

## Top A&M adviser resigns after resume questioned

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A high-ranking Texas A&M University administrator resigned Friday amid questions about his resume's claims that he was a former Navy SEAL with a doctorate from Tufts University.

Records obtained by the Bryan-College Station Eagle indicate Alexander Kemos was never part of the elite military force. And an official with Tufts said Kemos did not even finish his master's program, a requirement for the \$300,000-a-year job in which he served as the top adviser to Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin.

Kemos resigned Friday as senior vice president for administration, effective immediately, A&M spokesman Jason Cook told the Eagle. Kemos cited a desire to spend more time with his family, Loftin said.

The newspaper said it could not reach Kemos for comment, and Kemos did not return a phone message from The Associated Press.

Kemos claimed he had been a Navy SEAL in his online biography, his resume and introductions at university events. But no one with the last name Kemos has ever attended Basic Underwater Demolition/Seal training, said Cmdr. Greg Giesen, a public affairs officer with the Naval Special Warfare Command.

"If a person has not graduated from BUD/S, they are not and were never a SEAL," he wrote in an e-mail to the newspaper. "Any claims that their names are withheld because all their missions were 'Top Secret' or 'of course they won't confirm my service, it's classified' is all Hollywood pop-fiction."

A letter from the Military Personnel Records division of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis states that officials there conducted "extensive searches" of every records source available to them.

"However, we have been unable to locate any information that would help us verify the veteran's military service," the letter said.

Kemos' hiring at Texas A&M as associate executive vice president for operations was announced in February 2009 by H. Russell Cross, then executive vice president for operations. Cross referred seven times to "Dr. Kemos" in a campus-wide e-mail, stating that he received a master's degree and doctorate from the Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Loftin announced in March that Kemos had been selected as senior vice president for administration. Loftin also referred several times to "Dr. Kemos."

According to the Massachusetts school, Kemos was enrolled as an international relations major in the master's law and diplomacy program from September 1987 to May 1989, and the doctoral program from September 1990 until December 1994, but did not complete either program's requirements.

"(He) has therefore not earned those degrees," stated a letter dated June 10 from registrar assistant Michael Yarsky.