



AP PHOTO

gers prepares
7th Air Refuel-
18. Rogers and

the rest of the four-man crew had just finished their briefing for the mission refueling F-16 fighters patrolling against possible intruders.

ten warriors?

U.S. troops fighting war against terrorism wonder if Americans are paying attention

SOMEWHERE OVER TEXAS (AP) — Alabama Air National Guard Master Sgt. Steve Hay is fighting the war on terror lying on his stomach more than four miles above Texas.

Hay, a lawyer whose budding career was sidetracked by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, will spend this night refueling F-16 fighters patrolling U.S. airspace.

Peering out a small window into the darkness, Hay maneuvers the fueling boom into a receptacle atop a fighter, flying about 20 feet below at 500 mph.

On the ground below, Ameri-

cans are sleeping and watching Jay Leno.

"They don't have any idea we're here," Hay, 34, said over the deafening roar of the engines.

That kind of disconnect between middle America and the fight against terrorism bothers Guard members including Hay, part of a four-person crew aboard the tanker. Sometimes it seems people are more worried about the stock market than al-Qaida, they say.

"The American public was real-

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H2S leak closes highways

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NEWS SUN STAFF REPORT

Sections of Highway 18 and State Road 483 were closed Monday evening due to a possible hydrogen sulfide gas leak.

Lovington Police Department, New Mexico State Police and Lea County Sheriff's Department all responded to the scene and redirected traffic for more than an hour.

State Road 483 was closed two miles north and south of Sules Road. State Highway 18 was closed for about an hour and traffic was re-directed to the Denver City Highway.

Lea County Sheriff's Department received a call from a Lovington city employee about a possible H2S gas leak at approximately 2:55 p.m. The Sheriff's Department then contacted state police.

A Lovington city employee was working in the area, when he saw a dead bobcat and several dead birds. Soon after, his air monitor alarms went off, and he left the area.

An unidentified Lovington city employee was taken to Nor-Lea General Hospital to be treated for high blood pressure related to H2S inhalation, according to City Manager Pat Wise.

"He's OK," Wise said. "He just got a little excited, that's all."

H2S, a toxic gas that smells like rotten eggs, is commonly found with sour crude oil and sour natural gas. Most oilfield personnel are equipped with air monitors to detect H2S, which in concentrations of 300 parts per million or more can be deadly.

Exposure to high amounts of H2S can result in irritability, disorientation and death. H2S is toxic because it instructs the brain to forget to tell the lungs to breathe. If CPR is not administered in four-six minutes of the person passing out, death is certain.

The cause of the pipeline gas leak is unknown at this time as well as the owner of the pipeline. At press time, the gas leak was being repaired.

osition softening

demand that Iraq open weapons sites

wary U.S. allies, said.

for administration. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush planned to



A giant painting of of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein stands at the entrance to Al-Kazem