

STATE AND LOCAL

A&M prof to head B-1 program

By CHERYL CLARK
Reporter

The United States' most complex bomber soon will receive the most complex maintenance and repair system, and a Texas A&M aerospace engineer professor will chair the program.

Dr. Richard Thomas, director of A&M's Center for Strategic Technology, also known as the defense think tank, recently was appointed chairman of a joint project between the U.S. Air Force Logistics Command and the Air Force's flight dynamics laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Both of these parties are working in conjunction with the North American Rockwell B-1 program to install a computer-aided design program, Thomas said.

Although the bombers are similar on the outside, each airplane differs internally, Thomas said. Thus the need for a comprehensive maintenance and repair program became obvious to North American Rockwell.

"We are faced with a situation where weapons systems are awfully expensive," Thomas said. "The weapons systems are more complex and thus fewer vehicles are man-

ufactured; the readiness of the systems must improve, and we must have a rapid turnaround time."

Through a computer-aided design (CAD) program which contains the differing features, a B-1 bomber will be able to be serviced anywhere in the world, Thomas said.

For example, if a flap on a bomber needs to be repaired, the maintenance crew can call up a diagram of the part on a computer terminal, Thomas explained.

"The computer display can allow the repair crew to either manufacture a new part or fix the original

one," Thomas said. "This allows for good old-fashioned American ingenuity to still be used if necessary."

Besides getting the bomber back into the air quickly, the program will enable companies to share knowledge with other companies that manufacture other weapon systems.

Thomas said he was chosen chairman because he has no axes to grind between North American Rockwell and Logistics Command. He also was chosen because he had served for six years as a member of the technical advisory group for the Air Force integrated computer-aided manufacturing program.

A&M student held by police after he decorated grass

By KIRSTEN DIETZ
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M student says he was handcuffed and taken to the University Police station for placing flowers on the Memorial Student Center grass, but a police spokesman says the student was brought in for giving the police officer a false name.

Hugh Stearns, a junior history major, said he and two friends were stopped by several University police officers at 4 a.m. Monday for arranging flowers in the shape of a peace symbol on the MSC grass.

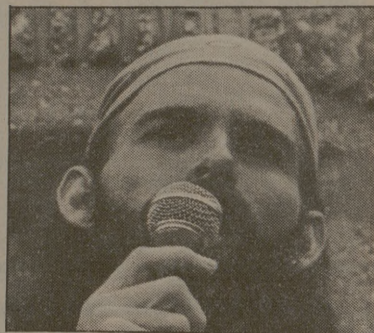
He said he and his friends did not construct the symbol to defile the grass memorial, but to remind students of its true meaning. The symbol, Stearns said, was to represent the peace for which the soldiers fought.

Stearns said an officer approached him, asked questions and then searched and handcuffed Stearns and took him to the station.

"He was quite snotty and wouldn't answer any of our questions," Stearns said.

Stearns said his friends were told to clean up the flowers or Stearns would be put in jail.

However, Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic, said the officer approached the MSC area



Hugh Stearns

and saw a man (Stearns) running. The officer chased Stearns to a car, where two friends were waiting, Wiatt said.

The officer asked Stearns for identification, which he didn't have, Wiatt said. Stearns gave the officer a false name, and admitted his real name only after a check by University Police proved the first name false, Wiatt said.

Stearns was handcuffed and brought to the station so his true identity could be established, Wiatt said. He was released after his identity was verified, and no charges were filed against him.

Wiatt said the flowers used to construct the peace sign were taken from a dumpster where they had been discarded.

Separated since fall of Saigon

Vietnamese family finally reunited

Associated Press

GRAPEVINE — An ugly twist in timing and a decade worth of bureaucracy kept a Vietnamese family separated, but Phan Minh Hoang has finally been reunited with his wife and a 10-year-old daughter he had never seen.

In a tearful meeting at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Monday night, Phan was reunited with his wife, Niem Tran Thi, and daughter, Tram Huong.

