

Cape Cod Readies Court Action Over Microwave Radiation

By Stacy Join

Special to The Washington Post

SANDWICH, Mass., Jan. 23—Cape Cod residents, afraid of potentially deadly microwave radiation, said yesterday they plan to return to federal court to stop the Air Force from turning on a massive new radar unit designed to protect the eastern half of the country.

The controversial \$55 million PAVE PAWS (Phased Array Warning System) radar facility at Otis Air Force Base is to begin scanning the sky for sea-launched ballistic missiles in April—about the same time an environmental impact study on the safety of the unit is scheduled to be released.

A suit filed last year by the Cape Cod Environmental Coalition questioning the biological effects of long-

term exposure to low-level microwave radiation has been in legal limbo awaiting the outcome of that report.

However, after reviewing a draft of the study issued in December, James M. Vohl, the coalition's attorney, said Monday, "If the environmental impact statements are not drastically changed, we will seek an injunction."

The study by the California-based Stanford Research Institute, which received \$303 million from the Defense Department in fiscal 1978, states, "There is no reliable evidence from which to conclude any ill effects from exposure to PAVE PAWS radiation."

Added Lt. Col. David Kanter, "The benefits of PAVE PAWS appear to be more important than the very slight, significant environmental impacts."

However, residents and scientists testifying at the final public hearing

on the study Monday night, contended the 100-page document is significant in its failure to prove the facility is safe.

Paul Brodeur, author of "The Zap of America," a doomsday chronicle of the effects of microwave radiation, called the final report "a dishonest, massive piece of pseudoscience."

Dr. Roger Winters, an MIT-trained engineering physicist, also assailed the report as "not from unbiased scientific methods. It has serious limitations. How many Cape Cod residents must be injured to obtain an Air Force objective?"

"We happen to be a guinea pig population," said Margaret Ellsworth, a local artist.

The environmentalists face a lonely legal road in their battle against the

Air Force because microwave radiation is currently unregulated by any Federal agency, although some departments have set voluntary standards.

The Air Force conducted the environmental impact study measuring radiation levels on the resort peninsula only after pressure from angry residents and political leaders.

On this issue, the resolution will have to be political rather than legal, said Vohl. The legal process opens the forum but doesn't resolve the issues.

Since the Air Force is not required to seek a permit from any federal agency for permission to build the radar station, it is not bound to prove that the long-term effects of microwave radiation are harmless, according to Joseph McCabe of the Environ-

ments Protection Agency's Office of Federal Activities.

The environmentalists, however, must prove to the federal court that the radar emissions are dangerous before they can block its operation.

"Can you guarantee us that the PAVE PAWS radar facility is safe to human beings?" asked one worried resident.

"I am not, God, I do not know the future," replied Col. George Molin, a Harvard-trained Air Force flight surgeon. "The radiation levels do not indicate this is a hazard to your health."

Brodeur, an environmental writer for the New Yorker magazine, has spent several years convincing his neighbors here that the low-level radiation from PAVE PAWS and an older facility at the tip of the Cape that has been irradiating residents for 20 years

can cause blindness, birth defects, cancer or even death.

Cape Cod residents point out there is still no conclusive study showing that microwave radiation—which falls at the opposite end of the electromagnetic spectrum as nuclear radiation—is safe.

"If microwave radiation were a food or drug," said Brodeur, "it would have been banned by now."

The Air Force notes that the new radar facility will generate a \$47 million annually to the local economy and will provide about 200 jobs.

An early "environmental assessment" conducted by the Air Force and approved by the EPA showed "no adverse health effects." The new study is scheduled to be reviewed by the EPA and 14 other departments and agencies.

From PAVE PAWS radar system

Billy Carter Charges Writer With Assault

By The Washington Post Staff Writer

ATLANTA, Jan. 23—Billy Carter, President Carter's brother, filed assault charges today against a Washington-based freelance reporter who was preparing a series of articles on the Carter family.

A confrontation between Carter and the reporter, Peter Peckarsky, took place at Billy Carter's garage in Plains, Ga., according to Peckarsky's attorney, Ben Easterlin, of Anacostia, Ga.

"At this point, in fairness to both parties, it's too early to make a statement," Easterlin said when reached by phone this afternoon.

Carter filed simple assault charges at Sumter County Courthouse in Americus, according to Easterlin. He said that Peckarsky had not decided whether to file countercharges.

Peckarsky went to Carter's residence outside Plains today. Not finding Carter at home, he got into a conversation with Billy's wife, Sybil, according to the attorney, and she became upset with Peckarsky's questioning.

At the garage later, Peckarsky encountered Carter, who meantime had spoken with his wife, and an argument allegedly ensued. No blows were exchanged, Easterlin said, and both Carter and Peckarsky claimed innocence.



Troop Withdrawal From South Korea Too Risky at Present, Senators Say

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Carter came under additional pressure yesterday to suspend the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea as a Senate study group called for a halt.

The new U.S. intelligence reassessment of North Korean strength makes Carter's planned withdrawal of the 2nd Infantry Division too risky at this time, said the report.

Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr. (Ind-Va.), Gary Hart (D-Colo.), Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and John G. Tower (R-Tex.)—all members of the Armed Services Committee—signed the report as members of the study group, while Sen. William S. Cohen (R-Maine) endorsed the findings at a news conference yesterday.

Nunn said at the news conference that he discussed the team's findings with Carter at the White House yesterday and found the president "very attentive" but noncommittal about calling off the planned withdrawals.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff are reviewing the military balance between North and South Korea with an eye to determining whether the withdrawals are still an acceptable risk. Carter is expected to withhold judgment until the new study is further along.

suspend this year's planned withdrawal to avoid a fight with senators he hopes to win over to the new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty with Russia, SALT II.

House Armed Services Committee members Samuel E. Stratton (D-N.Y.) and Rolph Beard (R-Tenn.) are at the forefront of lawmakers there calling for a halt to the troop withdrawals.

The new intelligence estimate that has given withdrawal opponents additional leverage credits North Korea with an army of 550,000 to 600,000 troops rather than the previous figure of 440,000, an increase of about 25 percent. The new estimate also credits North Korea with more armor and firepower.

"The reassessment casts grave doubt upon the validity of earlier judgments about the nature and stability of the Korean military balance that formed the basis of the administration's decision in May 1977 to withdraw U.S. ground troops from Korea," said the report of the Senate Armed Services Pacific Study Group.

At yesterday's news conference Hart stressed that the senators were not asking the president to scrap his

withdrawal plan, only to suspend it until the risks were reassessed in light of the new intelligence information.

In June 1977, Carter announced that the ground force of about 83,000 troops would be withdrawn over a five-year period ending in 1982. The 1978 withdrawal, which was supposed to total 6,000 troops, was slowed to about 3,500. The other 2,500 are scheduled to be withdrawn this year, with the big exodus coming later.

Nunn said going ahead with the planned withdrawals in the face of the new intelligence estimates would "reduce deterrence" and thus "increase the possibility" of war on the Korean peninsula.

Hart, in individual views appended to the report, said "complete withdrawal of U.S. ground forces from Korea should remain our goal."

Peking Buys Radios for Cops

OSAKA, Japan, Jan. 23 — Peking city authorities plan to set up two-way radio communications in 300 taxicabs, Matsushita Communication said here today.

All Raleigh-Suburban Stores (Except Muzza Gallerie) Open Late Tonight

add
Glaser