

TEXAS FIGHT

The History of Naval ROTC at The University of Texas at Austin

Volume II
1960 - 1980

Edwin W. Mergele, III, CDR USN (Ret)

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Mergele, Jr., who both majored in history at The University of Texas and inspired in me an appreciation for that subject. Dad served in the Coast Guard (under the Department of the Navy) during WWII, in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, and was recalled by the Navy for the Korean War. He instilled in me an appreciation for the sea services and, in general, service to my country.

I especially recognize the WWII NROTC alumni at Texas, many of whom it's been my privilege to become personally acquainted with, and many of whom helped me document the early years of the unit.

Lastly, to all the other men and women who have stood the watch to preserve our liberty and freedom, I also dedicate this work.

Foreword



TEXAS FIGHT, The History of Naval ROTC at The University of Texas at Austin is an engrossing account of the Unit's history, and we are indebted to Ed Mergele for the research, dedication and determination leading to publication. So to Ed we say Bravo Zulu, the signal flags for "WELL DONE."

He is to be especially commended for resurrecting the history of the classes 1947-50, a time of transition from wartime to peacetime. Almost overnight, uniforms changed to civilian clothing and the student goal was to finish one's degree plan, graduate, get a job, start a family and lay the foundation for living happily ever after. The exceptions were those who had chosen the Navy as a career, very few in fact, and who were viewed by many as strange. Today they perhaps would have been identified as thinking outside the box! Our population then was about 130 million in the U.S.

Ed's book captures the spirit of the times, and one reads the book and is reminded of the marvelous experience of student life at the time. We had won the war, all the bad guys were being held accountable, the job market offered many opportunities, and the Nation was happy! Today our population is about 320 million, on its way to 500 million by the end of the century.

Ed's book is a time capsule and helps us to recall that Texas is a great state true to its pioneering heritage, and a beacon of independence and freedom.

Kenneth G. Haynes, UT 1947
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Preface | 1 |
| Introduction | 4 |
| Chapter 6 – Vietnam Years (1960-1975) | 1 |
| <i>Navy – Team of the Decade</i> | 1 |
| Academic Year 1960..... | 2 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 2 |
| <i>Navy is Intramural Sports (IMS) Club Division Runner-Up</i> | 3 |
| <i>Chronometers Compared</i> | 5 |
| Academic Year 1961..... | 6 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 6 |
| <i>Navy is IMS Club Division Champion</i> | 8 |
| <i>A Tale of Two Buddies</i> | 8 |
| <i>Bay of Pigs Invasion</i> | 9 |
| <i>First American in Space</i> | 9 |
| <i>Tensions Mount in Europe</i> | 10 |
| Academic Year 1962..... | 10 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 10 |
| <i>Buccaneers: Separate from the Battalion</i> | 11 |
| <i>Navy is IMS Club Division Champion</i> | 12 |
| <i>NESEPs on Campus – First Evidence</i> | 13 |
| <i>Sea and Anchor Details</i> | 13 |
| Academic Year 1963..... | 14 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 14 |
| <i>Longhorn Log Debuts</i> | 14 |
| <i>Navy is IMS Club Division Champion</i> | 18 |
| <i>Navy Sponsor Program Becomes Sweetheart Competition</i> | 20 |
| <i>Cuban Missile Crisis</i> | 20 |
| <i>First Flag Officer Selected (Unit Staff)</i> | 21 |
| <i>Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Signed</i> | 21 |
| Academic Year 1964..... | 21 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 21 |
| <i>Navy is IMS Club Division Champion</i> | 24 |
| <i>Navy Sweetheart Ascends to a “Queen and Her Court”</i> | 25 |
| <i>A Tale of Two Buddies</i> | 26 |
| <i>President Kennedy is Assassinated</i> | 26 |
| <i>UT Football is No. 1</i> | 27 |
| <i>Segregation Ended on UT Campus</i> | 27 |
| <i>ROTC Rifle Range Designed</i> | 27 |
| Academic Year 1965..... | 27 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 27 |
| <i>Double-Hatted XO and MOI</i> | 28 |
| <i>Navy is IMS Club Division Champion</i> | 31 |
| <i>Sweetheart and her Court Become Navy Sweethearts</i> | 31 |
| <i>Command History Reports Obtained</i> | 32 |
| Academic Year 1966..... | 32 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 32 |
| <i>ROTC Rifle Range Opened</i> | 34 |
| <i>Navy is IMS Club Division Champion</i> | 34 |
| <i>Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Dies</i> | 35 |

| | |
|---|----|
| "Charlie" Returns to Austin | 36 |
| Academic Year 1967 | 36 |
| Statistics: | 36 |
| Semper Fidelis Society Appears | 38 |
| Navy is IMS Club Division Runner-Up..... | 39 |
| Farrah Fawcett, Navy Sweetheart..... | 40 |
| NENEP Program Comes to UT | 41 |
| Chronometers Compared..... | 41 |
| Youngest Professor of Naval Science | 42 |
| Academic Year 1968..... | 42 |
| Statistics: | 42 |
| Supply Option Instruction Ends | 42 |
| The Buccaneers: Part of the Battalion Again..... | 43 |
| Navy is IMS Club Division Champion | 44 |
| Academic Year 1969..... | 46 |
| Statistics: | 46 |
| Navy is IMS Club Division Champion | 48 |
| Wishbone Leads to No. 1, Sort Of..... | 49 |
| Burnt Orange Returns to Texas..... | 49 |
| Sea and Anchor Details..... | 50 |
| Governor W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel Dies..... | 50 |
| Man First Lands on the Moon..... | 50 |
| Crow's Nest Needs Help..... | 51 |
| Academic Year 1970..... | 51 |
| Statistics: | 51 |
| 1st Lt James A. Burns – Killed in Action | 51 |
| NROTC Joins Praetorian Guard..... | 53 |
| Navy is IMS Club Division Champion | 53 |
| A Tale of Two Buddies..... | 54 |
| UT NROTC Alumnus Walks on the Moon | 55 |
| "Game of the Century"..... | 55 |
| Midshipmans Foundation is Born | 56 |
| Academic Year 1971..... | 57 |
| Statistics: | 57 |
| Navy is IMS Club Division Runners-Up | 60 |
| State of Texas Recognizes Midshipmans Foundation..... | 61 |
| Black Mac Retires from the Navy | 62 |
| Author Enters NROTC Program | 62 |
| Texas Football Again No. 1 | 63 |
| New NROTC Unit: Prairie View A&M | 63 |
| Missing Weapon Routine..... | 64 |
| Author's 3 rd Class Cruise | 66 |
| Author Meets Ken Haynes '47 | 67 |
| The Money in Your Pocket | 68 |
| Academic Year 1972..... | 68 |
| Statistics: | 68 |
| NESEPs First Appear in Cactus | 71 |
| ROTC Building Renamed | 72 |
| Author's 2 nd Class Cruise..... | 73 |
| Academic Year 1973..... | 75 |
| Statistics: | 75 |
| NROTC Stipend is Raised..... | 75 |
| NROTC Comes to Texas A&M..... | 78 |
| ROTC Building Rededicated..... | 78 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>President Lyndon B. Johnson Dies</i> | 78 |
| <i>Paris Peace Accords Signed; The Draft Ends</i> | 79 |
| Academic Year 1974 | 80 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 80 |
| <i>Navy Sweethearts Become Anchorettes</i> | 83 |
| <i>NROTC Open to Women</i> | 83 |
| <i>Author's 1st Class Cruise</i> | 84 |
| <i>Crow's Nest Moves</i> | 85 |
| <i>First Flag Officer Selected (Alumni)</i> | 87 |
| <i>Author Travels Back in Time</i> | 88 |
| Academic Year 1975 | 88 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 88 |
| <i>Author Interviews with ADM Hyman G. Rickover</i> | 92 |
| <i>Fall of Saigon – Vietnam Conflict Ends</i> | 93 |
| <i>Sea and Anchor Details</i> | 93 |
| <i>Author Commissioned ENS USN</i> | 93 |
| <i>Surface Warfare Officer – New Navy Designator</i> | 94 |
| <i>First Mention of an Alumni Association</i> | 94 |
| Chapter 7 – World Tensions (1976-1990) | 95 |
| Academic Year 1976 | 95 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 95 |
| <i>NESEPs Start Integration with Battalion</i> | 95 |
| <i>First Female Battalion Commander</i> | 95 |
| <i>Longhorn Log on Hiatus</i> | 99 |
| <i>Navy's 200th Birthday!</i> | 99 |
| <i>Big Changes for NESEPs</i> | 99 |
| <i>Naval Orange, the Unit Newsletter, Debuts</i> | 100 |
| <i>Ensign Ed's Excellent Adventures</i> | 100 |
| <i>UT Alumni Meet on Albany</i> | 102 |
| <i>ASNE Student Chapter Started</i> | 102 |
| <i>The Crow's Nest Moves</i> | 103 |
| <i>Author Thrown in the "Briar Patch"</i> | 103 |
| Academic Year 1977 | 104 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 104 |
| <i>MECEP Arrives on Campus</i> | 106 |
| Academic Year 1978 | 107 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 107 |
| <i>Ensign Ed's Excellent Adventures Continue</i> | 112 |
| Academic Year 1979 | 113 |
| <i>Statistics:</i> | 113 |
| <i>Shah of Iran Deposed</i> | 117 |
| <i>2nd Class Cruise</i> | 118 |
| <i>Naval Reserve and More UT Alumni</i> | 118 |
| About the Author | 119 |

Preface

I have always been a history buff. Both my parents were history majors at UT, so it was only natural that the affinity rubbed off on me. I have also been very interested in building the history of the NROTC Unit at Texas and the larger history of the naval presence on the UT campus. Having taken over the alumni newsletter editor's job in 2009 from Bob Looney '62, I found myself in the position of acquiring, researching and writing material about this subject and sharing it with other alumni through the newsletter, NROTC Alumni Log. When I took on the webmaster duties in 2011 from Bob Collins '68, I was further inspired to dig into the past and start piecing things together.

I attended UT from the fall of 1970 to the spring of 1975. I was an architecture major, and the curriculum for that degree spanned five years. I had applied for a Naval ROTC scholarship and wished to attend UT. I chose Naval ROTC because my father had been in the Navy in WWII and Korea. I didn't receive a scholarship for my first year, and I applied again. My first year therefore was as a "contract" midshipman, essentially volunteering for the program. I got the scholarship starting in my second year and, since it was a four-year scholarship, I used all of it to finish my five-year degree plan. I spent two years on the Buccaneer drill team, took a year's leave from NROTC classes, and then resumed the program for my last two years. I kept pretty close to the unit and my Midshipmen friends during my one-year hiatus. I even drilled on Tuesdays and was a guidon bearer in Bravo Company, so it wasn't hard to slip back into the role in my fourth year. In my fifth year I assumed command of Bravo Company in the first semester and was appointed Battalion Commander in my last semester at UT.

I was president of Scabbard & Blade and worked a lot in my final year on promoting tri-service activities. My girlfriend, Cathy Tolbert, was one of the Navy Sweethearts. We met when I was on Bucs and we were married in my last year at UT. She was instrumental in better organizing the Sweethearts into the Anchorettes and was their first president. I had a lot of friends who lived at the Crow's Nest, and consequently I spent a lot of time there. I also played intramural sports for Navy. So I was well ensconced in Navy life at UT.

I was most familiar with my classmates and, having started with one class and finishing with another, I identified with two graduating classes, 1974 and 1975. I didn't know of anyone of importance who had received his commission from UT. There was no alumni group. I tried briefly to get one started in my senior year but later found that those plans had not been carried forward after I left. Once I was out the door and on my way to the fleet my focus was elsewhere.

On my third-class cruise in 1971 I reported to the USS Providence (CLG-6) in San Diego with three of my classmates. Providence was flagship of the First Fleet. We were only four Midshipmen among a dozen or so 1st and 3rd class aboard. After a terrific trip to the Rose Festival in Portland, Oregon and prior to departing the ship, I participated in a Change of Command ceremony where CAPT Kenneth G. Haynes was assuming command. At the time I noted he was a graduate of the UT NROTC, Class of 1947, but it didn't seem remarkable to me. With no alumni group for the unit there was no real feeling of connectedness.

Fast-forward to 1975: I was reporting to my first ship as an Ensign aboard USS Albany (CG-10). She was flagship of the Second Fleet, and eight months later was flagship of the Sixth Fleet. One of the first officers I got to know was Bob Bruce. He and I were both in Weapons Department. When I asked him where he had gone to school, he said “The University of Texas.” Surprised, I asked how we had not met before. I thought I knew almost everyone in the unit. He said he got his commission through NESEP. I knew the acronym and knew it was those other guys who also wore Navy uniforms on Tuesdays and had shoulder boards with only a single star on them. Back then they weren’t an active part of the Battalion, so we had little or no contact with them. Again, there was no feeling of connectedness.

I had a 22-year career in the Navy, both active and Reserves. I made many lifelong friends while serving. What was surprising was finding some of these folks at the annual Alumni reunions when I started coming semi-regularly back in the late 1980s. When I served with them I guess I wasn’t curious enough to ask where they had gone to school.

In 1998, I retired from the Navy. In 2004, after many years of attending alumni reunions, I was asked to join the Alumni Association Board of Directors. In 2006 the Alumni Association became the UT NROTC Alumni Foundation, and I assumed the office of Vice President shortly after that. I thank Bob Collins ’68 for the encouragement. Two years later I “flected up” to President by relieving Fred Moon ’70. After serving two years, I handed over the reins to Mike Waldron ’67. I’ve stayed on the Alumni Foundation board since then doing what I could. In 2013 I was honored by being asked to serve on the Midshipmans Foundation as an advisory director on that board. One year later I was moved up to Bob Brown’s vacated spot as a full Director. I’ve managed to stay pretty well informed about what the unit was up to over a good many years, which has been most helpful because the unit does not publish its own yearbook (*Longhorn Log*) anymore and hasn’t since 2005.

Another source of inspiration came from Dr. Tom Hatfield, Director of the Military History Institute at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas. In the fall of 2007, with the help of Fred Moon ’70 and our World War II alumni, especially Ivan Elmer ’45, Dr. Hatfield embarked on an oral histories project and tied it to our annual reunions. His research led him to a study of what our alumni experienced during WWII after they left UT. He managed to interview about a dozen men and capture their stories orally and on video before funding ran out.¹ Dr. Hatfield’s work impressed upon me how quickly we were losing our veteran WWII alumni. They had had their own WWII alumni group well before any of our other alumni groups were formed. They got together annually and were a much tighter-knit group than the current alumni organization, mainly because they were all from the classes of 1943 through 1946, so they had known each other at UT, and, of course, most all of them had served in WWII. Dr. Hatfield wanted to capture their war memories; I thought someone should capture their memories as Midshipmen at UT before and during the war. His project impressed upon me just how precious time was in starting the effort. Still, I thought someone else would surely spearhead the project.

¹ You can find these records online at www.cah.utexas.edu/museums/military_reference.php?ref=navalrotc_intro. There is also a link provided on our own alumni website, www.utnrotcalum.org.

Further inspiration came from listening to John Boswell's speech at the decommissioning of the Russell A. Steindam Hall (a.k.a. the ROTC building) on August 27, 2010. John was a 1969 graduate of the Army ROTC program at UT, having left the year before I arrived, and wrote a short book of his own, Texas Fight, The History of the Army ROTC at The University of Texas at Austin. It had a lot of history on the Naval ROTC in it as well. John lives here in San Antonio, and I have visited him and discussed the possibility of doing this book. He has been very supportive, and we have kept in touch throughout the process. After reading John's book and talking with him, I was coming to the conclusion that no one else would do this unless I, at least, got it started. I still continued to write stories in the alumni newsletter about the history of the unit and even started a section called "The Nostalgia Portal" where I started sharing stories I had collected from other alumni or wrote myself.

On January 1, 2014, as a New Year's resolution I wanted to keep, I decided to start doing something more tangible about the UT NROTC History Project, as I called it. I had been gathering information and stories as newsletter editor and webmaster for years. Now was the time to start organizing those things into a timeline of events and people's lives. By the summer of 2015 (the unit's 75th anniversary year) I felt I had enough material to cover the first 20 years (1940-1960) and share with fellow alumni, especially the WWII guys, around the time of our reunion the following fall. The years after 1960 are still a work in progress but are steadily coming along. The present plan is to release 20 years of unit history as a separate volume each year until we have documented the first 80 years, roughly around 2020, the unit's 80th anniversary.

Introduction

I have divided the book into chapters that represent periods in time with some overall theme of what dominated that period, such as a war or conflict. Officer candidate programs tend to shrink and swell with the need for leaders as world tensions ebb and flow. I punctuated each chapter with sections dedicated to events that were closely associated with the NROTC Program. A perusal of the table of contents will give the reader a sample of what events occurred during what periods. I've tried to make the narrative both entertaining and informative.

Much of the original text for this work was adapted from stories written for the alumni newsletter, NROTC Alumni Log. As alumni webmaster, I also received lots of copies of old unit newsletters and end-of-year publications (e.g., the *Longhorn Log*) to scan and post on the website. It was also helpful to have resources from Ancestry.com. They have a wonderful collection of UT's *Cactus* yearbooks up to 1990. I had eleven *Cactuses* (hard copy), including those from my own five years at UT, and my parents' copies. Footnote citations noted as "recollections" were from personal conversations, telephone conversations, or email correspondence with the person cited. The digits after their name represent the class year from which they hailed.

Most all the photos of individual Midshipmen and unit officers came from the *Cactus*. Others came from *Texas Tradition* and *Longhorn Logs*. Some were provided by individuals. Most all photos had to be cropped and processed before using. Where long shots were only available, enhancement processing was used to sharpen the photograph as well as possible.

Numbers for unit strength come primarily from the *Cactus* yearbook, the *Texas Tradition* 1944 yearbook, *Longhorn Logs*, and alumni rolls. Counts were made of faces in photos, names in lists, alumni rolls and numbers contained in yearbook narratives. (It was noted that many Midshipmen did not always appear in four consecutive *Cactuses* before their commissioning.) This process also yielded a list of each person enrolled in the program, whether they finished it or not, even the thousands of men who went through the V-12 program. The Command History Reports (OPNAV Report 5750-1) became an additional source for manpower, programs and staff, but the earliest copies found didn't begin until 1966.

So as not to bog down the reader with a lot more detailed information, I have gathered lists of programs, persons and other interesting information and attached it as an Appendix. It can be reviewed independently from the text.

At first blush, one might think the task of writing a unit history would just be an academic and tedious one. To be sure, it has had its tedious side. Digging into the lists of names and other details, though, has revealed interesting facts that I think the reader will enjoy. Finding those nuggets here and there kept me going and wanting to probe further.

At first I thought the scope of this book would pretty much be the Naval ROTC at UT and wouldn't involve the V-12 or other Navy and Marine Corps officer commissioning programs on campus. Even some of the old WWII vets were telling me that V-12 had nothing to do with NROTC. The more I dug

into it, though, the more I discovered how intertwined these programs were with NROTC. Just as the unit today has other officer candidate programs (non-NROTC), that are now an integral part of the Battalion, so these programs have existed almost since the earliest years the Navy came to the UT campus. My research also revealed that other Navy programs on campus have been completely separate from NROTC and continue to this day. The key is whether the program comes under the administrative command and control of the Professor of Naval Science. The Appendix has short descriptions of both kinds of programs, and I'm sure there are some that I missed.

As stated, the *Cactus* yearbook is used extensively as a resource. When page numbers are cited within an academic year the reader should assume that they are from the *Cactus* yearbook of that same academic year.

It occurred to me early on that a complete and accurate list of those who were commissioned would be needed. I wanted not only to know the year, but also the date, location and service. That has been a project in and of itself. UT helped with providing commencement dates for most of the years, but even they had gaps. It was assumed that commissionings would have been the day of commencement or, perhaps, the day before. Some years would have a NROTC commissioning ceremony as well as a Tri-Service commissioning ceremony. Some would have only one ceremony. *Texas Tradition* covered the first three commissionings very well. The *Cactus* did an excellent job for a few years by picturing entire commissioning classes with names. Starting in 1947, that help all but evaporated. Most of the classes from there to 1963, when the *Longhorn Log* debuted, were pieced together with alumni input, assumptions made from appearances in the *Cactus*, printed commissioning programs (when we had the great fortune to get one from an alumnus who kept one), obituaries (unfortunately) and luck. The *Longhorn Log* was not published from 1976 to 1979, so help was needed with piecing those classes together. Fortunately the Unit newsletter, *Naval Orange*, provided useful information between those years, but not all issues have been recovered. There were other missing years for the *Longhorn Log* that may or may not have been published. It looked like 2005 was the last year for that publication. Since 2010 the unit newsletter, *Spur & Anchor*, has provided excellent information on commissionings. The gap of 2005-2010 was filled in from information the author kept during that time period. Believe it or not, printed commissioning programs were not always accurate.

An Introduction would be incomplete without mentioning some of the contributors who have helped me with providing stories, names and other material used in the writing of this book. Those with parentheses around the class year were not commissionees of that class but identified with that class in some manner.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Hume Cofer '43 | Sam Winters '44 | Cy Eberhart '46 | Bob Brown '52 |
| Grant Stoddard '43 | Sandy Crow '45 | Dell Roy King '46 | George Sullivan '52 |
| Clyde Arnold '44 | Ivan Elmer '45 | Jim O'Donnell '46 | Jack Underwood '52 |
| Bill Barnhouse '44 | Phil Gates '45 | Ken Haynes '47 | Ted Wilson '52 |
| Marge Flados '44 | Bruce Jamieson '45 | Pat Morgan '51 | Bill Collins '54 |
| Howard Lowe '44 | Dan Krausse '45 | George White '51 | Alan Bean '54 |
| Joe Smith '44 | Bob Bower '46 | Steve Albrecht '52 | Bill Collins '54 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Ann Fulcher '54) | Jim Van Richards '56 | Don Tortorice '64 | Paul Thoman '75 |
| Ben Rhodes '54 | Max Miller '57 | Bob Gartner '65 | Tony Ambrosetti '76 |
| Howard York '54 | Weldon Koenig '58 | John Hitchcock '65 | Richard Ashmore '76 |
| Jim Adkins '55 | Clovis Vaughn '58 | Alan Johnson '65 | Jim Bushee '76 |
| Pope Atkins '55 | Bob Lillie '58 | Ben Krause '65 | Steve White '76 |
| Bobby Dewar '55 | Bob Carnes '59 | John Boswell '69 | Rick Martin '79 |
| Fred Falke '55 | Fred Ligarde '59 | Mike Nipper '69 | Bruce Mergele ('79) |
| Preston Kronkosky '55 | Don McLelland '59 | Chip Bieseimeier '70 | Gabe Salazar '79 |
| Jarvis Michie '55 | Weldon Hammond '60 | Bruce Byron '70 | Ray Adams '80 |
| Spotz Robertson '55 | J. W. Pieper '60 | Bob Felle '70 | Kevin Hugman '80 |
| Pat Tillery ('55) | Glenn Looney '61 | Fred Moon '70 | John Mendel '84 |
| Dave Williams '55 | Rod Koenig '62 | Dick Wellborn '70 | Steve Smith PNS#17 |
| Jim Wright '55 | Gene McWhorter '62 | Steve Howell '72 | Jim Wegmann '86 |
| Cub Amos '56 | Charlie Simons '63 | Mark Thoman '72 | Launtz Rodgers '94 |
| Ray Becker '56 | L.E. Spradlin '63 | Dave Barron '74 | Daniel Rueda '05 |
| Robert Hughes '56 | David Cotellesse '64 | Turk McCleskey '75 | John Eden PNS#27 |
| Henry McCown '56 | Howard Hamilton '64 | Pat Reynolds '75 | Brian Teets PNS#28 |

Most all of these alumni were excited that someone was finally undertaking this project, and I hope they will be honored by the result. Lastly I would like to thank my wife, Terry, an English major, for her review and contributions to the work.

I hope you, the reader, will enjoy this, the story of the Navy and Marine Corps invasion of The University of Texas and the beachhead, which has ebbed and flowed in size over the years, but which still thrives as The Naval ROTC unit at The University of Texas at Austin.

By the way, there was a bit of debate as to whether it should be Navy ROTC or Naval ROTC. Fred Moon '70 pointed this out to me, and I did some research. In going back through every *Cactus* yearbook from 1941 to 1990, the two are virtually tied in frequency of usage, with a slight edge going to "Navy ROTC." The term "naval" is usually thought to be more generic in including the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. The Marine Corps, though, is part of the Department of the Navy. So the debate will just have to continue.

Chapter 6 – Vietnam Years (1960-1975)

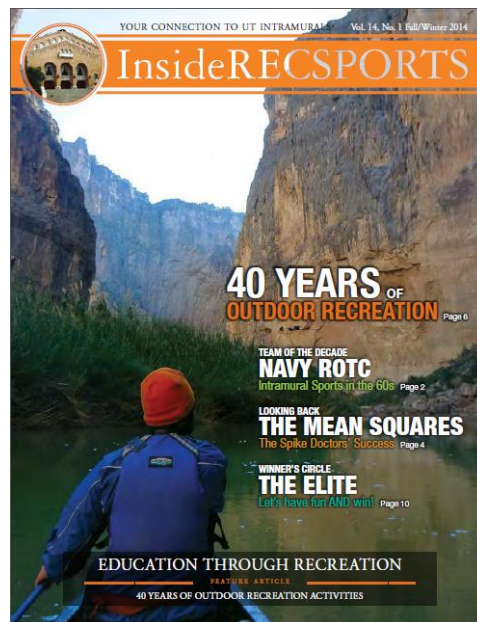
It's hard to characterize all these years as “the Vietnam years.” For an eight-year-old kid, the dawn of a new decade, with all the new things that were coming on the scene, was exciting. A new President was taking office and he was younger than any of the other Presidents I knew about. The space race was on. Color TV was new. Roger Maris broke Babe Ruth's record with his 61st home run. Rock and roll was still king but Beatlemania was coming. For the older folks, though, there were dark sinister clouds on the horizon

The Cold War was spawning an arms race for atomic weapons. An “Iron Curtain” divided Europe as had occurred in Korea. Assassinations, the civil rights movement and other events seemed to make people think the worst of each other. I remember climbing under our classroom desks and covering our eyes as we practiced what to do in case of an atomic bomb attack. How naïve we all were back then.

As early as the fall of 1955 the U.S. was playing a more and more significant role in Vietnam. It escalated to a war against the U.S. by the spring of 1959, at least from the communist Vietnamese point of view. By the summer of 1959, with the U.S. suffering its first casualties of this conflict, the nation was starting to treat Vietnam as a war, a war which would last 15 years, or, if you count from our first involvement, 20 years. The war would cost approximately 282,000 American and allied military deaths.² By 1960 U.S. involvement in Vietnam really started escalating.

Navy – Team of the Decade

Bob Childress, of the *InsideRecSports* newsletter, featured Navy as the “Team of the Decade” (1960-1970) in its Fall/Winter 2014 issue and provided detailed Navy sports accomplishments for that period. Many of our alumni from those intramural teams were contacted by Bob for the article and contributed photos and personal accounts of their experiences during that time period. J. W. Pieper '59 can be credited with starting the Navy's decade of excellence when he led them to the Class A football championship in 1958–59 and a second place finish the following year. He created a team reputation for having strong participation and quality athletes.³ That was the key to Navy's success: participate in a lot of intramural sports and get to the top or, at least, close to the top in each. Navy would come in third a lot, which usually meant no photo in the *Cactus*, but that counted toward the season point total.



² Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War_casualties#Total_number_of_deaths

³ *InsideRecSports* Fall/Winter 2014 issue (Vol. 14, No. 1), page 2.

Academic Year 1960

Statistics:

Number of Students: 215 Midshipmen (up 5)

Number of Staff: 8 Officers (no change), 6 Enlisted (up 2), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 43 (43 Navy, 0 Marine) (down 18)

The *Cactus* was the primary source of Unit information about this year. The 1960 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. See the Appendix for details.

Nationwide there were still 53 universities with NROTC units. At UT there were sixteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the Commanding Officer (CO), Col William A. Kengla, USMC. Col Kengla received his commission from the Naval Academy in 1933. He was a veteran of WWII and the Korean War. Maj Kengla distinguished himself in WWII by earning the Silver Star medal for actions on Guadalcanal for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines (Reinforced), 2nd Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.” Col Kengla was the first Marine Professor of Naval Science (PNS) at UT. Two Naval officers rotated out (LCDR Pilgrim and LT Smith) and two came aboard (LT Warren and LT Bouknight). Sgt Andrews was promoted and two new chiefs, FTC Wagner and GMC Bowen, came aboard. Civilian staff was unchanged.



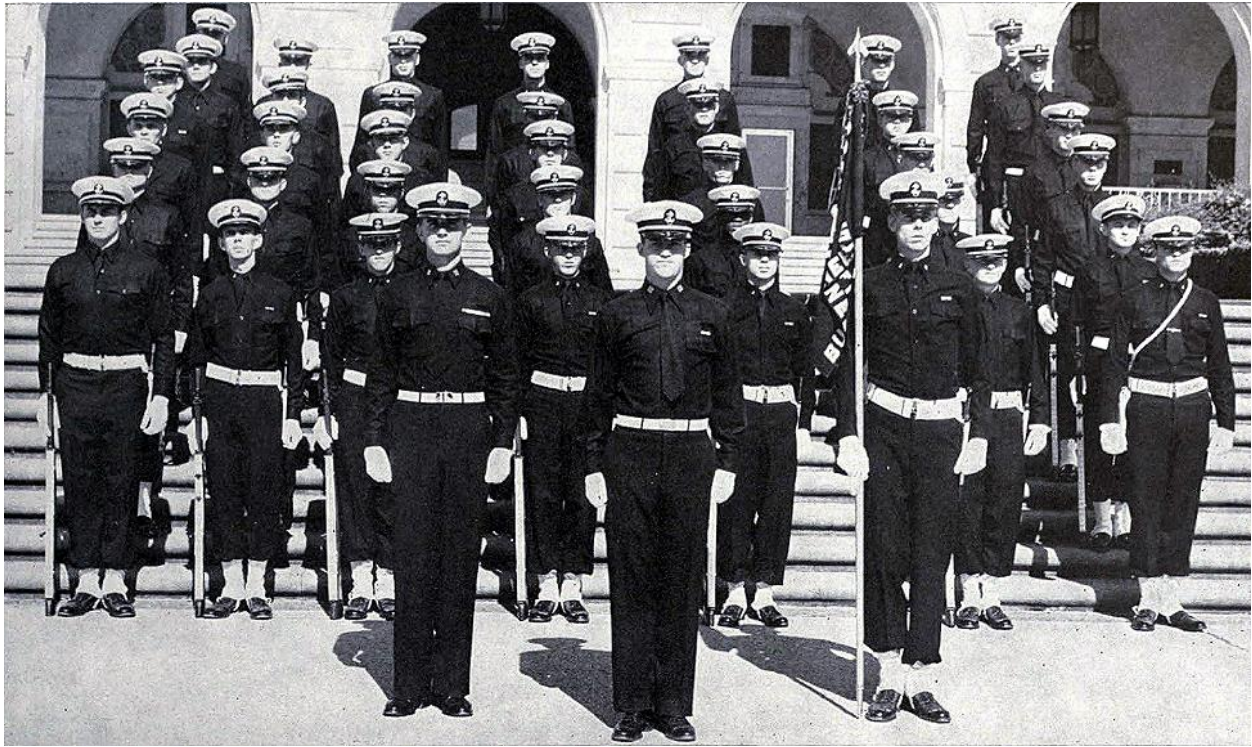
William Archibald Kengla

The Battalion was organized into two companies (Alpha and Bravo) and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Hugh Patrick “Pat” Pate (fall) and George Raphael Rogers (spring). A head count from *Cactus* photographs revealed the number 196. Counting names listed in these pages revealed the number 216. Name counts tending to be more accurate, put the nominal unit strength at approximately 215, representing a gain of 5 men.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>No. of Men</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Alpha | 72 |
| Bravo | 68 |
| Buccaneers | 41 |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 41 men (twelve old-timers and 29 new arrivals). Buccaneer Commander was David Frazier Cloud. Executive Officer was Joe Allen Mauldin. Company CPO was Frank Mills Shallene. Guidon was Robert Edwin Woodman. Events the Bucs participated in

included the UT Inter-Service competition, the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio, the Roundup parade at UT, and the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT. The UT Inter-Service competition was just between the three ROTC drill teams on the UT campus: the NROTC Buccaneers, the Army Rangers and the Air Force Orange Wings.



1960 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1960 *Cactus*, page 393.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year. Nor was the color guard pictured. There was a 35-member Tri-Service ROTC Band that included five NROTC members. The Tri-Service honorary fraternity, Scabbard & Blade, also included NROTC members. They were listed, not pictured, in the *Cactus*. MDN George Raphael Rogers was their Captain for the spring semester.

Navy is Intramural Sports (IMS) Club Division Runner-Up

The Class A football team was the star of the Intramural Sports season, as they were the year before. Navy, the defending champion in this class, finished as runner-up this year. Granville Paules and J. W. Pieper were selected for first team all-intramural football, and Bailey Guess was selected for second team. Navy also finished as runner-up in point standings. Glenn Looney received a trophy as Navy manager. Navy was also the winner of the Cowboy Sportsmanship Trophy. Rod Koenig was a junior manager for the fall and Will Payne was a junior manager for the spring.



Class A Football Runners-Up: NAVY! Team members were (left to right) Richard Glenn Looney, Andrew Williams Bachofen, Bailey Lovin Guess, Eddie Y. Newcombe, Roger Caldwell Henderson, J. W. Pieper, Granville Edward Paules III, Grant LeRoy Bigelow, and Leslie Allen Sanders. 1960 *Cactus*, page 234.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (a.k.a. Oktoberfest), the fall formal, the spring picnic (a.k.a. Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (a.k.a. Ring Dance). Spring Break probably occurred the week of April 11-15. No field trips during that time were noted.

