak when he reached sanctuary at the Vatican embassy.

The U.S. Southern Command said that after interviews with former Panamanian military officers now in U.S. custody, it is convinced Noriega's own thoughts from the moment U.S. troops invaded was to save his own skin.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Noriega had no control over the armed resistance to the invasion, which began last Wednesday. Before Noriega sought refuge Sunday at the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Panama City, Gen. Maxwell Thurman, who commanded the U.S. invasion forces, had said he believed the resistance to the 25,000 U.S. troops was not disorganized.

"It is clear that Noriega was never in command of the PDF (Panama Defense Forces) during the battle, because he was too busy trying to save his own skin and was moving around constantly," Williams said.

A statement by the Southern Command said that just prior to the U.S. attack, Noriega was visiting a military facility in Panama's second city, Colon.

"He was aware of increased U.S. Air Force activity but discounted the notion of an attack, passing the increased activity off as more U.S.

posturing," the communique said.

It said Noriega returned to Panama City Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. near the military side of Omar Torrijos airport.

When the military airport was attacked at 1 a.m. Dec. 20, the U.S. report said, Noriega drove away from the area and evaded U.S. forces by driving around the city in circles.

The U.S. military communique said Noriega moved around a lot but allegedly spent most of his time at the home of a relative of one of his close associates. He said he avoided

contact with other Panamanian officers, fearing a trap.

The communique said that while on the run Noriega lost his voodoo paraphernalia which he thought ward off evil. It said that one source close to Noriega said the former Panamanian leader even wore red underwear to ward off the "evil eye".

"It didn't work," one U.S. military official said.

Noriega avoided capture for more than four days before he sought refuge in the Vatican's embassy.

plunging Washington into a morass of diplomatic negotiations over his fate.

President Bush wants Noriega brought to the United States to stand trial on charges of drug-trafficking. The Vatican has refused to turn him over.

According to U.S. military officials here, U.S. troops barely missed capturing Noriega on several occasions, including once a few hours before he turned himself over to the papal nuncio.

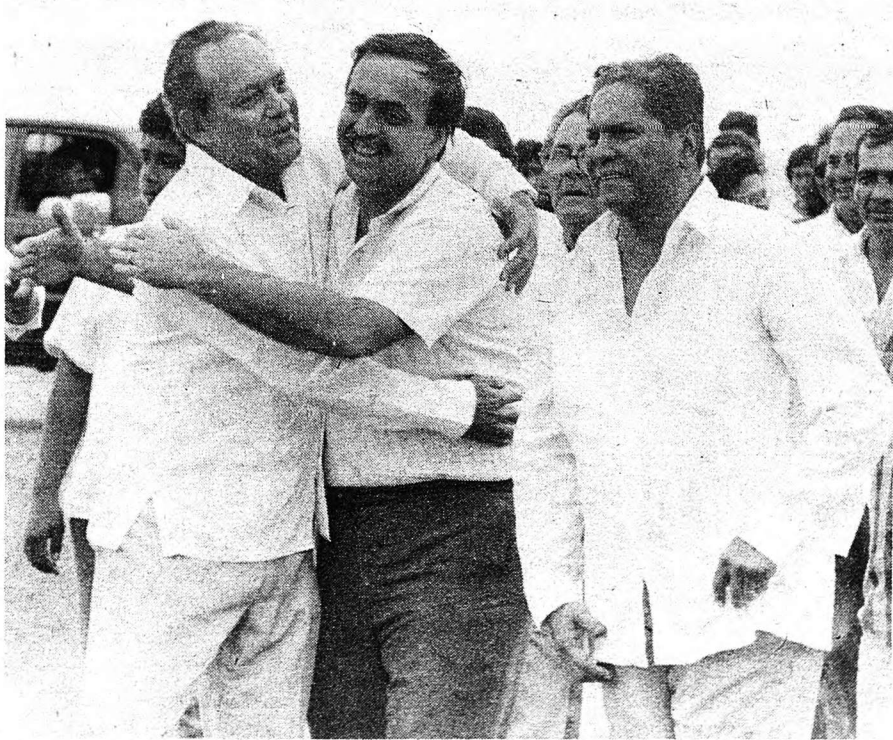
The communique also said Noriega refused to leave Panama City despite pleas from close associates. It said Noriega did not flee to the countryside to lead guerrilla attacks against U.S. troops because of concern over his health.

Noriega made the decision to hand himself over to the papal nuncio, according to the communique, when he heard that Lt. Col. Luis del Cid had surrendered to the Americans.

Del Cid, who was named in the same Florida indictment as Noriega, was flown to the United States Monday and faces drug charges.

Williams, who accompanied Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney on a Christmas visit to the invasion force, quoted a Noriega bodyguard who had turned himself in to U.S. authorities as saying Noriega had no rest while U.S. troops relentlessly pursued him.

"When he finally got to the Vatican's embassy there in Panama City he was said to be so exhausted from the chase that he could barely speak," Williams said.



Panamanians celebrate after hearing that General Noriega turned himself over to the Vatican Embassy. (DoD Media Pool photo)

Colon 'reborn' following U.S. intervention

story and photos
by Cpl. J. Andrew Malcolm

COLON, PANAMA (5th Public Affairs Det) — Panama Defense Forces and members of local dignity battalions continue to turn themselves and their weapons over to American combat troops occupying the city. Others continue to hold out, engaging American forces with sporadic sniper fire.

As American forces continue to patrol the streets of Colon, a new city council has been formed, a new provincial governor selected, and the city's police force is being reorganized. The city of Colon is being reborn under the supervision of American fighting forces.

When soldiers first entered the city, they were met by Panamanian citizens and dozens of PDF troops who turn themselves over to the American force. Now there seems to be little fight left in the Panamanian troops who held out during the first few days of the conflict. Routinely, they arrive at U.S.-held positions to turn themselves over to the contingent securing the city.

Following fighting with members of the Panamanian naval infantry unit at Coco Solo, members of the 7th Infantry Division's (Light) 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry entered Colon expecting more fighting. To their surprise, there was almost no

resistance by the local PDF faction.

In support of the U.S. soldiers in Colon, citizens of the city, have inundated the soldiers with information on the whereabouts of suspected PDF members and weapons stashes. With the help of the citizens, the Americans have all but crushed any resistance in the second-largest Panamanian city.

"We can accomplish the mission with the help of the Panamanian people," explained Sgt. John Medrano, an infantry squad leader assigned to Company C, 4-17 Inf. "The people are trying to help us solve the problem here."

Previously guarded by U.S. soldiers, security for the area of Colon known as the Free Zone has been turned over to local store owners and has allowed for American forces to be used in more urgent situations.

Soldiers will continue to patrol the city day and night. Once the new Colon police force has been established, American military police will be joined by Panamanian security forces to conduct joint patrols.

As the new city government continues to grow, and as the Panamanian government continues to grow, both Americans and Panamanians agree that the need for U.S. forces on the streets of Colon will soon diminish.



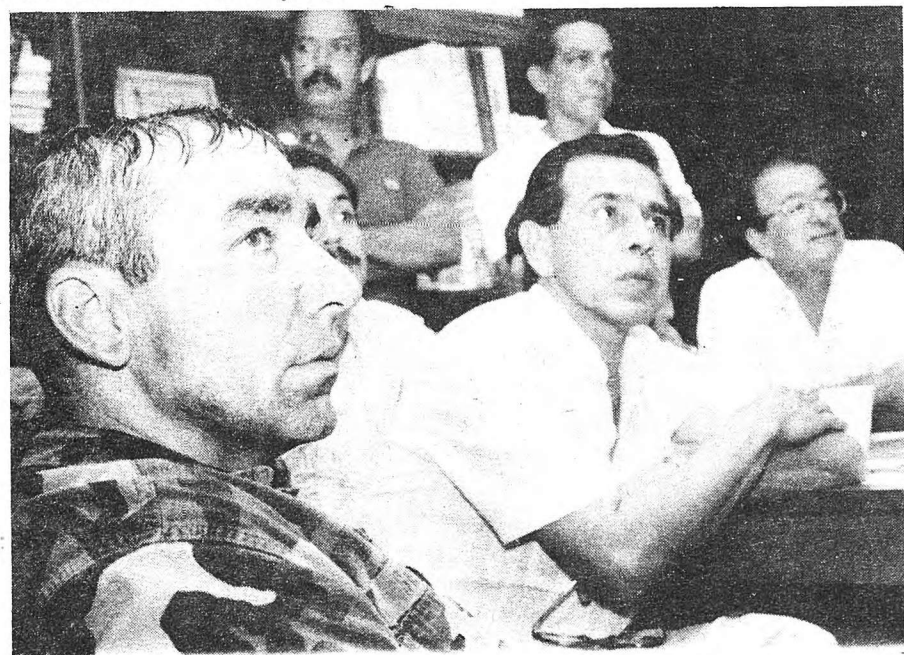
A 7th Inf. Div. (Light) soldier patrols a street in Colon.



A 7th Inf. Div. soldier is embraced by a Panamanian woman after order was restored to the streets of Colon.



A medic attached to the 7th Inf. Div. (Light) bandages the foot of a Colon resident.



Lt. Col. Johnny Brooks, Commander of the 4th Bn, 17th Infantry, meets with members of the new Colon City Council.



Panamanian children gather in the streets of Colon cheering and dancing following word of Manuel Noriega's surfacing.

10,000 seek refuge at Balboa High School

by Spec. Bob Blocher

BALBOA, Panama (USARSO PAO) — A band of glowing color broke through the gray drizzle Christmas morning, a promise of hope. Alberto Morales poked through damp cinders, hoping to find dry kindling.

What remained of his charred home wasn't safe to return to. But he was grateful; he had his family.

Alberto, his wife and seven children live on a 10-foot section of sidewalk at the Balboa High School refugee center, with about 10,000 other people. The Army set up the center during operation "Just Cause" to house the anticipated victims of the U.S.-Panamanian conflict.

Although the Panama Defense Forces were quickly smashed during the U.S. effort to oust Manuel Noriega, heavy fighting set fire to poor neighborhoods near the PDF Comandancia, killing civilians and driving thousands from their homes.

People seeking refuge were screened by military police before entering the refugee center. A 30-person team of refugees collected personal information and issued camp-access cards. While bands of rifle-bearing looters trashed Panama City, refugees felt safe inside their haven.

"My family is protected here," Alberto said. "I'm happy we can be together, and our basic needs are being met."

To meet those needs, the U.S. Army South Deputy Chief of Staff Resource Management, Col. William J. Connolly, directed a network of Army agencies and civilian contractors.

"Our first objective, after providing people a secure area to live, was to feed them," Connolly said.

At first, Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs) were distributed twice daily, compliments of the 41st Area Support Group, U.S. Army South. Although Alberto said he enjoyed the meals, he later confessed that American military delicacies are an acquired taste.

"We're used to Panamanian food," Alberto joked. "But the children love them, especially the candy."

The recent addition of mobile kitchen trailers provided one hot meal daily. As refugees leave the mess line, they still pick up a plastic "brown-bag" dinner, just like soldiers.

Red Cross and volunteer nurses provided most refugees' medical needs. For more serious problems, however, U.S. medics were quick to help.

A collocated battalion aid station, manned by 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and USARSO's 142nd Medical Battalion treated patients nurses couldn't.

"We treat as many as we can without hindering our primary mission—soldiers," said Sgt. Lloyd Rockmore, a 142nd medic. "You've got to feel sorry for these people; they've been through a lot."

"A lot of them were caught in heavy fighting around the Comandancia and the fire it caused," explained 2nd Lt. Steven Middlecamp, the 142nd's treatment platoon leader.

In addition, Alberto's wife said the PDF shot refugees attempting to flee the battle. "They had rows of children lined up, and just shot them—like Nazis," she said.

Medics treated wounds ranging from mortar shrapnel to scrapes and bruises. They applied antibiotics to glass cuts and treated sick children.

To ensure no further medical problems developed in the crowded center, preventive medicine specialists from the 142nd oversaw water points, showers, latrines and waste disposal operations. The Department of Engineering and Housing converted milvans (tractor trailers) into latrines to augment contracted portalet units.

Once peoples' basic needs were met, Connolly's team pushed refugees toward self-service to ensure

they didn't become too dependent on foreign aid. "We want to instill a sense of community," Connolly said.

Refugees regained charge of their lives by assuming camp duties like in-processing, passing out meals and latrine detail.

Mayoral elections introduced refugees to self-government. Sergio Galvez won the popular vote, and immediately started regrouping the camp into six communities, each with an elected government. Each community was made of people with similar housing problems. For example, one community was people who came from burned-out houses, another from high-rise apartments. "It allowed people with like concerns

to voice their needs," Connolly said. It will also help Connolly's staff organize help for rebuilding lost neighborhoods.

One hope all refugees hold in common is the dream of rebuilding. And not only their homes and lives, they want to rebuild their country.

