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SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

IN OTHER ACTION

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Mercury News Wire Services

Memo: Washington News in Brief

Cmdr. Donnie Cochran, commanding officer of the Navy's Blue Angels precision flying team, resigned his position, citing "personal training difficulties." The exact nature of Cochran's problem was not revealed. Cochran was "concerned that his difficulties were going to impair the viability" of the elite flying team, said a Navy statement.

(box) Pesticide use hit a record high in 1995, according to government data released by two environmental groups. But higher volumes may not mean a correspondingly higher risk to public safety, industry analysts and regulators said.

(box) Safety inspectors have discovered an airborne toxic mold in a corridor of the Department of Transportation headquarters building, which the agency is preparing to evacuate for a floor-by-floor cleanup, officials said. A single spore of *Stachybotrys chartarum*, a toxigenic fungus, was found in an airborne sample taken in an eighth-floor corridor. The fungus produces substances that can irritate the skin and mucous membranes, interfere with body metabolism and reduce resistance to infections.

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