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STATE & LOCAL

The Battalion

Thursday, July 22, 1993

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Firefighters hone skills at training school Fire

By STEPHANIE MARTIN

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The Battalion

Over 2,600 firefighters will participate in Texas A&M's 64th Annual Municipal Texas Firemen's Training School next week

The Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) will conduct over 27 courses, providing participants with hands-on training in areas such as rescue practices, inspections, fire service officer development, fire prevention, pump maintenance and both introductory and advanced firefighting.

"The school's goals are to save lives and save injuries, and also to protect the firemen," said Charles Page, chief of the school.

Drills will be conducted on the 62-acre Brayton Fireman Training Field, and classes will take place in classrooms on and near the A&M campus.

Over 500 guest instructors, coming from a variety of backgrounds in firefighting will teach at the Municipal School.

"It is an honor to be selected to instruct in our school," said Brenda Sims, Director of Marketing and Communications of TEEX.

Live firefighting demonstrations will be open to the public on Brayton Fireman Training Field at 8 p.m. on July 28. At 7:30, children can participate in fire-prevention exercises. Since its start in 1919, the nation's largest

municipal firefighting school has expanded and become more specialized.

During the next two weeks, three additional courses are being held to highlight a variety of firefighting techniques and exercises.



STACY RYAN/The Battalia

Firefighters at the Fire Training School battle a process unit fire Wednesday.

Three killed during Fort Hood training exercise

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT HOOD - Three Texas National Guard soldiers were killed Wednesday by gunfire from other troops during a training exercise at Fort Hood, National Guard officials said.

"They were hit by fire from other soldiers," said Lt. Col. Ed Komandosky, a spokesman at Guard headquarters in Austin.

Spc. Daniel F. Benitez, 27, of Donna, Spc. Jose C. Ramos Jr., 42, of Weslaco and Sgt. Raul Cardenas, 27, of Weslaco were pro-nounced dead at Darnell Army

Guardsmen shot in night maneuvers Community Hospital in Killeen.

The three suffered fatal in-

They were outside their

He said the victims were

Bradley armored vehicle on a

range at Fort Hood near Killeen,

members of the 3rd Battalion,

141st Infantry of the Texas Na-tional Guard in McAllen and had

experience in the training exer-

juries at about 1:30 a.m.

Komandosky said.

some time

Hood said the troops - some in vehicles and some on foot - were participating in a night exercise in which they were simulating an attack on enemy forces using popup and stationary targets.

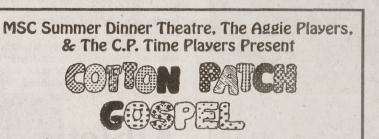
"I can't say what the guys in the vehicle knew or thought the ones that fired on the soldiers - we just don't know. That's something that will come out," said Maj. Ken Roberts, another Army spokesman.

cise having been in the Guard for Roberts said about 50 soldiers

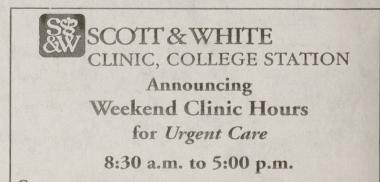
armored vehicles in a line at least 300-meters wide during the exercise. The three were hit by fire from a 7.62-caliber machine gun mounted on a Bradley vehicle.

"Everybody was firing downrange," Roberts said. "One vehicle accidentally fired into a group of dismounted soldiers. The why and how is all part of the investigation.'

Roberts said he didn't know whether the three had gotten ahead of the line of troops taking part in the exercise. Roberts refused to speculate whether the Capt. Jane Crichton at Fort moved in and along five Bradley men were mistaken as targets.



This award winning musical drama is a toe-tappin' hoe-down of a story that retells the gospels of Matthew and John-translated



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