

### TTI Staffer Writes Paper On Mackinder

A Texas A&M University transportation researcher is author of the article "Mackinder's Heartland and Escalation Ratchet" which appears in the November issue of Military Review, the magazine of the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The author is William D. Franklin, assistant research economist in the Texas Transportation Institute.

His article presents the widely accepted heartland theories of the late Sir Halford J. Mackinder, a famous British geographer, and examines them in the light of thermonuclear conflict and limited war, since they have served as the basis for most analyses of national strategy since 1942.

THE HEARTLAND WAS considered by Mackinder as the pivot area of world power, according to the article. He viewed the world as a Mercator projection in attributing overwhelming importance to the continental heartland—"Who rules eastern Europe commands the heartland; who rules the heartland commands the world."

In his article Franklin linked the Mackinder theory with a concept in economics relating to non-reversible cyclical fluctuations in economic activity which results in what is known as a ratchet effect.

Such a concept would be appropriate in relation to controlled escalation. With each step upward on the escalation scale, it becomes progressively more difficult to move back down the scale, thereby resulting in a non-reversible ratchet effect.

This means that each decision to escalate must be considered carefully at the highest military and civilian decision-making levels before being implemented, Franklin states.

### Prof Scrutinizes Education Topics

Dr. Roger L. Harrell of Texas A&M is scrutinizing, first-hand, workings of the U. S. Office of Education and federal-state educational relationships.

The assistant professor of education is on a year's leave of absence to participate in a model training course conducted by the National Institute of Public Affairs.

Harrell works in various positions in the Washington office and attends weekend institutes along with other course work.

"THE TRAINING course deals with Office of Education programs, other agencies concerned with education and federal-state relationships of major departments and agencies whose responsibilities are related to federal programs," explained Dr. Paul Hensarling, A&M's Education and Psychology Department head.

"The course supplements work experience for a better understanding of how national policies for education are developed and implemented," he went on.

Democratic government theory, political and policy-making processes are among topics studied. Two-day conferences next June will assess the pilot program.

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