

# Nation

## Military linked to damage to ozone

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Great press Ted! Even made our family little right wing ray. Your work is excellent and much appreciated by me and by GASP. We are the environmental rep. to our County's AB 2948 Haz Waste Elimination Committee. Thanks to TCP and Susan Sherry, PAX. Lee Hudson

**SAN JOSE (AP)** — The U.S. military is responsible for releasing two-thirds of the chemicals that eat away at the Earth's protective ozone layer, according to a study released Tuesday by environmentalists.

In releasing the report a week after NASA revealed "alarming" ozone depletion, the authors urged President Bush to change defense contractor specifications to eliminate the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

"The military recognizes it has a problem, but it is moving very slowly to fix it," said Lenny Siegel, the primary author of the report called "Operation Ozone Shield: The Pentagon's War on the Stratosphere."

"Civilian companies are moving to eliminate ozone-depleting chemicals. We want to see the Pentagon release its contractors to do the same this year."

Military specifications call for using ozone-depleting CFC-113 as a solvent to clean metal and electronic components, according to the National Toxics Campaign Fund, based in Boston, and Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, based in San Jose.

Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood said the Defense Department is working with contractors to come up with alternatives for cleaning high-tech equipment, and Hughes Aircraft has developed a non-toxic citric acid solvent formula. But he said it takes time to replace the decade-old cleaning method.

"We will continue to use CFCs in most of our weapons systems until there is a tested, proven and qualified substitute," Flood said from Washington, D.C. "Our overall elimination goal is still the year 2000, but we might eliminate CFCs before then if we come up with some workable alternative."

The Earth's ozone layer serves as protection against the sun's ultraviolet rays and its depletion can cause cancer, global warming and other environmental changes, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Under the 1987 Montreal Protocol, industry and government is supposed to eliminate use of ozone-depleting CFCs by the year 2000. Most private high-tech companies, from International Business Machines, Corp. to Apple Computer, Inc., have begun to develop alternative methods to clean components, such as soap and water or citric acid, and have set goals to eliminate CFCs by the early to mid 1990s. But the military has lagged.

John O'Connor, chairman of the Boston environmental group, told a Washington, D.C., news conference that he had sent a letter to President Bush urging him to end government use of CFCs as soon as possible.

"We are challenging the president to prove his support by declaring a national emergency to phase out the government use of ozone-destroying chemicals," O'Connor said.

The Pentagon's Flood said he hadn't seen the environmentalists' report and declined comment on whether the CFC use figures were correct.

According to the report, the military used more than 5.75 million pounds of CFC-113, or about 37 percent of the reported CFC emissions in the United States in 1989, the last year for which data was available. Another 7.35 million pounds of CFC-113 releases came from 26 major defense contractors and three nuclear weapons plants for another 29.5 percent of the total for 1989. The remainder of the CFC emissions that year came from non-military plants.

Ted Smith, executive director of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, said people should be deeply concerned about new studies that show the ozone layer is thinning and developing holes at a faster rate than expected.

"We're looking at very serious consequences, not 50 years down the road, but this winter," Smith said. "This is not a new problem. There simply has not been a strong commitment to solve the problem."

Under terms of an international agreement called the Montreal Protocol, the United States and other industrialized nations had pledged to halt production of CFCs by 2000.

Bush's action comes after last week's government report saying the ozone layer was being depleted at a much faster rate than had been believed.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration reported discovery of "alarming" levels of ozone-destroying chemicals over

Canada, the United States and Europe. That prompted renewed calls for a stepped-up effort to eliminate industrial chemicals thought to cause the problem.

The NASA report said aircraft and satellite studies show that chlorine monoxide, a chemical that destroys the ozone layer, reached record levels over parts of the Northern Hemisphere during some days in January.

In some measurements, the chemical was found to be as high as 1.5 parts per billion, a level that one scientist called "alarming."

Bush said current U.S. production of ozone-depleting chemicals already was more than 40 percent below the levels currently allowed by the Montreal Protocol, and more than 20 percent ahead of Europe's non-aerosol production phase out.