"I want the whole world to know my feelings," Alberto said, choking back tears. "Some communist countries thought we were doing OK under Noriega. We had no work, no food, no freedom of expression; but mostly no happiness."

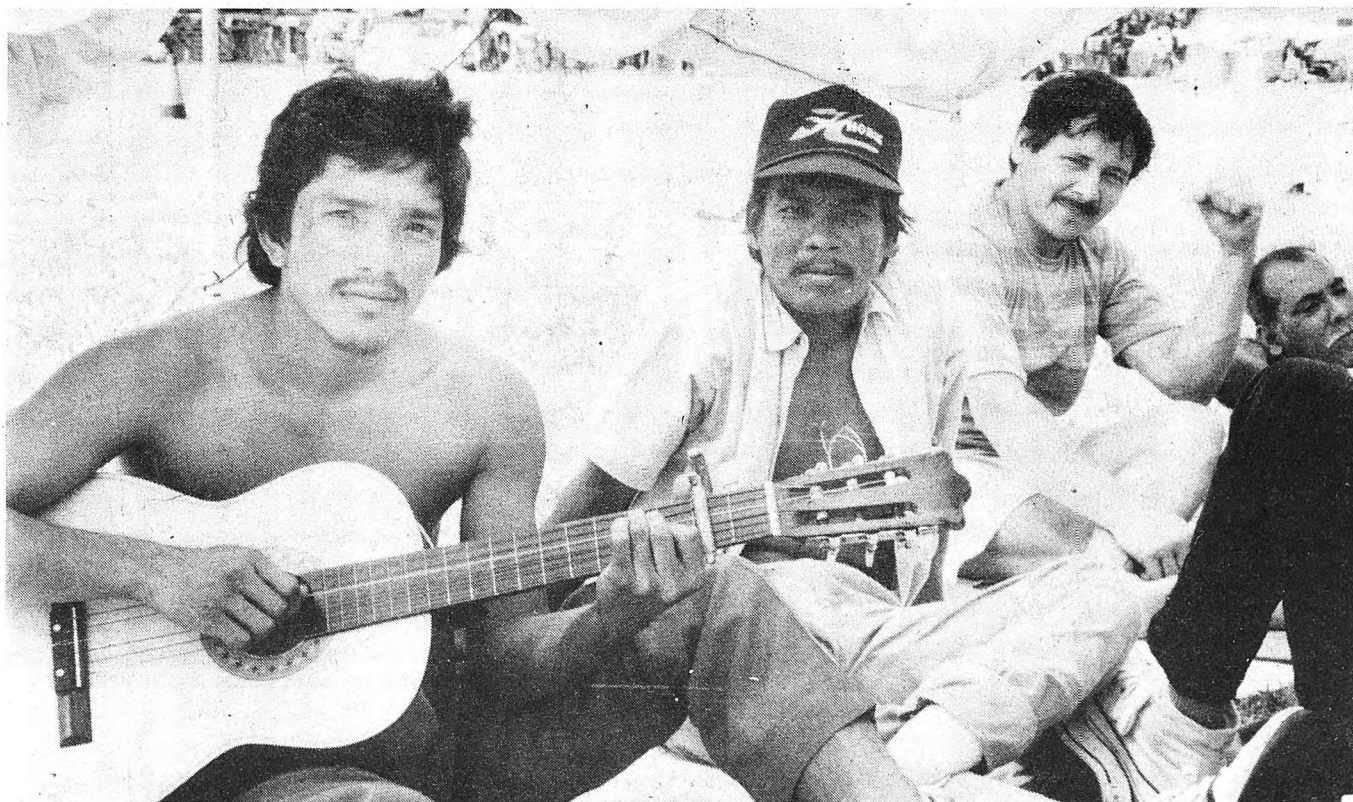
"I think President Bush did the right thing," Alberto didn't know how he would build a future, but he knew he was free. It was enough.



Refugees crowd into the Balboa High School gym. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)



A Panamanian woman cooks dinner for her family. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)



Panamanian refugees make the best of a bad situation with live music at the U.S. Army refugee center at Balboa High School. (U.S. Army photo by Spec. Bob Blocher)

24th Security Police guard detainees

by Sgt. Kirk Boyd

HOWARD AFB (24 COMPW PA) — When there are wars or armed conflicts, there are always prisoners of war. During Operation Just Cause POW is a word that doesn't exist. The new definition is detainees.

Since the operation started Wednesday, the United States forces have captured more than 3,000 detainees and have taken them to the Empire Range camp. A lot of detainees are flown through Howard.

The detainees are constantly guarded by approximately 150 24th Security Police Squadron's security personnel. "We are alerted as to when an aircraft is coming to Howard with detainees," said A1C Peter DeFrancesca, 24th SPS security.

"We then stand-by until the

aircraft lands. From there we make sure they are unloaded from the aircraft and onto a bus or van for shipment."

Detainees are usually blind-folded and have hand restraints on. The security police make sure they know exactly what to do and where to go. "We realize they are detainees, but we treat them with dignity," said SSgt. James Bennett Jr. "The main thing is making sure my people and myself stay safe."

If the prisoners are hurt, the 24th SPS transports them to the triage area for treatment. They are treated in a tent just for detainees, and then they are transported to the camp.

The security police treat the prisoners with respect, but at the same time, making sure the detainee realizes he is a prisoner. "We give them very concise instructions on what to do," DeFrancesca explained. "Since they are blind-folded we have

to ensure they know exactly what to do."

According to Bennett, "Most of the prisoners know they are in the enemy's hands. They seem to be very appreciative of us taking care of them."

Once the prisoners are taken off aircraft, they are transported to the detainee camp, if they are not hurt. Once at the camp, the security police hand them over to the custody of the military police. Detainees are then allowed to enter the camp where they will be maintained.

Detainees are part of any armed conflict, and it is no different in Panama. "We can at least show them they can be treated fairly," said SSgt. Steven Rivera. "One day they may look back and realize that even though they were a prisoner, the United States never took away their respect or dignity."



Sgt. James Entsminger, B Co., 705 Spt. Bn. (Mechanized), stands guard at the Comandancia. (U.S. Army photo by Spec. Paul L. Sweeney)



Woman gives soldier a drink of water. (Photo courtesy of DoD Media Pool)



Breakfast with the troops. (Photo courtesy of DoD Media Pool)



SSgt. Marvin Lide watches for Panama Defense Forces troops in Curundu housing area. (U.S. Army photo by SFC Cecil Stack)



7th Inf. Div. soldier patrols streets in downtown Panama City. (Photo courtesy of DoD Media Pool)

C-130 lives up to its 'workhorse' name

by A1C Michael Louis Amato

HOWARD AFB (24 COMPW PA) — The "workhorse of the Air Force" lives up to its name as C-130 Hercules aircraft here fly 24 hours a day, supporting Operation "Just Cause."

Six Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard C-130s are supporting the Army non-stop by delivering soldiers, fuel, cargo and other needs directly to units in the field.

The maintenance crews, pilots and navigators of Volant Oak, workhorses in their own right, keep C-130s airborne without any major mechanical problems. Currently, an Air National Guard unit from California and an Air Force Reserve unit from Mississippi have deployed to Volant Oak. Other units that assisted were from Missouri, Delaware and Texas, but they have since deployed back to the United States.

Between the two units, approximately 800 tons of cargo, 300 troops, and 1,500 detainees have been transported during 50 total sorties since the operation began, Wednesday.

"We've got terrific crews working here and they've been doing a super job supporting Operation Just Cause," said Maj. Dean I. Tucker, C-130 chief of current operations. "We've maintained 100 percent manning reliability even though we have been flying much longer hours. We haven't let the Army down thus far and we don't plan to."

The 146th Tactical Airlift Wing, Channel Island, Calif. ANG, arrived here Dec. 16 and will rotate out Dec. 30. "We sure didn't expect a conflict when we arrived here, but our pilots and maintenance crew performed remarkably," said Lt. Col. Boyd Carpenter, navigator with the 146th. "Our pilots and navigators also pulled some long hours, averaging 12 sorties a day."

"The maintenance crew of the 146th is a group of hard-working and dedicated people," said 1st Lt. Chris Bailey, maintenance officer. "We kept our shifts going sometimes up to 40 hours, yet our reliability and performance has remained top-notch."

"It's been so hectic due to the combat situation that we had to split the airfield into two sections; one for on-loading C-130s and one area (out near the fence) for returning aircraft. This has also split up our maintenance crew, making operations more difficult than usual. But we have responded very well."

The 146th deployed one of their C-130s to transport 49 wounded Army troops to Kelly AFB, Texas, and by the end of the day, had completed a 20-hour mission.

Along with the 146th, the 403rd Tactical Airlift Group Air Force Reserve Unit, Keesler AFB, Miss., arrived here Saturday. The 25-man unit flew three of their C-130s here with three more to follow Saturday, when the 146th leaves, completing the six aircraft rotation.

Maintenance worker SSgt. Donald Sco, who has been working 29 hours straight said, "The 403rd has been loading maintaining and flying C-130s since we arrived, some of us have been awake 40 hours. But we rotate and overlap our shifts so our performance stays high."

Another member of the crew, MSgt. Henry Thomas, spoke of his unit as if it were a championship football team. "Our guys work well States to Howard, to provide theater airlift support for the U.S. Southern Command. Three different aircraft rotate here every Saturday, to keep a balance of six."

The C-130 can carry more than 42,000 pounds of cargo and can accommodate 92 combat troops or 64 fully equipped paratroops on side-facing troop seats. For aeromedical evacuations, it can transport more than 74 patients and two medical attendants.

Day or night, the Hercules can land in short semi-prepared runways, such as those in the Panama area, where troops in the field can have relatively easy access to supplies and

reinforcements.

Sticking true to the name "workhorse of the Air Force," the C-130 Hercules, as well as the units of Volant Oak, have shown their mettle in support of Operation Just Cause. together, we're a closely-knit team and we will do whatever it takes to support Operation Just Cause.

Maintaining a C-130 aircraft to be ready for action at a moment's notice takes a qualified and cohesive group of people. And according to all the members of the 403rd, it's their trademark.

"We enjoy our work, whether its maintaining or repairing hydraulics, engines or avionics systems," Sergeant Thomas continued. "In our unit, there's several Vietnam War veterans and we even have one vet from the Korean War. We all believe in the mission and Operation Just Cause and are proud to be serving our country in Panama."

Volant Oak is the name for a continuing operation in which six Air Reserve Forces C-130 aircraft, aircrews and related support personnel deploy from the United



CAMOUFLAGE LESSON — PFC Patrick Coons, A Company 5/87th gives a lesson in camouflage to a child. (U.S. Army photo by Spec. Paul L. Sweeney)

142nd medics well-trained, now combat tested

by Spec. Bob Blocher

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO) — The medic lowered his eyes, replaying events in his mind, then whispered, "I was scared." Waiting was the worst part of PFC Juan

Gardner's introduction to combat medicine. It gave him time to worry.

He'd been in Panama only two months when U.S. troops were ordered to execute operation "Just Cause."

Gardner knew he was trained—all 142nd Medical Battalion medics are trained. But his skill was untested.

"I was scared at first, but I forgot about the shelling outside when patients started coming in," he said. Performing as trained, Gardner became confident in his ability to keep wounded soldiers alive. His fear dissolved.

Although most 142nd medics never tasted combat before the operation, aid stations ran smoothly, said PFC Jeremy Zemaitis, another 142nd medic. "We had no problems getting out, setting up and treating patients."

According to Zemaitis, the unit's success resulted from months of field training and mass casualty exercises.

Battalion aid stations received wounded soldiers and stabilized them for transport to Gorgas Army Hospital or the surgical center set up at Howard Air Force Base by the 44th Medical Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

"It was hectic, but we dealt with it. We did everything just like we were trained," Zemaitis said. "The hard part was keeping my mind on the patients instead of the shelling."

Medics shook off distractions by becoming involved in their work. "You have to get back to the ABCs of

medicine: Airway, Breathing and Circulation," explained 2nd Lt. Steven Middlecamp, treatment platoon leader.

The unit's solid medical practice ensured patients reached Gorgas or Howard alive. Sgt. Stoney Crump, a medical noncommissioned officer, illustrated how attention to detail was crucial to patients' lives.

Checking gunshot victims for exit wounds is critical, he explained. "All injuries aren't obvious. We had patients who were shot in the knee, for example," Crump said. "I couldn't find the exit wound on one patient's knee. I looked at the back of his knee, down his shin. I finally found it on his heel, and he was losing a lot of blood."

After cleaning and bandaging the wound, Crump sent the patient to Gorgas confident he'd survive the trip. All patients routed through his station reached Gorgas or Howard alive.

One-hundred-percent survival isn't Crump's goal, it's his standard. "If you mess up here, patients don't just take off the moulage (fake wounds) and go home," he said. With soldiers' lives depending on his skills, he performed to his standard.

Now Crump and the other 142nd medics are not only trained, they're combat tested.

Cuba says island will sink before abandoning socialism

HAVANA (Reuter) - Cuba's National Assembly passed a motion Tuesday saying the island would sink rather than abandon socialism.

The assembly, which approves laws, passes the state budget and supervises other official bodies, also approved a resolution condemning the U.S. invasion of Panama.

"The national assembly of people's power swore today on the memory of the nation's heroes that the island would sink into the sea before allowing the flags of the revolution and socialism to be pulled down," the domestic news agency AIN reported.

The motion was the latest in a series of recent statements by Cuban state institutions and leaders proclaiming allegiance to the one-party communist system introduced by President Fidel Castro following the revolution he led in 1959.

Castro has strongly rejected the Western-leaning political reforms being carried out by Cuba's traditional socialist allies in Eastern Europe.

The Cuban National Assembly reaffirmed key articles of Cuba's 1976 constitution which defines Cuba as a socialist state and the ruling Communist Party as "the Marxist-Leninist vanguard of the working class and the highest leading force of society and the state"

In its motion on Panama, the assembly called on national parliaments around the world to demand the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Panama.

It also condemned the presence of U.S. troops around the Cuban Embassy and Cuban ambassador's residence in Panama City.

Cheney discusses Operation Just Cause

PANAMA CITY, Panama (UPI) — U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said Monday he did not know when American soldiers would return home from Panama, and U.S. troops tightened security around the Vatican Embassy where deposed strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega has taken refuge.

Intense hourlong fighting erupted at dusk Monday in Central Panama City only 150 yards from the new government's offices and near the U.S. Embassy. As the fighting waned, a building across from the Cuban Embassy was engulfed in flames that could be seen more than 2 miles away as darkness fell.

U.S. troops spread out through the neighborhood, firing warning shots at anyone who approached sandbagged U.S. positions. Sources quoted by CNN said the shooting was the work of only two snipers who were killed in the exchange and said the fire was sparked by tracer bullets fired by the Americans.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Jan Edmonson described the firefight as the most sustained small-arms fire in several days.

Cheney, who held talks Monday with U.S.-installed President Guillermo Endara, said the American military had done its job by running Noriega out of power and now "the diplomats and the lawyers are working on the problem."

The defense secretary, who also made a Christmas Day visit to American troops, said it was difficult for him to tell when U.S. soldiers might be able to leave the Latin American country. American troops struck last Wednesday in an effort to seize Noriega.

"We'd like to let them go as quickly as possible, but they will stay as long as needed," he said. "We don't want, coming as far as we have and paying the price we have paid, to leave too

soon, before the task is accomplished."

Despite Noriega's decision to seek refuge in the Vatican Embassy, Cheney said American objectives still included arresting the Panamanian strongman and returning him to the United States to stand trial on drug trafficking charges.

"Our objective ... was, among other things, such as saving American lives, protecting American interests under the canal treaty, restoring democracy to Panama, we also wanted to capture Mr. Noriega and bring him to the United States for trial," the defense secretary said. "That is still our objective."

Cheney also confirmed that U.S. forces used the supersecret stealth fighter for the first time in a combat role in attacking a Panamanian military base.

"The reason we used that particular aircraft is because of its great accuracy," Cheney said. "We dropped, I believe, two 2,000-pound bombs near Rio Hato to pave the way for the Rangers when they landed there and to stun and disorient the (Panamanian troops). And it worked because it reduced both Panamanian and U.S. casualties."

More than 100 Marine and Ranger troops took up new positions around the Vatican mission in the exclusive seaside neighborhood of Punta Paitilla around noon Monday, apparently with the double mission of preventing Noriega from fleeing and protecting against possible attacks from the ousted strongman's supporters or from opponents seeking to lynch him.

The U.S. cordon included armored vehicles and a tank posted on roads leading to the Nunciature, snipers posted on rooftops of surrounding apartment buildings, and Marines and Ranger troops

he has been charged with trafficking in drugs.

While on the run, President Bush described him as a "hunted fugitive."

But he proved to be an elusive quarry.

According to Gen. Maxwell Thurman, head of the U.S. Southern Command, on the first day of the U.S. invasion which threw Noriega from power the former strongman was thought to have been hiding at the city's airport.

By the time U.S. troops arrived, Thurman said, Noriega just managed to escaped.

Later in the week, U.S. troops stormed one of Noriega's residences on the outskirts of Panama City and found smoking cigarettes in ashtrays.

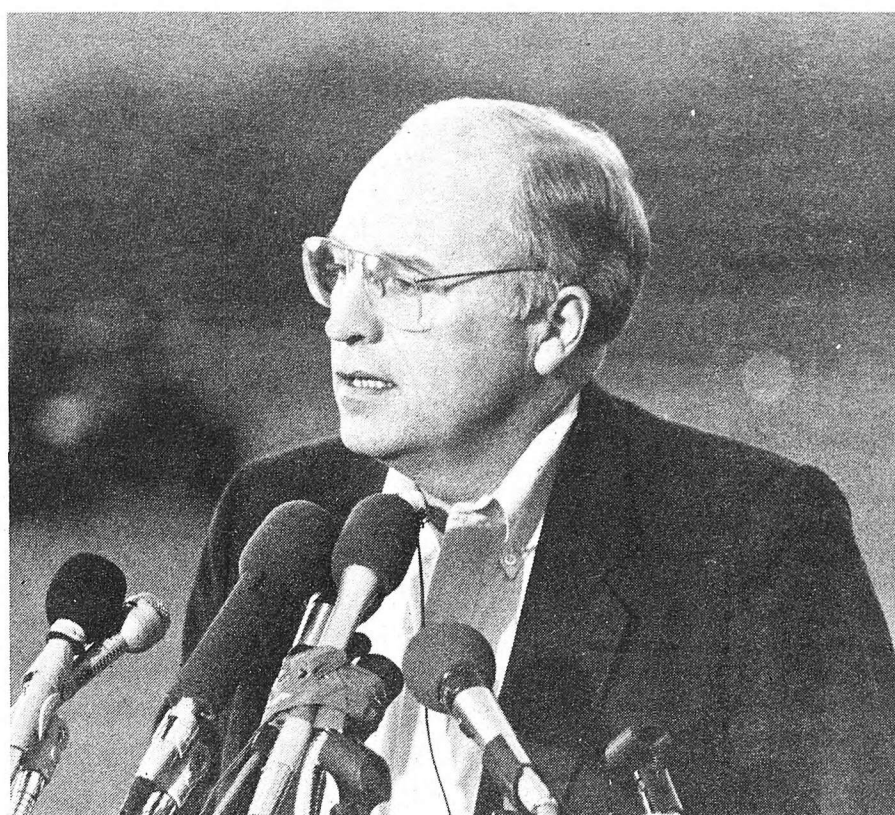
Military sources said they think they missed him by minutes.

Throughout last week there was a rash of rumors that Noriega was hiding in various places around the country: near the border with Costa Rica, and in Panama's second city, Colon.

He was thought by some to be hiding in the Cuban or Nicaraguan embassies.

Now some military officials believe he never left the immediate vicinity of the capital but was moving from safe house to safe house, always two steps ahead of U.S. troops.

"The fact is that no one will know where he was hiding, or how close we were to actually capturing him until Noriega makes a statement," one U.S. officer said.



Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney addresses troops and media at Howard AFB Sunday. (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt. Herb Cintron)

armed with automatic rifles and machine guns guarding access to the area.

U.S. military helicopters, jets and observation planes constantly overflowed the city.

Noriega remained in hiding inside the Nunciature's walled compound a full day after he walked in alone and requested asylum Sunday afternoon, diplomats and church sources said.

Guillermo Ford, one of Endara's two vice presidents, told reporters he hopes Noriega approached the Vatican for spiritual reasons.

"He has hurt our people so badly and his actions continue to hurt our people and (then) he gets near God. I hope he's there to repent," Ford said.

There were few signs of the spontaneous celebration that erupted Sunday afternoon when hundreds of people gathered at the nunciature to celebrate Noriega's surrender, waving flags and shouting, "We are free."

The Christmas Day mood of excitement at Noriega's surrender was mixed with sadness at the loss of life and nervousness about sporadic

gunfire and fears that Noriega supporters might launch new attacks.

"This is the best Christmas present we could ask for," said Maria Cerrud, a housekeeper for a wealthy family living near the Vatican mission.

"There were a lot of deaths, a lot of people lost everything," said Miguel Pineira. "But thank God they got rid of the strongman."

Fifty Panamanians demonstrated and waved banners at a U.S. roadblock near the Vatican mission, demanding that Noriega be brought to justice.

"No asylum! no asylum!" they chanted. The banners read: "No asylum to assassins and drug traffickers" and "Noriega is not a political prisoner. He is a criminal."

"The Americans came for him. They have to take him," one demonstrator said.

A woman said, "For the county and my children, I want him to go to the states and go to jail, not for 35 years but for 350 years so we will never see him again."

24th TRANS provides support

by Sgt. Kirk Boyd

HOWARD AFB (24 COMPW PA) — Operation Just Cause was ordered by the President of the United States, George Bush, and carried out at 1 a.m., Wednesday.

A large part of the operation included transporting people and equipment to various bases within Panama. The people getting this massive job done here is the 24th Transportation Squadron.

"We are the nerve center for transportation on the Pacific side of Panama," SSgt. Harry Shannon, 24th TRANS chief dispatcher, said. "Our workload increased from about 250 man-hours per week to 3,500 when Just Cause started."

The 24th TRANS has used 14 augmentees to help drive buses, 600 runs have been made, two million tons of equipment unloaded and moved, and 15,000 people transported. "The augmentees are trained on the operation of the vehicles before they are allowed to drive," said SSgt. Calvin Hill, NCOIC of equipment and dispatch support.

"The troops here have been

tremendous," Sgt. Shannon explained. "Whatever I have needed them to do they have jumped in and accomplished the mission."

The drivers sometimes have to go into the city to transport people to other bases. During this time, this mission could be dangerous.

"When you leave the base at night, there is a chill that comes over your body. You feel a bit scared, and your eyes are 'bugged' out looking for anything unusual," said Amn. Adam Ivers, 24th TRANS driver. "I feel safe on the Howard side of the bridge, but once I get on the other side, it's a different ball game."

The transportation people move things when they are called by their representative in the Howard Battle Staff.

"The coordination has been very easy because the troops have been so willing to get the job done," said 1st Lt. Mary Galan, vehicle operations officer. "They've made sure that everyone has been accommodated if at all possible."

Carrying out the mission — people and equipment — couldn't have been possible without the willingness, professionalism and pride of those in the 24th TRANS.

U.S. 'barely missed' Noriega

PANAMA CITY, Panama, (Reuter) — U.S. troops barely missed capturing former Panamanian military strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega on several occasions before he turned himself over to the Vatican's embassy in Panama, military officials said Monday.

"No doubt about it, when we went in, he was just there," Lt. Col. Harry Axson of the 82nd Airborne Division said after U.S. commandos raided a luxurious villa in Panama City's San Francisco neighborhood Sunday.

It was the last known hiding place before Noriega presented himself to the papal nunciature, the Vatican's diplomatic representative in Panama, seeking political asylum.

According to Axson, Noriega made a daring escape in a small helicopter just 90 minutes before the U.S. commandos closed in.

U.S. officials, including Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, took credit for running Noriega to ground.

But Noriega's escape and refuge in the papal nunciature has plunged Washington into a likely morass of diplomatic negotiations over his fate.

According to diplomatic sources, Noriega could still manage to avoid falling into U.S. hands by finding political asylum in a third country.

