

BETTER DEFENSES

Despite their inability to hit anything, Iraqi gunners and missile operators are getting better.

"There's some indications they have learned from their experience," Wright said. "They've seen us for 10 years now."

Pentagon spokesmen said that the Feb. 16 strikes were in response to the increased "frequency and sophistication of their (air defense) operations."

U.S. officials also have confirmed that China is supplying Iraq with a fiber-optic communications system that would integrate the operations of the country's air defenses.

Capt. Steve "Roid" Astor has been to the desert twice with F-16 units. He said the greatest danger is that pilots lose their focus on the long, uneventful patrols.

"Let's not get complacent," he said. "It can be deadly."

To hear the pilots tell it, life on an air base in these faraway lands is fairly dull. Threats of terrorism keep them restricted to the bases, especially for the Southern Watch pilots in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Cannon pilot Capt. Shannon "Pinball" Prasek flew nine combat missions with Southern Watch from February to April 1998. She protected airborne radars should they be attacked by Iraqi aircraft.

"It was pretty quiet. It was a religious holiday (for the Iraqis)," she said. She describes with some humor the polite bewilderment of Kuwaiti fighter pilots at seeing a woman combat pilot at their joint airbase.

One of Wright's "Crusaders," 1st Lt. Trenea Emerson is waiting for her first rotation overseas. She is eager to fly her first missions in a combat area, although she said she hasn't heard much about the region from her more seasoned colleagues, and her impressions are limited: "Everyone comes back in shape and tan," she joked.

SADDAM'S BOUNTY

The Cannon pilots regard the conflict as one against Saddam, rather than the Iraqi people or even the country's armed forces.

When they fly over Iraq, the pilots have a price on their head. The Iraqi president has reportedly offered a reward to anyone who shoots down an aircraft.

Wright expects to return to the desert late this year. "I'll miss another Christmas. . . . It does have an effect on the family."

But he praises the "esprit de corps" in his squadron, brought on, in part, by the remoteness of Cannon Air Force Base. "This is almost like an overseas assignment."

Wright is a pilot of some renown in the Air Force. He was the first U.S. pilot since the Korean War to get three kills in a single mission when he shot down three Bosnian Serb Jastreb fighter-bombers violating a no-fly zone on Feb. 28, 1994, over Bosnia. This mission also marked NATO's first military strikes in its history, and Wright earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role.

Wright was also Capt. Scott O'Grady's wing-leader in June 1995 over Bosnia when O'Grady was shot down by a Bosnian Serb surface-to-air missile. O'Grady was rescued five days later.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING MARIA MARGARITA "MARGARET" TAFOYA

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to join the community of Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico in mourning the loss of Maria Margarita "Mar-

garet" Tafoya. New Mexico is comprised of imaginative people of many cultures who express their cultural values artistically and creatively. The people of New Mexico will miss the guidance of the "matriarch of Santa Clara potters."

Respected and renowned throughout the pottery community, Margaret inspired others to take up pottery. She crafted many pots and other forms in the tradition of Santa Clara polished blackware and redware. Her art is the fine workmanship of highly skilled hands.

For her quality work, Margaret received numerous awards. The National Academy of Western Art at the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City awarded her the Lifetime Contribution Award. She was the only American Indian to receive this award. In 1984, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded her the National Heritage Fellowship Award. In addition, her works have been displayed on the Mall in Washington, D.C. at the Folklife Festival sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute. However, Margaret did not work for recognition, she worked to improve the quality of life for her family and children.

Her loss leaves a void for her family and the art community. Mr. President, I share the grief of the community of Santa Clara Pueblo and my heartfelt condolences go out to her family.

I ask that an article in today's New York Times be printed in the RECORD. The article follows.

MARGARET TAFOYA, PUEBLO POTTER WHOSE WORK FOUND A GLOBAL AUDIENCE, DIES AT 96
(By Douglas Martin)

Margaret Tafoya, whose nimble, ingenious hands turned the chocolate-colored clay of her New Mexico pueblo into black-on-black and red-on-red pottery of such profound and graceful beauty that it acquired a global reputation, died on Feb. 25 at her home in Santa Clara Pueblo near Santa Fe. She was 96.

Her name in Tewa, the language of seven Southwestern pueblos, six in New Mexico and one in Arizona, was Corn blossom. She was the matriarch of Santa Clara Pueblo potters, who are more numerous and produce more pottery than those of any other pueblo.

Her work, known for exceptionally large vessels, is exhibited in public and private collections around the world. She was named folk artist of the year by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1984.

