

VIRGINIA

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STATE BRIEFS

FROM WIRE AND STAFF REPORTS

Single-engine plane crash kills pilot, wife

VIRGINIA BEACH — A pilot and his wife were killed yesterday when their single-engine plane crashed soon after takeoff in a wooded residential area, narrowly missing a house.

Virginia State Police Sgt. D.S. Carr said the plane took off from Norfolk International Airport at 11:28 a.m. and crashed at 11:31 a.m. in the backyard of a home off Woodgreen Road, near Virginia Wesleyan College.

The pilot had reported that the plane's door opened shortly after takeoff, and he was trying to return to the Norfolk airport to secure it when the plane crashed, said Arlene Murray, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in New York. The names of the victims were withheld pending notification of family. The plane was en route to Charleston, S.C.

The plane landed in the backyard of Linda Beck, who was inside her home at the time. A roar "just kept getting louder and louder, and all of a sudden there was a boom and trees were splitting," she told WVEC-TV in Norfolk. A neighbor, Dan Foster, told the station he heard the plane sputtering as if the engine could not get fuel.

Jury deliberating in robbery-murder trial

BOYDTON — A jury began deliberating yesterday evening whether a Georgia man helped lure a Mecklenburg County man to a secluded area where he was robbed and shot to death.

Larvonrick L.J. Williams, 20, is charged with first-degree murder and abduction in the Oct. 24, 2004, death of 18-year-old Al Lorenzo Roberts. Williams is also charged with conspiracy to commit robbery, robbery and two counts of use of a firearm.

Just before 9 p.m. yesterday, after jurors had deliberated for about three hours, Circuit Judge Les Osborn sent them home for the night. Deliberations resume this morning.

Another defendant, Christopher J. Crawley, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in February for his part in the slaying. Crawley's wife, Vanessa Johnson Crawley, is also charged with murder and is scheduled to stand trial Aug. 28-29.

Caroline man charged in marijuana seizure

Caroline County authorities announced they seized \$200,000 worth of marijuana, including 200 plants, during a raid at a home early yesterday.

Caroline Sheriff Tony Lipa said deputies and Virginia State Police also confiscated three firearms, including an assault rifle, during the raid on a home in Ruther Glen. About 175 of the marijuana plants were found in a wooded area near the residence, Lipa said.

Authorities arrested David W. Nelson Jr., 53, and charged him with manufacturing marijuana, possessing marijuana with intent to distribute and possessing firearms as a convicted felon. He was being held without bond.

Lipa said county residents provided information that initiated the one-year investigation.

Murder suspect was out of jail on bond

CULPEPER — Ira Wayne Cloniger was out on bond in a malicious-wounding case when, police say, he stabbed a man to death.

After eluding authorities for seven days, Cloniger, 43, was arrested Sunday night in Rappahannock County on a murder charge in the July 2 stabbing death of Edward Carlton Fletcher Jr., 29, of Stephens City. Yesterday, he was ordered held without bond.

Police say Fletcher was killed at Cloniger's residence on Gid Brown Hollow Road, 2 miles west of the town of Washington.

In Culpeper, Cloniger is charged with malicious wounding in the nonfatal stabbing of Wally Clem, 60, in April.

Lt. Connie Smith with the Rappahannock Sheriff's Office said authorities found Cloniger in the woods at Massie's Corner, near U.S. 211 and U.S. 522 after a tip from a county resident.

Hearing stormy for judicial nominee

A GOP senator is skeptical of Haynes' explanation of his role in interrogation policies

BY PETER HARDIN
TIMES-DISPATCH
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — President Bush's pick of William James Haynes II for the Richmond-based federal appeals court faces an uncertain future after a stormy nomination hearing yesterday.

Two Democrats blistered Haynes, the Pentagon general counsel, over his role helping shape Bush administration policies on treatment of enemy detainees, and one Republican senator sharply questioned Haynes' role too.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., said Haynes recommended to the secretary of defense the use of dogs to intimidate detainees at the U.S.-run prison at Guanta-

namo Bay. At least two service members were prosecuted for using dogs to frighten detainees elsewhere, while Haynes was getting "promoted" to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, Durbin protested.

