

# Marines buildup in Beirut

Another 400 to join 800 marines already there

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 800 U.S. Marines who landed in Beirut on Wednesday may be joined by another 400 Marines with tanks and artillery, possibly as early as Thursday, according to Pentagon officials. Pres. Ronald Reagan said the Americans may stay in Lebanon even after Israeli and Syrian troops leave.

The Pentagon officials said preparations were being made for additional forces and equipment to be sent ashore, but they stressed that the final decision had to be made by the Marines' commander, Col. James M. Mead.

They said, however, that the expanded duties of the Marines made the additional deployment likely.

Reagan notified Congress on Wednesday that the first contingent of Marines had returned to Beirut. His formal notification, required under the War Powers Act, said the troops "will not engage in combat," but may "exercise the right of self-defense and will be equipped accordingly."

Reagan told Congress that the Marines would be in Lebanon "only for a limited period of time." But he later told reporters on a political trip that he expects the Syrians and Israelis to leave "sooner than Lebanon will be ready for us to" remove the Marines.

The State Department, however, appeared to retreat from Reagan's pledge that the Marines will remain in Lebanon until other foreign forces are withdrawn.

"Within the limited period of time, the multinational force will

be there, the United States expects the Israelis and Syrians will follow through on their intentions and withdraw from Lebanon," said deputy spokesman Alan Romberg. "The very presence of the multinational force should encourage early agreement on these withdrawals."

However, neither Israel nor Syria has indicated publicly that it expects the withdrawal to be rapid.

It was the second time that Marines were sent to the Lebanese capital. The leathernecks, members of the

32nd Marine Amphibious Unit stationed with the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, helped oversee the evacuation of 6,000 Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas in late August and earlier this month.

A Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified, said Wednesday that the Marines have a much larger area to patrol this time, making it likely that Mead will call for the armor and artillery reinforcements. During the PLO evacuation, the U.S. troops were confined to the harbor area at the northern edge of the city.

## Burning tank cars hamper firefighters

LIVINGSTON, La. (AP) — Crews in protective suits and air masks discovered toxic ground and stream contamination a half-mile away from blazing derailed chemical tank cars Wednesday. Firefighters, meanwhile, were forced to abandon efforts to put the fire out.

More people were evacuated from this near-deserted town and a black haze darkened the sky as far as 10 miles away.

As many as 3,300 people have been forced from their homes since 43 cars of a 101-car Illinois Central Gulf freight train derailed early Tuesday and rocked the area as tankloads of oil and chemicals burst into balls of flame, state police said.

Attempts to douse the cars were stopped when officials

discovered a tank car filled with sodium metals in the middle of the burning, smoky wreckage. Water and sodium combined create a violent, fiery explosion.

Firefighters plan to let the blaze burn itself out, which would take about five days, Gov. Dave Treen said.

Crews working in the area found heavy contamination, but said underground drinking water supplies were not contaminated, said Lt. Ronnie Jones, state police spokesman.

"We're looking at a great deal of ground contamination," Jones said. In one area, a dam was constructed to prevent a drainage ditch from running into a creek.

Monitors at the edge of the

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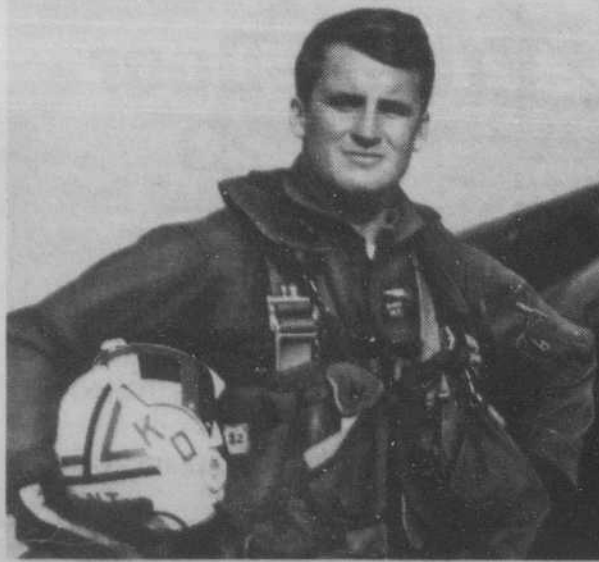
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