

# THE BATTALION

109 Years Serving Texas A&M University

Volume 109 • Issue 147 • 6 pages

www.thebatt.com

Thursday, June 5, 2003

## Regents weigh Easterwood upgrade

By Rob Munson  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents will consider new ramp construction and taxiway improvements at Easterwood Airport today and Friday.

Funding for the new ramp, which would be built on the airport's west side, comes from a \$1.5 million grant from the Federal Aviation Administration's Aviation Improvement Program.

The retrograde improvements to the taxiway would add \$200,000 to

the Easterwood project.

John Happ, Easterwood Airport director of aviation, said the funding for the new ramp is already available but must be approved by the Board of Regents because the amount is in excess of \$1 million.

"We've always had support from the Board of Regents for any improvements for customer safety and service at Easterwood Airport," he said.

Happ said 30-50 planes would be able to park on the new ramp, and it would free up the airport's general runway in case of an emergency.

"The airport is extremely pleased that Representative Carter and Sen. Cornyn have continued to support by providing FAA grant money through the Aviation Improvement Program," he said.

Easterwood Airport is an auxiliary enterprise and receives no money from A&M.

Other construction would include a new hangar for Texas Task Force 1, the urban search-and-rescue team, on the airport's west side.

Bob Wright, A&M University System spokesman, said discussion on tuition increases will be pushed back to the next Board of Regents

meeting in July.

The Texas Legislature recently passed a bill deregulating tuition in the state, and the regents will wait to discuss any tuition increases until deregulation effects can be discussed, he said.

The board will also be asked to approve changes to plans for the new residence life headquarters.

The proposed changes call for a \$1.9 million increase to \$13.2 million and relocating the building's site.

The new site will be located west of Sbsa Dining Hall, next to Haas Residence Hall.

### BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

will consider:

- Taxiway and ramp for Easterwood Airport
- A new residence life headquarters

\* Tuition increases will be discussed at the July meeting

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## Chemistry of life

Cotton shares his research with inorganic chemistry classes

By Megan Orton  
THE BATTALION

Thirty-one years ago Dr. F. Albert Cotton came to Texas A&M with a passion for science.

Now that passion, combined with his feelings for A&M, has allowed Cotton to excel in the field of chemistry.

### FACULTY FACES

He recently coined the name tamiuic acid for a chemical compound used in research on the origins of colors, after the abbreviation TAMU commonly used for Texas A&M. Cotton also named a larger compound used in the research, texitic acid. "Not after t.u.," Cotton said. "Just after the state."

Although the two compounds are not new to science, practically nothing was known about them until now, Cotton said.

Since the systematic names for the compounds were long and complex, he chose tamiuic acid and texitic acid for what chemists call trivial names used during research.

Cotton teaches an advanced inorganic chemistry course for first-year graduate students and undergraduate seniors.

"I think I've always wanted to be in the academic environment," he said.

He said the one thing he can't live without is interesting work to do.

