



MAP COURTESY OF TOPP  
**The travels of one great white shark are mapped by a string of dots, each of which indicate the shark's daily location. The shark spent months at the "shark cafe," indicated by the closely-packed dots at left end of the string. The Hawaiian Islands can be seen at lower left.**

## Sharks

From page A1

whites since 1999 to track their movements.

Scientists have known for several years that great whites travel between California and Hawaii, but the new information reveals the fish are surprisingly exact in their journeys.

"White shark movement is anything but random," said Salvador Jorgensen, marine biologist at Hopkins Marine Station, speaking at the recent American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Boston. "There are fixed routes, fixed destinations and neighborhoods that are visited again and again."

### Far off Farallon Islands

To tag the sharks, Jorgensen — who is a postdoctoral fellow of Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium — and other researchers sail a special research vessel to the Farallon Islands, 27 miles off the coast of San Francisco, where seals are abundant for sharks to eat. Researchers trail a shark lure — a piece of carpet in the shape of a seal — from their boat. When a shark swims over for a bite, they attach a special tag to its back.

"One of the surprises, after seeing all the 'Jaws' movies," Jorgensen said, "is that when you see them, they are very intelligent and graceful creatures."

The tags collect data about

the sharks' locations and store it in their memory. At a pre-programmed time, they pop off the shark's back and bob to the surface, where they transmit the recordings to satellites.

The data then go directly to the program's Web site, www.topp.org, where researchers and lay people can follow along as white sharks and 21 other predator species make their way through the Pacific Ocean.

"We can get up in the morning and get a cup of coffee and take a look at where our sharks are," said Block.

### Amazing navigation

During the past five years, data from tagged sharks showed scientists that sharks' homing behavior is stunningly precise, Block said. One shark was spotted off the Central Coast 13 years ago and was recently found in the same place, Jorgensen said.

It would take humans "every tool of modern navigation to go on these journeys and come back to the same exact spot," Block said. "It's a feat of superb navigation."

So researchers know that whatever the sharks are doing at the mysterious shark cafe, they didn't get there by accident.

Some sharks tagged in California spend months milling around in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Scientists had no idea this was going on before they saw the tag data, Block said.

They are still in the dark as to

the giant fish's motivations. The lengthy journeys cost the animals a lot of energy, Jorgensen said, so they must have a good reason for doing it.

Animals usually migrate to feed or mate, Jorgensen said.

"So the term 'cafe' is purposely vague because a cafe might be where you'd go to get something to eat, but it might also be where you go to see and be seen," Jorgensen said.

### Underwater plain

The shark cafe is in a part of the ocean that by all accounts should be relatively devoid of life. The cafe is in the middle of an abyssal plain, a flat marine wasteland. Abyssal plains generally don't support much life, but there is clearly something special about this spot, Block said.

"The sharks are potentially teaching us something we don't know about the ocean," Block said. "Possibly there's a source of food at a depth that the sharks know about but we don't."

As for the repeated diving, Block thinks sharks could be going after food, but cold temperatures and low levels of oxygen in the deep water quickly force them back to shallow, oxygen-rich warmer water.

Scientists are eager to visit the mysterious cafe and see the behaviors. But until they can do onsite research, they'll have to content themselves with watching blips on their computers.

Rachel Tompa can be reached at 646-4350.

"You may have once believed in the revolution. Now you can see its failure."

— President Bush

# Cuban military backs Raul Castro

## CRONIES IN CONTROL ECONOMY, POLITICS

By ANITA SNOW  
 Associated Press

HAVANA — They are called "Raulistas" — top military men who manage much of Cuba's economy and populate the upper reaches of power. Today, these men will likely ensure that Raul Castro not only succeeds his brother Fidel as president, but remains in firm control.

Having served in Raul Castro's Defense Ministry for decades, Cuba's active and retired military leaders today oversee key economic endeavors, from farming to tourism, that bring in hard currency.

Five active generals sit on the Communist Party's powerful 21-member Politburo, including two who run the important interior and sugar ministries.

While loyal first to Fidel Castro, many of the men have particularly close friendships with the younger brother. They are likely to help him consolidate power if he is named president today after the ailing 81-year-old Fidel's resignation last week.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces are one of the island's strongest and most respected institutions, and with the top generals backing him, Raul is unlikely to face problems from the military at large — a sector that in many countries can be the most dangerous for a new government.

Moreover, Castro's Cuba, unlike many Latin American countries, has never experienced a military coup or rebellion.

### Bush weighs in

President Bush acknowledged the military's influence months before Fidel's resignation, urging it to embrace

change and abstain from using force to keep the communist government in power.

"You may have once believed in the revolution. Now you can see its failure," Bush said in an October speech.

