

# Reagan's cuts may hurt weather research

by Cheryl Maynard  
Battalion Reporter

The National Weather Service and Texas A&M University could be facing a stormy year in 1983 because of President Ronald Reagan's budget cuts, a meteorology professor says.

A \$71.8 million proposed budget cut for the fiscal year 1983 could force the elimination of the Fort Worth regional office of the National Weather Service and 18 weather stations across the United States, Professor Kenneth C. Brundidge said.

An end to funding for a variety of research programs is also proposed, including storm research and the Sea Grant Program at Texas A&M.

The Sea Grant Program, established in 1971, is a federal-state partnership designed to further marine research, education and advisory services. Texas A&M is one of four universities nationwide with such a program.

The Sea Grant Program costs about \$3 million per year to op-

erate, said Feenan D. Jennings, program director.

"If the federal government stops financially supporting the Sea Grant Program, the state will have to carry the entire bur-

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den," Jennings said. But he said he doesn't think this will happen, since a proposal to terminate the program was unsuccessful last year.

A program cancelled last year was the High Plains Experiment (HIPLEX), which studied severe storms and their possible modification.

Brundidge said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service, which is part of NOAA, must design a budget

which is satisfactory to the Reagan administration and Congress.

He added that the National Weather Service is trying to maintain important programs, although it is doing so at a reduced level.

"The budget seems to represent cost reductions in employees, since this is an effective way to save money," Brundidge said.

The National Weather Service is also suffering from other cuts. It has proposed closing seven locations — including one on the Texas A&M campus — which are part of an agricultural weather program. It provides meteorological information to farmers and others with agricultural interests in a five-state region.

There is also a proposal to eliminate the responsibility of the National Weather Service for providing aviation forecasts.

Brundidge said these closings could have a strong impact on present users since these ser-

vices will have to be picked up by other agencies or by private companies, which will charge a fee for the information they provide.

He said much of the Weather Service's radar system is obsolete. And with the decrease in funding, the Weather Service is likely to postpone modernizing its equipment until the 1990s.

The National Weather Service has planned for years to become more automated. It has plans for a Totable Tornado Observatory, a portable sensing device which can be placed inside a tornado to determine wind speed and air pressure.

Also in development is the Prototype Regional Observing and Forecasting Service (PROFS). This system includes towers with special sensing devices. It is designed to be completely automated and coordinated with radar and satellite observations.

Brundidge said with proper funding these systems could be developed and many man-

powered weather stations could be closed.

But, he said, these systems are not infallible and would still require backup.

"Anytime you eliminate the

human element, you're eliminating the ability to see what's happening. If you can't see it, you can't forecast it," Brundidge said.

Rather than closing down the

proposed stations, the automated systems should be placed

in areas where no observations are currently available, Brundidge said.



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## Police criticize no off-duty guns

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Police groups are criticizing a national study by a 15-member commission headed by Police Chief Lee Brown which has recommended that off-duty police be prohibited from carrying guns.

"That's ridiculous," Houston Police Patrolmen's Union president Bob Thomas said Monday. "In Houston, police officers are in a complete shortage, and (off-duty) officers have historically made numerous arrests."

Brown was the chairman of the National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice, a 15-member commission established by the U.S. Justice Department in 1976 to review the

justice system from minorities' standpoint. Its 410-page report was released last week.

In the report, the commission made 75 recommendations to improve the administration of justice for minorities.

"How can you expect anybody to make arrests without having guns to defend themselves?" Thomas said.

Another union official, Tommy Britt, said police will fight Brown tooth and nail if he tries to impose the recommendations locally.

Brown said there are problems with off-duty officers using their guns in bars or while drinking.



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ASSETS			LIABILITIES, UNEARNED INCOME & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
	1982	1981	1982	1981
Cash and Securities	\$ 38,057,000	19,167,000	Savings Accounts	\$335,182,000
Mortgage and Consumer Loans	317,608,000	205,771,000	Loans in Process	13,127,000
Accrued Interest Receivable	3,561,000	1,747,000	Borrowers' Escrow	3,087,000
Developed Real Estate	4,017,000	178,000	Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock	33,000,000
Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock	2,870,000	1,552,000	Other Borrowed Money	5,880,000
Property and Equipment	9,366,000	5,484,000	Other Liabilities	4,018,000
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	35,797,000	1,361,000	Unearned Income	2,081,000
	<u>\$411,276,000</u>	<u>235,260,000</u>	Stockholders' Equity	14,901,000
				<u>14,779,000</u>
				<u>\$411,276,000</u>
				<u>235,260,000</u>



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