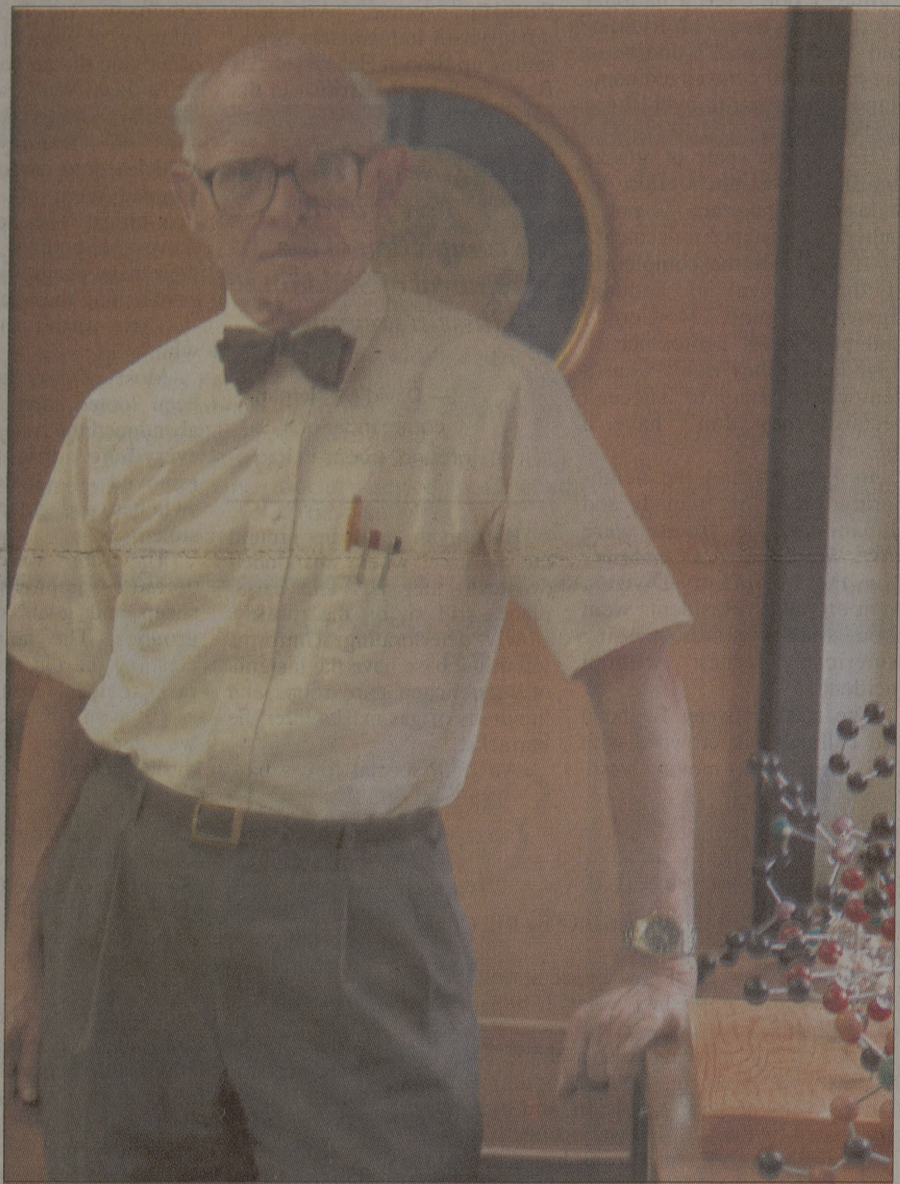
After receiving his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Temple University and his Ph.D. from Harvard, he taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 17 years before coming to A&M in 1972.

"The shift from MIT to Texas A&M was a big change, but I have no regrets at all. It was a good move," Cotton said.

Cotton's co-workers said he is a delight to work with.

"He is really fun to work with," said Beverly Moore, an administrative assistant in the chemistry department who has worked with Cotton for 12 years. "He has a dry sense of humor, but he's just a jewel."

Cotton and his family live on a ranch near College Station, where his daughter Jennifer raises, breeds, trains and shows horses. Cotton said horses are one of his



TERESA WEAVER • THE BATTALION

Dr. F. Albert Cotton has been a professor of inorganic chemistry at Texas A&M since 1972. Cotton recently named a chemical after A&M.

passions in life and has ridden them since his early 20s.

"They are just wonderful animals," he said. "They build your character, because you can't make a horse do anything, you have to persuade them."

Cotton said spending time with his family, reading biographies and listening to

music are also important activities in his life.

Cotton said he has been blessed and is glad he is where he is right now.

"Life has been great, and I wouldn't have missed it," he said. "Of course if I had missed it, I wouldn't have known how great it could be."

## Speeding tops traffic violations

By Rob Munson  
THE BATTALION

Running red lights and speeding top the list of traffic violations in Bryan-College Station, local authorities said.

Jason Page, a senior electrical engineering major, said College Station police have stopped him four times, and he knows three were avoidable.

"Twice I have been stopped for going maybe five miles per hour over the limit very early in the morning," he said. "They got me for running a red light the other time."

Page said he tries to adhere to traffic laws, particularly at night, because he knows police watch for intoxicated drivers.

"It's not uncommon for motorists to speed up to beat a red light," said Sgt. Ben Smith, head of Bryan Police Department's traffic division.

Smith said the small portion of college students who live in Bryan makes it hard to break-

down and identify specific driving behavior by age.

There are no known violations that are unique to college students, Smith said.

Smith said Bryan officers increase patrols during fraternity and sorority rush week, holidays, New Year's Eve and ChiliFest, but college students are not necessarily the target group for traffic stops or DWIs.

