

1

7

NAVY TIMES/August 21, 19

# This Week

## In brief

### Commock guilty of filing false claim

WASHINGTON — Lt. (jg) Gary Commock, who complained about the racial climate at the naval air training command from which he was dropped, was found guilty Aug. 10 after a court-martial of filing a false travel claim, making false statements and improperly withholding money.

Commock was fined \$1,000 and received a letter of reprimand for collecting \$900 after filing a false travel claim on which he said his family had moved from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Kingsville, Texas. If Commock fails to pay the fine, he faces a 90-day jail sentence.

Commock's trouble began when he was dropped from flight school. He accused officials within the command of creating a poor racial climate.

Then he alerted personnel officials to stop paying him an allowance that they in turn said he shouldn't have received and was charged with fraud, larceny and making false statements. His promotion to lieutenant was held up.

Commock's civilian attorney, Vaughan Taylor, said the money he improperly received — including over \$11,000 in basic allowance for quarters — was repaid as soon as Commock was told he'd received the money improperly.

The more serious charges of conduct unbecoming an officer, involving the \$11,000, were dismissed during the court-martial.

### Iraq defections bring Clinton pledge

WASHINGTON — President Clinton pledged Aug. 10 to use military force to protect Jordan from Iraq should the need arise. Tension between the two former Arab allies have been rising since two of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's daughters and their husbands defected from Iraq

and fled to Jordan Aug. 8.

The husbands, Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel Hassan and Lt. Col. Saddam Kamel Hassan, were part of Saddam's ruling circle. On arrival in Jordan, the pair reportedly said they defected because Saddam's government has lost all credibility.

Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon called the defection "a potentially extraordinarily significant event" and a "major vote of no confidence" in Saddam Hussein.

Bacon told reporters there was evidence of increased activity by Iraq's elite Republican Guard troops since the defections.

Defense officials speculate that while Iraq could be considering a strike against Jordan, the Republican Guards could also be preparing to prop up Saddam's regime against internal dissent or they may be planning action against the Kurdish minority in northern Iraq.

Bacon warned Iraq about making any sudden moves: "We have very substantial forces in the region that are highly ready." Bacon said.

About 20,000 Navy and Air Force troops are in the region. They include the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln with 80 planes and 10 escort ships in the Persian Gulf. A Marine Corps expeditionary group on four ships is in the Red Sea and Air Force units are in Saudi Arabia.

### Minor damage in fire aboard Detroit

CHESTER, Pa. — The Navy's largest oil and ammunition supply ship was damaged at a Delaware County shipyard by an on-board fire.

The fast combat support ship, Detroit, held no call or cargo when the blaze broke out below deck around 5:45 p.m. Aug. 6. It was out by 7:30 p.m., but rekindled at 8:30 p.m. and burned until 11

down ladders to get to it.

The 792-foot ship has been undergoing repairs at the Metro Machine of Pennsylvania Inc. shipyard on the Delaware River since June. It is homeported at the Earle Naval Weapons Station, N.J.

### Navy jets bomb Serb missile sites

WASHINGTON — Four Navy aircraft responding as part of a NATO contingent bombed two Serb surface-to-air missile sites Aug. 4 after their jets were targeted by the rebel Serb's anti-aircraft missiles, said a NATO spokesman.

A contingent of U.N. Pakistani peacekeepers had been caught in the middle of fighting in the Kratina region, said Maj. Matj Theobornalich. They requested the air presence when artillery rounds started falling in their their outpost.

The two incidents involved a pair of EA-6B Prowlers from VAQ-141 and Naval Reserve squadron VAQ-209 — both flying off the aircraft carrier Roosevelt — and a pair of F/A-19C Hornets dispatched from Aviano, Italy.

"My biggest concern was providing the maximum amount of protection to the forces that were being threatened," said Capt. Brian Bennett, the Prowler flight leader and skipper of VAQ-141. "This is what we train to do."

Crews blasted the two mobile SA-6 SAM sites near the towns of Katin and Ushina with HARM anti-radiation missiles when warning indicators told them they were being "illuminated" by the Serb's radar targeting systems.

All crew members returned safely to their bases.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.



### Navy Times

ISSN 0028-1697

Published every Monday by Army Times Publishing Co., 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, Va. 22159-0260. This paper is not an official publication of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, or U.S. Coast Guard. Annual subscription rate is \$52 U.S. domestic mail. Second class postage is paid at Springfield, Va., and at additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: NAVY TIMES, Springfield, Va. 22159-0240. A form for this purpose is in the classified ad section at the back of the paper.

**SUBSCRIBER SERVICE:** To order NAVY TIMES, to change an address, or for other subscription information, call 1-800-368-5718 or write to: NAVY TIMES, Subscriber Service Department, Springfield, VA 22159-0240.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For your convenience, a change-of-address form is included in the classified section of this newspaper.

**PHOTOCOPY PERMISSION:** Contents of this publication are copyrighted by Army Times Publishing Co. The Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers,