

# The Battalion

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## Slip-slidin away



Keisha Landry of Katy practices sliding into home plate Wednesday afternoon by Cain Hall as part of the Lady Aggie Softball Camp.

## Clinton considers air strikes in Bosnia to support U.N.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Edging closer to military intervention in Bosnia, President Clinton declared Wednesday he was ready to provide air power quickly to protect peacekeepers once he receives a request from the U.N.

"We are prepared to fulfill our commitment," Clinton told a news conference before meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the fighting in the former Yugoslav republic and in the Mideast.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said NATO warplanes should be ready to mount air strikes in support of the peacekeepers early next week.

He said that any air strikes would be "limited to the place which has violated the rules of the United Nations." Asked when the air cover would begin, Boutros-Ghali said "Monday, Tuesday."

Clinton said he was prepared to commit U.S. air power in response to new Serbian assaults on the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and attacks on French peacekeepers.

The French government asked the United Nations and NATO to speed up plans to provide air cover for U.N. ground forces in Bosnia. Its peacekeepers were caught in the line of fire twice this week during

Serb artillery bombardment.

"If the request comes we certainly can be prepared," the president said. "NATO can be prepared in a very brief time span."

Senior military officials said that warplanes to be used in the operation lack some critical equipment to carry out precision strikes against weapons that threaten them.

Some 60 jet fighters from the United States, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands are poised at air bases in Italy.

The NATO aircraft need troops on the ground to "spot" targets for them. Those troops must be equipped with laser target designators, radios and other communications equipment to coordinate the attacks with the pilots, the military officials said.

They commented only on condition of anonymity. Should the United Nations make a formal request, the warplanes would fly in support of a Security Council resolution that authorizes protection for a force of some 7,500 peacekeepers near Sarajevo and five other mostly Muslim regions. Officials say the planes also could be used to protect 9,000 peacekeepers elsewhere in Bosnia.

Clinton has been frustrated by the refusal of European allies to back a plan that includes the prospect of Western air strikes against Serb targets in Bosnia and the lifting of a U.N. arms embargo to help Muslim troops.

## A&M creates chemical spill team

Response unit available 24 hours to combat lab accidents

By LISA ELLIOTT

The Battalion

To reduce the danger caused by possible chemical spills on the Texas A&M University campus, the Safety and Health Office has recently trained and equipped a Chemical Spill Response Team (CSRT).

According to the "SafeTLine: Safety Newsletter", the CSRT is a volunteer organization that cleans up chemical spills that can not be safely handled by laboratory personnel.

Jon Demere, a member of the CSRT, said the team will be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Demere said all the necessary people have been trained by their individual departments to handle most types of chemical spills and should be able to recognize the potentially dangerous ones.

"All laboratory personnel should be familiar with the hazards associated with the chemicals they work with," he said. "All personnel should know the limitations associated with the chemi-

cals they are working with and plan for emergencies involving spills." If something occurs they can't handle, the CSRT should be called in.

Jerry Bradshaw, safety director for the chemical engineering department, said large chemical spills are rare on campus but little ones are fairly common.

"Small quantities of chemical spill happen fairly routinely," he said. Bradshaw is not aware of any major spills in the recent past.

Bradshaw said chemical safety is stressed in both the graduate and undergraduate areas of the department. Graduate students are required to write up a paper analyzing their projects from a safety standpoint. Undergraduates are required to read material danger and safety sheets about all of the classroom experiments before they begin.

Bradshaw said the chemical engineering department always keeps special compounds around to clean up spills and they have a compact disc that contains information on cleaning up all types of

spills as well as safety precautions and equipment.

The CSRT has equipped a trailer with chemical clean-up equipment as well as personal protective equipment.

Demere said members of the CSRT have been trained extensively by the Texas Engineering Extension Service. Training consisted of 40 hours of classroom instruction, hands-on exercises and chemical spill simulations.

"This meets or exceeds required training," he said.

Members of the team include Demere, Bob Hazelwood, Don Helton, Ernest Melandez and Shawn Sayers.

Demere said if there is any question about whether the team should be called, the laboratory personnel should call the Safety Health Office for advice.

Bradshaw said chemical spills can be avoided and reduced by education.

"The key to chemical spills is for everyone to know how to handle it and be equipped with the proper equipment," he said.

## Local analysts disagree on issue of gays in military

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

Analysts at Texas A&M University have differing opinions on President Bill Clinton's decision to allow gays to serve in the military as long as they do not engage in homosexual activity.

Jon Bond, professor of political science, said this new policy is a major change from the current policy.