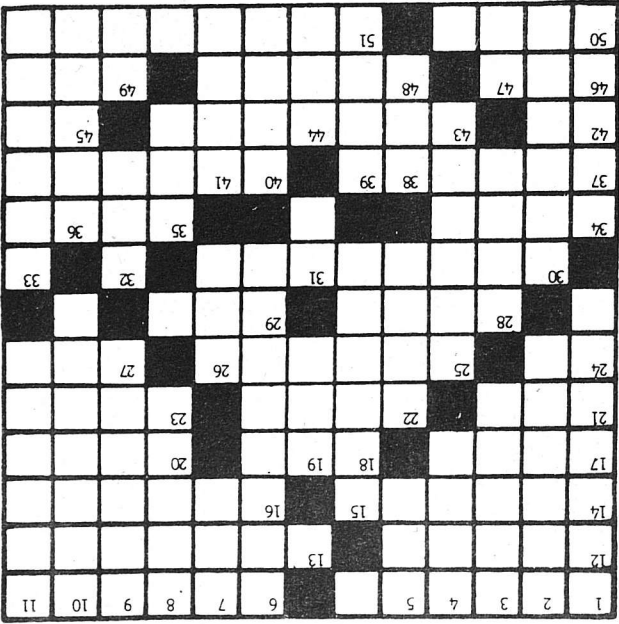
Sunday's near-miss was the latest in what military officials privately say was a series of frustrated attempts to grab Noriega and spirit him back to the United States, where

CRUCIGRAMA por H. ALFARO

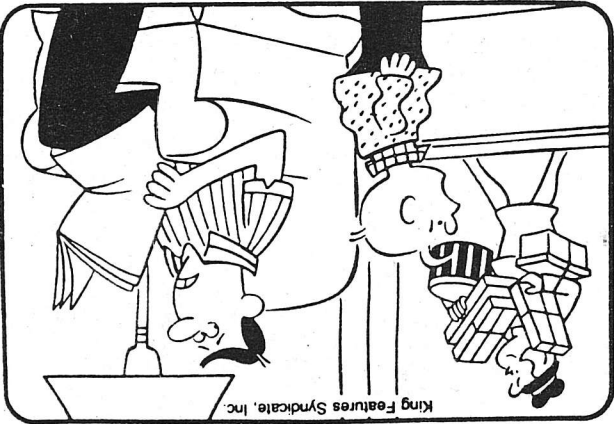
HORIZONTAL

VERTICAL

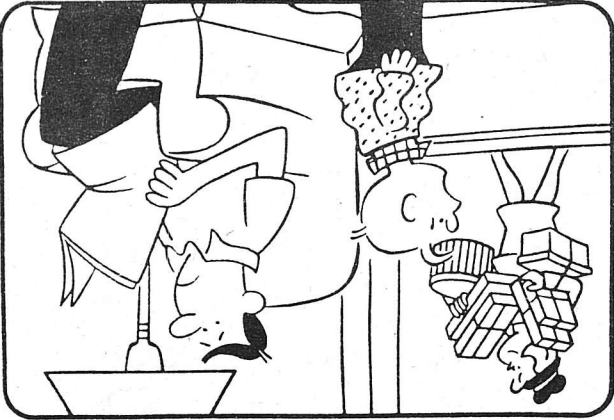
1. Centellear la luz de un cuerpo luminoso
2. De gran profundidad submarina
3. Mezclar dos licores
4. Hacer surcos en un fluido
5. Licor
6. Golpe dado con el tacón
7. Piedra consagrada del altar
8. Durazno de piel lisa
9. Imprimir
10. Dicese de la persona que viste toga (pl.)
11. Muy pequeñas
15. Carbosa
19. Acusativo del pronombre personal
22. Lo mismo
25. Albergar en un asilo
26. Igualdad de nivel de las cosas
28. Toda confitura menuda
30. Requebrar, cortejar
31. Preposición
32. Sentido de la vista
33. Chanza, burla
34. Alto, escala
35. Dicese del color de chocolate claro
36. Capital de Marruecos
38. Pedazo de piedra pómez
39. proyectil de artillería
40. Criba grande para aventar el trigo
41. Finta
44. Nombre de letra
47. Nota musical
49. Afirmación
6. Alfombra pequeña
12. De Iberia
13. Pared muy gruesa
14. La que abusa de su autoridad
16. Sandalia de los soldados romanos
17. Río de Alemania, nacido en el Tirol
18. Ciudad y puerto del Perú
20. Siglas de la Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte
21. Hogar
22. República del SO. de Asia
23. Lo que no existe
24. Contracción
25. Apoyar
27. Especie de gorra con visera que usaban los soldados españoles
28. Dioses bienhechores de la mitología escandinava
29. Emperador de Rusia
30. Dotado de vida (pl.)
34. Concejal
35. Fruto del peral
37. Pedazo de carne
40. Apremiar, dar prisa
42. Símbolo del americio
43. Mango de herramienta (pl.)
45. Símbolo del barrio
46. Título de dignidad en ciertos países
48. Día de la semana
49. Apócope de santo
50. Zona de un terreno de juego
51. Supuesto habitante de la Luna



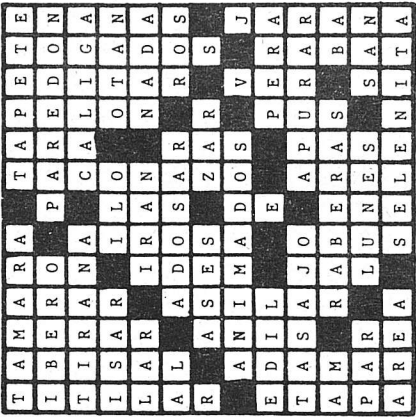
Vision Teaser



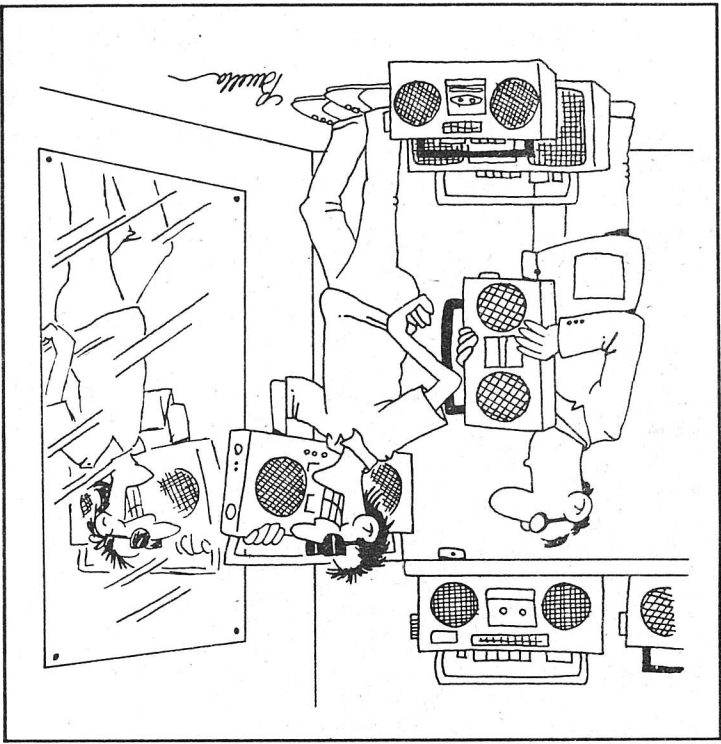
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



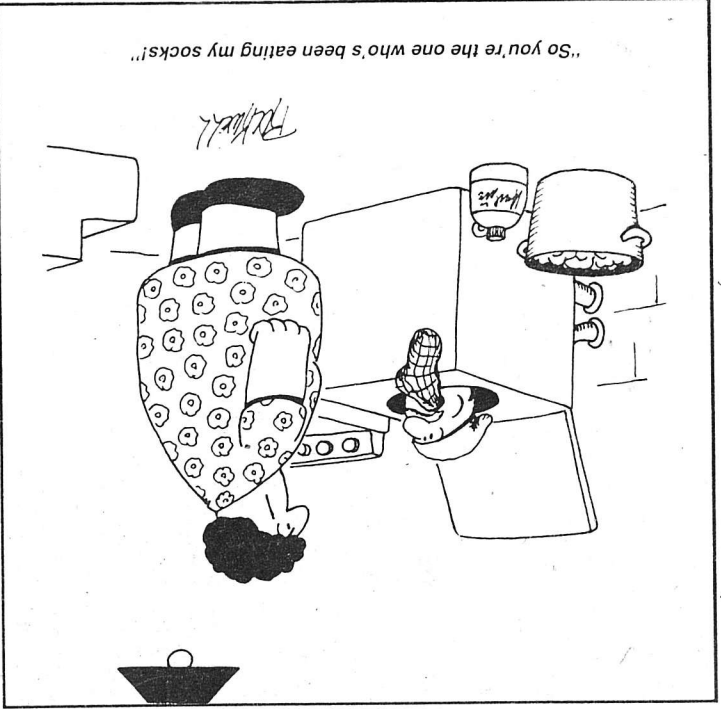
Differences: 1. Lady has more packages. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Hat box is different. 4. Man's expression is changed. 5. Shirt is different. 6. Paper is thinner.



Derechos Reservados.

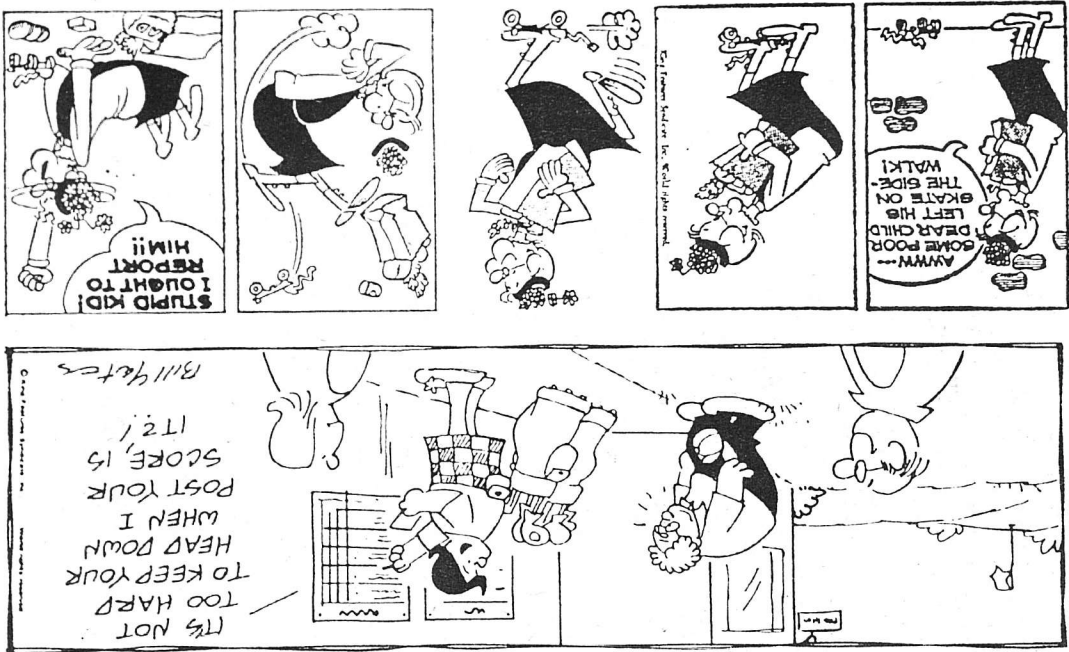


Betty Boop



Prof. Phumble

Mrs. Fitz





OPERATION JUST CAUSE:

Marines engage with foes in attack at La Chorrera

(above) Scout Marines with Delta Company, 2nd Light Armored Infantry Battalion, Marine Forces Panama, run for cover during the attack at La Chorrera. The attack took place Thursday.
(right) Scout Marines with Delta Co., 2nd Light Armored Inf Bn Marine Force Panama brace for a grenade concussion.
(below) Light armored vehicles move out after the attack. (U.S. Marine Corps' photos by Sgt. Robert C. Jenks)



SECURING CAMP — Security NCO from the U.S. Naval Station Panama Canal Rodman installs concertina to maintain detained personnel. (U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Karen D. Banks)



HHC 4/6 medics aid wounded, sick

by PFC Don Dees

PANAMA CITY (5th Div PAO) — In the eyes of the soldiers in Panama, the death of a U. S. officer could not go unanswered by the Bush Administration. Early Wednesday morning, the answer came. Elements comprising the administrative logistical operations center (ALOC) prepared to move from their home base at Camp Gator Dec 19. The plan that had been laid on for several months met some snags, as do all plans; but the setbacks were only minor.

Among the obstacles that placed themselves ahead of Task Force 4/6 was the Panama Defense Forces' suspicion that a U. S. military operation was likely. PDF elements blocked the Bridge of the Americas and began setting up large caliber weapons systems at the Balboa branch of the Department National de Investigation, (DENI) causing the ALOC to choose an alternate route.

Traveling across the canal on the swing bridge, the ALOC proceeded to Albrook Air Force Station to set up operations there. The Medics broke from the other support elements and moved to Balboa High School. The high school's Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps area was established as the Battalion Aid Station.

The first elements of the task force began their strikes about 1:00 a.m. Wednesday morning. The first injured soldiers arrived at the aid station near 2 a.m. Pvt. 1 Robert Demian, HHC 4/6 medic, is in his own words, "the battalion vampire. Every patient that comes through the aid station gets an I.V., so Demian sees most of them. Demian was a little taken by the action, "I thought, 'Oh my God! I couldn't believe it was really happening."

Early in the fighting the battalion suffered injuries. Most of the injured were evacuated from the aid station via ambulance to the medical facility at Fort Clayton. More serious injuries required that the patients be air lifted to Gorgas Hospital near Quarry Heights. The stream of soldiers filtering through the aid station included infantry units other than 4/6, and continued till nearly

4 a.m. "They left (the aid station) stable enough to make it to the hospital," Demian interjects, "Saving the lives is what kept me going all night."

The influx of soldiers yielded to a wave of injured civilians. The elderly and young children were the most commonly treated groups. Aid was also administered to a badly injured member of the Panama Defense Force.

Dawn found a small break for the medics when they stopped to eat, briefly. The short pause was long overdue, and short lived. Now the homeless and frightened were gathering at the Balboa High School area seeking refuge from the sporadic fighting which continued into the afternoon.

