

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Generals Pledge Loyalty To Ivory Coast Prez

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Five generals pledged their loyalty to President Alassane Ouattara on Tuesday following the capture of the country's strongman leader after a four-month standoff, as French and Ivorian forces worked to eliminate the last pockets of resistance.

Ouattara's spokesman Patrick Achi confirmed that the generals who had been fighting on Laurent Gbagbo's side right up until his capture swore allegiance before Ouattara one by one at the Golf Hotel, where he set up his presidency after Gbagbo refused to acknowledge losing the November presidential election.

Doh Ouattara, a member of the security team at the hotel, said Gbagbo, his wife and entourage were in a suite there. He said the lower-level officials traveling with Gbagbo had been sealed inside the bar of the luxury hotel.

U.S. Citizen Detained In North Korea

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden's Foreign Ministry says an American citizen was arrested in North Korea and that Swedish diplomats are representing the U.S. in the case.

Ministry spokesman Teo Zetterman says "an American citizen has been detained in North Korea. That's all we can say."

He told the AP on Tuesday that Sweden is dealing with North Korean authorities on behalf of the U.S. in the case. Zetterman wouldn't give the name of the American citizen or discuss the circumstances or date of the American's arrest, referring questions to the U.S. State Department.

The Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang represents the United States because the U.S. doesn't have diplomatic relations with North Korea.

Body Count Rises For Possible Serial Killer

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP) — The number of possible victims of a serial killer rose to 10 on Tuesday after authorities confirmed that two sets of remains found along a New York highway a day earlier are human.

Authorities have not definitively linked all the remains found in the past five months to the same suspect, but they have said four Craiglist escorts found in December were likely victims of a serial killer.

Police happened upon the first set of four remains while searching for a missing New Jersey prostitute last seen in a nearby community nearly a year ago. That woman has yet to be found.

Police searching late last month along Ocean Parkway discovered a fifth body, which prompted authorities to commence a widespread search involving dozens of officers, dogs, helicopters, mounted units and volunteer firefighters. That effort led to the discovery April 4 of three more sets of remains and two more on Monday near Jones Beach State Park.

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U.S. Holds To Limited Role In Libya

MATTHEW LEE AND RAF CASERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite rebel setbacks and an increasingly public rift with NATO allies, the U.S. will stick to its plan to remain in the back seat of the Libya air campaign, the Obama administration insisted Tuesday after three weeks of air missions that have failed to turn the tide against Moammar Gadhafi.

France's defense minister declared that without full American participation, the West probably would not be able to stop attacks by Gadhafi loyalists on besieged rebel cities.

U.S. officials said they were comfortable with their role and had no plans to step up involvement, even as British and French officials said Washington's military might was needed to ensure the mission's success. The Americans said NATO could carry out the operation without a resumption of the heavy U.S. efforts that kicked it off last month.

"The president and this administration believes that NATO, and the coalition of

which we remain a partner, is capable of fulfilling that mission of enforcing the no-fly zone, enforcing the arms embargo and providing civilian protection," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

"The U.S. has not abandoned this operation by any means," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said. "We still are offering support where we can. I don't think it's correct to say that there's somehow discord in the alliance."

The public complaints of Britain and France, however, contradicted that position, and U.S. officials contended privately that some in Europe appeared to be backing down on pledges to take the lead in the operation once the opening phase was over. The administration had not wanted to keep a primary role after that point and had made its participation in the NATO mission contingent on having only a supporting function afterward.

With the disagreement out in the open, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to hear loud calls for the U.S. to

resume heavier fighting when she travels to Germany for meetings of NATO foreign ministers on Thursday and Friday. Those talks are expected to be dominated by the situation in Libya, where rebels fighting forces loyal to Gadhafi are facing increasing challenges and appealing for additional assistance.

At the State Department, spokesman Toner said President Barack Obama had been clear from the beginning that the U.S. "role would diminish as NATO stepped up and took command and control of the operation."

He added, "The U.S., of course, as needed, would help out if requested in other capacities, in other capabilities, but really our role has receded in this mission."

At the Pentagon, Marine Col. Dave Lapan said there was no move to increase American military involvement.

"I don't see any planning to re-assess U.S. strike aircraft and forces as we saw early in the campaign," the Pentagon spokesman said. "NATO has those capabilities to conduct strikes."

Japan Equates Crisis Severity To Chernobyl

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AND SHINO YUASA
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan ranked its nuclear crisis at the highest possible severity on an international scale — the same level as the 1986 Chernobyl disaster — even as it insisted Tuesday that radiation leaks are declining at its tsunami-crippled nuclear plant.

The higher rating is an open acknowledgement of what was widely understood already: The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant is the second-worst in history. It does not signal a worsening of the plant's status in recent days or any new health dangers.

Still, people living nearby who

had endured a month of spewing radiation and frequent earthquakes said the change in status added to their unease despite government efforts to play down any notion that the crisis poses immediate health risks.

Miyuki Ichisawa closed her coffee shop this week when the government added her community, litate village, and four others to places people should leave to avoid long-term radiation exposure. The additions expanded the 12-mile (20-kilometer) zone where people had already been ordered to evacuate soon after the March 11 tsunami swamped the plant.

"And now the government is officially telling us this accident is at the same level of Chernobyl," Ichisawa said. "It's very shocking to me."

