

THE BATTALION

109 Years Serving Texas A&M University

Volume 109 • Issue 163 • 6 pages

www.thebatt.com

Thursday, July 3, 2003

A&M to receive \$8M for terrorism research

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

A bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee last week, written by U.S. Rep. John Carter, will award Texas A&M \$8 million in funding for counter-terrorism research and other projects.

The Department of Defense appropriations bill is for fiscal year 2004. "These funds will help develop the next generation of technology that will

help us win the war on terrorism," Carter said.

The money will be split between two projects: \$5 million will go toward a quantum optical science and engineering joint project with The University of Texas and Rice University, and \$3 million will be used for a project with UT involving systems for sampling and detecting bioaerosols.

Cathy Reiley, assistant vice chancellor for external affairs, said the field of quantum optics leads to applications of

national security, including laser anthrax detectors, new kinds of submarine detectors and optical trip wires.

The bioaerosol sampling and detection developmental project will be coordinated with the needs of the U.S. Army to produce lightweight, low-power bioaerosol sampling devices that can be remotely operated for extended periods of time, she said.

Carter said that through these projects, important advancements will be made in the fields that counteract vari-

ous types of terrorist attacks. He described laser technology that, when beamed through an area, would show hazardous particles in the air.

"In the event of another raid on the post office this technology can be set up, and it will 'see' any anthrax in the air," he said.

Carter also received approval of his request for additional funds for the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, which was created by Congress in 1998 and is

located at A&M.

Past funding has enabled the development of training programs that prepare first responders to act in response to weapons of mass destruction. The program currently consists of eight incident response courses and will increase to 17 courses thanks to the incoming funds.

"These funds will continue our important mission of preparing state

See **Terrorism** on page 2

Food for thought

Ag prof Rosson studies international agriculture for the U.S.

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

Being exposed to agriculture through a family-owned farm, grain elevator, cotton gin and farm supply store, C. Parr Rosson III became interested in the field at a young age.



Rosson, a professor of agricultural economics, was recently appointed a member of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in grains, feed and oil seeds.

Rosson grew up in Taft, Texas, a town 18 miles outside of Corpus Christi. He received three degrees from Texas A&M including a bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1971. Rosson received a master's degree and a Ph.D. from A&M, both in agricultural economics.

Rosson spent several years working at Clemson University, but he has been teaching at A&M since 1989. He teaches two courses, international trade in agriculture and international agribusiness marketing.

"I really enjoy what I do and I really enjoy doing it here in Texas," Rosson said. "It's partly related to being able to identify with the agriculture in the state and the people who operate production, marketing and distribution in the state."

Rosson spent six years serving in the U.S. Army before returning to A&M to do graduate work. He said his time serving helped him develop focus and discipline and improved his ability to work with others.

His work in the Army helped motivate him to work on an international level.

"Most of my interest in international activities came about from traveling," Rosson said. "(It gave me) a deeper understanding of international policy."



TERESA WEAVER • THE BATTALION

Professor C. Parr Rosson III teaches upper level international agricultural economics classes at Texas A&M. He is a director at the Center for North American Studies at A&M and also a United States trade representative for the Agriculture Trade Advisor Commission.

Rosson also works with NAFTA, analyzing border agriculture-related disputes between the United States and Mexico, and the United States and Canada.

"We began to do some

assessments of what NAFTA might mean for Texas agriculture," he said.

Rosson has also studied how irrigation water shared between Texas and Mexico can affect crops such as cotton, citrus fruit

and sugar cane.

"It helps to have some insight on how those things will affect Texas," Rosson said.

Rosson also serves as the

See **Rosson** on page 2

Officials promote safety this Fourth

By Megan Orton
THE BATTALION

The College Station and Bryan Police Departments are warning local residents that they will crack down on fireworks and alcohol code violations to make sure patrons celebrate safely this Fourth of July.

To avoid getting in trouble, officials said the best way to celebrate safely is to enjoy a professional fireworks display such as the one at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex, and to celebrate in moderation.

Bart Humphreys, College Station Fire Department public information officer, said residents need to consider the consequences before they use any type of fireworks.

"Possession, use and sale of fireworks within 5,000 feet of the city limits is a Class C misdemeanor and is punishable by fines up to \$2,000," he said.

