

Students at A&M offer free energy audits

By Kathy Crawford
Reporter

Small businesses in Texas benefit from management tips

Working within the Energy Analysis and Diagnostic Center at Texas A&M, a group of mechanical engineering students provides small industries around the state with free audits, getting first-hand experience in the energy management field.

The energy analysis facility is the only one of its kind in Texas. The program, which began here in January 1987, is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and managed by the University City Science Center in Philadelphia.

Dr. Warren Heffington, associate

professor of mechanical engineering and head of the EADC, said they plan to use their student staff to do 30 audits this year.

"We try to schedule two audits on every trip," Heffington said. "Normally, a student will only be gone five or six days a semester."

Students audit industries by studying flow rates, combustion efficiencies and process and environmental temperatures.

In its first year, the program saved 15 small- and medium-sized

manufacturing plants an average of \$20,000 each.

The audits are performed at no cost to the manufacturers.

To be eligible for the service, plants must have gross annual sales of \$50 million or less, annual energy consumption of \$1.5 million or less, employ not more than 500 persons and have no in-house energy expertise.

The EADC staff will travel up to 150 miles from the A&M campus to perform an audit.

The work experience to be gained is a major incentive for students to participate in EADC.

Graduate student LaRence Snowden has been involved with the program since it began.

"You get first-hand experience and learn what goes on and what to expect," Snowden said.

Another reason to participate in the project is the chance to see different types of engineering plants.

"I have the opportunity to get exposure to various industries in Tex-

as," Snowden said. "It's also interesting to see how certain things are made, like when we went to the ice cream factory."

For students planning to work in energy management after graduation, Heffington said, practical knowledge is important.

"Some of them (students) hope to make careers in energy management," Heffington said. "It's very valuable experience for anyone who wants to work in this field."

Snowden said working with

EADC has helped him make a decision as to whether he wants to go into energy management.

Matt Grubb, a graduate, said he enjoys helping the state save money.

"The best thing about working in the practical field is that you get a lot of research and paper work good to help someone."

Although all positions in the year are filled, mechanical engineering students interested in participating in EADC should contact Heffington.

Dallas police face criticism after officer's death

DALLAS (AP) — Praised four years ago as the best in the nation, the Dallas Police Department has since been scrutinized by congressmen, criticized by City Council, chastized by a state judge and demoralized by the slayings of two officers.

"I don't know of any organization that could undergo the criticisms that we have over the past year, many of which are not justified, and not feel it very deeply," Capt. John Holt says.

Officers on the street say morale hit rock bottom Saturday, when the second officer to die in as many weeks was gunned down in front of a crowd by a deranged transient.

A group of three to six young black men waiting at a bus station egged the vagrant on as he shot officer John Glenn Chase in the face three times, despite the 25-year-old man's pleas for mercy, Lt. Jerald Calame said. The vagrant, Carl Dudley Williams, was then killed after he fired at pursuing officers.

Chase's death brought to the surface simmering anger among police officials against the department's most vocal critics — two minority City Council members whose strident calls for change in the deadly-force policy brought congressional investigators to town last year.

Police Chief Billy Prince blamed the constant "bashing" for helping incite the crowd Saturday. Mayor Annette Strauss in turn blasted Prince for saying elected officials were partly at fault and called the shooting an isolated incident that had nothing to do with city politics.

But Prince refused to back down. "The feeling and atmosphere of

Dallas police chief blames slaying incident on city officials

DALLAS (AP) — Police Chief Billy Prince's laying part of the blame for the slaying of a police officer on elected officials has only increased tension between the department and the community, Mayor Annette Strauss said.

Prince said the shooting death of a white officer by a black transient resulted in part because of some City Council members' criticisms of the Dallas Police Department.

"I have to hope he made those comments at an emotional time," Strauss said, describing the shooting as an isolated incident with nothing to

do with politics. "Chief Prince knows we have done all we can to make things better."

