

U.S. spends \$15 million

Green Berets train troops

United Press International
FORT BRAGG, N.C. — With little fanfare, an entire battalion of Salvadoran troops is being trained by the famed U.S. Green Berets and at least partially equipped in the United States.

The 1,000 troops here plus nearly 500 in officer training at Fort Benning, Ga., make up nearly a tenth of El Salvador's army.

The Salvadorans, who arrived in the U.S. wearing civilian clothes, are training in U.S. military fatigues and using M16 rifles. Pentagon spokesmen said the weapons and uniforms will return to El Salvador with the troops.

Many of the Salvadorans appear to be teenagers. The training they are receiving, according to military officials, is similar to basic training in the American armed services.

Col. Paul D. Fisher, deputy commander of the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance here, says Army Special Forces personnel, popularly

known as Green Berets, are involved in the training because that essentially is their mission. "A Special Forces soldier is a teacher," Fisher said. "He is not some 18-foot-tall gun-toting soldier. He is a teacher."

It is estimated the U.S. will spend about \$15 million on the training, which is expected to last about 10 weeks.

Nearly a year is allotted to give the same training to U.S. soldiers but, said Lt. Col. Harold G. Isaacson, public information officer for the JFK Center, "The time frame is not taking anything away from the training."

He said U.S. troops would spend a lot of the time on leave or in transit while the Salvadorans are training six days a week and for longer hours. As to the quality of the trainees, he said, "We were told ahead of time they were very eager to learn and there has been nothing to dispute it."

Despite the cost, the Reagan administration apparently has decided it is politically cheaper

to bring the Salvadorans to the Green Berets than to send the Green Berets to the Salvadorans.

The U.S. has been sending instructors into El Salvador, making sure they are kept away from the fighting. Sending the number of Green Berets needed to train the Salvadoran force would only play into the hands of critics who claim the country is once again on the road to a war it cannot win.

In the pine thickets and red clay of this 130,000-acre North Carolina base, the Salvadoran soldiers are learning military techniques that they can use against leftist guerrillas in the jungles and mountains of their own country. It includes use of communications equipment as well as day and night tactics with emphasis on squad teamwork.

Additionally, Isaacson said: "They are receiving instruction, as do American units, in the code of conduct and in the Geneva convention and the laws of land warfare."

"That whole spectrum deals not only with how you behave as a prisoner should you be captured but how you should treat prisoners and how you should treat the civilian population in your area of operations."

Largely, the Salvadorans stay to themselves. Fort Bragg officials have declined news media requests to interview the Salvadorans or watch the training. Col. Isaacson said the decision to exclude the media was made by the Salvadorans and not U.S. officials.

Isaacson said the Salvadorans fear there will be reprisals against their families in El Salvador if their names or photos appear in U.S. newspapers.

"There is a real sense of vulnerability among these people," he said.

The Salvadoran commanders have kept the troops confined to Fort Bragg.

Fort Bragg is the home of the 82nd Airborne Division, which is part of the nation's first strike force, and of a super secret anti-terrorist unit whose complex is hidden behind a barbed-wire-topped fence.

That unit drew international attention in 1980 when it was learned it was involved in the unsuccessful attempt to rescue the hostages in Iran.

But it is two gleaming white buildings that are drawing the attention now, for they are the home of the Green Berets. The buildings house the JFK Center, essentially the operational arm of the Green Beret, and the Institute for Military Assistance, primarily responsible for the training of the Special Forces enlisted men and officers.

Although the JFK Center has trained foreign officers on a limited basis, this marks the first time that a foreign unit the size of the Salvadoran contingent has come to the U.S. for training.

The combat role of the Green Berets is to create havoc behind enemy lines.



Moving up
Mike Whatley, a senior forest science major from Amarillo, climbs a 20-foot pole in the annual Skidadoo forestry competition. photo by Karen Kaler

All are welcome to attend a free lecture entitled:

"Family: Proving Ground for God's Love"

given by

Ellen Shank Collins, a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

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Preleasing For Fall

Whether you are moving off campus for the first time or just plan to change your current residence, now is the time to begin looking for fall housing. Many area apartment complexes begin leasing for the fall during March and April.