Tram Huong was born the day Phan landed in the United States in 1975 for what he thought would be a two-year stay for schooling in citrus agriculture at the University of Florida.

But because of the fall of Saigon, resultant poor Vietnamese-American relations, and later a slow-moving bureaucracy, he was unable to return home or bring his wife and daughter to the United States.

"I've been waiting very long," Phan said. "But I'm sure other people have been waiting longer."

"It will take a while to convince myself that they're really here. It's like a dream. A very long dream."

Phan, 38, unwillingly left his pregnant wife behind in Vietnam in 1975 after a year of marriage. An employee of the South Vietnamese government, he was to study two years then return to head a government task force on citrus disease.

But when Saigon fell a short time later, Phan could not get back and his family could not get out.

He said news reports of the chaos in the city fed his fear that his family was hurt or even dead.

"For the first few months, I didn't have any contact," he said. "I was very, very panicked and very, very depressed," he said.

"Every day I watched the news. It looked like (the) whole (of) Saigon was flattened."

Phan finally learned his family was safe, but before 1978 no families could legally leave the country, he said.

In 1978, a plan to reunite families like Phan's was established and he

began the six years' worth of paperwork to bring his 32-year-old wife and daughter to Texas.

Until only a month ago, such a reunion was only a fantasy for Phan.

"There have been a lot of setbacks," he said. "Every time I contacted either side, they asked us to provide some other form of paperwork. They told my wife she had to do the same. . . ."

"At one point, in 1980 or '81, they told her they had lost her file completely," Phan said.

In July 1983, Phan's wife finally got her passport. Last December, her application was approved. Last week, Phan said, he found out that Monday would be the day.

DPS head discredits Lucas' claim of killing only 3

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Serial killer Henry Lee Lucas has given police information on the murderer could know in numerous cases, and his claim of killing only three people is "ludicrous," the head of the Department of Public Safety said Tuesday.

"In over 100 cases we know of, he . . . took (officers) to the scene of the crime," Col. Jim Adams said. "And some of these read like a whodunit as far as the detail he was able to give them."

At various times, Lucas claimed to have committed 100 to 600 killings, Adams said police nationwide cur-

rently attribute 189 murders to the one-eyed drifter.

On Sunday, the Dallas Times Herald quoted Lucas as saying most of his confessions were bogus — a hoax to show up authorities. Lucas told the newspaper he really killed just three people.

Asked whether he believed that claim, Adams replied, "No, I don't."

But a close friend of Lucas says the convicted killer told her he was lying when he told a Times Herald reporter that he had only killed three people.

Clemmie Schroeder said that during a 70-minute visit Sunday af-

ternoon at the McLennan County Jail in Waco, Lucas told her that he had made the claim about killing only three people 14 months ago before his religious convictions deepened and while he was still denying involvement in other slayings.

At various times, Henry Lee Lucas claimed to have committed 100 to 600 killings, said Col. Jim Adams, head of the Department of Public Safety. Adams said police nationwide currently attribute 189 murders to the one-eyed drifter.

"I know he's a killer," she said.

"There's no doubt in my mind."

Adams said some police agencies may have been too quick to credit Lucas with killings to "clear" pending cases off the books.

Adams and Texas Ranger Sgt.

Bob Prince, a task force member, said they know of 15 to 20 cases initially blamed on Lucas, then reopened later.

"There's no question whatsoever that some of the cases that have been credited to him by those departments are not cases that were committed by Henry Lee Lucas," Adams said.

During an hour-long news conference, the DPS chief defended the task force his department established to deal with Lucas cases.

Adams said the task force never was designed to investigate the slayings Lucas said he committed in 26

states, but to make Lucas available to investigators from around the country. To date, Lucas has talked to some 1,000 lawmen, Adams said.

"It is not an investigating task force," he said. "It existed . . . to make Lucas and information available to these law enforcement agencies."

In many cases, Adams said, Lucas had descriptive information which would not have been available to him from other sources. "The press doesn't print all the gory details about what he did to some of the victims," he said.



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