

# The <sup>Texas A&M</sup>Battalion

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## Reagan names replacement for attorney general

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan has chosen former Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh to replace Attorney General Edwin Meese III, a knowledgeable administration source said Monday.

The source, who declined to be identified by name, said that Thornburgh, who once headed the Justice Department's criminal division, had accepted the offer.

Reagan told reporters earlier Monday that there would soon be an announcement of a successor for Meese, who said last week that he would leave the Justice Department by early August.

Meese said he had been vindicated by independent counsel James McKay's investigation of alleged wrongdoing during Meese's tenure as attorney general.

Reagan, asked during a photo opportunity about Meese's successor, declined to be specific about the timing of an announcement.

"Anyone we know?" a reporter asked.

"You've probably heard of him," the president replied.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater declined to confirm or deny that Reagan has settled on Thornburgh, who will turn 56 on Saturday.

Fitzwater said "it's probably likely that he (Reagan) has decided, but he has not made an offer."

Cable News Network reported that Thornburgh, who left the governorship in 1987 after serving two four-year terms, had been interviewed by White House general counsel A.B. Culvahouse.

White House chief of staff Kenneth Duberstein on Monday asked Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., for his view of a Thornburgh nomination, according to Heinz spokesman Richard Bryers.

"Heinz said it would be an excellent choice," Bryers said.

Asked about the report, Fitzwater

said, "You know my policy on personnel matters is to neither confirm nor deny."

"The president has not talked to Thornburgh or anyone else."

Elsie Hillman, head of George Bush's presidential campaign in Pennsylvania and a Republican National committeewoman, said in Harrisburg, Pa., that she was told by Bush campaign officials that Thornburgh had been asked to take the job.

Hillman also said that Thornburgh, who has been rumored as a possible vice presidential running mate for Bush, had agreed to take the job.

Fitzwater said "you know that names pop up, people weigh in, and they have to go through background checks. So, we just have to avoid these confirmations."

The spokesman did confirm that Reagan aides spent much of the weekend discussing whom to nominate as Meese's successor.

Thornburgh is no stranger to the Department of Justice.

He was the U.S. attorney in Pittsburgh from 1969 to 1975, then moved to Washington as assistant attorney general and head of the criminal division from 1975 to 1977.

