

# THE BATTALION

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## U.S. offers troops to Zaire

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is prepared to send about 10,000 ground troops and several thousand more support forces to central Africa for a proposed multinational operation to feed and protect more than a million destitute refugees in Zaire.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said Wednesday that Clinton made the decision after consultations with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada, which will play a lead role in the international force. About a dozen other countries are expected to participate.

The U.S. forces, numbering between 3,000 and 4,000 all told, would remain about four months and serve at all times under U.S. command. The thousand ground troops are red-bereted airborne assault troops based in Vincenza, Italy. The U.S. forces, which could be arriving as early as next week,

would provide security at an airfield in the eastern Zaire city of Goma, a principal delivery point for humanitarian supplies. Currently, the airport is under the control of Zairean rebels.

The United States also would airlift forces from other countries to the region and would provide security along a three-mile corridor from Goma to the Rwandan border. The U.S. forces also would seek the voluntary repatriation of refugees, mostly Rwandan Hutu, now in eastern Zaire.

McCurry listed several conditions before Clinton would agree to commit troops. The United States, he

said, wants assurances that the environment in the area will be reasonably peaceful and that properly trained and equipped forces from other countries will be available. Also required is the cooperation of the countries in the region, most importantly Zaire and Rwanda.

The administration also wants participation by some African states in the multinational forces. The costs of the overall mission, McCurry said, should be borne by the participating states.

For months, the administration had ruled out use of ground troops in Central Africa but gradually dropped its opposition as the hu-

manitarian crisis in the region continued to worsen, with predictions that tens of thousands could perish. A cholera outbreak has aggravated the situation.

Clinton has come under heavy international pressure in recent days to commit U.S. forces, but officials repeatedly expressed determination not to be stamped into a situation that could end in chaos — with the potential significant loss of U.S. lives.

Throughout the debate, officials were haunted by memories of Somalia, where what started as a humanitarian mission was curtailed after 18 U.S. soldiers were killed in a firefight in 1993.

In Central Africa, the mostly Rwandan Hutu refugees have been threatened with starvation after being forced to flee U.N. camps in eastern Zaire following an outbreak of fighting involving regular and guerrilla forces from Zaire and Rwanda.

### PROPOSED FORCES

**LOCATION:** Central Africa, serving under U.S. command  
**TROOPS:** 3,000-4,000 total U.S. forces with 1,000 ground troops based in Italy  
**DURATION:** Forces will remain for about four months  
**MISSION:** Protect more than a million destitute refugees

### Limited relief for refugees

Canada said Tuesday it would lead an international force to protect aid and aid workers in Zaire. The force is expected to include troops from France, Spain, the United States and several African nations.

As many as half of the 700,000 refugees from five Goma-area camps may now be at a new camp west of Mugunga. Others have moved into neighboring Uganda, are wandering in northeastern Zaire or have gone as far west as Kisangani.

The United Nations has made an agreement with the Tutsi rebels to allow aid shipments into some refugee camps near Goma, Zaire. The agency hopes to extend the relief effort south to include the cities of Bukavu and Uvira.



## Panhellenic selects finalists

BY CARLA RENE MARSH  
THE BATTALION

Three national women's fraternities were selected Wednesday to make presentations to the Texas A&M Panhellenic Council in December. One of these sororities will then be chosen to add a chapter to A&M's Greek System in the spring.

Gamma Phi Beta, Delta Gamma, and Kappa Delta are the three finalists chosen.

Danielle Napolio, Panhellenic delegate for Alpha Gamma Delta and a senior environmental design major, said each sorority in Panhellenic Council has the same goal in mind.

"The vote was almost unanimous," Napolio said. "It's to improve our Greek system."

The council will decide Dec. 15 which one of the three sororities will establish a chapter at A&M.

In the past five years, female enrollment and Panhellenic rush participation at A&M has increased.

Amanda Hancock, extension co-chair for Panhellenic Council and a senior elementary education major, said the council has the resources, enthusiasm and ability to support a new chapter.

"We decided that our system is nearing capacity," she said.

In October, the council sent informational letters to the 15 national Panhellenic women's fraternities that do not currently have chapters at A&M. Of the nine respondents, the council chose the three most qualified sororities, based on their history, new

chapter development procedure and alumni support.

Lanita Hanson, assistant director of student activities, said Panhellenic is looking for a sorority with a strong reputation, a well-trained local advisory board, goals parallel to A&M's goals and a sorority that can bring new energy to campus.

"We will offer them the opportunity to be a part of a high-profile Greek system," Hanson said. "We have a committed advisory staff and plenty of interested students and Greeks who are supportive."

See PANHELLENIC, Page 14



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

**Mr. Ed** | Stephanie Lopez, a senior anthropology major, and her partner Jack McCullough, a senior animal science major, just completed a test with their yearling horse Ed at the Horse Center on Wednesday afternoon.

## Campus groups strive for unity

Student Government, MSC pool resources to benefit campus

BY WESLEY POSTON  
THE BATTALION

Campus organizations have entered an era of cooperation and unity because of co-programming and working together, student leaders say.

Will Hurd, executive assistant to the student body president and a sophomore computer science and international studies major, said cooperation between student organizations has increased this semester.

"Before, there was a rivalry between Student Government and MSC (Council)," he said. "I think when Carl (Baggett, student body president) came in, he brought a new air to campus."

