

One Marine dies in latest attack

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — One U.S. Marine was killed Sunday and three others wounded in fighting with Moslem militiamen — the fourth consecutive day of attacks against American peace-keeping troops.

Marine spokesman Maj. Robert Jordan said one Marine was shot in the head and killed and three were wounded in attacks on their position at Lebanese University, near Beirut International Airport.

Earlier, Jordan put the number of wounded at five.

He said the Marines fired two powerful Dragon missiles, M-16 rifles and M-60 guns in response to the attacks launched from a Moslem slum by militiamen using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

The casualties came during a 30-minute burst of fire from rocket-propelled grenades and rifles begin-

ning about 7:12 p.m., Jordan said, adding that the Marines were still coming under sniper fire at around midnight.

At least one of the wounded was in serious condition with an arm injury, Jordan said. The casualties were not immediately identified.

Since being sent to Lebanon a year ago as part of a multinational peace-keeping force, a total of eight marines have been killed. Six were slain in fighting, one died in the April bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut and one was killed in an accident.

More than 50 have been wounded.

Two marines have now been killed since a cease-fire went into effect in the Beirut area Sept. 26 after about a month of fighting between warring Lebanese factions.

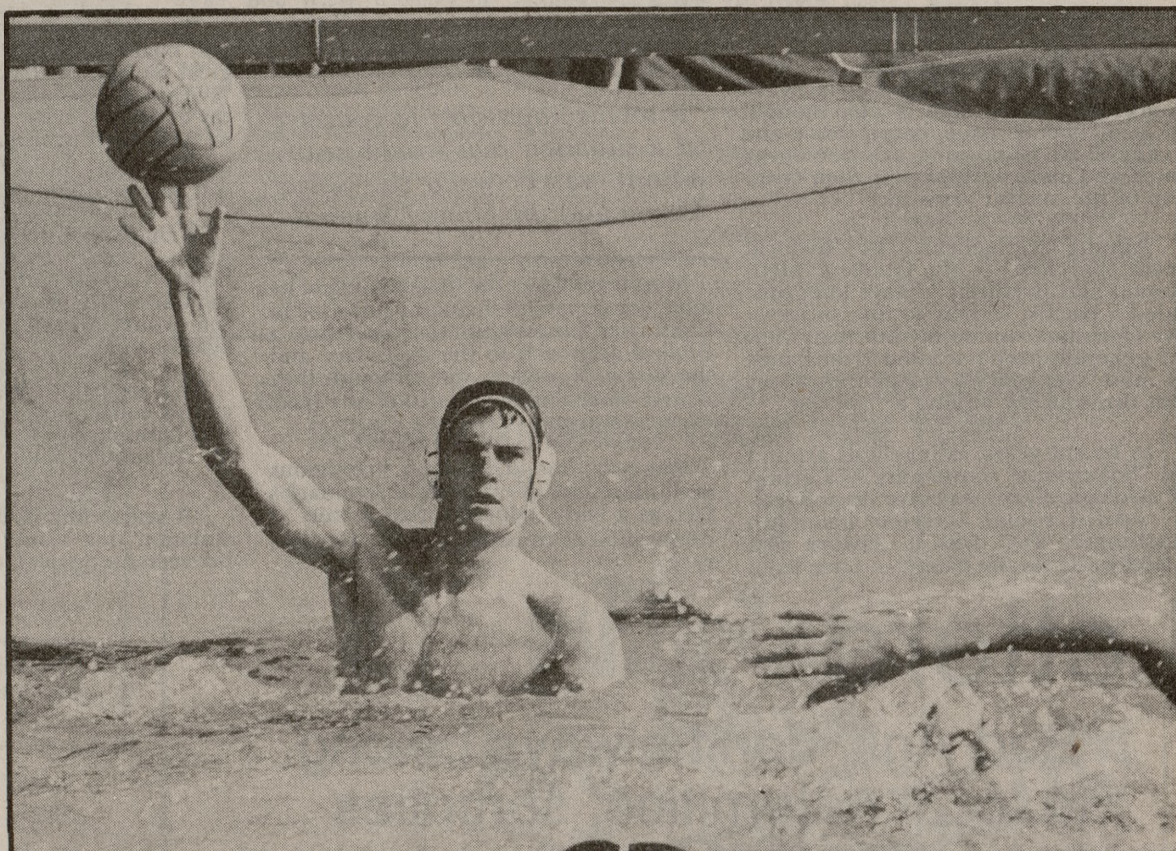
Jordan said a Marine Medivac CH-46 helicopter sent to ferry the casualties to the USS Iwo Jima, a helicopter