The Crow's Nest had 50 men. This represented a net loss of two men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 31 were pictured, all in coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 24 were old-timers and 26 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Granville Edward Paules, III. Vice President was George Durden Gibbs. Treasurer was Richard M. Moore, Jr. work manager was George Raphael Rogers. Corresponding Secretary was J. W. Pieper and faculty sponsor was LTJG Bernard Henry Trimble. It still cost \$50 per month for room and board there, according to Glenn Looney and Bob Carnes. The stated purpose of the Crow's Nest Club was to provide housing and dining facilities for NROTC Midshipmen and to promote interest in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



1960 Crow's Nest. 1960 *Cactus*, page 375.

There was still a women's auxiliary called Navy Sponsors. This year there were four Sponsors: Melaney Jean McAfee, Betty Jean Bland, Barbara Elaine Marshall and Bonnie Alyce Bryan. All wore white uniforms, white shoes and white garrison-type caps. They were photographed as a group and did not appear to be assigned to companies or staffs as had been the practice in the early years of the program.

Chronometers Compared

On October 2nd Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone" series premiered on CBS-TV and on the 10th Pan Am began regular flights around the world. On January 28, 1960 the National Football League finally granted a franchise to Dallas as the 13th team in the league, a league which began in 1920 as the American Professional Football Association. A previous attempt in 1952 to bring a NFL franchise to Dallas (the Dallas Texans) had ended in failure. In 1960 the American Football League was started and the "Dallas Texans" name was reused on a new team in that league. Both the Cowboys and the Texans shared the same home stadium, the Cotton Bowl, for their first three seasons. After that the Texans moved to Kansas City and became the Chiefs. So what happened to the 1952 Dallas Texans? They only played that one season and, with a 1-11 season, promptly folded. The only NFL franchise ever to do so. Many of the players from that older Dallas Texan team went to the new Baltimore Colts franchise in 1953.

On January 30th a joint fall commissioning ceremony was held in the Recital Hall of the Music Building, where eight Ensigns were commissioned. Many thanks to Weldon Hammond '60 for providing a program for the January 30, 1960 (Fall 1959) commissioning, which greatly assisted in this project.

On March 11th the first civil rights protest by students at UT, promoting the integration of the University, was held on the outskirts of the campus.

The spring commissioning ceremony was held on June 4th, and 35 Ensigns were commissioned. The 1960 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or the dates except a photograph of the seniors. See the Appendix.

Academic Year 1961

Statistics:

Number of Students: 190 Midshipmen (down 25)

Number of Staff: 9 Officers (up 1), 7 Enlisted (up 1), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 37 (37 Navy, 0 Marine) (down 6)

Troop levels in Vietnam had tripled from the previous year.

The *Cactus* was the primary source of Unit information about this year. The 1961 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. See the Appendix.

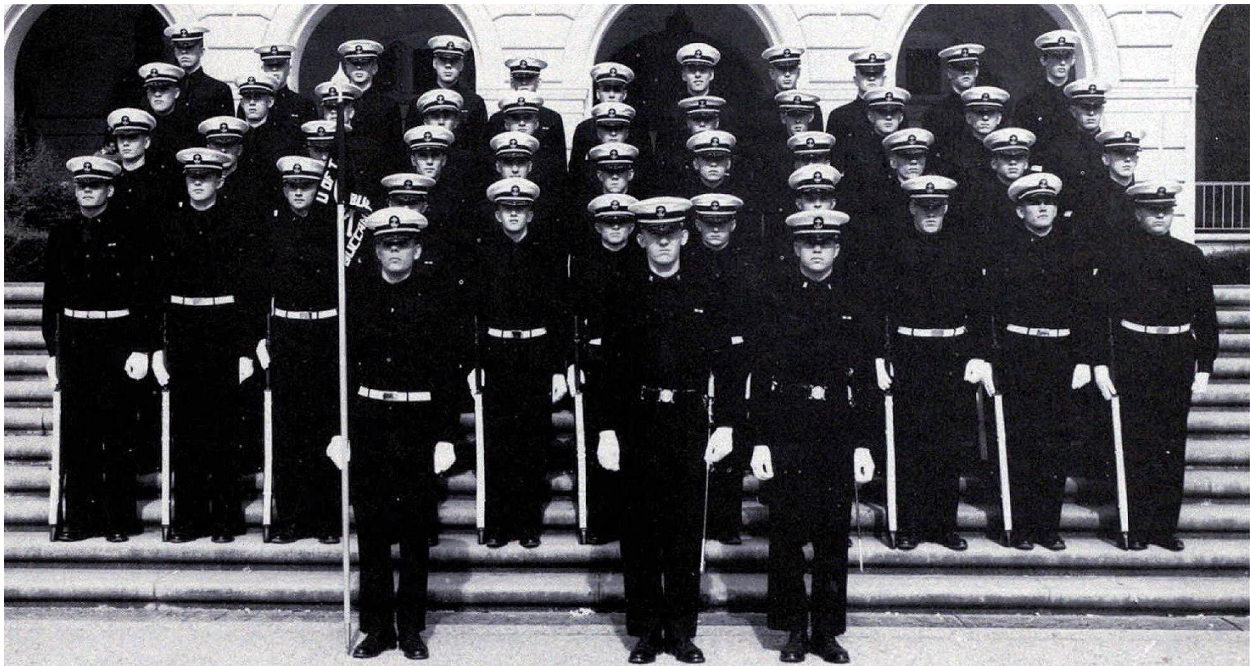
Nationwide there were still 53 universities with NROTC units. At UT there were seventeen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, Col William A. Kengla, USMC. Two Naval officers rotated out (CDR Stough and LTJG Trimble) and three came aboard (CDR Reed, LCDR Stevens and LT Porter). CDR Dale Calvin Reed had just finished a tour of duty as CO of USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) in August and reported to the UT NROTC Unit as its new Executive Officer (XO). Shortly after reporting aboard he was selected for promotion to CAPT. His date of rank was not until July 1, 1961 so he was frocked as O6 and relieved Col Kengla in January 1961 as the 9th Professor of Naval Science at UT. This was the first and only time a XO “fleeted up” to the CO position at UT. This also enabled Col Kengla to retire on February 1, 1961 and soon become director of Austin-Travis County Civil Defense. CDR Dankert would have reported aboard sometime early in the spring semester and assumed the vacated XO position. MSgt Andrews was listed as 1stSgt, and one new QM1 Harris came aboard as a relief for QM1 Pauley. Civilian staff was unchanged.



Dale Calvin Reed

The Battalion was still organized into two companies (Alpha and Bravo) and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were David Frazier Cloud (fall) and Wilford Dale McCann (spring). A head count from *Cactus* photographs revealed the number 168. Counting names listed in these pages revealed the number 192. Nominal unit strength was approximately 190, representing a loss of 25 men.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>No. of Men</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Alpha | 47 |
| Bravo | 60 |
| Buccaneers | 47 |



1961 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1961 *Cactus*, page 517.

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 47 men (nine old-timers and 38 new arrivals). Buccaneer Commander was Rudolph Vince Waldemar Krueger. Executive Officer was Donald Lee Woods. The Company CPO was not identified in the *Cactus* photo, Guidon was Howard Harvey Hamilton. The Bucs won the UT Inter-Service trophy this year.⁴ Other events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio, the Roundup parade at UT, and the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year. Nor was the color guard pictured. There was a 37-member Tri-Service ROTC Band that included seven NROTC members. MDN Barry

⁴ Recollections of David Peter "Dave" Cotellesse '64

Scott Irwin was the Drum Major. The Tri-Service honorary fraternity, Scabbard & Blade, also included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Rodney Curtis Koenig was their First Lieutenant for the year.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

Navy finished third in Class A football this year but with the help of basketball, tennis and individual performances, it finished first in all-year points with Glenn Looney receiving the team trophy as Manager. Bailey Guess was selected for first team all-intramural football. Grant Bigelow was selected for second team. Navy was champion for Class A club basketball (fourth in all-U). J. M. Beidell finished third in Class A tennis and was selected Best Club Athlete (#1). Other Navy men followed in the same category: Harold Lutz (#2), Grant Bigelow (#3), Glenn Looney (#6) and Anthony Karsokas (tied for #9 and #10). Beidel and Andrew Anderson were club champs for Class A tennis doubles. John Mason was selected for first team basketball and Tom Broad was selected for second team. Rod Koenig was a senior manager for the season and L. E. Spradlin was a junior manager.



Intramural Trophy

The Crow's Nest had 45 men. This represented a net loss of five men from the previous year. This information is gleaned from a comparison of the 1960 and 1962 *Cactus*s. The *Cactus* only mentioned the Crow's Nest. There was no page devoted to it, no photograph, no list of members. A comparison of names showed 29 were old-timers and 16 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President for the fall was Joe Allen Mauldin. For the spring it was Richard Glenn Looney. Other officers and faculty sponsor have yet to be determined. It still cost \$50 per month for room and board there, according to Glenn Looney.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the fall formal, the spring picnic (Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). Spring Break probably occurred the week of March 27-31. No field trips during that time were noted.

Navy Sponsors numbered four this year and were all different from the previous year. They were Mary Estelle Brickman, Karen Tellepsen, Susan Ann Burton, and Alice Maxine Chase. All wore white uniforms and white garrison-type caps. They were photographed as a group and did not appear to be assigned to companies or staffs as had been the practice in the early years of the program.

The 1960 NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held on January 28, 1961. Sixteen Ensigns were commissioned.

A Tale of Two Buddies

After three years of active duty, Clay Fulcher continued to pursue a Navy career in the Naval Reserve and embarked on his civilian career as an engineer. He returned first to UT in spring 1958 to earn his master's degree, after which he went to work for General Electric. In 1961 GE was contracted by

NASA to make components for the space program. Clay and his wife, Ann, moved to Houston with great expectations about this new adventure.⁵

After flight school, Clay's buddy, Alan, was assigned to a jet attack squadron in Jacksonville, Florida. After a four-year tour of duty, he attended the Navy Test Pilot School and flew as a test pilot on several types of Navy aircraft. That was his dream come true.

Bay of Pigs Invasion

On April 4, 1961 President John F. Kennedy approved the final invasion plan for Cuba. On April 17th the CIA launched an unsuccessful invasion of Cuba using 1,400 American-trained Cubans who had fled their homes when Fidel Castro took over in 1959. It lasted just three days. The overthrow had been planned by the Eisenhower administration over growing concerns about Cuba's communist direction.⁶



First American in Space

On May 5, 1961, pilots at the Navy Test Pilot School were all crowded around the television when Alan (from our "Tale of Two Buddies" story) walked by and asked what was happening. They told him that an astronaut was just about to be shot into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida. He was strapped into a capsule named Freedom 7, which stood atop a Mercury-Redstone 3 rocket. Alan really hadn't given the fledgling space program much thought up until that moment. The "flight" only lasted a little over 15 minutes but, in that length of time, Alan noted that this astronaut had flown higher and faster than he ever had in his own flight career. The astronaut was another Alan and also a Navy man, Alan B. Shepard.



Cape Canaveral launch

The Tri-Service spring commissioning ceremony was held on June 3rd in the Hogg Auditorium. Twenty-one Ensigns were commissioned.⁷ The 1961 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. See the Appendix.

⁵ Recollections of Ann Fulcher, wife of Clay Fulcher '54

⁶ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Pigs_Invasion

⁷ Glenn Looney's Commissioning invitation and Command History Report

Tensions Mount in Europe

On July 25th President Kennedy made a TV speech responding to the sudden building of the Berlin Wall and asking for \$207 million in civil defense appropriations. On August 13th the Berlin Wall was completed, completely cutting off (by land) West Berlin from East Germany. This was the culmination of the “Iron Curtain” dividing Europe, construction of which started shortly after the end of WWII. People were very concerned about the outbreak of a nuclear war and needed to be prepared and educated. Col Kengla (PNS#8) did just that as Austin’s Civil Defense Director.⁸



Brandenburg Gate and the Berlin Wall

Academic Year 1962

Statistics:

Number of Students: 215 Midshipmen (up 25)

Number of Staff: 7 Officers (down 2), 6 Enlisted (down 1), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 31 (30 Navy, 1 Marine) (down 6)

Troop levels in Vietnam tripled again from the previous year. On December 11, 1961 the Vietnam “conflict” began for the U.S.

The *Cactus* was the primary source of Unit information about this year. The 1962 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just four pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. See the Appendix.

There were still 53 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fifteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, CAPT Dale Calvin Reed, USN. Five Naval officers rotated out (LCDR Evans, LCDR Stevens, LT Leenerts, LT Warren and LT Bouknight) and five came aboard (CDR Dankert, LCDR Vanderbeck, Maj Cashion, LT Lovell and LTJG Sprague). CDR Herbert W. H. Dankert was the new XO. Maj Dana Burton Cashion was the new MOI. Sgt Andrews was replaced by Sgt Rose. SKC Smith was replaced by SKC LaCharite. QM1 Pauley left and QM1 Harris was promoted to Chief. Civilian staff was unchanged.

The Battalion was organized into two companies (Alpha and Bravo). Buccaneers were also assigned to these companies, thus they were not a separate company or platoon. Each company was pictured as three separate platoons. Battalion Commanders were Robert O’Brien Johnson (fall) and Rudolph Vince Krueger (spring). A head count from *Cactus* photographs revealed the number 215; however, 31 of the Bucs are pictured twice so the head count is reduced by that number to 184. Counting names listed in

⁸ Recollections of Robert L. “Bob” Gartner ’65

these pages revealed the number 217. Nominal unit strength was approximately 215, representing a gain of 25 men.

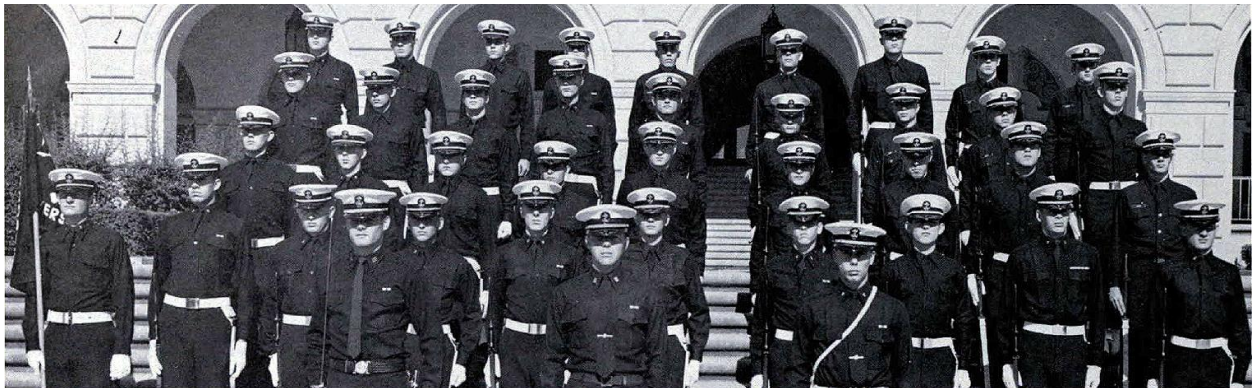
| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alpha | 30 | 30 | 28 |
| Bravo | 26 | 24 | 21 |
| Buccaneers* | 40 | | |

Buccaneers: Separate from the Battalion

*Buccaneers were, organizationally, assigned to either Alpha or Bravo company, except for the CO, XO and CPO. These three were assigned to “Headquarters Company” and were part of the Battalion staff, when they weren’t leading the Bucs. The Buccaneers existed as a stand-alone group only for drill competitions, performances and practice.

Bob Gartner '65 recalls the following:

“I think when I arrived in 1960 the Bucs were a separate company. Col William A. Kengla was PNS. The following year a Navy captain [CAPT Reed] arrived and didn’t like that. My memory is fuzzy, but I remember being quite upset about being put into one of the regular companies at the time.”



1962 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1962 *Cactus*, page 330.

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 40 men (16 old-timers and 24 new arrivals). Buccaneer Commander was George Richard Bettle. Executive Officer was Robert Waller “Bob” Looney. Company CPO was Gerald Milton Most. Guidon was Richard Bennett Zet. The Bucs won the UT Inter-Service trophy again this year.⁹ Other events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio, the Roundup parade at UT, and the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT. David Cotellesse also recalled that they participated in the Texas A&M drill meet, the Washington's Birthday parade in Laredo and the Battle of Flowers parade in San Antonio.

⁹ Recollections of David Peter “Dave” Cotellesse '64

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year. Nor was the color guard pictured. There was an Armed Forces ROTC Band, but it included no NROTC members. The Tri-Service honorary fraternity, Scabbard & Blade, included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Rodney Curtis Koenig was their Captain and MDN Rudolph Vince Krueger was their First Sergeant for the fall semester. MDN Charles Robert Mitchell was their Second Lieutenant for the spring semester.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

In 1962 Navy finished first in all-year points with Rod Koenig and Harold Lutz as managers. The trophy was accepted by Harold Lutz. This was accomplished with a mix of basketball, wrestling and individual performances. Navy finished third in Class A basketball. Roy Wasilkowski was champion in 177 lb. wrestling. John Mason was selected for first team basketball and the standings for Best All-Around Athlete had several Navy men in the top ranks: Tom Broad (#2), Harold Lutz (#3), Kristinn Hansen (#4), Charles Follett (#6) and L. E. Spradlin (#9). L. E. Spradlin and Roger A. Marion were senior managers. Tom Mickelson was a junior manager for the fall, and Wayne Miers and Ben Krause were for the spring.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the fall formal, the spring picnic (Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). Spring Break probably occurred the week of April 16-20. No field trips during that time were noted.

Navy Sponsors numbered four this year, all new for 1962. They were Fredell Ann Pinkenson, Beverly Ann Gibson, Sheryl Jane Myers and Joellyn Ricketts. They wore dark blue or black uniforms, black shoes, and no hat or cap. They were photographed as a group and did not appear to be assigned to companies or staffs.

The Crow's Nest had 48 men. This represented a net gain of three men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Forty-three were pictured, all in coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 28 were old-timers and 20 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Rudolph Vince Krueger. Vice President was Robert Wallar Looney. Secretary/Treasurer was Harold Gilbert "Hal" Lutz, Jr. work manager was Gerald Milton Most. food buyer was James Earl "Jim" Langley and faculty sponsor was LT William B. Lovell. The cost went up to \$60 per month for room and board there, according to Henry Harper '65.



1962 Crow's Nest. 1962 *Cactus*, page 292.

NESEPs on Campus – First Evidence

The Naval Enlisted Science Education Program (NESEP) began in 1956 at Purdue University. It is uncertain when UT joined the program but the current evidence has it as an active program in the fall of 1961. It was another officer ascension program that came under the command of the CO, UT NROTC. The NESEP program accepted both Navy and Marine Corps enlisted personnel.

On September 15, 1961 a certain Marine, who went by his nickname Charlie, was officially admitted to UT as a NESEP student. He was seeking a degree in Mechanical Engineering. It was a pretty good deal for Charlie. He not only received his Marine enlisted pay while in school but also \$250 per month for expenses. He stayed at the Goodall-Wooten men's dormitory, where he landed a counselor's job, which earned him free boarding. He met and married his wife, Kethy, in the summer of 1962. Life looked good for Charlie but he failed to manage the new-found freedom he enjoyed. He lasted through the spring semester of 1963, when because of poor grades, the Marine Corps withdrew his scholarship. He returned to active duty and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to finish serving his five-year enlistment. He left his wife in Austin and served the rest of his time in the Marine Corps under less-than-stellar circumstances. When he finished he would return to his wife in Austin.

Sea and Anchor Details

On February 20, 1962, USS Randolph served as primary recovery ship for John Glenn's flight, the first American orbital voyage in space. Earlier USS Randolph had again been reclassified, CVS-15 now, and outfitted for ASW operations. By September 1960 she had received her fourth consecutive Battle

Efficiency award. In July of 1961 she had served as primary recovery ship for Gus Grissom's suborbital flight.¹⁰

In late January 1962, eight Ensigns from the fall 1961 graduating class were commissioned. The NROTC spring commissioning ceremony was held June 2nd. Twenty-one Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The 1962 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. See the Appendix.

Academic Year 1963

Statistics:

Number of Students: 110 Midshipmen (down 115) (highly doubtful – see explanation below)

Number of Staff: 8 Officers (up 1), 6 Enlisted (no change), 2 Civilian (no change)

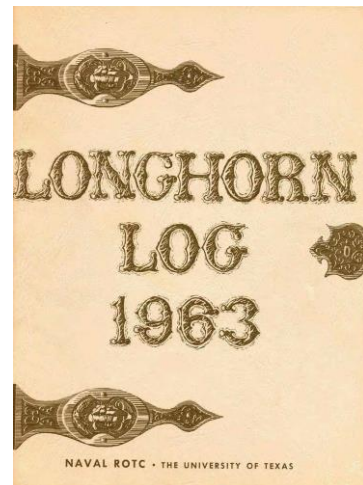
Number of Commissionees: 21 (20 Navy, 1 Marine) (down 10)

The *Cactus* and the *Longhorn Log* were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1963 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just two pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1963 *Longhorn Log* provided 28 pages of invaluable Unit information. See the Appendix. The 1963 *Longhorn Log* was a dedicated to the XO, CDR H. W. H. Dankert, USN.

Longhorn Log Debuts

According to John Hitchcock '65, who was on the staff of the 1963 *Longhorn Log*, there wasn't one the year before so 1963 must have been the first year that the *Log* was published. The dedication on its first page also was a big clue that 1963 was the first issue. This was further confirmed by Don Tortorice '64, the Editor of the *Log*, who stated the following:

“1963 was indeed the first edition of the *Longhorn Log*. It was conceived and executed by a ‘gang of six’ including myself, John Montford, the late Wayne E. Miers, Jack Strickland, Don Brown, and Gerald Lund. Very important to remember is that it was done with no financial expenditure by the Unit. We wrote the content. Gerry Lund took the photos, and the graphics were executed by people in the UT Fine Arts School. Printing was financed by ads at the back of the *Log*.”



Cover of First Longhorn Log

Sadly, several years ago, I asked the PNS why the *Log* was no longer published and his answer was that there were no funds for it. Hell, we didn't need [Navy] funds.”

¹⁰ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Randolph_%28CV-15%29#Disposal

Since that time the *Log* has been a rich source of information about the staff, the newly commissioned officers and unit activities during the year. The *Longhorn Log* was a year-end publication that documented the academic year for posterity, much like a cruise book. Each academic year covered the fall of the previous year and the spring of the current year, like the *Cactus*, but many times, unlike the *Cactus*, the previous summer would be covered, too. *Cactus* pages had gotten more expensive and so were used more sparingly in the years following 1962. The *Log* started out and continued until 1975 as a booklet of 30 pages or so with a color cover, black and white pages and stapled binding. There was an issue or two that used color interior pages to accent something, like the Sweethearts.

Countrywide there were still 53 universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fourteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the new CO, Col Max Huel LaGrone, USMC. He had relieved CAPT Reed in September, at the beginning of the academic school year. CAPT Reed had served only one year (four months as XO and eight months as CO) at UT. Howard Hamilton '64 recalled that Reed had been recalled to Washington D.C. for some reason. L. E. Spradlin '63 remembers visiting with CAPT Reed at his home in the D.C. area in August of 1966. It was his recollection that Reed was in a staff position at that time and had just left or was about to go to command of a "deep draft" vessel. Col LaGrone was a native of Port Arthur, Texas, and had graduated with honors from Rice Institute. He was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Records for Col LaGrone are incomplete but, from what we do have, it appears he obtained his commission through Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, after graduation from Rice.



Max Huel LaGrone

One Naval officer rotated out (LT Porter), one was promoted (LTJG Sprague), and two came aboard (LT McDermott and LTJG Knachel). FTC Gober replaced FTC Wagner, and YNC Smith replaced YN1 Davis. Civilian staff was unchanged.

From the *Cactus* it could not be determined what the Battalion organization or strength was. However, a comparison of the 1962 and 1964 *Cactus*s revealed some answers. The first issue of the *Longhorn Log* was also useful in filling in many of the gaps.

The Battalion was organized into two companies. Buccaneers were also assigned to these companies so they were not a separate company or platoon. Each company was pictured as three separate platoons. Battalion Commanders were James Earl Langley (fall) and George Richard Bettle (spring). The table below shows a head count of those pictured in the *Longhorn Log*. The table shows 108 men. If you add the Battalion staff figures and five-man Color guard you get a unit strength of 144. Subtract the 18 Bucs who are probably double-counted and one gets a strength of 126. Counting names listed in these pages

revealed the number 100. Nominal unit strength was approximately 110, representing a loss of 115 men. These figures are highly dubious, though, for several reasons. None could be gleaned from the *Cactus* since it did not picture or list any members of Alpha and Bravo companies. It was the first year of publication for the *Longhorn Log*, and only 72 names could be gleaned from it. Lastly the unit strength in 1962 was 215 and in 1964 it was 200. A fluctuation of 100 men in two years is highly unlikely. It is more reasonable to assume that the Battalion strength was still around 200 men.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alpha | 12 | 16 | 15 |
| Bravo | 15 | 15 | 17 |
| Buccaneers* | 19 | | |

*Buccaneers were, organizationally, assigned to either Alpha or Bravo company, except for the CO, XO and CPO. These three were assigned to “Headquarters Company,” and were part of the Battalion staff when they weren’t leading the Bucs. The Buccaneers existed as a stand-alone group only for drill competitions, performances and practice.



1963 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1963 *Longhorn Log*, page 15.

The Buccaneers were not pictured in the *Cactus*, and they are somewhat difficult to pick out in the premiere issue of the *Longhorn Log*. Nineteen men have been accounted for so far, 15 old-timers and four new arrivals. Because they were still not a separate company an exact listing and number is problematic. There were a couple of photos of them in the *Log* that showed 15 Bucs plus their CO but no names were provided. If one uses the count of 15 Bucs plus their CO, XO, CPO and Guidon, the number 19 results, which was probably all the members the team had that year. Bob Gartner said that scholastic probation reduced the Bucs from a 4x6 (24 men) formation to a 4x4 (16 men) formation, which diminished the visual impact a larger team had. Buccaneer Commander was Howard Harvey

“Howie” Hamilton. Executive Officer was David Peter Cotellesse. Company CPO was Sam Recompense Stanbery, Jr.. Guidon was Charles S. “Charlie” Snell, according to David Cotellesse. The Bucs thought that they had a lock on a third consecutive UT Inter-Service trophy but were beaten by the Air Force’s drill team, the Orange Wings, to the dismay of GySgt Rose. This was the first and only time the Bucs used a silent drill routine similar to what the Marine Silent Drill Team uses. Apparently the Marine senior NCO judge liked Queen Anne salutes better than flashing bayonets and a near flawless silent routine.¹¹ Other events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio, the Roundup parade at UT, and the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT. David Cotellesse also recalled that they participated in the Texas A&M drill meet, the Washington's Birthday parade in Laredo and the Battle of Flowers parade in San Antonio.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year. Nor was the color guard pictured. The *Longhorn Log*, though, pictured a five-man Color guard and a seven-man rifle team. There was an Armed Forces ROTC Band, but it included no NROTC members. The Tri-Service honorary fraternity, Scabbard & Blade, included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Roger Albert Marien was their Captain and MDN David Peter Cotellesse was their First Sergeant for the spring semester.



Class A Basketball Runners-Up: NAVY! Team members were (left to right) Harold G. Lutz, Charles Thomas Key, Scott Charles Follett, L. E. Spradlin, John Michael Mason, John Michael Beidel and Thomas M. Borad. 1963 *Cactus*, page 443.

¹¹ Recollections of David Peter “Dave” Cotellesse ’64

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

This year Navy again finished first in all-year points with manager L. E. Spradlin accepting the trophy. Spradlin also accepted the Whitaker Leadership award. A combination of football, basketball, water basketball, tennis and individual performances made this happen. Navy finished as runner-up in Class A basketball and water basketball. Charles Key was selected as first team and Harold Lutz as second team in basketball. Tom Bond was selected as first team in water basketball. Navy also finished as runner-up in Class B touch football. J. M. Beidel finished third in Class A tennis singles and he and Harvard Ayers were runners-up in Class A tennis doubles. John Mason was selected for second team in softball (all-intramural). J. M. Beidel received the Arno Nowotny Sportsmanship award as Best All-Around Athlete in the club division. He was followed by Charles Key (#2), Thomas Broad (#3), Harold Lutz (#4), Scott Follett (#6), L. E. Spradlin (#9) and John Mason (#10). Tom Mickelson was a senior manager for the season.



Water Basketball Runners-Up: NAVY! Team members were (front row, left to right) Don A. Tortorice, David Garner Wilbourne, John S. Ryder and Timothy Drake Moore; (back row) Gerald C. Lund, Jon David Holzapfel, Jesse Luke Thompson, Warren Neilson Lipscomb, Jr., Henry Amos Harper, Harold G. Lutz, Charles Thomas Key and Thomas M. Broad. 1963 *Cactus*, page 443.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the fall formal (Sweetheart Ball), the spring picnic (Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). Spring Break probably occurred the week of April 8-12. No field trips during that time were noted.

The Unit had a new *Longhorn Log* staff of seven Midshipmen, including the Editor, Don Tortorice. They were pictured in the *Log* (p 27). The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented in the *Log*, but Don Tortorice said he was Editor of *Spun Yarn* for one year.



Class B Touch Football Runners-Up: NAVY! Team members were (front row, left to right) Lloyd Kenneth Perkins, Kenneth Charles Windham, Don A. Tortorice, Philip Wayne Johnson and James Steven Quinn; (back row) Roger Lee Wharton, Louis E. Spradlin, Rudolph Vince Krueger, Scott Charles Follett, Charles Thomas Key, Warren Neilson Lipscomb, Jr., Jon David Holzapfel and David Clarence Neubauer. 1963 *Cactus*, page 442.

The Crow's Nest had 50 men. This represented a net gain of two men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 47 were pictured, all in coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 24 were old-timers and 26 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was George Richard Bettle. Vice President was Thomas Max "Tom" Mickelsen. Secretary/Treasurer was Harold Gilbert "Hal" Lutz, Jr. Work manager was Rudolph Vince Waldemar Krueger. Food buyer was James Earl "Jim" Langley and faculty sponsor was LT William B. Lovell. It still cost \$60 per month for room and board there, according to Rich Wauson '66.



1963 Crow's Nest. 1963 *Cactus*, page 321.

Navy Sponsor Program Becomes Sweetheart Competition



Linda Salm

There was no mention of the Navy Sponsor program this year in the *Cactus* or the *Longhorn Log*. What appeared to take its place was a Navy Sweetheart competition. Miss Linda Salm was selected as the NROTC's Sweetheart for this year. She competed with five other finalists for the title. The other finalists were not named in the *Cactus* or *Log*. Results of the competition were announced at the fall formal, which was renamed the Sweetheart Ball to highlight this new change.

Cuban Missile Crisis

From October 16 to October 28, 1962, the United States confronted the Soviet Union over its deployment of ballistic missiles in Cuba. A *de facto* Naval blockade of Cuba was used by the U.S. to prevent any more missiles from reaching Cuba.



Russian ICBM Launch Site in Cuba

During this time the USS Randolph (from our “Sea and Anchor Details” story) was operating in the Caribbean waters around Cuba. She and eleven U.S. Navy destroyers managed to coax a Soviet Foxtrot class submarine to the surface.¹²



USS Randolph and Russian Foxtrot Sub

In late January the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held. Just two Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned as part of the graduating class from the fall of 1962. On June 1st the much larger NROTC spring commissioning ceremony was held, where sixteen Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The 1963 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned, except the photo of fifteen seniors. The 1963 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. See the Appendix.

First Flag Officer Selected (Unit Staff)

On July 1, 1963, Donald Greer Irvine, the seventh Professor of Naval Science at UT, was selected for the rank of Rear Admiral. Back in 1955, CAPT Irvine had led the unit through some of the most difficult times the unit had ever faced.



Donald Greer Irvine

Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Signed

On August 5, 1963, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States agreed to ban all above-ground nuclear testing. It was the result of eight years of hard negotiations.

Academic Year 1964

Statistics:

Number of Students: 200 Midshipmen (up 90)

Number of Staff: 8 Officers (no change), 6 Enlisted (no change), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 29 (22 Navy, 7 Marine) (up 8)

The *Cactus* and the *Longhorn Log* were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1964 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just four pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1964 *Longhorn Log* provided 40 pages of Unit information for the year. See the

¹² Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Randolph_%28CV-15%29#Disposal

Appendix. The 1964 *Longhorn Log* was dedicated to ADM Hyman Rickover as the creator of the nuclear Navy, especially its submarine force.

There were still 53 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were twelve military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, Col Max Huel LaGrone, USMC. CDR Frederic L. Bays, USN, relieved CDR Herbert Dankert, USN, at mid-year. The MOI (Maj Cashion) left and a new MOI reported aboard (Maj Alexander Salvatore Ruggiero). LT Lovell was promoted. LT Sprague rotated out and LT John B. Mayo reported aboard. QMC Harris was replaced with QMC James D. Hailstone. GMC Jacob J. LaPorte replaced GMC Bowen. FTC Gober was promoted. Civilian staff was unchanged.

In 1964, the Battalion was again organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Each company was pictured as two separate platoons, a reduction from 1963. Battalion commanders were David Garner Wilbourne (fall) and Donald Anthony Tortorice (spring). Battalion commander rank was reduced to midshipman LCDR. The following table shows a head count of those pictured in the *Cactus*. The table shows 155 men. If you add the Battalion staff figures you get a unit strength of 183. Counting names listed in these pages revealed the number 201. Nominal unit strength was approximately 200, representing a gain of 90 men. From the explanation given for unit strength in 1963 it is quite likely that there was little or no change in unit strength and that it remained at around 200 men.