Critical to Raul's success will be "the extent to which Raul and the generals are able to uphold loyalty to the chain of command," former CIA analyst Brian Latell wrote in "After Fidel," his recent book about the Castro brothers. "The odds of that will be much in their favor, in the beginning at least."

### Military's support

Dissident Vladimiro Roca, a fighter pilot before he broke with the government, believes Raul Castro has the military leaders' support. But even more than that, "they are interested in maintaining their status," Roca said in 2006 after Fidel Castro first ceded provisional power his brother.

That status is significant. Gen. Abelardo Colome Ibarra, 68, oversees the island's vast domestic security and intelligence apparatus as interior minister. Gen. Ulises Roster

del Toro, 65, controls the Sugar Ministry. Other generals and colonels have run fishing, transportation and Habanos S.A., which works with a European firm to market Cuban cigars abroad.

Ramiro Valdes, 75, one of only three men honored with the title of Commander of the Revolution, for years operated a key company importing computers and other electronics, until Raul named him communications minister shortly after Fidel fell ill.

The armed forces also manage a chain of hundreds of

small consumer goods stores and a tourism company that runs more than 30 hotels, with subsidiaries that provide domestic tourist travel by air and land.

### The new entrepreneurs

Generals who once served as battlefield commanders have become leaders of a new military entrepreneurial class, with personal stakes in Cuba's future.

"Second- and third-tier officials have every incentive to stand together, if only as the best strategy for preserving their equities," Latell wrote.

The military's economic enterprises are run by the Defense Ministry's Business Administration Group, overseen by Raul Castro's second-in-command and confidant, Gen. Julio Casas Regueiro, 72.

### Tough and well-liked

By all accounts, Raul Castro is a highly organized manager with a pragmatic business sense that could lead him to allow openings in Cuba's economy. He hinted as much in a speech last year, saying some "structural changes" were needed. He did not elaborate.

He is known as a warm and jocular man who dotes almost as much on his troops as he does on his family, but has proven to be extremely tough. In 1959, in the first months after the revolution, he and Ernesto "Che" Guevara oversaw the executions of officials from the deposed government of dictator Fulgencio Batista.

Raul Castro was among those on the ruling Council of State who upheld the death penalty for highly decorated Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa — reportedly once one of his closest friends — and three officers convicted of drug trafficking.



**Raul Castro**  
 Said to be a pragmatic businessman.

ales del Toro, 65, controls the Sugar Ministry. Other generals and colonels have run fishing, transportation and Habanos S.A., which works with a European firm to market Cuban cigars abroad.

Ramiro Valdes, 75, one of only three men honored with the title of Commander of the Revolution, for years operated a key company importing computers and other electronics, until Raul named him communications minister shortly after Fidel fell ill.

The armed forces also manage a chain of hundreds of

## Cuba

From page A1

entrances of their often dilapidated buildings.

But several Cubans interviewed say that underneath it all, there is anxiety and concern over the country's political future: Will there be any change at all? Will change be for the good? Will Cuba keep its much vaunted health, education and welfare systems? Or will the island go the way of the Soviet Union, into crime, corruption and drugs?

"It looks quiet, but it's not," said a young Cuban hanging out at a park in Old Havana, where police officers patrolled and an officer stood guard with a dog.

While some Cubans said the police presence on the streets of the Cuban capital had not changed in recent days, others had a different view.

In one block in central Havana, there were four soldiers in one corner, a police car in the middle and another patrol car on the prowl. A block away, canine officers in blue and gray uniforms waited in the back of a truck with their dogs.

Jorge, a professor at a technical school that trains workers for the sugar industry, said the increased police presence "is because of the period we are in... They are there to keep the peace."

### Worries about future

Most Cubans appear little concerned about an eruption of violence, and far more curious as to what the future holds for them and one of the world's last communist systems.

"We know change is coming," said Ray, 58, a local taxi driver. "What we don't know is the form it will take. You worry not for yourself, but for your children, your grandchildren." Ray has great concern that a future Cuba will revert to the pre-Castro days, when he says the streets were "filled with criminality."

"We know very well the story of the new Soviet Union," he said. "We do not want the Russian mafia, drug trafficking."

And he feels a bit of nostalgia for the many years, until 1991, that Moscow supplied Cuba with an estimated \$4 billion to \$6 billion a year in subsidies.

"We were millionaires at that time, and we didn't even know it," Ray said.

These days, some food items are in shortage, prices are high, and the typical monthly wage for a state employee — and that's a majority — barely tops 225 pesos, or \$11.25 in the hard currency required by the better-stocked state stores.

That is one issue most Cubans agree on: Whoever is the next president must tackle the island's economic shortcomings.

