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AFTERTHEW AR; 92 Senegalese Soldiers Die In Saudi Arabia AirCrash

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Ninety-two Senegalese soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational force were killed today when their transport plane crashed at a Saudi air base while landing in smoke-blackened skies, allied officials said.

The Senegalese, all Muslims, were being flown back to their base after a visit to Mecca, Islam's holiest shrine, a Saudi military official said.

Senegal, a West African nation of 7.2 million people that sent 500 troops to Saudi Arabia, declared an eight-day period of national mourning.

The Saudi Air Force C-130 plane crashed while trying to land at Ras al-Mishab, on the coast south of Khafji, after a flight from Jidda. A Saudi military official, who asked not to be identified, said thick black smoke from hundreds of burning oil wells in Kuwait obscured the crew's visibility. 3 Said to Survive
An official at the Senegalese Embassy in Washington, Amadou Gaye, said three of the 95 Senegalese soldiers aboard survived. All six Saudi crew members died in the crash, a Saudi official said.

Since allied forces declared a temporary cease-fire on Feb. 28, dozens of coalition troops have been killed or seriously hurt in a variety of mishaps.

In all, 31 Americans have died since the cease-fire as a result of traffic accidents, plane crashes, weapon explosions and natural causes, a spokesman at the American command in Riyadh said.

On Tuesday, for example, one United States Army soldier and five Egyptian troops were killed in Saudi Arabia when a 10-ton truck driven by American soldiers collided with a bus carrying the Egyptians.

Twenty other Americans and Egyptians were injured.

A Pentagon spokesman, Maj. Doug Hart, said in a telephone interview that despite the Persian Gulf war the number of American service members worldwide who had died in the current fiscal year was slightly lower than at a comparable point in previous years during peacetime. Alcohol Ban Is Cited

Major Hart attributed the reduction to a ban on alcohol for the 540,000 American forces in the gulf and the fact that many fewer service members were driving vehicles here than at home. Traffic accidents, including alcohol-related ones, are the No. 1 cause of death in the peacetime military, he said.

The Senegalese forces joined troops from eight other Islamic nations during the ground offensive to form a 30,000-member task force that rolled up the coastal highway into Kuwait from their positions in Saudi Arabia, overrunning Iraqi defenses.

The Senegalese troops were hit by an Iraqi Frog missile on Feb. 21, and eight soldiers were wounded.

Mr. Gaye, the Senegal Embassy official, said the dead soldiers would not be flown home, but would be buried in Saudi Arabia to be close to Islam's holiest shrines.

Senegal's Defense Minister, Medoune Fall, told The Associated Press that the soldiers had "fallen on the field of the faith, thousands of kilometers from home, where they had gone to defend peace and justice."

Talks on Iraqi P.O.W.'s

As Saudi officials began an inquiry into the crash, a four-member Iraqi delegation arrived in Riyadh to discuss efforts to accelerate the repatriation of more than 60,000 Iraqi prisoners of war.

The allies have turned over 1,793 prisoners to Iraqi officials. The last week was meant to be a trial period, allied officials said, in which Saudi officials released three groups of 500 Iraqis to test the transportation and suitability of the exchange site near the northern Saudi town of Ar Ar.

Except for one Iraqi soldier in the first group who at the last moment refused to go back, the transfers went off without a hitch, said a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Riyadh, Roland Huguenin.