carrier stationed in the Mediterranean off the Lebanese coast, came under fire but managed to carry out its mission.

Earlier in the day a sniper fired at a Marine position in Beirut but the Marines refrained from firing back, said a spokesman, Warrant Officer Charles Rowe.

The shot came from the same area where snipers killed a Marine and wounded another Friday. On Saturday, Marine sharpshooters said they killed four snipers, may have killed a fifth, and wounded 10 others in a 40-minute exchange. The Marines were also involved in an exchange of fire on Thursday.

In South Lebanon, thousands of Moslems mourning a 7th century martyr hurled rocks and daggers at Israeli occupation troops in a clash that left 15 people dead or wounded, Beirut Radio said.



Having a ball

staff photo by John Makely

Chris Blockus, a junior agricultural economics major, passes to a teammate during a water polo match this weekend at Wofford

Cain Pool. In a best two-out-of-three match, the Aggie water polo club defeated the University of Texas 13-1 and 11-1.

Dean of Engineering named to Forsyth chair

by Robin Black

Battalion Staff
A four-year search conducted by the University was ended last week when Robert H. Page, dean of the College of Engineering, was chosen as the first holder of the Forsyth Chair of Mechanical Engineering.

The chair, which was established in 1979 as a provision of the estate of James M. "Cop" Forsyth, Class of '12, one of six in the engineering college. Forsyth died in 1981.

Gordon P. Eaton, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the Forsyth chair is the first of the six chairs to be filled.

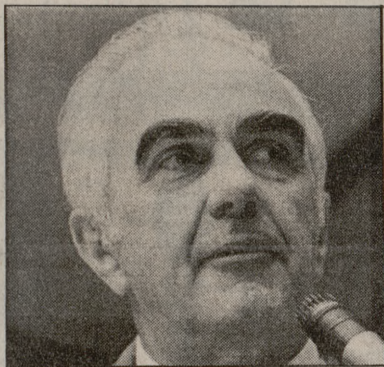
Eaton said the applicants for the chair had to be reviewed and approved by the president of the University, and then by the Board of Regents.

"There have been one or two other attempts to fill the chair, but this is the first time it has gone through with no problems," he said. "We just haven't been able to find someone sufficiently qualified to hold the chair until now."

The new position is one of considerable honor, he said.

Eaton said the purpose of any chair such as the Forsyth chair is to provide income from its funds. Part of the income goes directly to the holder, and the rest is appropriated for whatever use the holder desires, such as travel or research. The other purpose, he said, is to bring prestigious faculty to the University.

Because of his involvement with national engineering societies, Eaton said Page would probably use the



Robert H. Page

funds for the first year for travel expenses.

University President Frank E. Vandiver said the holder of this chair will provide scholarly leadership in mechanical engineering and will develop and maintain liaison with state and federal agencies, private foundations, consulting firms, and other national and international research and educational institutions.

"I can think of no one better for this position than Bob Page," he said.

Page, who has been a full professor of engineering since he came to Texas A&M from Rutgers University in 1979, will have a much-reduced teaching load when he undertakes his new position, Eaton said.

Eaton said the position of dean will be filled by Dr. Donald McDonald, interim deputy provost for engineering.