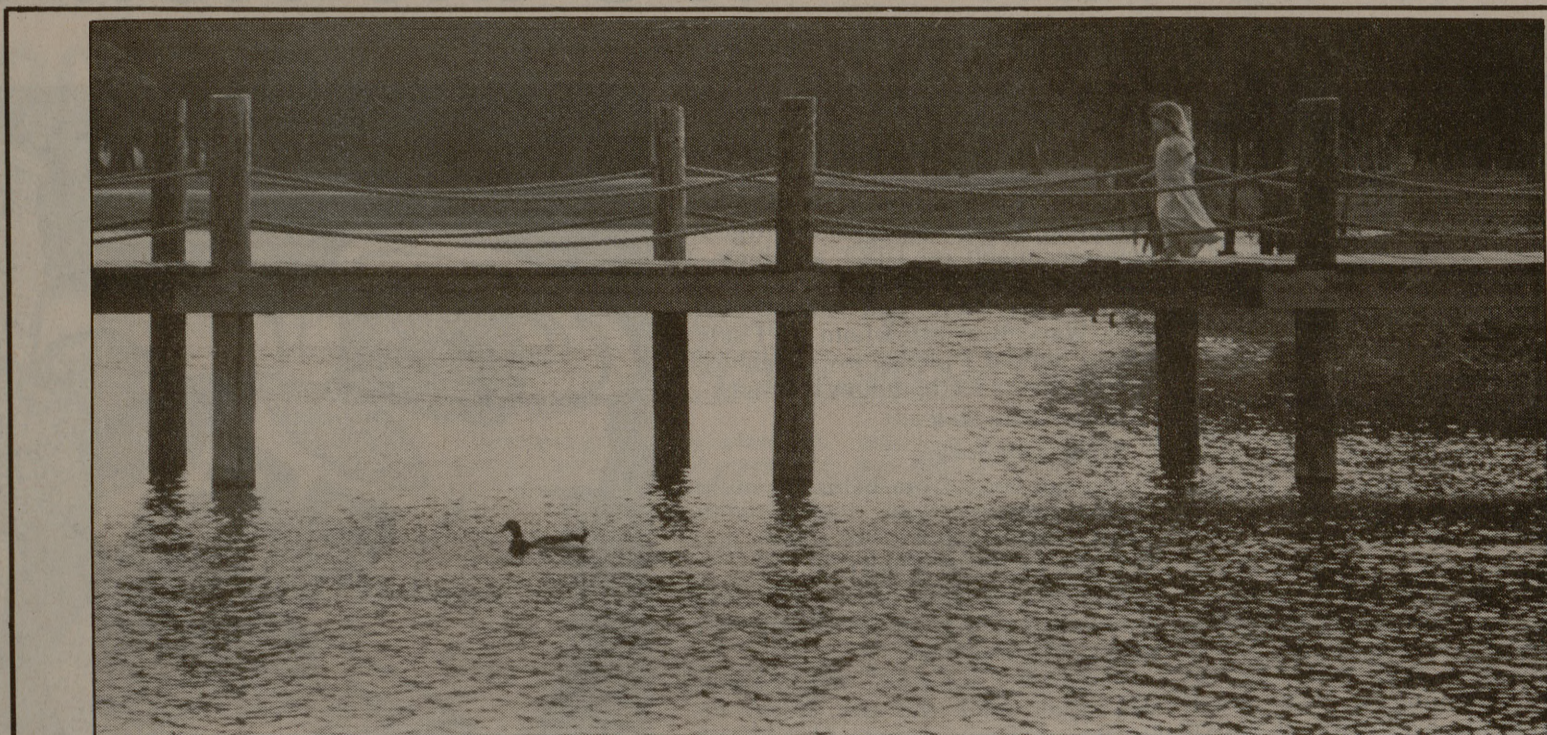
He served as governor from 1979-86 and now directs the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Thornburgh, born in Pittsburgh, has an engineering degree from Yale and a law degree, with high honors, from the University of Pittsburgh.

He and his wife Virginia have two sons.

Fitzwater had said earlier that the administration wanted to announce the nominee before Congress adjourns Thursday for the Democratic National Convention.

The convention begins next Monday in Atlanta.



**Bird watching**

Emily Simmons, 5, of Houston, walks down to the end of the pier at Bryan Municipal Lake to feed the ducks on a summer afternoon. She

was visiting the lake with her sister Melissa and her grandmother Billie Douthitt of Bryan.

Photo by Jay Janner

## U.S. will pay plane victims' families

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, calling Americans "a compassionate people," said Monday the government will compensate the families of those who perished in an Iranian airliner shot down by a U.S. Navy cruiser.

Without admitting legal liability for the loss of 290 lives when Iran Air Flight 655 was downed July 3, Reagan said the payments should be made on behalf of "the innocent people who were the victims."

There was no immediate indication how much money would be involved.

In Congress, whose approval apparently would be required, House Speaker Jim Wright said lawmakers are likely to be sympathetic to Reagan's request, but some members called the request premature because of still-unanswered questions about the incident. Some said compensation should be paid only after Americans held hostage in Lebanon are freed.

In its announcement, the White House said there would be no lower-

ing of the U.S. military profile in the Persian Gulf. And Reagan stressed that "there's certainly going to be no compensation" for the Iranian government.

On the eve of a scheduled United Nations Security Council debate on the incident, the administration said ultimate responsibility rests with "those who refuse to end" the Iran-Iraq war, especially Iran "which has refused for almost a year to accept and implement Security Council Resolution 598, while it continues unprovoked attacks on innocent shipping and crews in the international waters of the gulf."

"We will not countenance any impression that this is a payment to the government or an admission of liability or is in response to any other external pressure or external international political condition between our two countries," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

At the Iranian mission to the U.N. in New York, spokesman Amir Zamani declined comment on the

White House statement. He noted that Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati will address the Security Council meeting Tuesday afternoon and is expected to comment on compensation.

