

# commentary

from other pens...

## Potential cyberattacks concern U.S. military

By George Gedda

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Ron Wyden didn't think Cuba posed a military threat to the United States and believed Rear Adm. Thomas Wilson would reinforce that view when he raised the subject with Wilson at a Senate hearing.

Wilson's answer surprised Wyden, D-Ore.

Wilson, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said Cuba has the potential to use "information warfare or computer network attack," enabling them "to disrupt our access or flow of forces to the region."

Moments later, the public portion of the Senate Intelligence Committee hearing ended and the participants continued in secret.

The little-noticed exchange took place in February.

Wyden acknowledged later to a reporter that he had thought Cuba was too weak to be a threat to the United States. After hearing Wilson's testimony, Wyden said he believes the issue "warrants further review."

Capt. Michael Stainbrook, a Pentagon spokesman, said he had nothing to add to Wilson's February comments.

Concern about a possible Cuban attack on U.S. military Web sites is not new. Manuel Cereijo, an engineering professor at Florida International University, said in a 1999 study that telecommunications espionage has been a high priority area for Cuba since 1991.

"Cuba represents a serious threat to the security of the United States in the cyberwarfare phase of terrorism," Cereijo wrote.

But a U.S. official, asking not to be identified, said he believes the worries about Cuba's competence in this area can be overstated. The ability to wage cyberattacks depends on having a state of the art phone system, which Cuba lacks, the official said.

As for the possibility of Cuba planting agents in the United States to disrupt American military communications, the official said that would be a high risk exercise for President Fidel Castro, noting the success the FBI had in penetrating a Cuban spy ring that was broken up in Miami several years ago. Five of the alleged spies are on trial in Miami.

The official acknowledged the possibility China may be providing technical assistance to Cuba on ways to target military communications. Sino-Cuban relations are at a peak following the visit to Havana last month by President Jiang Zemin, but the official said the administration had no hard information about any collaboration on the issue.

Castro also has been strengthening ties with Iran, which, according to the U.S. officials, is continuing its pursuit of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The officials said the possibility of Iran-Cuba military cooperation cannot be ruled out.

Politically, Cuba and the United States appear to be as antagonistic as at any time in decades. The hostility gives added context to concerns here about Cuba's alleged development of a cyber warfare capability.

Proposals by some U.S. groups for steps to ease tensions have been brushed aside by the Bush administration, which shows no interest in softening the 39-year old embargo against Cuba.

In 1998, then-Defense Secretary William Cohen sent an intelligence assessment on Cuba's military capability to Congress. In a cover letter that went beyond the findings in the assessment, Cohen said he was concerned about Cuba's "potential to develop and produce biological agents, given its biotechnology infrastructure."

The study made no direct reference to cyberwarfare but said without elaboration Cuba has a "limited capability to engage in military and intelligence activities which would be detrimental to U.S. interests and which could pose a danger to U.S. citizens under some circumstances."

As for Cuba's conventional military capability, the report was more reassuring. It said that due to a deterioration over the past decade, "Cuba does not pose a significant military threat to the United States or to other countries in the region."

EDITOR'S NOTE — George Gedda has covered foreign affairs for The Associated Press since 1968.



## Sometimes we don't want to hear what's right

This past week I was talking with my little daughter-in-law. We were discussing our relationship with each other. I feel I am very blessed. Not all mother-in-laws get along with the wife that their son chose.

This is not the case with Cathy and me. We have a very special relationship. It is very open and filled with a mutual respect. She even feels comfortable sharing with me that my son can be a jerk at times. I can agree and we both end up laughing and realizing that the only problem with Wade is that he is such a "male" with some very embedded "male" attitudes.

My whole family is thrilled with my new attitude, the times they resent it is when they get "the attitude" speech from me. The times that I challenge them to change theirs. Cathy related this to me in our conversation. She is so funny. She told me that even though she knew I was right, she hated to hear it.

You know, I really am sorry they get tired of hearing it from me. I just can not come up with any other solutions for the dilemmas they are facing.

Those of you that have read many of my columns have heard my favorite quote. "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." (In fact, these columns used to be called "Cop an Attitude"). I honestly do not think I can say it too often. There is such dynamic truth in that short sentence.

I have to repeat it often in my own circumstances. I am given opportunities daily to forget it and totally give in to having a bad attitude. I just have to take control of it. I use that truth with every food temptation every anger temptation. Ev-



### sally mosier

• freedom in eating

ery time I feel things closing in on me, I speak those words to myself.

This quote was taken out of an entire statement on attitude, written by Charles Swindoll. I have seen it on many walls in offices across the nation. In case you have never read it in its entirety I want to share it with you.

#### Attitude

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, or what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

"The remarkable thing is, we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way.

