

Thousands protest army training school

BY JON CUSTER
INDEPENDENT FLORIDA ALLIGATOR
(UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)

COLUMBUS, GA. (U-WIRE) — Two years ago, the U.S. Congress shut down the long-protested School of the Americas, which trained battalions of Latin American soldiers — some of whom went on to commit brutal war crimes.

But the thousands of protesters who gathered outside Fort Benning, Ga., on Sunday say the new Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation is the

same school in a new disguise.

The institute occupies the same seemingly innocuous pink complex of classrooms, libraries and auditoriums as the SOA and still offers U.S. military training to selected soldiers from Latin America and the Caribbean.

But Col. Richard Downing, the school's amiable, fast-talking new commandant, points out a raft of changes that differentiate his school from the "Cold War dinosaur" it replaced — changes the protesters insist are superficial.

The new institute features

mandatory human-rights instruction, tougher screening for recruits and an oversight board of congressional representatives, academics and military brass.

"We want to be sure they're trained to deal with the challenges of the 21st century," Downing said of his students. "I can't think of a better role model than our military and police."

All students are required to take a minimum of eight hours of human-rights instruction, with up to one week offered in the school's yearlong officer-training

course, Downing said.

Gail Taylor, legislative director for the SOA Watch group that organized the protest, dismissed the changes as a diversion.

"It's still a combat training school," she said. "They're teaching combat tactics, and (the graduates) are using these tactics against the civilian population."

She also derided the Board of Visitors, an oversight committee with members appointed by the secretary of defense. Dennis Jett, dean of the University of Florida's international center, is the

board's chairman.

"The Board of Visitors is a joke," Taylor said. "They don't have a mandate — it's a distractor."

But Jett said the board is essential because it allows a group outside the institution to offer opinions. He also said the protesters use faulty reasoning.

"I would agree there is a problem of Latin American militaries abusing human rights," he said. "That's not a result of the training that's provided. I think our training makes a positive contribution."

Screenings delay international students

BY NICK CHAPIN
CAVALIER DAILY (U. VIRGINIA)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. (U-WIRE) — Increased security screening of prospective international students by the State Department is keeping some out of school, a recent study found.

The study, conducted by National Association for Foreign Student Affairs, the Association of International Educators and the Association of American Universities, found that hundreds of students and scholars have missed programs because of the increased scrutiny of those seeking visas for scholarly work.

"It's never been like this before," said Richard Tanson, international students and scholars adviser at the University of Virginia.

Tanson reported that 20 incoming university students were not able to arrive for the

fall semester this year because of prolonged visa screenings.

Most of the students delayed because of security screenings were from Southeast Asian Islamic nations, Tanson said.

The study shows that at 77 surveyed institutions, the number of enrolled international students has continued to rise, as has been the trend in past years, though the increase might be leveling out. The number of international students and scholars actually attending these schools, however, has decreased.

According to the survey, many students, professors and researchers have been forced to go to other countries or refrain from their work, resulting in high costs to the individuals and the institutions involved.

The new screening procedures, which are only now going into effect, are causing those involved in international education to adjust application

scheduling.

"We hope there aren't going to be continued delays for legitimate students trying to come here, but we are entering a new system and are certainly in transition," said William Quandt, vice provost for international affairs at the University of Virginia.

"However, we hope the State Department won't unfairly make it harder for students to get visas because of their nation of origin — we can deal with a new time frame, but only if it is done in a fair way," he said.

Tanson shared Quandt's fear, citing poor execution of new policy to date as evidence.

"I do not have confidence in the State Department's ability to screen entrance," Tanson said. "So long as the government does its job, there is no problem, but if I said that those in my profession thought the INS and the State Department are doing the job they are mandated to do, I

would be lying."

Sahil Sethi, a second-year international student from India, which is reported to suffer from increased difficulty in getting visas, said international students go through a lot to get into schools and can suffer greatly from withheld visas.

"You go through SATs, exams and admission, and if you don't get a visa, you might not have applied to any schools in your home country," Sethi said.

"Students are relying on their admission, and it hurts a lot if the visa is rejected."

While members of the university community agreed that new regulations are important for national security, they expressed fear and frustration over the prospect of sanctions that are not efficiently and uniformly executed.

"They need to get their act together," Tanson said.

Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Baghdad after a four-year absence.

Asked by reporters if Iraq would meet the deadline, presidential adviser Amir al-Saadi responded in English: "Yes. Within 30 days (of passage of the U.N. resolution), as the resolution says, a report from Iraq will be submitted on all the files of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile files."

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the Iraqi delegation had confirmed it had not developed any nuclear weapons capacity since inspectors left Iraq in December 1998 ahead of U.S. bombing strikes on Baghdad. Iraq did not allow inspectors to return.

Earlier, ElBaradei told Associated Press Television News and Egypt's Nile television that Iraq promised to declare "all of its activities in the chemical, biological and nuclear fields, even those of civilian use."

ElBaradei, speaking in Arabic, said the Iraqis were co-

operating so far and had pledged to continue doing so. "We hope that this oral commitment will be translated into fact when we begin inspections next week," he added.

Al-Saadi, asked if Iraq was prepared to grant inspectors unfettered access, replied: "Yes, as stipulated in the resolution and as we have agreed with them."

