

Counterterrorism policy draws from El Paso study

# FBI experts target Texas city

EL PASO (AP) — Counterterrorism measures the FBI used nationwide during the Persian Gulf War were shaped by a team of agents who studied El Paso and its potential targets.

A team of counterterrorism experts from Washington spent a week in the West Texas city studying security weaknesses, said Richard Schwein, director of the FBI's El Paso office.

"With the advent of the crisis, we did a nationwide survey of where we might be vulnerable, and El Paso was chosen for a pilot project," Schwein said.

"We were selected because of our location on the border, because we have a military base, major highways, bridges, utilities, railroad networks, an international airport — everything in miniature the country would have," he said.

The study was conducted late last year, just after

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's troops invaded Kuwait.

A terrorist threat still exists even though the war against Hussein's army has ended, said Schwein, who declined to discuss details of the study or counterterrorism measures that have been taken.

"The intelligence community as a whole has been very concerned that there is a real potential for an after-the-fact terrorist attack, and not necessarily by Iraqi agents but by sympathetic groups," he told the El Paso Herald-Post.

"We are not letting down our guard, no sir."

William Baker, the FBI's deputy director for criminal investigations, acknowledged El Paso's role in the study last week during a speech to a meeting of the National Chamber of Commerce in Washington.

# Lewis backs grand jury bill

AUSTIN (AP) — House Speaker Gib Lewis, indicted by a grand jury on two misdemeanor ethics charges, said Tuesday he supports a bill to allow witnesses appearing before grand juries to take their lawyers with them.

"That bill has been introduced the last two or three sessions," Lewis said Tuesday. "I think it's an excellent bill. I used to think it was a good bill, now I think it's an excellent bill."

Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, who is leading the investigation of Lewis and possibly other lawmakers, called the legislation "clearly a retaliatory measure" in response to that inquiry.

Under current law, defense law-

yers are barred from the grand jury

room, although their clients may leave the room to consult with them in private.

Generally, criminal defense lawyers favor the bill sponsored by Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, while prosecutors oppose it, lawmakers said.

Among those testifying this week for the bill were former Attorney

General Jim Mattox and former House speaker Billy Clayton. Clayton was tried and acquitted on federal charges of conspiring to accept a bribe, and Mattox was tried and acquitted on state commercial bribery charges.

Clayton said the bill would protect individuals from prosecutors who are "maybe a little overzealous, a prosecutor who wants to pin himself a big name."

Mattox said some prosecutors may try to trick witnesses into perjuring themselves.

Harris County District Attorney Johnny Holmes said the defense could gain an unfair advantage by monitoring grand jury deliberations.



Lewis

## Openly gay legislator joins House this week

AUSTIN (AP) — When Glen Maxey is sworn into the Texas House this week, becoming the first openly gay state legislator, he intends to wear a pair of cowboy boots borrowed from a friend who is seriously ill with AIDS.

He says they are a reminder of the urgency of his work.

"They're symbolically some awful big boots to fill," Maxey said. "That's people who need a representative."

Maxey on Saturday won a runoff election against Austin lawyer David Rodriguez to fill the House seat vacated by former Rep. Lena Guerrero's appointment to the Texas Railroad Commission.

Maxey, 39, is the past director of the Lesbian-Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. He holds a master's degree in education from Sam Houston State University and was a fifth grade teacher. He also has been a legislative aide.

The son of working-class Baytown parents, Maxey said he first became interested in civil rights issues while working for his sister's touring rodeo company in Louisiana in the late 1960s. The integrated company was the target of prejudice, including being refused service in restaurants.

"Just that look of hate, it really astounded me," he said. "I just didn't understand that, to see just real hatred exhibited."

In college, Maxey got involved in many issues of the day — protesting the Vietnam War, protecting the environment, registering students after the voting age was lowered to 18.

But it took the AIDS crisis to start him working on gay issues, Maxey said.

In November 1985, he began organizing opposition to a proposal to allow the quarantine of people suffering from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which brought his personal life into the spotlight.

"I'm a total political animal" he said. "I have carried every sign — you name it. I marched for the ERA; I marched against the war. I was in the first Earth Day parade. I fought to save the whales and the baby seals."

But he was afraid to campaign for gay issues because of the toll on his career and political future. "Until a disease put a face on that fear," he said.

"All of that became secondary to dealing with friends dying. I go home every day, every night and see friends who I know won't be here a year from now. Most people, in their lifetimes, take their Rolodexes and pull out the people who have moved away. I've pulled more people out who've died, in the last three years."

State leaders say they doubt Maxey's being gay will matter much in the House.

Gov. Ann Richards, a friend of Maxey's, said she would be surprised if his sexual preference posed a problem. House Speaker Gib Lewis said the same.

"The House has changed a lot in the last few years since I've been here," Lewis said. "I don't see where we discriminate against anybody or anybody's philosophical views or whatever."

Perhaps more of an issue locally is the fact that Maxey is the first non-Hispanic in 17 years to represent the heavily student, minority and working-class district. He follows Guerrero and now-state Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos.

Maxey said he will do all he can to reassure Hispanics.

"At the end of this legislative session, I will have to ask myself and I expect the Hispanic community to ask me to find the single time that I had voted any differently than a Hispanic legislator would have done. I will challenge them now, because I intend to be perfect on the issues of that community," he said.

Guerrero agreed. "There isn't any doubt that the Hispanic community and the liberal community of the district have selected representation that is amenable to both, and in this case they chose Glen," she said.

Maxey said he intends to focus on education, the environment and primary health care, especially Medicaid reform and AIDS funding.

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