Japanese nuclear regulators said the severity rating was raised from 5 to 7 on an international scale overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency due to new assessments of the overall radiation leaks from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

According to the Vienna-based atomic energy agency, the new ranking signifies a major accident that includes widespread effects on the environment and people's health. The scale, designed by experts convened by the IAEA and other groups in 1989, is meant to help the public, the technical community and the media understand the public safety implications of nuclear events.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Japan's decision did not mean the disaster

had been downplayed previously.

Early actions by Japanese authorities — evacuations, radiation warnings and the work at the plant to contain leaks — showed they realized the gravity of the situation, Denis Flory, an IAEA deputy director general, said.

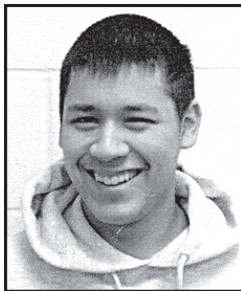
The upgraded status did not mean radiation from the plant was worsening, but rather reflected concern about long-term health risks as it continues to spew into the air, soil and seawater. Most radiation exposures around the region haven't been high enough yet to raise significant health concerns.

Workers are still trying to restore disabled cooling systems at the plant, and radioactive isotopes have been detected in tap water, fish and vegetables.

A+ Students of the Week



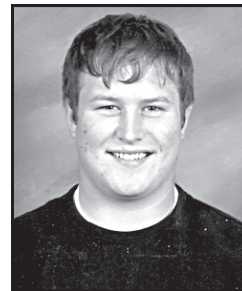
Jack Schoenfelder
Parents: Bryan & Angie Schoenfelder
Grade: 5th
School: Sacred Heart Middle School
Why nominated? High academic achievement, courteous to classmates and staff, positive attitude.
Favorite Subjects: P.E., Social Studies & Science
Favorite School Memory(s): 2nd grade field trip to the Sioux Falls Zoo.



Ireneo Gutierrez
Parents: Rosinda & Juan Carlos Gutierrez
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Trig & Chemistry
Favorite School Memory(s): Being a part of National Honor Society.



Luke Neumann
Parents: Steve & Tammy Neumann
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Science
Favorite School Memory(s): Making it through AP Biology.



Ty Soulek
Parents: Steph & Jim Reinhardt and Chad Soulek
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: All history classes and American Lit.
Favorite School Memory(s): Winning homecoming last year against Mitchell.



Robert Schmidt
Parents: Deb & Keith Schmidt
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: AP U.S. History & Spanish III
Favorite School Memory(s): The band trip to Chicago.



Connor Fitzsimmons
Parents: Cilla & Dan Fitzsimmons
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Spanish & Math classes
Favorite School Memory(s): Beating Brandon Valley in football in the first round of the playoffs last year.



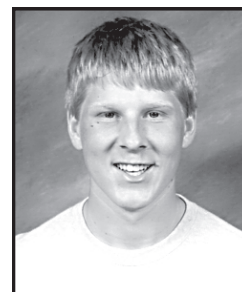
Courtney True
Parents: Troy & Kris True
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Math & Spanish
Favorite School Memory(s): In pottery class, we had a Raiku firing demonstration, which meant we fired our pots in a fire we built and the colors came naturally to it from the hay and other things we placed in the fire. It was neat.



Nicole Westerman
Parents: Mark & Christy Westerman
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Math & Science
Favorite School Memory(s): Getting a Superior for Reader's Theater at State Interp.



Gaitlyn Oien
Parents: Les & Sharon Oien
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Spanish & AP U.S. History
Favorite School Memory(s): Being on the Roll of Excellence since middle school.



Alex McKee
Parents: Dave & Laurie McKee
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Spanish
Favorite School Memory(s): Being inducted into the National Honor Society.



Alex Heine
Parents: Ron & Ann Heine
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Cisco, Pre-Calculus & AP History
Favorite School Memory(s): When Mr. Haar took our AP History class to USD's library for the whole day to work on our National History Day projects.



Alex Heglin
Parents: Allene Sommer & Mike Heglin
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Algebra, Chemistry, Anatomy & Band
Favorite School Memory(s): Doing pit crew for "How to Succeed in Business Without Even Trying" and "Guys & Dolls."



Matt Gubbels
Parents: Deb & Gail Gubbels
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Anatomy & Physiology, & AP Biology
Favorite School Memory(s): Goeden's homeroom.



Jenna Grossenburg
Parents: Robin & Jan Grossenburg
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Spanish, Math & Chemistry
Favorite School Memory(s): The Gong Show before Homecoming.



Danielle Gill
Parents: Joe & Laura Gill
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: Spanish & AP History
Favorite School Memory(s): Homecoming because I love seeing how people dress up and watching the Gong Show.



Lindsay Ferris
Parents: Alan & Dawn Ferris
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: British Literature & AP Biology
Favorite School Memory(s): Our Reader's Theater winning a superior at State Interp.



Chloe Cornemann
Parents: Dave & Alicia Cornemann
Grade: 11th
School: Yankton High School
Why nominated? Achievement in scholastic and extracurricular excellence.
Favorite Subjects: American Literature, Spanish & U.S. History
Favorite School Memory(s): Performing a dance at the Gong Show with a group of friends.



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