"We strongly encourage everybody to wear seat belts because we work too many accidents where lives could have been saved by seat belts," he said.

Smith said drivers should pay more attention to driving by staying off cell phones, watching for hazard vehicles and waiting a few seconds if they are the lead car at an intersection.

H.K. Pitts, a former driving education instructor and Texas Department of Public Safety

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### BAD DRIVERS BEWARE

Three most common driving errors:

- Failure to signal lane changes / turns
- Running red lights / speeding
- Failure to adjust driving to roadway and weather conditions

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: H.K. PITTS, BRYAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## U.S. troops move into area of Iraqi resistance

By Chris Tomlinson  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HABANIYAH, Iraq — In a high-profile show of force, the U.S. military poured more than 1,500 combat troops into a swath of central Iraq on Wednesday, signaling that any violent resistance to American occupation would be met with harsh punishment.

U.S. troops, sweeping out dust and sifting through debris left by looters, set up their headquarters at two Iraqi air bases and a railroad station outside Fallujah and Habaniyah, cities where anti-American demonstrations and attacks have been particularly aggressive.

Commanders have tripled the number of troops around the cities in a bid to quell supporters of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party and decrease the sniping at American patrols that has killed two U.S. servicemen at a checkpoint. Conservative Sunni Muslims wield great influence in the communities.

No immediate problems were reported as the forces deployed.

The combat troops from the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd

Brigade arrived to take over the area from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Two battalion-sized task forces took up positions around the city of Fallujah, 30 miles west of Baghdad; another task force took over two military airfields in Habaniyah, five miles farther west.

Two major highways connecting Baghdad to Syria and Jordan run through the two cities, where about 300 soldiers from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment have maintained a mostly symbolic presence.

But after violent demonstrations and several attacks on U.S. troops, commanders decided to send in the battle-tested 2nd Brigade, which captured most of Baghdad during the war.

In addition to patrolling the area, the brigade will also work with local leaders on community service projects at schools and hospitals to improve relations with residents.

Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, commander of American ground forces in Iraq, said he doubted

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## Mideast leaders take first steps toward peace

By Terence Hunt  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AQABA, Jordan — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas launched a groundbreaking peace plan Wednesday with President Bush's encouragement, offering once-unthinkable pledges in hopes of ending decades of Mideast bloodshed.

In statements choreographed by the United States, Sharon promised to immediately begin dismantling unauthorized Jewish outposts on the West Bank, while Abbas — speaking in Arabic — explicitly asserted that the "armed intefadeh must end," referring to the Palestinians' 32-month uprising against Israel.

"Our goal is clear and we

will implement it firmly and without compromise: a complete end to violence and terrorism," Abbas promised.

Sharon and Abbas stood alongside Bush and Jordan's King Abdullah II at matching lectures set up at the monarch's summer palace on the Gulf of Aqaba. "Good job," Bush quietly remarked as each prime minister completed his address.

The summit had as much symbolism as substance. What was important was that television audiences throughout the Mideast saw Sharon, Israel's most prominent hawk, and Abbas, the new Palestinian prime minister, shake hands and agree to plunge ahead with difficult commitments to achieve peace. And just as importantly, Bush stood before the cameras

### Leaders pledge Mideast cooperation

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas each made concessions Wednesday at a Mideast summit with President Bush in Jordan.



Abbas

► Acknowledged Israel's right to exist side by side with a Palestinian state.

► Vowed to end terror attacks on all Israelis, implying an inclusion of soldiers and settlers.

► Pledged to allow weapons only in the hands of those in charge of upholding law and order.



Sharon

► "Immediately begin to remove unauthorized outposts" in the West Bank.

► Accepted the principle of a Palestinian state.

► Government understands "the importance of territorial contiguity" in the West Bank, instead of disconnected parcels of land.



Bush

► Promised training and support for a "new, restructured Palestinian security service."

► Appointed longtime diplomat John Wolf to head U.S. "mission on the ground" to help the parties and monitor progress.

SOURCES: Summit transcript; Associated Press

AP

and pledged to stay involved, staking his prestige on an endeavor that has no guarantee of success.

"The failures and frustrations of the past have left many disbelievers in their wake,"

Abdullah said he declared support for the peace plan. Bush told reporters later he was cautious about the outcome because other efforts have failed, most

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