

## Pentagon Brass: Sexual Assault 'Like A Cancer'

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. senators dressed down senior military leaders Tuesday, led by female lawmakers, combat veterans and former prosecutors who insisted that sexual assault in the ranks has cost the services the trust and respect of the American people as well as the nation's men and women in uniform.

Summoned to Capitol Hill, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the beribboned four-star chiefs of the service branches conceded in an extraordinary hearing that they had faltered in dealing with sexual assault. One said assaults were "like a cancer" in the military.

But they strongly opposed congressional efforts to strip commanders of their traditional authority to decide whether to level charges in their units.

Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, especially the panel's seven female senators, grilled the chiefs about whether the military's mostly male leadership understands differences between relatively minor sexual offenses and serious crimes that deserve swift and decisive justice.

"Not every single commander necessarily wants women in the force. Not every single commander believes what a sexual assault is. Not every single commander can distinguish between a slap on the ass and a rape because they merge all of these crimes together," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.

## Convicted Hacker Testifies At WikiLeaks Trial

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP) — A one-time computer hacker who told authorities Pfc. Bradley Manning was giving information to WikiLeaks testified Tuesday the soldier never said he wanted to help the enemy during their online chats.

Manning is on trial for giving hundreds of thousands of documents to the secret-spilling website WikiLeaks. He pleaded guilty to charges that could bring 20 years behind bars, but the military has pressed ahead with a court-martial on more serious charges, including aiding the enemy. That charge carries a potential life sentence.

Adrian Lamo, a convicted hacker, said he started chatting online with Manning on May 20, 2010, and alerted law enforcement the next day about the contents of the soldier's messages, including his mention of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. He said he continued chatting with Manning on and off for six more days.

On cross-examination, Lamo said Manning never told him he wanted to help the enemy and did not express disloyalty to America.

"At any time, did Pfc. Manning ever say he wanted to help the enemy?" defense attorney David Coombs said.

## Ohio State President Steps Down After Joke

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State University President Gordon Gee announced his retirement Tuesday after he came under fire for jokingly referring to "those damn Catholics" at Notre Dame and poking fun at the academic quality of other schools.

The remarks were first reported last week by The Associated Press, and Ohio State at the time called them unacceptable and said it had placed Gee on a "remediation plan" to change his behavior.

Gee, 69, said in a teleconference Tuesday that the furor was only part of his decision to retire, which he said he had been considering for a while. He said his age and the start of a long-term planning debate at the university were also factors.

"I live in turbulent times and I've had a lot of headwinds, and so almost every occasion, I have just moved on," he said. Gee explained away the abrupt timing of his announcement by saying he was "quirky as hell" and hated long transitions.

According to a recording of a Dec. 5 meeting obtained by the AP under a public records request, Gee, a Mormon, said Notre Dame was never invited to join the Big Ten athletic conference because "you just can't trust those damn Catholics."

## OBITUARIES

### Dennis Pecka

Funeral services for Dennis Pecka, 81, of Tyndall will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, June 10 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall. Interment will follow in the Tyndall Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. on Monday until the time of service. Dennis passed away on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at the Good Samaritan Society of Scotland.

Online condolences may be

sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com). In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established by the family.

**Goglin  
Funeral Home**

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



[www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com)

### Cheryl T. Westbrook

Cheryl T. Westbrook, Ssgt., 35, went to be with her Jesus on Saturday, May 18, 2013. She was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and raised in the Tabor/Yankton, South Dakota area with her mother and sister, and numerous relatives.

Cheryl graduated from Yankton High School and immediately joined the Air Force. During her 18 years of service as a surgical technician, she was stationed in many countries including Germany, Japan, and South Korea as well as air bases in Florida and Nebraska.

Her life was blessed by many friendships made throughout the world. She cherished many things, especially time with her family and friends, but most importantly her two nephews. She had many other loves which included traveling worldwide, windmills, dragonflies, all kinds of artwork, Czech Days, Eeyore, all animals, and her signature color pink.

She is survived by her mother, Dianne Vanecek, sister Angela Vanson (Jim), 2 nephews, Salvador and Dominic, maternal grandpar-

ents, Alvin and MaryAnn Vanecek, aunt, Jeannette Hisek (Dennis), uncles Kenneth Vanecek (Ev) and James Vanecek (Wendy), and many cousins. She is also survived by a long time friend, Sylvia Crowe.

