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# State Guard ready to help in case of community need

By CHERYL HICKMAN

Few people seem to have heard of the Texas State Guard, and perhaps many of the people who have heard of it don't know why the group exists.

The Texas State Guard is a branch of the state. Members of the group are trained in civil defense operations, but they don't carry weapons. In case of a natural disaster, a civil disturbance or some other emergency, the governor can put the Guard on active duty.

Guardsmen meet at least once each month at the national Guard Armory in their area. They receive training in first aid, radio communications, traffic control and map reading.

Major Joe McMullen, director of the Symphonic Band at Texas A&M University, is the battalion commander of State Guard units in Bryan, Brenham and Huntsville. McMullen gave some examples of what the guard does.

When the National Guard is mobilized, the State Guard is responsible for taking over the armory in the area. In case of a natural disaster such as a tornado or hurricane, the State Guard may be called to help with first aid, traffic control, and search and rescue missions.

When on active duty, Guard members draw military pay. Their pay is based on rank, so officers are paid more than privates. Guard members are limited by Texas legislation to a maximum active duty period of 12 days.

State guard units will also, on request, perform various community services. In October 1977, McMullen's battalion helped with traffic control in Huntsville during the prison rodeo. The Huntsville unit performed the same service during the Christmas parades. These services are performed on a voluntary basis and the guardsmen are not paid.

Every spring each unit of the Texas State Guard is involved in a training exercise. During this exercise the guardsmen apply what they learned. There are two different types of training maneuvers: field exercises and command post exercises. Only one maneuver is performed each year with each type of exercise being used every other year.

In the spring of 1976, McMullen's battalion used a field exercise. The guardsmen were told a plane had "crashed" somewhere in the woods around Easterwood Airport. They had to seal off the area, find the plane and apply first aid to "wounded passengers."

A command post exercise was used in 1977. For this maneuver the guardsmen were told that the National Guard had been mobilized. The State Guard then took over the armory in Bryan. They took inventory of all equipment in the armory and guarded the building throughout the exercise.

People may not know about the State Guard because it isn't called very often.

"We're not active enough," many people to know about the State Guard. "There hasn't been a local emergency in a long time. The last time we were called out was when there was flooding in Baytown. That was five years ago."

However, the Guard is very popular with one group of students on the Texas A&M campus. Out-of-state students who join the guard are exempt from paying the resident tuition. Connie Swartz, a senior psychology major in Virginia, joined the Guard in 1977. She said she was exempted from \$502 in tuition costs just last semester.

This exemption has attracted many out-of-state students to the State Guard. McMullen said that when it first came in contact with the Guard five years ago, there were only eight people in the Bryan unit. Then students started finding out about the exemption and "a couple of years later there were 138 people in the unit." That made the Bryan unit the largest in the state.

However, in 1976 the number of people allowed in each unit was cut by the state legislature to 15. Now only 15 of the Bryan members were dropped, but no new enlistments were taken. The number has gradually decreased to 50 because of members graduating, transferring to other universities or dropping out of school.

McMullen said they probably will not take any new members in the next year and the waiting list is long.

Some students join the State Guard for reasons other than the tuition exemption. Gary Schopf, a senior bio-medical science major from New Jersey, said, "I wanted my transcripts to show I'd had some other involvement in school."

John Labore, a senior animal science major from Kentucky, said, "I feel it's a very worthwhile activity. I'm benefiting the state of Texas, but they're helping me too. Not only is it giving me out-of-state benefits (tuition exemption) but it's teaching me first aid and some other things that I think will be useful to me anytime."

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"Freedom in Constitutional Contract: Perspectives of a Political Economist" is the second book in the economics series published by the Texas A&M University Press.

The book is written by Dr. James Buchanan, distinguished professor and director of the Center for Study of Public Choice at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The 311-page work (\$13.50) is divided into five parts: "Anarchy, Law and the Invisible Hand"; "Structure of Social Contract"; "Enforcement Dilemma"; "Economic Applications"; and "Prospects."

It is designed to be Buchanan's contribution to what he terms "contractarian revival," or the renewed interest in the social contract metaphor in evaluating political alternatives. His purpose is to examine how much regulatory law is too much and whether individuals can act, on a long-range basis, in their own best interest.

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