

Warped



Foreign firms take over companies

DALLAS (AP) — A growing number of U.S. defense electronics companies have found themselves defenseless against takeover-hungry defense contractors, a newspaper reported.

More than a dozen U.S. defense electronics companies have been acquired by other companies since August 1987, including four of Texas' largest defense equipment manufacturers, the *Dallas Morning News* reported in its Sunday editions.

The level of takeover activity also has raised national security questions among some U.S. defense executives, who fear too much of America's defense technology base may fall into the hands of foreign ownership, although the Pentagon reviews each foreign takeover.

"It's interesting there have been foreigners picking up companies in areas that are relatively sensitive," said Byron K. Callan, defense electronics analyst with Prudential Bache Capital Securities in New York.

"It could emerge as a broader national issue," he said. "And it's interesting to see the Defense Department allow some of these (takeovers)."

Most of the buyers have been manufacturers of aircraft, tanks and other big-ticket military items that expect an increasing number of Pentagon contracts despite tightening pursestrings.

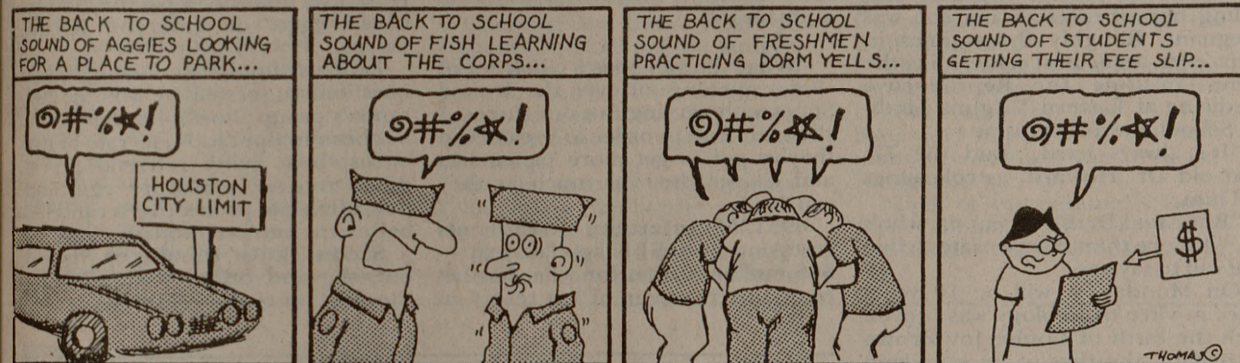
As defense spending slows down, the military is increasingly upgrading existing equipment with electronics.

The latest Texas company to fall into a takeover tug-of-war was Varo Inc., based in the Dallas suburb of Garland, that makes night-vision systems, power systems, missile launchers, laser-targeting devices and advanced military microcircuits.

Varo last week agreed to be acquired by Imo Delaval Inc., a Lawrenceville, N.J., instruments and controls manufacturer, for \$113 million. An unfriendly suitor, United Scientific Holdings PLC of London, however, said it was prepared to offer at least \$117 million.

James F. Gero, chairman and chief executive officer of Varo, said he believes foreign companies are attracted to the U.S. defense market because of several factors, including the fact American firms offer state-of-the-art technology.

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

New study may put Texas on top of health research

GALVESTON (AP) — University of Texas researchers will soon launch a study they hope will establish the state as a national leader in minority mental health research.

Backed by a \$2.5-million federal grant, researchers at the UT Health Science Center in Houston and the UT Medical Branch in Galveston have set up the Texas Minority Mental Health Research Center, scheduled to open Thursday.

Targeting equal numbers of Hispanics, blacks and whites, center researchers will fan out in the Houston and Galveston area and across south Texas in coming months, said Fernando M. Trevino, center director and UTMB associate professor of preventive medicine and community health.

They will interview 1,000 or more adolescent school children picked at random for a two-year study and fol-

low members of 150 or more families in a three-year investigation.

Among other things, scientists hope to determine the incidence of psychiatric problems among minorities, whether current diagnostic procedures are appropriate for minority patients and how to provide good mental health services to minority groups.

"The results of these research projects will provide essential information which will allow policy-makers, health educators and health care providers to more effectively address the needs of minority populations in the United States," Charles E. Holzer III told the *Houston Chronicle*.