"We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

"And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes."

Isn't that powerful? With this type of fuel for our

systems we just can't let things become bigger than our attitudes.

I can't think of a better heritage to pass down to my family than that of an "attitude speech" Cathy was telling me there were times that she just wanted to have a bad attitude.

I think that is fine, I just want to know what good it does? I can't think of one time in my life when a bad attitude provided me with one positive thing, not one!

Here is a cheery summer treat that will brighten any day. Fix it and invite your Daughter-in-law over for lunch. Sit and discuss how blessed you feel to have her in your family, just don't give her an attitude speech.

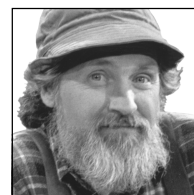
#### Cheerful Corn Salad

- 1 2/3 cups frozen whole kernel corn
- 1- 4 oz. jar diced pimiento, drained
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1 T sugar
- 2 T cider vinegar
- 1 t celery seeds
- 1/4 t salt

Cook corn according to package directions, omitting salt. Drain well, and cool. Combine corn, pimiento with other ingredients in a medium bowl, stir well. Cover and chill 3 hours.

Give yourself a belated Mother's Day gift. Order our complete weight-loss plan and our ever-popular recipe book for only \$20.00 for both. You will find yourself entering your summer with a complete new attitude of freedom. Send a check to "Freedom Package", 400 10th. St., Canyon, Texas 79015. E-mail me at gosalley@netwest.com.

## The evolution of jobs



### red green

• north of forty

One of the surprises as you mature, or at least get older, is that you have to go through many of the same changes that previous generations did. Particularly in the workplace. The advent of the automobile was not good news for blacksmiths. The invention of the telephone put a lot of Pony Express riders out on the street. And yet, the world survived. These displaced workers found other ways to make a living. And my generation has gone through the same type of minor social revolution. The knife sharpener guy is now a corporate downsizing consultant. The man who worked in the girdle factory is now a fitness trainer. And the milkman, the breadman, the iceman, the fisherman, the Fuller Brush man, the Avon lady and the gas station attendant are now all telemarketers.

#### THIS ONE'S ON THE HOUSE

I was thinking recently about how alcohol has let me down. When I was in high school and just finding out about alcohol, the things I was told about it just aren't true. They said, "Alcohol makes you feel good." Tell me that on New Year's morning. They said "You don't get a headache from the booze, but from the mix." Right. Well how come I've never heard of a cola hangover? They said, "Alcohol is relaxing." Maybe. But only for the guy who's drinking it. Everyone else in the courtroom gets pretty edgy. They claim, "Alcohol promotes camaraderie." Well how come there are a lot more fights at bars than there are at Denny's? They say, "Alcohol enhances social and religious rituals." Not at the weddings I've attended. I guess alcohol is just one more thing in life that is OK if consumed in moderation, but is not the simple solution to any of our problems. What a bummer.

#### THE DYING WORDS

One of the problems that you experience once

you reach middle age is that expressions you've been using for years become questionable, and you've been with people so long that they've stopped giving you the benefit of the doubt. Here is a list of unnecessary and inaccurate expressions that all men should remove from their vocabulary once they hit 50:

#### UNNECESSARY

- "I could be wrong."
- "You know better than me."
- "That's not the way I'd do it."
- "You must think I'm an idiot."
- "When it screws up, don't come running to me."
- "Would you like a word of advice?"
- "Do whatever you want."

#### INACCURATE

- "I hope I didn't offend you."
- "I feel great."
- "I'm glad you dropped in."
- "These pants still fit me."
- "I know what I'm doing."

#### FINDING YOUR CENTER

I'm still struggling with my golf swing, and it's very frustrating. I was expecting that at this stage in my life, I'd be able to control my body. I should be able to focus the muscles and hormones. There's not nearly as much going on in there as they're used to be. But, no. I think the biggest problem is that

over the years, there's been weight gain, and this increased poundage is not spread evenly over the structure but is concentrated in that area where the shirt buttons are always coming undone. The result is that I have, in fact, changed my center of gravity. Now, any engineer will tell you that changing the center of gravity has a profound effect on the behavior of a moving object. So during my golf swing, I'm actually falling toward the ball. Many of my divots are large enough to contain wildfowl. So now we're at the point where I need to drop a few pounds to move my center of gravity back where it should be. Maybe that's why my toes keep cramping.

Quote of the Day: "If your wife isn't laughing, trust me, it's not funny." — Red Green

Red Green is the star of "The Red Green Show," a television series seen in the U.S. on PBS and in Canada on the CBC Network, and the author of "The Red Green Book" and "Red Green Talks Cars: A Love Story."

## berry's world



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