"In the short run, it will affect popularity rating," he said. "It's probably going to go down."

Bond said this issue is almost identical to the past issues of letting women and non-whites into the military.

"Sometimes the exact words and reasons are used to exclude them," he said. An example is that dissimilar people serving together in the military will hurt the unit's morale, Bond said.

"We look back on these arguments now, and they seem silly," he said. "My guess is this is a first step, and in the future, other steps will be taken to relax the prohibition more."

Bond said the argument that gays and lesbians will cause problems because they will be harassed by or will harass straight soldiers is unfounded.

"Most of the examples will continue to be heterosexuals," Bond said. "It's mostly a problem of harassment between male soldiers and female soldiers."

Jim Mazzullo, Gay and Lesbian Student Services advisor and associate professor of geology, told

## ROTC loses two military professors to retirement

By JASON BROWN

Special to The Battalion

Two retiring military professors and ROTC leaders at Texas A&M say they have seen many changes in the Corps of Cadets and the University over the years.

Professor of aerospace studies, Col. James J. Crumbliss, and professor of naval science, Col. William Barba, retired in a joint ceremony Friday at the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.

Crumbliss and Barba were the heads of the Texas A&M University Air Force ROTC and Naval ROTC programs respectively.

The two men were honored for their combined service of over 54 years in the military. Both men received commendations for their service at A&M.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling, commandant of the Corps of Cadets, led the ceremony.

"It is a big blow to lose two such fine officers on one day, they will be missed,"

Crumbliss joined the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M in 1962 when the college was all male and all-Corps. He was a member

## Crumbliss, Barba bid farewell in joint ceremony

of Squadron 2. "A&M wasn't the academic or athletic powerhouse back then as it is today," he said. "I don't think we threw the yell leaders in the Fish Pond once my entire freshman year."

Crumbliss said the academics at A&M are more demanding since he was a student. What took four years to graduate now takes five or more, he said.

He said his life had come full circle when he returned to A&M in July 1991 as the head of the Air Force ROTC. He said the job brought two things together he loved most - Texas A&M and the Air Force. The best part of his job was giving back to the cadets what was given to him, he said. He would happily do the job forever he said.

"This job has been a great way to spend a last tour," he said. "It has been a real honor."

Barba became head of Naval ROTC at A&M in July 1990 and has seen many changes in the Corps of Cadets, he said.

Barba said academics in the Corps have greatly improved.

The Corps has become more professional and flexible to change, he said.

Barba said he sees the Corps growing to over 2,000 members again within five years. And hopefully, he said, there will be 200-300 women.

Crumbliss said the Corps is at a crossroad. He said there will always be a demand for the type of leader the Corps will

**"It is a big blow to lose two such fine officers on one day, they will be missed."**

*-Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling, Corps Commandant*

## Officials try to save veterans' fee exemptions

By JASON COX

The Battalion

Texas veterans may not have to worry about a new law that threatens tuition and fee exemptions for education, thanks to state legislators and officials who are working to find a way around the measure.

The law, which passed the state legislature unanimously, was originally supposed to expand a veteran's college financial aid package to include children whose parents were missing in action or who died as a result of military action.

However, an amendment added to the law requires veteran's children to show proof of fi-

nancial need before they could receive the exemptions. Due to an oversight, the bill now requires all veterans to show proof of financial need.

"It was kind of an error - we didn't communicate clearly," said an official with Rep. Warren Chisum's office, D-Pampa, the legislator who was responsible for the amendment.

"When the bill was filed, it expanded the number of children which would be eligible under the Hazlewood Act," she said. "We thought we should add an amendment proving their financial need."

The Hazlewood program allows Texas veterans to receive benefits applicable towards tu-

ition and fees at state colleges and universities.

She said because of rushed timing, the error wasn't caught until institutions began implementing the measure.

"It went through the house and no one really paid attention," she said. "Then the governor's office read it, but nobody really saw what kind of effect it would have until the school started contacting students."

Officials estimate that 2,500 veterans, nearly a third of the veterans who received help last year, would be unable to qualify again under the new law and would lose their eligibility for tuition and

## Inside

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- Baseball wrap-up: Rangers, Astros win

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### Aggielife

- TV stations air telethon for flood victims
- Reviews: George Thorogood, Cotton Patch Gospel

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### WEATHER

- Thursday: partly cloudy and hot with highs in the 90s to near 100

- Forecast for Friday: partly cloudy with widely scattered afternoon rain

### TEXAS LOTTO

- Wednesday's winning Texas Lottery numbers: 4, 14, 29, 33, 37, 46

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