

Cadets spend break rafting on Rio Grande

Several cadets combined fun and military survival-type training on their spring holiday. Led by Army Capt. Vic Frysinger, they rafted down the Rio Grande River in the Big Bend National Park.

"Though the water was lower than usual, they found some challenging adventure," Capt. Frysinger observed. In all, they spent three days and covered 30 miles on the Rio Grande.

The eight Army ROTC cadets conquered "white water," a rockslide and the usual hazards of camping in wilderness settings. They also rescued a goat mired in quicksand and another visitor who stuck his car in river bottom sand.

The group spotted wild burros, antelope, deer, snakes and iguanas. The spring recess outing also provided them opportunity to use survival techniques, such as mountain climbing, fishing and raft paddling, among others.

The all senior and junior group included Danny Davis and Frank Gearing, Ranger School graduates with some rafting experience. Others along were Ken Cofer, Kelly DeWitt, Bart Jennings, Bill Langford, Rick Wall and Tony Wolfskill.

"Each agreed the trip was enjoyable, and sev-

eral want to go back again, perhaps during the Christmas holidays this year," Frysinger said. He earlier took his Army company on a similar jaunt.

After a 600-mile car trip, the first campsite on Camino del Rio west of Big Bend Park was a welcome sight. They launched two-man rafts at Lajitas, a small trading post, the following day. From there, they paddled 15 miles down-river to the entrance of Santa Elena Canyon, one of the deepest gorges cut by the Rio Grande. It is seven miles of river boxed between sheer walls averaging 1,500 feet from river level.

"Although the water level is low at this time of year, there was still enough white water to provide a challenge," the A&M-assigned officer commented.

A rockslide was encountered about halfway through, Frysinger recounted. It required some unusual navigating and portaging. The first day in Santa Elena included Gearing's rescue of a goat bogged in quicksand on the river bank.

They found additional white water in Poquito Canyon on the third day. And made a friend by freeing the stuck car. The group also stopped in Chisos Basin for a while on the way back.

Officer decorated for saving woman

Army SFC Max Schill of Texas A&M was decorated Tuesday for saving the life of an elderly woman.

Sgt. Schill received the Commendation Medal for Heroism. It was presented in the company of other Army ROTC instructor personnel at A&M by Col. Thomas R. Parsons, professor of military science.

Sgt. Schill saved 76-year-old Mrs. Pauline Hendricks in a Dec. 15, 1975, fire. It was next door to his Briar Oaks Dr. apartment. Two firemen were injured and the non-commissioned officer was overcome by smoke.

Schill smelled smoke and noticed flames in the neighboring apartment. He asked another neighbor, John Brack, to call the fire department and obtain a hose.

Firemen arrived, and with respirators and Schill's assistance, removed the woman to safety. She was the only occupant of the apartment.

Department of the Army general orders cited the non-com's "take charge attitude and disregard for his own personal safety" in the situation. "Eyewitnesses related the SFC Schill's immediate vigorous action saved Mrs. Hendrick's life and prevented adjoining apartments from being destroyed," the citation stated.

Sgt. Schill, of Weslaco, has almost 20 years military service. He has been with the A&M detachment five years. He has operated the Trigon rifle range and coached ROTC and Aggie rifle teams.

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Cadets to sail with foreign cruise

Texas A&M's 150 Naval ROTC cadets on summer cruise this year will include two on foreign exchange.

Arthur C. "Chris" Braun of Georgetown will sail with the Swedish Navy. Erwin A. Haynes of Anson, with the West German Navy.

The eight-week special cruises will provide the cadets with basically the same experience of other senior cadets on cruise. Haynes' and Braun's cruises will also have good-will overtones.

Col. Jack Ivins, professor of naval science, said the duo will be A&M's first foreign exchange cruise participants. This will be the third summer of NROTC cruises from Texas A&M.

Braun and Haynes were chosen from among some 250 candidates nominated by 58 NROTC detachments nationwide. A&M nominated three.

Twenty countries participate in the foreign exchange program, allowing U. S. midshipmen to serve aboard their ships on an exchange basis. Braun has been assigned the

only Swedish billet. Haynes will be among three NROTC cadets from the U. S. on West German cruise, according to Lt. Cmdr. George Huxhold.

Nominees from the A&M detachment were screened for attitude, military bearing, academic performance and language ability.

Haynes, whose parents now reside in West Germany, graduated from high school and resided there six years. His father works for the U. S. Army in Europe.

"Both do very well in their NROTC studies," commented Cmdr. Huxhold. It has included operations, tactics, rules of the road, piloting and celestial navigation, critical knowledge for the senior cadet headed for final cruise.

"As with other senior cadets on cruise, they will be assigned bridge duties such as junior officer of the deck, assuming the con — or driving the ship — and taking part in tactical signal drills and tactical ship evolutions," Huxhold explained.

In line with previous Swedish foreign exchange program cruises,

Braun expects to tour the Swedish naval academy and see and sail on a variety of vessels. They might include a torpedo boat, submarine, cruiser, destroyer and minesweeper. His tour could include one of two sailing schooners operated by the Swedish Navy for Cadet training.

Haynes expects similar experiences with the West German Navy.

They will be on half ensign's pay while on cruise. Cruise dates are to be determined.

Braun is a mechanized agriculture major and first sergeant of Company S-2 this year. A political science major, Haynes is in Company E-1 of the Corps of Cadets. Both are on Naval ROTC scholarship, with two cruises behind them.

NROTC cadets on scholarship make three cruises. The first and last, after the freshman and junior years, are prolonged ship cruises that sail all waters of the world. After the sophomore year, NROTC cadets go on indoctrination cruises that include tours at several U. S. installations.

Regents OK Tarleton funds

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Tuesday approved contracts totaling more than \$2 million for construction at Tarleton State University, including renovation of its football stadium, and authorized planning for a fine arts complex at the school.

Dr. W. O. Trogdon, Tarleton president, said the new fine arts complex is expected to cost more than \$6 million. It will include an auditorium, an educational theater and a workshop theater.

"This complex will become the focal point of the campus," Trogdon predicted. "It will cut across all disciplines because the fine arts apply to almost everyone."

Construction of the 60,000-square-foot facility is expected to begin within a year.

The regents appropriated \$65,000 for preliminary design of the complex.

A \$1,778,660 contract was awarded to K. A. Sparks Contractor, Inc., of Hamilton to build a two-story 27,000-square-foot addition to the building housing the university's home economics and women's physical education programs.

Tarleton's football stadium will receive a major facelifting under a \$304,000 contract awarded to Jones & Williams Construction Co. of Waco. Improvements include installation of concrete bleachers on one

side of the field, construction of a press box and additions in the concession and restroom areas.

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