"You made your decision, which history will not judge kindly," Durbin told Haynes, staking out his opposition.

Said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.: "Time and time again . . . Mr. Haynes has displayed a shocking failure of legal and moral leadership."

"It is astounding that the administration would continue to press his nomination, even though the subordinates who have followed the policies he authorized have gone to prison."

Haynes testified that allegations of prisoner abuse from the Abu Ghraib facility in Iraq have been investigated thoroughly. The abuse was not authorized, was not part of Pentagon policy and he deplored it, he said.

"It was the work of the night shift without any authority whatsoever — for sport," Haynes testified.

The 48-year-old Northern Virginia resident said his work has been guided by a rule that "even the terrorists must be treated humanely and within the law."

Although several Republican senators backed Haynes as a skilled lawyer working to provide advice to a client, the secretary of defense, another, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, was more skeptical.

Graham questioned whether senior informed lawyers had not "pushed back" strongly over some of Haynes' recommendations for aggressive interrogation techniques.

He also asked, unsuccessfully, whether Haynes was part of the team responsible for a Justice Department memo that appeared to justify torture in the war on terror; the government has subsequently repudiated the memo.

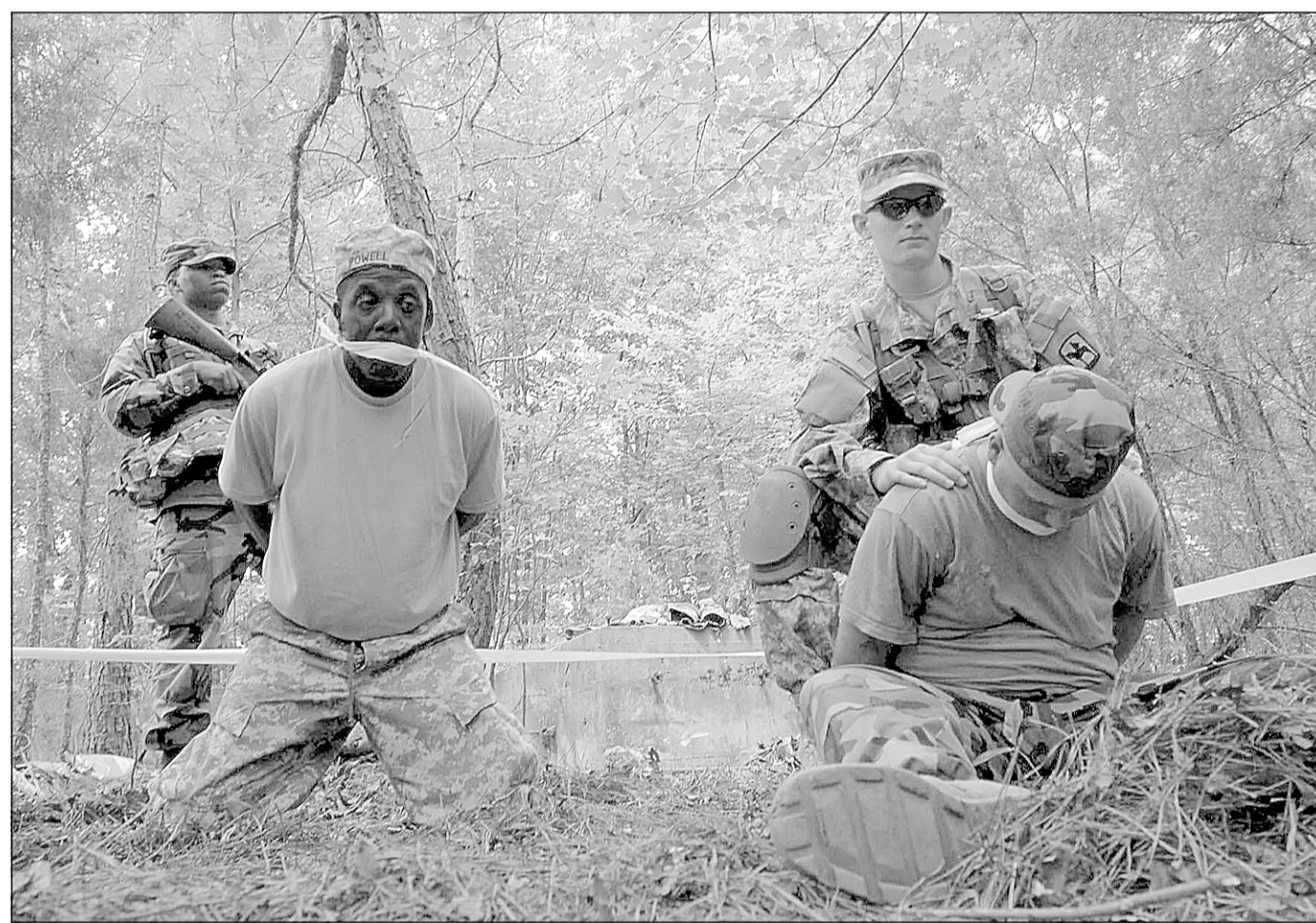
Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the Judiciary Committee chairman, said Haynes has had "a difficult role, admittedly" as general counsel after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and during the war on terror.

