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Corps commander, deputy chosen

Will McAdams, Aaron Kinsey to lead the Corps next year

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

Will McAdams and Aaron Kinsey were chosen as Corps of Cadets commander and deputy commander, respectively, for the 2003-2004 school year at the Sam Houston Sanders Corps Center on Friday.

"I consider the candidates to be some of the finest young men and women I have ever met," said Corps Commandant Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne. "The candidates were outstanding and it was not an easy job for this (selection) panel."

The two cadets were chosen among 27 candidates by an 18-member panel comprised of military officers and current cadet leaders.

McAdams, a cadet in Company E-1 and a junior political science major, currently serves as sergeant major of the Corps and will become the highest ranking cadet in the 2,000-member organization, which is the largest military officer training institution outside of the U.S. armed service academies.

McAdams is enrolled in Army ROTC and is seeking a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army after graduation.

McAdams said he is thankful for the trust the Corps staff and the senior cadets have given him throughout his cadet career.

"I will work ceaselessly to further the cause of the Corps," he said. "And I will also work to provide leaders for our military and our country."

Kinsey, a cadet in Squadron 2 and a junior accounting major, is currently the Corps public relations sergeant. He is enrolled in Air Force ROTC and will pursue a commission in the Air Force following graduation.

"I am taken out of breath by this announcement," he said. "I trust in Will and I to lead the Corps and take it in the direction Lt. Gen. Van Alstyne has set."

As deputy commander, Kinsey will help McAdams lead the Corps and will act as commander in McAdams' absence.

"Next year will be a big year for the Corps and I am looking forward to it," McAdams said. "The University is changing every day and the Corps will make every effort to change with it."



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General Commandant **John Van Alstyne** (left) shakes hands with the new Corps Commander **William McAdams** (right) while new Deputy Commander **Aaron Kinsey** (center) looks on.

Chokehold



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Computer engineering student **Jaime Lazcano** competes against Weatherford Junior College freshman **Joe Bob Adkins** during a Judo competition at the Student Recreation Center on Saturday

morning. The competition was part of the 2003 Texas Collegiate and High School Judo Championships that took place all day, with different weight categories in the men's and women's divisions.

Pick-A-Prof co-founders discuss options

By Melissa Fowler
THE BATTALION

Pick-A-Prof co-founders Chris Chilek and John Cunningham participated in the Conference on Student Government Associations to discuss how student governments can make the Web site's service free for students.

"A lot of student governments we work with ask us to attend conferences to explain our services to other student governments that might be interested in our site," said Karen Bragg, director of University Relations for Pick-A-Prof.

Pick-A-Prof (www.pick-a-prof.com) allows students to post professor reviews and rate professors based on their workloads, lecture styles and exam types. The site also offers grade distributions for each instructor.

When Chilek and Cunningham, both Class of 1999, founded the site three years ago, students could browse and post information

for free. Accessing the Pick-A-Prof site now costs \$5 a semester.

Texas A&M students can purchase this membership from the A&M Bookstore located in the Memorial Student Center and receive \$5 back when they use the Pick-A-Prof site to reserve their textbooks online from participating local bookstores. But the service is free for students at universities such as the University of Maryland, where the student government pays for the Pick-A-Prof service.

Bragg said some student governments pay the Pick-A-Prof fee for students, while others add it to student fees.

Brooks Landgraf, speaker of the A&M Student Senate, said no legislation pertaining to Pick-A-Prof is currently on its agenda, and declined to comment on whether the senate would take up the issue in the future.

The Student Government Association offers a grade distribution system similar to

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Turkey rejects U.S. military, Bush re-examines war plan

By Robert Burns
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Without Turkish bases to open a northern front against Iraq, the U.S. military could still take Baghdad, but with more difficulty and risk, officials and analysts said Sunday.

The U.S. war plan calls for attacks on Iraq from two directions, Kuwait in the south and Turkey in the north. That approach would complicate Iraq's defense planning and ease U.S. logistical problems.

In a weekend move that surprised U.S. officials, the Turkish Parliament rejected a motion that would have granted a U.S. request to position tens of thousands of ground forces for the assault into northern Iraq and to station about 200 additional strike aircraft at two other bases.

Defense officials, speaking Sunday on condition of anonymity, said Gen. Tommy Franks, who would command a U.S. war in Iraq, had not yet decided to give up on Turkey. Franks said in an Associated Press interview last week that his war plans are flexible and

take into account such problems.

If Turkish bases were not available to U.S. ground forces, Franks could opt to airlift a force into northern Iraq from Kuwait or elsewhere in the Persian Gulf. Instead of having the Army's 4th Infantry Division — a heavily armored force — roll into northern Iraq from Turkey, Franks might choose to use the 101st Airborne Division, a lighter, air mobile force.

"It's a huge setback for our purposes. It stunned me."

— Jay Rockefeller
Sen. D-W.Va.

It was not clear whether that was Turkey's last word on the matter. Reconsideration could come as early as Tuesday, but the head of Turkey's ruling party said Sunday there are no plans in the "foreseeable future" to

seek another parliamentary vote.

Still, a senior U.S. official said the administration was evaluating the situation but did not regard the vote as necessarily final.

Several senators were less sanguine on the Sunday television talk shows.

"It's a huge setback for our purposes. It stunned me," Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., ranking Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, said on CNN's "Late Edition." "We spent the last 50 years defending them in NATO. And along comes this opportunity, and by three votes they decline the opportunity to allow us to come in through the north."

Securing the peace once President Saddam Hussein's government had fallen also would be more problematic without Turkey, depending on the extent of the Turkish military's move into Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, said analyst Anthony Cordesman at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"We can work around it, but it does increase risk" before, during and after the fighting, Cordesman said.

Local child is diagnosed with bacterial meningitis

By Molly Cain
THE BATTALION

A local sixth-grader was hospitalized Friday after being diagnosed with a case of bacterial meningitis.

The Bryan-College Station Eagle reported March 1 that the unidentified student from Sam Rayburn Middle School was taken to a doctor Wednesday with a rash and a high fever. A spinal tap conducted at a local hospital confirmed the presence of the infection.

Bacterial, or meningococcal, meningitis is an

Bacterial Meningitis Symptoms

- Severe headache
- High fever
- Stiff neck
- Nausea



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SOURCE: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

inflammation of the tissues covering the brain and spinal cord. State health officials estimate that the bacteria that causes the infection lives in the throats and noses of nearly 15 percent of the population without making them sick.

If meningitis is diagnosed early and treated properly, the majority of people affected make a complete recovery, according to the Texas Department of Health.

The disease can be spread by coughing, sneezing, kissing or sharing utensils. It is not as contagious as the common cold and cannot be transmitted by casual contact or breathing the breath of an infected person.

Dr. Richard Conklin, a College Station physician who specializes in infectious diseases, said that although meningitis is not unique to college students, they should be wary of the symptoms.

"Don't wait around to see what develops, see your doctor immediately if you show signs of any symptoms," he said. "It is not a really big issue if it is caught early, but it will be if you let it go too long."

Brazos Valley physicians have reported an average of only one local case of bacterial meningitis each year. Statewide, there were 119 cases reported last year, a decrease from 198 in 2001, the Eagle reported.

The Texas Department of Health recommends certain at-risk groups such as college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls, be vaccinated.

Statistics affirm that the highest group at risk for meningitis is between the ages of 2 and 18. However, there is a risk for meningitis in all age groups.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that travel, school and large group attendance may continue as planned without fear of contracting meningitis.