

Sudan

# U.S. Troops Prep For Action

BY PAULINE JELINEK AND  
LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has moved additional Marines and aircraft from Spain to the Horn of Africa to provide embassy security and help with evacuations from violence-wracked South Sudan.

Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said Monday that the commander in Africa is getting the forces ready for any request that may come from the U.S. State Department.

The military moves come as the U.S. continued intense diplomatic efforts to calm the roiling ethnic violence, including holding a meeting Monday between the U.S. special envoy for South Sudan, Donald Booth, and South Sudan President Salva Kiir.

A senior U.S. official said both Kiir and former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar said they were willing to talk to each other and that their stated commitments indicated that there is a "good possibility of getting them together." But, the official said that a lot of details, including

the time, venue and circumstances of such a meeting as well as the specifics of what they would discuss, still need to be determined.

Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, has said that an attempted military coup triggered the violence and that Machar, an ethnic Nuer, has been blamed for it.

On Monday, Booth said that he had a "frank and open discussion" with Kiir and that Kiir said he "was ready to begin talks with Riek Machar" as soon as possible.

While the diplomatic efforts go on, the Pentagon has been shifting troops around in the region in order to make them more readily available if needed.

A defense official said the extra forces moved to Djibouti will bring the total U.S. troops in the region to 150, with 10 aircraft, including Osprey helicopters and C-130 transport planes. Of those forces, about 45 U.S. Army troops are in South Sudan providing security. The remainder are in Djibouti, where the U.S. maintains its only permanent military base in Africa.

The U.S. and defense officials were not authorized to speak publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Troops deployed last week helped evacuate Americans and other foreign nationals and provided security at the U.S. Embassy in Juba. Another couple hundred Americans remain in the country, the official said.

Three of the four U.S. troops injured Saturday when gunfire hit evacuation aircraft are stable and being sent to the military hospital in Germany, Warren said, while the fourth continues to get treatment in Nairobi, in neighboring Kenya. The four U.S. Navy SEALs were all wounded in the lower body by small arms fire.

Rebel forces fired on the three military aircraft in Bar on Saturday, forcing the Ospreys — advanced helicopter-airplane hybrids — to abort their evacuation mission. On Sunday the U.S. evacuated Americans by civilian U.S. and U.N. helicopters.

The U.S. over the last week has evacuated 380 Americans and 300 others from South Sudan, which has seen vicious, ethnically targeted violence pulse through the nation.

Hospitalized Teen

# Hospital Must Continue Treatment

BY JASON DEAREN AND  
CHANNING JOSEPH  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — With a family fighting a hospital to keep their daughter who has been declared brain dead on life support, a California judge on Monday ordered the hospital to keep treating 13-year-old Jahi McMath for another week as a second medical evaluation is conducted.

Jahi experienced complications following a tonsillectomy at Children's Hospital in Oakland.

As her family sat stone-faced in the front row of the courtroom, an Alameda County judge called for Jahi to be independently examined by Paul Graham Fisher, the chief of child neurology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

The judge also ordered the hospital to keep Jahi on a ventilator until Dec. 30, or until further order from the court.

The examination was expected to occur later on Monday, and early Tuesday.

Hospital staff and Fisher will conduct an electroencephalogram, or EEG, and tests to see if blood is still flowing to Jahi's brain.

Doctors at Children's Hospital concluded the girl was brain dead on Dec. 12 and wanted to remove her from life support.

Jahi's family wants to keep her hooked up to a respirator, and eventually have her moved to another facility.

The family said they believe she is still alive, and that the hospital should not remove her from the ventilator without their permission.

"It's wrong for someone who made mistakes on your child to just call the coroner ... and not respect the family's feeling or rights," Sandra Chatman, Jahi's grandmother who is a registered nurse, said in the hallway outside the courtroom.

"I know Jahi suffered and it tears me up."

The family's attorney also asked Judge Evelio Grillo to allow a third evaluation by Paul Byrne, a pediatric professor at the University of Toledo. The hospital's attorney objected to Byrne, saying he is not a pediatric neurologist.