The art form she practiced has long been dominated by women, and Corn Blossom was the last of a group of women who attained fame through their mastery of it. Gone are Blue Corn and Maria Martinez of the San Ildefonso Pueblo, Christina Naranjo of Santa Clara and Grace Chapella, a Hopi.

Today Indian arts command astronomical prices and space on museum shelves in faraway cities, but fewer and fewer Pueblo Indians can speak or ever understand Tewa. Mrs. Tafoya, though, was rooted in the old ways.

She spurned inventions like the potters' wheel. She kept chickens, milked her own cows, churned her own butter and rejected natural gas heat in favor of the traditional beehive fireplace.

After a brief fling with an Apache, she married a young man from the home pueblo, a distant relative with the same last name.

According to the Web site of the National Museum of American History (www.americanhistory.si.edu), Santa Clarans use the same word for clay and for people: nung.

Mrs. Tafoya always prayed to Mother Clay before working. "You can't go to Mother Clay without the cornmeal and ask her permission to touch her," the museum Web site quotes Mrs. Tafoya as saying. "Talk to Mother Clay."

Though she was one of the last to make pots with handles and criticized others for adding semiprecious gems to pottery, she also liked to experiment.

She used different colors of slips, or thinned clays applied to the outside of her vessels, and her later forms were thinner, lighter and more graceful. Her shiny finishes became ever more polished. She even adapted Greek and Roman forms to classic Santa Clara shapes.

Mrs. Tafoya clearly loved her art, but it was also how she supported her 10 children who survived their first year; 2 others did not. As she said, "I have dressed my children with clay."

Maria Margarita Tafoya was born in her pueblo on Aug. 13, 1904. Her mother, Sara Fina Gutierrez Tafoya, or Autumn Leaf, was "undoubtedly the outstanding Tewa potter of her time," Mary Ellen and Laurence Blair wrote in "Margaret Tafoya: A Tewa Potter's Heritage and Legacy" (Schiffer, 1986).

Her father, Geronimo, or White Flower, was mainly concerned with raising food for the family, but he was also the main marketer of his wife's pottery. He would load up his burros and make sales trips of up to 500 miles.

Five of the couple's eight children became excellent potters, driven and inspired by their perfectionist mother. Margaret's rigidly traditional approach was suggested by her insistence on using corn cobs, rather than sandpaper, for polishing. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 333. An act to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar.

H.R. 333. An Act to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-899. A communication from the from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-900. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Establishing the Fair Play Viticultural Area (2000R-170P)" (RIN1512-AA07) received on February 27, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-901. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tentative Differential Earnings Rate" (Notice 2001-24) received on February 21, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-902. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Learjet Model 45 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0148)) received on February 27, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-903. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. Model 204B Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0147)) received on February 27, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-904. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 707 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0146)) received on February 27, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-905. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 777 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0142)) received on February 27, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-906. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A330 and A340 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0143)) received on February 27, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-907. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Final Rule Boeing Model 767 Series Airplanes Powered by Pratt and Whitney Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(2001-0144)) received on February 27, 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

From the Committee on Small Business, without amendment:

S. Res. 42. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KYL, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. HELMS, Mr. REID, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 452. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides appropriate guidance to physicians, providers of services, and ambulance providers that are attempting to properly submit claims under the medicare program to ensure that the Secretary does not target inadvertent billing errors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 453. A bill for the relief of Denes and Georgyi Fulop; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 454. A bill to provide permanent funding for the Bureau of Land Management Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 455. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and modify the exclusion relating to qualified small business stock and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 456. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the assurance of efficiency, quality, and patient satisfaction in the furnishing of health care to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 457. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with Hepatitis C, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BOND:

S. Res. 42. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business; from the Committee on Small Business; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. Res. 43. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week of March 18 through March 24, 2001, as "National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOLLINGS:

S. Con. Res. 20. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002; to the Committee on the Budget.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 60

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors of S. 60, a bill to authorize the Department of Energy programs to develop and implement an accelerated re-

search and development program for advanced clean coal technologies for use in coal-based electricity generating facilities and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide financial incentives to encourage the retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of coal-based electricity generating facilities to protect the environment and improve efficiency and encourage the early commercial application of advanced clean coal technologies, so as to allow coal to help meet the growing need of the United States for the generation of reliable and affordable electricity.

S. 115

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 115, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the percentage depletion allowance for certain hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 123

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 123, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend loan forgiveness for certain loans to Head Start teachers.

S. 126

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 126, a bill to authorize the President to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter in recognition of their service to the Nation.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 148, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 167, a bill to allow a State to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of all its students.

S. 177

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to amend the provisions of title 19, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

S. 281

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the