



MICHAEL MARSHALL/The Battalion

Working hard

George Puerta works on a new lightning protection system in the chemistry building. The down conductors which he is installing will be placed in five different locations around the building to ground the charge if lightning strikes the building.

Software aids in DWI arrests

Program created at A&M helps San Antonio police

Juli Phillips
The Battalion

San Antonio police are cracking down on individuals who drive while intoxicated through the use of traffic microcomputer software. The software was first developed by Texas A&M's Texas Transportation Institute six years ago.

The software known as TRASER - Traffic SERVICES microcomputer system - is enabling San Antonio police to cut the Driving While Intoxicated fatality rate by at least 50 a year, the San Antonio Express News reported last week.

The police also estimate that 14 TRASER-pin-pointed streets accounted for 2,000 DWI arrests in a 12-month period, a third of all San Antonio DWI arrests for the year.

"It's like fish in a barrel out there," Officer Martin Landgraf, TRASER director in San Antonio, told the Associated Press.

According to TTI's safety division, TRASER is now being used

in 65 Texas law enforcement agencies and 40 agencies in other states. Bryan joined the ranks in 1986, and College Station followed in 1987.

College Station Police Traffic Sergeant Gregory Lewis said the College Station police utilize the software differently than San Antonio.

"San Antonio is unique in their use of TRASER," he said. "They are the only ones I know of that use TRASER to pinpoint something as specific as DWI's."

The police in College Station use their system to highlight accident-prone areas and even predict when and where the accidents will occur.

Then, they use that information to guide their law enforcement procedures in those areas.

The software is not being used to its full potential because of the limitations of the user, but the Police Department is constantly expanding TRASER's uses, Lewis said.

The popularity of the system,

"They (San Antonio police) are the only ones I know of that use TRASER to pinpoint something as specific as DWI's."

- Sergeant Gregory Lewis
College Station Police

both locally and around the country, has been attributed to very minimal training needed by the officers who will be working with the software, and that system is very easily installed and adapted.

Federal money given to TTI cover some of the costs of circling the software could be an attractive feature.

Mike Downey, TTI's contact with University Relations, said some of the systems were set up for agencies with federal money "test drives," but he believes the first sale of the software occurred this past January.

"It's not a money making venture," Downey said. "But we are trying to cover their costs."

CRIME STOPPERS

Campus police urge students to report all crimes

By Cpl. Betty LeMay
University Police Department

The importance of securing property cannot be stressed enough. Just as important is reporting anything that seems out of the ordinary for the time or place that it is occurring. Report suspicious activity immediately to the University police.

Only about half of all crimes are ever reported, and a lot of suspicious activity goes unreported. Even an anonymous tip is better than no report at all. So don't hesitate! Trust your instincts! If you see or hear something that seems slightly out of

place, report it. The longer you wait, the harder it is to catch the criminal. Use one of the emergency phones located around campus, but make the call.

The police will need a physical description of the suspect as well as a description of their clothing.

If a vehicle is used, the direction of travel take and a license plate number also is needed. If you know about a crime and want to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.

For more information about crime on campus, contact the University Police Crime Prevention Unit at 845-6713 or the recorded Crime Line at 845-6500.

LOTTERY LITTER

After complaints, Comptroller plans to print tickets on recyclable paper

AUSTIN (AP) - State Comptroller John Sharp said Tuesday that Texas will try using recyclable tickets because of complaints about luckless lottery players littering with losing tickets.

"We're committed to taking innovative steps to help keep Texas free of lottery litter," said Sharp, who oversees the lottery.

The tickets will be printed on recycled paper and also can be recycled again, said lottery spokesman Steve Levine.

Texas will be the first state to use this type of recyclable instant ticket, according to a letter to Sharp from the ticket manufacturer, Dittler Brothers Inc.

The Texas Lottery will use the recyclable tickets as a pilot project in a holiday season game in December, according to Sharp's office. They will be used in future lottery games if successful, Sharp said.

Success basically will be judged on "consumer accep-

tance," Levine said. The recyclable tickets, with a duller finish, are "not quite as flashy and fancy," he said.

Jerry Hendrix, executive director of the Austin group Ecology Action, called the idea "outstanding."

"I can't speak for the rest of Texas, but I know Austin has always been really environmentally oriented and they'd be thrilled to death about such tickets," he said.

A new anti-litter public service campaign also is being developed, Sharp said.

People have sent letters complaining about litter generated in conjunction with the lottery, Levine said.

"We've instructed the Lottery's advertising agency to develop a campaign that urges Texans to throw their losing tickets into the trash - or better yet, into the recycling bin," Sharp said.

