

Sanctions Target Putin's Inner Circle

BY JULIE PACE
 AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Raising the stakes in an East-West showdown over Ukraine, President Barack Obama on Thursday ordered economic sanctions against nearly two dozen members of Vladimir Putin's inner circle and a major Russian bank that provides them support. He warned that more sweeping penalties against Russia's robust energy sector could follow.

Russia retaliated swiftly, imposing entry bans on American lawmakers and senior White House officials, among them Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, Obama senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer and the president's deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes.

It's far more than just a U.S.-Russia dispute. European Union leaders said they, too, were ready to close in on Putin's associates, announcing plans to impose travel bans and asset freezes on more Russians involved in the territorial clash with Ukraine. The Western aim is twofold: to ratchet up the costs for Putin's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and to head off any further Russian military incursions into Ukraine.

"The world is watching with grave concern as Russia has positioned its military in a way that could lead to further incursions into southern and eastern Ukraine," Obama said, speaking from the South Lawn of the White House.

Thursday's volleys deepened the confrontation over Ukraine, a standoff that has become one of the biggest political crises in Europe since the Cold War. Putin,



U.S. President Barack Obama delivers a statement on Ukraine Thursday on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

rather than backing off as the West warns of costs, has defiantly moved military forces into Crimea, backed a referendum in which the Crimean people overwhelmingly voted to join Russia and then signed a treaty formally absorbing the strategically important peninsula into Russia.

In Ukraine, pro-Russian forces seized three Ukrainian warships Thursday, and U.S. officials acknowledge privately that there is little chance of Russia giving up Crimea now. The more pressing concern is stopping Putin from pushing into other Ukrainian areas with large ethnic Russian

populations. Thousands of Russian troops are currently positioned along Ukraine's eastern border.

The Pentagon said Russia's defense minister assured Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that those forces have no intention of crossing into Ukrainian territory and are only in the region to conduct military exercises. The two men spoke by phone for an hour.

The U.S. had received similar assurances from top Kremlin officials, including Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, before Russian troops moved into Crimea.

Army General Is Spared Prison

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — The Army general at the center of a sexual misconduct case that put the military justice system itself on trial was spared prison Thursday and sentenced to a reprimand and a \$20,000 fine — a punishment legal experts, a women's group and members of Congress decried as shockingly light.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair, 51, immediately announced his retirement, capping a humiliating fall for the battle-tested commander once regarded as a rising star in the Army. A disciplinary board could still bust him in rank and severely reduce his pension.

"The system worked. I've always been proud of my Army," Sinclair said outside court after reacting to his sentence with a smile and an embrace of his lawyers. "All I want to do now is go north and hug my kids and my wife."

The former deputy commander of the storied 82nd Airborne Division was originally brought up on sexual assault charges punishable by life in prison. He was believed to be the highest-ranking U.S. military officer ever court-martialed on such charges.

But earlier this week, prosecutors dropped those charges midway through the trial in a deal in which Sinclair pleaded guilty to committing adultery with one woman and conducting inappropriate relationships with two others by asking them for nude pictures and exchanging sexually explicit email. Adultery is a crime in the military.

Phelps Tested Boundaries Of Free Speech

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Fred Phelps did not care what you thought of his Westboro Baptist Church, nor did he care if you heard its message that society's tolerance for gay people is the root of all earthly evil.

By the time you saw one of his outrageous and hate-filled signs — "You're Going to Hell" — was among the more benign — you were already doomed.

Tall, thin and increasingly spectral as he aged, the Rev. Fred Phelps Sr. and the Westboro Baptist Church, a small congregation made up almost entirely of his extended family, tested the boundaries of the free speech guarantees by violating accepted societal standards for decency in their unapologetic assault on gays and lesbians. In the process, some believe he even helped the cause of gay rights by serving as such a provocative symbol of intolerance.

All of that was irrelevant to Phelps, who died late Wednesday. He was 84.

