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■ Scavengers swarmed over the jungle site of the Tans airliner crash in Peru as investigators feared the loss of evidence in determining the cause.
■ France said it will start publishing a list of airlines and nations with poor safety records after recent crashes such as the jet headed to Martinique.

■ Ingushetia's premier was wounded in an attempted assassination in the southern Russian region a week before the Beslan massacre anniversary.
■ Russia and China wrapped up joint war games with a mock invasion of an unnamed country featuring paratroopers seizing a Shandong airfield.

■ China's Hu plans to use a Sept. 7 U.S. summit to urge Bush to let energy firms pursue acquisitions without political interference. (Page A11)

■ Germany's high court cleared a final obstacle to elections Sept. 18, dismissing a suit by two lawmakers saying the early vote was set up illegally.

■ Ethiopia's May 15 elections failed to meet international standards, EU monitors said. Alleged abuses in the voting sparked rioting that killed 42.

■ South Florida feared floods as Katrina, barely a hurricane, landed. It looks like it will circle up to the panhandle and spare oil rigs. (Page A2)

■ Rolling blackouts were imposed on 500,000 in Southern California when a power line failed on a hot day, recalling the 2001 season of discontent.
■ Wholesale fuel prices shot up in the Los Angeles area after a fire Wednesday shut a Bay-area refinery unit a day after problems at a second site.

■ The AMA Journal's editor said she has been rattled by a deluge of angry mail after a study on fetal pain critics label abortion-rights propaganda.

■ The Miss America contest is leaving Atlantic City after 84 years on the boardwalk, pageant organizers said, but a new venue hasn't been chosen.

taking on the country's environment and cultural heritage. Traditional architecture—from courtyard houses in Beijing to the formerly ubiquitous canals in the eastern city of Suzhou—has been pushed aside to make way for highways and high rises. Western aesthetics have, for many Chinese, become synonymous with prosperity.

In the race to rev up its economy, China has devastated much of its natural resources. Please Turn to Page A6, Column 5

Pentagon Envisions Operations With Small Satellites

Technical, Budget Problems With Big Ones Spark Push For Cheaper, Flexible Birds

By ANDY PASZTOR

If the Pentagon has its way, local battlefield commanders will be able to launch their own mini-satellites in a matter of hours to benefit from high-tech surveillance and communications.

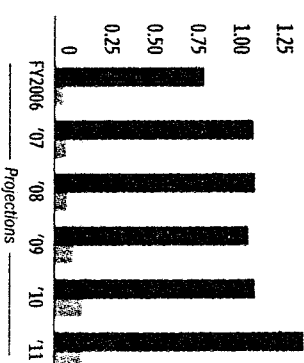
After spending decades in pursuit of increasingly complex and costly space projects that have often run over budget or faced technical snafus, the Pentagon is looking to slash the size and price tag of future satellites and rockets.

Military planners and lawmakers are devoting more attention and funding to developing simpler, smaller satellites projected to cost about \$30 million apiece, compared with current versions costing several hundred million dollars. They'll be blasted into a low orbit by a new class of slimmed-down rockets, using mobile launchers and refueling only days or even a few hours of advance warning before liftoff. Today's mammoth boosters, by contrast, often entail scheduling years in advance and spending

of the Internet phone industry is dizzying. In three years, for example, Vonage has gone from being a miniscule start-up to the industry's star to being the established leader with a target on its back.
Driving the popularity of the service is the expansion of broadband Internet connections that can quickly handle music downloads, video and phone calls with minimal distortion. While about 40 million households still rely on dial-up connections, most new subscribers

slashing prices. The eventual winners were large, regional phone companies that joined the long-distance battle at a late stage. They faced rivals that had largely bled each other dry. The long-distance companies couldn't match the Bells' sales packages of local, long-distance, Internet and wireless calls.
Similarly, many investors and industry insiders expect to see a shakeout among Internet-phone start-ups, while

Fueling Up
The Air Force's spending projections for its rocket programs



Source: Air Force fiscal 2006 budget documents

ing months preparing them for flight from elaborate, fixed launching pads.
Championed by Gen. John Junger, the departing Air Force chief of staff, these "operationally responsive space" projects envision a fundamental rethinking of how the military can use space assets in future conflicts. Local commanders, for instance, may have the option of ordering up a diminutive satellite—

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Some Like It Hot

Making a fast-food sandwich toasted is more difficult than

The Secret of His Success

With Greenspan five months from retirement, the Fed's annual conference is devoted to divining what

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