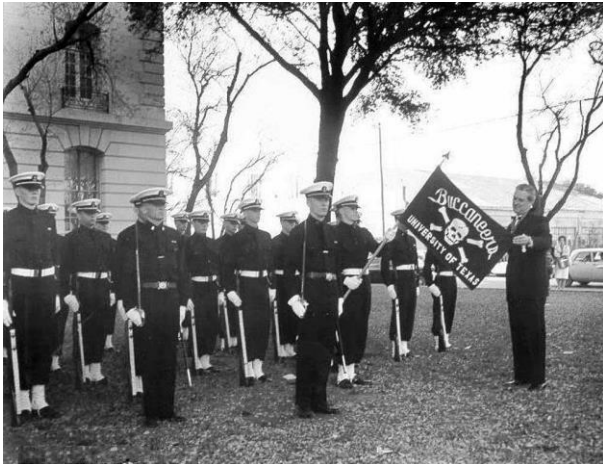
| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alpha | 28 | 28 |
| Bravo | 32 | 29 |
| Buccaneers* | 42 | |

*Buccaneers were, organizationally, assigned to either Alpha or Bravo company, except for the CO, XO and CPO. These three were assigned to “Headquarters Company” and were part of the Battalion staff when they weren’t leading the Bucs. The Buccaneers existed as a stand-alone group only for drill competitions, performances and practice.



Buccaneer Drill Team performs on the Main Mall at the Scabbard & Blade Drill Meet. Photo courtesy of Bob Gartner.

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 42 men (Seven old-timers and 35 new arrivals), but not as a separate company. This marked the return to a 4x6 (24 men) formation for performances and competitions. Buccaneer Commander was Robert Louis “Bob” Gartner. Executive Officer was Herschel Marvin Timmons, Jr. Company CPO was Sam Recompense Stanbery, Jr. Guidon could not be determined. Events the Bucs participated in were the UT Inter-Service competition¹³, the Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans, the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio, the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT, the Texas A&M drill meet, and the George Washington's Birthday parade in Laredo¹⁴.



Governor Connally inspects Buccaneer Guidon

Bob Gartner said that the Bucs won most of these competitions, except for at A&M, a hostile territory. A photo in the *Log* (right) shows Governor John Connally inspecting the Buccaneer's guidon at one of the events, probably Scabbard & Blade. Bob said Connally's arm was still in a sling from the wounds he received in the Kennedy assassination.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* in 1964. Nor was the color guard pictured. The *Longhorn Log*, though, pictured a five-

¹³ Recollections of Robert L. “Bob” Gartner '65

¹⁴ Recollections of Robert L. “Bob” Gartner '65

man color guard, a seven-man rifle team and a six-man pistol team. There was an Armed Forces ROTC Band, but it included no NROTC members. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members. They were listed but not all pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Donald Anthony Tortorice was their Second Lieutenant for the year. MDN Kenneth James Moore was their First Lieutenant and MDN Gary William Schoen was their First Sergeant for the spring semester.

The *Longhorn Log* pictured a staff of seventeen Midshipmen, including the Editor, Wayne Miers. This was an increase of ten from the prior year. They were pictured in the *Log* (p 24) and listed on page 40. The *Spun Yarn* staff of six Midshipmen was pictured in the *Log* (p 24). Alan Johnson '65 said he was the Editor that year. Alan said *Spun Yarn* was at that time not a publication, just a bulletin board that was frequently updated with stories about the Unit, and had been a bulletin board since as far back as 1961. The Social Committee was not documented.



Water Basketball Runners-Up: NAVY! Team members were (front row, left to right) Roger L. Wharton, David P. Cotellesse, Donald A. Tortorice, David G. Wilbourne and Charles S. Snell; (back row) Henry Amos Harper, Jr., Warren N. Lipscomb, John D. Hogden, Randall Hempling, J. Steven Ryder, John D. Fischer and Frank H. Weston. 1964 *Cactus*, page 475.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

This year Navy again finished first in all-year points with manager John Mason accepting the trophy. A combination of basketball, water basketball, table tennis, volleyball and individual performances contributed to the victory. Navy finished third in Class A basketball and was runner-up in water

basketball. In water basketball, Warren Lipscomb was selected for offense (all-intramural) and Donald Tortorice was selected for defense (all-intramural). Michael Johnson finished third in table tennis singles. Third place finishes did not get a photo in the *Cactus* but they did contribute nicely to the Navy team total. Charles Key was selected for first team basketball (all-intramural) and John Mason was selected for first team softball (all-intramural). The Best Athlete standings had four Navy men: Scott Follett (#2), Charles Key (#4), Robert Hatton (#7) and John Mason (#10). Robert Kniseley was a senior manager for the season. Three of the ten intramural junior managers for the fall were Navy: Duane Starr, Jack Strickland and James Sanders.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the fall formal (Sweetheart Ball), the spring picnic (Games Day), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). The Crow's Nest also sponsored a Christmas Party for underprivileged children and there was a dinner sponsored by the Navy League. A Midshipmen Choir of about 12-13 men was formed just for the Sweetheart Ball. Spring Break probably occurred the week of March 23-27. No field trips during that time were noted; however, the *Log* does mention a field trip to Camp Lejeune North Carolina, sometime during the year.

The Crow's Nest had 54 men. This represented a net gain of four men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 47 were pictured, all in coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 27 were old-timers and 27 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Donald Anthony Tortorice. Vice President was Don Wallace Brown. Treasurer was Charles Thomas Key. Work manager was Wayne Earle Miers. Food buyer was John Thomas Montford and faculty sponsor was LCDR William B. Lovell. It cost \$65 per month for room and board there, according to George Blume.



1964 Crow's Nest. 1964 *Cactus*, page 350.

Navy Sweetheart Ascends to a "Queen and Her Court"

Miss Wendy Kellogg was selected as the NROTC's Sweetheart for this year. She competed with six other finalists for the title. The voting was so close, though, that those six were designated as the

Sweetheart Court and all seven girls participated in Unit activities during the year. The Court was composed of Margaret Robinson, Mary Ann Wycoff, Sharon Duecker, Margery Kengla (yes, Col Kengla's daughter), Carol Holzapfel and Sharon King. Results of the competition were announced at the Sweetheart Ball. The *Cactus* referred to the Court as NROTC Sponsors, but that was probably an error. The Navy Sweetheart and her court hosted a weekly luncheon for staff officers and Battalion Midshipmen at the Varsity Cafeteria.

A Tale of Two Buddies

Clay Fulcher had remained active in the Naval Reserve while working for General Electric, a NASA contractor. While pursuing these dual careers he also pursued a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Houston. For his work on space suits, Clay earned his doctorate.¹⁵

Back in 1961 Clay's buddy, Alan, was intrigued by the space program. When the second go-around for selecting astronauts began, Alan applied and competed for a spot. It didn't happen, and he was disappointed, but that didn't stop him. By the time Astronaut Group 3 selections rolled around, Alan was ready and was even recommended by the Navy to NASA. He and 13 other men were part of that selection. That was on October 17, 1963. Alan recalled that he had just made CDR before his selection by NASA, and was promoted early to CAPT after his selection, which made him the youngest CAPT in the Navy by two years.

When Alan came to NASA he crossed paths again with Clay, who was still working for GE as a NASA contractor. Ann, Clay's wife, says they built houses next door to each other in Nassau Bay, across from NASA. Their children played with each other, and the families shared together what little social time the space program would allow.

President Kennedy is Assassinated

On November 22, 1963, just as the fall semester was coming to a close, at half past the noon hour, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade through downtown Dallas, Texas. Texas Governor John Connally, who was also in the car, was wounded. The Vice President, Lyndon B. Johnson, who was so instrumental in bringing the Naval ROTC to UT back in 1940, was sworn in as the 36th President of the United States aboard Air Force One before the day ended. Do you remember where you were when this tragedy occurred?



Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas

¹⁵ Recollections of Ann Fulcher, wife of Clay Fulcher '54

UT Football is No. 1

After beating Oklahoma 28-7 earlier in the season, in a No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup, Texas went on to win the Southwest Conference and complete a perfect 10-0 season. Texas' victory over Navy 28-6 in the Cotton Bowl on January 1, 1964 made it a record 11-0. The Cotton Bowl game was also a No. 1 (Texas) vs. No. 2 (Navy) matchup¹⁶ and Navy's quarterback was Roger Staubach, winner of the Heisman Trophy, who would later lead the Dallas Cowboys to two Super Bowl titles. This was the first time Texas was "officially" recognized as being Number One in the country for college football, even though the 1941 Longhorns were recognized by the NCAA as national champions back then.

Only one Ensign was commissioned later in January. The NROTC spring commissioning ceremony was held on May 29th. Twenty-one Ensigns and seven 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The 1964 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1964 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. See the Appendix.



UT Tower with Iconic No. 1

Segregation Ended on UT Campus

An earlier article in the *Daily Texan*, on May 17th, reported that UT Austin dormitories were totally desegregated by a 6-1 vote of the Board of Regents, thus removing the last vestige of segregation on campus.

ROTC Rifle Range Designed

Plans for a ROTC rifle range were prepared by the firm Brooks and Barr. This firm did design it to be visually compatible with the ROTC Building, which was designed by Ayers and Ayers. The rifle range design was started in 1963 and completed in 1964 to replace the old firing range that would have interfered with East Mall development.

Academic Year 1965

Statistics:

Number of Students: 196 Midshipmen (down 4)

Number of Staff: 7 Officers (down 1), 6 Enlisted (no change), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 32 (30 Navy, 2 Marine) (up 3)

¹⁶ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Longhorns_football#Darrell_Royal_era_.281957.E2.80.931976.29

On August 7, 1964 Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution allowing President Johnson “to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force” to prevent further attacks against U.S. forces in Vietnam, never mind that the U.S. had been doing so for the last five to ten years. Regular U.S. combat units were now deployed to Vietnam.

The *Cactus* and the *Longhorn Log* were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1965 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1965 *Longhorn Log* provided 45 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1965 *Longhorn Log* was dedicated to LtCol Alexander S. Ruggiero, who first came to the Unit as the MOI, Major Ruggiero, and subsequently was promoted and double-hatted as MOI and XO, the only known such instance.

Double-Hatted XO and MOI

There were still 53 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fourteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, Col Max H. LaGrone, USMC. Maj Ruggiero was promoted in February and relieved CDR Bays as Executive Officer, while still retaining his MOI position. Four more Naval officers rotated out (LCDR Vanderbeck, LT McDermott, LT Lovell and LTJG Knachel) and four reported aboard to relieve them (LCDR Gerald M. Dempsey, LT Raymond G. Blake, LT Melvin R. Sommer and LTJG Harry J. Chris). SK1 Enesto De la Rosa replaced SKC LaCharite. GMC LaPorte and Sgt Rose were promoted. Mrs. Luty Phelps replaced Eva Farley on the civilian staff.

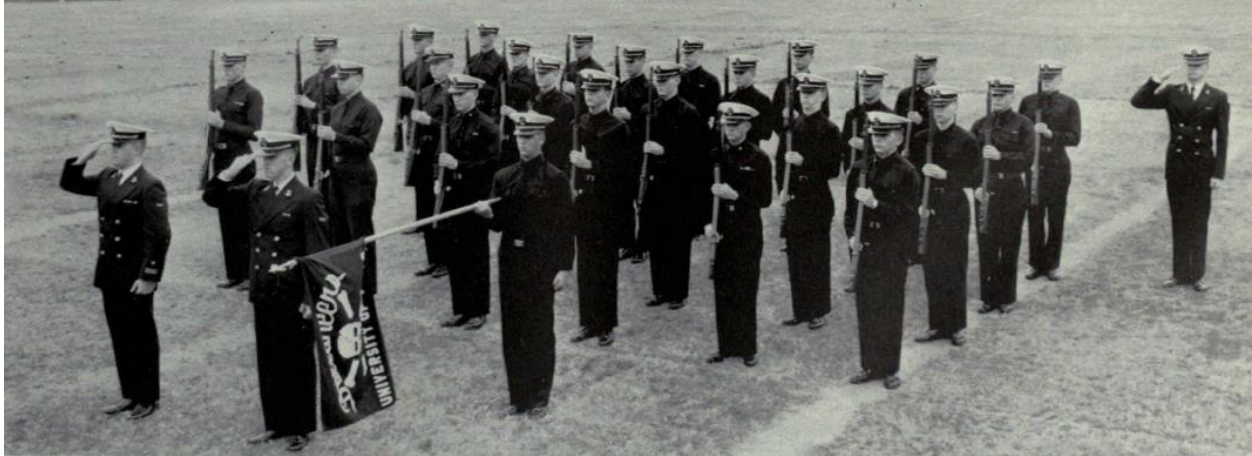


Alexander Salvatore Ruggiero

The Battalion was organized into two companies, each with three platoons, and the Buccaneers. The number of platoons per company was increased from the prior year. Battalion commanders were Donald Wallace “Don” Brown (fall) and John Thomas Montford (spring). The table shows 161 men, who were all pictured in the *Cactus*. If you add the Color guard and Battalion staff figures one gets a unit strength of 196. Counting names listed in these pages also revealed the number 196. Nominal unit strength was approximately 196, representing a loss of four men.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alpha | 23 | 24 | 23 |
| Bravo | 23 | 20 | 20 |
| Buccaneers* | 28 | | |

*Buccaneers were, organizationally, assigned to either Alpha or Bravo company, except for the CO, XO and CPO. These three were assigned to “Headquarters Company” and were part of the Battalion staff when they weren’t leading the Bucs. The Buccaneers existed as a stand-alone group only for drill competitions, performances and practice.



1965 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1965 *Cactus*, page 373.

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 28 men, although two more would participate during the year (eleven old-timers and 19 new arrivals), but still not as a separate company. Buccaneer Commanders were James Stephen “Steve” Quinn (fall) and Robert Louis “Bob” Gartner (spring). Executive Officers were James Arthur Spinks, III (fall) and Jerome Lee Powell (spring). Company CPOs were Stanley Pat Hardage (fall) and James Arthur Burns (spring). Guidon was Ernest Michael “Mike” Trominski. Scholastic probation problems had caused the changes in leadership at mid-year. Bob Gartner said that LtCol Ruggiero asked him to return to the CO spot to finish off the spring. Events the Bucs participated in were the UT Inter-Service competition¹⁷, the Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans, the Fiesta Flambeau and Battle of Flowers parades¹⁸ in San Antonio, the Roundup parade at UT, the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT, the Texas A&M drill meet, the Washington's Birthday parade in Laredo¹⁹ and the Buccaneer Days parade in Corpus Christi (May). Bob Gartner said that the Bucs won the Scabbard & Blade meet and the Fiesta Flambeau parade competition. Also he said that they won some spots in the New Orleans Mardi Gras and Corpus Christi Buccaneer Days parades, too. They also won the Inter-Service competition on the UT campus. They did not win anything at the A&M meet. At the end of that year the first Buccaneer guidon (the flag) was retired and presented to Bob Gartner. He returned it to the Unit a few years ago to be put on display. The *Longhorn Log* said that the Bucs took Second Place at the Mardi Gras parade.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year but a four-man color guard was pictured. The *Longhorn Log* pictured a four-man color guard, but no rifle or pistol team. There was no Armed Forces ROTC Band in the *Cactus* this year. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Wayne Earl Miers was their Captain for the year. MDN Clinton James Coneway was their First Lieutenant in the fall and their First Sergeant in the spring.

¹⁷ Recollections of Robert L. “Bob” Gartner '65

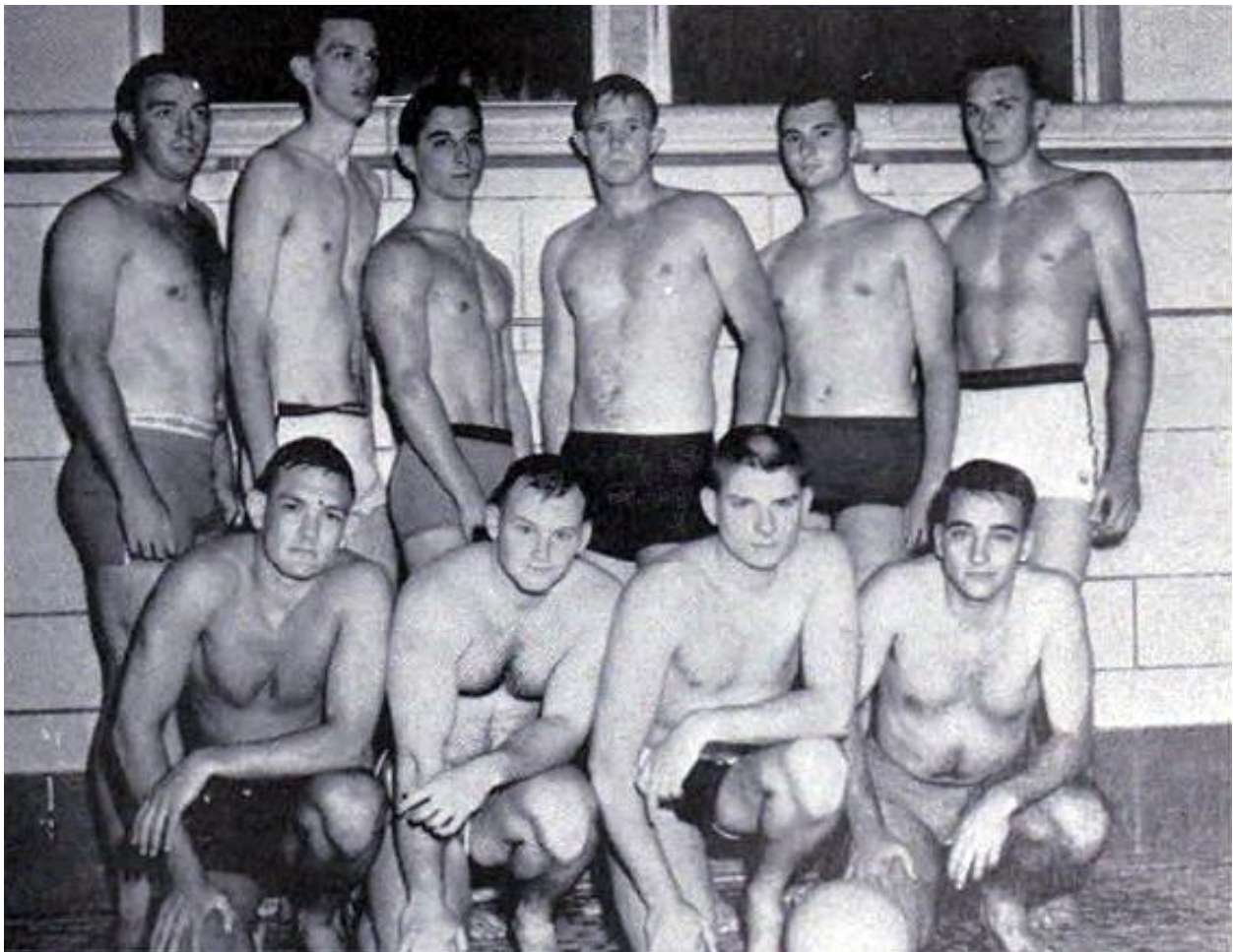
¹⁸ Recollections of Robert L. “Bob” Gartner '65

¹⁹ Recollections of Robert L. “Bob” Gartner '65

MDNs Alan Keith Johnson and James Richard Reinauer were the pledge trainers for the fall and spring respectively.

The *Longhorn Log* pictured a staff of eight Midshipmen. This was a decrease of nine from the prior year. They were pictured in the *Log* (p 34). The *Spun Yarn* Editors were two Midshipmen and were also pictured in the *Log* (p 34). No Social Committee was documented.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), a dance at the Fiji Lake Club, the fall formal (Sweetheart Ball), the spring picnic (Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). The Crow's Nest also hosted a banquet, a Halloween Party and sponsored a Christmas Party for underprivileged children from the Pan American Home in Austin. The Christmas Party involved refreshments, games and, to finish with a bang, a piñata. Spring Break probably occurred the week of April 12-16. No field trips during that time were noted.



Water Basketball Runners-Up: NAVY! Team members were (front row, left to right) Randolph Carter Burwell, Timothy D. Moore, Russell C. School, Jr. and Randall Hempling; (back row) Scott Charles Follett, Keith MacArthur Baker, James Michael McCoy, Warren Neilson Lipscomb, Jr., Jerome Raymond Banks and James Arthur Burns. 1965 *Cactus*, page 555.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

This year Navy again finished first in all-year points with manager Duane Martin Starr accepting the trophy. A mix of swimming, track, bowling, water basketball and tennis did the trick. Records show that Navy finished as club champion in swimming but another team was pictured in the *Cactus*. Navy finished third in track and third in Class A team bowling. They were runners-up in water basketball and Class B tennis doubles. Scott Follett was selected for all-intramural defense in water basketball. Our tennis doubles team was A. M. Stewart and M. K. Sutherlin.

The Crow's Nest had 48 men. This represented a net loss of six men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 45 were pictured, all in coat and tie. Membership photos changed to a grid of individual photos arranged like the class photos for this and the next few years. A comparison of names showed 32 were old-timers and 16 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was John Thomas Montford. Vice President was Edward Joe Polasek, Jr. Treasurer was Scott Charles Follett. Work manager was William Frank Kopecky. Food buyer was George Herman Blume, II and faculty sponsor was LT Melvin Ronald Sommer. It still cost \$65 per month for room and board there., according to George Blume, the Food Buyer.

Sweetheart and her Court Become Navy Sweethearts

In 1965 the women's auxiliary underwent another change. Four of the ladies from 1964's court stayed on (Sharon Duecker, Margie Kengla, Mary Ann Wycoff and Carol Holzapfel) to assist in the selection of new Navy Sweethearts; they remained active for the year. Six new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball: Pedie Oliver, Nancy Easley, Gayle Patterson, Linda Reneau, Pamela Harker and Gay Caffey. The four returning Sweethearts were pictured, in the *Longhorn Log*, in a uniform of sorts (white blouse, dark skirt and Navy-like sailor tie).

Only one Ensign was commissioned in January. The NROTC spring commissioning ceremony was held on May 29th at the Hogg Auditorium. Dr. Harry H. Ransom, Chancellor of the UT System, gave the welcoming address. The Commissioning address was given by MajGen William A. Harris, USA, Deputy Commanding General of Fourth U.S. Army. Twenty-one Ensigns and seven 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The 1965 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1965 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. Many thanks to Alan Johnson '65 for providing a program for the May 29, 1965 commissioning, which greatly assisted in this effort. See the Appendix.

John Hitchcock '65, one of the Navy commissionees in the spring, told an interesting story about that commissioning ceremony:

“The Army cadets were commissioned first followed by Air Force then Navy/Marines. As you know, the Army and Air Force salute uncovered indoors, while it is tradition for Navy/Marines not to salute uncovered except when being paid by the supply officer. I recall that on our destroyer, the Supply Corps officer was armed and I suspect they like to see an unarmed hand at pay time, hence the uncovered salute. But anyway, the General was uncovered and the Army and Air Force cadets promptly saluted before receiving their commissioning certificates. The

first Navy/Marine to be commissioned was John Montford. First because he was the Battalion Commander the last semester, senior Midshipman Officer and now as [Bob] Gartner was later in September, the only Marine. He promptly came across the stage, snapped to attention before the General and did not salute. The General knew our tradition about saluting, I am sure, as he unhesitatingly gave John his certificate and shook his hand. John departed without saluting. Now, there were cadets and family who did not know this custom and a low rumble went up about the Marine who forgot to salute. Then as the rest of the Navy Midshipmen went forward and were commissioned without saluting, the low rumble died away as folks began to understand that the Navy/Marines did not salute uncovered.”

Command History Reports Obtained

In March 2016 the author obtained copies of the unit’s Command History Report (OPNAV Report 5750-1), hereinafter referred to as the CHR. With but a few exceptions (1991 and 1992) a copy of every year from 1966 to 1999 was obtained from the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) with the help of Reference Archivist, Laura Waayers. CAPT Brian T. Teets (PNS#31) was instrumental in helping us find this information resource. Beginning in the year 2000, just the year 2004 was recovered from this source, but starting with year 2013 it is expected that each annual report will be available. The CHR has not always proven to be 100% accurate, especially for single commissionings. It also lacks details about some events and about names of commissionees. It does provide numbers of commissionees and their service (Navy or Marine Corps). In some years statistics are provided on whether the commissions were regular or reserve commissions. In some years supply officers were distinguished from line officers. Also, some years were further broken down into how many commissionees came out of other officer ascension programs under the command of the Professor of Naval Science (*e.g.*, NESEP, NENEP, MECEP and STA-21). As of 2013, the “Statistics” section for each year, beginning with 1966, are taken primarily from the statistics reported in the CHR. Many of the dates for events are also taken from the CHR between 1966 and 1999. There are ongoing efforts to try to locate older CHRs, since NHHC does not hold them. (Most of the statistics from 1940 to 1966 had to be manually gathered from the *Cactus* and other sources.)

Academic Year 1966

Statistics:

Number of Students: 234 Midshipmen (up 38), 50 NESEPs, 3 NENEPs

Number of Staff: 8 Officers (up 1), 6 Enlisted (no change), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 37 (30 Navy, 7 Marine) (up 5)

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log* and Command History Report (CHR) were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1966 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just two pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. There were only six photos on those two pages and they revealed little about the unit. The 1966 *Longhorn Log* provided 55 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1966 *Longhorn Log* was a dedicated to Texas Exes and other personnel serving their country in Vietnam.

There were still 53 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were sixteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, Col Max H. LaGrone, USMC. LtCol Ruggiero departed and was replaced by CDR Thomas J. Wood (XO) and Maj Donald H. Strain (MOI). LT Blake left in November to help fill a need for flight instructors, and CDR Wood taught his classes for the fall. LT Sommer and LTJG Chris were promoted. Three new Naval officers reported aboard (LT Charles L. Berry, LT Wilfred D. McCann and LT Tony F. Clark). LT Mayo left in June. GySgt Ronald L. Burtzell replaced MSgt Rose. YNC Billy W. Byrd replaced YNC Smith. QM1 W. J. Cox replaced QMC Hailstone. GMG1 Robert O. Porter replaced GMCS LaPorte. SK1 De la Rosa was promoted and RDC Henry C. Redman was added as a teaching assistant to LT McCann, who also happened to be a 1961 graduate of the Unit. Civilian staff was unchanged.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies, each with three platoons, and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Jerome Lee “Jerry” Powell (fall) and Jesse Luke Thompson (spring). Battalion commander rank was still Midshipman LCDR. We must turn to the 1966 *Longhorn Log* to determine Battalion organization, unit changes, events, graduates, etc. The following table was constructed from the *Longhorn Log*.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alpha | 19 | 22 | 21 |
| Bravo | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Buccaneers* | 29 | | |

*Buccaneers were, organizationally, assigned to either Alpha or Bravo company, except for the CO, XO and CPO. These three were assigned to “Headquarters Company” and were part of the Battalion staff, when they weren’t leading the Bucs. The Buccaneers existed as a stand-alone group only for drill competitions, performances and practice.

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus* at a football game, but no count or names could be gleaned from the photo. The *Longhorn Log* was more helpful. A 4x6 formation was used so that would have meant at least 24 men plus the CO, XO, CPO and Guidon for a total of 28 men. Twenty-nine names were identified (16 old-timers and 13 new arrivals) from a comparison of the 1965 and 1967 teams. The Bucs were still not a separate company. Buccaneer Commander was James Arthur Burns. Executive Officer was Samuel Renken “Sam” Lyle, Jr. Company CPOs were Gary Wayne Miller (fall) and James Adrian “Jim” Kuch (spring). Guidon was Michael James Collins. Events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras



1966 Buccaneers march in Mardi Gras. 1966 *Longhorn Log*, page 42.

parade in New Orleans (February 19-22), the Texas A&M drill meet (March 12), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 16), the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio (April 24), and the Buccaneer Days drill meet in Corpus Christi (April 30). The *Log* listed the awards won by the Buccaneers: First Place Krewe of the Iris Parade and Second Place Krewe of the Venus Parade in Mardi Gras, Third Place overall at Texas A&M, and Second Place overall at Scabbard & Blade.

From the CHR a further breakdown of Midshipmen was specified as 83 freshmen going through Naval Orientation, 59 sophomores taking Naval Weapons training, 37 juniors taking Navigation, 35 seniors taking Naval Engineering, eight taking Supply Officer training and twelve Marine Options studying The Evolution of the Art of War.

ROTC Rifle Range Opened

The ROTC Rifle Range (RRN), adjacent to the ROTC Building, was completed in 1965, and opened at the beginning of the '66 academic year. It had a classroom, storage areas, and a 25-yard, multi-lane shooting range qualified for .22 caliber rifle and pistol target shooting. It was used by all three ROTC units, the UT Rifle and pistol team, and for Junior ROTC shooting matches. The new facility cost \$90,000 to construct.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* that year, nor was there any color guard shown. The *Longhorn Log* pictured no color guard, but did show both a eight-man rifle team (MDN Reinauer, Team Captain) and a six-man pistol team (MDN Emerson, Team Captain). The pistol team posted six wins and three losses for the year. The rifle team participated in four matches. On June 15th, MDN 4/C James J. Lorkowski was awarded Second Place in the Secretary of the Navy NROTC Individual Pistol Competition. The UT NROTC pistol team was awarded Third Place in the Secretary of the Navy Team Competition. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Clinton James Coneway was their Captain, MDN Eldon Stephen Wilson was their Second Lieutenant and Churchill Wiley Jones was their First Sergeant for the year.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of eleven Midshipmen, including the Editor, Gary Miller. This was an increase of three from the prior year. They were pictured in the *Log* (p 44). The *Spun Yarn* staff were nine Midshipmen, including the Editor, Richard Mason, and were also pictured in the *Log* (p 44). This was an increase of seven from the prior year. The spring Public Information Officer (PIO) was Dave Spencer. No Social Committee was documented.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

This year Navy again finished first in all-year points with manager Roger Lee Warton accepting the trophy for the fifth consecutive year. A mix of track, water basketball, wrestling and individual performances was the solution. Records show that Navy finished as club champion in track but another team was pictured in the *Cactus*. Navy finished runner-up in water basketball, with James McCoy cited for intramural offense/defense, but no photo was shown in the *Cactus*. James A. Kuch was the wrestling champ, 130 lb. class, and Phillip M. White was the wrestling champ, 123 lb. class. John David Fishero was a junior manager in the fall.

The Crow's Nest had 50 men. This represented a net gain of two men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 35 were pictured, all in coat and tie. Maybe they only had 35 guys who owned a coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 19 were old-timers and 31 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Richard Earl Wauson, Jr. Vice President was James Arthur Burns. Treasurer was Michael James Clark. Work manager was George Herman Blume, II. Food buyer was John Wallace "Jack" Sutherland and faculty sponsor was LT Melvin Ronald Sommer. It still cost \$65 per month for room and board there, according to George Blume, the Work Manager.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic, the fall formal (Tri-Service Ball), the spring picnic (Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). The Crow's Nest also hosted a banquet, a Halloween Party (October 31) and sponsored a Christmas Party for underprivileged children. Spring Break probably occurred the week of April 4-8. No field trips during that time were noted.

Seven all-new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball. They were Vickie Hudson, Laura Polasek, Kathy Reichert, Toni Wright, Pam Harker, Pat Vincent, and Margie O'Brien. Four ladies were pictured, in the *Longhorn Log*, in a uniform of sorts (Double-breasted white blouse with piping on the cuffs and lapels, and a dark skirt).

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Dies

The day after Mardi Gras, February 20th, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, just four days shy of his 81st birthday, who had been so instrumental in the founding of the NROTC unit at UT Austin, died at Quarters One on Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco Bay, California, after having suffered a stroke, complicated by pneumonia, the previous fall. After WWII Nimitz agreed to serve two years as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO, 1945-1947), relieving Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King. As CNO he was instrumental in helping CAPT Hyman G. Rickover convert the U.S. submarine fleet to nuclear power. After his tour as CNO he spent some time as a Regent of the University of California (1948-1956) where he had formerly been a faculty member as Professor of Naval Science for the NROTC program. Since Nimitz's appointment to Fleet Admiral was "for life" he never really retired from the Navy. He was on active duty, with full pay and benefits, until his dying day.²⁰



Chester William Nimitz

²⁰ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester_W._Nimitz#Death

“Charlie” Returns to Austin

Charlie, our earliest known NESEP student, returned to his wife and Austin in late 1964 and reentered UT as an Architectural Engineering student in the spring of 1965. In 1966 he applied for the NESEP program again, but the request was summarily dismissed by the Marine Corps. On August 1, 1966 he began shooting people from his perch on the observation deck of the UT tower. “Charlie” was Charles Joseph Whitman. Sixteen people were killed and thirty-one others were injured before Whitman was killed by police.²¹

Ending the year on a more positive note, UT NROTC was awarded First Place on August 17th in the Admiral's Award Competition, PACNARMID II, in Coronado, California. The CHR also reported that there were eleven NESEPs who received their degrees in this year and continued to Officer Candidate School to receive their commissions. So NESEPs, at this time and for the preceding years the program was on campus, did not get commissioned at UT with the graduating class of Midshipmen.

Fall commissioning was on January 29th and yielded just two Navy Ensigns. Spring commissioning was on June 4th and yielded a much larger class, 22 Ensigns and five 2nd Lieutenants. MajGen Raymond L. Murray, USMC, was the guest speaker. That same day LT Wilford D. McCann, USN, a unit staff officer and alumnus, was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat “V” for meritorious service while serving as an advisor to the Republic of Vietnam Navy. The 1966 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1966 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. Many thanks to Joe Cialone '66 for providing a program for the June 4, 1966 commissioning, which greatly assisted in this effort. See the Appendix.

Academic Year 1967

Statistics:

Number of Students: 217 Midshipmen (down 17), 39 NESEPs (30 Navy, 9 Marine Corps), 2 NENEPS
Number of Staff: 7 Officers (down 1), 5 Enlisted (down 1), 2 Civilian (no change)
Number of Commissionees: 38 (36 Navy, 2 Marine) (up 1)

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log* and CHR were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1967 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1967 *Longhorn Log* provided 64 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1967 *Longhorn Log* was dedicated to Col Max H. LaGrone, USMC, the Unit's tenth Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science, who retired this year at the end of the spring semester, with nearly 27 years of service.