God is love? Heresy, he preached, and derisively insisted the Lord had nothing but anger and bile for the moral miscreants of his creation. In Phelps' reading of the Bible, God determined your fate at the moment of your creation.



Phelps

'Best Lead' Emerges In Search For Lost Plane

BY SCOTT McDONALD
 AND KRISTEN GELINEAU
 Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A freighter used searchlights early Friday to scan rough seas in one of the remotest places on Earth after satellite images detected possible pieces from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane in the southern Indian Ocean.

In what officials called the "best lead" of the nearly two-week-old aviation mystery, a satellite detected two large objects floating about 1,000 miles off the southwestern coast of Australia and halfway to the desolate islands of the Antarctic.

The development raised new hope of finding the vanished jet and sent another emotional jolt to the families of

the 239 people aboard. Australian authorities said in a statement early Friday that the search had turned up nothing so far. Efforts were re-summing with four military aircraft planning to scour more than 13,000 square miles (35,000 square kilometers) of ocean.

One of the objects on the satellite image was 24 meters (almost 80 feet) long and the other was 5 meters (15 feet). There could be other objects in the area, a four-hour flight from Australia, said John Young, manager of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's emergency response division.

"This is a lead, it's probably the best lead we have right now," Young said. He cautioned that the objects could be seaborne debris along a

shipping route where containers can fall off cargo vessels, although the larger object is longer than a container.

The Norwegian cargo vessel Hoegh St. Petersburg, with a Filipino crew of 20, arrived in the area and used searchlights after dark to look for debris. It will continue the search Friday, said Ingar Skiaker of Hoegh Autoliners, speaking to reporters in Oslo.

The Norwegian ship, which transports cars, was on its way from South Africa to Australia, he said. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said another commercial ship and an Australian navy vessel were also en route to the search area.

Satellite imagery experts said the lead is worth investigating.

"It would be very nice if

you could see a whole wing floating there, then you could say, 'OK that's an airplane,'" said Sean O'Connor, an imagery analyst with IHS Jane's. In the case of these satellite images, "you can't tell what it is" so closer examination is critical.

Another analyst said the debris is most likely not pieces of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. There have been several false leads since the Boeing 777 disappeared March 8 above the Gulf of Thailand en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

"The chances of it being debris from the airplane are probably small, and the chances of it being debris from other shipping are probably large," said Jason Middleton, an aviation professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

FORD IS AMERICA'S FAVORITE BRAND

FINAL DAYS \$1000 SPRING BONUS CASH HURRY! ENDS MARCH 31ST

FORD #1 BRAND IN THE NORTHLAND

EIGHT FORD MODELS ARE EPA-RATED 40 HWY MPG/MPGe OR BETTER

FINAL DAYS OF SPRING BONUS! HURRY IN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

2014 FOCUS SE SEDAN with SYNC and Sound Package



RED CARPET LEASE
\$169 FOR 24
 A MONTH MOS
 \$2049 Due at Lease Signing⁴
 OR
UP TO \$3000 CASH BACK

2014 FUSION SE 2.5L I4 FWD



RED CARPET LEASE
\$189 FOR 24
 A MONTH MOS
 \$2539 Due at Lease Signing⁴
 OR
UP TO \$2500 CASH BACK

2013 F-150 XLT SUPERCREW



0% FOR 60
 APR Financing⁵ MOS
 PLUS **\$2000**
 Retail Trade Assist
 OR
UP TO \$8250 TOTAL SAVINGS

2014 ESCAPE SE FWD 1.6L ECOBOOST



RED CARPET LEASE
\$199 FOR 24
 A MONTH MOS
 \$2839 Due at Lease Signing⁴
 OR
UP TO \$2500 CASH BACK

2013 EDGE SEL AWD



RED CARPET LEASE
\$229 FOR 24
 A MONTH MOS
 \$3774 Due at Lease Signing⁴
 OR
UP TO \$4000 CASH BACK

