

Colonel says F-16s needed on border

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A Texas National Guard commander said he believes the U.S. military would be "justified" in deploying F-16 fighter jets in South Texas because of the situation in Central America, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

"We think the South Texas area is fairly strategic because we're talking about our backyard," Col. Robert Blizzard, commander of the 147th Tactical Fighter Group stationed at Ellington Air Force Base, Houston, told the Brownsville Herald.

"The threat to the South is becoming more and more se-

rious," he said. "If push comes to shove, we'd like to have the best aircraft available to carry out our mission. With the trouble in Central America and the involvement of Cuba there, it has become a strategic area for us."

The newspaper published a follow-up report on information it gained last weekend from Brownsville native Jose E. Martinez, a staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee who was in Brownsville to address a veterans group.

Martinez said the advanced fighters for South Texas probably would be contained in the committee's recommendations due in January. He said plans have been discussed to station the sophisticated fighters at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio and at Ellington, replacing the F-4s which have been used for two decades.

Blizzard said that in the past the units guarding the North Pole perimeter have gotten priority over the southern border for the more modern fighters.

"The northern border has always been given priority, but the threat to the south is becoming more and more serious," Blizzard said. "We're talking about our backyard, not the North Pole."

Safety

Precautions taken to help minimize accidents

by Chappelle Henderson

Battalion Reporter

With more than 7,000 people working on bonfire, safety is an important concern, and bonfire coordinators are working to prevent accidents.

"The Redpot Association cannot stress enough that the main purpose of the redpots is to see that the Aggie bonfire is built in a safe manner," senior coordinator Albert Eby said.

The bonfire coordinators have taken some measures to assure that safety is a main ingredient in the construction of bonfire. They have compiled a safety report to answer questions on safety that may be of concern to University officials, students, parents and the general public.

"The report states our goal, which is, to make sure that all hazards associated with bonfire will be identified, evaluated and controlled according to accepted safety engineering practice," Eby said.

Some safety measurements taken include requiring all workers to attend a bonfire safety class before cutting began. This helps ensure the safety of students participating in the construction of bonfire. At the close of the classes safety cards were issued to the students. Workers are required to carry the card when working on bonfire.

"These cards are strictly checked by the coordinators before the students enter the cutting area," Eby said.

Students also have to take special classes to operate chain saws, use axes and drive tractors. A special set of safety cards and identifying armbands are issued at the completion of these classes.

All first time workers are required to wear a white band of tape around their right leg. This stripe indicates that the person is a new bonfire worker and they will receive special attention by the coordinators to ensure their safety.

Cutting for bonfire began the weekend of Oct. 1 and will continue until the weekend of Nov. 5 — with cutting only on Sundays of home football games. During the first weekend of cutting there were eight common or minor injuries.

"Common injuries include such things as minor lacerations, blisters, bruises, strains and poison ivy," Eby said.

He said some of the minor

"The night bonfire burns is a crucial time in regard to safety since the number of people attending is usually in excess of 40,000."

injuries included hornet stings and axe cuts.

"These accidents could have been prevented if the hornets' nests had been spotted earlier," Eby said. "And if the guys using the axes would



have paid closer attention during their training sessions."

To minimize accidents at the cutting site, coordinators plan to keep workers in small, closely supervised areas. Two teams of Emergency Medical Technicians — four to eight members per team — will be at the cutting area with first aid equipment.

"The redpots have no less than 10 communications radios throughout the cutting area with which they can contact the EMT's in case of an emergency," Eby said.

At the bonfire site, hard hats must be worn by anyone in the 130-square-foot area of the stack, Eby said. Emergency personnel will be on duty at all times.

Safety at the bonfire is important too.

"The night bonfire is a crucial time in regard to safety since the number of people attending is usually in excess of 40,000," Eby said.

The Brazos County Fire Department will be on the roof of the Texas A&M Press Center, Duncan Dining Hall, and will be firemen on top of buildings during the bonfire. A safety area will be roped around the bonfire, and 300 members of the Corps Cadets will guard the area.

In 1981, 74 bonfire accidents were reported to the Health Center. This year, the goal of coordinators is to reduce the number of injuries to last year's total of 35.

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UTEP prof says most Nicaraguans fear U.S.

United Press International
EL PASO — The average person in Nicaragua lives in fear of an invasion by the United States, a University of Texas at El Paso sociologist said Tuesday.

Dr. Julius Rivera, professor of sociology at UT-El Paso, said the U.S. invasion of Grenada will heighten fears of an attack against the Nicaraguan government by American Marines.

Rivera recently presented a paper at the Latin American Congress of Sociology in Managua, Nicaragua.

"I had heard that there were long lines and considerable hardship on the people of Managua, but I found that not true," he said. "I moved freely in Managua and there were no armed soldiers in the city."

"The fear of an American invasion has prompted the government to implement rationing of such items as coffee, meat and other basics," he said.

"The Nicaraguans are afraid of the United States," he said. "They all have the opinion that the right-wing revolutionaries, being supported by the Reagan administration, will eventually invade the United States and take over the country, what has been called a 'regime.'"

Rivera said government leaders and residents here in Nicaragua think the Congress will not be able to prevent President Reagan's revolutionary actions in Managua.

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Dr. John Yasinsky

of Westinghouse Electric Corp. who will address

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