The judge is expected to take up the request to use Byrne, and another hearing was scheduled for Tuesday morning, Christmas Eve.

Jahi's family says the girl bled profusely after a tonsillectomy and then went into cardiac arrest before being declared brain dead.

Outside the courtroom, Dr. David Durand, chief of pediatrics at Children's, said that staff have the "deepest sympathy" for the family, but that Jahi is brain dead.



SUSAN TRIPP POLLARD/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT  
Nailah Winkfield, center, mother of Jahi McMath, receives hugs and support from family and friends in front of Children's Hospital Oakland in Oakland, Calif., on Monday.

thy" for the family, but that Jahi is brain dead.

"The ventilator cannot reverse the brain death that has occurred and it would be wrong to give false hope that Jahi will ever come back to life," he said.

Durand said Jahi's surgery was "very complex," not simply a tonsillectomy.

"It was much more complicated than a tonsillectomy," Durand said. He refused to elaborate, citing health care privacy laws.

Arthur L. Caplan, who leads the Division of Medical Ethics at NYU Langone Medical Center and is not involved in Jahi's case, told the Associated Press that once brain death has been declared, a hospital is under no obligation to keep a patient on a ventilator.

"Brain death is death," he said, adding, "They don't need permission from the family to take her off, but because the little girl died unexpectedly and so tragically, they're trying to soften the blow and let the family adjust to the reality."

Often families confuse brain death with a coma or a permanent vegetative state, Caplan said, offering an analogy.

"A coma is like a television

that has a picture with a lot of interference," he said. "There's brain activity, but something's not right. A permanent vegetative state is when the screen is all snow. Brain death is when the set is unplugged. There is nothing on the screen."

Keeping Jahi on a ventilator is also likely to cost thousands of dollars a day, he continued, and because she has been declared brain dead, is unlikely to be covered by health insurance.

Even if the court decides to remove Jahi from life support

Earlier Monday, Christopher Dolan, the family's attorney, vowed to keep Jahi hooked to the ventilator through Christmas. He said he would file an appeal if the

judge orders her removed from the machine on Tuesday.

"I am confident she'll live through Christmas," a visibly weary Dolan said after the hearing. Dolan said he is working the case for free after the family reached out for help a week earlier.

Given the very public battle over Jahi's treatment, the judge pleaded with attorneys on both sides to continue speaking with each other and the family to help prepare for his eventual final order.

"This is a very, very charged case. The stakes are very high because there's a young girl involved," Grillo said.

Over-The-Range Microwave starting at \$199<sup>99</sup>



Larry's APPLIANCE

920 Broadway Yankton, SD • 665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461

## Judge: Utah Gay Marriage Can Continue

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A federal judge on Monday allowed gay marriage to continue in Utah, rejecting a request to put same-sex weddings on hold as the state appeals a decision that has sent couples flocking to county clerk offices for marriage licenses.

Judge Robert J. Shelby overturned Utah's ban on same-sex marriage Friday, ruling the voter-approved measure is a violation of gay couples' constitutional rights. The state then asked him to put a stop to the weddings, but he rejected the request.

Shelby's ruling is far from the end of the legal wrangling on the topic. The state quickly filed a request with the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to put gay marriage on hold, and that court could rule as soon as Monday evening or Tuesday. The same court, in Denver, likely will hear the full appeal of the case several months from now.

In the meantime, the rush on marriage licenses continues for gay couples around Utah.

More than 300 gay couples have obtained marriage licenses since Friday in Utah's most populous county. On Monday, an estimated 100 licenses were issued in other counties, while some clerks shut their doors as they awaited Shelby's decision.

## Cold Temps Hinder Utilities, Travel Plans

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Parts of the country socked by a wild weekend storm will be covered with ice and without power through Christmas and beyond thanks to a steady diet of freezing rain and cold temperatures.