Some 5,000 refugees crowded the streets around the high school, many

in need of medical attention, others hoping for food. Medical attention seemed to be the focus of concern. Included in those seeking help from the medics of 4/6 was a woman in her ninth month of pregnancy. CW03 James South helped deliver the child after several hours of labor, "I don't know, 50 people were watching us deliver that baby. It was unbelievable." According to South, the baby was born breach which led to complications. He also adds the baby required resuscitation upon delivery. The complications culminated Wednesday night at Gorgas Hospital where the infant boy died.

Also among the refugees near the school were members of the PDF, posing as civilians. Their intention was to escape detention. After being identified as PDF, the men were

detained at various locations.

Daylight slowed the rate of fire, but did not stop it altogether. Fort Amador, a military facility with accommodations for both U.S. and Panamanian forces, was the sight of fighting even after the Comandancia, the Balboa DENI, and other PDF strongholds had fallen. Early Wednesday afternoon 4/6 scouts, aided by elements from 1st Bn 508th Inf., worked to clear a PDF barracks at Fort Amador held by eight Noriega loyalists.

As the day wore on it became more evident that Guillermo Endara's swearing in ceremony truly marked the fall of Manuel Antonio Noriega. Except for a few isolated incidents, such as the one at Fort Amador, members of the PDF are laying down their arms and surrendering.



A 4/6th medic from Task Force Bayonet carries a sick Panamanian to the battalion aid station in Balboa. (U.S. Army photo by SFC Cecil Stack)

Fire Chief assists U.S. soldiers, Colon citizens

by SFC Cecil Stack

FORT CLAYTON (USARSO PAO)--He's "El Jefe. El Comandante" or "El Coronel." The titles denote leadership and leadership is what Thomas J. Butler Jr., provided during the early days of Just Cause. However, he's not a military leader, he's the fire chief of Colon, Panama's second-largest city. His portrait hangs last of the Colon fire chiefs that line the wall behind his desk. The portrait is of a younger fire chief whose face doesn't show 46 years of service. Butler joined the fire department after he finished his Army hitch at the end of World War II.

The mementos and gadgets that clutter his office and desk hint at his brand of humor. One sign says, "Lift in case of fire." The victim of the prank is rewarded with, "In case of fire, STUPID!"

Although Butler's walk is more like a shuffle, and he speaks slowly --just above a whisper --as if he's measuring every word, there's no mistake that he's in charge. His firemen bring their heels together

and stand erect, almost coming to attention, when they talk to El Jefe, and no meal begins until he's seated at the table. But respect for the chief extends beyond the half-a-city block that houses his station.

His presence in the city is so strong that the commander of the 4th Battalion, 17th Infantry, 7th Division (Light), set up his tactical operations center in the fire station when the unit began operations in Colon.

"His knowledge of the city and the people has really helped us," said Lt. Col. Johnny Brooks, the battalion commander. Because the people had confidence in Butler, they passed him arms cache information, as well as the whereabouts of suspected Panama Defense Force and dignity battalion members. He passed this information to the battalion. Butler didn't only furnish information, but comforts, such as hot coffee and a place for soldiers to rest between missions. Butler continued helping after the battalion moved its TOC.

Although he was a great help to U.S. forces, his greatest contributions were to Colon's

citizens. He turned the fire station into a safe zone. Anyone allowed to pass between the firemen that ringed the station's front found firemen busy cleaning equipment, manning phones or waiting for a call out. It was business as usual. People lingered near the station because they felt protected.

"I don't want to go home or leave," said a girl, who looked about 16 years old. She had volunteered to answer

phones or do office work.

Colon citizens weren't the only ones who felt safe at the station. Many PDF and dignity battalion members turned themselves in rather than be caught or seen by sometimes angry mobs.

"Because of El Jefe and Colon's citizens, there was little bloodshed, said a staff sergeant, as he escorted two suspected dignity battalion members from the fire station.

F-117A Stealth fighter sees action

PANAMA CITY, Panama (Reuters) - The top secret Stealth fighter jet, used for the first time ever to pave the way for U.S. troops invading Panama, reduced casualties on both sides, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Monday.

Cheney, on a Christmas Day visit to U.S. troops and Panama's new leaders, told a news conference that the F-117A fighter was used to drop two 2,000 pound bombs near the Panamanian military base at Rio Hato, 75 miles west of Panama City, where the Panamanian 6th and 7th infantry companies were based.

"It is a very accurate weapon and

the reason we used that particular weapon is because of its great accuracy," Cheney said.

He said the jet dropped the bombs to pave the way for crack U.S. forces and to stun and disorient the Panamanian military at Rio Hato.

The United States says 23 U.S. servicemen and 290 Panamanian soldiers have been killed since the invasion.

The F-117A was developed in great secrecy and the Air Force only recently confirmed it even existed. A B-2 bomber version that also uses "stealthy" technology to elude radar defenses is still under development.



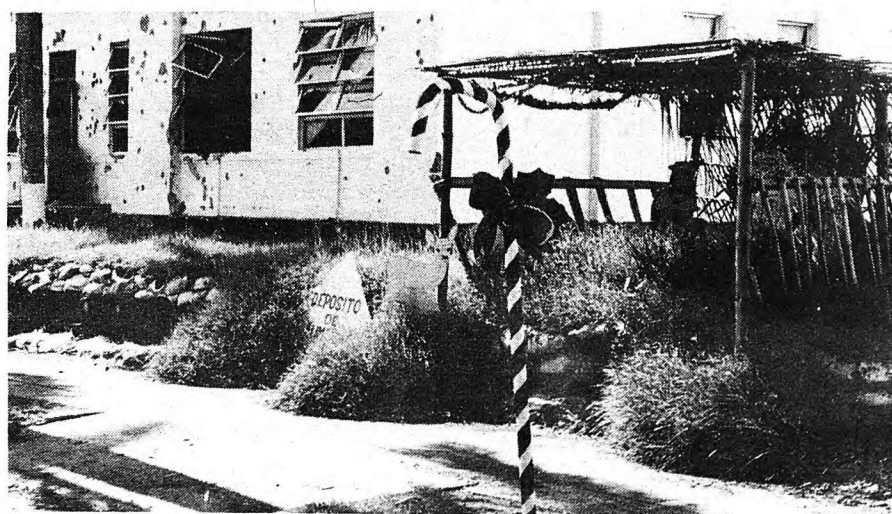
TAKE DOWN — A U.S. Marine takes down a suspected Dignity Battalion soldier in Arraijan. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Robert C. Jenks)



CHECKING EVERYTHING — A soldier with the 7th Infantry Division checks a fuel tank in Vacamonte hours after the Marines secured the port city. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Robert C. Jenks)



WITH HIS HANDS FULL — A Marine helps a student from Arraijan who seems to have his hands full with MREs given him by the Marines. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Robert C. Jenks)



UNTOUCHED — A Nativity scene is undamaged next to a riddled building in Fort Amador. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)

entertainment

TV guide

Wednesday

noon	CNN Headline News
12:30	SCN Midday Report
12:40	CNN Sports Latenight
1:00	Oprah Winfrey...Breaking The Good News
2:00	Another World
2:58	Prime Time TV Guide
3:00	Star Trek
3:48	CNN Headline Newsbreak
4:00	Soapbox With Tom Cottle
4:30	Guiding Light
5:15	General Hospital
6:00	SCN Evening Report
6:30	ABC World News Tonight
6:58	Prime Time TV Guide
7:00	Jeopardy
7:25	M-A-S-H
7:50	SCN Wednesday Night Movie...TBA
9:30	NB Nightly News
10:00	Entertainment Tonight
10:30	Dynasty
11:20	SCN Late Night Report
11:30	NBC Tonight Show
12:30	Late Night With David Letterman

1:30 a.m.	Nightline
Thursday	
5:30 a.m.	CNN Headline News
6:00	CNN Headline News
6:30	NBC At Sunrise
7:00	NBC Today Show
9:00	Morning Stretch
9:25	Shining Time Station
9:50	Mr. Rogers
10:18	CNN Headline Newsbreak
10:30	USA Today
11:00	Community Bulletin
11:05	Classic Concentration
11:35	Journey To Adventure
12:00	CNN Headline News
noon	CNN Headline News
12:30	SCN Midday Report
12:40	CNN Sports Latenight
1:00	Donahue...Marc Christian: Rock Hudson's Ex-Lover (Mature)
2:00	Another World
2:58	Prime Time TV Guide
3:00	Star Trek
3:48	CNN Headline Newsbreak
4:00	Newton's Apple
4:25	Guiding Light
5:10	General Hospital
5:55	Community Bulletin
6:00	SCN Evening Report

6:30	ABC World News Tonight
6:58	Prime Time TV Guide
7:00	Jeopardy
7:25	Mr. Belvedere
7:50	Amen
8:15	Cagney & Lacey
9:05	Night Court
9:30	NBC Nightly News
10:00	Entertainment Tonight
10:30	Stingray
11:20	SCN Late Night Report
11:30	NBC Tonight Show
12:30 a.m.	Late Night With David Letterman
1:30	Nightline

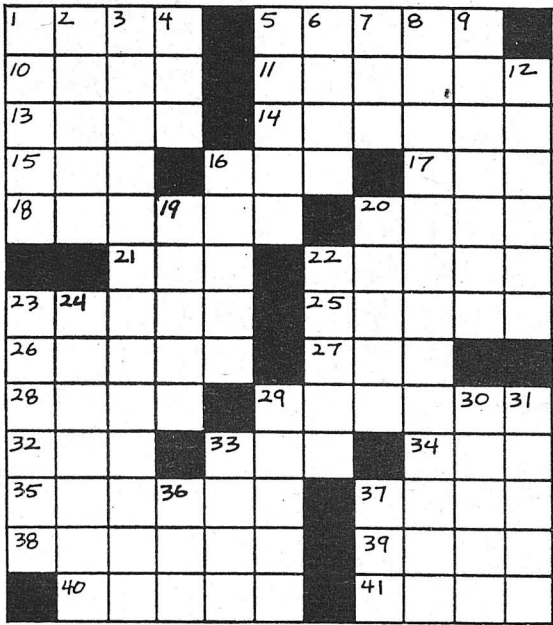
Friday

5:30 a.m.	CNN Headline News
6:00	CNN Headline News
6:30	NBC At Sunrise
7:00	NBC Today Show
9:00	Morning Stretch
9:25	Defenders Of The Earth
9:50	The Frugal Gourmet
10:15	CNN Headline News
10:30	USA Today
11:00	Community Bulletin
11:05	Classic Concentration
11:35	I Love Lucy...Harpo Marx
Noon	CNN Headline News

King Crossword

ACROSS

1. Fashioned
5. Backbone
10. Golf club
11. Niche
13. Small salamander
14. Threatener's warning
15. — Arbor
16. Digit
17. Mount, as a gem
18. Sun-dried grape
20. Holy water basin
21. Man's nickname
22. Subsequently
23. Molten rock
25. Goose genus
26. Welles
27. Fond du —, Wis.
28. Girl's name
29. Strauss opera
32. Chalice veil
33. Newman role
34. Negligent
35. Accelerate
37. Adjust, as a piano
38. English essayist
39. Arab chieftain



40. Rose extract
 41. Insect
- DOWN**
1. Indian tower
 2. Gladiatorial milieu
 3. P.M.'s address
 4. Within (comb. form)
 5. Sing
 6. Present
 7. Its capital is Reykjavik (abbr.)

8. Trafalgar Square landmark
9. Essential part
12. Bird dog
16. Giant
19. Pacific island group
20. Ultimate
22. Dieter's lunch
23. Swamp
24. Operatic song

29. Apartment house employee
30. Craze
31. Bring to bear
33. Wahine's dance
36. Favorite
37. Kid's game

NEWS DESK



"THIS JUST IN... NO, HOLD IT... THIS JUST IN... FORGET THAT... THIS JUST IN...!"

LAFF-A-DAY

LAFF-A-DAY

LAFF-A-DAY



"My dad told me having a pet was a silly idea. Then I reminded him that he once owned a pet rock. That's when he got me this dog."



"I've got neighbors on both sides. Which one's wife doesn't get coveted?"



"That'll be \$250...plus a five-cent deposit for the bottle."