Since Page's appointment in 1979 as dean of the College of Engineering, the college has had an increase in both graduate student enrollment and graduate fellowship funding. It also has attracted several national society meetings; implemented enrollment management plans; established undergraduate research programs, an Alumni Honors Program and an Engineering Development Council; and implemented a Summer Engineering Enrichment Experience program to attract minority students to Texas A&M.

At Rutgers University, Page was a professor and chairman of mechanical engineering. He directed the fluid mechanics laboratory at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey from 1957-61 and was a research engineer for Esso Research.

Page, who has been a national leader in bringing the faculty shortage crisis in engineering to the attention of government and industry leaders, is the chairman of the National Engineering Deans Council for 1983-84, holds memberships in more than a dozen professional societies and associations, and is a licensed professional engineer in three states.

He was recently named as a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society, the highest rank in the organization.

Page has given over 85 major lectures across the nation and in several foreign countries, has published more than 130 scholarly articles and papers, and is the recipient of many national engineering awards.

Nomination by Reagan

Prof may get DOE job

by Ronnie Crocker

Battalion Staff
Dr. Helmut Merklein, petroleum engineering professor at Texas A&M since 1982, says he never seriously thought of leaving his position here for a job in the Department of Energy until Tuesday.

That was the day President Ronald Reagan announced his intent to officially nominate Merklein to be assistant secretary of international affairs in the DOE.

Until then Merklein said he had to discipline himself to keep his expectations from getting too high. The reason for his caution was the many barriers in the path to the job.

After returning from a one-day meeting with DOE officials in Washington, he said that chances are good he will be confirmed to the position.

"I don't think anyone has any beef with me," he said.

Merklein said he was notified "out of the clear blue sky" that he was being considered for the job early last summer. He was asked if he was interested and said that he was.

He said it was a case of "duty calls." The agreement led to a long series

of events which led up to the President Reagan's announcement last week of his intent to nominate Merklein.

Merklein said the procedures included standard questioning and investigation.

He first went to Washington to meet with DOE Secretary Don Hodel and a small advisory staff. After being approved he was sent to the White House for a meeting with the chief of personnel.

After the personnel staff agreed on him, Merklein's name was sent to the President and an extensive investigation by the FBI began. It involved Merklein accounting for his whereabouts since 1937.

He said that at this stage in the investigation he had not yet met with the President.

His nomination now is being considered by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. If it is approved there, it will go before the entire Senate for final approval.

Approval by the Senate will lead to his swearing in. Merklein said he expects to know something before Congress goes into recess Nov. 15.

If, however, something important such as a crisis in the Mid-East occurs,

the committee may not have time to make a decision on the nomination before the recess.

At this time Merklein said there is a reasonable chance that his nomination will be accepted.

Merklein said the job involves "anything that has to do with energy on international levels." Among them are imports, military supplies and possible embargoes and energy related problems in the Mid-East.

Merklein is scheduled to begin a leave of absence Oct. 24 that will last until the swearing in, at which time he will be forced to resign. Although he is looking forward to the job, he said he has mixed emotions about it.

"I hate to leave A&M," he said. "Really I do." But that is what will happen if his nomination is approved by the U.S. Senate.

Because Texas A&M receives grants from the DOE, according to law all ties must be severed between him and the University should he be named to the post.

The job has been vacant since last November when Henry Thomas resigned as assistant secretary.

Merklein specializes in petroleum economics and received his doctorate from Texas A&M in 1970.

Finance minister not yet named

Israelis walk off jobs in protest

United Press International
JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir failed to name a new Finance Minister Sunday and thousands of Israelis walked off their jobs in a warning to the government against imposing harsh new measures to heal Israel's sick economy.

Israel Television reported Shamir's own choice for the finance portfolio was Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai, 47, a tough-talking critic of former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor.

Shamir held consultations late into Sunday night but failed to disclose his

candidate to fill the job, which has led to the political ruin of most recent office holders.

The prime minister was under pressure to name a candidate before a scheduled parliamentary vote of no-confidence later this week that could

topple his week-old government.

Aridor resigned Thursday amid a furor triggered by his scheme to tie the shekel to the U.S. dollar in an effort to resolve Israel's financial problems.