Her life was celebrated on May 22 at The Garden of Memories in Tampa, Florida with full military honors. Another celebration of her life will be held at The Opsahl/Kostel Funeral Home in Tabor, South Dakota on July 6 at 1 p.m. The family requests that everyone wear something pink, in celebration of Cheryl's fun-loving happy spirit.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: Tribute Program, P.O. Box 1000, Nashville, TN, 38148 or by telephone at #1-800-822-6344, Tribute Acct. # 33620243, or online at [www.stjude.org/tributes](http://www.stjude.org/tributes).

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
**June 5, 2013**

### Lois Dwyer

Lois D. Dwyer, 93, of Wakonda, SD passed away Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at the Wakonda Heritage Manor.

Arrangements are pending with the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene.

# Has The 'Red Line' Been Crossed?

## France, Britain Confirm Use Of Sarin Gas In Syria

BY GREG KELLER AND KARIN LAUB

Associated Press

PARIS — France said Tuesday it has confirmed that the nerve gas sarin was used "multiple times and in a localized way" in Syria, including at least once by the regime. It was the most specific claim by any Western power about chemical weapons attacks in the 27-month-old conflict.

Britain later said that tests it conducted on samples taken from Syria also were positive for sarin.

The back-to-back announcements left many questions unanswered, highlighting the difficulties of confirming from a distance whether combatants in Syria have crossed the "red line" set by President Barack Obama. The regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad has refused to allow U.N. investigators into the country.

The French and British findings, based on samples taken from Syria, came hours after a U.N. team said it had "reasonable grounds" to suspect small-scale use of toxic chemicals in at least four attacks in March and April.

The U.N. probe was conducted from outside Syria's borders, based on interviews with doctors and witnesses of purported at-

tacks and a review of amateur videos from Syria. The team said solid evidence will remain elusive until inspectors can collect samples from victims directly or from the sites of alleged attacks.

Some experts cautioned that the type of evidence currently available to investigators — videos, witness reports and physiological samples of uncertain origin — leaves wide doubts.

At the same time, forensic evidence of alleged chemical weapons use is fading away with time, and the longer U.N. inspectors are kept out of Syria, the harder it will be to collect conclusive proof, they said.

Syria is suspected of having one of the world's largest chemical weapons arsenals, including mustard and nerve gas, such as sarin. In recent weeks, the regime and those trying to topple Assad have increasingly used accusations of chemical weapons as a propaganda tool, but have offered no solid proof.

In the West, meanwhile, the lack of certainty about such allegations is linked to a high stakes political debate over whether the U.S. should get more involved in the Syria conflict, including by arming those fighting Assad.

Obama has been reluctant to send

weapons to the Syrian rebels, in part because of the presence of Islamic militants among them. Obama has warned that the use of chemical weapons or their transfer to a terrorist group would cross a "red line," hinting at forceful intervention in such an event.

Yet he has insisted on a high level of proof, including a "chain of custody," that can only come from on-site investigations currently being blocked by the regime.

In Tuesday's announcement about sarin, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said his government had analyzed several samples, including some brought back from Syria by reporters from the Le Monde newspaper.

He said that there was "no doubt" that at least in one case, the regime and its allies were responsible for the attack. "We have integrally traced the chain, from the attack, to the moment people were killed, to when the samples were taken and analyzed," Fabius told the TV station France 2.

He said a line was crossed and that "all options are on the table," including intervening "militarily where the gas is produced or stored."

In London, Britain's Foreign Office said samples from Syria were tested at a government laboratory and the presence of sarin was confirmed. It did not say when or where the samples were obtained.

## Turkey

# Gov't Offers Apology As Protests Continue

BY SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's deputy prime minister offered an apology Tuesday for the government's violent crackdown on an environmental protest, a calculated bid to ease days of anti-government rallies in the country's major cities.

The message was a bit mixed, however, as hundreds of riot police deployed with water cannons around the prime minister's office in Ankara, the capital.

Bulent Arinc, who is standing in for the prime minister while he is out of the country, said the crackdown was "wrong and unjust."

