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The Texas A&M Battalion

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Weinberger says Marines' deaths avenged

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Acting on intelligence information supplied by the United States, the Salvadoran armed forces have successfully retaliated for the June 19 murders of four Marines and two other Americans, Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said Wednesday.

A senior Pentagon official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, later disclosed that the Salvadorans had killed 21 guerrillas and captured nine others believed to be members of the organization that killed the Americans.

The government of El Salvador

"with our assistance has taken care of — in one way or another, taken prisoner or killed . . . a number of the people who participated in that killing," Weinberger said during an interview with the Mutual Broadcasting System.

The secretary provided no further elaboration. Fred S. Hoffman, the Pentagon's acting chief spokesman, later explained that Weinberger "did not mean to suggest the actual triggermen had been captured or killed."

While declining to provide details,

Hoffman said the retaliation came in the form of successful attacks inside El Salvador on a particular guerrilla group. U.S. military personnel did not participate in the attacks, he added.

"The situation is that the Salvadoran government forces recently inflicted a major defeat on the guerrilla organization which planned and carried out the murders of the Marines; a major defeat on the organization. The nature of our assistance to the Salvadorans was in the form of intelligence."

The senior Pentagon official dis-

closed, however, that the attacks by the Salvadorans had been mounted over a period of several weeks against a group known as the Central American Revolutionary Workers' Party.

"They were one of the groups that claimed credit for the attack and we believe they were the ones responsible," the official said. He added the Salvadorans had reported to Washington that they had "killed 21 and captured nine members of the group, including two top leaders."

The first successful strike against the guerrilla organization was con-

ducted about two weeks after the June 19 murders, the official said. The retaliatory efforts were not disclosed before now because the Salvadorans wanted to be sure they had done everything possible to catch the group's members, he added.

In San Salvador, U.S. Embassy spokesman Jim Williams said he had "no knowledge" of the action described by Weinberger "but would check on it."

Maj. Carlos A. Aviles, spokesman for the Salvadoran military high command, said he also had no information on the matter.

But a Salvadoran army officer,

who asked not to be identified for security reasons, said troops had recently attacked a suspected encampment of the Central American Revolutionary Workers' Party.

Weinberger's disclosure represented the first confirmation the United States had moved to retaliate the murders of the Americans. The New York Times reported last week the Reagan administration had considered mounting an air strike on a Nicaraguan base where some of the gunmen were believed to have trained, but decided instead to issue one final warning to the Nicaraguan government.

TDC to build new unit at Palestine

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Texas Board of Corrections, scurrying to meet a court order to ease inmate overcrowding, decided Wednesday to build a \$60 million maximum-security prison at a site near Palestine.

The Texas Department of Corrections' Ellis Unit in Huntsville was chosen as a secondary site, but board chairman Robert Gunn said, ". . . unless there's an earthquake, it's going to be at Coffield."

Coffield is a TDC prison unit just outside Palestine, an East Texas city of about 16,000 that is southeast of Dallas.

The new unit, to be built on 300 acres of donated land, will house 2,250 inmates, employ more than 600 people and have an annual payroll of about \$14 million. Construction is to begin in December and be completed by September 1987.

Gunn, speaking after the closed meeting Wednesday, said he voted against the Coffield site because he thought the one in Huntsville would cost less to maintain and be easier to staff.

But Lindsley Waters said members opted for Palestine because it would be cheaper to build there and because labor and utilities would be less expensive than in the Houston area.

"In the Dallas area, construction costs are 4 to 6 percent lower than in the Houston area," he said, which makes a difference of about \$2.4 and \$3.6 million in the project.

"After considering all recommendations, we were fully satisfied that our decision for the number one location would be Coffield," he said after the 7-1 vote.

Officials are hoping the unit, whose funding was approved in the 1985 Legislature, will ease the overcrowding that the TDC is under court order to reduce.

Palestine beat out Odessa, Navasota, Gatesville and Huntsville in the site selection process. Officials from the five cities came to Huntsville in July with slide shows and brochures to try to lure the TDC into their communities.



Duck!

One member of this couple seems to be contemplating flying off to find a cooler spot.

The pair are temporary residents of Central Park in College Station.

Photo by GREG BAILEY

Change may stop jams

Streets to go one way

By BRIAN PEARSON
Staff Writer

People accustomed to driving on the south side of the Texas A&M campus might experience some confusion Aug. 12 when three two-way streets will be made into one-way streets.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said Asbury and Spence streets will become one-way streets for people coming onto campus while Ireland Street will become a one-way street for those going off the campus.

