

Page 4/The Battalion/Wednesday, September 12, 1984

TI denies responsibility for shuttle launch delay h

United Press International

DALLAS — A Texas Instruments executive denied Tuesday that the company's microchip "testing irregularities" caused a delay in the

launch of the space shuttle Discovery. "It is erroneous to say TI was re-sponsible for the delay in the space

shuttle," Norman Neureiter, TI's corporate staff vice president, said. A tire goes flat, a light bulb burns

out under certain circumstances," he said. "We and IBM (maker of the shuttle computer) view it as a random failure.

Neureiter refused to link the shuttle delay to recent disclosures that a number of key tests were apparently improperly conducted on microcircuits used in a vast array of military hardware.

Among other projects, TI pro-duces HARM anti-radar missles for the Air Force and Navy, laser missile guidance systems, and instruments which allow soldiers to see in the

Donald Moore, deputy executive director for quality assurance at the Defense Logistics Agency, used the bad microcircuit as an example of about 15 million semiconductors produced and improperly tested by TI during the past eight years and sold to IBM.

Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch cited the possibility of a crimi-

nal investigation being conducted regularities' has occurred in one of against TI'because of the suspect microcircuits.

Analysts were quoted as saying the microcircuit issue also could have ramifications for TI if the company's HARM missile program is found to be involved in the controversy. The Pentagon expects to spend more than \$2 billion on the program by 1987

Neureiter, however, stressed that no commercial products, such as home computers, were affected by the microcircuits.

"The abortion of the flight of Discovery was due to failure in one of five redundant computers," he said. "When the computer was taken apart a defective core-driver was found. Integrated circuits power the memory core. That part was made

by us. "It appears a spot of contami-nation had corroded through, had caused a short-out.

"No current test," Neureiter said, would have picked up that particular spot."

He said a "handful" of tests were apparently improperly conducted at the company's military manufacturing plant in Midland and in Taiwan. Neureiter said the company first brought the iregularities to the at-

tention of the defense department. 'We're naturally disturbed that what has been termed as 'testing ir-

"We have found no evidence of fraud," he said. "But nothing has been ruled out.'

It is essential we get this problem fixed as soon as possible to avoid & vere damage to the company's miltary-contract business, Neureiter said

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'We are working with all dispatch

and vigor, believe me." Defense Logistics Agency spoke man John Goldsmith said 4,700 df. ferent kinds of chips were involved but it was not known which weapons and other equipment contain the suspect semiconductors. The number of weapons and parts that may be affected also was not known, he said

But the DLA said no lives have been lost or aircraft or other equip ment destroyed because of parts failures. However, the implications of the potential problem were enormous because of the widespreaduse of the semiconductors.

The New York Stock Exchange briefly delayed trading in TI stod Tuesday morning because of an in-flux of orders after the Pentagonannouncement Monday. The delay was a routine action to adjust to the a ticipated high volume of trade. stock, however, fell from \$141.50t \$135 a share in Tuesday's trading of 575,000 shares.

Water Polo Club cleans up

By DALLAS MORRIS

Reporter Coke cups, popcorn and trash scattered about the stadium are com-mon sights after Aggie football games at Kyle Field.

But have you ever wondered who cleans up the stadium?

The Water Polo Club does. The club cleans part of the sta-dium and contracts out other parts of the cleaning job to different orga-

"We clean all three decks of the stadium, all the ramps, concession stands, the field and the surrounding area around Reveilles' tomb and the Eternal Flame," said Chris Blockhus, president of the Water Polo Club.

"It is a business operation," he said. "The Health and P.E. office gave us the contract to get the stadium cleaned and we contract it out

Blockhus, who selects which orga-nizations clean the stadium, said he

The crew begins work each Sunday after an Aggie football game at 8 a.m. and usually is finished by noon. •The crew is divided into two groups: the members of the Water Polo Club, who clean the decks and the ramps of Kyle Field, and anoth-

erother group, which cleans the

horseshoe of the stadium. Blockhu said the group that cleans the horse shoe usually is through by 10 am. while the members of the Water Polo Club usually are through b noor

Blockhus is in charge of all cleanups and ensures that the organiztion cleaning the horseshoe has done a good job. He said he participates in the cleanup operations.

'The cleanup team policy is that anything is found of value it is turned in to the Health and PE business office," Blockhus said.

The money the Water Polo Chi collects for cleaning the stadium goes into a fund and is used for the club's travel expenses, he said.

Any freedom loving American would be chilled to the bone by such a sight! Fortunately, the White House is not occupied by DEMOnic spirits. But, be warned. . . It has happened before and could happen again.

Today, hanging garlic in the windows just won't cut it. In order to keep the White House from being rePOSSESSED by a Democrat, you must take active part by joining the growing ranks of the

to different organizations to get what we can't cover.

is not biased against any group. Each group keeps the money it earns cleaning Kyle Field.

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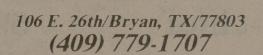
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