Amid conflicting reports about whether Iran recovered the flight recorder from the downed A300 Airbus, the White House said anew that Capt. Will C. Rogers III, commander of the USS Vincennes, took "justifiable defensive actions" to protect himself against feared attack by an Iranian F-14 warplane.

Fitzwater also said he wasn't sure whether the administration would have to ask Congress to appropriate the compensation payments but that it would not hesitate to do so.

Reagan, asked whether giving compensation might send a bad signal, said, "I don't ever find compassion a bad precedent."

On Capitol Hill, Wright, D-Texas, said, "If the president is satisfied (that payments are warranted), I

would imagine the Congress would be satisfied."

But House Democratic Whip Tony Coelho of California, the party's chief vote-counter, said he believed the request would "have some problems" and said he was personally opposed to it.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, said that as long as Americans remain hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian elements, "there will be resentment to any payment, to any Iranian, under any circumstances."

Fitzwater made clear that the money would be channeled through some third-party organization or intermediary, such as the Red Crescent, an arm of the Red Cross, and not the Iranian government.

He acknowledged that the U.S. government had not yet addressed the question of how, and with whom, to verify the identities of the dead or survivors who will likely make claims for compensation.

All but 38 of the Iran Air passengers were from Iran.

## Health improves for coma victim

By Alan Sembera  
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M professor's daughter is showing signs of improvement at a Houston hospital after being left in a coma May 30 by a car accident in Germany.

Laura Burnett, 19, the daughter of marketing professor Dr. John Burnett, was flown to Houston from Germany on June 23 after more than \$9,000 was donated for her return.

Dr. Burnett said his daughter, although still unconscious, is showing signs of improvement.

"She has her eyes open and she's able to scan and focus, which is a real good sign," he said. "She's just a lot more active than she was even a week and a half ago."

Laura is being treated at the Medical Center del Oro, which

specializes in head and spinal injuries.

The \$6,540 cost of flying Laura home was not covered by insurance, so a fund was set up June 9 at First Republic Bank A&M to raise the money. The goal was met June 17, and the extra money raised will be used to cover other expenses incurred after the accident.

Laura suffered a broken leg, a broken wrist, a broken rib and injuries to the head and brainstem.

Dr. Burnett and Laura, who is a junior at Texas Tech University, were in Europe touring businesses as part of a Study Abroad program before the accident occurred.

A friend of the family said Laura was struck by an automobile that ran a red light while she was crossing an intersection.

## Soviet official announces military plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union's military chief of staff announced Monday an agreement designed to ease superpower friction through creation of a "military-to-military working group," but said the Red Army plans no unilateral withdrawal from Central Europe.

Ending a week-long tour of the United States, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev met with President Reagan at the White House before unveiling the agreement at the Pentagon with the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. William Crowe.

Along with creation of the joint working group, designed to head off brushfire incidents between the two sides, the two officials also announced future tour exchanges among top commanders and several other steps designed to enhance mutual understanding, including port visits by warships.

Akhromeyev and Crowe, flanked by their national flags, were in a jo-

vial mood, and gingerly handled questions that each might have exploited to stress their disagreements.

"We do have some differences," Crowe acknowledged. "Obviously, we did not try to paper those over."

"But I also think that we clarified our perspectives. We probably cleared up some misunderstandings, and I think we formed the basis for further exploration," said the American admiral.

Akhromeyev generously thanked Crowe for taking him on the U.S. tour, unprecedented for such a high-ranking official of the Soviet Defense Ministry, where he is No. 2 man next to Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov. The visit included a cruise aboard an aircraft carrier at sea, a peek inside a B-1 bomber, a visit to a missile training facility, a rodeo, a barbecue, the gift of an Indian headdress, and a trip to Crowe's alma

mater, the University of Oklahoma.

At the news conference, the two announced agreement to form a joint "military to military working group . . . to explore the issue of dangerous military activity in greater detail and make recommendations."

