

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Reagan issues call for special counsel

### Former CIA official named as NSC head

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under mounting pressure from Congress, President Reagan called Tuesday for appointment of a special counsel to investigate the diversion of Iranian arms sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels and named a former top-ranking CIA official as his national security adviser.

Besides seeking to invoke a post Watergate-era law providing for probes independent of the executive branch, Reagan urged members of the House and Senate to consolidate under one committee their own probes of the affair.

"If illegal acts were undertaken, those who did so will be brought to justice," the president declared as he also announced that Frank Carlucci, one-time deputy CIA director and deputy secretary of defense, will replace Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter.

Poindexter resigned last week as top national security adviser.

The president said he'd been informed by Attorney General Edwin Meese III earlier Tuesday that "reasonable grounds" existed to seek appointment of an independent counsel by a three-judge court.

While Reagan was speaking in a rare midday broadcast to the nation, Poindexter made a brief appearance at the site of closed-door hearings by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

According to two sources who declined to be identified by name, Tuesday's witnesses were two "top-level" intelligence officials.

One source said the reason for Poindexter's brief appearance was "a request by him to have some more time to get ready before he appears," possibly today.

"What we're trying to do right now is piece together the mosaic of facts," one source said of the Iran-Contra connection. "This was clearly held extremely closely, but a lot of people knew something about it, particularly in the upper reaches of

**"If illegal acts were undertaken, those who did so will be brought to justice."**  
— Ronald Reagan

the CIA.

"What we're trying to figure out is exactly who knew what about the arms and Contras and when they knew it. It's a process of trying to track the internal workings of the intelligence community."

Both sources said the operation run by Marine Lt. Col. Oliver W. North apparently was outside of the normal intelligence chain of command, even though that chain already is highly compartmentalized.

Republican congressional leaders praised Reagan for moving decisively to end the disarray wrought by the Iranian arms sales disclosures. Democrats, too, applauded the

president's decision to seek an independent counsel.

But lawmakers argued about whether investigations now under way, or planned, should be merged under the umbrella of a select committee — as was done in the Watergate period.

Upwards of nine congressional panels have announced investigations.

Members of both parties said, however, they were pleased with Carlucci's appointment. Since Poindexter's resignation Nov. 25, Alton Keel has been serving as Reagan's national security adviser on an acting basis.

In his speech, Reagan said he told Meese to immediately apply to the court for the appointment of an independent counsel.

But the attorney general refused to say when that would be done, telling reporters such a disclosure would violate the Ethics in Government Act, the post Watergate-era law that provides for independent counsels.

In the four-minute speech from his desk, Reagan assured the nation: "If illegal acts were undertaken, those who did so will be brought to justice. If actions in implementing my policy were taken without my authorization, knowledge or concurrence, this would be exposed and appropriate corrective steps will be implemented."

## Perot says he put up money to free hostages in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot said Tuesday that at the behest of a now-dismissed National Security Council aide he put up \$2 million earlier this year to ransom U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Perot, in an interview on ABC-TV's "Nightline," confirmed an account published in Tuesday's editions of the *Washington Post*, which said the billionaire put up the money at the request of Marine Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, the NSC aide. North was fired Nov. 25 for what the administration said was his role in funneling Iranian weapons payments to Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

On May 23, North asked Perot, listed by *Forbes* magazine as the third wealthiest American, to deposit \$2 million in a Swiss bank account, said the newspaper, quoting anonymous "informed sources."

Perot was on the point of telexing the money when North called and asked him to send it by courier to Cyprus for an exchange in "a ship-to-ship transfer," the *Post* said.

Perot's courier waited five days on Cyprus, but the deal for the release of five Americans fell through for

reasons that could not be determined, the newspaper said.

"It didn't work out and that was just an unfortunate try that failed," Perot said. "It's my understanding that the people that were supposed to produce, didn't. It's that simple."

The newspaper said its information was provided by people with firsthand knowledge of the transactions described.

Contacted Monday night, Daniel Howard, a White House spokesman said the ransom attempt, if it occurred, was undertaken without the knowledge or authorization of the National Security Council.

But Perot told ABC that he assumed North had higher authority.

"My sense is always that people who do these types of things in the government are very meticulous in getting approval for their activities," Perot said. "... Maybe by the time I started dealing with Col. North specifically, I had been pretty well programmed in that direction because that's always been the case."

The ransom attempt directly contradicted President Reagan's stated policy of refusing to negotiate for

the release of hostages, but one source told the *Post* the ransom attempt was justified on the grounds that the money was from a private individual, not the government.

Explained Perot: "As I understand the government's policy, it is they don't want to use U.S. money, but if and when they can find a willing citizen to help in matters like this, then they can go to great efforts to save the person's life."

## Phone services give amnesty cold shoulder

By Christi Daugherty  
Staff Writer

While Star Tel Inc. begins its 15-day amnesty program for illegal users of access codes, other long-distance services indicate that they have no intention of changing their current policies toward offenders.

John Houscer, MCI's corporate public relations manager in New York, said MCI will stick by its policy of filing charges against all who use the stolen codes, and said that he could not see how an amnesty program would help the situation.

## Imprised

Kirk Houser shines a prism at the MSC craft fair Tuesday afternoon. Houser has been making

prisms and stained-glass ornaments for 12 years. He will be at the craft fair today as well.