MagicMaze

Ending in "ist"

A T H U M A N I S I E H T A Z
T T S I L A E D I S I G A M I
F S R I D E A P I E T I S T O
L I I E G F A T H T A T S S N
O H S A A A F U S T S I T I I
R P T S D L M S S I N I S X S
I O D E O A I I C O E I D R I
S S I R N D D S I I E H P A C
S S I I A U A Z T D Z R T M S
T S S S N F A T A L I S T A A
T T S I S I H P O S I C S A F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

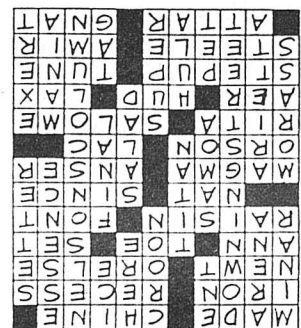
Humanist Marxist Sadist Idealist
Atheist Imagist Sophist Fatalist
Dadaist Pietist Deist Zionist
Fascist Realist Florist

1989 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

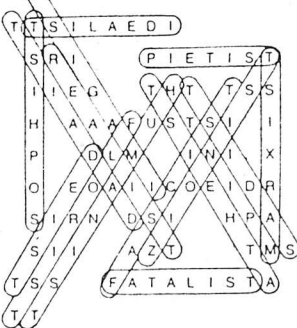
Popeye



Answers to King Crossword



Ending in "ist"



LAFF-A-DAY



"The doctor told you to slow down? From what?"

LAFF-A-DAY



"Now remember, I'm bobbing and you're weaving..."

sports

Seniors PGA Tour draws pros, amateurs

NEW YORK (AP) -- Phenoms — young, outstanding athletes possessed with potential and endowed with the “can’t miss” label while they still can miss — are not all that unusual in professional sports. Some make it. Many don’t.

But the sports phenomena of the 1980’s is made up of a bunch of old guys, with gray hair and portly physiques, a population long past its prime.

It is the Seniors PGA Tour, golf’s over-50 set that, according to Billy Casper, is “having the time of our lives.

“It’s unbelievable,” said Casper. “If anybody had told me five years ago I’d be playing in a 41-tournament circuit with \$14 million in prize money, I’d have said they were crazy.”

It is, without question, the most successful sports venture of the decade. Starting with two tournaments and a total purse of \$250,000 in 1980, it has exploded in popularity, prestige and prize money.

In fact, the Seniors Tour is so successful it now is attracting that highest form of flattery, copy-cats. Professional baseball now has a league for seniors.

Baseball, however, lacks one of the major factors that contributed so heavily to the Seniors Tour success: the pro-am.

Most Senior Tour events have a two-day pro-am event, in which amateurs play with the pros. The pros, of course, all are over 50. So are most of the amateurs. They are, largely, senior executives, the

shakers and movers in the world of business.

They find themselves playing with the pros they’ve heard about, seen on television and read about all their lives — Casper, Arnold Palmer, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Gary Player.

The birth of the Seniors traces back to Fred Raphael and Jimmy Demaret and the Legends of Golf tournament they founded as a made-for-television event in Austin, Texas in 1978.

It should be noted that it was no accident that the founding of the over-50 circuit coincided with the 50th birthday of Palmer, the most popular player the game has known and the man generally considered a prime force in the enormous growth of golf in the late 1950’s and early ‘60s.

“The time was when nobody wanted to be 50. Now, everybody is just waiting until they’re 50 to get started.”

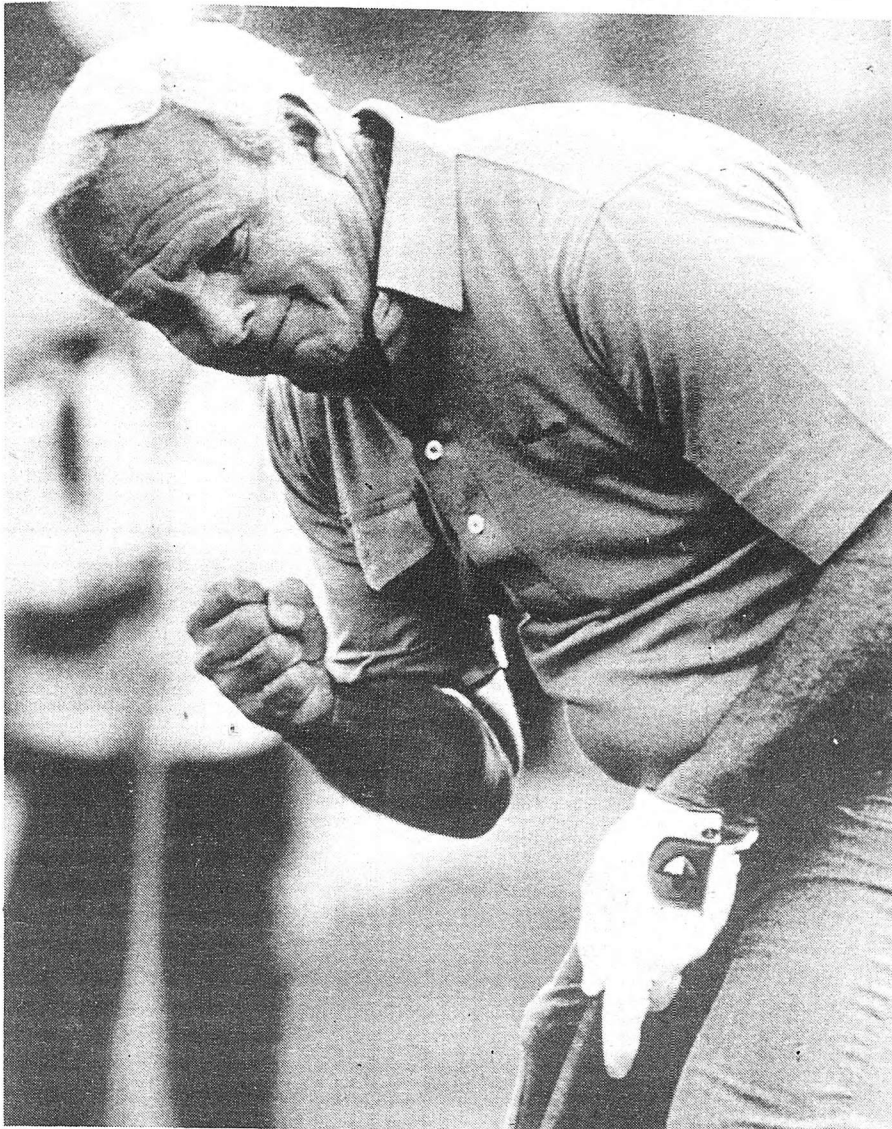
Billy Casper

Palmer played in many of those early tournaments as the Seniors went to 11 tournaments and \$1.3 million in prize money in 1982; to 24 tournaments and \$5.1 million in 1984; to 35 tournaments and \$8.7 million in 1987.

It passed \$10.5 in prize money in 1988 and, now, armed with a multiple-tournament television package in the early 1990’s, appears to have an unlimited future.

The chief beneficiaries, of course, are the players themselves, most of whom are making more money as seniors than they did in their prime years.

“It’s given us a second career, a second life,” Casper said. “The time was when nobody wanted to be 50. Now, everybody is just waiting until they’re 50 to get started.”



Arnold Palmer clenches his fist after making a birdie. Palmer is one of the players in the tour. (AP Laserphoto)

Karlis, Doleman lead Vikings to NFC Central title

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings won the NFC Central title Monday night, beating Cincinnati 29-21 as Rich Karlis kicked five field goals and Chris Doleman led a league-leading defense that produced six turnovers and barely held off a late charge by the Bengals.

The win in what amounted to a regular-season playoff game between pre-season Super Bowl favorites eliminated the Bengals, the defending AFC champions, from the

playoffs and put Pittsburgh in as the second AFC wild-card.

The result also knocked out Green Bay, which tied Minnesota at 10-6 but was 5-3 in the division compared to 6-2 for Minnesota.

The Vikings, who finished 8-0 at home, now go on the road to play either San Francisco or the New York Giants in two weeks, while the Steelers, in the playoffs for the first time in five years, are at Houston next Sunday in the AFC wild-card game.

Karlis had first half field goals of 31, 37, 22, 42 and 24 yards and Wade Wilson threw for 264 yards in the first two periods alone, but just 39 in the second half as Minnesota scored on its first five possessions, took a 22-7 halftime lead, then let the defense take over.

It was almost a fatal error.

Boomer Esiason, sacked six times, threw a 65-yard TD pass to Rodney Holman on the third play of the second half, then combined with Craig Taylor on an 18-yarder with 8:49 left in the game that cut it to 22-21. He finished 31 of 54 for 367 yards.

But the Vikings came back with a 67-yard drive aided by 27 yards in penalties against Cincinnati to put the game away on Wilson’s 1-yard TD pass to backup tight end Brent Novoselsky with 4:17 left. Novoselsky, who had three receptions all year for 10 yards, made a diving catch in the corner over Leon Barker.

The win gave Minnesota its first division title since 1980 and dropped the Bengals to 8-8 and into last place in the AFC Central, a division that produced three of the AFC’s five playoff teams.

The title was forged in a manner that made the Vikings a pre-season favorite as their league-leading defense got three sacks from Doleman and 2 1-2 by Henry Thomas, intercepted Esiason three times and forced three fumbles.

The defense came through most

importantly on a sequence midway through the third quarter after the Bengals had cut the deficit to 22-14 and were at the Minnesota 11.

On the first play, Doleman, who finished with a league-leading 201 sacks, dropped Esiason for a 13-yard loss. Then Thomas broke through and stripped the ball, ending the threat.

Sports Quiz

1. Who was the first player to win back-to-back Superbowl MVP awards?
2. Who kicked the winning field goal for the Baltimore Colts in Superbowl III?
3. How many touchdowns did Walter Payton score for the Chicago Bears in Superbowl XX?
4. What team scored the first safety in Superbowl history?
5. How many Superbowls have the Denver Broncos and Minnesota Vikings lost combined?
6. Which two quarterbacks have won three Superbowls?
7. Who has won more Superbowls the AFC or the NFC?

Answers

1. Bart Starr
2. Jim O'Brien
3. 0
4. Pittsburgh, Superbowl IX
5. 7
6. Joe Montana, Terry Bradshaw
7. AFC, 12-10

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.
xBuffalo	9	7	0	.563
Miami	8	8	0	.500
Indianapolis	8	8	0	.500
New England	5	11	0	.313
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250

Central

xCleveland	9	6	1	.594
yHouston	9	7	0	.563
yPittsburgh	9	7	0	.563
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500

West

xDenver	11	5	0	.688
Kansas City	8	7	1	.531
L.A. Raiders	8	8	0	.500
Seattle	7	9	0	.438
San Diego	6	10	0	.375

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct.
xN.Y. Giants	12	4	0	.750
yPhiladelphia	11	5	0	.688
Washington	10	6	0	.625
Phoenix	5	11	0	.313
Dallas	1	15	0	.063

Central

xMinnesota	10	6	0	.625
Green Bay	10	6	0	.625
Detroit	7	9	0	.438
Chicago	6	10	0	.375
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313

West

xSan Francisco	14	2	0	.875
yL.A. Rams	11	5	0	.688
New Orleans	9	7	0	.563
Atlanta	3	13	0	.188
x-clinched division title				
y-clinched playoff berth				

Former Yankees manager dies in one-car crash

FENTON, N.Y. (UPI) — Billy Martin, the brash former New York Yankees manager hired and fired five times, was killed in a drunken driving accident Monday on an icy road near his home, authorities said. He was 61.

Martin was killed while riding in his 1989 Ford four-wheel drive light pickup truck driven by a friend at about 5:45 p.m. Christmas Day.

The truck slid off the icy road while making a turn onto Martin's street about 6 miles north of Binghamton and slammed into a concrete culvert that ran underneath Martin's driveway, said Broome County Sheriff Anthony Ruffo.

William Reedy, the truck's driver and Martin's friend for more than 20 years, was charged with drunken driving, said Ruffo.

Reedy, who lived in Detroit, was in serious condition with a possible broken hip, broken ribs and cuts and bruises, but was expected to survive and was scheduled for arraignment in the Town of Fenton Court on Jan. 4, Ruffo said.

"At the curve the vehicle slid off the road, striking head-on a concrete culvert which, ironically, was underneath the driveway to the Martin residence," Ruffo said.

"It's like losing part of my own family," said Yankee owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement from Tampa, Fla. "I was just with him last Wednesday when he came down to entertain 2,000 under-privileged kids in Tampa."

Martin was currently on the Yankees payroll as a special adviser and was said to be awaiting a possible sixth term as manager in the event Bucky Dent faltered in handling the club next season.

Martin arrived by ambulance at Wilson Memorial Hospital in Johnson City at 6:33 p.m. and rescue workers administered cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, said Mike Doll, a spokesman for the hospital. He was pronounced dead at 6:56 p.m.

"It's been very frigid and some of the back roads are still snow covered," said Doll, who added that an autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday. "We know he suffered severe internal injuries and a possible brain injury."

Martin's wife, Jill, was at the hospital when Martin died.

Martin was hired and fired five times as manager of the Yankees by club owner George Steinbrenner, and the feuds between the two

assumed soap opera proportions.

"I worked with Billy and we played together," said Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra, a longtime Yankee teammate. "He was always a winner. I'm going to miss him. You know, his mom just died a week and a half ago and now this has to happen. We were really really good friends."

Martin's brawling, rambunctious style became part of New York sports legend. As manager, his stormy relations extended not only to Steinbrenner but to star players, umpires and the media.