"One of the things I hope will come out of this is that (Texas) legislators will become increasingly aware of the importance of mental health services and of the difference they can make with a greater commit-

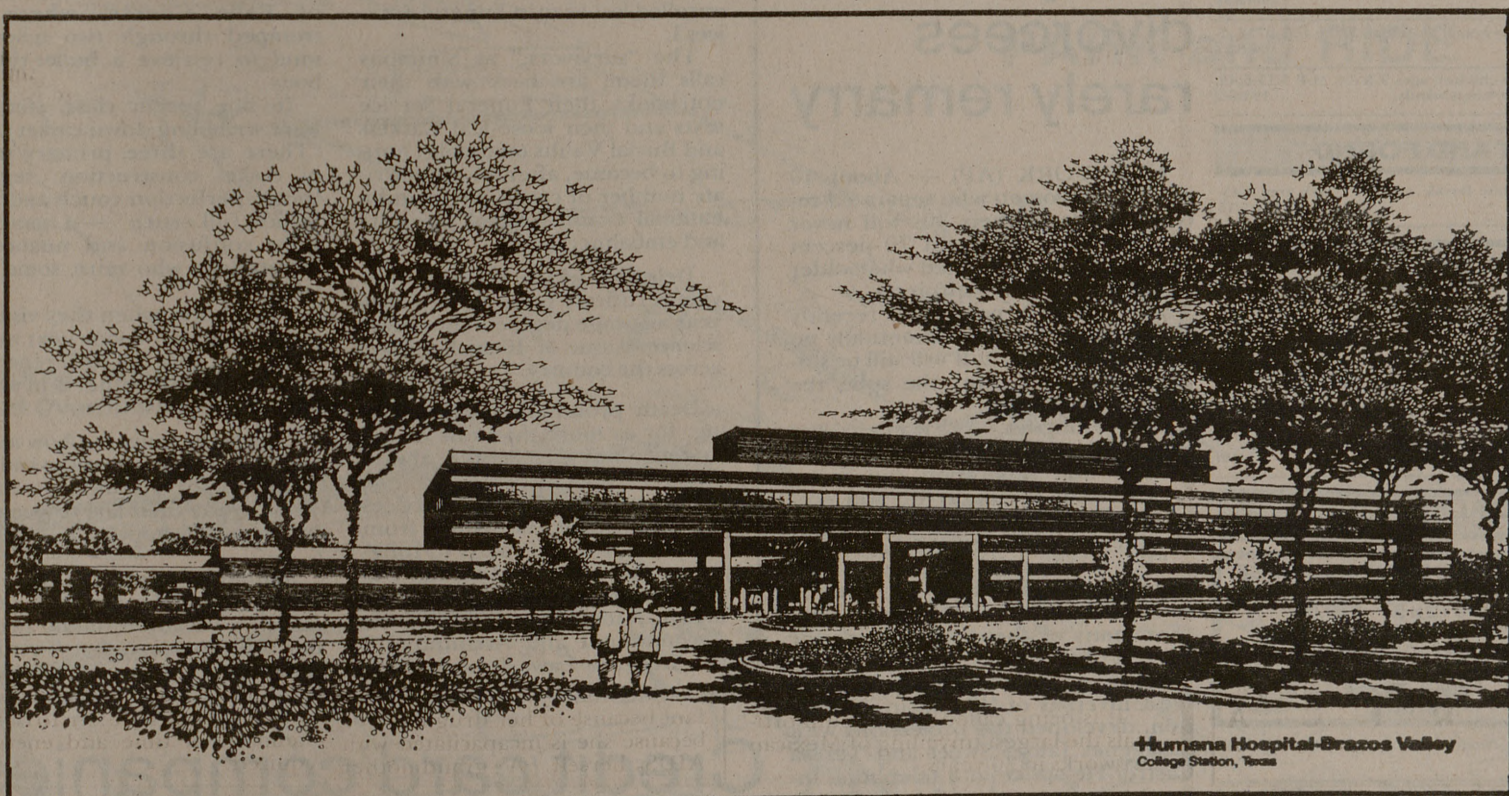
ment to such services," Holzer said.

Holzer, a UTMB associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, and Robert E. Roberts, a UT Health Science Center professor of behavioral sciences, epidemiology and international health, are co-directors of the new center.

The Texas scientists competed with researchers at 21 other universities for the prized National Institute of Mental Health grant.

"It's a big first for Texas," said Trevino. "It's something we hope will put mental health research in the forefront in Texas and put Texas in the forefront in the nation."

Texas is near the bottom of the list of states in expenditures for mental health services and provides virtually no such services for children, Holzer said.



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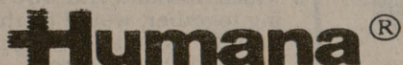
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