The first full day of winter, Sunday, brought a mix including snow in the Midwest and balmy temperatures along the Mid-Atlantic. Rain and melting snow led to swelling creeks and streams, closed roads and flooded underpasses in Indiana, Ohio and other Great Lakes states.

More than 390,000 homes and businesses were without power Monday in Michigan, upstate New York and northern New England, down from Sunday's peak of more than half a million. Most were in Michigan, whose largest utilities said it'll be days before power is restored because of the difficulty of working around broken lines.

In Maine, the number of customers without power spiked to more than 78,000, and the cold persisted.

"It's certainly not going away," Margaret Curtis, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Gray, Maine, said Monday. "In fact, we don't have very many areas where we're expecting temperatures to rise above freezing."

## Data Suggest Holiday Sales Fell Again

NEW YORK (AP) — After a strong start to the holiday shopping season, sales at stores have fallen for the third consecutive week as Americans continue to hold back on spending during what is traditionally the busiest buying period of the year.

Sales at U.S. stores dropped 3.1 percent to \$42.7 billion for the week that ended on Sunday compared with the same week last year, according to ShopperTrak, which tracks data at 40,000 locations. That follows a decline of 2.9 percent and 0.8 percent during the first and second weeks of the month, respectively.

The numbers, which don't include online sales, are another challenge in what has largely been a disappointing holiday shopping season for stores. The two-month period that begins on Nov. 1 is important for retailers because they can make up to 40 percent of their annual sales during that time.

Retailers started the season cautiously optimistic. But after a strong start through most of November — ShopperTrak said sales were up 3.4 percent for the month — retailers have found it increasingly hard to attract shoppers into stores despite big discounts and expanded hours during the final days.

"It's been a mediocre December," said Bill Martin, co-founder of ShopperTrak.

## Designer Of AK-47 Rifle Dies At 94

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Kalashnikov started out wanting to make farm equipment, but the harvest he reaped was one of blood as the designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, the world's most popular firearm.

It was the carnage of World War, when Nazi Germany overran much of the Soviet Union, which altered his course and made his name as well-known for bloodshed as Smith, Wesson and Colt. The distinctive shape of the gun, often called "a Kalashnikov," appeared on revolutionary flags and adorns memorabilia.

Kalashnikov died Monday at age 94 in a hospital in Izhevsk, the capital of the Udmurtia republic where he lived, said Viktor Chulkov, a spokesman for the republic's president. He did not give a cause of death. Kalashnikov had been hospitalized for the past month with unspecified health problems.

Kalashnikov often said he felt personally untroubled by his contribution to bloodshed.

"I sleep well. It's the politicians who are to blame for failing to come to an agreement and resorting to violence," he told The Associated Press in 2007.

May your Christmas be electrifying!



L&S ELECTRIC

Home: 665-6612  
Mobile: 661-1040

DECK THE HALLS ORNAMENTS AND TRIM


BUY 3 GET TWO FREE

SHOP & WIN

Extended Holiday Hours  
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM  
Downtown Yankton

LilyCrest

Shop Early!



Our store and gas station will close at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed Christmas Day so our employees can spend the holiday with their families. We will re-open at 6:00am on Thursday, December 26.

Happy Holidays From All Of Us At...

HyVee

EMPLOYEE OWNED

2100 Broadway, Yankton • 665-3412

Holiday Hours  
Christmas Eve &  
Christmas Day  
Dec. 24 & 25



YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C.  
SO MUCH CARE, SO CLOSE TO HOME.

The Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. will be open Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 8am-Noon and ConvenientCare will be closed. Both will be closed Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25th so that our staff may enjoy the holiday with their families.

REGULAR CLINIC HOURS:  
M-F: 8 am to 5:30 pm  
Sat: 8:30 am to Noon

605-665-7841  
1104 West 8th Street • Yankton, SD 57078  
www.YanktonMedicalClinic.com

ConvenientCare®  
WALK-INS WELCOME:  
M-F: 5 pm to 9 pm  
Sat & Sun: Noon to 5 pm