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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Marines, diplomats evacuated from Beirut

United Press International

BEIRUT — Moslem rebels seized control of much of Beirut Tuesday and President Reagan ordered U.S. Marines at Beirut airport to withdraw to ships offshore. Helicopters evacuated 39 American diplomats and family members.

The withdrawal order came as the splintered Lebanese army neared collapse in the face of the onslaught by the Syrian-backed Druze and Shiite militiamen and the authority of the government of President Amin Gemayel disintegrated.

A fierce thunderstorm helped quell the clashes that Monday had engulfed the capital in the worst factional combat in Beirut since the 1975-

1976 civil war. At least 275 people were killed and 785 others wounded in the past week.

But on arrival at Point Mugu Naval Air Station in California, Reagan issued a statement saying he had ordered a phased withdrawal of the 1,470 Marines in the U.S. contingent of the multinational peace-keeping force.

He also authorized the Marines to shoot and conduct air attacks against Syrian-controlled positions in Lebanon.

The president said he was asking Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger "to present to me a plan for redeployment of the Marines from Beirut airport to their ships off-

shore. "This redeployment will begin shortly and will proceed in stages," he said.

He said some American military forces would remain on the ground to continue training the Lebanese army and protecting remaining personnel.

The Marines are based at Beirut International Airport south of the troubled Moslem suburbs on the capital's south. They have repeatedly been exposed to the fighting and 262 U.S. servicemen have died in attacks in Beirut.

There was no immediate reaction from France, Italy or Britain, the other countries whose troops

make up the 5,000-strong peace-keeping force. The Marines were first deployed in Lebanon in August 1982.

The withdrawal order came as the Moslem rebels virtually seized control of the capital from the Lebanese government and the second day in a row U.S. forces were drawn into the fighting.

The battleship USS New Jersey fired its 5-inch guns from the Mediterranean at Moslem mortar and artillery positions in the mountains east of Beirut after shelling seriously wounded a Marine, who was not immediately identified.

Three Italian members of the multinational peace-keeping force

were also wounded in Tuesday's clashes.

U.S. officials ordered the evacuation of non-essential embassy personnel. The State Department said in Washington that 39 American diplomats and dependents were airlifted out by helicopter to the 6th Fleet's Manitowac landing ship.

The U.S. Marine spokesman, Maj. Dennis Brooks, said the American personnel were evacuated from the seafront U.S. Embassy offices because of "the unsettled situation" and would return when safety improved.

Marine CH-46 helicopters swooped down on the palm-lined boulevard under heavy guard at dusk. Some Americans had been

trapped inside the British Embassy, which has housed U.S. offices since the American Embassy was bombed last year.

Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld met with Gemayel and reportedly headed for Damascus for talks with the Syrians. Reagan Monday warned Syria to stop helping those responsible "for terrorists attacks on the people of Lebanon."

U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew held talks with Lebanese officials at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda. A White House spokesman said Reagan ordered stepped-up diplomatic efforts to salvage the situation.



Big chill

Photo by KATHERINE HURT

Despite the recent chilly weather, College Station resident Dara Crain enjoys a cool ice cream cone at a local Baskin-Robbins ice cream parlor.

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ECT providing emergency services to the A&M campus

By MICHELLE POWE Senior Staff Writer

You never know when you may be in an accident and need emergency care. David Mark Eng found that out Monday night when he and a bicyclist collided on the Texas A&M campus.

Eng, who was riding his motorcycle when the accident happened, was treated by Texas A&M's Emergency Care Team and later treated and released from St. Joseph Hospital.

Eng, a sophomore Environmental Design student from Houston, said the ECT took every precaution while treating him. "They really knew what they were doing," he said.

Texas A&M's Emergency Care Team is a volunteer student organization, responsible for the emergency care of everyone on University property. Most of its 60 or so members are students and all of its members work free-of-charge.

The president of the ECT, Louis Gonzales, says the most important functions of the ECT are covering University events and providing ambulance service to the University.

The ECT was created in 1976 to provide emergency care, when needed, at all University events such as football games and bonfire and to teach first aid and CPR to the public. ECT members today still attend all University functions, including concerts, plays and the MSC All-Nite Fair.

Gonzales said the ECT always sends at least two members to every function, and usually sends three or more. Six ECT members were on duty from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the All-Nite Fair last weekend, he said.

What you should do in an emergency

In an emergency — a possible life or death situation — a person should know the number to call for help.

But few people at Texas A&M seem to know the number to call in an emergency and those who do are often confused about it.

The emergency number for Texas A&M is 9911.

The confusion results from that

first 9. Do you dial 9 and then 9911 or do you just dial 9911?

The answer: dial 9911.

If you dial 9911 on any University telephone you will be connected with an operator who will contact the proper authorities for you.

To dial Texas A&M's emergency number from an off-campus telephone, dial 845-1111.

The ECT has grown significantly since 1976, when it had only 6 members, and the number of its responsibilities has increased as well.