But Prince won't back down from his comments.

"For someone who was on the edge, that type of atmosphere at City Hall could have pushed someone over the edge to attack a police officer," Prince said.

Officer John Chase was shot to death on a downtown street Saturday by Carl Dudley Williams, who had a history of mental problems, authorities said.

The Dallas department has been attacked by

elected officials and representatives of the city's minority community for a series of fatal shootings by police. Most of the shooting victims were black.

Prince said Chase's shooting has galvanized a "silent majority" of people who support him and his embattled police department.

Council member Diane Ragsdale, a frequent critic of the Dallas Police, also was critical of Prince's remarks.

"I regret that Chief Prince has made those remarks," the black council member said. "They only serve to heighten conflict."

Poll: Police receive favorable ratings from Dallas residents

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Police Department got favorable ratings from most respondents in a survey, although differing opinions, closely follow racial lines.

The Dallas Morning News on Tuesday reported the results of its survey conducted after the second slaying of a police officer in as many weeks. Nearly three-quarters of those polled said the killings probably will make public opinion more favorable toward police.

The opinions came from a telephone survey of 357 Dallas residents Monday night. Researchers contacted at least 100 residents selected from

each of three categories — white, black or Hispanic.

The racial division was reflected most clearly in responses to questions concerning the City Council's involvement in police affairs.

More than two-thirds of the survey's white respondents said they think the council has gone too far in its supervision of the police department. But more than half of the blacks and nearly half of the Hispanics surveyed said the council has done just enough or needs to do more.

Also, more than three-fourths of blacks and

Hispanics surveyed said the department lacks enough minority officers, while 57 percent of whites agreed more minorities are needed.

Overall, more than 80 percent of those surveyed said police do a good or excellent job, and nearly two thirds said the department has a positive reputation.

About 70 percent of all racial groups said they would be willing to pay higher taxes for increased police protection.

The margin of error for opinions expressed by individual ethnic groups was plus or minus 9.3 percent, while the margin of error for the total results was 5.3 percent, the newspaper said.

controversy and criticism that permeated this past year . . . you take someone a little mentally deranged, and the circumstances are just right and they're on the edge, it makes them just bold enough to attack an officer," he said.

Black council members Diane Ragsdale and Al Lipscomb — who refused to return repeated calls from the Associated Press — have long lobbied against the predominantly white police department and accused it of racism in hiring, pro-

motions and the use of deadly force. Their criticism hit a fevered pitch when 70-year-old Etta Collins, a black woman, was shot to death at her home by police investigating a burglary in October 1986. A grand jury declined to indict the officer.

Ragsdale and Lipscomb helped bring members of a House subcommittee to Dallas in May for a day-long congressional hearing led by Rep. John Conyers of Detroit.

Days later, an 81-year-old black crime watch volunteer, David Hor-

ton, was shot to death in a complex after he allegedly fired a gun at officers.

Problems continued in the department throughout 1987. The year ended with several officers fired for misconduct and fined \$93,250 and cited for contempt of court by a state judge accused it of being obstructive.

Raymond Hawkins, deputy of the southeast suburban office of the Republican Convention (1984) we were touted as the best in the country. This is in fact the police department. What changed is some key individuals and some rather unorthodox instances."

Mistakes that tattered the department's image were widely publicized in November and December. The internal affairs division conducted several investigations that resulted in disciplinary action.

• One officer was dismissed after another disciplined after a cuffed prisoner was physically abused.

• Two officers were dismissed after allegedly urging motorists to drive while intoxicated. One officer was fired for driving while intoxicated. One officer was fired for driving while intoxicated. One officer was fired for driving while intoxicated.

• An officer on probation was fired for physically abusing a prisoner at the city jail.

• A cocaine-intoxicated officer after officers tried to restrain him with a neck hold and a 62-year-old man was fatally shot at his home when he allegedly pointed a gun at officers serving a search warrant on bootlegging.

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