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president 250-183, with 86 Democrats joining Republicans on the issue. Three Republicans voted against it.

The historic vote is the first authorization for military might since the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed in 1964 to retaliate against North Vietnam for attacking two U.S. destroyers. Earlier Saturday, the House and Senate rejected an alternative resolution that favored continued reliance on sanctions.

Anti-war protesters demonstrated outside the Capitol in a cold drizzle.

Security around the Capitol, which tightened Friday after outbursts in the Senate gallery, was even

1/13/91
PAGE 1

Please see **CONGRESS, A-15**

Texas proud, soldiers, flag stand out in gulf

BY JOHN MECKLIN
OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

EASTERN SAUDIA ARABIA — About midway down the line of parked tanks, a small Texas flag sticks out just behind a turret.

Atop the tank, just behind the tarp that forms a tent for the four men living on the vehicle, sits Army Pvt. Philon deBerry. He can't hear a captain calling him because he is listening to music over headphones.

Rockin' out, as it were.

DeBerry is part of a calvary unit waiting near a port on the Persian Gulf to be deployed.

As he climbed off his tank, other soldiers on other tanks began to hoot at him, disparaging his heritage.

Even among the hundreds of thousands of Americans in Saudi Arabia, Texans tend to stand out. There are thousands from the Lone Star state scattered

Please see **TEXANS, A-15**



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office on a covered platform built on the south side of the Capitol. After about two weeks of rain in Austin, the weather forecasters are predicting 47 degrees and sunny skies.

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Nunn said, "I find it
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country," Foley said.

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Associated Press

U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joseph Wilson IV arrives in Frankfurt, Germany.

TEXANS: Lone Star State's soldiers are ready to

From A-1

through the desert, waiting on Jan. 15.

"Everybody's got something to say about Texas," deBerry says. "But I've got a lot of pride in Texas. You know, what we really need here is some Pace Picante Sauce."

Along with his brash Texas pride, deBerry also has a lot of confidence in his unit's capabilities.

The buildup of American forces is part of the reason. This port is full of heavy military vehicles. Some are lined up in orderly rows. The rest move on long lines of screaming tractor-trailers.

In the city near here, American soldiers and equipment are just an odd contrast. Standing out here and there among the Mosque towers and thobes and ghutras (roads and heads scarves) of Saudi life.

The port, however, has essentially become a part of America.

As one officer puts it, "This is a city within a city. We ought to give it a name."

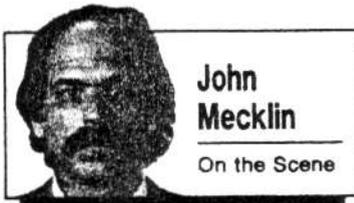
It would not be a pretty name. Flat, dusty, crowded with cranes and industrial buildings, this spot,

mats and private citizens were on board the airplane, which landed at Frankfurt International Airport. The Americans were to spend the night at the Rhein-Main Air Base before heading to Washington on Sunday.

The U.S. diplomats were evacuated in advance of the Jan. 15 U.N.

on which "LAST FLIGHT" was written in red ink.

Arrangements for the charter began after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz failed to reach agreement on a peaceful settlement to the gulf crisis in talks in Geneva on Wednesday.



John Mecklin

On the Scene

confidence, Elizabeth Ethridge, his girlfriend in Fort Worth.

DeBerry says he keeps pictures of her pasted inside his tank's turret. The captain who was watching over this interview scowls at the non-regulation decorating.

"She's fully-clothed, sir," deBerry says.

"Tell her not to worry," deBerry says, refocusing on his girlfriend. "Even though things could get crazy the next couple of weeks, don't worry. It's just going to be one big police call for us."

In another part of the port, inside a warehouse the size of a football field, rows of soldiers lie, sit and lounge on cots. The cots might be all of two or three feet apart. Most of the soldiers here recently arrived in the country and are waiting to be shipped north. An air of boredom pervades the huge building. There is absolutely no privacy.

A captain explains: "You've got odds and ends and bits and pieces of units from everywhere here."

One of those pieces is an Army reserve unit from San Marcos that specializes in repairing communications equipment. Along with the rest of the unit, Vince Powell from

another officer says, "Is probably the ugliest place I've ever seen."

DeBerry's tank unit has been at the port for a few weeks, following transfer from Europe, and he says it is the waiting that has bothered him the most.

Living four-in-a-tank on what amounts to a parking lot, these soldiers have little to occupy their time except maintenance of their equipment, card games and recorded music.

Despite the approaching war with Iraq, deBerry says he is not worried. According to deBerry, Saddam Hussein does not stand a chance.

"Just look around," he says, gesturing at fields of military equipment.

As the Jan. 15 deadline approaches, there is a person to whom he wants to convey his con-