

US on worldwide travel alert

Threat of possible terrorist attack also leads to closure of 21 US embassies

BY PAUL RICHTER AND KEN DILANIAN
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The State Department issued a worldwide travel alert Friday over the threat of a possible terrorist attack by al-Qaida or its affiliates, which also

prompted a decision to temporarily close 21 embassies and consulates in the Middle East and several predominantly Muslim countries elsewhere.

The greatest risk of attack is in the Middle East and North Africa,

the department said, and it warned that the attack could emanate from the Arabian Peninsula.

The British government is closing its embassy in Yemen on Sunday and Monday but not missions in other Middle Eastern countries, suggesting that London believes the source could be al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. The group, centered in Yemen, is the only al-Qaida affiliate that has recently shown

sustained interest in attacking U.S. interests beyond its local base.

“There are concerns about a major al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula plot,” said Seth Jones, a terrorism analyst with Rand Corp. and former advisor to U.S. Special Operations Forces who speaks frequently to U.S. intelligence officials.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the

warnings were based on “a significant threat stream, and we are reacting to it.”

“It is an al-Qaida and affiliated threat” to attack Western interests, Dempsey told ABC News.

Although the government often releases alerts involving specific countries, Friday’s was the first worldwide alert since October 2011. Officials released few details

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Traffic moves steadily on the new Westside Parkway near Calloway Drive on Friday afternoon. The new east-west freeway, which began to take shape in 2009, extends five miles from Truxtun Avenue to Allen Road.

The Westside Parkway, a six-minute drive, is Bakersfield’s first new freeway in 37 years

BY THEO DOUGLAS
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With prophetic and playful words, patriotic songs, the snip of a red ribbon, and a promenade of classic cars, Bakersfield on Friday inaugurated a five-mile, \$178 million stretch of the Westside Parkway, the city’s first new freeway in 37 years.

The entire freeway was open by 12:20 p.m. Friday, following speeches by current and former public officials, presentation of colors by the West High School Navy Junior ROTC Cadets, and a performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by students in Liberty High School’s band camp.

“There are very few new freeways in the country anywhere, so this is a landmark. But look — we’ve got a parking lot over here,” City Manager Alan Tandy joked to the more than 200 current and former elected officials and residents assembled.

Audience members were the first to actually drive, at reduced speeds — and park — on the new freeway in order to attend the event, held



People wave to the first group of cars on the Westside Parkway after it opened to the public on Friday.

across the parkway’s three westbound lanes, at its Coffee Road overpass. Once the freeway opened, motorists traveling 65 miles per hour were able to travel its entire length in less than six minutes.

“Bakersfield is terribly excited to have the

opening of this new artery in our community,” Mayor Harvey Hall said. “We may, some day, maybe in my lifetime, we may connect to Interstate 5.”

The parkway begins at Truxtun Avenue in

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- Watch six videos from the opening of the Westside Parkway:
- The parkway opens.
 - An interview with Former Congressman Bill Thomas.
 - An interview with City Manager Alan Tandy.
 - An interview with Councilman Russell Johnson.
 - Mayor Harvey Hall’s speech.
 - Take a ride along the new freeway.

Athletic director at BC resigns

Beckwith’s exit comes after football sanctions

BY JEFF EVANS
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It’s official: Ryan Beckwith is no longer Bakersfield College’s athletic director.

Barely two years from the date he was hired, Beckwith said late Friday afternoon that “it’s official. I’m not returning as the Renegades’ athletic director. I’ve resigned.”

Beckwith, 34, said he didn’t think BC would make any statement about his departure.

Beckwith’s resignation comes on the heels of conference sanctions against the Renegades’ football program that were announced on May 14.

Sources at BC have said Beckwith’s departure was imminent and that longtime softball coach Sandi Taylor, who has been BC’s associate athletic

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Inmate release a step closer

BY EVAN HALPER AND PAIGE ST. JOHN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — In a major setback for Gov. Jerry Brown, the Supreme Court on Friday declined to block a court order that he release 9,600 inmates from state prisons, moving California a step closer to relocating or freeing those prisoners by the end of the year.

The state can still pursue its appeal — and the administration vowed to do so. But the court’s 6-3 vote was a disappointment for Brown, who had launched a political crusade against a three-judge panel that has consistently ruled that overcrowded prison conditions violate the rights of

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