Haynes also was asked about a letter signed by a group of retired military officials. It voiced "profound concern" about Haynes' role, going "over the objections of uniformed military lawyers," in setting policies "which led not only to the abuse of detainees in U.S. custody but to a dangerous abrogation of the military's long-standing commitment to the rule of law."

Haynes got a copy of the letter from Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., who with Sen. George Allen, R-Va., introduced him to the committee. Haynes took issue with the assertion. He said he thought he had worked with only two of the 20 signers of the letter, although he hadn't studied it closely.

It was Haynes' second hearing before the committee; he first was nominated in 2003. Some Democrats have raised the possibility of a filibuster if Haynes' nomination is sent to the full Senate for a vote.

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DON LONG/TIMES-DISPATCH

Soldiers at Fort Pickett practice controlling detainees, though officials said Virginia Guardsmen will only be supporting federal agents along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Guard

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along the Arizona-Mexico border, Harris said, though many details of the mission have yet to be worked out.

One thing the Guardsmen will not be doing is directly handling law-enforcement jobs, such as catching or holding people trying to cross the U.S.-Mexican border illegally, according to a Customs and Border Protection statement.

The National Guard will provide surveillance and logistical support, freeing agents to concentrate on the law-enforcement aspects of border security, Customs and Border Protection said.

"They're waiting for us to get there with

open arms," said Harris, who has met with officials in Arizona.

Motivations for volunteering among the Virginia Guardsmen training here ranged from the patriotic to the personal to the pecuniary.

Army Guard Cpl. Rick Sommers, 50, of Pamplin said he backed the national policy underlying the border mission.

"With the terrorism threat, we absolutely have to secure our borders," the retired Chesterfield County firefighter said.

"I love the Army," said 47-year-old Spc. Wilbert Williams, a hospital anesthesia technician from Richmond who served a year on active duty in Iraq.

Pfc. Selina Jessee, a 36-year-old Norton resident whose husband is a disabled coal miner, figures she can save about \$3,200 a month while serving on the border.

Last of Kurds pleads in money-transfer case

BY CALVIN R. TRICE
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

HARRISONBURG — The last of four Kurdish refugees charged with illegal money transfers to overseas banks pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday.

Fadhil Noroly, 40, admitted to transmitting without a license \$305,618 from Kurds in the United States to bank accounts in Europe, Turkey and other places from October 2001 until October 2005. Under terms of a plea agreement, Assistant U.S. Attorney William Gould will not ask for prison time when Noroly is sentenced. Noroly agreed to surrender \$6,112 in estimated profits to the government.

After a brief hearing in U.S. District Court, Magistrate B. Waugh Criger set a Sept. 26 sentencing date for Noroly.

He is part of a refugee community of Kurds who worked for American relief organizations in northern Iraq and were settled in the Shenandoah Valley in the late 1990s after threats from Saddam Hussein. Hundreds in the Harrisonburg area rallied in support of Noroly and three other Kurdish refugees sentenced to probation last month for running illegal money trans-

missions.

