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and More



inter/national

From Associated Press reports

Marines at highest alert

BEIRUT — U.S. Marines were ordered into sand-bagged bunkers Tuesday and told to "shoot to kill" anyone approaching their camp after three trucks that officials feared might be filled with explosives drove nearby.

"There have been three vehicles spotted driving around the area. There are suspicions that they could contain explosives," said Marine Capt. Wayne Jones. Officials gave no further information about the trucks, but the Marines remained on alert throughout the day.

The Pentagon said the death toll from Sunday's terrorist bombing of a U.S. Marine command post rose to 214 as six more bodies were recovered and one man died of injuries in a military hospital in West Germany.

The suicide strike was carried out by a man driving a truck packed with a ton of explosives. It was the bloodiest attack against the U.S. military since Vietnam.

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About 300 Marine troops arrived at the camp to replace their fallen comrades and the Marine commandant, Gen. Paul Kelley, arrived to inspect the jagged concrete wreckage of the Marine building. Kelley said he thought security at the base was "very adequate" and that it would have been difficult to prevent the attack.

Land veto overridden

WASHINGTON — Congress voted Tuesday to override a presidential veto of legislation giving 3.1 acres of federally owned land to Oregon families who believed they owned it for decades. The tract is located about 30 miles southeast of Eugene near Dorena Lake in Culp Creek.

The action marked the third time Congress has voided a veto by Pres. Ronald Reagan.

"They bought the property, they paid for it, they paid taxes on it, and now the government wants to take it away from them," said Democratic Rep. Jim Weaver, who

represents the district that includes the disputed tract.

Based on a private but erroneous survey, the land, originally settled under the Homestead Act, was sold off by the owner. Parcels of the 3.1-acre tract along with nongovernment land are now owned by six elderly familes and the telephone company. A railroad company also has a right-of-way on a portion.

"It may not seem like a major issue — it is not in the light of other issues before us," said Sen. Mark Hatfield R-Ore., the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. "But it is very important to some individuals and it's a matter of principle to the people of our state."

"This move represents the affirmation of a principle, a principle that the federal government can be equitable, just and caring in its actions," Hatfield said.

The legislation, first proposed more than 20 years ago, was prompted by a 1941 private survey of the area that erroneously included land owned by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management.

Reagan cuts commission

WASHINGTON — Pres. Ronald Reagan fired half the Civil Rights Commission to make room for his own team of conservatives Tuesday in a move that effectively puts the gadfly agency out of business at least temporarily.

Outraged civil rights groups said the three ousted members, appointed by two previous presidents, were guilty only of criticizing the administration's record.

A bipartisan effort was launched in the Senate to reconstitute the commission as an independent arm of Congress and House Democrats unanimously approved a statement "strongly" disapproving of Reagan's action, which it said was taken "without cause."

In one stroke last May, Reagan proposed three nominees to replace members held over from the Carter and Ford administrations. The holdovers are Mary Berry, Blandina Ramirez and Murray Saltzman.

In a statement Tuesday, the White House said those three jobs now are terminated.

In firing the holdovers, Reagan

called on the Senate to confirm his appointees: Morris Abram, John Bunzel and Robert Destro. They all share Reagan's belief that quota systems and mandatory busing are inappropriate ways to end racial discrimination.

The firing leaves the commission without its required quorum of four, meaning it cannot even meet until at least one more member is confirmed by the Senate.

Reaction to Reagan's move was swift.

"We are appalled by the abrupt firing of three dedicated servants of civil rights," said John Jacob, president of the National Urban League. "The administration's move is an insult to the civil rights community and to the Congress which has been searching for ways to preserve an effective Civil Rights Commission."

Negotiations have been under way in the Senate toward a compromise that would expand the commission, allowing the current members to remain on the job and some of Reagan's nominees to be sworn in.

The commission, created in 1957, is an advisory body that investigates discrimination. It has no enforcement powers. It submits reports to the president and Congress and, over the years, many of its recommendations have become law.

LA newsman wounded

LOS ANGELES — Jerry Dunphy, a 20-year veteran newsman and anchor of the highest rated newscast in Los Angeles, remained hospitalized Tuesday with gunshot wounds from unknown assailants in an apparent random attack, authorities said.

Police said they believed Dunphy was the victim of a "drive-by shooting" Monday night at an intersection near the ABC television complex in Hollywood.

Dunphy, 62, was driving his dark blue Rolls-Royce convertible. His passenger, makeup artist Sandra Marshall, 36, was shot once in the right arm and was hospitalized in stable condition at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center.

Dunphy, reported in satisfactory condition with bullet wounds to the neck and arm, has been an anchorman at KABC since 1976.

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