

R.I. by Paul Dirmeyer



Vet files big lawsuit, cites military police

United Press International
LAREDO — A Vietnam veteran filed a \$3 million federal lawsuit this week charging that Army military police dragged him away from a birthday party in 1981 and jailed him as a deserter without giving him a chance to produce his honorable discharge papers.

Laredo businessman Roque Vela, charged that the Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center lost his discharge records and listed him as a deserter even though he had applied for Veterans Administration benefits, gone to school on the GI Bill and been employed five years by the U.S. Postal Service.

Vela's lawsuit filed this week in Laredo federal court asks \$1 million for negligence, \$1 million for false imprisonment and \$1 million for violation of his civil rights.

Vela was arrested at a birthday party for District Judge Antonio Zardanetta on Sept. 26, 1981, while his family and friends watched helplessly. His requests to be allowed to get his discharge papers from home were unheeded, he said.

Within two days Vela was transported from the Webb County Jail to the stockade at Fort Sill, Okla.

But it was not until Vela's attorney arrived in Oklahoma with the discharge certificate and other documents on Sept.

29, 1981, that Vela, finally was released from custody, the suit said.

The suit charges that in addition to several violations of federal statutes during the Purple Heart winner's four-day imprisonment, his constitutional rights under the Fourth, Sixth and 14th Amendments were abridged.

Prior to Vela's arrest in Laredo, the suit said, Army officials had converted military records from paper to microfilm. At that time Army officials could not find Vela's discharge records, so on July 15, 1967, they placed him on deserter status without contacting him to determine whether he had any documentation, the suit said.

As a result, a "deserter packet" was prepared and Vela's name was placed on the National Crime Information Center list, the suit said.

The Laredo police department informed Vela that the Army wanted him for desertion, the suit said. Vela said he showed Laredo police his honorable discharge and they passed that information on to military police at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

However, the suit contends that when Fort Sam Houston officials contacted a computer operator at the military records center about Vela's document, they were told there had been no error.

Named as defendants were Steven Gallant, who headed the military police team that arrested Vela; the Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center; the U.S. Army, which allegedly was negligent in not thoroughly investigating Vela's claims, and the U.S. government.

World's fastest airplane

SR-71 to star in show

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Highlighting the more than 20 types of aircraft on display at the Reese Air Force Base Open House Sunday will be the world's fastest aircraft, the SR-71 Blackbird reconnaissance plane.

Another probable favorite slated for display is the world's largest plane — the C-5 Galaxy transport.

The Blackbird is an American plane which can travel 30 miles a minute and can to altitudes over 80,000 feet. It was manufactured in the 1960s.

Although spectators may view the SR-71 only from a distance, they will be allowed to walk through the C-5, which has a cargo compartment about the size of an eight-lane bowling alley.

The C-5 is so large it resembles a floating balloon as it glides to a landing, and its size makes the plane appear to travel much slower than its 100 mph flying speed.

The Air Force says the C-5 was the only aircraft that can transport nearly any piece of the Army's combat equipment, including 74-ton mobile scissor bridges, tanks and helicopters.

Base activities slated for the open house include a high performance fighter demonstration and with F-15 jets and parachute jumping by an Army Green Beret jump team.

Other scheduled activities include fly-bys of Reese's jet trainers, an Army helicopter demonstration and a performance by the Air Force Military Working Dog unit from Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene.

World War II aircraft of the Confederate Air Force also be on display.

Texas teachers' colleges called fraudulent by committee head

United Press International
AUSTIN — H. Ross Perot accused the state's teachers' colleges Wednesday of perpetuating a fraud upon Texas schoolchildren by turning out incompetent, illiterate teachers who were more harmful than helpful to their students.

Perot, chairing a meeting of his Select Committee on Education, said 80 percent of the graduates of Texas colleges of education were unfit for the classroom.

"How do schools rationalize recommending these incompetent, illiterate people for teacher's certificates?" Perot said. "We are damaging children all over this state through incompetent teachers."

"If this were a paving job in-

stead of colleges of education, we'd call it fraud and start sending people to prison."

Perot's comments were aimed at Dr. John Moore, president of the Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, who testified before the committee.

"I'm interested in how we clean up our colleges of education, not in your philosophy of education," Perot told Moore when the Trinity University education college dean began his testimony.

Moore admitted the 64 teacher colleges in Texas were "grossly uneven in quality." He said the best way to improve them would be to establish a strict set of standards and weed

out inferior schools.

His recommendation also irked Perot, who said a standard-setting board of which Moore

was a member had dawdled for four years without agreeing on stricter college entrance and exit standards for teacher candidates.

ATTENTION

CHI O'S

Tee-off time
8:30 Tonight
€ Country Club
Be There!

misc cepheid variable presents:

...he will find her

A Movie in Two Showings

Somewhere in Time

SEP 29 7:30
&
Rudder 701 9:45

Tickets \$1.00 PG

and ready for pickup

8:45-4:45

the Commons

must present Student ID

(if you have pre-paid; check your fee slip)

Aggielands will be available for purchase and pickup after October 13 in Room #230 Reed McDonald