"This makes me sick to my stomach," said Cincinnati Manager Lou Piniella, who both preceded and succeeded Martin as Yankees manager.

"You cannot ever think of Billy as anything else but alive. I am totally upset, totally shocked."

In one outburst that led to a 1978 dismissal, Martin referred to slugger Reggie Jackson as a "born liar" and to the principal owner as "convicted," in reference to Steinbrenner's conviction for illegal political campaign contributions.

In the incident that led to his last managerial dismissal on June 23, 1988, Martin was found slumped outside a Texas topless restaurant

with his ear badly gashed.

Alfred Manuel Martin was born May 16, 1928, in Berkeley, Calif., and grew up in depression poverty. He went on to play in the majors from 1950 through 1961 and had a .257 lifetime batting average. A second baseman, he played in 100 or more games in only seven seasons and appeared in one All-Star Game. But it was his fight and grit that enabled to rise higher and fall further than many athletes with greater talent.

Martin managed five teams: Minnesota, Detroit, Texas, New York and Oakland. He brought great energy to the clubs he managed, but Martin invariably tried the patience of management wherever he went.

"Baseball has lost one of its most unique and colorful personalities and Oakland has lost a friend," said Wally Haas, owner of the Oakland Athletics.

Clyde King and Jeff Torborg both served as Yankee coaches.

"I remained part of Billy's inner circle and was very privileged to do so," King said. "It's hard to believe that at 61 he is gone. Baseball has lost a great person, someone who will never be forgotten and a great manager."

Minnesota's victory ends Packers' playoff hopes

GREEN BAY, Wis. (UPI) — The Green Bay Packers, a team that won many last-second games this season, ran out of miracles Monday night and failed to make the playoffs due to the Minnesota Vikings 29-21 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals.

The victory gave Minnesota the NFC Central crown and qualified the Vikings for the NFL playoffs, ending the Packers season.

Many of the Packers watched the game from linebacker Brian Noble's home in Green Bay.

"We've got a lot of things to be proud of," Noble said after the game. "Nobody gave us a snowball's chance. We may not be the best team in America but we won an awful lot of hearts."

"We had a fantastic football season and we have nothing to be

ashamed of," Noble said. "It's too bad we're not in the playoffs because who knows how far we could have gone."

"1990 is going to be a fun football season for the Green Bay Packers, guaranteed."

Linebacker Tim Harris, who is heading for the Pro Bowl in Honolulu with Don Majkowski and Sterling Sharpe, also hosted a gathering of players to watch the game. He said it showed the Packers still have a ways to go to be a contender.

"This just means we have to come back and play better next year. We can't allow ourselves to be sitting around waiting for someone else to win," he said. "We have to win the games like Tampa Bay and Detroit

and Kansas city. We can't depend on other people."

Cornerback Mark Lee said he thought the Bengals would win, and like Harris said the Packers have to work harder.

"We've got to get back and work now. We had a good season. It just wasn't good enough to make the playoffs. We didn't control our own destiny," he said.

"But these guys will never give up. It's just something we didn't have any control over."

Tight end John Spagnola also watched the contest from Noble's home.

"It's a different position to be in," Spagnola said. "Most of the time players play the game and fans and wives watch the game. Today we were the fans and it was a difficult

night to watch two teams battle and hope the right team won.

"Things didn't quite work out," he said.

Minnesota and Green Bay finished with identical 10-6 records, but Minnesota won a tie-breaker by virtue of a better divisional record.

The Packers have not won the Central Division since 1972 and were last in the playoffs in 1983.

The 10-6 mark is the Packers' best record since 1972 when the team last won a divisional title and quite a turnaround. Last season, Green Bay finished with the second worst record in the league at 4-12.

The 10-6 mark would have won some other divisions. Cleveland won the AFC Central with a 9-6-1 record and Buffalo took the AFC East with a 9-7 mark.

Pittsburgh returns to playoffs after 5-year absence

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers are back in the NFL playoffs for the first time in five years, and Coach Chuck Noll can't think of a better ending to a disappointing decade for the team that ruled the 1970s.

The Steelers (9-7) will play at Central Division rival Houston (9-7) in the AFC wild card game Sunday, thanks to the Minnesota Vikings' 29-21 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday night.

"It was an uphill battle, I guess," Noll said, referring to an 0-2 start when the Steelers were outscored 92-10. "They fought it and they fought it very hard. They're building pride and they came back and were not discouraged when everyone else is. That's an important element."

Asked what he told his players after Sunday's regular season-ending 30-22 victory in Tampa, Noll said, "Congratulations."

Most of the Steelers spent Christmas night with their families, rooting for the Vikings. Cornerback Dwayne Woodruff and defensive lineman Keith Willis watched with their wives, who chanted, "Here We Go Vikings, Here We Go," a takeoff on the trademark cheer of Steelers' fans.

"The way we've been playing the last eight to ten weeks shows the football team we really have," Woodruff said. "The first two games didn't indicate what kind of team we had. The things you've seen (lately) show what kind of team we are."

The Steelers were 4-6 after 10 games, but won five of their last six games, losing only to Houston 23/16 in a driving snowstorm Dec. 3 in Pittsburgh. The loss particularly upset Noll because the NFL office admitted referee Ben Dreith's crew mistakenly permitted Houston an extra first-half timeout that led to a touchdown.

The Steelers also contended videotapes showed wide receiver Haywood Jeffires was out of bounds on a 37-yard catch that set up Houston's game-winning, fourth-quarter touchdown.

Interestingly, team president Dan Rooney said in late September the Steelers weren't "thinking about making the playoffs" and couldn't realistically expect a winning record because of their dreadful start.

"This team really showed a lot of character," Rooney said. "There were a lot of people questioning that,

but they really came on and stuck in there the whole time."

"Regardless of what had happened (Monday), this is an excellent thing for this team. We still have a lot of work to do, but I think it's been an excellent year, something to be proud of."

"When we were 4-6, I didn't think things would turn out like this," tight

end Mike Mularkey said.

But Bubby Brister did.

Last spring, just a couple of months after a 5-11 season, the quarterback wrote "Playoffs '89" on the chalkboard in the Steelers' locker room. When training camp opened, Brister predicted the Steelers would double their victory output and make the playoffs.

NBA Standings												
EASTERN CONFERENCE						WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						Midwest Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB			
New York	17	7	.708	-		San Antonio	17	6	.739	-		
Philadelphia	14	10	.583	3		Denver	17	9	.654	1 1/2		
Boston	14	11	.560	3 1/2		Utah	16	9	.640	2		
Washington	12	13	.480	5 1/2		Dallas	13	12	.520	5		
New Jersey	7	18	.280	10 1/2		Houston	12	14	.462	6 1/2		
Miami	7	20	.259	11 1/2		Minnesota	5	20	.200	13		
						Charlotte	4	19	.174	13		
Central Division						Pacific Division						
Atlanta	16	9	.640	-		L.A. Lakers	19	6	.760	-		
Chicago	16	9	.640	-		Portland	18	8	.692	1 1/2		
Indiana	15	9	.625	1/2		Seattle	12	12	.500	6 1/2		
Detroit	16	10	.615	1/2		Phoenix	10	12	.455	7 1/2		
Milwaukee	12	13	.480	4		Golden State	10	14	.417	8 1/2		
Cleveland	10	14	.417	5 1/2		L.A. Clippers	9	14	.391	9		
Orlando	9	17	.346	7 1/2		Sacramento	6	18	.250	12 1/2		

Ferry unable to decide next basketball career move

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Danny Ferry, who plays basketball for Rome's Il Messaggero team, is undecided about whether he will play for the Cleveland Cavaliers next season.

Cleveland owns the rights to Ferry, after a trade that sent Ron Harper to the Los Angeles Clippers. Ferry bypassed the Clippers to play in Italy where he is averaging 22 points and earning \$2 million.



Danny Ferry, who plays for Rome's Il Messaggero, is undecided about whether he will play for the Cleveland Cavaliers next season. (AP Laserphoto)

Ferry said the NBA would be rougher on him.

"I am the first to admit that this isn't the NBA," he said in an interview published Tuesday in the Akron Beacon Journal. "It's mostly like college ball. Some of it major college, some not." Basketball is relatively new to Italy, he said.

"Soccer still owns the country like nothing I've ever seen," he said. "It is like baseball and football all put together. When there is a match, people carry the garbage out with transistor radios pressed to their ears."

As fans filed into the Messaggero game recently, they carried radios and unleashed a huge cheer when a local soccer team scored a goal.

They also bring enthusiasm to basketball. Fans come to their feet for any dunk, regardless how mundane. They mockingly whistle when an opposing player has problems, and they take special delight at an opponent's missed free throws.

The Italians permit each team to sign two foreigners, or "Strangers," as they are known. Usually the players are Americans, fading stars or players who spent most of their life on the end of an NBA bench.

The average American player earns about \$300,000, the average Italian about \$100,000. If a team is losing, the usual move is to dump the Americans and bring in two more.

"There are a lot of horror stories about guys being used," Ferry said. "You have to be careful which team you sign with. Messaggero treats its

players the best, but some of the others aren't well run."

The games seem to be slow, methodical and physical. Few shots are blocked; there is little quickness. It is definitely played under the rim.

"Rather than jump over you or go around, guys just go through you," Ferry said.

What the Italians can do is shoot when they are set, which makes them effective under international rules.

"With only one league game a week, it is a football mentality," Ferry said. "We check into a hotel the day of the game and have a pre-game meeting that lasts at least 90 minutes. First the coach gives the talk in Italian, then he does it in English."

NFL Playoff Schedule

All Times EST
Wild Card
Sunday

NFC

Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia,
12:30 p.m.
AFC

Pittsburgh at Houston, 4 p.m.
Divisional Playoffs
(Times TBA)
Jan. 6 and
Jan. 7

AFC

Buffalo at Cleveland
AFC Wild Card winner at Denver

NFC

Minnesota at San Francisco or
New York Giants
Philadelphia at San Francisco (if
Philadelphia wins wild-card
game)
Los Angeles Rams at New York
Giants (if Los Angeles wins wild-
card game)

Conference Championships

Jan. 14
To Be Decided

Super Bowl XXIV

Jan. 28
AFC Champion vs. NFC
Champion

Pro Bowl

Feb. 4
At Honolulu
AFC vs. NFC



Giants force Philadelphia to play Rams

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Since the New York Giants played Scrooge to their Bob Cratchit, the Philadelphia Eagles will have a chance to celebrate New Year's Eve with a playoff game.

Needing a loss by the Giants to the Los Angeles Raiders and a victory of their own over Phoenix to give them their second NFC East championship, the Eagles did their part, handing the Cardinals a 34-14 loss to finish the season with an 11-5 record.

But the Giants went 12-4 with their 34-17 triumph over the Raiders, so New York gets to rest a week while Philadelphia will play host to the Los Angeles Rams, 11-5, next Sunday in the NFC wild-card playoff game.

"The reason we wanted the division title was we wanted the two weeks to heal up," Philadelphia Coach Buddy Ryan said. "But we're happy to be here. We're playing at home. It will be great for the fans."

The Eagles hurt their division title chances with a loss to New Orleans last week and a defeat to Phoenix could have knocked them out of the playoffs entirely.

So they ignored injuries that forced them to shuffle their offensive line — as well as the bruised ribs that forced running back Keith Byars out of the game early — and concentrated on overpowering the Cardinals.

The Eagles ran for a season-high 267 yards, two more yards than the Cardinals managed in offense, to earn their second straight playoff berth.

"You have to be happy we're in the playoffs," linebacker Byron Evans said. "There are a lot of teams who are not in the playoffs. We got what we wanted to accomplish. We got the W."

Defensive end Reggie White said Philadelphia could not afford to think about the chances it squandered, but had to look to the opportunities ahead.

"There were some games we should have won that we lost, like New Orleans," he said. "We had an opportunity to win the division and let it slip away. We lost to teams we should have beat. But we can't look back on that now. We have to look at what's in front of us."

That starts with the game against the Rams and, with a victory, a match against the defending Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers would follow.

"It will be tougher to win three (playoff) games than two," quarterback Randall Cunningham said. "We've got to take them one by one and not be overconfident."



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback, Randall Cunningham, celebrates after a recent win. The Eagles finished the season with a 11-5 record. (AP Laserphoto)

Top three college teams hold positions in AP poll

NEW YORK (AP) — The top three teams — Syracuse, Kansas and Georgetown — held onto their spots in the AP college basketball poll on Monday, but the 24th and 25th spots were taken over by teams returning to the rankings.

North Carolina and Minnesota came back into the poll in the final two positions, replacing Oklahoma State and Michigan State.

This is the fifth consecutive week Syracuse has held the top spot. The Orangemen (8-0) were named No. 1 on 33 ballots and received 1,501 points from the nationwide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Kansas (11-0) was named No. 1 on 21 ballots and had 1,469 points, 30 more than Georgetown (8-0), which received seven first-place votes.

