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FAYETTEVILLE, N.C., WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1987

FINAL EDITION

25 CENTS DAILY
75 CENTS SUNDAY

C-130 Crashes At Bragg

A Staff Report

A Pope Air Force Base C-130 on an equipment drop demonstration crashed and burned at Fort Bragg's Sicily Drop Zone at 10:15 a.m. today.

There was no immediate confirmation on the number of casualties or injuries, but early reports indicated at least three dead.

The airplane — manned by six crewmen — was participating in Fort Bragg's annual Capabilities Exercise, a public demonstration, and was conducting a Low-Altitude Parachute Extraction System drop of a Sheridan tank when it crashed.

The crash was followed by a large fireball, and the wreckage of the plane continued to smolder as rescue teams moved in to search for victims. There was one report that the plane smashed into some nearby vehicles, killing at least one man on the ground.

Victims were taken by Army Black Hawk helicopters to Fort Bragg's Womack Army Community Hospital.

The plane was from the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base. The cause of the crash was unknown early this afternoon.

The plane came down suddenly as it made a low pass over the drop zone and skidded over 1,000 yards. It careened off the right side of the runway into a woodline, missing a nearby grandstand and bleachers full of spectators.

The plane appeared to come in high over the drop zone as the pilot made last-minute adjustments, but crashed into the ground. The crash was followed by a large fireball and heavy smoke.

Spectators — including VIPs and family members — were immediately evacuated from the grandstand. There were apparently no injuries among the spectators.

"She (the airplane) came in low, hit the dirt and skidded off into the woods," said TSgt. Joe Walls, a public affairs officer at Pope Air Force Base.

An eyewitness who identified himself as T. McDowell said this morning the C-130 appeared to



Photos By T. McDOWELL

Fireball from burning C-130 is visible as soldiers react to this morning's crash during a Fort Bragg capabilities exercise at Sicily Drop Zone

(See CRASH, Page 2A)



C-130 on LAPES approach just before impact



Wreckage can be seen in the woods adjacent to the drop zone

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Q. My bills are automatically credited against my checking account each month. If PWC accidentally bills me for an outrageous amount, who is going to pay for the bounced check. After all, not too many people keep \$4,000 in their checking account. — D.M.

A. Don't worry. According to Stephen Vassey, PWC director of customer service, the draft does not go to the

(See LIVE WIRE, Page 2A)

Arms Pact May Be Near

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union have reached an agreement in principle to eliminate all Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe and Asia, and a key senator said today the two sides are "moving very steadily" toward an improved anti-cheating system.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., said he was encouraged by reports that an arms pact could be sealed when Secretary of State George P. Shultz meets in mid-July with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

"I would say that we are moving toward a situation in which all of the short-range and long-range weapons are going to be a part of the agreement, which means that they will be destroyed," said Lugar, a leading Republican on foreign policy issues.

Interviewed on NBC-TV's "Today" show, Lugar said details of verifying the agreement and of destroying the missiles still had to be worked out.

But, he said, he was optimistic "that both Soviet and American negotiators have been moving very steadily

ahead with a protocol for verification that is substantially better than that which we've observed in previous treaties."

The Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting is intended to remove major obstacles to an accord and could set the stage for a third superpower summit meeting later this year.

A Reagan administration official, who spoke Tuesday night only on condition of anonymity, said Col. Gen. Nikolai Chervov, a senior adviser to the Soviet general staff, had proposed the compromise two weeks ago in Geneva to U.S. negotiator Maynard Glitman.

It was designed to overcome obstacles to a treaty on medium-range missiles and subsequently was approved by the Reagan administration, the official said.

A key provision calls for the Soviets to dismantle their 462 missiles in Europe with a range of 315 miles to 3,125 miles and 221 additional missiles in their Asian territory.

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WEDNESDAY

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Deaths 7B Sports 1-5D
Editorials 4A TV, Films 8-9B

WEATHER

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TODAY'S CHUCKLE

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