There were still 53 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were sixteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, Col Max H. LaGrone, USMC. Three

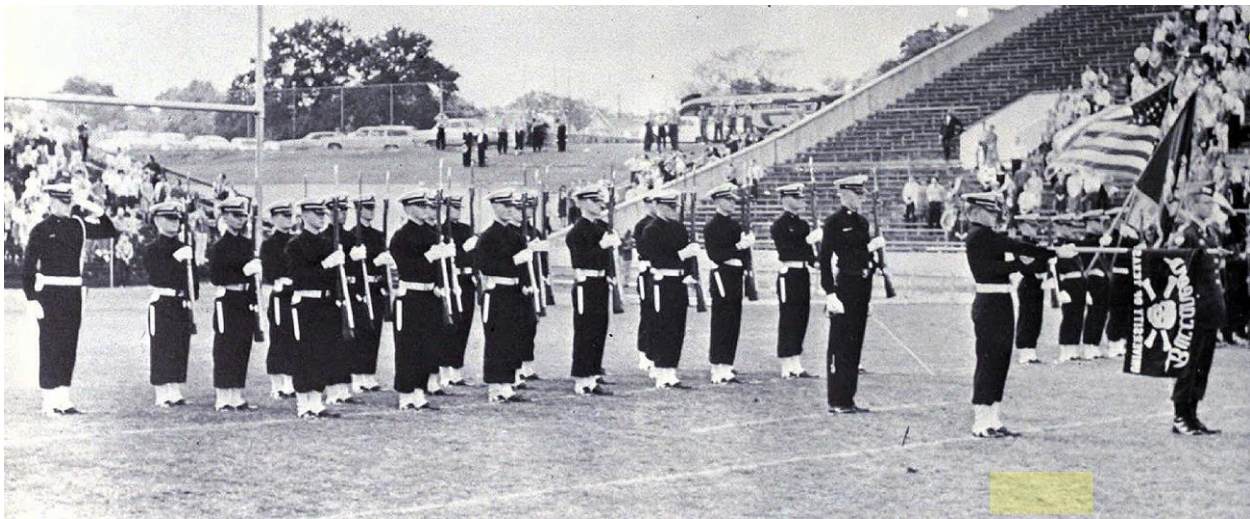
²¹ [A Sniper in the Tower: The Charles Whitman Murders](#). By Gary M. Lavergne. University of North Texas Press. 1997.

Naval officers rotated out (LCDR Dempsey, LT Mayo and LT Chris) and one came aboard (LT Waits). FTCS Gober left with no relief. Johnnie Lou Hallman replaced Luty Phelps on the civilian staff.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Neither the *Cactus* nor the *Log* pictured separate platoons, although there appeared to be some grouping in the company photos. Battalion Commanders were Park Lyle Beeler (fall) and Dale Robert Hayden (spring).

| <u>Company</u> | <u>No. of Men</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Alpha | 65 |
| Bravo | 61 |
| Buccaneers* | 52 |

*Buccaneers were, organizationally, assigned to either Alpha or Bravo company, except for the CO, XO and CPO. These three were assigned to “Headquarters Company” and were part of the Battalion staff, when they weren’t leading the Bucs. The Buccaneers existed as a stand-alone group only for drill competitions, performances and practice.



1967 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1967 *Cactus*, page 232.

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus* at the Texas-Indiana football game (Texas won 35-0) but no names accompanied the photo. The photo did reveal a team of 24 men plus CO, CPO and Guidon. Photographs in the *Longhorn Log* verify this team size, but Bob Collins '68 said they sometimes had “spares.” This indicated a minimum of 28 men. 52 names have been identified so far (19 old-timers and 35 new arrivals) who could have been on the team. The Bucs were still not a separate company. Buccaneer Commanders were Samuel Renken “Sam” Lyle, Jr. (fall) and James A. Burns (spring). Executive Officer was Robert Louis “Bob” Collins. According to Bob Collins, an Administrative Officer was added for this one year in the spring: James A. Kuch. Company CPOs (1stSgt) were Ernest

Michael “Mike” Trominski (fall) and Paul T. Fanning (spring). Guidons were John Edward Howard (*Cactus*) and Alphonse Brown, Jr. (*Log*). Changes in the leadership were brought on by scholastic probation problems. Events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans (February 7), the George Washington’s Birthday drill meet in Laredo (February 18), the Texas A&M drill meet (March 11), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 15), the Fiesta Flambeau parade and the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 22). Bob Collins also believes the Bucs marched in a parade in El Paso and went to Fredericksburg for the opening of the Nimitz Museum (February 24). The *Log* listed the awards won by the Buccaneers: Second Place at Laredo, Second Place Precision Drill and Fourth Place overall at A&M, Second Place Precision Drill and Third Place overall at Scabbard & Blade, Second Place Inspection, First Place Regulation Drill and First Place Precision Drill at Trinity, Second Place at Fiesta Flambeau.

From the CHR a further breakdown of Midshipmen was specified as 74 freshmen going through Naval Orientation, 49 sophomores taking Naval Weapons training, 46 juniors taking Navigation, 29 seniors taking Naval Engineering, and 22 Marine Options (10 seniors and 12 juniors) studying The Evolution of the Art of War.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year, nor was there any color guard shown. The *Longhorn Log* pictured no color guard, but did show both a six-man rifle team (MDN Lorkowski, Team Captain) and a seven-man pistol team (MDN Root, Team Captain). The Praetorian Guard first appeared in the *Cactus* this year but had no NROTC members for its first three years. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. Navy members were also pictured in the *Longhorn Log* for the first time. MDN James Richard Reinauer was their Captain, MDN William Hubert Craig was their First Sergeant and MDN Richard James Glaser was their Pledge Trainer for the year.

Semper Fidelis Society Appears

The Semper Fidelis Society also first appeared this year in the *Longhorn Log*. It was a national organization whose members are candidates for commissions in the U.S. Marine Corps. The UT organization was the Beta Alpha Chapter and included NROTC Marine Option Midshipmen and Marine NESEPs, both of which were under the command and administration of the Professor of Naval Science. It also included PLC, OSC and DCP (Degree Completion Program) officer candidates, who did not come under the command of the NROTC Unit. President of the Society this year was Sgt Dominic Nicolosi, USMC, a NESEP student.



The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of thirteen Midshipmen, including the Editor, Gary Miller. This was an increase of two from the prior year. They were pictured in the *Log* (p 44). The *Spun Yarn* staff was not documented. The Social Committee of sixteen Midshipmen and two Sweethearts was pictured on page 30. Chairmen were Dale Miller (fall) and Mike Trominski (spring).

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic, the fall formal (Sweetheart Ball), the spring picnic (Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). The Crow's Nest also hosted at least one party, and it was assumed that they also held their annual Halloween Party and sponsored a Christmas Party for underprivileged children. Spring Break probably occurred the week of March 20-24. No field trips during that time were noted.

Navy is IMS Club Division Runner-Up

This year Navy finished second in all-year points with manager John R. Justice, Jr. accepting the trophy. John also received the trophy for Best Official. A mix of water basketball, volleyball, football, bowling, track, tennis and individual performances formed the right combination. Navy finished as champion in division track. Navy finished as runner-up in water basketball. Park Beeler was selected for all-intramural offense. James McCoy was selected for all-intramural offense/defense. Philip Reed was runner-up in Class B tennis singles. Doug Fisher and John Kaplan finished third in Class A tennis doubles. Navy finished as division runner-up in Class A & B volleyball and in Class A & B football. In Best Athlete standings, Jerome Banks was #2 and Robert Collins was #6. Keith M. Jackson was a junior manager in the fall. Although not part of the "Navy" intramural team, NESEPs won the Class B bowling championship.



Water Basketball Runners-Up: NAVY! Team members (front row, left to right) Park Lyle Beeler, H. Paul Stewart, Jerome R. Banks and Frederick J. Moon; (back row) Robert L. Collins, Carl C. Hill, III, James M. McCoy, Randolph C. Burwell, James V. Beynon, II, and Clifton F. Darby. 1967 *Cactus*, page 492.

The Crow's Nest had 53 men. This represented a net gain of three men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 41 were pictured, all in coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 30 were old-timers and 23 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Richard Henry Mason. Vice President/Secretary was Michael James Clark. Treasurer was Carl Clifton "Clif" Hill, III. Work manager was William Ray Davis, III (*Cactus*) or James Burns (*Longhorn Log*). Food buyer was Dennis Oliver Olson and faculty sponsor was LCDR Melvin Ronald Sommer. The monthly cost went up slightly in '67. It cost \$65.70 per month for room and board there, according to Barry Green.

Farrah Fawcett, Navy Sweetheart

In 1967 six all new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball. They were Cheryl Neitzke, Barbara Hughes, Laura Davidson, Debi Perkins, Dottie Plummer and, yes, Farrah Fawcett. After

graduating and leaving UT, Farrah would ultimately go to Hollywood and star in television and pictures. All were pictured, in the *Longhorn Log*, in the uniform first shown last year (double-breasted white blouse with piping on the cuffs and lapels, and a dark skirt). Added to five Sweethearts who returned from the previous year, that made eleven Sweethearts for the year. The CO's wife, Mrs. Max La Grone, was made an honorary Sweetheart and pictured with the group in the *Cactus*.



Farrah Leni Fawcett

NENEP Program Comes to UT

From Richard Ashmore '76, a NESEP candidate during the timeframe of 1973 to 1976, the following was learned:

“During my years as a NESEP we also had two NENEP's. (Navy Enlisted Nursing Education Program). It was a small program. I only recall two guys, and one of them didn't finish.”

NENEP was the Navy Enlisted Nursing Education Program, another officer ascension program that came under the command of the CO, UT NROTC. The 1966 CHR reported three NENEPs and was probably the first year of the program since there were no NENEPs reported in the CHR as being commissioned until 1970, when two were commissioned Ensigns in the Nurse Corps. Assuming a nominal four year program, that would be what was expected. The CHR did not specify when the two were commissioned during the year. There were at least twelve different commissioning ceremonies held in 1970 involving Navy ensigns. We do not yet know their names.

Chronometers Compared

On March 6th The University of Texas name was officially changed to The University of Texas at Austin. China detonated its first hydrogen bomb on June 17th, just 32 months after detonating its first fission weapon.

The CHR reported that one Marine NESEP was commissioned but that seven Navy NESEPs continued on to OCS to receive their commissions after earning their degrees at UT. This represented a change for Marine commissioning procedure.

Fall commissioning on January 28th yielded just three Ensigns. The larger Spring commissioning on June 3rd yielded seventeen Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant. The CHR documented at least ten commissioning ceremonies during this academic year, involving one or more new officers. Unfortunately, it did not provide names. The 1967 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1967 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. See the Appendix.

Youngest Professor of Naval Science

After the spring commissioning and retirement of Col Max H. LaGrone, USMC, LT Charles L. Berry, Jr., USN, assumed acting commanding officer duties from July 1, 1967 until August 25, 1967, when CAPT Hartsel D. Allen, USN, arrived to assume command of the NROTC Unit. With eight years in the Navy he was probably around 29 years of age. Col LaGrone became Dean of Admissions at UT after his retirement.²²



Charles Lewis Berry, Jr.

Academic Year 1968

Statistics:

Number of Students: 233 Midshipmen (up 16), 40 NESEPs (35 Navy, 5 Marine Corps), 2 NENEPs

Number of Staff: 7 Officers (no change), 6 Enlisted (up 1), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 27 (20 Navy, 7 Marine) (down 11)

On January 30, 1968 the North Vietnamese launched their largest military campaign in the war, the Tet Offensive, a series of coordinated surprise attacks all over South Vietnam aimed primarily at military and civilian command and control centers. The U.S. response constituted the peak of U.S. involvement in the conflict. This event “created psychological collapse in the United States and a dramatic shift in attitudes toward the war.” Confrontations on college campuses toward the Vietnam War had begun at Columbia University in May 1965, but this one event greatly escalated the movement.²³

In 1968, Prairie View A&M became the first Historically Black College to host the NROTC program.²⁴

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log* and CHR were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1968 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just four pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1968 *Longhorn Log* provided 49 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1968 *Longhorn Log* was a dedicated to the MOI, LtCol Donald H. Strain.

Supply Option Instruction Ends

There were still 53 universities with NROTC units. At UT there were twelve military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the new CO, CAPT Hartsel D. “Dale” Allen, USN. CAPT Allen was a graduate of West Virginia University and George Washington University. He began his naval career in 1939 and earned



Hartsel D. “Dale” Allen

²² Recollections of David P. “Dave” Cotellesse ’64

²³ *Arms and the University* by Donald Alexander Downs and Ilia Murtazashvili, Cambridge University Press, 2012, page 134.

²⁴ Website: www.nrotc.navy.mil/history.aspx

his wings in 1940. He was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross “for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight” while serving in the Philippine Islands.

LCDR Sommer departed, and with him the staff position of Supply Option Instructor. No other officer changes were made. GySgt Charles M. Lockhart replaced GySgt Burtzell. SKC James M. Newport replaced SKC De la Rosa. QM1 John J. Krause replaced QM1 Cox. YN1 Leslie D. Kearns was added. RDC Redman departed without a relief. GMG1 Porter was promoted. Civilian staff was unchanged.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons. The *Log* did, and it showed three platoons per company. The Bucs were large enough for three platoons also, and during the two years the author was on Bucs (fall 1970-spring 1972), they were divided into three platoons. Battalion Commanders were Philip L. Eiserloh (fall) and Michael James Clark (spring). The Battalion Commander rank was still that of a Midshipman LCDR.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alpha | 21 | 14 | 18 |
| Bravo | 16 | 13 | 13 |
| Buccaneers | 46 | | |



1968 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1968 *Cactus*, page 331.

The Buccaneers: Part of the Battalion Again

Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 46 men (17 old-timers and 29 new arrivals), and were reconstituted as a separate company of the Battalion again, no doubt due to the arrival of CAPT Allen.

Buccaneer Commander was John Michael “Mike” Baldwin. Executive Officer was Edward L. “Ed” Carman, III. Company CPO was Vernon Lee McMinn. Guidon was Alphonse Brown, Jr.. Events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans (February 27), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 20), the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 27), the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio²⁵, the Texas A&M drill meet²⁶, and Washington’s Birthday parade in Laredo²⁷. The *Log* listed some of the awards won by the Buccaneers: Second Place Inspection, First Place Regulation Drill, Second Place Precision Drill and Second Place overall at the Scabbard & Blade meet. A remark in the *Log* suggested that the Bucs took an award or two in Aggieland as well. Fred Moon ’70 confirmed that but couldn’t offer specifics. Steve Howell ’72 seemed sure it was fancy drill for which they won First Place. Steve Howell also said that he remembered the Fiesta Flambeau (night) parade because they were scrambling at the last minute to find enough small flashlights to tape to their bayonets.

From the CHR a further breakdown of Midshipmen was specified as 64 freshmen going through Naval Orientation, 52 sophomores taking Sea Power and Maritime Affairs training, 42 juniors taking Navigation, 48 seniors taking Naval Engineering, and 27 Marine Options (18 seniors and 9 juniors) studying The Evolution of Warfare.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year but there was a five-man color guard shown. The *Longhorn Log* also pictured a five-man color guard, but no mention was made of a rifle team or pistol team. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members. They were listed and some were pictured in the *Cactus*. Navy members were also pictured in the *Longhorn Log*. MDN Park Lyle Beeler was their Captain, MDN James D. Brotherton was their First Lieutenant, MDN John T. Conly was their First Sergeant and MDN Robert L. Collins was their Drill Meet Chairman for the year. The Semper Fidelis Society was also mentioned in the *Log* but no members’ names were listed.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of fifteen Midshipmen, including the Editor, Jim Brotherton. This was an increase of two from the prior year. They were pictured in the *Log* (p 49). The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

This year Navy returned to first in all-year points with manager James McCoy accepting the trophy. A mix of softball, swimming, water basketball, track, tennis and individual performances formed the winning combination. Navy finished as champions in club swimming. Navy also finished as champion in Class A tennis doubles (Doug Fisher and John Kaplan). Navy finished as runner-up in water basketball. James McCoy was selected for all-intramural first team offense. Michael McClean was selected for all-intramural second team offense. Navy was also the runner-up in Class B softball. In Class B tennis singles, Navy finished as runner-up (Doug Fisher). Finally, Navy finished third in track. In Best All

²⁵ Recollections of Steven K. “Steve” Howell ’72 and Richard B. “Dick” Wellborn ’70

²⁶ Recollections of Frederick J. “Fred” Moon ’70

²⁷ Recollections of Robert E. “Bob” Felle ’70 and Harold W. “Chip” Bieseimer ’70

Around Athlete standings, Geoffery Roemer was #3, John Kaplan was #5 and Robert Collins was #7. The *Cactus* only devoted two pages to Intramural Sports in this year.



1968 Crow's Nest Executive Council. 1968 *Cactus*, page 245.

The Crow's Nest had 52 men. This represented a net loss of one man from the previous year. Not all were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 32 were pictured, all in coat and tie. The *Cactus* also showed a group photograph of what was called the "Executive Council" of 14 men, which hinted at the type of group photo the Nest would go back to in a couple of years. A comparison of names showed 42 were old-timers and ten were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Carl Clifton Hill, III. Vice President was Edward Clark "Ed" Moore, IV. Treasurer was Dennis Oliver Olson. Work manager was Michael James Clark. Food buyer was Rodger Paul Kester and faculty sponsor was LT Charles Lewis Berry. It still cost \$65.70 per month for room and board there, according to Barry Green.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the fall formal (Sweetheart Ball), the spring picnic (Vernal Equinox), and the spring formal (Ring Dance). The Crow's Nest hosted a dance, held their annual Halloween Party, and sponsored a Christmas Party for underprivileged children. Spring Break probably occurred the week of April 8-12. No field trips during that time were noted. Photographs of UT participants in 2nd Class Cruise (Sophomore Summer) were displayed in the *Longhorn Log*.

Seven all-new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball: Sandra Liddle, Kristen Holmberg, Jeanie Holley, Julie Norman, Janice Lawson, Patsy Moffett, and Bonita Foster. All were pictured in the *Longhorn Log*, in uniform (double-breasted white blouse with piping on the cuffs and lapels, and a dark skirt). Added to five Sweethearts who returned from the previous year, that made twelve Sweethearts for the year. The MOI's daughter, Chandler Strain, was made an honorary Sweetheart and was pictured with the group in the *Cactus* and individually in the *Log*. This was Farrah Fawcett's last year as a Navy Sweetheart.

The fall commissioning on January 27th yielded one Ensign and one 2nd Lieutenant. The spring commissioning on June 1st yielded eleven Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants. It was a Tri-Service ceremony with guest speaker, VADM Alexander S. Heyward, Jr., USN. The 1968 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1968 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. See the Appendix.

Academic Year 1969

Statistics:

Number of Students: 222 Midshipmen (down 11), 42 NESEPs (37 Navy, 5 Marine Corps), 2 NENEPS

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (down 1), 6 Enlisted (no change), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 50 (43 Navy, 7 Marine) (up 23)

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log* and CHR were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1969 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just four pages, though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1969 *Longhorn Log* provided 51 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1969 *Longhorn Log* was dedicated to LT Charles Lewis Berry, USNR, sophomore class instructor, who after eight years in the “Regular Navy,” three of which were as an instructor at UT, was leaving. He was referred to as a “Navy Man,” which was defined on page 1. LT Berry was Acting CO of the Unit for two months prior to CAPT Allen’s arrival. Two pages in the *Log* were also used to pay a fond farewell to Mrs. Muriel H. Plasky on her retirement after 14 years at the Unit (March 4) as Unit Secretary.

There were still 53 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fifteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, CAPT Hartsel D. “Dale” Allen, USN. CDR William Fred Goodman relieved CDR Wood as Executive Officer. Maj Jerry Douglas Lindauer relieved Maj Strain as MOI. Two other Naval officers rotated out (LT Clark and LT McCann). Three new Naval officers reported aboard (LCDR James T. Taylor, LT James Freet and LT Harry Brandon). SK1 Ronald G. Van Cleave reported aboard as a relief for SKC Newport, who was promoted. YNC Richard Snelson replaced YNC Byrd. Muriel Plasky retired and Beverly Roberts was hired on the civilian staff.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were John Thomas Conly (fall) and Dennis O. Olson (spring). The Battalion Commander’s rank was restored to Midshipman CAPT. The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons. The *Log* did and showed three platoons per company. The Bucs were large enough for three platoons and probably operated internally like that.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alfa | 15 | 17 | 19 |
| Bravo | 17 | 18 | 12 |
| Buccaneers | 37 | | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 37 men (eleven old-timers and 26 new arrivals), and were Headquarters Company of the Battalion. Buccaneer Commander was Tomas Coronado. Executive Officer was John Michael Ballard. Company CPO was Roberto Flores, Jr. Guidon was David John Rizy. Events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans (February 17-18), the George Washington's Birthday drill meet in Laredo (February 22), the Texas A&M drill meet (March 13), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 19), and the Buccaneer Days parade in Corpus Christi.



1969 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1969 *Cactus*, page 502.

From the CHR a further breakdown of Midshipmen was specified as 66 freshmen going through Naval Orientation, 50 sophomores taking Sea Power and Maritime Affairs training, 35 juniors taking Navigation, 49 seniors taking Naval Engineering, and 22 Marine Options (14 seniors and 8 juniors) studying The Evolution of Warfare.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year, nor was a color guard shown. The *Lonehorn Log* pictured a five-man color guard, but no mention was made of a rifle or pistol team. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members. They were listed and some were pictured in the *Cactus*. Navy members were also pictured in the *Lonehorn Log* in front of the 5" 38 mount on the west side of the ROTC building. MDN John T. Conly was their Captain, and MDN Francis O. "Frank" Galloway

was their First Sergeant for the year. The Semper Fidelis Society was also mentioned in the *Log*. MDN Edward L. "Ed" Carmen was President for the year but no other members' names were listed.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of seventeen Midshipmen, including the Editor, Douglas Story. This was an increase of two from the prior year. The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

This year Navy again was first in all-year points with James Broaddus as manager accepting the trophy. A mix of football, volleyball, swimming, water basketball, track, and individual performances was the winning combination. Navy finished as champion in club track. Navy also finished as champion in water basketball. James McCoy was selected for all-intramural offense. Henri Stewart was selected for all-intramural defense. Navy finished as runner-up in Class B football and Class B volleyball. Navy finished third in club swimming.



Water Basketball Champs: NAVY! Team members were (left to right) Frederick J. Moon, David C. Scholler, Henri P. Stewart, David G. Beckley, James R. Frisbie, James M. McCoy, Thomas K. Caldbeck and John M. Baldwin. 1969 *Cactus*, page 566.

The Crow's Nest had 56 men. This represented a net gain of four men from the previous year. Not all were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 43 were pictured, all in coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 27 were old-timers and 29 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Dennis Oliver Olson. Vice President was Francis Orman "Frank" Galloway, Jr. Treasurer was Barry Russell Green. Work manager was Frederick Joseph "Fred" Moon. Food buyer was Elton T. "E.T." Page, III and faculty sponsor was LT Charles Lewis Berry. The cost went up to \$70 per month for room and board there, according to Barry Green, the Treasurer.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the fall formal (Sweetheart Ball), the Vernal Equinox (March 22), and the Ring Dance (May 3). The Crow's Nest held their annual

Halloween Party (October 31) and sponsored a Christmas Party for underprivileged children. Spring Break probably occurred the week of April 1-4. No field trips during that time were noted.

Ten all-new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball: Janis Hawley, Becky Murph, Patricia Cafferty, Rebecca Bryant, Nancy Hinton, Cherry Kugle, Mary Standley, Julie Fowler, Cheryl Craig, and Ty Grimstad. All were pictured in the *Longhorn Log*, in uniform (double-breasted white blouse with piping on the cuffs and lapels, and a dark skirt). The *Longhorn Log* used color interior pages for the first time, and only two of them, featuring the Sweethearts. Added to four Sweethearts who returned from the previous year, that made 14 Sweethearts for the year. The Sweethearts hosted a picnic for underprivileged kids (April 26).

On October 29, 1968, newly arrived junior instructor, LT Harry B. Brandon, III, USN, was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V".

Wishbone Leads to No. 1, Sort Of

In 1968 Darrell Royal was the first coach to install the wishbone formation in the backfield. Few teams were prepared to deal with it, but it was a difficult transition for Texas and led to a different line-up of players. The first two games of the season ended in a tie and a loss. After that, things started to click; won the Southwest Conference championship and proceeded to the Cotton Bowl with a #5 ranking. There Texas demolished Tennessee 36-13. It was Texas' most lopsided win since their 1941 defeat of Oregon, 71-7. They were crowned National Champions by various polls recognized by the NCAA, even though they finished #3 in the AP poll.²⁸

Burnt Orange Returns to Texas

On January 1, 1969, UT (#5 University of Texas) was playing UT (#8 University of Tennessee) in the Cotton Bowl; both schools had bright orange and white as their colors. The officials were wondering how to avoid confusion on the field during the game. A story in the January 2000 issue of *The Alcalde* sheds some light on how the dilemma was solved. The solution was to flip a coin. The "loser" would appear in burnt orange uniforms. Texas won that day 36-13, some say in part it was due to how well a pigskin "hides" against a burnt orange jersey. This color was not new to UT, though. In 1928, UT football coach Clyde Littlefield had ordered uniforms in a darker shade of orange that wouldn't fade, and would become known as "burnt orange" or "Texas orange." The color remained until part-way through the Great Depression in the 1930s, when the dye became too expensive. UT uniforms were bright orange for another two decades, until the change in 1969.²⁹

Beginning in January 1969 the U.S. began its "Vietnamization" of the war to hand over more responsibility to the South Vietnamese for their own fate. By 1969 the U.S. had 500,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in Vietnam.

²⁸ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Longhorns_football#Darrell_Royal_era_.281957.E2.80.931976.29

²⁹ Website: <http://www.texasexes.org/uthistory/traditions.aspx?tradition=orangewhite>

On January 25, 1969 a Tri-Service commissioning service was held. RADM Dick H. Guinn, CNABATRA, NAS, Pensacola, Florida, gave the main address. Just one Ensign and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. Among the new commissionees was one of our Unit's future flag officers, ENS Steven Grayson Smith. During the last week of January (28th – 31st) forty Midshipmen from the unit went on an Aviation Indoctrination trip to Pensacola, Florida.

Sea and Anchor Details

On February 13, 1969, USS Randolph was decommissioned at Boston Navy Yard and was laid up in the reserve fleet at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. This was due to a Defense Department announcement the previous year that USS Randolph and 49 other ships would be deactivated to reduce fiscal expenditures in 1969.³⁰

On February 19th, UT started a Flight Instruction Program with 13 students. A P3V aircraft and crew arrived on March 27th for a two-day visit. Approximately forty Midshipmen participated in the indoctrination flights and discussions. The annual awards day, honoring outstanding Midshipmen for the past year, was held on May 6th. At that event the Unit's sophomore instructor, LCDR James Taylor, USN, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Bronze Star with Combat "V."

Governor W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel Dies

On May 12, 1969, Governor Wilbert Lee O'Daniel, who had been so instrumental in bringing Navy ROTC to the UT campus, died in Dallas, Texas. His defeat of Lyndon Johnson in the special election of 1941 for the U.S. Senate seat had earned him the distinction of having been the only person to ever defeat Lyndon Johnson for elected office. After his one term in the U.S. Senate he tried twice, unsuccessfully, to run for Governor of Texas, in 1956 and 1958, but couldn't finish higher than third in the Democrat primaries.³¹

The spring commissioning on May 31st yielded 25 Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants. The 1969 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1969 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. See the Appendix.

Man First Lands on the Moon

The summer of 1969 was punctuated by a monumental historic event. On July 20, 1969 American astronauts, Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., landed on the moon in the Lunar Module, call sign *Eagle*, while their shipmate Michael Collins orbited above in the Apollo 11 Command Module, call sign *Columbia*. Armstrong was the first to set foot on the lunar surface, followed by Aldrin, after which the two spent 21.5



³⁰ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Randolph_%28CV-15%29#Disposal

³¹ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._Lee_O'Daniel

hours exploring that part of the moon known as the Sea of Tranquility, before rejoining Collins and returning safely to the Earth on July 24th. The mission fulfilled a national goal set eight years earlier by then-President John F. Kennedy. Do you remember where you were on this historic date?

Crow's Nest Needs Help

The Crow's Nest had been around since the fall of 1949. It was in its fourth location, at 1010 W. 24th Street. Dennis Olson '69 was the outgoing President of the Nest. John Michael Ballard '70 was the incoming Nest President in the summer of 1969. The Nest was having some financial difficulty and the present facility was in sore need of repairs and maintenance. Several recognized that something had to be done to ensure the future of the Nest. Some Crow's Nest officers called Bob Brown '52, who was known to be a past President of the Nest, one of its Plank Owners and a solid supporter of it and the concept. At the time Bob had been practicing law in Houston for about twelve years. It was reported to Bob that the Nest was "broke" and needed a new location. Bob started the paperwork that would create a Texas not-for-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status so that the Midshipmen could try to raise some money from alumni to build a dorm for Midshipmen. Thus was set in motion the creation of an organization that would be known as the Midshipmans Foundation.

Academic Year 1970

Statistics:

Number of Students: 183 Midshipmen (down 39), 39 NESEPs (34 Navy, 5 Marine Corps)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (no change), 6 Enlisted (no change), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 63 (53 Navy, 10 Marine) (up 13)

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log* and CHR were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1970 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1970 *Longhorn Log* provided 52 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1970 *Longhorn Log* was dedicated to 1stLt James A. Burns '68.

1stLt James A. Burns – Killed in Action

1stLt James A. Burns, class of 1968, was the first Marine in the unit to be killed in action. It had been nearly 25 years since the last alumnus had been killed in action. Burns was killed on September 13, 1969, by enemy fire in Quang Tri Province of Vietnam during combat operations. Jim was a Buccaneer commander; on May 10, 1966 then-MDN 2/C James A. Burns had received a letter of appreciation for his services, as the Buccaneer drill team commander, from UT Chancellor Harry Ransom at the annual Chancellor's Review. Jim had also been President of the Semper Fidelis Society, Vice President of the Crow's Nest, member of Scabbard & Blade, and a Texas Cowboy. He played intramural sports and was on the Dean's List. At the time of his death, Jim Burns had been commissioned just over one year.



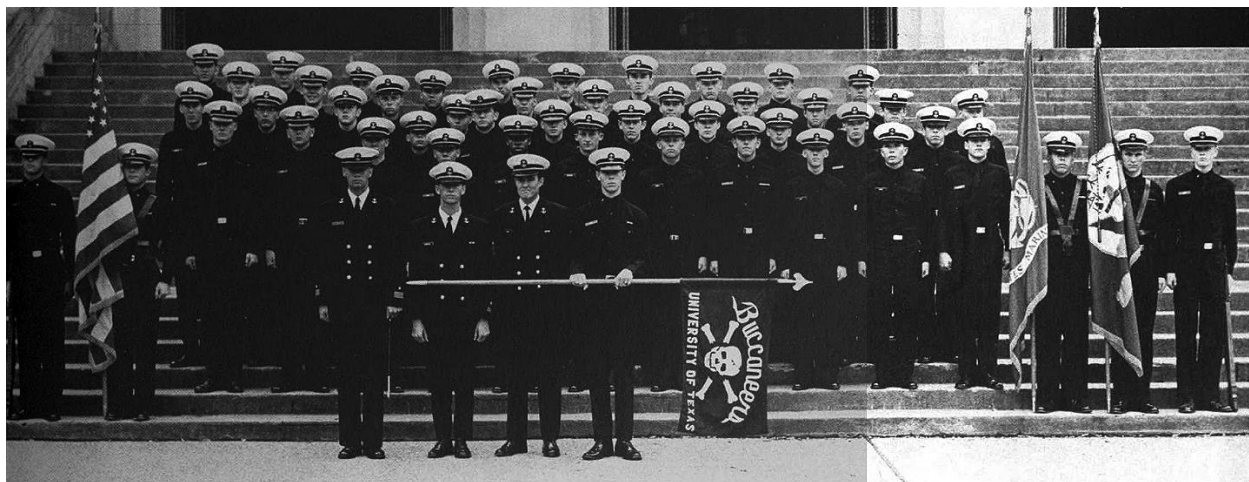
James A. Burns

There were still 53 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fifteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, Hartsel D. “Dale” Allen, USN. Two Naval officers rotated out (LT Waits and LT Berry), but no new ones reported aboard. GMGC Porter left with no relief. SSgt Grove Steven Crank, Jr. replaced GySgt Lockhart. Janet Cathleen “Cathie” Brubaker replaced Johnnie Lou Hallman on the civilian staff.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Robert E. “Bob” Felle (fall) and John Michael Ballard (spring). The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons. The *Log* did, and showed three platoons per company. The Bucs were large enough for three platoons and probably operated internally like that.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alfa | 11 | 10 | 9 |
| Bravo | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| Buccaneers | 49 | | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 49 men (nine old-timers and 40 new arrivals), and were Headquarters Company of the Battalion. Buccaneer Commander was Michael A. “Mike” Tatone. Executive Officer was Michael E. Costello. Company CPO (aka 1stSgt) was John M. Cocke. Guidon was Duke Martin. Events the Bucs participated in were the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans (February 7-10), the George Washington’s Birthday drill meet in Laredo (February 21), the Texas Tech drill meet in Lubbock (March 7), the Texas A&M drill meet (March 14), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 18), the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 25), and the Buccaneer Days parade in Corpus Christi. At the Laredo drill meet, the Bucs were awarded second place in Inspection and Basic Drill competition. At the Scabbard & Blade Drill meet the Bucs were awarded second place in Basic Drill. At the Trinity drill meet the Bucs won second place in Inspection.



