

### Air Force lists Texas A&M graduate as 'killed in action' inder con-

## By Julie Myers The Battalion

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A Texas A&M graduate and Air Force pilot has been unofficially listed as "killed in action.

Thomas Clifford Bland Jr., 26, was missing in action Feb. 1 after the C-130 aircraft he was flying went down somewhere in the Middle East. He was identified using the en-

graved Aggie ring on his finger, said

Mark Stratton, Squadron 1 Executive Officer and senior political science ma-

Stratton holds the same Squadron 1 position Bland held when he was in the Corps

An Air Force chaplain visited Bland's mother two weeks ago to tell her of her son's death. Stratton said he has been in contact with her since then.

"She was very optimistic until then," Stratton said. "Now she's taking it like you would expect a mother to. But she's a strong woman."

Bland's mother attended a memorial service for her son last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

An official status will be issued when Bland's body arrives in the United States. Stratton said that could take a week or two months.

Members of Squadron 1 have been wearing gold MIA bracelets with Bland's name and date missing en-graved on them since the Air Force listed him as missing.

Stratton said the squadron agreed not to remove the bracelets until Bland had been found or had received a proper burial.

Stratton said he will attend the burial at Arlington National Cemetery, where he expects Bland's body will be buried. Traditionally, MIA bracelets are bro-ken in half and returned to members of the armed services when they come home. With KIAs, the bracelets are

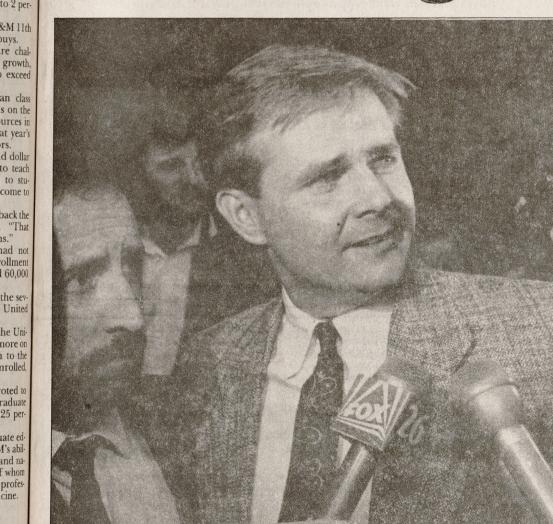
buried with the body. Stratton said he hopes to attend the

burial in uniform and represent the Corps. If that is not possible he will go as a civilian and bury the 48 bracelets from his squadron.

During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Veterans Administration supplied MIA bracelets, but Stratton said he did not want to wait for the VA, so the juniors in Squadron 1 went to a local company. The Aggie Parents of the Year, Dick

See MIA/Page 9

# Davis resigns under NCAA fire



Embattled first-year basketball coach Kermit Davis Jr. resigned Friday after the A&M program was hit with possible NCAA rules violations. A&M

#### **Possible NCAA rules violations**

A list of the 13 violations found by the A&M investigation. Eight of them name former Aggie coach Kermit Davis Jr.:

Reported player broker Rob Johnson accompanied Syracuse transfer Tony Scott on an official visit to A&M.

A University aircraft was used to fly Scott and Johnson from Houston to College Station. Davis and his assistant Fletcher Cockrell flew on the plane from College Station to Houston and from Houston to College Station.

A&M basketball coaches, Scott and Johnson all dined together at a College Station restaurant during Scott's official visit.

Scott's airfare was provided by Davis through Johnson to fly from New York to Idaho, where he attended two summer classes at the College of Southern Idaho.

Scott's father was provided partial payment by Davis for airfare from College Station to New

□ Scott, his mother, his son and fiancée were promised payment by Davis for travel expenses to and from College Station and New York. □ Johnson was assisting the A&M coaching staff in the recruitment of another player from

New York.

Johnson was paid \$2,400 for working as an A&M basketball camp counselor in summer 1990

Johnson was provided travel expenses by Davis for his trip to College Station in October 1990

Part-time Assistant Coach Billy Kennedy, act-ing on Davis' instructions, gave \$8 to a recruit's wife for the purpose of submitting a financial aid package for processing.

Kennedy paid the same recruit's wife \$60 for

## A&M looks for new coach; Thornton may reclaim job

#### **By Douglas Pils** The Battalion

Battalion Editorial/Page 2 Analysis of Davis removal/Page 7

Two weeks shy of holding the job for one year, Texas A&M head basketball coach Kermit Davis resigned Friday after a three-month investigation into alleged NCAA violations.

His resignation followed the completion of a 95-page report by Robert Smith, A&M's vice president for finance and administration, and two meetings last week with University President William Mobley, Athletic Direc-tor John David Crow and Davis' lawvers.

Reports of Davis' demise sur-faced in the Houston Chronicle March 7, the day A&M faced Texas Tech in the Southwest Conference Tournament.

After the game that night Davis lashed out at what he termed 'irresponsible journalism" in Texas.

"I guess you get tired of peo-ple saying sources 'close to the situation'" Davis 'said. "There have been other articles about those sources before. I think I would have been contacted myself. If John David Crow says I'm still the coach at A&M, then I'm

Thursday, and efforts by The Battalion to reach Davis for comment at home Sunday were unsuccessful.

Mobley said that Crow again will search for a new coach and more could be said on the matter sometime today.

John Thornton, an assistant at A&M for nine years and interim coach for 12 games last year after Shelby Metcalf's reassignment, is rumored to be the top candidate.

After seeing the report for the first time Tuesday, Davis was given two days to respond at the meeting on Thursday. It was then that the report was released, and Davis put off the an-nouncement until Friday.

Davis' attorney, George Parnham, officially announced the resignation from his office in Houston and said Davis is being used as a "scapegoat and a sacri-ficial lamb" by the University. Parnham said in a letter to

Mobley the report legally was not sufficient to fire Davis.

Rather than attempt to sue the University Parnha coach just wanted to get on with his life and put his problems at A&M behind him.

five or six hours of babysitting. Kennedy transported the same recruit in Kennedy's personal automobile from the recruit's JAY JANNER/The Battalion apartment to Davis' office.

Cockrell transported a recruit to a summer league game on July 9, 1990. This was during an evaluation period when no contact is per-

still the coach."

Whether or not the premature reports came from fact, five days later Mobley informed Davis that "his services were no longer required.

Davis wouldn't comment on

had not changed, The Battalion

"Coach Davis determined that it was in his best interest and in

See Davis/Page 9



Battalions from 10 days ago and

See Professor/Page 4

See Battalion/Page 4