If you are interested in living in a particular complex, this is a good time to contact the manager. As the summer progresses, apartment availability declines and your choices are limited.

Before you actually begin to look for your housing, decide what you are interested in — the type of housing, location, and most importantly, the amount you can afford to pay for rent and electricity.

Other criteria may be the length of the lease, whether or not pets are allowed and the amount of privacy the housing allows. You may decide an apartment complex does not suit your needs. However, most homes, duplexes, rooms in homes and mobile homes do not begin advertising fall vacancies until the summer months.

After you have made some initial decisions, come by the Off Campus Center. The Center maintains a comprehensive rental listing service which includes up-to-date information on availability and prices.

The Off Campus Center does not approve or recommend housing. Therefore, it is important that you ask your friends and other off campus students about where they have lived. Ask specifically what they liked and why. After finding a place that interests you, knock on a few doors and ask the tenants if they are happy with the environment, the management and other services. Tenants will usually be frank if they are unhappy with their apartments.



The Off Campus Center also maintains a Complaint File which may be helpful in finding out about other students' experiences in various apartment complexes.

It is a good idea to select your roommate before signing a lease. The Off Campus Center offers a Roommate Locator Service which allows you to contact students who need roommates or a place to live. The service is easy to use and has been successful in the past.

Remember to read your lease carefully before signing. Have a full understanding of your responsibilities and an awareness of the managements' responsibilities. If you cannot see the actual unit you will be living in, have the manager add a sentence in the section labeled "special provisions." The statement should read as follows: "This lease does not take effect until the landlord designates a unit which is equivalent to the model apartment." Make sure you keep a copy of this agreement.

If you have any questions or difficulties, contact the Off Campus Center at 845-1741 or come by our office located in Puryear Hall across from the YMCA building.

What's On Your Mind?

The Off Campus Center is always looking for better ways to serve all off campus students. This column, the "Off Campus Corner" is one way our staff is trying to improve communication with A&M's 25,000 off campus students.

So far, the communication has been one way. In the future, we would like to include a question and answer section. Please submit your questions and comments about off campus living, as well as your suggestions for the column itself.

To submit questions or ideas, stop by the Off Campus Center or mail them to our office.

Off Campus Calendar

Off Campus Aggies: General meeting March 10 & 24, 6:30 p.m. Rudder 601.

Rape Prevention: A panel discussion on Rape. Tues. March 9, 7:00 p.m. 206 MSC.

"Moving Off Campus": The Off Campus Center is sponsoring programs for students who will be moving off campus next fall. Tips on apartment selection and more!

Mon., March 1, 7:00 p.m. A-1 Lounge (Corner of Hughes and Fowler)

Tues., March 2, 7:30 p.m. Commons Area Lounge

Tues., March 23, 6:00 p.m. A-1 Lounge (Corner of Hughes and Fowler)

Thurs., March 25, 7:00 p.m. Rudder 607

Roommates: The Off Campus Center is now accepting Roommate cards for the fall and summer sessions. Come by if you need a roommate!

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If you have skills in forestry, fisheries, or agriculture, you can help developing nations utilize their resources, as a Peace Corps volunteer. Manage to make a difference.

Rep on campus Francis Kelliher
Ag Bldg. Room 309
Phone 845-7570

Store bills reduced

United Press International
NEW YORK — A new study on energy savings indicates costs can be reduced by millions of dollars in American supermarkets.

Typical annual savings of 1015 percent have already been realized in 230 supermarkets using microprocessor-based systems to control refrigeration, heating, air conditioning, and delicatessen equipment, the study showed.

Phil Kruger, spokesman for Honeywell's Energy Management Center, said \$52 of the annual grocery bill for a family of four in the Northeast goes to supermarket fuel bills.

Monday Night Madness

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