1970 Buccaneer Drill Team and Color guard. 1970 *Cactus*, page 210.

From the CHR a further breakdown of Midshipmen was specified as 70 freshmen going through Naval Orientation, 35 sophomores taking Sea Power and Maritime Affairs training, 27 juniors taking Navigation, 28 seniors taking Naval Administration, Leadership and the Uniform Code of Military Justice training, and 23 Marine Options (16 seniors and 7 juniors) studying The Evolution of the Arts of War.

There was no mention of a pistol or rifle team in the *Cactus* this year nor was a color guard shown. The *Longhorn Log* pictured a five-man color guard, but no mention was made of a rifle or pistol team. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus* but not in the *Log*. MDN Francis O. “Frank” Galloway was their Second Lieutenant and MDN Douglas F. Fisher was their First Sergeant for the year.

NROTC Joins Praetorian Guard

Although the Praetorian Guard had been on campus since 1963, it did not appear in the *Cactus* prior to 1967, and no NROTC members were invited to join until the academic year 1969/1970. Formerly Company P, 7th Regiment of the Pershing Rifles, Praetorian Guard - taking its name from the military unit formed in 27 BC by Caesar Augustus to serve as the emperor’s bodyguard – was formed in 1963 when the members decided to separate from the national organization. Over the next few years it would grow into a Tri-Service social and service fraternity, where invitees had to pledge. Operationally it was run like a military organization. It was a social outlet for Midshipmen and a good exposure to the other armed services, similar to Scabbard & Blade. MDN Robert E. Illes was their Executive Adjutant and MDN Charles E. Dorsett was their S-4 for the spring semester. Group activities this year included a fall Masquerade Ball and a spring Round-Up party.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of ten Midshipmen, including the Editor (CinC), Bruce Byron. This was a decrease of seven from the prior year. The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.

Navy is IMS Club Division Champion

This year Navy again was first in all-year points with Robert D. Frnka as manager accepting the trophy. A mix of volleyball, swimming, water basketball, basketball, and individual performances was the winning combination. Navy finished as champion in club swimming and as runner-up in water basketball and Class B volleyball. Navy finished third in Class B basketball. Douglas F. Fisher was selected as one of the Best All-Around Athletes. Mark Poulos won the Nelson Puett Improvement Award. In water basketball, James Frisbie was selected as first team defense and Robert Freeman was selected as second team defense. Junior managers were Mark McAfee (fall) and Mike Broaddus (spring).

The Crow’s Nest had 55 men. This represented a net loss of one man from the previous year. Not all were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 30 were pictured, all in coat and tie. A comparison of names showed 40 were old-timers and 15 were new arrivals (two not named). Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was John Michael Ballard. Vice President was Henri P. “Paul” Stewart. Treasurer was James Riley Frisbie. Work manager was Thomas K. Caldbeck. Food buyer was Robert Lee “Bob” Sutton and

faculty advisor was LCDR James Thomas Taylor. It still cost \$70 per month for room and board there, according to Barry Green.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the Sweetheart Ball (November 22), the Vernal Equinox picnic at Pease Park (April 11), a NROTC Dining-In (April 17), the Ring Dance formal at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (May 2) and the CO's reception for graduating seniors (May 29). The NESEPs hosted an Easter egg hunt at Zilker Park for staff and families (March 21). Spring Break occurred the week of March 23-27. Twenty-two Midshipmen went on a Marine orientation field trip to Camp Pendleton, California during that time. The *Log* showed some photos of 2nd Class Cruise (Sophomore Summer) and a mid-term Aviation Indoctrination field trip was made to NAS Pensacola (January 26-30). At the NROTC Dining-In the guest speaker was Medal of Honor winner, CAPT W. L. McGonagle, USN.

Six all-new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball: Judy Haley, Eileen Biesemeier, Sandy Lindemood, Poka Claud, Sue Burkett, and Linda Wheeler. No uniforms were shown in use this year. Added to eight Sweethearts who returned from the previous year, that made 14 Sweethearts for the year.

A Tale of Two Buddies

You already know the name of one of the two buddies, Clay Fulcher. It has been a distinct pleasure and honor for the author to know and work with Clay and Ann Fulcher. The identity of the other buddy, if you haven't guessed already, is Alan L. Bean who graciously allowed the author some interview time for this Unit history project.

Alan had two important messages to share with Midshipmen going through the UT NROTC program. The first was that the Navy is the perfect place to go to make the transition from the academic to the business world, from college to the real workplace. And this is because most careers and companies don't dwell on behavior, standards of conduct or teamwork. The Navy taught him to tell the truth, be on time, be reliable, work with others, and take on responsibilities: character qualities that last a lifetime. He said you get only a taste of this training in NROTC, because you are not yet immersed in it like you are when you begin active duty.



Alan LaVern Bean

His second point was that the Navy had given him every opportunity to compete with men from other backgrounds, the Naval Academy and other universities. The education he received at UT was as good as anyone else received. NASA exposed him to a broadly educated group, and UT held its own. There

was no disadvantage to getting a degree at UT, so individual talent and ability to apply what one learned became the only differentiating factors.³²

On October 6, 1969, UT again commenced a Flight Instruction Program, this year with 18 candidates. Also in the fall of 1969 David Cotellesse '64 returned to UT to attend law school. Col Max LaGrone (PNS#10) was still the Dean of Admissions. David related his story to us thusly:

“When I saw [LaGrone’s] name on the nameplate [outside the door], I immediately went to the head of the [long] line, introduced myself and said I wanted to pay my respects to the Colonel. Col LaGrone saw through my ruse and asked what the hell I wanted. I needed a change from out-of-state to resident. No problem!”

It had also helped that Cotellesse established residence in Texas enough times to justify the change in status. Of course resident status also meant lower tuition.

UT NROTC Alumnus Walks on the Moon

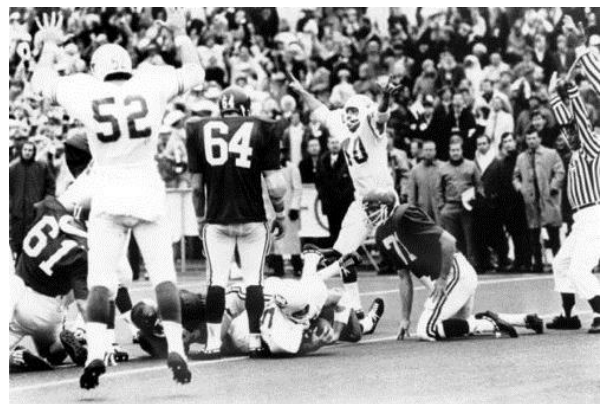
On November 19, 1969, while Astronaut Dick Gordon was cruising above the surface of the moon in the Command Module, *Yankee Clipper*, two other astronauts, Pete Conrad and our own Alan L. Bean '54, were preparing to leave the Lunar Module, *Intrepid*, and do some exploring on the Oceanus Procellarum (Ocean of Storms). This was the Apollo 12 mission, the second manned landing on the moon, and Alan Bean was 37 years old. He was the fourth man to set foot on the moon. Another unusual aspect of this mission was that it was an all-Navy crew.



Alan Bean on the Moon

“Game of the Century”

The 1969 season was the centennial for college football. Texas finished it in style. The final game of the regular season ended with a shootout between the #1 (Texas) and #2 (Arkansas) teams in the country on December 6, 1969. It was dubbed the “Game of the Century.” Texas trailed for nearly the entire game and then came from behind to win in the fourth quarter 15-14. President Richard Nixon was in attendance and “officially” recognized UT as the National Champions. Texas went on to beat Notre Dame 21-17 in the Cotton Bowl on January 1,



Game-Winning Touchdown

³² Author’s telephone interview with Alan Bean '54 on August 6, 2015

1970, sealing the season with a perfect 11-0 record.³³

Another person present at the Game of the Century was the NCAA Football Centennial Queen, Barbara Specht. She was a student at Texas Tech University, where she had been their football queen for 1968. She went on to compete with other schools in the Southwest Conference to become the Southwest Conference College Football Centennial Queen. She was crowned at the annual Turkey Day game between UT and Texas A&M in Austin (Texas won 35-14). She then won the national competition among the 14 national conferences. She spent the 1969 season traveling around the country promoting the centennial year and college football. So not only did UT win the National Championship of college football in the year of its 100th Birthday, but the NCAA Football Centennial Queen was from the Southwest Conference. Chevrolet loaned her a red and black Chevrolet Camaro convertible to drive for the entire year of her reign.³⁴

On December 16, 1969, SSgt Grove S. Crank, the Unit's Assistant MOI, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Bronze Star with Combat "V."

On January 26th, the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held in the Arnold Air Society Room of the ROTC Building. Three Ensigns and four 2nd Lieutenants from the NROTC program and four Ensigns from the NESEP program were commissioned.

UT's annual President's Review, of all three ROTCs on campus, was held on May 5th, with President Norman Hackerman reviewing the troops. An annual awards day to honor outstanding midshipman performance was conducted on May 12th. The Professor of Naval Science held a reception on May 29th for the graduating seniors.

On May 30th the NROTC spring commissioning ceremony was held. Nineteen Ensigns and five 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. Summer commissionings brought 23 more Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant. The 1970 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1970 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. Many thanks to Dick Teel '70 for providing a program for the January 26, 1970 (Fall 1969) commissioning, which greatly assisted in this effort. See the Appendix.

Midshipmans Foundation is Born

The Midshipman's Foundation was organized on July 9, 1970 by W. Robert Brown, one of the founding Midshipmen of the original Crow's Nest Co-op in 1948. Serving on its Board of Directors, in addition to Mr. Brown, were Glen E. Clover, a law partner of Mr. Brown, who had been an NROTC regular student at Harvard University; Dr. James Adkins, an M.D. in Houston, Texas who had been an NROTC regular student at UT and a



³³ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Longhorns_football#Darrell_Royal_era_.281957.E2.80.931976.29

³⁴ The author got to drive it for two weeks during that year because he and Barbara Specht are cousins.

resident of the Crow's Nest Co-op; CAPT George White of Pensacola, Florida, a founding member of the Crow's Nest Co-op; and Mr. J. Michael Dorman, an attorney in Mr. Brown's law office in Houston.

Academic Year 1971

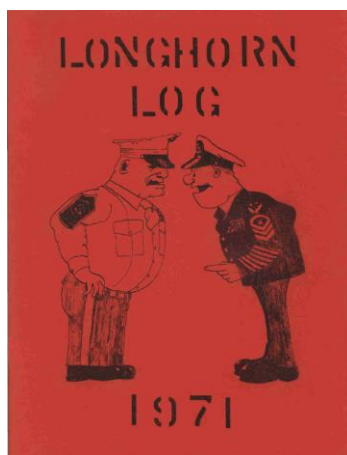
Statistics:

Number of Students: 164 Midshipmen* (down 19), 41 NESEPs (31 Navy, 10 Marine Corps), 1 Nurse

Number of Staff: 7 Officers (up 1), 6 Enlisted (no change), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 41 (32 Navy, 9 Marine) (down 22)

*Included 6 Iranian Midshipmen³⁵



The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log*, CHR and recollections of the author, who was a member of the Unit at this time, were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1971 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages, though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1971 *Longhorn Log* provided 24 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1971 *Longhorn Log* was dedicated to CAPT Hartsel D. “Dale” Allen, USN, 11th Professor of Naval Science at UT.

The cover of the 1971 *Longhorn Log* was a collaborative effort in a way. The author, an amateur cartoonist, had previously drawn the picture of the Marine Sergeant Major and MDN Harold Dolph had previously drawn the picture of the Master Chief. Someone on the *Log* staff thought they would look good together and so the composition was created.

There were still 54 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were 16 military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, CAPT Hartsel Dale Allen, USN. Two Naval officers rotated out (LT Brandon and LT Freet) and three came aboard (LT Miller, LT Allen and LT Hynes). LT Ed Allen (Aviator) would go on to make RADM during his career. GMGC Nathan A. Hazelton relieved GMGC Porter. YNC Antonio B. Fejarang relieved YNC Snelson. YN1 Charles M. Montgomery reported aboard to relieve YN1 Kearns but Kearns stayed on for part of the year. QMC Allen N. Gross reported aboard to relieve QM1 Krause but Krause stayed part of the year, too. Civilian staff was unchanged.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Michael L. “Mike” Gale (fall) and Michael A. “Mike” Tatone (spring). The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons. The *Log* did for the spring but not for fall; however, three platoons per company were

³⁵ From 1971 to 1974 (inclusive), Iranian students participated as Midshipmen in the NROTC program at UT. This was during the reign of the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, which began in 1941 and ended in 1979 with the Iranian Revolution.

listed for the fall and two platoons per company were pictured for the spring. The Bucs were barely large enough for three platoons and did operate like that during this, the author’s first year in NROTC and on the Buccaneers.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> | <u>Third Platoon (Fall only)</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alpha | 13 | 15 | ? |
| Bravo | 12 | 15 | ? |
| Buccaneers | 41 | | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 41 men (eight old-timers and 33 new arrivals), and were Headquarters Company of the Battalion. Buccaneer Commander was Steven K. “Steve” Howell. Executive Officer was Eugene F. “Gene” Behal. Company CPO (aka 1stSgt) was Mark Charles Thoman. Guidon was Benny J. Harris, II. Participation in the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans (February 20-23) and the Texas Tech drill meet in Lubbock (March 13) were cancelled due to scholastic probation problems. Events the Bucs did participate in were the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 17) and the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 23-24).



Buccaneers at Scabbard & Blade Meet 1971
 Photograph courtesy of the author.



1971 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1971 *Cactus*, page 340.

The 1971 CHR provided no further breakdown of Midshipmen by classes or training.

There was no mention of a pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, but there was a five-man color guard shown. The four-man rifle team shown in the *Cactus* in the Army section were half NROTC. The *Longhorn Log* also pictured a five-man color guard, but no mention was made of a rifle or pistol team. Praetorian Guard included NROTC members. They were listed and some pictured only in the *Cactus*. MDN Robert E. Illes was their Executive Adjutant in the fall and MDN Charles E. Dorsett was their Executive Officer in the spring. Group activities this year included raising pennants around Memorial Stadium before football games and the Texas Relays, sponsoring the 7th Annual Central Texas Invitational Rifle Match (the largest gallery match in the State), and painting buildings at the Austin State School. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members, too. They were listed and some were pictured only in the *Cactus*. MDN Michael A. Tatone was their Captain and MDN Elton T. Page was their Second Lieutenant for the year. The 6th Annual Scabbard & Blade Invitational College Drill Meet was their primary activity for the year.³⁶

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of six Midshipmen, including the Editor-in-Chief, Ron Camp. This was a decrease of four from the prior year. But it's only a decrease of three if you count the author as an

³⁶ The *Cactus* stated that this meet was in its sixth year; however, evidence points to a much earlier beginning.

undocumented contributor to the cover design! The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.

Navy is IMS Club Division Runners-Up

Intramural sports this year seemed quite a departure from Navy's performance over the previous ten plus years. The *Cactus* mentioned no champions, runners-up, all-around athletes, or managers from Navy. One NESEP, Richard L. Plautz, did win the 137 lb. Class in wrestling. The *Longhorn Log* showed pictures of Navy participating in IM track, touch football, basketball and softball. No captions or narrative were provided. The CHR was a little more helpful. It stated that in the fall of 1970, 130 Midshipmen participated in UT intramural sports and won second place in the Club Division.

Major social events for the year included a CO's Welcome Aboard and Reception for all incoming Regular Midshipmen and their families (August 30); the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the Sweetheart Ball (November 21); the annual Christmas Party for staff, postgraduate students and NESEPs at the Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (December 5); the NROTC Dining-In at the Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (March 19); the Vernal Equinox picnic; the Ring Dance formal at the Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (May 1) and the CO's reception for graduating seniors (May 14). Spring Break occurred the week of April 5-9. Twenty-six Midshipmen, including the author, went on a Marine orientation field trip to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina during that time.

The Crow's Nest had 55 men. This represented no net change from the previous year. Not all were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 35 were pictured. The membership photo changed back to a group picture, but with a comical costume theme to it. It was taken outside the Nest. A comparison of assembled names showed 30 were old-timers and 18 were new arrivals. Seven names are yet to be accounted for. The Nest location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Michael A. "Mike" Tatone. Vice President was Robert Lee "Bob" Sutton. Treasurers were Frederick Joseph "Fred" Moon (fall) and Cecil D. Martin (spring). Work manager was Elton T. "E.T." Page, III. Food buyer was not mentioned and faculty advisor was LCDR James Thomas Taylor. Monthly cost went up to \$75 for room and board there, according to Paul Thoman.



1971 Crow's Nest. 1971 *Cactus*, pages 422 and 423.

Nine all-new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball: Kathy Johnson, Alice Jennings, Judy Moore, Marnie Coldwell, Sue Cocke, Jill Patterson, Anne Feltus, Dianne Haack, and Fay Woo. All were pictured in a uniform of sorts in the *Longhorn Log* (white jacket with piping on the lapels and sleeves, and dark blue or black skirt). Added to the one Sweetheart who returned from the previous year, that made ten Sweethearts for the year. They also adopted little Lynnette Brubaker, daughter of our civilian staffer, Cathie Brubaker, to be an honorary Sweetheart.

State of Texas Recognizes Midshipmans Foundation

On September 14, 1970, the State of Texas officially recognized the Midshipmans Foundation as a not-for-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3). It had been in existence since July of that same year but the urgency which brought about its creation seemed to have eased, at least for the time being. The Crow's Nest continued in operation until the early 1990s and moved its location at least another eight times. During this time the Midshipmans Foundation continued to exist but lay dormant for 20 years until a new use for it appeared.³⁷

³⁷ Recollections of W. Robert "Bob" Brown '52

Black Mac Retires from the Navy

1971 marked the end of a Naval career for H. Malcolm Macdonald. Dr. Macdonald retired CAPT USNR. Since 1964 Dr. Macdonald had been the UT Liaison Officer for all ROTC programs.

Author Enters NROTC Program

On September 1, 1970, the author enrolled in the NROTC program at UT as a volunteer contract (or college) student. On September 14th UT conducted its Flight Instruction Program with eleven students enrolled. This was the first year for the author to participate in the program. I had participated in the statewide selection process for a scholarship but was unsuccessful. I was told that it was due to my wearing glasses. With so many applicants, that was an handy criterion used to reduce the numbers. Although the Vietnam war was still being waged and protests were prevalent on many college campuses, including UT, ROTC scholarships were still highly coveted by high school graduates, especially in the South, not so much in the Northeast. Many Ivy League colleges dropped their Naval ROTC units over protests about the war. I remember that I had a chance at getting recommended for acceptance at Princeton, which had a NROTC unit. By the time I arrived at UT, the Princeton unit no longer existed. I can only imagine what would have happened if I had gotten the scholarship at that time and had elected to go to Princeton. So my first year at UT was as a “contract” (*i.e.*, volunteer) midshipman. CAPT Allen had some misgivings about my chosen major, Architecture, but was, otherwise, pleased with my being aboard.

I was able to get room and board at the Governor’s dormitory, Guadalupe and 27th Street. One of the other students staying there was Bill Purdue, a fellow midshipman. He told me about the Buccaneers and encouraged me to join, which I did right away. From fellow Bucs I learned about the Crow’s Nest and I spent a lot of time there partying and socializing. I enjoyed the camaraderie with the Bucs. Steve Howell and Gene Behal were the CO and XO, respectively. Steve had a younger brother, Doug, who was also on Bucs. He was a sophomore and my squad leader as I recall. The Buccaneer CPO (*i.e.*, 1st Sgt) was Mark Thoman. Mark was the taskmaster and reminded me of Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in the movie *Full Metal Jacket*. Mark also had a younger brother, Paul, on Bucs. He was a freshman like I was. Neither one of these younger siblings was cut any slack, though.

As I recall we practiced every weekday evening. We’d form up at the loading dock of the ROTC Building and march to wherever we would practice our routines. We used a Springfield rifle, model 1903 (which was plugged), with a bayonet affixed. Practice bayonets were 18” cut down to 12” and were very sharp. I messed up a good pair of shoes putting one through the toe. Luckily, I was not hurt. Routines would come after we got down the basics of marching and what various commands meant. When we wanted plenty of room to work with, we would march to the intramural fields near San Jacinto and 19th Streets, now called Clark Field. If we didn’t need much space and were short on time, we’d drill on the East Mall in front of the ROTC Building. We sometimes also used the asphalt parking lot west of the ROTC Building.

The drill competitions we were shooting for that year were Tulane (and Mardi Gras), A&M, Trinity (in San Antonio) and our own Scabbard & Blade meet. We had a little difficulty in making these. Two early

events had been cancelled due to poor academic performance in the fall by too many of the Buccaneer members. After CAPT Allen had made his point, the Bucs were allowed to participate in later events that spring.

1971 would see a new upper deck being added to Memorial Stadium and artificial turf used on the playing field. The University was very shrewd in building the upper deck. They made sure that classrooms were included in the construction so that they could use funds from the Permanent University Fund. I also remember that artificial turf getting quite warm during the spring when we would hold our weekly (Tuesday) drills on the football field.



ROTC Building with New Upper Deck being built for Memorial Stadium in the background – Fall 1970

On October 27th LT Robert F. Hynes, USN, the new freshman instructor and the author's first Navy instructor, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and the Vietnamese First Class Armed Forces Honor Medal.

On December 23rd the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held. Two Ensigns and four 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned.

Texas Football Again No. 1

The 1969 regular season ended in familiar territory with Texas winning the Southwest Conference with a perfect 10-0 record. The Coaches Poll voted on December 8th to make them #1 for the fifth time that year, essentially National Champions. The conference title won them another trip to the Cotton Bowl and a rematch with Notre Dame. The Irish were ranked #6 coming into the game but had evidently learned a few things about the wishbone since their last meeting. The season ended with that one blemish to the UT record.

New NROTC Unit: Prairie View A&M

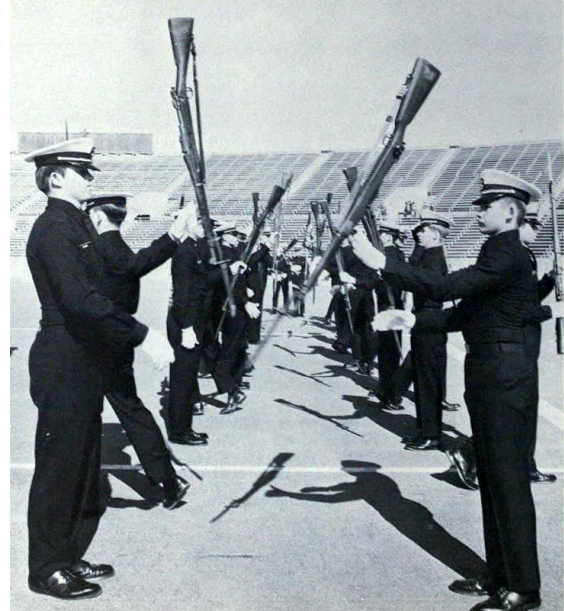
The CO and XO traveled to Prairie View, Texas, on March 16th to conduct a BUPERS inspection of the newest NROTC Unit at Prairie View A&M College. There they invited the PNS, CAPT W. H. Lowans, USN, to be the guest speaker at the UT NROTC Dining-in held on March 19th at the Bergstrom AFB Officer's Club. Three days later on March 22nd the CO and XO of Rice University's NROTC Unit came to conduct a BUPERS inspection of the UT NROTC Unit.

Spring Break was the week of April 5-8, 1971. Marine option students and many members of the Buccaneer drill team spent that week on an orientation trip to Camp Lejeune which was organized by Maj Lindauer (MOI). Twenty-six of us, including the author, made the trip. It rained much of the time but that didn't keep the Marines from putting on an exhibition of fire power. SSgt Crank (AMOI) was

also a chaperon on the trip. The Commanding General of Camp Lejeune had a nice group photograph made of himself and all of us for the occasion. He gave each of us a personally signed copy. Our host was LtGen Rathvon McClure “Tommy” Tompkins, USMC.



Camp Lejeune Field Trip, Spring Break 1971



Buccaneer Routine, 1971 *Cactus*, page 340

Missing Weapon Routine

On April 17, 1971 the UT Chapter of Scabbard & Blade hosted their annual drill meet. That year it was held in the parking lot of the ROTC Building. The Buccaneers were still performing their routines with fixed 12” chromed bayonets on their Springfield rifles (Model 1903). I was on the team at the time. About halfway through our routine we were in two columns, flipping our weapons across the six-foot distance to another Buccaneer across from us. The weapon was supposed to arc through the air making a 360-degree spin before it was caught by the team member in the other column. I think my partner for this routine was Mike Brands ’75. A visual of the same routine can be seen on page 340 of the 1971 *Cactus*. When it was our turn to exchange weapons through the air, Mike caught mine but his went a little wide and I missed it. I don’t think it was wide enough that I could not have reached out farther to grab it, but now I was empty-handed and my weapon was on the deck. I was standing there wondering what to do next. At first I just held my white-gloved hands to each side, as if I were at attention. Then I realized that I would stick out like a sore thumb if my hands weren’t making the same motions as the other team members were with weapons in their hands. I then started to pantomime doing my manual of arms just like everyone else was doing. The unrehearsed routine must have come off pretty well, because it got favorable remarks by the judges. For the rest of our routine, spectators were seeing one weapon on the deck and looking hard to see who was missing one. There were many who thought we planned it that way, so I was kind of proud I made the quick decision I did. To my great disappointment we never used that “missing weapon” routine again.

April 20th was the NROTC Unit's annual awards day recognizing outstanding midshipman performance for the year and present a few awards.

On April 23, 1971, the Buccaneers traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to compete in the Trinity University drill meet. That, too, was a memorable event for yours truly. My grandmother, Mary Maude Proctor, lived just a few blocks from Trinity University, and I had the wild idea of us all staying at her house. Her son, Rex, had been a star football player in high school and at Rice Institute, so she had had similar experiences in her past. She agreed to host everyone, so we brought our sleeping bags and spread out all over her house the night before the meet. There were 42 of us! The house was a sprawling old wood-frame structure which had been built in the 1920s. With all its rooms it was like a boarding house. She lived right across the street from Laurel Heights Methodist Church, the church our family attended, and their parking lot served us well for practicing our routine on Friday night before the meet. The most astounding thing my grandmother did, though, was to cook a full country breakfast for all those guys the next morning! We packed up all our stuff after that very satisfying breakfast and headed off to Trinity for the meet.

We arrived at Trinity well-fed, well-rehearsed and ready to compete. I think we took first place in inspection but I don't recall what we scored in our drill routine. It probably would have been first place if they had kept my "missing weapon" routine, and since the competition was on a football field, it wouldn't have been too hard on the weapon.



Buccaneers at Trinity Drill Meet 1971

Trinity University fed us lunch and invited the Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps silent drill team to entertain us in the afternoon. It was incredibly inspiring to watch both since I had been in a marching band in my earlier years. I also remember that weekend because I escorted a young lady from one event to another that day. She was a Navy Sweetheart and they were invaluable in our team's winning a first in inspection. Her name was Cathy Tolbert.

On April 29, 1971 the UT President's Review of all Navy, Army and Air Force ROTC Units was held. President Ad Interim Bryce Jordan reviewed the troops.

Sometime in May, prior to the end of the semester, CAPT Allen asked me in to his office. He sat me down and said he was offering me an appointment to the scholarship program, based on my grades and aptitude. I had also taken the tests and participated in the State-wide competition again that year to try to win a scholarship. Now, after my first year as a contract midshipman, I had a scholarship by two different means. I asked CAPT Allen if it made a difference as to which one I picked. He said if I took his appointment I could go on summer cruise that summer. The other method would delay my 3rd class

cruise. That made the decision a “no-brainer.” I took the Captain’s appointment and got ready for summer cruise, less than a month away.

On May 15th, the NROTC spring commissioning ceremony was held. Seventeen Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. Summer commissionings would see 13 Ensigns and four 2nd Lieutenants added to the numbers. The 1971 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1971 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. See the Appendix.

Author’s 3rd Class Cruise

From June 1 to July 10, 1971 I was on 3rd Class cruise (PACTRAMID I) with three of my classmates from UT, Mike Brands ’75, Bob Dillow ’74 and Andy Aiklen ’74. There were about 13 Midshipmen assigned to the USS Providence (CLG-6), four of whom were 1st Class Midshipmen on their 1st Class cruise. Providence was Flagship of the First Fleet. She was tied to the pier on North Island, across the harbor from San Diego, California. She had the reputation of being “Building 6,” probably due to her minimal underway time. She wasn’t going to stay in port, though, with thirteen



USS Providence (CLG-6), Flagship of the First Fleet

Midshipmen onboard who needed training, and that included underway time. We did get; however, quite a bit of training in port. With the boilers in “cold iron” condition, I got a chance to get inside one and clean the steam tubes from inside the firebox. Each burner assembly could be removed and allow access for skinny sailors to get in there and do this maintenance. Providence also had some beautiful



Liberty Call

teakwood decking on her main deck, which needed to be “holey stoned” periodically. We got the “privilege” of doing this one morning at 0400. The process involves pushing and pulling a brick across the teak decking, with the grain, of course. The brick had an indentation in the top of it, the “holey,” into which the sailor inserts a stick about the size of a broom handle, and then pushes and pulls the brick. The stick slips out of the brick hole frequently and must be reinserted. It was a character-building process. We got to learn other things new seaman recruits learn, too. Some of those were fetching the batteries for the sound-powered phones or finding some petty officer 50’ of shore line. There also was the sea bat under the box on the fantail.

Liberty was not real exciting on North Island, so the guys would take the liberty boat to fleet landing in San Diego to look for any kind of stimulation. On the ship, the 3rd Class Midshipmen wore sailor dungaree uniforms and that sailor hat with the dark blue or black stripe around the edge. When we were ashore on liberty, though, we could wear the officer dress khaki uniform, which was a lot more impressive. That was about the only time I got to use dress khakis, since they discontinued them by the time I was commissioned. I took whatever liberty I was given to see the sights in San Diego, one of which was their world-famous zoo. I had never seen it before and was most impressed.

Well, it finally came time for Providence to get underway. We transited up to Oregon and up the Columbia River to Portland for the annual Rose Festival. I know I got my sea legs because when we went ashore I felt like I was swaying back and forth all the time. The city was really great, lots of freebies for sailors, one of which was free bowling. I was a pretty good bowler and tried it but I could not throw the ball in a straight line. It seems that my new sea legs were helping me throw gutter balls. It was a weird sensation. Anyway, we had a good time and were pleased we got some at-sea time.

Author Meets Ken Haynes '47

Shortly after our return to San Diego, it was time for a change of command. On June 22, 1971 CAPT Henry S. Morgan was relieved by CAPT Kenneth G. Haynes. We knew from the change of command program that CAPT Haynes was a graduate of the Naval ROTC program at UT, and the four of us from UT were pretty proud of that; but with no alumni association at the time for our Unit, we didn't feel quite as connected as we should have. I stood in the back of the audience on the fantail, with the other 3rd Class Midshipmen, and was able to snap a few photographs that I later shared with CAPT Haynes when he helped me on the preparation of this book. I later found that a lot had changed on Providence with CAPT Haynes' arrival. Providence was sent to Vietnam, and her actions there soon erased any image of "Building 6."



Change of Command – CAPT Haynes seated

While we were all away on our summer cruises, CAPT Hartsel D. "Dale" Allen, USN, retired on June 30, 1971 as Commanding Officer, NROTC Unit, University of Texas and Professor of Naval Science. From July 1 to 4, CDR William F. Goodman, USN, the Executive Officer, served as interim CO. On July 5th, CAPT Ralph A. Hilson, USN, arrived and assumed command as the new CO.

My first sea duty in the Navy came to an end on July 10, 1971. I had received word of my maternal grandfather's passing three days prior and was able to get back to San Antonio in time for the funeral. I wore my dress blues. My grandfather had been a Sergeant in the Army during WWI.

The Money in Your Pocket

On August 15, 1971, President Richard M. Nixon announced that the U.S. government would no longer redeem currency for gold, thus effectively taking the United States off the gold standard. Since 1965 the federal government had been reducing the amount of silver in our coinage. Up to and including 1964, the U.S. dollar, half-dollar, quarter and dime had contained 90% silver. After 1964 only the Kennedy half-dollar contained any silver (40%) and only up to and including 1970. The Mint did produce 40% silver coins, but they were sold at a premium to collectors in sets and were not intended to be circulated. After 1974 there was no more silver in U.S. coinage. Only coins between 1965 and 1974 bearing an “S” mintmark, except for the half-dollar exception mentioned above, contained any silver and were, again, minted just for collectors.

In 1971 the average car cost \$2,700 with gasoline going for 40¢ per gallon. [I remember 19¢ per gallon in Austin.] The average new home cost \$25,250 and average annual salary was \$10,600. You could mail a letter for 8¢, go to the movies for \$1.50 and buy a hamburger for 55¢.³⁸

Academic Year 1972

Statistics:

Number of Students: 162 Midshipmen* (down 2), 37 NESEPs (29 Navy, 8 Marine Corps), 1 NENEP

Number of Staff: 8 Officers (up 1), 5 Enlisted (down 1), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 20 (17 Navy, 3 Marine) (down 21)

*Included 5 Iranian Midshipmen

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log*, CHR and recollections of the author were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1972 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just six pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1972 *Longhorn Log* provided 28 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1972 *Longhorn Log* bore no personal dedication.

This year Midshipmen were given new designations. Regular Midshipmen were now Scholarship Midshipmen and Contract Midshipmen were now referred to as College Midshipmen.

There were still 54 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fifteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the new CO, CAPT Ralph Albert Hilson, USN, who assumed command July 5, 1971. CAPT Hilson was a 1945 graduate of the Naval Academy. Many of his billets had been as an Executive Officer or Commanding Officer. He had 19 decorations, among these being the Bronze Star, the Combat Action Ribbon and three Legion of Merit



Ralph Albert Hilson

³⁸ www.thepeoplehistory.com/1971.html

medals, one of which was awarded to him as CO of USS Saint Paul (CA-73).

