

# Speakers focus on preparation, image of military prior to WWI

By Tom Eikel  
Staff Writer

The creation of a highly respected and well prepared military prior to World War I was a topic of discussion at the closing session of the Military Studies Institute's 1988 symposium Tuesday.

The two-day event titled "The Great War, 1914-18," began on Monday and featured presentations by several authors and professors of military history from the United States, Canada and Australia.

The symposium dealt with the historical significance of World War I. Two presentations were given at Tuesday's session in Rudder.

The first, "The American Expeditionary Force Leaders' Education for War," was given by Dr. Edward Coffman from the University of Wisconsin.

Coffman said most of the top U.S. Army commanders of WWI were well prepared for the major European war in which they participated, contrary to some of his colleagues' beliefs.

He supported his thesis with appropriate examples, detailing the means and methods by which U.S. military officers who attended the staff colleges at Fort Leavenworth and the Army War College were educated.

This education was seen as part of a growing trend in the United States to rely on formal schooling of its mil-

itary officers, which Coffman believes improved the professionalism of such officers.

The second presentation, by Dr. Paolo Coletta, who recently retired from the U.S. Naval Academy, was titled "The American Naval Leaders' Preparation for War."

Coletta's discussion dealt primarily with Woodrow Wilson's policies toward WWI and their effect on the Navy, and the contrasting approaches to military preparedness taken by the two top naval leaders of the time.

MSI director Joseph G. Dawson, who commented at the end of the session, said Coletta showed Wilson's policies to be typical of a president playing politics with the war and navy departments.

Coletta described in detail the political struggle to prepare U.S. naval forces for the impending war in Europe. On one side was Rear Admiral Bradley Fiske pushing for a stronger Navy, and on the other, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, who strongly enforced the administration's policy of "inaction."

Coletta also suggested several lessons to be learned from the experiences of the U.S. naval leaders' preparation for World War I.

"First, American administration leaders should seek the advice of their (military) service heads in determining national policy," he said. "Two, with policy announced, service leaders will devise ways to sup-



Edward Coffman, of the University of Wisconsin, speaks at the Military Studies Institute symposium Tuesday.

port it in accordance with their own professional expertise.

"Three, it would help if a naval secretary is familiar with the technology and tradition of the Navy, rather than being merely a political figure. Four, in emergencies, proper arrangements should be made with possible allies. Five, lacking policy direction, service leaders must draft their own policies.

"If these disagree with the administration, the leaders are to keep quiet or, in the case of a Fiske, to speak their minds and resign."

Coletta said that perhaps the greatest lesson to come from preparation for WWI was that foreign policy, military policy and logistics requirements for war should be coordinated, Coletta said.

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## Humana Seniors Association sponsors safety symposium

By Lisabeth Rabun  
Reporter

Stressing not going places alone and having an awareness of surroundings were the primary messages offered at the safety symposium sponsored by the Humana Seniors Association. The three-hour program was held at the College Station Community Center Tuesday morning.

Sarah Patterson, the director of the program, is the adviser for the association. The idea came to Patterson when she received information about a new intern with a black belt in kudo. That information and recent local events helped her see the need for the elderly's awareness of self defense.

"The program grew as her (the intern's) project because of the recent assaults on local women," Patterson, a registered nurse, said.

As a senior community health education major, Lisa Bartholomew is the intern for the senior association. The internship is part of her degree requirement and she asked to work with the Humana organization. A project for her internship became more obvious with the recent attacks on older women.

"I have done martial arts in the past and since we work with the elderly, we decided this was needed," she said. "We've been working on it for the last month."

Helen Pritchard of Bryan at-

tended the program out of concern for her safety.

"I thought it was going to be interesting and I'm interested in protection because of the recent problems," Pritchard said.

To start the program, Bob Rea, an instructor from the Houston Bay Area Judo Club, gave a demonstration of simple martial arts techniques, like placing a finger under the chin of the attacker to avoid being carried.

"It is very difficult to hurt someone with a push is much more effective," He stressed that the audience should learn to push the attacker and had everyone stand up to practice pushing others away.