Student Government, MSC and other organizations pooled their resources for the benefit of the campus, Hurd said.

"Together we can make a bigger impact on campus," he said.

Jami Duke, executive vice president for MSC programming and a se-

nior business analysis major, said cooperation between on-campus organizations has grown.

"This year everybody has made a real effort to reach out to other organizations on campus," she said.

Duke said the increased affiliation stems from a greater awareness of the programs and activities that other organizations offer.

"We lived within our own organizations and weren't looking at our role in the University community," she said.

Jill Jackson, an off-campus senator and senior international studies major, said the unity is prevalent at more than just the upper levels of Student Government and the MSC.

"There's been a big effort not only from the leadership but also from the membership," he said.

This has been an ongoing trend, Jackson said, ever since Brooke Leslie was student body president in 1994-95.

"It's (the relationship) really open-

ing up and being more representative of the students," Jackson said.

Kyle Sparkman, Corps of Cadets public relations sergeant and a junior biomedical science major, said the Corps has had a role in the inter-organizational unity.

"I know that in the Corps in the past, we've been very inclusive," he said.

Sparkman said cadets are encouraged to get involved on campus.

"Anytime we do that (become more involved) stereotypes are broken down," he said. "The Corps especially struggles with this because we're easy to stereotype and easy to misunderstand."

Suzannah Taylor, chair of the MSC OPAS student committee and a senior speech communications major, said co-programming with other organizations has become a valuable asset for committees.

"It doubles your resources, it doubles your audience, and it doubles your fun," she said.

### THE BATTALION TODAY

#### Off the Wall

Jeff Jennings, a senior anthropology major, defies gravity in his living room. Aggiefife, Page 3

#### Warming Up

A typical first game, the Men's Basketball team won its home exhibition opener. Sports, Page 9

#### Finger Ready?

Jackson: Before registering, students need to ask themselves a few questions. Opinion, Page 15

#### ► Texas Tuition Assistance Grant

## Students ask state to increase funds

BY MARIKA COOK  
THE BATTALION

Legislative Relations, a branch of Student Government, is asking the state Legislature for increased funding for the Texas Tuition Assistance Grant, also known as T-TAG. The grant, approved in 1991, will be funded for the first time in 1997.

T-TAG, which is a merit-based grant, will provide tuition to high school graduates with a 2.5 grade-point ratio who completed their high school degree in four years. Applicants must come from low- to middle-income families and maintain outstanding citizenship (no felony convictions). Students who receive other financial assistance for tuition are ineligible for T-TAG.

The Texas Higher Education Legislative Forum sought to pursue additional funding for T-TAG last Friday at Texas A&M. Representatives from the University of Texas, the University of Houston, Texas Tech University, Tarleton State and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi attended the forum.

Alicia Esslinger, research sub-chair for Legislative Relations and a

sophomore finance and management major, said the group will write a position paper to take to Austin when the Legislature convenes in January.

"We're trying to get support from Gov. Bush and the Legislature because, even though it's already in the books, we feel it hasn't been given the monetary attention it deserves," she said.

Esslinger said she is optimistic about the collaborated effort of the schools.

"It's something that we really believe in," she said. "All the schools will unite on one position and advocate it on the legislative level."

Nikki Obenhaus, chair of Legislative Relations and a senior chemical engineering major, said T-TAG needs to serve more students.

"The grant money is not nearly enough for everyone who deserves one," she said.

Obenhaus said she hopes to have a representative from each school at the legislative session every day.

"We are working on T-TAG together because it's a worthy program," Obenhaus said. "We have

voices all across the state. Texas has a \$2 billion surplus to use for programs like this. Students can always use more financial aid."

T-TAG has been allocated \$98,720 for 1997, but the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board estimates \$23,752,000 would have to be allocated to assist all eligible students. Texas A&M-College Station will receive \$13,000, which is enough to pay tuition for 14 students.

T-TAG was established in the hopes of enabling more people to attend institutions of higher learning.

The grant is modeled after the Hope Scholarship in Georgia, supported by the state's lottery. The scholarship pays for tuition and fees and provides a book allowance.

Chris Reed, speaker of the Student Senate and a senior finance major, believes T-TAG will benefit not only the students who qualify, but the state as a whole.

"This grant has the ability to bolster the state's economic interest," he said. "This is probably the most important legislative thrust that A&M Student Government has had in our history."

## Legality of parking citation questioned

BY BRANDON HAUSENFLOCK  
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student is questioning the legality of a warning citation he received from the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation for parking his truck in a van-accessible handicap space, even though his valid handicap parking permit was displayed at the time he received the warning.

L.J. Miller, a senior mechanical engineering major, has a recognized disability as the result of a knee injury he sustained while training for Desert Storm at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Miller said the citation was "erroneously" issued because it did not comply with the Ameri-

cans with Disabilities Act of 1991. The warning also violates the Texas Transportation Code, the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations and "all applicable local, state, and federal laws," he said.

"This is more of a matter of principle rather than collecting damages," Miller said.

People who receive parking citations have the option to appeal.

To file an appeal, the person must first pay the ticket. It is then reviewed by a PPTS employee who handles appeals. If the employee cannot reach a decision, the PPTS appeal board, composed of students and faculty, evaluates it.

See CITATION, Page 14