Maj Joseph Francis Molineaux, USMC, relieved Maj Lindauer as MOI. YN1 Kearns and QM1 Krause departed. Civilian staff was unchanged.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Donald B. “Bruce” MacKenzie-Graham (fall) and David “Dave” Hardy (spring). The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons. The *Log* did, and showed two platoons per company. The Bucs were large enough for two platoons, but were not pictured as such.

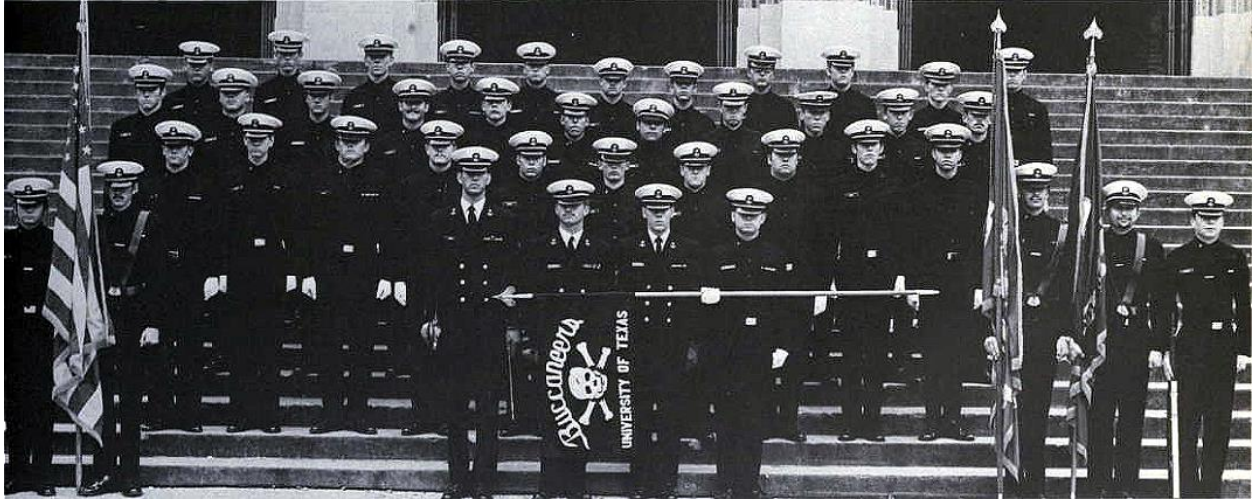
| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alpha | 15 | 16 |
| Bravo | 18 | 15 |
| Buccaneers | 37 | |



Buccaneers at Trinity Meet with their Trophies

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 37 men (13 old-timers and 24 new arrivals), and were Headquarters Company of the Battalion. Buccaneer Commander was again Steven K. “Steve” Howell. Executive Officer was Eugene F. “Gene” Behal. Company CPO (aka 1stSgt) was James Patrick “Jim” Voss. Guidon was William Davis “Dave” Barron. Events the Bucs participated in were the George Washington’s Birthday drill meet in Laredo (February 19), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 15) and the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 22). The Bucs

were pictured in the *Log* with several awards at the Trinity meet, but these were not specified. Steve Howell said we won it all: first in Inspection, first in Regular Drill and first in Fancy Drill.



1972 Buccaneer Drill Team and Color guard. 1972 *Cactus*, page 65.

There was no mention of a pistol team in the *Cactus* this year but there was a five-man color guard shown with the Buccaneers as Headquarters Company. The eleven-member rifle team shown in the *Cactus* in the Army section were nearly half NROTC (5). The *Longhorn Log* also pictured a five-man color guard, but no mention was made of a rifle or pistol team. Praetorian Guard included NROTC members. They were listed, and some were pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Charles E. Dorsett was their Executive Officer and MDN Jerry W. Dalton was their Executive Adjutant for the year. Group activities this year included raising pennants around Memorial Stadium before football games, and the Texas Relays. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members, too. They were listed and some were pictured only in the *Cactus*. MDN Eugene F. Behal was their Captain for the fall semester. The 7th Annual Scabbard & Blade Invitational College Drill Meet was their primary activity for the year.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a “staff” of one midshipman, the Editor, Ron Camp. This was a decrease of five from 1971. The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.

Intramural Sports picked up a little bit this year, but it did not compare to the teams of the 1960s. Navy won the championship in Class B touch football as well as rifle team. This was the first appearance of marksmanship in IM Sports. The *Cactus* mentioned no Navy runners-up, all-around athletes, or managers. One NESEP, Richard L. Plautz, did win the 147 lb. Class in wrestling. Apparently Richard had gained ten pounds since last year. The *Longhorn Log* covered



Class B Football Champs. 1972 *Log*, page 16.

the football champs and showed pictures of Navy's participation in basketball, volleyball and softball, too. No captions or narrative were provided.

The Crow's Nest had 38 men. This represented a net loss of 17 men from the previous year. Not all were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 31 were pictured. The comical costume group photo was taken at the Nest. A comparison of assembled names showed 25 were old-timers and 13 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Elton Thrasher "E.T." Page, III. Vice President was Francis Alan Bogar. Treasurer was Gilbert Wesson "Gil" Bailey, II. Work manager was Kevin John Kelley. Food buyer was David Raymond Sheppard and faculty advisor was LT Luke Horrell Miller, Jr. It still cost \$75 per month for room and board there, according to Jake Schaffner.



1972 Crow's Nest. 1972 *Cactus*, pages 98 and 99.

Major social events for the year included a CO's Welcome Aboard and Reception for all incoming regular midshipmen and their families (August 30); the annual NESEP picnic for incoming NESEPs and staff (September 4); the fall Sweetheart picnic; the Sweetheart Ball at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (November 20); the annual Christmas Party for staff, postgraduate students and NESEPs at the Howard Johnson Convention Center (December 10); the Vernal Equinox picnic (April 8); and the Ring Dance formal at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (May 6). Spring Break occurred the week of March 27-31. Two field trips were conducted during that time: a Nuclear Power Submarine Indoctrination trip to Charleston, South Carolina and a Marine Corps Orientation trip to Camp Pendleton, California.

Six all-new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball: Era Ford, Barbie Hurt, Martha Kinard, Bette Lawrence, Cathy Tolbert, and Pat Martin. All were pictured in a uniform of sorts in the *Longhorn Log* (navy blue jacket and skirt). Added to five Sweethearts who returned from the previous year, that made eleven Sweethearts for the year. Little Lynnette Brubaker was still an honorary Sweetheart.

NESEPs First Appear in Cactus

Members of the NESEP Program were first pictured in the 1972 *Cactus* as a separate company, though they were not yet an integral part of the Battalion. LT Hynes was their advisor. This program included both Navy and Marine Corps enlisted personnel and had been on the UT campus since the early 1960s, perhaps since the late 1950s. The Navy personnel are pictured in dress blues with different insignia than Midshipmen. The Marine Corps personnel are wearing a green dress uniform.

On September 2nd, UT commenced its Flight Instruction Program with nine students enrolled. On October 14th LT Carter, Surface Junior Officer Assignment Section, BUPERS, made a presentation to

all Midshipmen on officer detailing. On November 2nd, CDR R. T. Meloy, Commanding Officer of USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659) (Blue Crew) gave a Nuclear Power Presentation to all Midshipmen. The next week, on November 10th, CAPT L. F. Cooper, USN, Director Navy Recruiting, SEVENTH Navy Recruiting Area, Dallas, Texas and CAPT C. C. Dudley, USN, Commanding Officer, Navy Recruiting Station, Houston, Texas, visited the NROTC Unit.

On December 22nd the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held. Four Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned.

On March 6th the NROTC Scholarship Texas State Selection Committee met at the Unit and deliberated on selections for five days. This is the committee that decided who got NROTC scholarships or not for the State of Texas.

ROTC Building Renamed

In April 1972, according to the November 1973 issue of *The Alcalde*, the ROTC Building was officially renamed Russell A. Steindam (Memorial) Hall in memory of 1st Lt Russell A. Steindam who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (posthumously) for gallantry in action in Vietnam in 1970. In Tay Ninh Province, the Republic of Vietnam, Steindam used his own body to shield his platoon from an incoming grenade. Steindam had been commissioned through the Army ROTC Program at UT in 1968 and was the first and only ROTC student at UT to have been awarded the Medal of Honor as of this writing. The building name change took some getting used to. Most of us still called it the “rotsy building” for, at least, the next two years.

On Saturday, April 22, 1972, the Buccaneers were again competing in San Antonio at the Trinity University drill meet. This was the author’s second year on Bucs but that year we didn’t try to stay at my grandmother’s house; once was enough. That year we did win first place and were treated to a party at the Travel Lodge hotel in downtown San Antonio. My dad was part owner of the hotel and made the whole thing possible.

The NROTC annual awards day was held on April 25th to recognize outstanding midshipman performance during the year. On May 2nd, the UT President’s Review of the Navy, Army and Air Force ROTC Units was held in Memorial Stadium. President Stephen H. Spurr reviewed the troops. A photo in the *Log* of Midshipmen getting their shots for summer cruise reminded me of an incident. The shots were given the evening just before a drill Tuesday, or it could have been right before the President’s Review. I think it was the latter since we were standing at attention for a prolonged period of time. The combination of hot sunny weather, hot Astroturf and the shots the previous evening must have combined to cause about six or so Midshipmen to faint. They just collapsed where they stood.

A joint commissioning ceremony was held on May 20th at the Hogg Auditorium. RADM J. B. Johnson was the special guest. Fourteen Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. Only a couple of commissionings occurred during the summer. The 1972 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1972 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly

commissioned officers but did not give the dates. Many thanks to Steve Howell '72 for providing a program for the May 20, 1972 commissioning, which greatly assisted in this effort. See the Appendix.

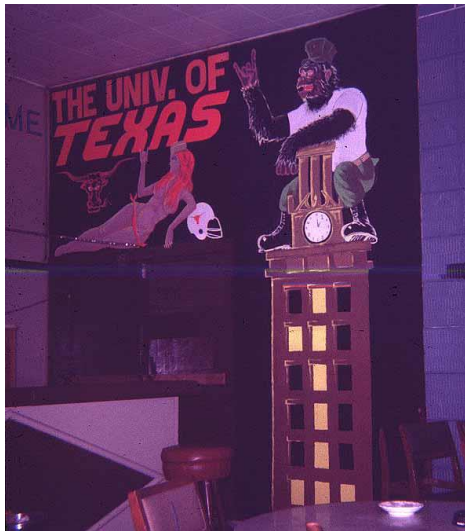
This was the last year for me on Buccaneers, which I thoroughly enjoyed. During my time at UT the Bucs were primarily made up of only first and second year Midshipmen. Only the officers were upperclassmen. The team held elections at the end of the year to decide who would be the CO, XO and CPO for the following year. I was planning on sitting out ROTC in my third year but someone threw my name into the hat for the XO's spot. I would have probably made other plans for my third year if I had been elected, but as it turned out, Dave Barron got it by one vote. In a way I was relieved that I wouldn't have to reshuffle my plans. The CO spot went to Gary Murphy and the CPO was Bill Smith, all good and capable men. The Bucs would be in good hands next year.

Author's 2nd Class Cruise

On June 27, 1972, I embarked on my 2nd Class cruise. The entire sophomore class of regular Midshipmen went on this together. Our first three weeks were spent in Corpus Christi, Texas, going through flight indoctrination. We stayed in a WWII-vintage barracks building near the beach. The BOQ and Officers' Club were just across the street. There was also an annex of the "O" Club, called the Ready Room. That's where we spent most of our liberty hours, there or the base theater. Memorable moments at NAS Corpus were painting a mural on the Ready Room wall in black light paint, ejection seat training, learning what a "fast break" was and getting reamed out later for a "command decision" I made while serving as company commander.



Our Vintage Barracks at NAS Corpus Christi



The UT Mural in the Ready Room

All the schools represented down in Corpus were given a section of black wall in the Ready Room to paint something tasteful involving their alma mater. The whole room was lighted with black lights so all the paintings were done in black light paint. And the painter could get free drinks. I elected to paint a partially nude woman lying horizontally across the header of the back door. I was able to make a pretty good flesh color from mixing some of the primary colors I had to work with. I gave her fiery red hair and strategically placed it so as to keep the composition "tasteful." With one hand she flashed the Hook 'em Horns sign. She wore nothing but a midshipman's garrison cap and a bikini bottom. The other part of the composition was the University of Texas tower with a giant King Kong-like ape clinging to the upper part and flashing the Hook 'em Horns

sign. I dressed “King Kong” up in a Marine 8-point cap, t-shirt, utility trousers and combat boots. And, of course, I spelled out “The University of Texas” in big letters so there was no doubt as to whose mural this was.

For some reason ejection seat training was scary to anticipate but it was all over in nanoseconds. I felt silly afterward. When we went for our first ride in a trainer aircraft they called the “teeny weeny” I looked forward to it like any teenage kid might. We had been aloft for a while, just flying straight and level. I managed to snap a picture or two with my Kodak Instamatic. We were flying parallel to the runway when the pilot asked me if I knew what a “fast break” was. Being the naïve aviator at the time I answered “no.” No sooner than I did that, the pilot jerked the stick over and we spiraled down in a hurry to do a touch and go on the runway. I left my stomach somewhere up there at 200 feet or so. I also decided at that time that maybe flying wasn’t for me.

For a week I got to play the part of company commander and have everyone fall into formation and report to me each morning. The Buccaneer experience was invaluable to doing that. The instructors told us to march to chow in the mornings. They said if it was still dark when we went to chow, we could let everyone straggle to chow because it might be dangerous marching in the dark. One morning I decided that it was dark enough to let the men straggle to morning chow. When we got back to Austin in the fall I caught all kinds of grief from the MOI for doing that. I didn’t even know there was a problem while we were still in Corpus.

The second three weeks of summer training involved amphibious indoctrination in California. We were all flown out to Coronado just across the harbor from San Diego. We stayed in a more modern barracks there and trained on that base and at Camp Pendleton just up the coast. Memorable moments were running the UDT/SEAL obstacle course and assaulting the beach along the Silver Strand. Navy SEALs train at Coronado and have an obstacle course there. The instructors told us if anyone could run the course in 15 minutes or less, they wanted to talk with them. I think we had two from UT who did just that. I think they were Bob Dillow and Steve Findley. It took me a little over 30 minutes to do it. We got to see the running of the course demonstrated first by one of the SEAL trainees. The “slide for life” was the scariest one to anticipate. Most of the others were just plain physically challenging. It was fun, though, and I was gung-ho being a Buccaneer.

The culmination of all our training and indoctrination was landing on the beach in an amphibious “assault.” We all stayed on a LST the night before. Some would go ashore in AV-5s (door in the front) or AV-7s (door in the rear), while others would be flown ashore in CH-47 Chinook helicopters. I didn’t like all the training we got on how to get out of an AV if they sank so I was glad I got picked to fly ashore. We all had M-16 machine guns with plenty of blank ammunition. We dressed in blue dungarees and wore gray painted helmets. I drew a black longhorn figure on each side of my helmet like the UT football players had. A few others wanted me to do that on their helmets, too. The next morning they landed us up and down the Silver Strand beach which runs from Coronado down to Tijuana. We came ashore with guns blazing. Some picked up coke cans on the beach and tossed them like they were grenades. We startled a few motorists on the Silver Strand highway before the instructors corralled us. The Navy then fed us a steak lunch on the beach and we just hung out there for a while. Some of the

Buccaneers tried to do our drill team routines with M-16s. That was awkward and strange since M-16s were not suited for that use. The balance and the shape were not right but I somehow think those weren't part of its design specifications. We were done with summer cruise around August 10th and, since my family picked me up there for a family vacation already in progress, I said goodbye to my shipmates until the fall.

Academic Year 1973

Statistics:

Number of Students: 140 Midshipmen* (down 22), 35 NESEPs (30 Navy, 5 Marine Corps), 1 NENEP

Number of Staff: 7 Officers (down 1), 6 Enlisted (up 1), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 29 (20 Navy, 9 Marine) (up 9)

*Included 3 Iranian Midshipmen

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log*, CHR and recollections of the author were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1973 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1973 *Longhorn Log* provided 36 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1973 *Longhorn Log* did not contain a dedication.

There were 55 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fifteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, CAPT Ralph A. Hilson, USN. LtCol Walter Aubrey Jupp, USMC, relieved CDR Goodman as the Executive Officer. One additional Naval officer rotated out (LT Allen) and two came aboard (LT Brett and LT Fullerton). LTs Miller and Hynes were promoted. LT Fullerton was LCDR Hynes' relief. LT Brett relieved LT Allen. LT Allen would go on to make RADM. SKC Ralph R. Marley relieved SK1 Van Cleave. QMC Larry Allen Van Meter reported aboard as QMC Gross' relief. GySgt Klaus P. Hitchins relieved SSgt Crank. Ellen Sue Estes replaced Cathie Brubaker on the civilian staff.

NROTC Stipend is Raised

The Navy's monthly stipend of \$50 per month, which had been around since the late '40s, was raised to \$100/month. It wasn't half an Ensign's pay as we understood the Naval Academy's stipend to be, but it helped.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were John M. "Mark" McAfee (fall) and Kevin J. Kelly (spring). The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons. The *Log* did and showed two platoons per company. The Bucs were large enough for two platoons but were not pictured in that configuration.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alpha | 19 | 18 |
| Bravo | 18 | 22 |
| Buccaneers | 31 | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 31 men (ten old-timers and 21 new arrivals), and were Headquarters Company of the Battalion. Buccaneer Commander was Gary Edwin Murphy. Executive Officer was William Davis “Dave” Barron. Company CPO (aka 1stSgt) was William L. “Bill” Smith. Guidon was Marc Alan Mangrum. Events the Bucs participated in were the George Washington’s Birthday drill meet in Laredo (February 17), the Texas A&M drill meet (March 24), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (March 31) and the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 29).



1973 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1973 *Cactus*, page 392.

There was no mention of a rifle or pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, and there was no color guard shown. The *Longhorn Log* pictured a five-man color guard, but no mention was made of a rifle or pistol team. Praetorian Guard and Scabbard & Blade were not shown in the *Cactus* or the *Log*, but the author remembers their being there.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of twelve midshipman, including the Managing Editor, Mike Ledbetter. This was an increase of eleven from the prior year. The Battalion Public Affairs Officer was Scott McCulloch.³⁹ The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.

Intramural sports were covered in the *Cactus* this year on only six pages, with no team or individual standings listed. Not much more could be gleaned from the *Longhorn Log*. It did document Navy's participation in touch football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, softball and swimming. No captions or narrative were provided.

The Crow's Nest had 44 men. This represented a net gain of six men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 40 were pictured. The comical costume group photo was taken at the Nest. A comparison of names showed 25 were old-timers and 19 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was Mark Charles Thoman. Vice President was Leslie Jacob "Jake" Schaffner, Jr. Treasurer was Wayne Edward Anderson. Work manager was John Richard Carrillo. Food buyer was Daniel Thomas "Dan" Puleio. Faculty advisor was not mentioned but may have still been LCDR Luke Horrell Miller, Jr. The monthly cost went up considerably, partially due to the increase in the NROTC monthly stipend. It cost \$125 per month for room and board there, according to Jake Schaffner, the Vice President.



1973 Crow's Nest. 1973 *Cactus*, page 294.

Major social events for the year included the fall picnic (Oktoberfest), the Sweetheart Ball at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (December 2), the Ring Dance formal at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (May 5) and the spring picnic (May 12). Spring Break occurred the week of April 9-13. Two field trips were conducted during that time: a Nuclear Power Submarine Indoctrination trip to Charleston, South Carolina and a Marine Corps Orientation trip to MCPEC Quantico, Virginia.

Four all-new Sweethearts were announced at the Sweetheart Ball: Barbi Parker, Marion Eason, Becky Grover, and Mari Hinds. The use of a uniform was not shown in either the *Cactus* or the *Longhorn Log*. Added to seven Sweethearts who returned from the previous year, that made eleven Sweethearts for the year.

³⁹ The author was listed as a volunteer but I think I only provided someone with some inspiration. On the title page of the *Log* someone tried to draw a gorilla on top of the UT tower, wearing utilities and flashing the hook 'em horns sign. They must have seen my mural in the Ready Room at NAS, Corpus.

The 1973 *Cactus* (page 388) mentioned that the NROTC program would be open to women the next year. On September 11th, UT commenced its Flight Instruction Program with eleven students. On October 19th, LCDR Tobias, Surface Assignment Desk, BUPERS, gave the Midshipmen a presentation on what he did. On October 31st, CDR Young, COMSUBDIV 41, gave a Nuclear Power presentation to the Midshipmen.

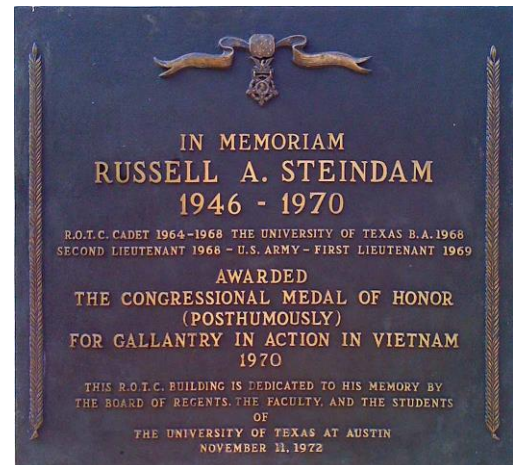
NROTC Comes to Texas A&M

From a conversation the author had with a high school classmate of his, Gary Hill, in March of 2015, it was learned that Texas A&M started its own NROTC unit in the fall of 1972. Gary, who served in the Army, said if it had come a little earlier he might have considered a commission in the Navy. Texas A&M had a deep and long tradition of shaping Army officers that was second only to West Point. The Navy had to make a few concessions in order to get on campus. Midshipmen had to wear the Corps of Cadets uniform on campus and in other venues when representing the university, with a shoulder patch to distinguish the branch of service. Uniforms on summer cruises were just like any other NROTC midshipman would wear. Now the State of Texas had four NROTC units.

ROTC Building Rededicated

On November 11, 1972, Veteran's Day, the Board of Regents, Faculty and Students of UT formally dedicated the ROTC Building to the memory of 1st Lt Russell A. Steindam (RAS) who had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. This was the formal ceremony to rename and dedicate the building, which had been RAS since April 1972.

I was in my third year at UT. Because I was in a five-year program for a degree in Architecture, I had to take off from the NROTC program one of those years. I chose the third year, so I wasn't in attendance at the rededication ceremony. I did keep in close contact with the Unit and the close friends I had made in my first two years, and I rarely missed a Crow's Nest party. As a result, it was a lot easier to slip back into the Midshipman role the next year.



Dedication Plaque from Old ROTC Building

On December 22nd, the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held. Five Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned.

President Lyndon B. Johnson Dies

Lyndon Johnson died of a heart attack on January 22, 1973 at his ranch near Johnson City, Texas. LBJ had been quite instrumental, as a young Texas Congressman, in bringing the Navy ROTC to the UT campus back in 1940.

Paris Peace Accords Signed; The Draft Ends

On January 27, 1973, a peace accord was signed in Paris to end the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. All military activities were to end, and all U.S. military personnel were to be withdrawn within 60 days. On that very same day the draft officially ended in the United States. Similar to what happened after WWII, the NROTC Program allowed Midshipmen to exit the program if they wanted to. Even if you were a junior or senior, you could opt out of the program. I was still in my off-year, so I was still technically a sophomore, but it had never crossed my mind to leave the program. I had a high draft number, so I wasn't there to avoid the draft. I don't remember any large exodus, and I'm sure the offer didn't apply to NESEPs, who were already on active duty. The NESEPs didn't participate in many Battalion activities at that time. *The Daily Texan* reported in January 1973 that only nine Midshipmen had resigned from the NROTC. By contrast, the Army had 23 resignations and the Air Force had 35.

The UT President's review was held on April 19th in Memorial Stadium with President Stephen H. Spurr reviewing the troops. The NROTC annual awards day was held on May 1st.

A joint commissioning ceremony was held on May 26th with MajGen James D. Watkins, USAF speaking and assisting in the awarding of commissions. Eleven Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. During the summer another four Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The 1973 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1973 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. Many thanks to Mark McAfee '73 for providing a program for the May 26, 1973 commissioning, which greatly assisted in this effort. See the Appendix.

The November 1973 issue of *The Alcalde* contained the following quote. "In May, 1973, the Naval ROTC program was the largest on the UT campus with some 145 cadets. In September, 162 students were signed aboard the Naval Program, 104 joined the Air Force Program and 85 went Army ROTC." Even with the draft ended, ROTC was still a pretty popular program. Nationwide there were 24,000 high school seniors applying for 1,200 Naval ROTC scholarships. In Texas there were 1,193 applications for just 62 of those scholarships.⁴⁰

On August 15, 1973, direct U.S. military involvement ended in Vietnam.⁴¹

⁴⁰ *The Alcalde*, November 1973, "Marching Along Together?" by Roger C. Williams, pgs 17-20

⁴¹ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War

Academic Year 1974

Statistics:

Number of Students: 105 Midshipmen* (down 35), 41 NESEPs (35 Navy, 6 Marines), 2 NENEPS

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (down 1), 5 Enlisted (down 1), 2 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 35 (25 Navy, 10 Marine) (up 6)

*Included 2 Iranian Midshipmen

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log*, CHR and recollections of the author were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1974 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just six pages, though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1974 *Longhorn Log* provided 34 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1974 *Longhorn Log* was dedicated to the outgoing PNS, CAPT Ralph Albert Hilson, USN, and to the XO, LtCol Walter A. Jupp, USMC.

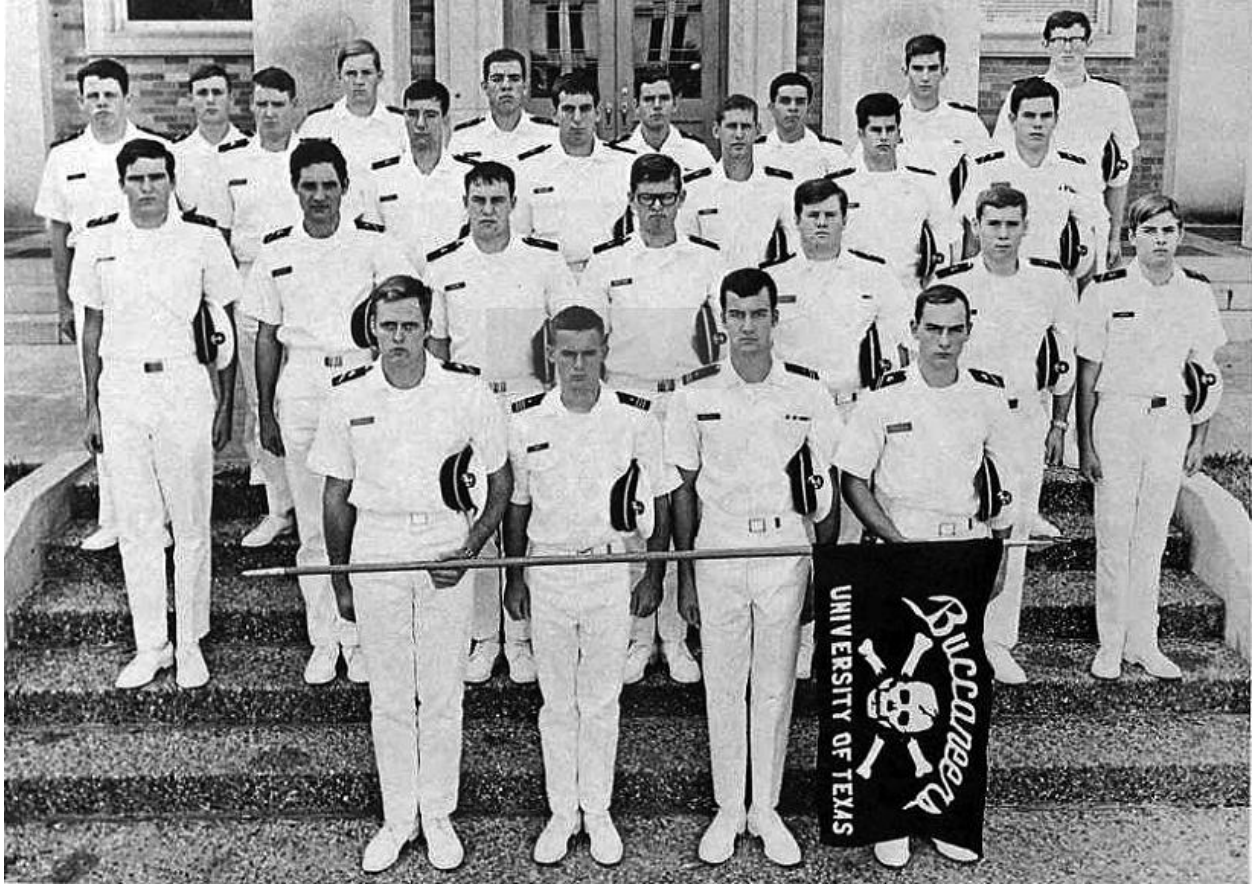
There were still 55 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fifteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, CAPT Ralph A. Hilson, USN. CDR Max Richard Rumelhart, USN, reported aboard as LtCol Jupp's relief. LtCol Jupp retired on February 1, 1974, after 23 years of service. Two Naval officers rotated out (LCDR Hynes and LT Brett), and one came aboard (LT Lowe). 2ndLt Robert K. Tucker '73 was temporarily assigned to the Unit. FTM1 Ray E. Christianson relieved GMGC Hazelton. SKCS Jackson relieved SKC Marley. QMC Larry A. Van Meter relieved QMC Gross. Civilian staff was unchanged.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Gilbert Earl Crowell (fall) and Leslie J. "Jake" Schaffner (spring). The *Cactus* did picture separate platoons. The *Log* did also and showed two platoons per company. The Bucs were only as large as one of the other company platoons.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alpha | 24 | 19 |
| Bravo | 20 | 22 |
| Buccaneers | 26 | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 26 men (ten old-timers and 16 new arrivals), and were Headquarters Company of the Battalion. Buccaneer Commander was William L. "Bill" Smith. Executive Officer was Nathaniel T. "Turk" McCleskey. Company CPO was Frederick Robert "Bob" Morse. Guidon was James Eldon "Jim" Lindsey. Events the Bucs participated in were the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT and the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio. There was also a meet in Houston, probably at Rice University.⁴²

⁴² Recollections of Nathaniel T. "Turk" McCleskey '75



1974 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1974 *Cactus*, page 272.

There was no mention of a rifle or pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, and no color guard was shown. The *Longhorn Log* pictured a five-man and a six-man color guard, but no mention was made of a rifle or pistol team. It did show some photos of Midshipmen firing pistols in the ROTC range. Praetorian Guard included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured only in the *Cactus*. MDN Jerry W. Dalton was their Commander, MDN Robert R. Gannaway was their Service & Social Officer, MDN Edgar A. Michaelson was their Personnel and Recruiting Officer, and MDN Leroy D. Thompson was their Executive Adjutant and CTI Coordinator for the year. Group activities this year included casino parties, working at the Central Texas Invitational Rifle Match, and with the Run for Your Life program. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members, too. They were listed and pictured only in the *Cactus*. MDN Edwin W. Mergele was their Secretary for the year. Settlement Home Charity Horse Show and the Southwest Area drill competition were their primary projects for the year.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of sixteen midshipman, including the Managing Editor, Tom Bryce. This was an increase of four from the previous year. The Battalion Public Affairs Officer (PAO) was Mike Ledbetter. The author was not listed as a volunteer but did do the cover artwork, which depicted the entire officer staff in a rowboat with CAPT Hilson standing on the bow *a la* George Washington

crossing the Delaware. The designation “GSL1” was written on the bow, suggesting “Good Ship Lollipop.” All the crew were caricatured. The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.



1974 Longhorn Log Cover

Intramural sports were covered in the *Cactus* this year on only five pages, with no team or individual standings listed, just a collection of uncaptioned photos. Not much more could be gleaned from the *Longhorn Log*. It did document Navy’s participation in touch football, pistol matches, softball and bowling. Captions and narrative were provided, but little could be learned from them.

The Crow’s Nest had 43 men. This represented a net loss of one man from the previous year. Not all were listed in the *Cactus*, and only 30 were pictured. The comical costume group photo was taken in front of the East Mall fountain near the ROTC Building (RAS). This was the first time a group photo had not been taken at the Crow’s Nest. A comparison of assembled names showed that 25 were old-timers and 19 were new arrivals. Its location was still 1010 W. 24th Street. Its President was James Patrick “Jim” Voss. Vice President was Leslie Jacob “Jake” Schaffner, Jr. Treasurer



1974 Crow's Nest. 1974 *Cactus*, page 200.

was Ronald Douglas “Doug” Crawford. Work manager was Dean Warren Nobles. Food buyer was Carl Robert Beveridge and faculty advisor was not mentioned. It still cost \$125 per month for room and board there, according to Jake Schaffner, the Vice President.

Major social events for the year included the NESEP picnic for staff and new NESEPs (September 8), the fall picnic (October 20), the Christmas Party for NESEPs and staff (December 8), the Sweetheart Ball at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club, the spring picnic at Zilker Sunken Gardens, and the Ring Dance formal at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club. Spring Break occurred the week of April 1-5. Two field trips were conducted during that time: a Nuclear Power Submarine Indoctrination trip to Charleston, South Carolina and a Marine Corps Orientation trip to MCAS El Toro, Camp Pendleton and MCRD, San Diego, California.

Navy Sweethearts Become Anchorettes

At the beginning of the academic year the Navy Sweethearts and other interested University women combined to form the Anchorettes, a Navy Auxiliary. The organization was more formalized than the Sweethearts. Anchorettes had elected officers and an annual agenda of projects that they participated in to support the NROTC Battalion. The first president was Catherine E. Tolbert, who had previously been a Navy Sweetheart, and who married the author at the end of this academic year.