Texas A&M's phone bills not too high, officials say

by Elaine Engstrom

Battalion Staff
A \$35 phone bill every month might be a bit annoying, but multiply that amount ten thousand times and you'll get the amount of an average monthly phone bill for Texas A&M.

The University's telephone bill for September totaled \$357,352. This figure represents not only long distance charges, but installation fees, new equipment and other charges.

The University also has a Texas-sized utility bill. Total utility costs for August 1983 were approximately \$2.5 million. Of this amount, natural gas costs accounted for \$1.6 million. The University generates some electricity but must buy additional energy.

Other utility costs include power plant employee wages and mainte-

nance costs.

Charles Cargill, vice president for operations, says these amounts are not unreasonable for an institution of Texas A&M's size.

"Texas A&M is like a city in itself," Cargill said.

Robert Sather, University telecommunications manager, said there are about 14,000 telephones on the campus.

The University's telephone system is a computerized network that can monitor calls and keep track of various statistics. For example, Sather's office can determine how often a particular phone feature is used in his office. These statistics have shown that phone calls are transferred an average of 8,000 times a day.

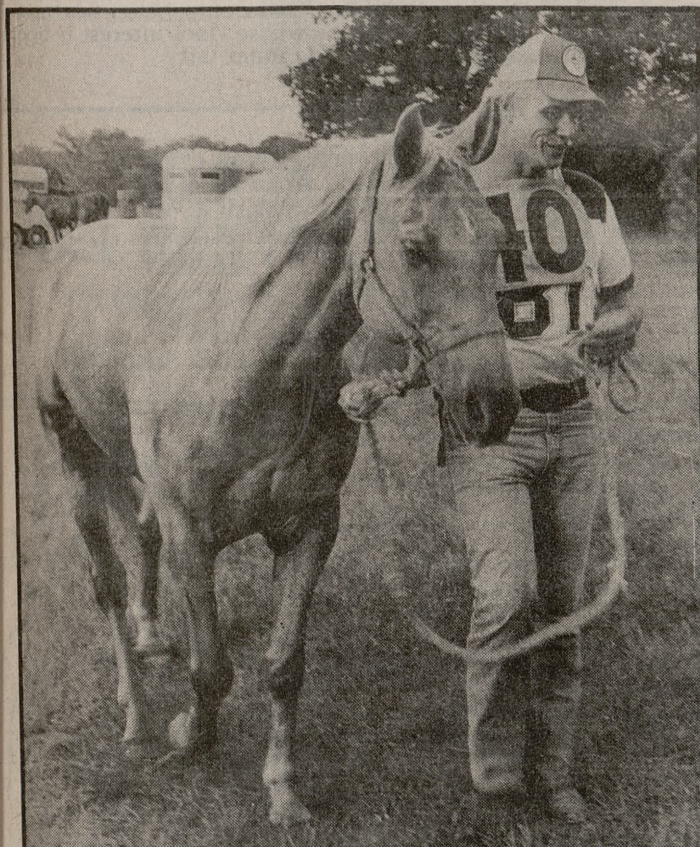
Each day, 100,000 phone calls are completed within the 845 exchange.

Calls are made to every nation — including the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union.

There are 21 WATS lines and 41 outgoing lines for the state telecommunications system. The STS is a phone system operated by the state that connects state agencies.

These reduced-cost lines save the University a great deal of money, Sather said.

University operators work from the physical plant building on University between Ireland and Asbury streets. The operators handle about 3,000 phone calls daily for University, student locator and long-distance information calls. They also handle emergency calls and elevator phone calls.



staff photo by Guy Hood

End of the trail

Clark Gimple cools down his quarterhorse, "Dana's Blaze," during the North American Trail Riding Conference competition this weekend outside of College Station. Gimple rode in the Aggie Roundup, a two-day 50-mile trail ride.

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forecast

Fair with clear skies — lows in the mid-forties.

Personality — how do you unpersonally give yours away?