"The prices are not consistent with the salaries," said Carlos, 68, a retired seaman.

But beyond their serious economic ills, many Cubans are largely apathetic about today's vote and don't grasp its import, said a teacher named Jorge.

### Differing opinions

Among the intellectual class, Jorge said, most do not want to see Raul Castro, 76, succeed Fidel Castro. While much has been said about Raul's pragmatism and openness to economic reforms, he said, many see the two brothers as "one and the same."

Fidel Castro has not said whether he will retain the title of first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, traditionally a post equal to or more powerful than the country's presidency.

Jorge would prefer to see the presidency go to Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque because he's younger — 42 — and represents a new generation.

"He can make the economic changes that need to be made," he said.

But as today's announcement approaches, the

overwhelming response among many in Cuba's younger generation is apathy, born out of a belief that whoever is elected, it means little.

"It doesn't matter what happens on Sunday because nothing is really going to happen," said Hermes, 30, a pedicab driver waiting for passengers in the Vedado neighborhood. "The younger generation here is tired of struggling so hard for nothing. We don't have time to worry about politics. We're too tired because we're working so hard just to get by."

### Sense of fatalism

Hermes believes that Raul Castro will be the next president, although he said that some Cubans are asking themselves whether that means things would become more or less repressive.

"Raul Castro has had a reputation in the past of being even harder than his brother," Hermes said.

To Hermes, the streets these days appear to have too many police and too few regular people.

"I work in the streets, and when I'm driving around at night, I look at my watch because I can't believe how empty the streets are at such an early hour," he said. "People are lying low."

He added that about a month ago, the government announced a ban on carrying knives.

"They've been using that as an excuse to stop people all the time and search them," he said.

Other Cubans appeared fatalistic about their future.

"The Cuban people have a noose around their neck that just keeps getting tighter," said Paulo, 20, taking a break from a pickup game of baseball on the seaside Malecon.

"Every day is the same." He believes that Raul Castro will be chosen and added that he would move abroad if he could — "anywhere but here."

# House considers creating independent ethics panel

By CARL HULSE

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Days after another member of Congress was charged in a broad criminal indictment, the House is set to consider the creation of an independent ethics panel that supporters hope will restore credibility to efforts to police Congress internally.

The plan to allow people besides members of Congress to initiate inquiries into suspected wrongdoing by House members is a piece of unfinished business from Democratic efforts to overhaul ethics rules. It is also one of the most contentious, because lawmakers have traditionally resisted oversight by outsiders.

But Democratic leaders and members of the bipartisan task force that wrote the proposal say persistent misconduct and a low level of public regard for the

institution should provide momentum to approve what would be a potentially significant change. Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Ariz., on Friday was the latest in a series of lawmakers to be indicted, and others remain under investigation.

"I think the time has come to have an independent entity," said Rep. Michael Capuano, D-Mass., who was appointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to head the bipartisan task force on the creation of an independent panel.

Under the proposal for a new Office of Congressional Ethics, six members appointed jointly by the speaker and minority leader would have the power to scrutinize the conduct of representatives. It could then deliver findings to the ethics committee.

The panel is one response to a criticism that lawmakers have proved reluctant to judge the behavior of their peers. That

perception was fueled by the fact that both parties engaged in an informal ethics truce for years after ethics complaints ended the careers of some top lawmakers. And in some recent high-profile cases, the ethics committee has ultimately shied away, saying it did not want to interfere in outside criminal inquiries.

"There was a sense that nobody there was in charge, that there was no ethics process," said Norm Ornstein, a congressional scholar at the American Enterprise Institute who has been involved in drawing up the new ethics proposal.

Under the House plan, formal complaints by members against colleagues would still go straight to the ethics committee, known formally as the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The members of the panel, who could not be lobbyists or current members of Congress, would be appointed for four-year terms.



Capitol Hill

## Storm

From page A1

station on the Peninsula. The storm system that felled trees and power lines in January saw gusts in the low 40s.

Bob Benjamin, a forecaster with the National Weather Service, predicted that overnight gusts could reach as high as 60 mph in some areas, would likely

diminish to 20 to 40 mph by morning, 15 to 30 mph by afternoon, and 10 to 20 mph by early evening.

"After that, we should have a mostly sunny Monday, with some patchy fog, followed by a very pleasant midweek," Benjamin said.

Highs next week are expected to be about 60 on the coast, and possibly in the low-70s in the inland areas of Monterey County, with lows in the mid-40s.

Benjamin said the National Weather Service was issuing gale warnings over Monterey Bay and high wind advisories for the Hollister area and the southern part of the Salinas Valley. A coastal flooding warning was in effect because of high surf conditions.

Dennis Taylor can be reached at dtaylor@montereyherald.com or 646-4344.