The lottery will encourage licensed retailers to provide such bins.

Training exercises begin for troops

Fort Hood soldiers depart for Kuwait

KILLEEN (AP) - After emotional goodbyes with their loved ones, about 300 soldiers left Tuesday for Kuwait on a war-training exercise.

Many of the troops expressed confidence that they would return home soon, but they also acknowledged that the tense region could erupt into another conflict.

"It's just a training mission," said 25-year-old Sgt. William Riggs, who left his wife and three children. But if hostilities between President Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein escalate, "I feel we are ready," he said.

About 20 soldiers from Fort Hood left Monday. Within the next eight days, officials said that 1,600 more from the sprawling Central Texas facility will leave for the region where U.S.-led forces routed Iraq over a year ago.

Many of those leaving

Tuesday are mechanics, and maintenance personnel.

And many served in the Persian Gulf war last year.

"I made it through one time, I can make it again," said Spc. Curtis Jones, who said goodbye to his wife, Terri, and 22-month-old daughter, Amanda.

Capt. Luis Vega gave his 10-year-old son, Luis, a pair of his combat shoes, telling the youngster that he was "the man of the house" while he was gone.

The young boy cried, saying he feared his father "may get hurt." Vega of Puerto Rico said he told his son, "It's a job. We have to do our job."

Spc. Julian Gonzalez, 22, said his tour of duty in Operation Desert Storm had prepared him for another trip to the area. "The first time I was scared because I was young and going to war," the San Antonio native said.

Sgt. Victor Baker held his daughter, Emalee, who was not

"He's (President Bush) the commander-in-chief. Whatever he says - those are the rules."

- Spc. Julian Gonzalez

yet a month old. His wife, Stacie, said she was shocked at first that he was going back, but she said she grew up in a military family and is accustomed to the separations on a moment's notice.

The troops' commanders, in a brief talk, advised the soldiers to be careful.

Brig. Gen. Billy Solomon said the exercises showed the country's commitment to stabilizing the Persian Gulf.

Two women were making their first overseas trip in the Army, and having to leave their children behind.

"I want to be here with him," said Sgt. Angela Thomas of San

Antonio, as she held her one-year-old son Michael. But she added that, "I want the experience and training. He knows Mommy will come back."

She was going to leave Michael with her mother.

Spc. Stephanie Bruce said she also looked forward to the experience, but would miss her two-year-old daughter, Keoma, who was going to stay with her mother.

"I don't like leaving my daughter, but it's something that's expected of you if you're a single parent in the military," she said.

Most of the soldiers did not want to comment on the political implications of Bush's decision to re-send troops.

Some critics of Bush have said the decision was a ploy to boost his re-election campaign.

Gonzalez said, "He's the commander-in-chief. Whatever he says - those are the rules."

The Battalion

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TENSION HEADACHE?

Individuals with severe Tension Headaches wanted to participate in a 4-hour headache relief research study with an investigational medication in tablet form. Flexible hours. \$75 incentive for individuals who are chosen and complete the study. Daily, till 6:30, call 776-0400.

SKIN INFECTION STUDY

Individuals age 13 and older wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as infected wounds, earlobes, infected burns, boils, infected hair follicles, impetigo, infected ingrown toenails and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

SINUS INFECTION STUDY

Individuals age 13 and older with a sinus infection to participate in a clinical research study for 3 to 5 weeks with an investigational antibiotic in capsule form. Minimum incentive of \$150 paid to those who complete the study.

BIOPHARMA, INC.
776-0400



SKIN INFECTION STUDY

VIP Research is seeking individuals 12 years of age or older with uncomplicated skin and skin structure infections. If you have a skin infection, you may qualify for a four week research study using a currently available antibiotic medication. Participants who qualify and complete the study will be paid \$200.

GENITAL HERPES STUDY

Individuals with genital herpes infection are being recruited for a 3 week research study of an investigational anti-viral medication. If you would like to find out more about this study, call VIP Research. \$400 will be paid to qualified volunteers who enroll and complete this study.

ANXIETY STUDY

Individuals are being recruited for a research study on Generalized Anxiety Disorder. If you experience anxiety or would like to find out more about this study, call VIP Research. \$200 will be paid to qualified volunteers who enroll and complete this study.

ARTHRITIS

VIP Research is seeking individuals with osteoarthritis of the hip and/or knees for a three month study on investigational anti-inflammatory medication. If you have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis or would like more information, call VIP Research. \$100 will be paid to those individuals who qualify and complete this study.

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