The Patriot Act passed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks made it illegal to operate money transmissions without a license, even for those who don't know the law. The four Kurds were convicted of transmitting money without obtaining a state license.

Their supporters in Harrisonburg believe the federal law is unfair and punishes with felonies hard-working immigrants doing honorable activity — supporting families back home.

Noroly originally intended to contest the charge with a jury trial. However, because he doesn't deny making the transfers, he would only have been fighting in court for what he received in the plea deal, said his lawyer, Aaron Cook of Harrisonburg.

Gould didn't accuse the men of funneling money to terrorist groups. He has argued in court, though, that the Patriot Act provision was passed because terrorists could exploit unlicensed money-transmission businesses without the operators knowing it.

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M. Warner urges party to press security issues

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES, Iowa — Democrats must prove to voters they can keep the country safe, and they must aggressively challenge President Bush on national security, former Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner said yesterday.

"There is a strong case to be made that what Democrats have to do is prove their mettle on national security but also lay out a world view," Warner said.

He added that progress has been made, "but I find that among those who have the greatest expertise on homeland security, Republicans and Democrats alike, there is almost uniform criticism of how much more remains to be done."

Warner spoke as he began a two-day campaign swing in Iowa, where precinct caucuses open the presidential nominating season. He was raising money for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chet Culver as well as aiding congressional and

legislative candidates.

It was his latest visit to Iowa, testing the water for a potential bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008.

Warner said Democrats have been far too quick to cede the homeland-security issue to Bush and Republicans, and he said that it's certain to be a key issue in this year's midterm election.

"Democrats have to lay out how we protect America in a post-9/11 world," Warner said. "There are a number of areas where we can lay out criticism of this administration."

Seeking to distance himself from potential rivals, Warner said his history of being governor of a state that was attacked by terrorists in 2001 sets him apart. The Pentagon is in Northern Virginia.

Warner cited areas where the administration's response has been lacking.

"I find it remarkable that five years later, we don't have standards for chemical plants around the country, five years later we still see debates about security at our ports," he said.

In addition, after the 2001 attacks there was virtually unanimous agreement that communications systems for emergency responders need to be upgraded,



Warner

Langley camera to survey shuttle

A thermal imager designed in Virginia to be tested today

BY JILL SAKAI
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Astronauts today will use a Virginia-designed camera for the first time in space to see how well it can detect damage to the space shuttle's heat-protection system.

The thermal camera, just larger than an ordinary camcorder, is designed to image the amount of heat emitted from the shuttle's surface. Even tiny cracks or separation of layers of material show up in pictures as a change in the heat-emission pattern.

If it works in the harsh environment of space, the camera will be used on future missions to verify that spacecraft can withstand the heat generated during re-entry to Earth's atmosphere.

"We want to demonstrate that it works so that it will be certified for routine use in the future," said Keith Henry, a spokesman for NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, where the camera was developed.

Astronauts Piers J. Sellers and Michael E. Fossum were scheduled to begin a spacewalk at 7:13 a.m. The pictures they take of the shuttle wings and damaged and undamaged test materials will be compared with similar images taken on Earth.

Near the end of the spacewalk the astronauts also will take pictures of the space station's radiators to check their efficiency.

Michael Gazarik, lead engineer on the thermal-camera project at Langley, looks forward to learning how the camera will work in space.

"It's a pretty happy mood right now and people are very excited and really gearing up," said Gazarik, who was at Johnson Space Center in Houston for the mission.

The thermal camera will stay on the space station after the shuttle's departure. American astronaut Jeffrey N. Williams and German Thomas Reiter will continue testing it during a spacewalk planned for Aug. 3.

A similar camera traveled to space on last summer's shuttle mission as an emergency safety tool but was not used.

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THE MISSION

Space Shuttle Discovery, which launched on July 4, is scheduled to return to Earth on Monday at 9:07 a.m. During its mission, the crew of five men and two women is delivering supplies to the International Space Station, repairing the station and performing spacewalks.