Catherine E. Tolbert

Two other Sweethearts from the previous year, Barbi Parker and Becky Grover, returned to help organize this new auxiliary. Twenty-four new women were recruited that first year, making a total of twenty-seven Anchorettes. They were all pictured in the *Cactus* and the *Longhorn Log* in a new uniform (navy blue jacket and skirt). Their mission was substantially the same as that of the Sweethearts, just more organized and with more members. The Unit's fall picnic became an Anchorette Rush Picnic.

NROTC Open to Women

The 1979 *Cactus* stated that women were eligible for the program beginning in 1972, but none actually started showing up in ranks until this academic year. *The Daily Texan* from January 1973 said that Naval ROTC opened its doors to six women in the fall of 1973. That squares with the narrative in the 1974 *Cactus*, which stated that, with the formation of a new two-year program, NROTC brought women into the ranks for the first time.

This year would be marked by Midshipmen and NESEPs being more integrated into social and athletic activities, according to the CHR; however, many of the activities were still separate. On October 2nd, CDR Chase of the Staff, Commander Naval Recruiting Command, gave a Nuclear Power presentation to the Midshipmen. LCDR Kurz from Junior Officer Surface Assignment Desk, BUPERS, gave a presentation to the Midshipmen on November 14th.

On December 22nd the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held. Six Ensigns and six 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned.

During Spring Break the author traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, with several of his shipmates to check out the submarine force. Plans were already in place for Cathy Tolbert and I to get married the next month and my best man, Tom Bryce '75, was from Charleston. Tom's dad had been a submarine skipper, so he jumped at the chance to go on this orientation trip, too. The trip was a foreshadowing of what I would be doing on my 1st Class cruise, though I did not know it yet.

In late April I was given an opportunity to go on 1st Class cruise aboard a Poseidon submarine. It would last 60 days (or more), rather than the usual six weeks, because of the duration of a deterrent patrol, so they needed my approval. I jumped at the chance, not realizing the consequences of that decision.

The UT President's Review was conducted on April 30th with President Stephen H. Spurr reviewing the troops. The NROTC annual awards day was on May 2nd.

On May 18, 1974, a joint commissioning ceremony was held with LtGen Orwin C. Talbott, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, awarding commissions. Eleven Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. During the summer seven more Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The 1974 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1974 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. See the Appendix.

Author's 1st Class Cruise

About a week after returning from our honeymoon, on May 31st, I was flying to Guam for my 1st Class cruise. There was only one flight in and out of Guam and it landed at Anderson AFB on the opposite side of the island from the Sub Base and it landed at midnight. That wouldn't have been a problem but for the fact that they forgot my luggage in Hawaii. You could drive around the whole island in about an hour so I went back to the AFB the next night and luckily my luggage did show up. I stayed on the Sub tender just one night and reported aboard the submarine the next day, USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625). As I came down the hatch I noticed a commissioning plaque that named Tom Bryce as the Commissioning Blue Crew Captain, my Best Man's father!



USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625) in Guam

Soon after I embarked, the Henry Clay was underway from Guam. A Soviet trawler kept station just outside the harbor to keep track of our comings and goings. Just after clearing the harbor we submerged so she didn't get to see us long. The fathometer was set on 100' increments and ticked right off the scale as we left. The incremental scale on the fathometer was increased twice as we sailed away on the Henry Clay and each time it ticked right off the scale. They let me take all the pictures I wanted. The film was processed onboard and declassified before I got it back. The Henry Clay was a Lafayette Class Trident missile boat, the first submarine class to be built from the keel up as a "boomer." I had been on a fast attack boat before and a couple of diesel-electric submarines. This one was spacious by comparison. The food was excellent throughout the entire patrol. On halfway "night" the officers worked in the galley to prepare dinner for the crew. Day and night were simulated while on patrol. Everyone got a handful or so of "family grams" allowed while they were on patrol. These were short messages from your family members. All were screened by the XO since they didn't want anyone to get bad news while on patrol. Those messages were held by the XO until we returned to port. One such message came for me telling

me of the passing of my wife's paternal grandmother. They didn't know how that would affect me so it was withheld until we got back to Guam.

Meanwhile back in Austin and elsewhere other things were happening while I was on patrol. CAPT Ralph A. Hilson, USN, retired on June 30th and CDR Max R. Rumelhart, the XO, assumed interim command.

Crow's Nest Moves

In June 1974, after 22 years of being at the same location (1010 W. 24th Street), the Crow's Nest moved to 2710 Nueces Street. As Jim Bushee '76 put it, the 1010 location was in need of serious repairs and maintenance, so it was a move of necessity and fraught with controversy. At the 1010 W. 24th site the whole property was rented to the Nest at a nominal rate. When Bushee joined the Nest in the fall of '72 the room and board was \$75 per month. Nesters paid a cook, Lilly, who tended to curse and throw knives, and was known to put some pretty strange stuff in the food. All other work was done by Nesters, such as cleaning the kitchen, yard work, and general maintenance. If you had a window air conditioner, and very few Nesters did, your rent was \$5 per month higher for the additional electricity. Beer on Friday nights was free which, of course, reflected a proper sense of priorities. And each glass of milk you took, for which you were charged extra, you checked off on a chart. Peanut butter and jelly were available at all times for snacks, and were free if you didn't mind scooping the roaches out of the jars first.⁴³

This story comes from Paul Thoman '75, younger brother of Mark Thoman who was Nest President the previous year. Paul was also a midshipman classmate of the author but finished getting his commission in the Marine Corps through the PLC program. Here is Paul's story:

“The gentleman who owned the Crow's Nest property at 1010 W. 24th Street was a former member of the NROTC Unit, and I believe he was a Nester. He rented the entire complex to us for \$75 per month! We had to move because he was either building on the property, or selling to someone who was building on the property. The apartment building that is currently there is the building that replaced the Crow's Nest. Dean Nobles and I were the last two to stay there. The day after we moved out, they started tearing the building down. I took pictures of the demolition, but I have no idea what happened to them. (I do have a fair number of slides of the old Crow's Nest). I was on the committee that looked for our next location. I can't remember the actual street address because I never actually stayed there. As part of being on that committee, I got to meet with our landlord and benefactor, but I cannot recall his name.

“Just for reference, in 1970, our individual monthly rent was \$75 per month. That included three meals a day, and pretty much open kitchen privileges for things like eggs, toast, peanut butter, jelly, milk, and orange juice. We did all of our own work. Part of our rent included regular duties: setting up for meals, take down after meals, cleanup, and a weekly kitchen cleaning. We hired a cook named Lilly. No one could ever understand whatever she was saying. I think she

⁴³ Recollections of James M. “Jim” Bushee '76

was speaking English, but it was impossible for me to understand her. The health department almost always shut us down during their inspections, usually because we couldn't get hot enough water for washing dishes. The whole Center Wing had only one water heater in an upstairs closet.

“One time, someone (it seems like Art Taft or Sonny Brothers, but I'm not sure) decided to make homemade beer in the only bathtub in the place somewhere in the West Wing. They used all of the wrong ingredients, and filled up a bunch of empty Lone Star and Shiner quart bottles and stuck them in the hot water heater closet in the Center Wing so they would stay warm. While we were having a house meeting, one of the bottles blew. Everyone was afraid to go up there for a while. Every now and then you would hear another bottle go off. It was quite a smelly mess when we finally got brave enough to clean it up. The only one who had the courage to try anything more than a taste of the beer was Forest Brooks. He got blasted on it and showed up at a house meeting and pulled out a Colt .45 just to freak everyone out...and it worked.

“An urban legend was that the structures at 1010 W. 24th location was built during the Depression by the WPA as low rent housing. It had tongue-and-groove, knotty pine walls with no insulation of any kind. The boards had shrunk down over the years and you could see light between the rooms, and carry on a normal conversation through the walls. Not a lot of privacy when Della Sue came over from the Dexter House across the road. There was no air conditioning unless you provided your own window unit and paid \$10 per month extra for electricity. The heat came from gas space heaters. You lit them with a match (no pilot light) and if the flame went out, the gas just kept flowing. Sometimes I would take out my gallon jug of Real-Kill and start spraying for roaches, people downstairs and two rooms over would start hollering because of the roach stampede.

“In 1971 water beds came to Austin, and a bunch of us ran down to The White House and bought ourselves one for \$12. They weighed around 2,000 pounds. full. The downstairs ceilings in the Center Wing sagged about three or four inches from the weight of two or four of them upstairs. I stayed the last night at the Nest in my water bed. Everything else we wanted was already moved. I went back that afternoon as demolition was starting with the intention of siphoning the water out and getting the bed, but someone had already stolen it.

“Just for grins, I have to tell a story about my water bed. What you got for \$12 was a giant plastic bladder...no frame of any kind. I decided I needed a frame, and it would have been very bad Crow's Nest etiquette to actually pay for lumber to make the frame. Riverside Drive was being developed at the time, and we discovered that there was a very nice pile of #1 twelve-foot long 2x12's at a building that was under construction. (The building became the Magic Time Machine, and the last time I saw it, was Landry's). Bob Hatch, Charlie Beveridge, and I decided we really needed some 2x12's for water bed frames. With all of the advanced planning you can imagine, we decided to take Charlie's Mustang to do the job in the middle of the night. I am sure no alcohol was involved in this series of decisions. I can personally attest to the fact that a

Mustang is probably not the vehicle of choice for such a project. We hung the boards through the windows of the Mustang like airplane wings. We crossed the bridge, and drove 24 blocks up Lamar taking up two lanes. Bob Hatch was wedged down in the floorboard of the right front seat. I think some measure of sobriety may have occurred about half way back, because I remember all of us trying to figure out what our story was going to be when we got stopped. By some miracle, we didn't get stopped, and I ended up with a really nice frame for my water bed."

According to Jim Bushee '76, the Nest moved in June 1974 and rented a house at 2710 Nueces Street. The main reason for the move was the need for building maintenance and repairs at 1010 W. 24th Street. No accommodation with the landlord could be reached so the move was made. Others have said that there was even an attempt to buy the property, but that the funds could not be raised. In any case, the Nest was again forced to move. According to Steve White '76, only Jim Bushee and about eight other Nesters left the Nest when it moved to its next location. This was partly due to the fact that the new facility was a bit smaller, and partly due to financial concerns that some had.

We learn the following from Steve White who first came to the Crow's Nest during the spring semester of 1975:

"In June 1974 the Nest moved from 1010 W. 24th St. and rented 2710 Nueces Street, an old room-and-board type of lease property on the west side of Nueces just north of the Contessa private dorm, and across the street from the Sigma Chi house. There were three buildings. The one facing the street was the dining room/kitchen building with a large front porch, and a driveway on the south side of that led to a small parking area and the two separate dormitory buildings in the back. The dorm buildings were two stories with a small foyer with stairs, and had about 20 rooms arranged on either side with interior access down a long hallway going back from the front entrance foyer. It was a major fire trap. From the center of the second floor on one of the buildings there was a chase with an access ladder up to the flat roof where sometimes a few bottle rockets would be launched across the street to annoy the frat rats. The Nest on Nueces was the scene of several parties and barbecue cookouts between late 1974 and mid-1976."

2710 Nueces Street was the fifth location of the Crow's Nest and had a capacity of about 35-40 men. The condition of the "new" facility wasn't much better than the old one, but this would be their home for the next couple of years. There were no changes to the co-op model used in previous locations.

First Flag Officer Selected (Alumni)

In June 1972 CAPT Ken Haynes, after being relieved from command of the USS Providence, reported to OpNav as Deputy to RADM Samuel Gravely, and while serving as RADM Gravely's Deputy was himself selected for flag. On July 1, 1974 Ken G. Haynes '47, one of the first Midshipmen to receive a regular



Kenneth George Haynes

commission (USN) through the Holloway Plan, was promoted to Rear Admiral (lower half). One year later he was promoted to Rear Admiral (upper half). Ken has been a great help in sorting out some of the Unit's early history, since he started at UT as a V-12 sailor and transferred to NROTC. He was Battalion Commander in his senior year, too. Ken Haynes '47 was our first alumnus to be selected for flag.

Author Travels Back in Time

On July 30, 1974, CAPT Thomas V. Solan, USN, reported aboard and assumed command as the 14th Professor of Naval Science at UT. The next day or so, the author was surfacing somewhere in the Pacific near Guam and getting ready to disembark. Sixty days⁴⁴ underwater with just a little “periscope liberty” once in a while was fascinating, and I thoroughly enjoyed the cruise and the crew, but it didn't sell me on being a submariner or going into the nuclear Navy. It passed fairly quickly, though, with all the drills we ran and the training that had to be accomplished. I flew out through Anderson AFB heading east. We made a short stop in Hawaii and continued on to San Francisco. Since we crossed the International Date Line I actually arrived in San Francisco the day *before* I flew out of Guam. I continued on to Indianapolis, Indiana, to meet my wife, who had been staying with her parents. By the clock, with all the time zone changes, it had just taken a couple of hours to get there from Guam.

Another couple of interesting and historic occurrences happened in late summer. On August 9, 1974, President Richard M. Nixon resigned from office and Gerald Ford was sworn in as his successor. On August 23rd RADM Oliver Hazzard Perry, Jr. visited UT to commission his son, William Tyler Perry, Ensign, USN. This latter event was noted in the 1974 CHR, but no records have been unearthed yet of a William Tyler Perry in the NROTC or NESEP programs. At the time there was another Navy officer ascension program on campus that didn't come under the command of CO, UT NROTC. That was the NUPOC (Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate) program. John D. Butler was commissioned from that program in 1974, and attained the rank of RADM; however, he did not recall anyone by that name in the NUPOC program. The mystery continues.

Academic Year 1975

Statistics:

Number of Students: 108 Midshipmen (up 3), 37 NESEPs (31 Navy, 6 Marine Corps)

Number of Staff: 7 Officers (up 1), 5 Enlisted (no change), 3 Civilian (up 1)

Number of Commissionees: 34 (30 Navy, 4 Marine) (down 1)

The *Cactus*, *Longhorn Log*, CHR and recollections of the author were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1975 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just six pages, though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. The 1975 *Longhorn Log* provided 36 pages of Unit information for the year. See the Appendix. The 1975 *Longhorn Log* bore no dedication.

⁴⁴ 60 days is an estimate. Some patrols are longer.

There were still 55 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were twelve military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the new CO, CAPT Thomas V. Solan, USN. Since June 30th, CDR Max R. Rumelhart, the XO, had served as interim CO. CAPT Solan reported aboard in September of 1974 and assumed command as the 13th Professor of Naval Science. CAPT Solan had graduated and obtained his commission from Yale University. He was an aviator, but we do not have any further records of his naval career. Maj Charles L. Lynch relieved Maj Molineaux as the MOI. Two Naval officers rotated out (LCDR Miller and LT Roe) and one came aboard (LT McCoy). YNC Fejarang departed without a relief, leaving yeoman duties to YN1 Montgomery. On the civilian staff, Ellen Sue Estes left and Dorothy S. Burke and Sandra H. Glen were hired.



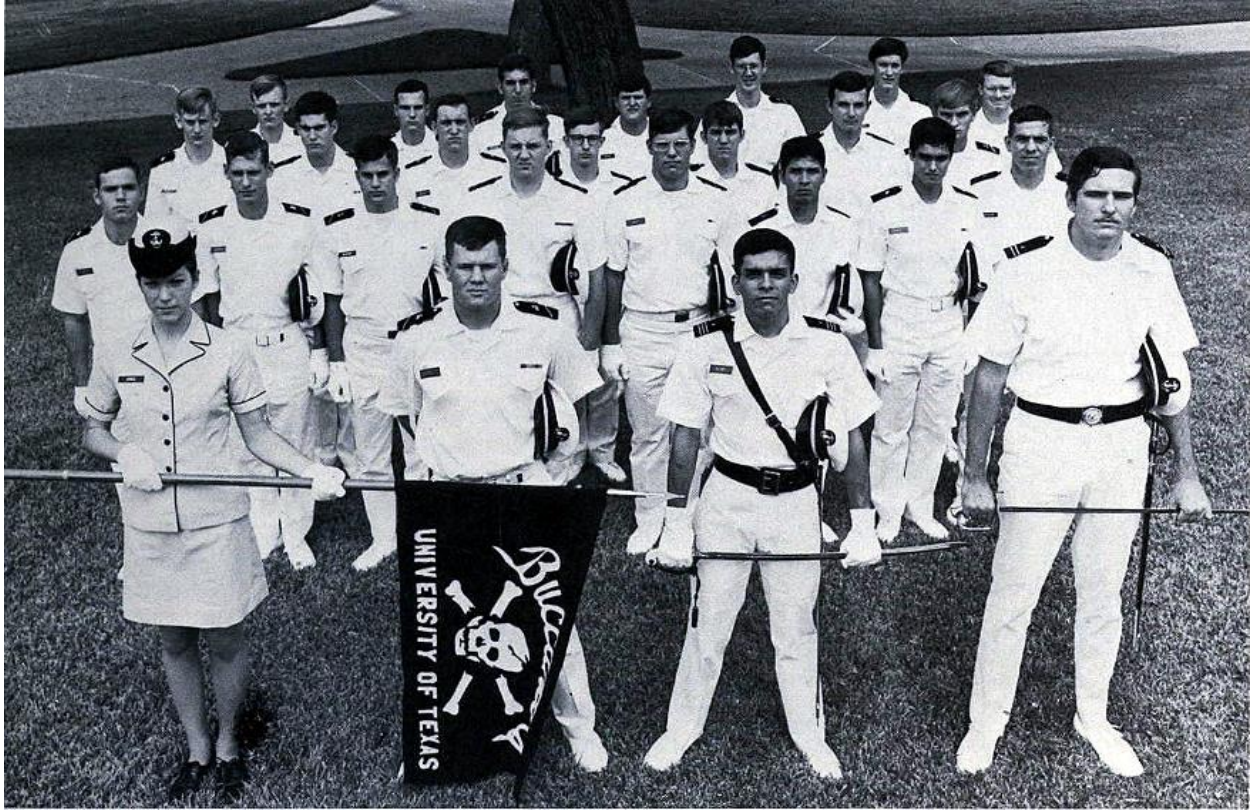
Thomas V. Solan

The author remembers that CAPT Solan's assuming the PNS position marked a change in the Navy's attitude toward Naval ROTC Commanding Officer positions. Prior to CAPT Solan these positions had been regarded as typical "twilight tours" for an O-6 (Navy CAPT or Marine Corps Col) just before they expected to retire. CAPT Solan was the first CO, for some time in the Unit's history, who was still a competitive Navy Captain not looking to retire anytime soon. The author remembers that, to the Midshipmen, this was a positive development.

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Terrence Paul "Terry" Poulos (fall) and Edwin W. "Ed" Mergele, III (spring). The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons. The *Log* did not either, although there were at least two platoons per company, judging from the midshipman officers shown. The Bucs were just ten men larger than a platoon. The numbers below reflect half of each company in each platoon.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alpha | 17 | 16 |
| Bravo | 17 | 16 |
| Buccaneers | 27 | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 26 people. One, who appeared in the '74 and '76 *Cactus*s, was added for a total of 27 (twelve old-timers and 15 new arrivals). Buccaneer Commander was Jerome M. "Jerry" Pajares. Executive Officer was Thomas Hall Whitney. Company CPO was Malcolm W. Barrett. Guidon was Catherine Anne Jones, first female Buccaneer. Events the Bucs participated in were the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (probably April 12), the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 26) and the A&M drill meet (probably March 15).



1975 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1975 *Cactus*, page 443.

There was no mention of a pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, nor was there a color guard shown. An eleven-member civilian rifle team, called the Rifle Longhorns, was pictured and included at least one NROTC member. Photos did appear in the *Cactus*' Navy section of rifle firing at the annual Turkey Shoot, sponsored by the Anchorettes. The *Longhorn Log* also pictured no rifle team or color guard. It did show some photos of a NROTC pistol team going to Mardi Gras. Praetorian Guard included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured only in the *Cactus*. MDN Jerry W. Dalton was their Commander and MDN Leroy D. Thompson was their Executive Adjutant for the year. Group activities this year included sponsoring the Central Texas Invitational Rifle Match (its eleventh), and raising flags and pennants around Memorial Stadium prior to football games. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members, too. They were listed and pictured only in the *Cactus*. MDN Edwin W. Mergele was their President, MDN Michael B. Brands was their Vice President, and MDN Robert W. Ruggiero was their Treasurer for the year. The group held a Dining-In during the year.

The *Longhorn Log* showed a staff of eleven midshipman, including the Layout Editor, Gary Moore. This was a decrease of five from the prior year. The Publications Officer was Mike Kierum. The *Spun Yarn* staff and the Social Committee were not documented.

Intramural sports were covered in the *Cactus* this year on only seven pages, with no team or individual standings listed, just a collection of uncaptioned photos. Not much more could be gleaned from the *Longhorn Log*. It documented Navy's participation in basketball only. No captions or narrative were provided.

The Crow's Nest may have had as many as 38 men. This is based on six men that Steve White knew of who left the Nest, when its location changed. It is likely that that number was lower. The Crow's Nest did not appear in the 1975 *Cactus* or *Longhorn Log*. It was only mentioned in the *Log*. A roster was cobbled together from information in the 1974 and 1976 *Cactuses* and other information provided by the residents themselves. Only 16 men could be accounted for. A comparison of those names showed twelve were old-timers and four were new arrivals. The Nest's new location was 2710 Nueces Street. Its President was Patrick James "Pat" Behnke. Treasurer for the spring semester was Steven Mark White. Vice President, fall Treasurer, work manager, food buyer and faculty advisor were not documented. The monthly cost was reduced. It cost \$106.50 per month for room and board there, according to Norm Farley.

Major social events for the year included the Anchorette-Midshipman flag football game (October 5), a Homecoming Party (October 19), the Anchorette Rush picnic, the fall formal, the spring picnic at Zilker Park Sunken Gardens (March 8), Casino Night (March 15) and the Ring Dance formal at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club. Spring Break occurred the week of March 24-28. One field trip was conducted during that time: a Marine Corps Orientation trip to MCDEC Quantico, Virginia.

The Anchorettes numbered 23 this year, a reduction of four. They were all pictured as a group in both the *Cactus* and the *Longhorn Log* wearing the same uniforms they sported the previous year. Officers for this year were: Nan Needham, President; Cynthia Shannon, Vice President; Margaret Lamm, Secretary; and Terryl Blaylock, Treasurer.

This was my last year at UT. I was in my fifth year of architecture school and had already amassed 140 hours. This year was different, though. I planned on taking a lighter load in this year (11 hours in the fall and 9 hours in the spring) so I could more thoroughly enjoy my final year.

On September 24th, LT Jeff Beinbrink, USN, Junior Officer Surface Assignment, BUPERS, gave a presentation to the Midshipmen and NESEPs. On October 22nd, CDR J. Ramzy, USN, Liaison Officer, COMSUBGRU FIVE, gave a Nuclear Power presentation to the Midshipmen and NESEPs. On October 29th, the Naval Orange logo was conceived by Ed Mergele '75 and Jim Wurzel '75 and drawn by MDN Ed Mergele. It was later used when the unit newsletter, *Spun Yarn*, was changed to *The Naval Orange*, some time after the author left UT.

On December 21st, the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held. Six Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned.

Some time in early January the author attended an Inter-Service Council Retreat as the year's President of Scabbard & Blade. In February Mike Brands and I were sent to Washington, D.C., to interview with ADM Hyman G. Rickover for the Nuclear Power Program.

Author Interviews with ADM Hyman G. Rickover

After returning from First Class cruise I was surprised to find out that I was being screened for the Nuclear Power program, probably as a consequence of my having taken that summer cruise on a nuclear sub. I wasn't aware of any strings attached when I agreed to go, but that's what it looked like. The staff just told me that all engineering, math and science majors were being screened for nuclear power. They were lumping an architecture student in with this group, and I wasn't very pleased. Architects and engineers are not interchangeable. Alas, it was not to be; so Mike, an engineering major, and I found ourselves in some nondescript building near the Pentagon for twelve hours, enduring interview after interview. They tested me on calculus and physics, which I hadn't studied or used since my freshman year. That didn't seem to faze them. They kept quizzing me and interviewing me. Finally, the last interview of the day with ADM Rickover was coming up.



1955 Photo of then RADM Rickover

I had heard all sorts of stories about people getting interviewed by Rickover and was at a quandary on just how to approach it. I did *not* want to be in the Nuclear Power program! I had heard that once you were in, you never got out. I had heard that other people, who also did not want to be in the program and told Rickover that, got selected anyway, even those who tried to make him mad during the interview. Each interviewee was escorted in to see Rickover by a senior officer who was a prospective CO of a sub or nuclear-powered surface vessel; Rickover didn't cut them any slack, either. My escort told me to just answer the Admiral's questions and don't try to second guess him. I was then escorted in.

I was told to sit in a straight-back wooden chair in front of his desk. I had heard the rumor that the chair I was sitting on was supposed to have shorter legs on the front than on the back to add to the sense of intimidation. I didn't have time to verify it. Rickover's office was pretty small and modest for a four-star admiral, I thought. His desk was piled with all sorts of papers and books. I had heard that Rickover read over 90% of the material that came across his desk, that he interviewed *every* officer and nearly every enlisted man for the program. He asked one question about what interested me in the Nuclear Power program. I decided to just play it straight.

I told him that my senior instructor at UT had gotten me interested enough in nuclear power to go on a submarine for first class cruise and see for myself. He instantly yelled at me that he had asked a "what" question, not a "who" question. He yelled at the escort officer to take me out in the hall and explain the difference. When I was escorted back in I answered his "what" question. I did not want to sound like I was that interested because I didn't want to be selected. And I didn't want to be rude and disrespectful by telling him that I wasn't interested in the least. That attitude might just get me selected. Besides, he was a full admiral and I had to be mindful of that. Apparently my answer satisfied his "what" question

and was sufficiently unimpressive enough to get me off the hook. I think they put us up for the night before we returned to Austin. I was just glad it was over.

When I returned to the Unit I was told that as a consequence of going through the Nuclear Power screening I would not be able to screen for and select the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) as a career path. Talk about a Catch-22! I didn't even want to be in the Nuclear Power program to begin with! CEC was a much better choice for me than nuclear power because I could do my mandatory three-year architecture apprenticeship while still serving in the Navy. Alas, that wasn't to be, either.

April 24th was the NROTC annual awards day. On April 29th the UT Presidential Review was held at Memorial Stadium. James H. Colvin, acting for President Lorene L. Rogers, reviewed the Navy, Army and Air Force ROTC Units. I represented the Navy as the Battalion Commander. My family came for the occasion, too, and sat in a special guest section to observe our passing in review. I felt very proud that day.

Fall of Saigon – Vietnam Conflict Ends

April 30, 1975 marked the fall of Saigon. The last Americans were ten Marines and the remaining embassy staff, which had to depart Saigon via helicopter from the roof of the embassy.

Sea and Anchor Details

In May 1975, the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service sold the USS Randolph to Union Minerals & Alloys for \$1,560,000. It had been stricken from the Navy List two years before on June 1, 1973. Randolph was towed to Kearny, New Jersey, and broken up for scrap. One of her anchors, a "fluked" anchor, is located on the river front in Toms River, New Jersey.⁴⁵ The other anchor somehow made its way into the custody of the Curator, Naval Historical Center, in Washington, D.C. It would remain there for nearly 20 years before being called back into service.

Author Commissioned ENS USN

On May 17, 1975, a joint commissioning ceremony was held. VADM James B. Wilson, USN, Chief of Naval Education and Training, was guest speaker. This was the commissioning ceremony where the author received his regular commission as a Navy line officer. Sixteen Ensigns, including myself, and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. Summer would bring the commissioning of eight more Ensigns and one more 2nd Lieutenant. The 1975 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The 1975 *Longhorn Log* pictured the newly commissioned officers but did not give the dates. Page 7 in the *Log* did show at least two commissioning groups, one in whites and one in blues, from which some conclusions were drawn. See the Appendix.

⁴⁵ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Randolph_%28CV-15%29#Disposal

Surface Warfare Officer – New Navy Designator

From June 2nd until July 25th the author attended an abbreviated (eight vice sixteen weeks) Surface Warfare Officer's (SWO) school in Newport, Rhode Island. SWO was brand-new, so none of the coursework counted until the new 16-week course could be instituted. So after finally reporting to my first ship, and completing another school in Vallejo, California, the author started the SWO qualifications from scratch.

First Mention of an Alumni Association

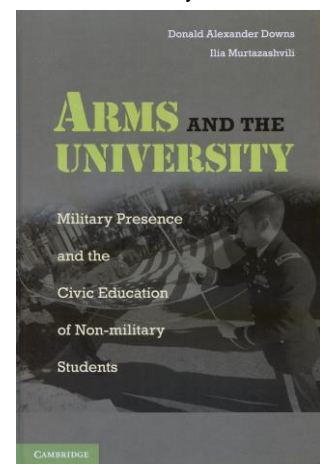
In the July/August 1975 issue of *The Alcalde*, a short paragraph appears under the heading "Navy Gets Texas Exes" on page 33. It read as follows:

"UT's Naval ROTC and NESEP unit has a new alumni association with 140 members. Membership in the organization is extended to all former UT unit members and class instructors. For information, write NROTC and NESEP Alumni Association, The University of Texas at Austin, RAS Rm 104, Austin, Texas 78712."

I was commissioned in May, when I officially "departed the pattern," so I'm not quite sure whether this was an outgrowth of my efforts as outgoing Battalion Commander or an independent effort by others. At the end of my tenure I had turned over the reins to the first female Battalion Commander at UT, Holly Hazlett. Before leaving I had discussed with her an idea I had for starting an alumni organization and, more importantly, getting some seed money for any expenses. I told her that all students put up a \$10 property deposit when they first came to UT. When they graduated, students had to submit a request to get a refund of that deposit; it was not automatically paid back. Most students forgot to do this, so I came up with a form that we could get departing students to fill in and sign to assign the refund to a fledgling alumni organization. I don't know if they ever used the form but someone was still interested in an alumni association after I left, and they recruited 140 people as "members" between May and July/August.

On July 16, 1975 RADM G. L. Cassell, USN, Commandant Eighth Naval District made an official visit to the Unit and participated in commissioning of four Navy Ensigns, one of whom was my best man, Tom Bryce.

If you would like to read an excellent book that more thoroughly explores the effects of Vietnam, and the broader influence that Department of Defense spending has had on our college campuses, I would direct your attention to [Arms and the University](#), by Donald Alexander Downs and Ilia Murtazashvili, Cambridge University Press, 2012. It was recommended to me by John Boswell, who wrote [TEXAS FIGHT, The History of Army ROTC at the University of Texas at Austin](#), and who has been very helpful in making our own Navy version come about. There are case studies included and some very good discussion about the two-way importance of ROTC on our college campuses.



Chapter 7 – World Tensions (1976-1990)

Vietnam may have ended for the U.S. but the world was still a dangerous place, starting with the use of U.S. Naval vessels to evacuate 250 Americans and Europeans from Lebanon when hostilities broke out there. The Shah of Iran would be overthrown. The Marine barracks in Lebanon would be bombed. Grenada would be invaded to drive out Soviet and Cuban forces. Naval Control of Shipping forces would be used to protect tankers in the Persian Gulf. An Iraqi Mirage fighter would fire an exocet missile at the USS Stark, killing 37 and wounding 21 U.S. sailors. Tensions in Libya would heat up. The U.S. would invade Panama and force General Noriega from power. These were but a few of the world tensions that existed after Vietnam and prior to the first Gulf War. For eight of these years, beginning in 1981, President Ronald Reagan would be building a 600-ship Navy to help project American power and deal with these tensions.

Academic Year 1976

Statistics:

Number of Students: 103 Midshipmen (down 5), 75 NESEPs (65 Navy, 10 Marine Corps)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (down 1), 5 Enlisted (no change), 3 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 32 (23 Navy, 9 Marine) (down 2)

The *Cactus* and CHR were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1976 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages, though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. See the Appendix. There was no 1976 *Longhorn Log* to cover the Unit more thoroughly for the year.

There were still 55 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were fifteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, CAPT Thomas V. Solan, USN. The only officer change was LT Fullerton's promotion. YN1 Joseph L. Norita relieved YN1 Montgomery. SSgt James W. Pippin relieved GySgt Hitchins. Eileen E. Hagebusch replaced Sandra Glen on the civilian staff.

NESEPs Start Integration with Battalion

The Battalion was still organized into two companies and the Buccaneers; however, the NESEPs were pictured as a company of 33, which would indicate two platoons. They do not look, though, to be fully integrated into the Battalion.

First Female Battalion Commander

Battalion Commanders were Holly Hazlett (fall) and Gregory L. Colchin (spring). MDN Hazlett was the first female Battalion Commander of the Unit. The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons, but it is likely from the numbers that there were two platoons in each company, Alpha and Bravo. The Bucs were the size of a large platoon. Numbers for Alpha and Bravo



Holly Hazlett, First Female Battalion Commander

below reflect half the company number.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alpha | 16 | 16 |
| Bravo | 18 | 18 |
| N Company | 18 | 17 |
| Buccaneers | 23 | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 23 people (eleven old-timers and twelve new arrivals). Buccaneer Commander was again Jerome M. “Jerry” Pajares. Executive Officer was Joseph Anthony “Joe” Molinari. Company CPO was Billy Frank Woods. Guidon was Marsha Lynn Uhl, another female Buccaneer. Events the Bucs participated in were the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT, the Tulane drill meet, the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio, and the George Washington’s Birthday drill meet in Laredo. Meets at Texas A&M and in Houston were also scheduled. They also marched in parades in Laredo and San Antonio (Fiesta Flambeau).⁴⁶ Bruce Mergele told some amusing anecdotes about the Bucs during this season:

“We marched in the [Fiesta] Flambeau parade in San Antonio, where it poured rain. We were allowed to march with fixed bayonets at the Flambeau because trouble was expected from the crowds. We were briefed on riot control by the Marines and were posted right behind the Eighth and I Silent Drill Team, which also performed at Trinity. When it started pouring, after a 90+ degree day (hot enough for our shoe wax to melt), 8th and I left. The Bucs double-timed most of the rest of the parade route to the cheers of parade watchers huddling under store awnings. We stopped a couple of times to do some rifle tossing routines.



