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arrested in military drug bust

United Press International EL PASO - The biggest drug bust operation ever at Fort Bliss has netted the arrest of 122 people and confiscation of \$111,000 worth of narcotics, and the investigation is still not over, military investigators announced Wednesday.

Officials at the Criminal Investigation Division at Fort Bliss said there have been a steady stream of indictments since the arrests began Jan. 6, and "more

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possession, use and sale of narcotics," said Lt. Col. John Hay, CID commander at Fort Bliss,

about the 84 lower-ranked military personnel and 38 civilians sted. Hay said possession of any

amount of narcotic substance is a felony violation under military law.

Specific punishment is the de-

2214 South Texas.

3609 Place E. 29th Brvan

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are planned in the weeks ahead as the investigation continues." cision of the military comman-der. Hay said a first offense usually results in a disciplinary measure, a fine of \$200 to \$400 and reduction in rank.

Second offenses or incidents involving persons selling narco-tics are dealt with more harshly, Hay said, noting possible max-imum sentences call for up to 10 years hard labor in a military prison, with forfeiture of all pay and benefits and reduction in rank

the case will be prosecuted in civilian courts, adding that those accused of committing crimes on government property will be tried in the U.S. District Court.

"The perception of some civi-lians," said Hay, "is that they can come on post and commit crimes, sell drugs or whatever, and when they leave the installation, they're off scot-free. He said civilians mistakenly

look at Fort Bliss as an "easy

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Hay said civilians charged in e case will be prosecuted in vilian courts, adding that those target for drug sales." But he said the consequences actually are rougher than people expect.

Although our jurisdiction does end at the military fenceline, we work very closely with other law enforcement offi-cials," Hay said.

Estimated values of the drugs confiscated in the bust, which began Jan. 6, included \$52,430 worth of ijuana; \$43,000 worth of cocaine; \$15,000 worth of heroin

Monday thru Friday

United Press International AUSTIN - Railroad and

Coal pipeline

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Allen King, general for the Texas Public

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But ETSI lawyer Sh

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natural gas interests Wednesday lined up against a proposed 1,800-mile coal slurry pipeline from Wyoming to Louisiana, complaining the route has not been defined in Texas.

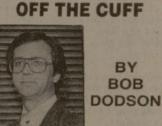
A pre-conference hearing before the Texas Railroad Commission touched off a premature debate between the rail-roads and the pipeline develop-ers over the planning of the \$3 billion project.

The utility regulatory agency must decide whether the pipe-line is feasible before Energy Transportation Systems Inc., a Houston-based energy consortorium, can acquire right-of-way for a 945-mile stretch of pipeline through 36 Texas counties.

A three-member commission hearing panel tentatively scheduled a series of hearings along the proposed route to begin in April. A final hearing will be

held during June in Austin. Wednesday's hearing was designed to set up a formal public hearing procedure, but Joe Crawford, a lawyer for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, complained that Texas landowners still do not know whether their property would be crossed by the pipeline.

"I was shocked when I learned this morning that property owners don't know where the pipeline is going," he said.



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