

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-13

THE WASHINGTON POST
4 February 1985

U.S. Flies Out 13 Injured In Athens

By Patrick Quinn
Associated Press

ATHENS, Feb. 3—Thirteen injured U.S. servicemen and dependents, among 57 Americans wounded when a time bomb exploded in a crowded bar, were airlifted to a U.S. base in West Germany today for treatment, U.S. and Greek officials said.

An unknown group, the National Front, took responsibility for the bombing and warned of further attacks "against the Americans who are responsible for the continued situation in Cyprus." The claim came in a call to the Eleftherotipat newspaper.

The explosion last night was the first reported terrorist attack on a facility frequented by U.S. military personnel in Greece.

Seven Greeks, a West German and an Ethiopian were also reported injured, Greek police said, when a "powerful time bomb" went off under one of the tables at Bobby's, a bar in the seaside Athens suburb of Glyfada. The bar is popular with many of the 1,500 U.S. Air Force

personnel stationed at Hellenikon Air Base next to Athens Airport.

Police searching the wrecked saloon found "traces of a timing device," a police spokesman said. "It was clearly a powerful time bomb," the spokesman said. "It was a miracle that no one was killed."

A U.S. Embassy official said the incident "was out of our jurisdiction, and we will assist the Greek government in their investigation only if we are requested to."

The bomb went off at 11:36 p.m. when about 200 persons were packed into the bar near Glyfada's central square. "There was an ear-

splitting blast, a cloud of smoke and the lights went out," said bartender Yannis Kaptanis, 24.

The concussion collapsed part of the ceiling, blew the heavy doors off their hinges and showered the street with glass. Some patrons, their clothes scorched, were trampled in the rush to get out.

A doctor at Athens Hygeia Hospital, where U.S. personnel were taken for surgery, spoke of deep cuts from flying debris and bad burns. A spokeswoman at the U.S. Hellenikon base said 32 Americans, the Ethiopian and a Greek were released after receiving first aid at

the base hospital and that 13 Americans were flown out today to the U.S. Army hospital in Landstuhl, West Germany.

[A Pentagon spokesman listed 61 persons injured, 57 of them American. His list included 34 Air Force personnel, 19 Navy, 2 Army and 2 military dependents. None was thought to have life-threatening injuries, he said, although two of the 13 flown out were listed as seriously injured. He had no names.]

A spokesman at Hygeia Hospital identified four of the injured Americans as Charles Curmutt, 23, who

he said was badly burned; his wife Carla, 20, also burned; Mark Kromer, and Attile Downing, 21, of Fayetteville, N.C.

Two Americans have been assassinated in Greece within the past 10 years.

A group called November 17 claimed responsibility for killing CIA station chief Richard Welch in 1976 and naval attache George Tsantes in 1983.

November 17 takes its name from the date of a student uprising in 1974 put down by the then-ruling military. The Greek government

has sought to limit the U.S. military role here, occasionally taking a critical public stance.

Cyprus, which is partly occupied by Turkish troops, has strained Turkish-Greek relations but has not been a focus of U.S. policy. Recent U.N. efforts to resolve the island's conflicts apparently failed.