Wiatt said the new traffic flow

should relieve the "bottlenecks" that occur when drivers attempt to turn left onto University Drive from these streets.

"They're trying to turn left and it becomes a humungus jam," he said.

Wiatt said the changes have been discussed for years now but that University officials finally decided "to bite the bullet to find out if it works."

Wiatt said motorists should see the "readable" and "impressive" signs, but he says he still expects some traffic problems to occur.

"There's always a possibility that

if people don't look at the signs and if they go by habit, they could smash right into each other," he said.

"We expect some people to have their heads in the clouds," he said.

Wiatt said although the streets will be monitored by University police officers, motorists who take a wrong turn will not be given a ticket at this time.

"We're not going to ticket the first guy who makes a wrong turn," he said.

Wiatt said it's uncertain when the University police will begin to ticket drivers making wrong turns onto the streets.

White-winged dove season cancelled

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Wednesday cancelled the white-winged dove hunting season this year, meaning the loss of millions of dollars to Rio Grande Valley businesses.

In the past, the two weekends in September have been a festive and social outing as well as sport for up to 45,000 hunters from throughout Texas and beyond.

Frequently, the hunting schedule called for shooting in the daytime and celebrating at night in the Mexican border towns.

Ron George, the state agency's white-winged dove program leader, recommended the

cancellation, saying poor nesting conditions have caused the lowest bird population in more than 20 years.

"The 1985 breeding census indicates 361,000 white-wings are nesting in the valley this year," George said. "This represents the lowest count since 1953, the last year the season was closed."

George said citrus orchards, which provide about 50 percent of the white-wing nesting habitat in the Valley during a normal year, have suffered a 54 percent decline since the record December 1983 freeze.

George said many birds tried to nest in surrounding brush. Heavy rains and winds in June and early July washed away the nests and the eggs.

Seat belt law beneficial, official says

By CINDY IRVING
Reporter

Beginning Sept. 1, Texas citizens will be required to wear a seat belt at all times under the new seat belt law.

Sgt. Fred C. Forsthoff of the Department of Public Safety says the new law will require only front-seat passengers in cars or trucks weighing up to 1,500 lbs. to wear a seat belt.

He says after the law goes into effect, there will be a 90-day period without penalties. During this time police may issue a verbal or written warning to people not wearing seat belts.

"We're hoping that a voluntary compliance will be received by citizens," Forsthoff says. "We hope citizens will wear the seat belts because they are good for you, not just because it is a law."

Forsthoff says for passengers 15 years or older, the responsibility for buckling up does not lie with the driver. The passengers themselves will be ticketed.

The driver will be ticketed in cases where front-seat passengers from the ages of four to 15

are not riding with a seat belt.

All children under the age of four must ride in a car seat.

The penalty for not wearing a seat belt will be a fine of \$25-\$50 plus court costs, Forsthoff says.

Since conditions can vary with the fine depending on the situation, Forsthoff says it will be up to the judge's discretion to set a fine reasonable to each case.

Forsthoff says people may be exempt from the seat belt law if they have a physician's statement giving medical reasons they are unable to wear a seat belt. And he says they are also exempt if they can present a physician's statement within 10 days after they received a ticket.

Forsthoff also says employees of the United States Postal Service are exempt while performing their duties.

Nancy Hatfield, a traffic accident manager with the Texas Transportation Institute, says she is very much in favor of the seat belt law.

"I think wearing safety belts will become more of a habit and people will realize the benefits from them," she says.

However, Hatfield says that some people will be bitterly opposed to the law because wearing seat belts is a matter of personal preference.

Forsthoff says he believes the new law will be an advantage.

"I believe our fatality rate in Brazos County will be reduced," he says.

Elmer E. Schneider Jr., chief of police of the University Police Department, says enforcement of the seat belt law on campus will be no different from the state enforcement.

He says there are a lot of misconceptions about many laws on campus.

"The campus is no different than the city," Schneider says. "The law applies statewide and it applies to everyone."

Hatfield says, "I see the only major drawback of the seat belt law will be the enforcement."

She predicts fatal and serious injuries will be reduced by 60 percent or more with the enforcement of the new law.

Forsthoff says, "There is nothing to lose by wearing a seat belt, you can only gain."