Illinois (8-0) moved up one place from last week after its 101-93 victory over previously unbeaten Missouri. The Fighting Illini had the only other first-place vote and 1,368 points.

Michigan (8-1) rounded out the top five and was followed by Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisville, Louisiana State and Indiana.

The Wolverines, who are on an eight-game winning streak, had 1,252 points, 72 more than Oklahoma, which improved to 5-0 with a 136-121 victory over Loyola Marymount, and like Michigan, moved up one place from last week.

Missouri dropped two spots with the loss to Illinois and the Tigers (9-1) had 1,116 points. Louisville (8-1) was ninth last week and the Cardinals had 1,042 points, 21 more than LSU (5-1), which dropped one place from last week.

Indiana, 11th last week, moved into the top ten for the first time this season. The Hoosiers (8-0) had 992 points, 31 more than Arkansas (7-1), which was 10th last week.

Arkansas was followed in the second ten by UNLV, Duke, Georgia Tech, Memphis State, UCLA, St. John's, Iowa, North Carolina State and La Salle.

The final five spots were Arizona, Alabama, Oregon State and the returnees — North Carolina and Minnesota.

The Tar Heels (6-4) had dropped out of the poll two weeks ago for the first time in nearly seven years. They had been in every poll from Jan. 4, 1983 until the voting of Dec. 11. Their 4-4 start was the worst after eight games in the 29 years of Coach Dean Smith at North Carolina. Victories over DePaul and Kansas State were enough to return the Tar Heels to the rankings.

Minnesota (7-1) was 20th in the preseason voting but an opening loss to Cincinnati dropped the Golden Gophers from the poll and they didn't return until this week.

Oklahoma State, which had been 24th, dropped from the rankings without losing. The Cowboys (5-2) won their only game last week, a 79-77 home victory over Texas Southern.

Michigan State (9-2) had been 25th the last two weeks and the Spartans fell from the rankings after losing 81-79 to Bowling Green this week.



Georgetown's head coach, John Thompson raises his hand as a sign of victory. Georgetown holds the number three spot in the AP college basketball poll for the fifth consecutive week. (AP Laserphoto)

Ismail to see little action against Colorado

MIAMI (UPI) — Receiver Raghib "Rocket" Ismail, one of Notre Dame's most dangerous offensive weapons, does not expect to start the Orange Bowl game against No. 1 Colorado New Year's night because of a shoulder separation but should see spot duty, he said Tuesday.

Ismail tried to get in some contact work Tuesday at fourth-ranked Notre Dame's first workout since arriving in Miami individually Christmas night, but Coach Lou Holtz "told me not to," he said.

Ismail, obviously disconsolate over the development, said he

expected to play in "spot situations. Not constant. A couple of downs and out. Not starting."

Holtz did not rule out the possibility of Ismail starting, but he was not optimistic.

"We are planning on going without him on a steady basis. It depends on what happens in the next couple of days," Holtz said.

Does Ismail think Holtz's statement might be a ploy to throw off No. 1 Colorado? "I hope so," Ismail said.

Ismail finished 10th in Heisman voting this year after averaging 16.8

yards every time he touched the ball receiving, rushing or returning. But he injured his left shoulder during Notre Dame's 27-10 loss to Miami in the regular season finale Nov. 25.

Ismail said he has no idea when he hurt the shoulder.

"It didn't start hurting until I got back to the hotel," he said.

Holtz said he did not find out about the injury until two weeks later, during the Irish's first postseason practice.

The limited workouts before arriving in Miami also had Holtz upset. He said it was obvious during the lengthy workout Tuesday. He said he was only able to manage five full-scale workouts since the Miami game because of academic requirements and inclement weather.

"We hadn't practiced in 12 days and it showed today," he said.

"The timing wasn't very good, and our fundamentals were not very good," he said. "We expected that. We have a lot of work to do. Our players understand that."

"This is the first time we haven't been ready when we arrived at a bowl site," he said.

Holtz said linebacker Donn Grimm also was doubtful for the game because of an ankle sprained during a workout earlier this month.

He said defensive end Andre Jones and defensive tackle Bob Dahl won't play because they weren't able to break away from academic chores long enough to practice. Holtz's policy is that if a player can't practice, he can't play. But he was not critical of the two players, and said they would be on the sidelines New Year's night.

Dallas loses first round draft selection for '90

NEW YORK (AP) — The tentative order of selection for the first round of the 1990 NFL draft, as of Dec. 26, to be held on April 22-23 in New York (a-position subject to change. Super Bowl winner will get the 28th spot and Super Bowl loser will get the 27th:

- 1, x-Dallas
- 2, Atlanta
- 3, N.Y. Jets
- 4, y-Phoenix
- 5, New England
- 6, Tampa Bay
- 7, San Diego
- 8, Chicago
- 9, Detroit
- 10, Seattle
- 11, Miami
- 12, Seattle (from Indianapolis)
- 13, L.A. Raiders
- 14, Cincinnati
- 15, Kansas City
- 16, Orleans
- 17, a-Buffalo
- 18, a-Pittsburgh
- 19, a-Houston
- 20, a-Green Bay (from Cleveland)
- 21, Green Bay
- 22, Atlanta (from Washington)
- 23, a-Minnesota
- 24, a-Los Angeles Rams
- 25, a-Philadelphia
- 26, a-z-Denver
- 27, a-New York Giants
- 28, a-San Francisco

x-Used selection to draft Steve Walsh, quarterback, in the 1989 supplemental draft.

y-Used selection to draft Timm Rosenbach, quarterback, in the 1989 supplemental draft.

z-Used selection to draft Bobby Humphrey, running back, in the 1989 supplemental draft.

College Bowl Matchups

Thursday

Liberty Bowl

At Memphis, Tenn.

Air Force vs. Mississippi

All-American Bowl

At Birmingham, Ala.

Duke vs. Texas Tech

Friday

Holiday Bowl

At San Diego

Brigham Young vs. Penn State

Saturday

Hancock Bowl

At El Paso, Texas

Pittsburgh vs. Texas A&M

Freedom Bowl

At Anaheim, Calif.

Washington vs. Florida

Peach Bowl

At Atlanta

Georgia vs. Syracuse

Gator Bowl

At Jacksonville, Fla.

Clemson vs. West Virginia

Sunday

Copper Bowl

At Tucson, Ariz.

Arizona vs. North Carolina State

Monday

Hall of Fame Bowl

At Tampa, Fla.

Ohio State vs. Auburn

Citrus Bowl

At Orlando, Fla.

Virginia vs. Illinois

Cotton Bowl

At Dallas

Arkansas vs. Tennessee

Fiesta Bowl

At Tempe, Ariz.

Nebraska vs. Florida State

Rose Bowl

At Pasadena, Calif.

Michigan vs. Southern Cal

Sugar Bowl

At New Orleans

Alabama vs. Miami

Orange Bowl

At Miami

Colorado vs. Notre Dame

Some calm, clean-up begin in Panama City

PANAMA CITY, Panama (UPI) - Authorities decided to ease the dusk-to-dawn curfew in the capital Tuesday in a sign that pro-Noriega resistance is waning, but a U.S. military spokesman reported sporadic fighting overnight and warned that American troops were still pursuing snipers.

Security remained tight around the Vatican Embassy, where deposed strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega took refuge Sunday. American troops in army green ponchos stood at their stations through an early morning rain while a U.S. A-37 Dragonfly circled continuously over the area.

"We have a sense of obligation to ensure that should Mr. Noriega leave that area we are prepared to take him into custody, as was one of our original goals," Lt. Col. Jerry Murguia, an Army spokesman, told a morning news conference.

Gen. Maxwell Thurman, head of the U.S. Southern Command, sped up to the Vatican Embassy Tuesday in a six-vehicle convoy that included three armored cars. He huddled in gray sedan with Vatican Papal Nuncio Sebastion Laboa.

Thurman and Laboa talked in the street outside the tree-ringed Spanish style embassy for about 40 minutes on Christmas Day. Diplomats said Tuesday there was little information on the progress of the talks, and one foreign military observer said, "There seems to be a freeze in the situation at the moment."

In Rome, Vatican Radio called the Noriega situation Tuesday "particularly delicate, given that Gen. Noriega, actively sought by the American occupation forces, has taken refuge in the Holy See's embassy."

The Italian news agency ANSA said U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Thomas Miledy was received Tuesday by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli,

despite the fact that it is a holiday in Italy.

The meeting apparently was related to the Noriega situation, but no details were released. The agency said the Vatican had not commented on Washington's request to hand over the general.

For a second day, dozens of Panamanians gathered at a U.S. military roadblock set up about a block from the Vatican Embassy, carrying signs and waving white flags to oppose any political asylum for Noriega.

"He is not supposed to have diplomatic backing," said Maria Eugenia de Guardia, a woman who said she was circulating a petition asking that Noriega not be granted asylum anywhere. "He has been

torturing, he has been stealing, he has been doing things worse than any common thief."

De Guardia said she wanted Noriega to face an international tribunal, but did not say where.

"We want him out of our country," she said.

Officials of the U.S. Southern Command said the government of U.S.-installed President Guillermo Endara was easing a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew that has been in effect since American forces intervened in the country Wednesday. Officials said the new curfew would be from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. They also said checkpoints would be set up during the day with vehicles subject to search.

As calm began to return to the

capital, Panamanians ventured into the streets in large numbers for the first time since fighting began Wednesday. Buses began operating along the Via Espana, the city's main shopping district.

Some supermarkets, restocked since massive looting last week, also were open for business, with long lines of shoppers outside. Though the city was mostly calm, it was not clear that U.S. forces had established full control.

At the morning news conference, Murguia said the latest U.S. casualty figures were 23 killed and 330 wounded. He said 293 Noriega soldiers had been killed, 123 wounded and 4,446 detained.

Murguia reported sporadic sniper and mortar fire in Panama City during the night, including some gunfire in the area of the foreign embassies. Earlier, U.S. Embassy officials had reported gunfire near the mission Monday evening.

The army spokesman said officials were investigating the one or two "active hostage situations" as well as an incident in which a car "apparently drove to a roadblock (Monday evening) and presented a challenge to some of our guards who did take them under fire."

Carlos Harrison, a Miami Herald reporter, said he saw the car, carrying four people, refuse to stop on the orders of the U.S. troops, who then sprayed the car with tracer bullets. It was not known if the four people were hit by the gunfire.

Murguia also said civilian relief agencies soon would be allowed into Panama and 30,000 pounds of medical supplies had been flown in for refugees.

Murguia said 90,000 cases of military rations called MRE - for meal, ready to eat - would be flown in Tuesday and Wednesday, providing a seven day food supply for 50,000 people.



SEARCHING FOR BELONGINGS — These Panamanians search in the rubble for their belongings. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)

U.S. releases names of those killed in action here

WASHINGTON (UPI) - The following is an updated list released by the Pentagon identifying U.S. servicemen killed in action during the military assault on Panama:

Marine Cpl. Garreth C. Isaak, 22, of Greenville, S.C.

Army Cpl. Ivan D. Perez, 22, of Pawtucket, R.I.

Army PFC Scott Lee Roth, 19, of Killeen, Texas.

Army Spec. Phillip S. Lear, 21, of Westminster, S.C.

Navy Lt. j.g. John Patrick Connors, 25, of Arlington, Mass.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Donald Lewis McFaul, 32, of San Diego, Calif.

Navy Petty Officer First Class Christopher Tilghman, 30, of Kailua, Hawaii.

Army PFC James William Markwell, 21, a medic from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Army Pvt. 2 Kenneth Douglas Scott, 20, of Princeton, W.Va.

Army Spec. Alejandro I. Manriquez, 30, of Lauderhill, Fla.

Army PFC John Mark Price, 22, of Conover, Wis.

Army PFC Roy Dennis Brown, 19, of Buena Park, Calif.

Army Spec. Jerry Scott Daves, 20, (home listed only as North Carolina)

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Isaac George Rodriguez III, 24, of Missouri City, Texas.

Army Spec. William D. Gibbs, 22, of Marina, Calif.

Army PFC Vance T. Coats, 18, of Great Falls, Mont.

Army PFC Martin D. Denson, 21, of Abilene, Texas.

Army Staff Sgt. Larry R. Barnard, 29, of Hallstead, Pa.

Army Sgt. Michael A. Deblois, 24,

of Dubach, La.

Army Lt. John W. Hunter, 30, of Victor, Mont.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Wilson B. Owens, 29, of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Army Pvt. John A. Tabor, 18, of Montrose, Colo.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Andrew P. Porter, 25, Saint Clair, Mich.

The two civilian dependants killed were:

Gertrude Kanbi Helin, no age reported, of Panama.

Richard Paul, 22, of Panama.



AMADOR TOUR — Mr. Cheney and Gen. Thurman tour Amador. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)



APPRECIATION — Many signs were seen on Fort Clayton expressing appreciation to U.S. servicemembers. (U.S. Army photo by TASC)