Humphreys said there are some guidelines everyone needs to follow when using fireworks: always read and follow label instructions; have an adult

present and never give fireworks to small children; only buy fireworks from reliable sellers and never attempt to make your own fireworks; malfunctioning fireworks should never be re-lit and make sure to only ignite one device at a time.

The Texas Department of Transportation has stepped up law enforcement aimed at drunken drivers as part of a nationwide effort to get impaired drivers off streets and highways. Texas currently leads the nation in alcohol-related deaths and officials hope to reduce alcohol-related crashes this summer.

The campaign, headed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, prompted TxDOT to institute a stepping-up of statewide enforcement from June 27 through July 13. New television and radio announcements will be aired to institute the "Drink, Drive, Go to Jail" message.

"Our message to all drivers is simple and direct: If you drink and drive, you

See **Fourth** on page 2

Independence Day Precautions

- Go to professional fireworks shows
- The sale, use and possession within 5000 feet of city limits is illegal
- Have a designated driver
- Limit noise. Bryan Police Department has issued a zero tolerance policy



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: COLLEGE STATION FIRE DEPARTMENT, BRYAN POLICE

West Nile virus reappears in Brazos Valley

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Brazos County health officials are warning residents to take precautions after two dead birds found in Bryan tested positive for the mosquito-borne West Nile virus.

The two birds were found at Carrabba Street and Old Kurten Road. Infected mosquitoes were also found at a house on Redbud Street off South College Avenue in Bryan.

The virus appeared in Texas a year ago and made its way to the Brazos Valley last September.

Dr. Jim Olson, an entomologist in the College of Veterinary Medicine, said he was predicting the virus to return to the area eventually, but not this early. Right now, he said, residents need to take precautions.

"I say don't panic, protect," he said.

Olson said it was important

for residents to keep mosquitoes out of the house because that is where he sees the biggest problem.

Don Plitt, who is in charge of coordinating Brazos County's response to West Nile, said to follow the "four D's" to decrease the risk of contracting the virus. They include: staying indoors at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active, dressing in long sleeves and pants, using repellent with the chemical DEET outside, and draining standing water from tires, flowerpots and clogged rain gutters.

Plitt said with the summer just beginning, he knows it will be hard for people to take the advice to stay inside. He said people had an easier time obliging last year because when the virus arrived, the summer had ended.

"This year (the virus) popped up early," he said.

Plitt said that larvicide dunks, which can be placed in

WEST NILE VIRUS

The 4 precautionary D's

DUSK/DAWN	Stay inside at dusk and dawn
DRESS	Dress in long sleeves and pants
DEET	Use a repellent with the chemical DEET
DRAIN	Drain standing water from property

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: BRAZOS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

standing water to kill mosquito larva before they become adults, are an inexpensive, effective way to deter mosquitoes from biting.

Those who are bitten have a slight chance of contracting the virus, Plitt said. "Fewer than 1 percent of those bitten become severely ill. That is one in about 100, so it is a small chance."

The virus affected 200 of Texas' 254 counties last year, Olson said. Birds contract the disease and pass it on to mosquitoes that feed on them. The mosquitoes can pass the virus to humans and animals while they bite and take blood.

Plitt said it is up to the

See **West Nile** on page 2

Man sentenced to 15 years in post-step show robbery

Staff & Wire

A man convicted of robbing two Prairie View men outside of Reed Arena with a handgun was sentenced to 15 years in prison Monday.

Cornelius Quana Ferrell, 21, of Dallas, pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated robbery and will serve at least half of his sentence before he has the option of parole.

Two victims flagged down a University Police Department officer and told him that they had been robbed in the Reed Arena parking lot after the Feb. 23 Greek Olympiad Step Show.

According to police reports, the victims said Ferrell and three other men approached them and asked if they wanted to return to Ferrell's Ramada Inn hotel room to party. Ferrell

then asked the victims for change for a \$100 bill. When the victims said they didn't have change, Ferrell pulled a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun and demanded their money.

They handed over approximately \$1,000.

The police went to the Ramada Inn and arrested Ferrell and three other men with him.

The other three men were later released because the victims could not positively identify them as having been involved in the robbery, according to the Bryan-College Station Eagle.

Rob Neal, Ferrell's attorney, could not be reached for comment.

UPD documented 19 vehicles broken into or vandalized and shots fired into the air after the show.