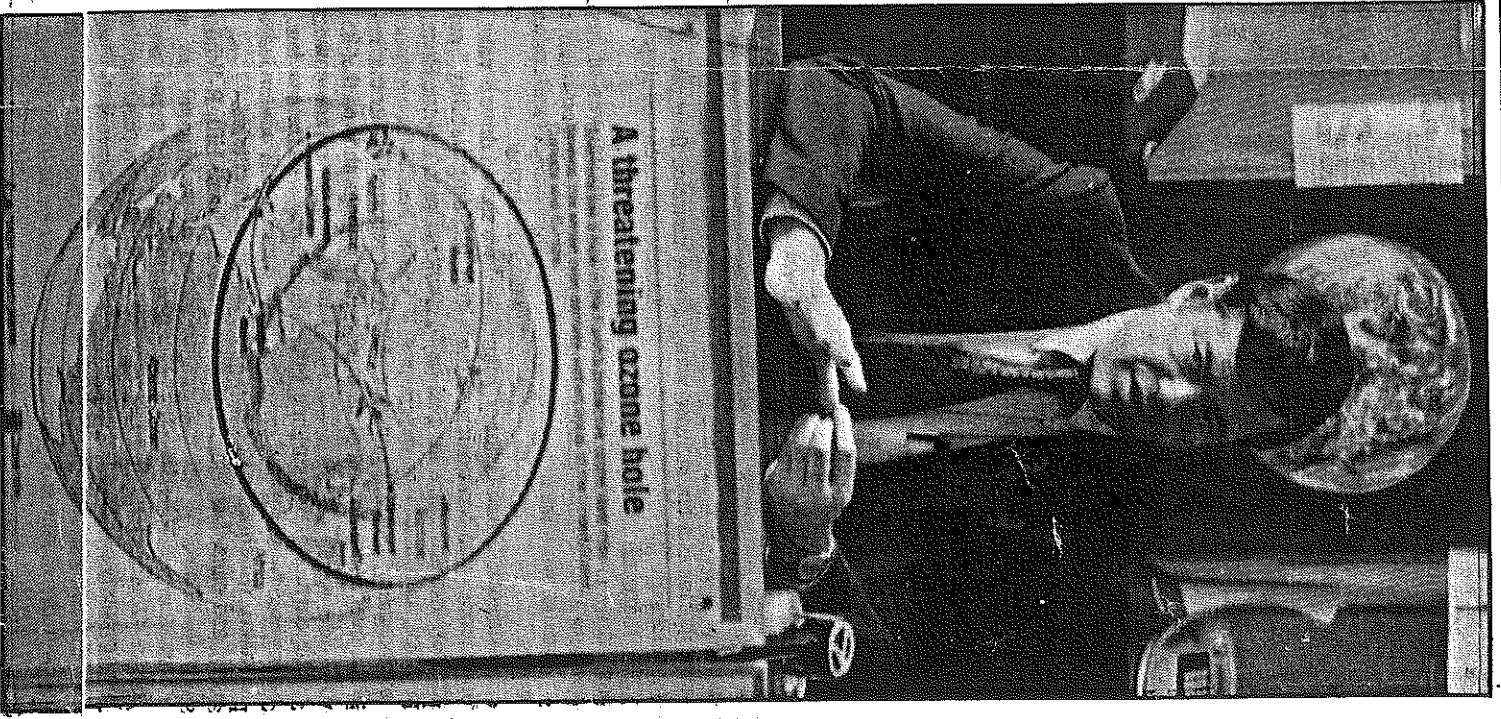
In the near term, Bush called on U.S. manufacturers to reduce production of CFCs to 50 percent of 1986 levels by the end of this year.

## Bush promises to protect ozone layer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - President Bush, citing new forecasts of a growing ozone hole over the Northern Hemisphere, announced Tuesday a speedup in phasing out ozone-destroying chemicals.

Bush said the United States will phase out production of ozone-damaging chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by the end of 1995, rather than by the year 2000, as agreed to earlier.

The president said the United States was acting unilaterally. He urged other nations to follow suit.



**Ted Smith of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition releases a study on the ozone layer, claiming the U.S. military is responsible for releasing two-thirds of the ozone-depleting chemicals.**