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Army officer wins fight, stays in army

Page 10/The Battalion/Wednesday, September 12, 1984

Slouch

United Press International

EL PASO — An officer once stationed at Fort Bliss and disciplined over "procurement irregularities" in connection with a \$9.3 million contract won his fight to stay in the Army, it was reported Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Jerrold Schroeder, 44, who once headed the Software Systems Development Division at the

tems Development Division at the Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Bliss, said he still faces a long struggle to clear his record.

Schroeder, a combat development expert, had been active in attempting to line up the contract because the Army needed to buy the important computerized simulator before a fiscal year deadline.

Originally charged with intent to defraud the government by skirting

the competitive process, Schroeder denied all wrongdoing.

A letter from the Military Personnel Center in Alexandria, Va., informing Schroeder of the decision to end elimination proceedings against him, was sent to him in Germany last Friday, said Col. Gary Sorenson, public affairs officer at the center.

The elimination procedure, taken under the Army's "qualitative management program" to weed out officers who fail to meet ethical or professional standards, began after Schroeder was disciplined in July,

Officials informed Schroeder by telephone last Thursday of the decision not to eliminate him, he said.

Originally, Schroeder charged that he was the victim of "character assassination" which resulted from a

sloppy investigation by the Army's Criminal Investigation Division. Schroeder said the investigation was prompted by revenge from a confidential informant who made allegations against him.

What Schroeder described as an "unbelievable ordeal" filled with frustration began in 1982 when he became aware of an investigation of him by the Army. A month earlier, a major who Schroeder had given a substandard performance report al-leged that "contract irregularities" had occurred in the procurement of simulator equipment for an Army

At a later hearing which resulted in a reduction of charges, Schroeder and his attorney said Army investigators had made crucial errors and that some of the information sup-plied the Criminal Investigation Division by the informant was incorSANDERS LETBETTER 9-11-84

"I see you've been messing around with the bell tower again."

KKK leader asks for pardon

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Ku Klux Klan leader Don Black has asked President Reagan to pardon his conviction for violating the Neutrality Act, saying the government's refusal to stop similar action in Nicaragua reflects a double standard.

Black, 31, who is serving a three-year sentence in a Big Spring federal prison said his plans to overthrow the government of the Caribbean island nation of Dominica was no different than a north Alabama group's work in Nicaragua.

The Klan leader said he "applauded" the Civilian Military Assi-

tance group's efforts to aid the anti-

Sandanista rebels in Central America, but believes the Reagan Administration is unfair in its enforcement of the Neutrality Act. "This administration has given its tacit approval to private citizens getting involved in attacks against the officially friendly government of Nicaragua ... and keeping me in prison while allowing that sets up a double standard of justice," Black said.

"I'm against communism spreading over the Carribbean and Central America. That's the same thing our effort was against. But you can't help but wonder why they can do it, and when I was involved I was arrested

Black told the Birmingham Post Herald that he telegraphed Reaga Monday night to point out the "se lective" enforcement of the act and to ask for a presidential pardon.

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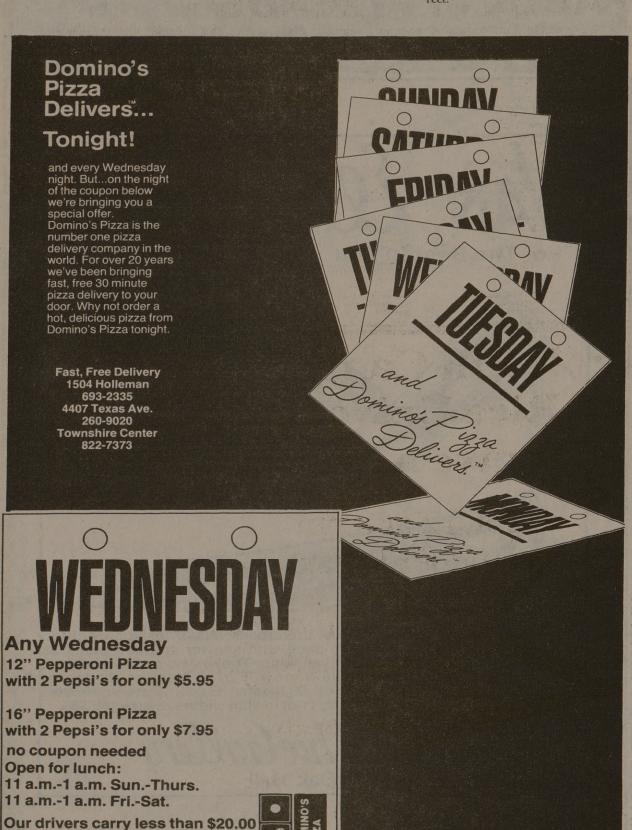
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By Jim Earle

"The president, being a fair man, I would hope would rectify this injustice," Black said.

Black, the grand wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and nine companions were arrested b FBI agents in 1981 as they boarded shrimping boat for Dominica. The Klan leader, who has served almost two years of his three-year sentence, will be eligible for parole in Novem-



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