2014 SUPER DUTY



0% APR Financing⁵
 PLUS
\$1000
 Ford Credit Bonus Cash
 OR
UP TO \$3500 CASH BACK

2014 TAURUS SEL



RED CARPET LEASE
\$259 FOR 24
 A MONTH MOS
 \$3229 Due at Lease Signing⁴
 OR
UP TO \$5500 CASH BACK

2014 EXPLORER XLT



RED CARPET LEASE
\$289 FOR 24
 A MONTH MOS
 \$3759 Due at Lease Signing⁴
 OR
UP TO \$2000 CASH BACK

2014 MUSTANG V6 COUPE



RED CARPET LEASE
\$229 FOR 24
 A MONTH MOS
 \$2449 Due at Lease Signing⁴
 OR
UP TO \$3500 CASH BACK

SPRING BONUS



Go Further

Northland Ford Dealers
 NorthlandFord.com

¹Based on 2013 CY Sales. ²\$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash varies by vehicle; not all vehicle trims or specialty vehicles included. ³Based on 2014 MYHwy mpg/MPGe. EPA-estimated rating of 110 city/99 hwy/105 combined mpg. Focus Electric; 47 city/47 hwy/47 combined mpg. Fusion Hybrid; 45 city/40 hwy/43 combined mpg. C-MAX Energi and Fusion Energi; 28 city/40 hwy/33 combined mpg. Focus SFE; 32 city/45 hwy/37 combined mpg. Fiesta 1.6L EcoBoost; 30 city/41 hwy/34 combined mpg. Fiesta 1.6L EcoBoost SFE. Actual mileage will vary. ⁴Not all buyers will qualify for low-mileage Ford Credit Red Carpet Lease. Payment may vary; dealers determine prices. Security deposit waived; excludes taxes, title and license fees. Focus cash DAS after \$1,000 RCL Cash. Fusion cash DAS after \$1,250 RCL Cash. Escape cash DAS after \$1,750 RCL Cash. Escape cash DAS after \$750 RCL Cash. Mustang cash DAS after \$750 RCL Cash. Taurus cash DAS after \$2,000 RCL Cash. Edge cash DAS after \$3,250 RCL Cash. Explorer cash DAS after \$1,750 RCL Cash. Focus cash back includes \$1,500 Customer Cash + \$500 Ford Credit Bonus Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash. Fusion cash back includes \$1,000 Customer Cash + \$500 Ford Credit Bonus Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash. Mustang cash back includes \$1,500 Customer Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash. Taurus cash back includes \$3,250 Customer Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash + \$1,250 Ford Credit Bonus Cash. Edge cash back includes \$1,000 Customer Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash + \$1,500 Retail Bonus Cash + \$500 Ford Credit Bonus Cash. Explorer cash back includes \$1,000 Customer Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash. Super Duty cash back includes \$1,500 Customer Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash + \$1,000 Ford Credit Bonus Cash. ⁵0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed regardless of down payment. Not available on Raptor or STX. ⁶Up to \$8,250 total savings available on F-150 XLT SuperCrew; total savings includes \$500 Customer Cash + \$1,000 Auto Show/Spring Bonus Retail Customer Cash + \$1,000 Ford Credit Bonus Cash + \$500 XLT Retail Bonus Cash + \$1,750 XLT Customer Cash + \$2,000 Retail Trade-In Assistance Customer Cash. Ford Credit Bonus Cash requires Ford Credit financing; not all buyers will qualify. Trade-In Assistance requires trade-in of 1995 or newer vehicle or lease termination 30 days prior to or 90 days after delivery. ⁷0% APR financing for 36 months at \$27.78 per month per \$1,000 financed regardless of down payment. Not available on F-650 and F-750. Residency restrictions apply. For all offers, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 3/31/2014. See dealer for qualifications and complete details.