Photo by John Marr

## Brazos TAES head: Budget cuts hurt staff

# Hiring freeze may force program cuts

*Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part series on the effects of state budget cuts and Texas' slumping oil economy on the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Part 2 examines the toll budget cuts have taken on the Brazos County Extension Office.*

By Bob Grube  
Staff Writer

Budget cuts sometimes lead to layoffs and firings, and the people whose jobs end feel the effects in a bad way. But sometimes, the people who remain to take up the slack pay a price too, in the form of mounds of paperwork and exhausted employees.

Such is the case at the Brazos County Extension Office in Bryan, where Jim Mazurkiewicz, 31, works for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service as the agriculture program leader for the county.

State budget cuts and the hiring freeze implemented by Gov. Mark White have chopped his

staff from five full-time agents to three.

County funds were cut by about 10 percent (\$9,000) from 1986 to 1987, but the majority of that funding was for the agent salary that was eliminated by the state. The hiring freeze has made its impact felt much more harshly than the funding cutbacks.

Mazurkiewicz is a man with a million things to do and too few hours to get them done. His life is a continuous string of paperwork, phone calls and committee meetings. And yet, a fire of desire to do a good job burns in his eyes.

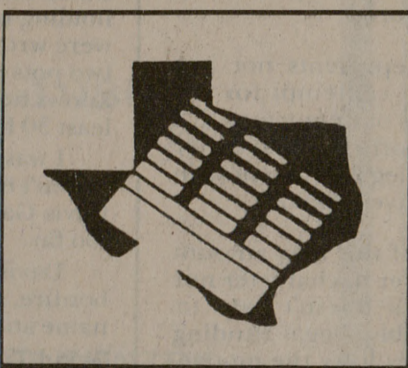
But he acknowledges it is sometimes hard to keep giving 100 percent all of the time.

"I've taken on the non-program leader's responsibilities, in addition to my job responsibilities," Mazurkiewicz says. "So far, I've not had to cut any programs, but it's about to kill me."

"I'm putting in over 80 hours a week between the two positions. My typical day starts at 7 a.m. and ends around 10 p.m. I also put in

about 13 hours over the weekend. I basically have no family life."

So far, no major programs have had to be cut and he has even managed to implement a few programs of his own. But he doesn't know how long he and his



staff can hang on.

"We started a fire ant program last year that saw 1,000 citizens buy \$48,000 of fire ant bait," Mazurkiewicz says. "This year, we can't have the program because

we just have too many other things going on."

The employees at the extension office bring to mind the Texans at the Alamo, except they're battling paperwork, overtime hours and exhaustion rather than Mexican soldiers.

But their administrative battle could have the same outcome as the Alamo.

"This county has over 100,000 taxpayers who all feel like we work for them," Mazurkiewicz says. "And in reality, we do. There's just not enough of us to go around."

"Yesterday was one heck of a day. I still haven't gotten over it. I'm hurting so bad in my chest right now that I feel like I should go home and lie down. It's just too much for one guy."

The result of the extra work and long hours eventually will be a reduction of programs offered to the public. But Mazurkiewicz says he and his staff will keep programs operating as long as they can, and the smaller, non-educational

programs will be the first to be cut.

"The little personal services, like taking soil samples or looking at a tree fungus, have been cut out," he says. "But that's OK because it makes us more efficient."

"It makes some of the people mad because they've gotten used to the personal service. But it's just as easy for them to take soil samples over to A&M as it is for me to do it."

"If people want to bring something into the office, I'll look at it and try to help them, but I can't run out and look at everyone's home problems anymore. People have to realize this."

Mazurkiewicz also has had to drop monthly horse and beef cattle newsletters but is continuing the horticulture newsletter (about 900 subscribers) and the two weekly newspaper columns he writes for the *Bryan-College Station Eagle*.

Mazurkiewicz has every reason

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lar policy and will begin prosecuting all who have not made restitution.

A&M Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill would not speak to reporters, and referred all calls to the A&M Office of Public Information.

Lane Stephenson, the director of that office, said, "We don't have any communication one way or another with MCI, and I think they might be taking some liberties with Star Tel's intentions."

Bob Wiatt, director of security and University Police, said this is not the first time a long-distance service has filed and then withdrawn charges, and that his department will continue to pursue any complaints issued by the companies.

"We'll continue to accept complaints and file them through the criminal justice system," Wiatt said. "I can't just say, 'You had your chance, and we can't do any more for you.' We've got to file charges if they request it and if they've got proof. It's our job."

"It's not uncommon for people to press and file charges and then decide to drop. That doesn't mean that the next time they file charges we're going to refuse. We can't do that."

Of the other long distance services in town, Sprint's public relations spokesman in Kansas City, Phil Hermanson, said Sprint has a special investigative unit that finds and prosecutes people committing telephone fraud with Sprint access codes.

"We crack down hard whenever we find people committing this crime, and we do have people serving time in jail for this," Hermanson said. "If we find them we will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law."

University Communications has a policy of never prosecuting except in extreme cases where they get no cooperation from the person who made the calls.

Hank Miller, an official with Call America, said his company has never had a problem with illegal access, perhaps because they do very stringent credit checks before they grant anyone an access code.