The ECT is separated into divisions with different duties. One division is responsible solely for covering University events. Another, called the Emergency Medical Services, is responsible for the ambulance service to the University.

Texas A&M's ambulance service began in early 1980. The University bought its first ambulance in late 1979 and a second one last spring.

The A.P. Beutel Health Center — a separate organization from the ECT — funds and maintains the ambulances and the ECT provides the manpower and management for ambulance service.

Gonzales said funding for the ECT comes from members' dues, book store funds and donations. The ECT, therefore, cannot afford to pay for the ambulances.

When ambulance service for Texas A&M began, members of the EMS were on duty during the week days and health center technicians

took over at nights and on the weekends.

This semester, however, the ECT has completely taken over ambulance operations and EMS members are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

On weekends, members pull 12-hour shifts, working from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. During the 5-day working week, members pull 14-hour shifts at night from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. and work whenever their class schedules allow during week days.

Several members work second, paying jobs in addition to their class loads and jobs with the ECT.

Two other divisions of the ECT are the education and symposium branches. The education division is responsible for the emergency care education of ECT members as well as people on campus and in the community, Gonzales said. The symposium division is responsible for the annual symposiums which the ECT holds.

Gonzales said the symposiums attract people from all over the state.

Organizations of gay students achieve statewide recognition

By ROBIN BLACK Staff Writer

University administrators across the state are becoming more receptive to gay student organizations. Jay Cherin, founder of the Texas Gay-Lesbian Student Organization Coalition, said Monday.

That is the real trend in the increased recognition of the organizations at universities state-wide, he said, not simply a growth in the number of groups.

Cherin said most of the groups have been in existence for some time, but administrators just now are beginning to accept the groups as legitimate campus organizations.

"As far as any trend is concerned," he said, "there has been a kind of domino effect, because of the growing acceptance of such groups."

Cherin said that groups exist at the following colleges and universities: the University of Texas at Arlington, Stephen F. Austin University, the University of Texas at Austin, North Texas State University, Southwest Texas State University, Texas A&I University, Rice University, The University of Houston,

San Angelo State University, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M, and Southwestern University at Georgetown.

The only groups not recognized by their respective college or university are those at SWT, Texas A&I, Texas A&M and SMU.

Cherin said there was a gay student group at Trinity University at one time, but the administration withdrew the group's right to be recognized on the campus.

The two oldest groups exist at UT and Rice. The group at UT was formed in 1972 and was recognized as a campus organization in 1974 after a court case which set the precedent for other groups which were recognized soon after that, Cherin said.

Cherin was a chairperson of the UT organization, and founded TGLSOC last year because he felt there wasn't enough communication between the groups across the state.

He said the organization, which celebrated its first anniversary Sunday, was also created to increase the exposure the various groups received.

"Just our exposure to 'straight' people is very important," Cherin said. "People tend to understand us better the more they know about us and our lifestyles."

The organization has three major objectives, Cherin said.

One is to increase the resources available in libraries about homosexual lifestyles, he said.

"We're getting a lot of help from the American Library Association's Task Force on Gay Liberation," Cherin said. The Philadelphia-based task force researches information to go into libraries concerning homosexual lifestyles and psychology.

Another of the group's objectives is to educate the public on homosexual lifestyles, and, Cherin said, this is tied in with the first objective to make resources on this subject more readily available to the public.

The goal the group considers most important, however, is work to establish new groups and keep lines of communication open between existing groups.

Cherin said the organization has an Outreach Task Force whose job is to establish gay groups where they don't now exist.

Cherin said the political clout of the gay student groups is becoming more and more apparent. He cited the UT group as an example.

He said the student association — equivalent to student government — has recently appointed a subcommittee for Homosexual Student Affairs to monitor the needs of that part of the university's population.

"It was a big step for us for growth," Cherin said.

Nationally, he said, the groups are more visible because of court cases, especially the Texas A&M gay student group.

Another gay student group that is receiving a lot of attention these days is the Gay and Lesbian Student Support Organization at SMU. Controversy erupted when official recognition was denied the group.

Lenny DePalma, media representative for the Gay Organizations of the Brazos Valley, said the SMU and Texas A&M groups are pretty much unrelated in their problems.

DePalma said the SMU organization is not waiting on the court decision on the Texas A&M group before going through the process of trying to get their group recognized on campus.

"The conflict at SMU is based pretty much on religion," he said, "while the problems with the A&M organization is due mostly to the administration finding the group unacceptable, using the argument that it is a 'social' organization."

Cherin said he feels it is just a matter of time before both groups are recognized as official campus organizations.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• RHA passed three new bills at last night's meeting. See story page 8.

• Attendance at local clubs and bars is dropping this semester. See story page 4.

State

• Prosecutors are asking for the death penalty in the Moreno capital murder trial. See story page 5.

• State officials say Texas' supply of natural gas is disappearing. See story page 7.

• Politicians Phil Gramm and Jim Hightower both make public apologies for campaign remarks. See separate stories page 5.