

Stress, violence responses taught

Academy trains police officers

by Susan Poole

Battalion Reporter
Training for the future is the goal of a law enforcement academy that has been created within the Texas A&M System. The Texas Academy for the Prevention and Control of Extraordinary Violence, established in December 1982, is a juristic academy that teaches police officers to deal with violence, job stress and survival. The academy is a branch of the Law Enforcement and Security Training Division of the Texas Engineering Extension Service. Its purpose is to prepare officers for the roles they will play in the future. "We've looked at the needs of law enforcement personnel for today and tomorrow," division

head Patrick Dalager said. "Living in the past doesn't catch criminals."

Dalager, who assumed leadership of the division in July, has more than 19 years of experience in directing military police and military intelligence for the Army.

Dalager said police officers are killed and assaulted because of their lack of professional training and lack of exposure to violence.

"Ninety-seven police officers were killed and 30,000 were assaulted last year in Texas," Dalager said. "One out of every 200 officers will be assaulted this year."

The training exposes officers to violence so they will know how to cope with it, he said. The

academy also teaches the officers how to protect themselves and manage stress so they can deal with potentially dangerous situations before they become violent.

The academy was established as an addition to the basic law enforcement certification and is the most modern in the country, Dalager said.

The academy, which is at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center, offers courses in violence confrontation including individual survival and stress management, special threats management, weapons retention and defensive tactics, and hostage negotiations for commanders.

"We want to reduce violence within the state to save lives of

police officers and citizens and to help police officers control violence rather than let it control them," Dalager said.

The deaths of 43 officers and 250 other violent incidents that occurred in the Southwest during the past five years were studied by program planners at the academy. Academy officials developed the programs based on information from past incidents, Dalager said.

Thirty-five new training programs have been developed

for the benefit of law enforcement and security professionals, Dalager said. The academy teaches many of their programs across the state, as well as at the extension center.

The academy will provide an executive training program in May for 25 of the nation's largest companies at the National Coalition of Crime Prevention in Washington, D.C. Later this year, the academy will work with the U.S. Navy to establish a training program for its Master at Arms program.

Hearing set Friday on bike traffic bill

The Student Government Bicycle Committee will hold an open hearing Friday at 4 p.m. on proposed bill for the regulation of bicycle traffic on campus. The bill will go before the Student Senate on March 9. If passed, the recommendation will go to the University's Traffic Panel. The panel is responsible for establishing University regulations concerning traffic on campus.

Friday's question-and-answer session will be in 137A ESC. Bicycle committee chairman Bryan Alfertig said the hearing is being held to give students a chance to have input on the recommendation.

Alfertig said that anyone who is unable to attend the hearing may contact him at the Student Government office to discuss the bill.

The following is a rough draft of the proposed bicycle bill:

1. All bicycles to be ridden or parked on University property must be registered through a bicycle department at a cost of no more than \$5 per year.
2. The funds received from bicycle registration will be used to pay for additional bicycle parking racks, better lighting for rack areas, bicycle paths and administration and enforcement of registration.
3. Bicycle paths should be

established away from automobile traffic.

4. A sufficient number of bicycle paths should be established to provide maximum convenience for riders.

5. All bicyclists must obey state traffic laws.

6. Bicycles must be parked only in bicycle racks or other designated areas.

7. Students and faculty should be made aware of any changes in bicycle regulations on campus.

8. Better lighting should be installed at bicycle racks.

9. A reward system should be set up for information leading to the recovery of stolen bicycles.

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