Participants were asked to bring a spatula to the program. Rea taught several tricks using a spatula as a weapon. He also showed the group how a large nail, a broomstick and a cane can be used for defense.

One lady was overheard asking another, "Could you stick a nail in somebody?"

The response was "Yes, ma'am, I could, if he was going to do something to me."

Rea stressed the need to stun the attacker to have one or two extra seconds to get away, get to a phone or get a weapon.

Two local police officers also spoke. Lt. Bernard Kapella from the College Station Police Department talked about personal safety and

He said it is important to pay attention to the surroundings and be aware of what is going on at all times.

Bryan Police Officer Tony Taylor presented information about home security.

"Home security is basically a weakness that people just don't understand," Taylor said. He talked about the importance of deadbolt locks for doors and track locks on windows.

Taylor is also a member of the Security Tasks Force on the A&M campus. He encouraged student organizations to have programs like this to promote prevention of these crimes for all ages. He said the job cannot be done totally by the police.

The 35 members in the audience included a couple came from Madisonville. Lamar and Norma Piboin are members of the Humana senior citizens group and come to Bryan-College Station often to shop. Even though they are from a smaller town, they came to the program.

"It can happen anywhere," Norma Piboin said.

Several businesses and organizations from the community provided informational displays and door prizes. These included Brazos Valley Lock and Key, Digitron Security Corporation, Amway Home Products and the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center. The Manor House also donated a room for out-of-town guests.

## Man believed hurt in blast found dead

ARLINGTON (AP)—A man believed to have been injured in a weekend explosion and blast that killed another man was found dead Monday in a motel room.

The 47-year-old man, whose identity was withheld pending notification of relatives, was one of two men believed to have been injured in the Sunday fire blast at the southwest Arlington home, allegedly a drug laboratory.

Authorities said the blast was intentionally set, using flammable liquid on the carpet in the back room of the house.

Officials, meanwhile, searched an autopsy Monday on the body found in the fire. The body was so badly charred that officials had been unable to determine whether it was that of a man or a woman.

Investigators from the Tarrant County medical examiner's office were expected to use dental records to identify the first body.

A woman told police she had registered the man in the motel room, but called her lawyer to help her find the man dead in the room. The lawyer contacted police.

Police believe he is the man who was reported to be burned and hitchhiking in the area.

## Aggie: Future hinges on minority education

AUSTIN (AP)—Texas must do a better job of helping minority students in school if it is to meet challenges of the future, Secretary of State and former A&M student Jack Rains told a higher education conference Tuesday.

"We face literally a crisis," Rains told about 250 educators and business people at the conference focusing on the state's changing population.

"By the year 2000, half of our population in this state under the age of 30 will be black or Hispanic," he said. "Take that fact and look at this fact: Today, 45 percent of our Hispanic youth and 35 percent of our black youth are dropping out of high school."

The drive to revitalize the state economy will not work unless Texas addresses dropout and illiteracy rates, Rains said.

"We're talking about attracting high-tech jobs, new jobs for Texas," he said. "But you can't at-

tract high-tech jobs, low-tech jobs, any kind of jobs when you do not have a work force that can read and write. That's basic."

Rains used himself as an example of what he called the state's great tradition of having an education that is available to all and opens the doors for all.

After a public-school education in Port Arthur, Rains went on to earn a business degree at Texas A&M University and a law degree at the University of Houston.

"I'm extremely proud of that pedigree," he said. "This is all state-funded education."

Rains praised A&M especially for "having taken the time to invest in me as an individual, and as a resource."

Such investment is needed more now than ever before, Rains and Hal Daugherty of El Paso said. Daugherty is chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Texasans without much formal education longer have oil jobs or similar employment to turn to, they both said.

"Prior to September of 1982, we rode the oil bubble," Daugherty said. "There are no more. A lot of those high-paying blue-collar jobs are not going to come back."

"We need to diversify. Critical to our success is our ability to motivate and enable our black and Hispanic students to complete their education. The coordinating board has undertaken programs to encourage minorities to go to college," Daugherty said.

One work-study program brings high school students to college campuses for the summer.

Another program helps eighth-grade students choose the sort of courses that will enable them to go to college when they graduate from high school.



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