The inspections are considered President Saddam Hussein's last chance to avoid war with the United States. Washington has said toppling Saddam might be the only way to contain the threat it believes Iraq poses to the world with nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Blix and his team arrived in Baghdad on Monday as allied warplanes bombed Iraqi air defense systems in the northern no-fly zone. The U.S. military said the attack was launched after Iraqi gunners fired on the jets during routine patrols.

In Washington, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said

the Iraqi anti-aircraft fire "appears to be a violation" of the latest U.N. Security Council resolution.

However, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan took issue with that interpretation, telling reporters in Kosovo, "I don't think the council will say that this is in contravention of the resolution that was recently passed."

Iraq must provide proof it no longer has weapons of mass destruction before the Dec. 8 deadline.

The 15-member council never explicitly approved the flights over northern and southern Iraq, which Baghdad con-

siders violations of its sovereignty. U.N. Ambassador Wang Yingfan of China, a veto-wielding member of the council, said Beijing had "a different understanding" than Washington about whether Iraq's anti-aircraft fire violated the new resolution.

The United States is anxious for intrusive inspections to determine as soon as possible whether Iraq is serious about cooperating. Blix, a 74-year-old Swedish diplomat, favors a more

cautious approach aimed at building trust with the Iraqis, who resent the entire inspection program.

In Moscow, Iraq's ambassador to Russia repeated Baghdad's long-standing contention it no longer has weapons of mass destruction, saying it would not be possible to hide them in presidential palaces and mosques — sensitive sites to which inspectors are now permitted free access.

"It's clear to everyone that for the storage of nuclear warheads, certain conditions, certain procedures, are necessary," Ambassador Abbas Khalaf said. "A nuclear weapon can't be hidden under a pillow."

The U.N. team must verify Iraq is free of proscribed weapons before the U.N. Security Council will lift strict economic sanctions imposed after Saddam invaded Kuwait in 1990.

ElBaradei said that if Iraq cooperates with inspectors, they can report within one year to the Security Council that conditions have been met for suspending sanctions on Iraq. Later, after further checks, he said sanctions could be lifted.

Fire

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

complete, the fire department tried to get as much water out as possible. Firefighters left at about 5:30 p.m.

Senate Plaza is an old building without a sprinkler system.

Floyd said putting out the fire would have taken less time and less damage would have been done had the residents installed a sprinkler system. He said everyone living in high rises should have a sprinkler system.

"It's like having a fireman on every floor in every apartment," Floyd said. "A system could have put the fire out before it spread."

Deputy Fire Marshall Carmen Floyd said the only USC residence halls with sprinkler systems are the four new Greek houses and, recently, Bates House.

Information was not available about whether other residence halls would get sprinkler systems.

Comments on this story? E-mail
gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

Cop cars might be used for ad space

BY WAYNE PARRY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTH BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Cash-strapped police departments around the country are considering selling advertising space on their patrol cars — an idea that has some officers worried they will get stuck driving around with a really embarrassing ad.

"I don't want my officers driving around in a car that says, 'Trojan: Ribbed for extra pleasure,'" said Louis Napoletano, public safety director of Long Branch. "We've come a long way to be perceived as professional, and this would set us way back."

Government Acquisitions LLC, a company in Charlotte, N.C., started selling the ads about two months ago.

The deal works like this: A police department agrees to put ads on its patrol cars, usually on the hoods or on the side and rear. In return, Government Acquisitions provides new patrol cars to the department for \$1, and replaces them every three years. The company keeps the ad revenue.

So far, 20 mostly smaller municipalities around the country have signed contracts, and scores of other cities have expressed interest, said Ken Allison, president of Government Acquisitions. The first cars should be delivered within a few months.

Greek Parking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mit was sent out, Parking Services did not reiterate that the permit was for a semester.

"It wasn't a situation where we were trying to cause problems — we were trying to promote convenience," Huggins said.

He said Parking Services was trying to make it so that the permit itself was good for a whole

year, but the fee for it had to be paid each semester. This was so that students would not have to go to Parking Services every few months to renew their permits; if they decided they did not want to live in the Village anymore, they could simply turn their permits over to the house director, who would return them to Parking Services.

"The intentions were to cut down on the task of having to send out renewal cards to that area every three months," Huggins said. "But it seems we're going to have to expire them (the permit) each semester."

He said the problem will be fixed next year, when the permit's cost will be stated more clearly. Huggins said the cost to

park in the Village will be \$100 per semester.

Wooten, however, thinks Greeks shouldn't have to pay to park in the Village; she said it is just like any other residence hall on campus.

"Because we live here, we should be able to park here without paying \$100 a semester," she said. Wooten compared the fee to park in the Greek Village to the fee paid by many who park in garages, which can cost \$160 a semester.

The cost of parking will help pay for guards, cleanup, maintenance and timed parking spots.

He said that when huge events take place at the Carolina Center or the Carolina Coliseum, USC has to pay guards to make sure no one parks in the Greek Village to go to these events; the money from the permits will be used to pay the guards.

"We're trying to make sure they have ample parking close to their houses," Huggins said. "The only way we can enforce that is to assign it."

Comments on this story? E-mail
gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

Five Points HOT SPOTS

GARIBALDI
Cafe
SINCE 1986

FRESH LOCAL SEAFOOD
COMFORTING ITALIAN FARE
HOME OF THE CRISPY FLOUNDER

Open nightly
5:30 PM

2013 GREENE STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29205
(803) 771-8888

★
Put
Christ-
mas from
the Blossom
Shop under the
tree, on the tree &
all through the house.



2001 DEVINE STREET □ FIVE POINTS □ 799-3730