Examples of the sort of friction the group will attempt to resolve in the future include the fatal shooting by Soviet soldiers of U.S. Maj. Arthur Nicholson in East Germany in 1985, and the bumping incident involving U.S. and Soviet ships in the Black Sea last Feb. 12.

To stimulate long-range contact, Crowe and Akhromeyev also laid out a two-year exchange program beginning this fall with a meeting between senior U.S. and Soviet commanders in Central Europe.

Also on the agenda are a return

visit to the Soviet Union by Crowe in the summer of 1989, port visits by warships, and tour exchanges of doctors, historians, the commanders of the services, and a marksmanship competition.

Despite the camaraderie, Akhromeyev apparently made little progress convincing Crowe the heavily publicized Soviet "doctrine of defensive sufficiency" has reduced the threat posed by Warsaw Pact forces.

## Study may prompt plan for A&M day care

By Susan B. Erb  
Reporter

Fifteen Texas universities — including the University of Texas, Baylor University and the University of Houston — provide day-care services for children of students, faculty and staff. Texas A&M does not.

Proponents who are part of a 10-year crusade for campus day care hope the findings of a recent need-assessment committee will help make University day care a reality at A&M.

The Child Care Facility Study Committee, formed at the request of Chancellor Perry Adkisson, conducted a two-month study on child-care services available in the Bryan-College Station area and assessed child-care needs of Texas A&M University System staff and students, committee chairman Patricia Chapman said.

The committee submitted the study results to Dr. Eddie J. Davis, deputy chancellor for Finance and Administration, on July 1. After reviewing the report, Davis will send it, with his recommendations, to Adkisson.

Results of the study are not yet public.

Rachel Kennedy, founder of Students with Children, a Texas A&M group designed to lend support to students facing the stress of raising a family while going to school, said the campus child-care problem is not insurmountable.

"It is inevitable that there will be day care at A&M," she said. "It's just a matter of time. These other universities have found a way. We just haven't found a way yet."

The University Child & Family Lab at the University of Texas provides part-time day care for children of students, faculty and staff and for children in the Austin community while UT child-behavior students earn academic credit by working at the facility.

Johanna Huggans, director of the UT program, said the lab operates as a classroom in the Home Economics Department, allowing for low staff-child ratios and an environment conducive to new ideas.

"We probably have a better staff-child ratio than commercial facilities because we have students in the classroom," Huggans said. "Our ratio is 3-to-15. Most local ratios are 1-to-15. And being in a university setting stimu-

lates new ideas from both students and faculty-member consultants."

Sylvia DeVoge, Texas A&M Research Foundation vice president for Special Centers and administrator of the Ocean Drilling Program, said the possibility of a campus day-care pilot project — to be competitively contracted with a child-care service outside the University and housed in the Research Park on the west side of campus — is still being explored, but has run into obstacles from building restrictions and lack of physical space.

Linda Busby, a member of the Committee on the Status of Women in the University and past president of the Bryan-College Station branch of the American Association of University Women, said she believes several obstacles have kept A&M campus day care from becoming a reality.

"Day care is extremely expensive," Busby said. "And there has been concern about competition with commercial child care in the area. Space is also a problem — finding an actual, physical place to house the facilities."

"I think the topic is being discussed by all levels of the University and by all levels of the system — students, faculty, staff, administra-

tors. This is encouraging in itself."

The ever-increasing need for university day care results from both changing college-student demographics and changing gender roles.

U.S. Department of Education figures show that, since 1970, the number of college students over 25 has increased 114 percent, with 42 percent of the nation's 12.2 million college students over 25. This trend results in more students with children and more demand for day care.

The Census Bureau reports that 51 percent of mothers with children under 1 year old are in the work force. These women may be working because of financial necessity, or they may be part of a growing number of women over 30 who are having babies and don't want to give up well-established careers. The result is skyrocketing day-care demands. And day care is not cheap or easy to find.

One week (40 to 50 hours) of day care in the Bryan-College Station area ranges from \$45 to \$65, depending on the age of the child and services provided. And other obstacles arise: Some facilities don't accept infants, and many have waiting lists for fall.