"In that first (protest) action, the excessive violence exerted on people who were acting out of environmental concerns was wrong and unjust," Arinc said. "I apologize to those citizens."

Yet the impact of his statement was unclear. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is visiting Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, has undermined previous statements by his ministers and has dismissed the protesters as a fringe minority stirred up by the opposition.

Tens of thousands of mostly secular-minded Turks have joined anti-government rallies since Friday, when police launched a pre-dawn raid against a peaceful sit-in protesting plans to uproot trees in Istanbul's main Taksim Square. Since then, the demonstrations have spiraled into Turkey's biggest anti-government disturbances in years.



ROY GUTMAN/MCT

An overturned pickup truck serves as the "newspaper" for the crowds now occupying Gezi Park in Istanbul, and young people fill out post-it notes, most of the carrying insults to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Late Tuesday night, thousands of people were demonstrating in the square. Many of the streets leading into it have been blocked by barricades that protesters have built of overturned dumpsters, metal railings and damaged vehicles to keep police away.

At one point, near the German Consulate, police fired tear gas at several hundred protesters who were throwing bricks at the officers.

A 22-year-old man died during an anti-government protest in a city near Turkey's border with Syria, and officials gave conflicting reports on what caused his death.

Police have been accused of using disproportionate force in trying to break up demonstrations. In a boisterous debate in Parliament, Interior Minister Muammer Guler defended police officers' use of tear gas against

demonstrators trying to reach government buildings.

"Should we have allowed them to march and take over Parliament?" he asked. "We do not have the luxury to allow illegal acts and will never have that luxury."

Arinc said he had no information about reports that riot police had erased or painted over numbers on their helmets so people could not report them in the event of abuse.

# Deadly Okla. Tornado Widest On Record

BY SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The deadly tornado that plowed through an area near Oklahoma City last week was even larger and more powerful than previously estimated — a record 2.6 miles wide with winds that reached nearly 300 mph, just shy of the strongest winds ever measured.

The National Weather Service on Tuesday announced that the twister that hit El Reno was a top-of-the-scale EF5 twister — the second to strike the area in less than two weeks.

Friday's tornado was initially rated as an EF3. But the agency upgraded that ranking after surveying damage and concluding that the storm had winds of 295 mph. Nineteen people died in the storm and subsequent flooding, including three storm chasers.

The Oklahoma City area also saw an EF5 tornado on May 20. That one raked Moore, a suburb 25 miles southeast of El Reno, and killed 24 people. Moore was hit in 1999 by another EF5, which had the strongest winds ever measured on earth: 302 mph.

The massive tornado that formed Friday avoided highly populated metro areas, a fact that al-

**"You dodged a bullet. You lay that path over Oklahoma City, and you have devastation of biblical proportions."**

**WILLIAM HOOKE**

most certainly saved lives.

Winds were at their most powerful in areas devoid of structures, said Rick Smith, chief warning coordination meteorologist for the weather service's office in Norman.

"Any house would have been completely swept clean on the foundation," Smith said.

The twister marched through the countryside between El Reno and Union City, a region of largely rural farm and grazing land. Most of the destruction came toward the end of the tornado's 16.2-mile path along Interstate 40, where several motorists were killed when their vehicles were tossed around.

Like many Midwestern cities, the Oklahoma City metropolitan area continues to expand in the suburbs, but the rapid growth hasn't quite reached as far west as where Friday's tornado tracked.

William Hooke, a senior policy fellow of the American Meteorologi-

cal Society, said the continued growth of cities in tornado-prone areas makes it only a matter of time before another monstrous twister hits a heavily populated area.

"You dodged a bullet," Hooke said. "You lay that path over Oklahoma City, and you have devastation of biblical proportions."

In El Reno, the city of 18,000 suffered significant damage, including to its vocational-technical center and a cattle stockyard that was reduced to a pile of twisted metal. But Mayor Matt White said it could have been worse had the twister passed to the north.

"If it was two more miles this way, it would have wiped out all of downtown, almost every one of our subdivisions and almost all of our businesses," White said. "It would have taken out everything."



Which of our employees has been part of every issue of the "Her Voice" magazine since it's inception.

Answer in the June 11th edition of the Press & Dakotan

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