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Haiti rebel camp found in Florida

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Following a dead man's trial, officers slogged deep into the Everglades Wednesday and arrested 12 heavily armed men. Police said the men were training in a jungle camp for an invasion of Haiti.

The men, 10 Haitian exiles and two men identified as Americans in charge of the camp, were dressed in camouflage uniforms.

Unofficial sources said the Americans were former members of the Green Berets, the Army's Special Forces trained to aid guerrillas.

MONROE County Sheriff Robert Brown said the raiding party of deputies was alerted to the existence of the camp some 50 miles into the swamp by Florida state troopers.

A patrol spokesman said troopers answering a telephoned report of shooting in the area stopped a car carrying a wounded man. Whoever was with the wounded man apparently told the troopers about the camp, said the spokesman.

Gerald D. Baker, who had been shot in the chest, was dead on arrival at a Miami hospital. "He apparently was shot during a training maneuver in which live ammunition was used," Brown said.

However, Eugene L. Maximilian, Haitian consul general in Miami, said he had learned that Baker was shot after a falling out among the trainees.

"It's my understanding that an argument broke out, and Baker received a .22-caliber bullet in the chest," Maximilian said. "He was losing blood and one of his friends was taking him for help."

BROWN SAID the former Green Berets were identified as Edward Koldy, 33, and William J. Dempsey, 26. Although both were listed as Americans, Maximilian said Dempsey was a Canadian citizen.

"The federal people are looking into that with deportation in mind," said one of Brown's lieutenants. No home town was listed for either man.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said it was notified of the raid but was not involved in the case. There was no immediate comment from other U.S. government agencies.

Maximilian said it was believed that other trainees now in New York and the Bahamas were expected to join the Everglades group.

Last May, Haitian President Francois Duvalier's government said it crushed an invasion, killing 10 and capturing 16 invaders and seizing two B-25 bombers.