1976 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1976 *Cactus*, page 387.

“In Laredo, we marched behind a mounted mariachi band. Every time we stepped in some horse [dung], the crowds roared. A fellow named [Curtis] Karges, who was in the front rank, got so disgusted, he kicked one pile of horse apples toward a reviewing stand and the crowd loved it even more! Dusty and hot!

⁴⁶ Recollections of Bruce J. Mergele (?79)

“We went to Corpus for a meet and judged their meet of JROTC teams. We won a few trophies, mainly for inspection. Jerry Pajares and Jeff Torrance usually took the tandem trophy. They looked like Mutt and Jeff because of their size difference. The Aggies usually took most of the prizes and were fielding two 35 man fish drill teams against us. They were good, I must admit. We would have been more impressive if we had had as many in our ranks.

“The UT Army ROTC unit tried a couple of times to field their Khyber Rifles, also twelve men. Their first competition, they had a mess with their British Lee-Enfields and broke quite a few in mid-air rifle collisions during tosses. I remember CAPT Solan loaning them some of the Navy's 1903A3s to complete the season.

“Gabe Salazar and Jerry Pajares had used 03A3s at Carroll High School in Corpus (they both were from Corpus) and would have preferred the Bucs use them, but they would have needed a lot of work to slick up the stocks. Our 03s had been used for so long that they required little effort to keep them drill-ready.

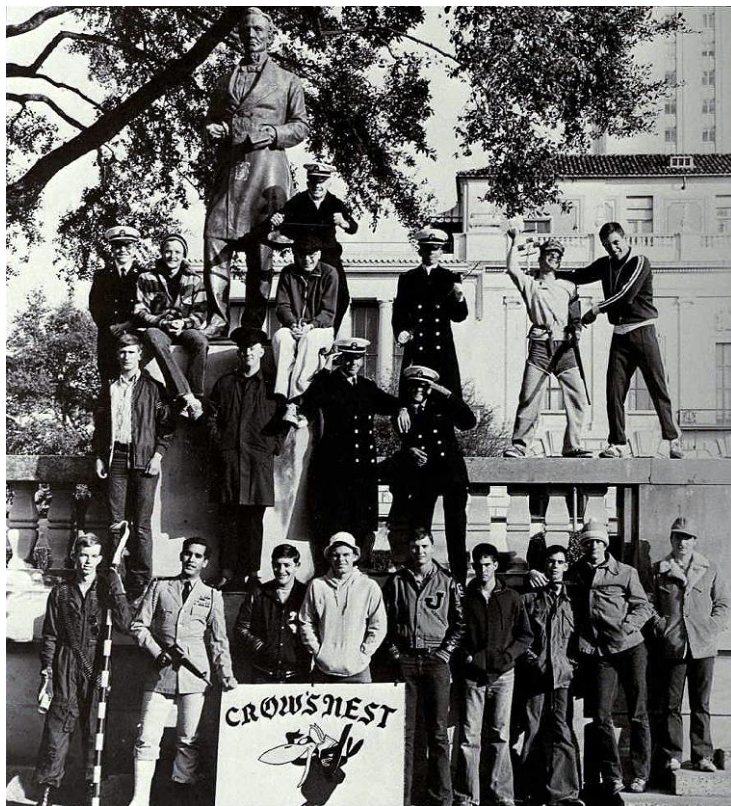
“We always competed in the working blue CPO shirts, with ascots and white parade belts. At Trinity, I mis-caught a throw across the front of our four-man squad and got a nice slight cut on my shoulder and my belly as it caught in my buckle (I was [upset] that I'd torn my parade shirt in two places). Bob Harbour got a much more serious cut across the back of his hand in the same routine. His glove was pretty bloody as we marched off the field. The Marine judges were impressed by the gore, but I don't think we took first that day.

“The Tulane meet was memorable because marching on their Astroturf was like trying to march on a waterbed, and every time a shoe or boot hit the turf, it echoed like someone was beating a rug on a clothesline. By the way, I used one of the hand-me-down Bancrofts all the time. It had a much better shape than the issue covers. The Marine judges always marveled at it and asked me if I was trying to look like a U-boat commander.”

There was no mention of a rifle or pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, nor was there a color guard shown. Praetorian Guard was not shown in the *Cactus* this year. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members; they were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Susie K. Jones was their President for the year. No other officers were mentioned. The group helped with the Waller Creek clean-up, sponsored a college ROTC drill meet and worked with children from the Travis State School during the year.

Longhorn Log Staff, *Naval Orange* Staff, Social Committee and other Battalion volunteer groups, usually mentioned in the *Longhorn Log*, were not documented for the academic years 1976 to 1980, inclusive, because *Longhorn Log* was not published during those years.

Intramural sports were covered in the *Cactus* this year on only six pages, with no team or individual standings listed, just a collection of uncaptioned photos. The *Longhorn Log* was not published for this year.



1976 Crow's Nest. 1976 *Cactus*, page 358.

The Crow's Nest reappeared in the *Cactus* and had 23 men. This represented a net loss of 15 men or a net gain of seven men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 20 were pictured. The Nesters cut back to only one page in the *Cactus* this year and never went back to two pages. The comical costume group photo was taken in front of the Jefferson Davis statue on the Main Mall. A handful dressed in Navy blues! A comparison of names showed 14 were old-timers and nine were new arrivals. Its location was still 2710 Nueces Street. Its President was Joseph A. Molinari. Vice President was Hector Luis Colon. Treasurer was Steven Mark White. Work manager, food buyer and faculty advisor were not documented. It still cost \$106.50 per month for room and board there. Can you pick out the future four-star Admiral and Chancellor of the UT System in this photo?

Major social events for the year included the Anchorette Rush Picnic (Oktoberfest), Navy and Marine Corps birthday celebration (October 21), the fall formal, the spring picnic at Zilker Park Sunken Gardens (March 8), Casino Night (March 15), and the Ring Dance formal at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club. Spring Break occurred the week of March 15-19. One field trip was conducted during that time: a Marine Corps orientation trip to Marine Corps Development and Education Command in Quantico, Virginia.

The Anchorettes numbered 22 this year, a reduction of one. They were all pictured as a group in the *Cactus* wearing the same uniforms they sported the previous two years. Officers for this year were not specified but were presumed to be the four women in the front row: Mary Ann Aldridge, Sunnee Rakowitz, Irma Martinez and Nina Prudhomme. The Anchorettes served cake and punch at the birthday celebration and acted as hostesses. They also attended Tuesday drills, Buccaneer drill meets, intramural sports, University blood drive, Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot (Sponsors), Oktoberfest and a Dining-Out at the Country Dinner Playhouse. They also attended Friday afternoon beer calls at the Nest and hosted "Cookie Calls" after Tuesday drills.

Longhorn Log on Hiatus

It appears that the *Longhorn Log*, the unit's own yearbook, went on a five-year hiatus and was not published again until 1981. This was confirmed by an article in the 1981 *Longhorn Log*. Unit newsletters were a good source of information, too, but we found no unit newsletters published between the last *Spun Yarn* we have (May 1942) and the earliest *Naval Orange* we have (spring 1979). This left the *Cactus* and the CHR as the primary sources for annual changes in the Unit. We know the *Naval Orange* debuted around this time, and it would be great to find some of the earlier issues, especially because of the lack of other reference material. It is not known why this gap occurred. All the work was voluntary so it may have just been a lack of interest.

On August 25th, the author's younger brother, Bruce, started UT with a full scholarship in NROTC. He was also on Buccaneers his first year. On August 28th, Bob Bruce, a NESEP, received his commission at UT, along with another couple of classmates of mine, Pat Reynolds and Skip Sayers. The author never knew Bob Bruce while he was at UT since there was little or no interaction between NROTC and NESEP. That would change in the coming years, and you'll hear about Bob Bruce again. On September 25th, CDR J. Weldon Koenig, USN, Commanding Officer, USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641) (Blue Crew) visited the Unit on Nuclear Power recruiting matters. CDR Koenig was a 1958 graduate and an alumnus of the NROTC Unit. He would later achieve the rank of RADM and go on to serve as Chairman of the Midshipmans Foundation.

Navy's 200th Birthday!

Page 390 of the *Cactus* shows a party celebrating the Navy's 200th Birthday (October 13, 1975). The actual party was held on October 21, 1975. To the author's knowledge this is the first time the Unit celebrated the Navy's birthday. It was marked with a cake-cutting ceremony on the East Mall, using a Navy sword. Tradition dictates that the oldest member present passes the first piece to the youngest member present. These were CDR Max R. Rumelhart and MDN 4/C Murray Hess, respectively. The celebration also recognized the Marine Corps' 200th birthday (November 10, 1775). Observance of this tradition occurred more frequently after that.



CDR Rumelhart cuts the Birthday Cake

Big Changes for NESEPs

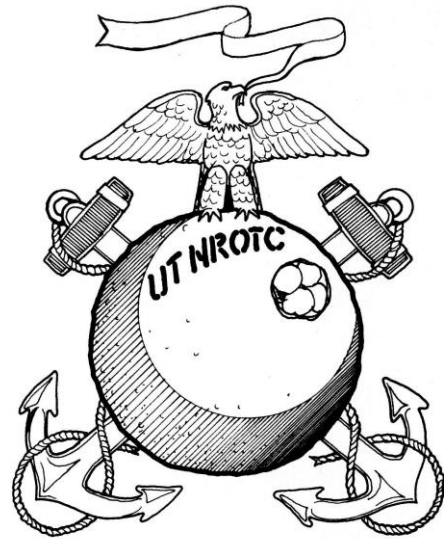
From Richard Ashmore '76 we learned the following:

“The NESEP program changed a lot in 1976. The number of schools for NESEP was cut to five, and the Navy no longer paid for it. NESEP students had to pay their own way, and I suspect the schools that were still in the program were relatively inexpensive. My recollection was the Program ended in the early '80s.”

Naval Orange, the Unit Newsletter, Debuts

“Naval Orange” was first coined in October 1974 by yours truly and Jim Wurzel. We were just thinking out loud on a bus trip back from some training. As soon as we came up with the name I got to work on the artwork back in Austin. The earliest that someone could have used this name for a unit newsletter would have been the academic year after Jim and I left. It appears that this name stayed attached to the unit newsletter until, at least the spring of 1998 (the latest issue we have). The earliest issue we have in our collection is from the spring of 1979 and is labeled Vol 7, No 2. Counting backwards, with volume representing years, would put the first issue in 1973, so the editor may not have adhered to the practice of incrementing the volume number with each new year. Using volume number to trace missing issues has been problematic. If one uses this standard, there appears to be a jump from Vol 18 to 27 in 1988, another jump from Vol 30 to 33 in 1991. Issues in 1996 and 1998 do not bear any volume number. The *Naval Orange* carried on the tradition of one of

its forerunners, *Spun Yarn*, by reporting unit and battalion news during the year. The December 1980 issue (Vol 10 No 2) was the first that we know of to make mention of and include the new Alumni Association. In the spring of 1991, the Alumni Association issued its first newsletter and used the name *Naval Orange* also. It bears the volume number 1, so it apparently was intended to be a separate publication by that time. By March 1993 the alumni association had dropped the use of that name.



Original Naval Orange Logo

Ensign Ed's Excellent Adventures

Meanwhile the author was on his new ship, USS Albany (CG-10), flagship of the Second Fleet, in a NATO Exercise in the North Atlantic, when he received a telegram of the birth of his first child on November 14th. Two days later he was crossing the Arctic Circle and getting his “Blue Nose.” He also happened to be the “George” (*i.e.*, the junior Ensign onboard) so he and the junior enlisted man aboard got to actually paint the bull nose of the ship blue.

To report to my ship I flew to London and took a cab in the middle of the night from Heathrow Airport to Portsmouth, England to catch the ship before she departed the next morning. When I reported aboard I had no idea until later just what misfortunes the Albany had gone through on this cruise. There were four firerooms (or boiler rooms) and two engine rooms on Albany. She had four screws and one big rudder. Since leaving Norfolk, her homeport, Albany had had a fire in one of her boiler rooms and had lost a man to smoke inhalation. That whole fireroom was out of commission. She had also hit a concrete buoy during one of her moorings and damaged two screws. I found out later that we actually crossed the Arctic Circle on one screw.

The Adventure continued...

In Austin, on December 10th RADM R. B. McClinton, USN, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command visited the Unit to award a citation for UT NROTC Unit cooperation with the Naval Recruiting District.

Back in Norfolk, Albany returned to her homeport on that same day but her troubles weren't over. I got to rejoin my wife and new son and that was great. We found an apartment out in Virginia Beach and settled there for the next eight months. Albany was going to have to go into the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for dry dock repairs so, in preparation for that, she would have to go up the York River to Yorktown to unload all weapons and ammo. The ship planned a dependent's cruise for that occasion so wives and children would be running around the ship while we cruised up the river.

The morning of this evolution the ship departed NOB Norfolk and headed out of Hampton Roads first. During this time the ship's engineers ran an "emergency back full" test on the engines. This resulted in sucking one boiler offline. This they did not want to repeat. We then cruised back into Hampton Roads and started up the York River. The cross current is strong there and the ship had to maintain forward momentum so as not to drift into the river bank. The York River bridge was on two pedestals and when it opened, the sections on these two pedestals rotated perpendicular to the path of the bridge and parallel to the path of the river, allowing ships to pass. Whistle signals were used by the ship to request an opening and by the bridge to acknowledge.

As we approached the York River bridge, I was on the O9 level, above the ship's bridge, where the ship's dentist and his kids all were enjoying the view. Albany sounded a signal to the bridge for it to open, but did not lay to and await the bridge to signal back because of the cross current. She kept plowing ahead at about twelve knots. The bridge operator did start to open the bridge sections but then I noticed that he stopped and I made that remark to the dentist as we were watching the scenery pass.

In an instant we heard the "general quarters" alarm. The dentist and I rushed to get the kids down the ladder and inside the skin of the ship. We were going down the ladder inside the ship now when I reached the O6 level (below the bridge). There I met the Captain who asked me if we were low enough! The Albany is a pretty tall ship. The ship's bridge was some 80 feet from the water. I had no idea how low we had to go. I told him I didn't know and kept ushering the kids down the ladder.

The Adventure continued...

I later learned that the Captain had ordered the bridge cleared for fear of decapitating the ship. The OOD, LT Tom McKean, remained on the bridge and took the wheel. Just before making contact with the York River bridge an “emergency back full” order had been given; one can imagine what was going through the minds of the engineers after their experience earlier that morning. They did manage to almost completely stop the ship before the impact. The bridge operator had started to close the bridge in order to minimize the damage he anticipated but left it slightly open, as it turned out. When Albany hit the side of the bridge it did decapitate several antennas, the front of the ship’s bridge “tapped” the side of the York River bridge, and Albany slipped sideways through the gap in the bridge sections. The OOD straightened out the ship’s path and headed straight for the Yorktown pier, which was in sight.

On the short trip from the York River bridge to the Yorktown pier we were being buzzed by news helicopters, and by the time we put a brow over on the pier a Second Fleet investigation team came aboard. What an exciting first two months for a brand-new Ensign! I later learned that general quarters was sounded instead of the collision alarm because they wanted everyone inside the skin of the ship to avoid any injuries from falling debris. We unloaded our weapons and returned to Norfolk without further incident. Within a week or so we were in the drydock for repairs, and within the month the CO was replaced.

UT Alumni Meet on Albany

I suspect that as a consequence of *Albany*’s having gone into the yard for extensive repairs, the decision was made to further modify her for duty as flagship of the Sixth Fleet and get her “out of town.” At the time I was under the impression that we went into the yards only to be modified for Sixth Fleet. I learned about the screw damage later. It was during this yard period I believe Bob Bruce ’75 reported aboard. When I learned he had graduated from UT I asked why I didn’t know him. I thought I had known everyone in the Unit at that time. He said he was a NESEP student, which explained the mystery. Sad to say, Bob has since passed away.

In Austin, on December 20th, a joint commissioning ceremony was held. RADM W. Stuart Nelson, USN (Ret), helped award commissions. Six Ensigns were commissioned.

ASNE Student Chapter Started

Early in 1976 a highly motivated group of Navy OC’s and Midshipmen applied for and received a charter from the American Society of Naval Engineers. This was the third such student section of ASNE in the United States. Unlike other student organizations, ASNE is a strictly professional organization. The chapter usually schedules three meetings and two field trips per semester, all within the central Texas area. National dues were \$6 per year and included a subscription to *The Journal*. There were no local dues. Most of its members were engineering students but any NROTC student was welcome.

On February 19th, a presentation on the F-14 was made on campus by ENS David Nieman, a 1973 UT graduate. It is not known if he was a NESEP, for which we have incomplete records, or just a UT graduate who obtained his commission elsewhere. The Navy Nuclear Power display van was on campus and opened to interested students from February 23-25. The NROTC annual awards day was held on April 29th. The UT Presidential Review of ROTC Units was held in Memorial Stadium on May 4th. James Colvin, acting for President Lorene L. Rogers for the second year in a row, reviewed the troops.

A joint commissioning ceremony was held on May 22nd. Gen John P. Flynn, USAF, assisted in the awarding of commissions. Eight (NROTC) Ensigns, two (NESEP) Ensigns, five (NROTC) 2nd Lieutenants, and two (NESEP) 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. Only three more Ensigns were commissioned during the summer. The 1976 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The CHR gave us numbers but no names. See the Appendix.

The Crow's Nest Moves

It was learned from Steve White '76 that at some point during the '75-'76 year the owners of the Nueces property would be selling it during the summer of '76. This brought on another forced move. While they were looking, though, they toyed with the idea of undertaking to build their own facility. They even lined up an architect to draw up concept designs. George White '51, Steve's father, and other alumni, such as Bob Brown '52, tried to get financial backing for the project, but that failed to materialize in time. The best facility



Crow's Nest #6, 2610 Rio Grande, May 1977

that the Nesters found turned into a major improvement, though. It was a

single three-story boarding house located at 2610 Rio Grande Street. From Ray Adams '80 we learned that this new location had been purchased some time earlier in the year by the owner of Watson Florist near 26th Street and Guadalupe. The Nesters arranged to lease the entire building and moved in during August of 1976. Financing had been through the student business office. Initially there were 35 students at this new location. That was the capacity, slightly less room than the previous location. This facility; however, was in better shape than the previous facility, and it served as the Nest location for the next five years. 2610 Rio Grande Street was the sixth Nest location and is the oldest Crow's Nest facility still standing. As of this writing, it looks substantially like it did in 1976.

Author Thrown in the "Briar Patch"

During the summer the author's ship was out of the yard, finished with refresher training in GITMO, and was underway on August 10th to relieve the USS Little Rock (CLG-4) as flagship of the Sixth Fleet.

Once we had relieved *Little Rock*, the *Albany* would be the only U.S. Navy ship in that little port city. On August 15th, we arrived in Gaeta, Italy, our new home port located between Rome and Naples. This was an accompanied tour, so my family and I got to live in Italy for the next three years and I would get to visit and explore some of the finest classic and ancient architecture that I had previously seen only in books...what an incredible change in plans. Join the Navy and see the world!



Albany and Little Rock in Italy

Academic Year 1977

Statistics:

Number of Students: 94 Midshipmen (down 9), 70 NESEPs (58 Navy, 12 Marine Corps), 3 MECEPs

Number of Staff: 5 Officers (down 1), 5 Enlisted (no change), 3 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 28 (22 Navy, 6 Marine) (down 4)

The *Cactus* and CHR were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1977 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just four pages, though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. There was no 1977 *Longhorn Log* to cover the Unit more thoroughly for the year. See the Appendix.

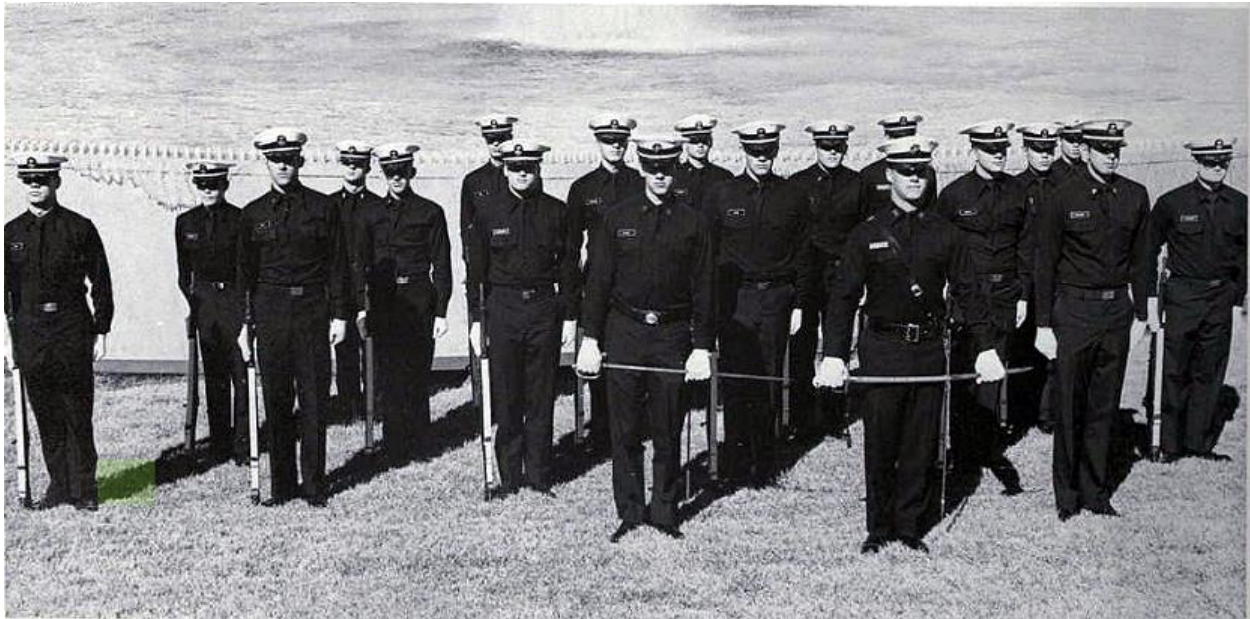
There were still 55 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were thirteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the CO, CAPT Thomas V. Solan, USN. Maj Herbert L. Currie relieved Maj Lynch as MOI at mid-year. Two other Naval officers rotated out (LCDR Fullerton and LT Lowe) and three came aboard (LT Hardy, LT Ylitalo and LT Lochausen). Three senior enlisted rotated out (SKCS Jackson, QMC Van Meter and FTM1 Christianson) and three new chiefs reported aboard (SKCM Abbott, YNC Ohlmeier and QMC Gonzales). SSgt Poppin was promoted. Nancy Ann Remmel replaced Dorothy Burke on the civilian staff.

The Battalion was now organized into three companies, and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were Steven Mark White (fall) and William H. "Bill" McRaven (spring). The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons, but each company had at least two platoons. N Company may have had as many as four platoons, based on their number. The suggested numbers below merely just reflect an even distribution to each platoon for A and B companies. The Bucs were only large enough for one platoon.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A | 14 | 14 |
| B | 16 | 15 |
| N | 65 (4 platoons?) | |
| Buccaneers | 19 | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 19 men (six old-timers and 13 new arrivals). Buccaneer Commander was Robert Eugene Harbour. Executive Officer was Curtis Duane Karges. Company CPO was Gabriel R. Salazar. Guidon was not documented. No one in the photograph was

carrying the guidon. Events the Bucs participated in were the Houston drill meet in December just before finals, the Tulane meet during Mardi Gras (Mardi Gras was February 22nd), and the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (probably March 26). Academic problems after the holidays caused the reduction in scheduled meets.⁴⁷



1977 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1977 *Cactus*, page 420.

There was no mention of a rifle or pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, but a five-man color guard was pictured. There appeared again a civilian UT rifle team with Army leadership but no NROTC members. Praetorian Guard included NROTC members. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Christopher C. Kelley may have been their Commander at some point during the year since he's the only one pictured with a sword. Otherwise, there were no NROTC Midshipmen listed as officers this year. Group activities included the annual pilgrimage to the Texas-OU football game in Dallas, and co-sponsoring the Central Texas Invitational Rifle match with the UT rifle team. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members, too. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. MDN Phillip C. Umphres was their Captain, MDN Joseph A. Molinari was their First Lieutenant and MDN Paul B. Cravens was their Second Lieutenant for the year. The group sponsored the annual collegiate drill competition during the spring (probably March 26).

Intramural sports were covered in the *Cactus* this year on only three pages, with no team or individual standings listed, just a collection of uncaptioned photos. The *Longhorn Log* was not published for this year.

⁴⁷ Recollections of Gabriel R. "Gabe" Salazar '79



1977 Crow's Nest. 1977 *Cactus*, page 308.

The Crow's Nest now had 29 men, a net gain of six men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 27 were pictured. The comical costume group photo was taken in front of Southern Pacific locomotive No. 786, which was on static display in Brush Park (5th and Neches Streets) until 1990. Incidentally that locomotive was removed in 1990 and restored to operational condition; it can be found in Cedar Park, Texas. A comparison of names showed 14 were old-timers and 15 were new arrivals. Its location was the new 2610 Rio Grande Street location. Its Presidents were Joseph Anthony "Joe"

Molinari (fall) and Norman Jose Farley (spring). Vice President was Dean Bradley Creech. Treasurers were Steven Mark White (fall) and Keith Arnold Townsend (spring). Secretary was Michael Keith "Mike" Stacey. Work manager, food buyer and faculty advisor were not documented. This was probably the year the rate went up, since it was a new and better facility. It cost \$160 per month for room and board there, based on confirmation we have on the next year's rate.

Major social events for the year included the Anchorette Rush Picnic (Oktoberfest), the fall formal at Bergstrom AFB Officers Club (Tri-Service Military Ball), a Tri-Service Dining-In, the spring picnic and the Ring Dance formal. A Dining-Out was also held during the year and pictured in the *Cactus*. Spring Break occurred the week of March 14-18. One field trip was conducted during that time: a Marine Corps orientation trip to Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

The Anchoresses numbered 15 this year, a reduction of seven. They were all pictured as a group in the *Cactus* wearing formal gowns. Officers for this year were: Cheryl Carlisle, President; Karen Ellis, Vice President; Anita Isbell, Secretary; and Bea Somerville, Treasurer. The Anchoresses, among their many other services to the Unit, sponsored a Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot. It was a four-day event to acquaint UT students with the ROTC Rifle Range.

MECEP Arrives on Campus

The Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Educational Program (MECEP), another officer ascension program under the command of the CO, UT NROTC, was first mentioned in the 1977 CHR. Therefore, fall of 1977 was a fair assumption of when the first MECEPs arrived. Based on a nominal four year program, the first graduates would appear in the spring of 1981. Some might have graduated sooner, coming into the program with earned college credits. The NESEP program was still commissioning Marines, too, so the source program for Marine commissioning between 1979 and when NESEP was phased out is difficult to determine. Even the *Longhorn Logs* from 1981 and forward did not

distinguish between NESEP Marines and MECEP candidates. The arrival of MECEPs did not affect the move toward integration of NESEPs (and now MECEPs) into the Battalion.

On October 11th, CAPT Alan L. Jansen, USN, Director of Officer Ascensions, CNET, arrived to conduct a two-day command inspection of the UT NROTC. On November 10th CDR F. W. Carter, Jr., USN, Commanding Officer, USS Haddo (SSN-604) visited the Unit on nuclear power recruiting matters. December 1-2 saw a P3C crew arriving at Bergstrom AFB to conduct indoctrination flights and visit the Unit.

On December 21st a joint commissioning ceremony was held. BGen Willie Scott, USAR, assisted in awarding of commissions. Seven (NROTC) Ensigns, two (NESEP) Ensigns and two (NROTC) 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned.

The Naval Aviation van was on campus and open to interested students for February 7-8. On April 2nd the staff and students of the Unit conducted a relay run from Memorial Stadium, Austin, Texas, to the USS Texas Monument in Houston, Texas, for the benefit of children under the care of The Capitol Area Rehabilitation Center. It ended on April 3rd. The NROTC annual awards day was held on April 28th. May 4th was the Presidential Review of all three ROTCs. Dr. Lorene L. Rogers, President of UT, and Austin Councilwoman Betty L. Himmelblau reviewed the troops.

On May 21st a Tri-Service commissioning ceremony was held in the Music Building Auditorium. BGen Walter S. Ulmer, USA, assisted in awarding commissions. Six (NROTC) Ensigns, three (NESEP) Ensigns and two (NROTC) 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. Four Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned during the summer. The 1977 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The CHR gave us numbers but no names. Many thanks to Jerry Pajares '77 for providing a program for the May 21, 1977 commissioning, which greatly assisted in this effort. See the Appendix.

Academic Year 1978

Statistics:

Number of Students: 92 Midshipmen (down 2), 50 NESEPs (41 Navy, 9 Marine Corps), 9 MECEPs

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (up 1), 4 Enlisted (down 1), 3 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 21 (17 Navy, 4 Marine) (down 7)

The *Cactus*, CHR and the 11/77 issue of the *Naval Orange* newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1978 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just five pages, though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. There was no 1978 *Longhorn Log* to cover the Unit more thoroughly for the year. See the Appendix.

There were still 55 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were eleven military and civilian staff members of the Unit pictured in the *Cactus*, including the new CO, CAPT Curtis Alvin Sorenson,

USN, who assumed command in September. A photograph of the Change of Command is on page 405 of the 1978 *Cactus*. CAPT Sorenson had graduated from the Naval Academy in 1954. He had been an enlisted Marine for three years prior to his appointment to the USNA. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, where he received the Bronze Star for “meritorious service from 12 to 17 November 1968” during a particularly intense and gruesome battle. He commanded several ships during his career and served on the staff of Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.



Curtis Alvin Sorenson

CDR James Allen Lindsey, USN, relieved CDR Rumelhart as XO at mid-year. Maj Currie was promoted. Two Naval officers rotated out (LT McCoy and LT Hardy) and two new officers reported aboard (LT Chiaverotti and LTJG Bettisworth). LT Ylitalo was promoted. SKCM(SS) Charles G. Thompson reported aboard as a relief for SKCM Abbott. GySgt R. Martinez relieved GySgt Pippin at mid-year. Beverly Roberts retired from the civilian staff.

The Battalion was organized into three companies and the Buccaneers. Battalion Commanders were David Mark Epstein (fall) and Steven D. Smith (spring). The *Cactus* did not picture separate platoons, but judging by the numbers, A and B companies each had two platoons. The Bucs were barely large enough for two platoons but were not pictured as such. Also the NESEPs and MECEPs were more integrated into the leadership of A and B companies but still a separate company as they had been in the previous year. N company was pictured with Navy NESEPs in one group of 27, a group of twelve Marine NESEPs and MECEPs and a group of five leaders (front row – one Marine and four Navy).

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A | 17 | 17 |
| B | 11 | 11 |
| N | 44 (2 or 3 Platoons) | |
| Buccaneers | 21 | |

The Buccaneers were pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 21 men (nine old-timers and twelve new arrivals) and was called H Company. Buccaneer Commander was Gabriel R. Salazar, who would return to UT many years later as the 24th Professor of Naval Science. Executive Officer was Gary Don Atkinson. Company CPO was Andre Mielcarek. Guidon was not documented; no one in the photograph was carrying the guidon. Events the Bucs participated in were the Tulane drill meet (February 3), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (March 4), the A&M drill meet in College Station (April 1) and the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 22). A Houston drill meet was also mentioned in the *Naval Orange*.



1978 Buccaneer Drill Team. 1978 *Cactus*, page 405.

There was no mention of a rifle or pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, nor was a color guard shown. There appeared again a civilian UT rifle team with Army leadership but no NROTC members. The CHR was more helpful. It mentioned that on April 15th the pistol team won and took honors in the UT Pistol Match. The *Naval Orange* (November 1977) also added that the captain of the pistol team was MDN 1/C Steve Smith. The pistol team also competed at UT-Arlington (October 22) and College Station (November 5). At College Station, Cherry Holmes took the Texas A&M women's team by surprise and walked off with a 1st place plaque. A series of matches during the summer also put UT at first in the nation in ROTC competition. Praetorian Guard was still Tri-Service but no NROTC members were listed or pictured. Group activity this year was primarily co-sponsoring the Central Texas Invitational Rifle match with the UT rifle team. Scabbard & Blade did contain NROTC members; they were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. No officers were listed. The group sponsored the annual collegiate drill competition during the spring (March 4).

The Publications Officer (PO) was Norman Farley. The *Naval Orange* staff numbered 16 Midshipmen. The Social Committee was not documented.

Intramural sports were covered in the *Cactus* this year on only two pages with no team or individual standings listed, just a collection of uncaptioned photos. The *Longhorn Log* was not published for this year.



1978 Crow's Nest. 1978 *Cactus*, page 287.

The Crow's Nest had 32 men a net gain of three men from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 24 were pictured. The comical costume group photo was taken in front of the George Washington statue on the Main Mall. A comparison of names showed 17 were old-timers and 15 were new arrivals. Its location was still 2610 Rio Grande Street. Its President was Dean Bradley Creech. Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, work manager, food buyer and faculty advisor were not documented. It still cost \$160 per month for room and board there, according to Norm Farley.

Major social events for the year included a cake-cutting ceremony for the Navy's 202nd Birthday (October 13), the Anchorette Rush Picnic (Oktoberfest, Zilker Park on October 15), a NESEP-Wives-Club-sponsored Halloween carnival for kiddies, the Marine Corps' 202nd Birthday (November 10 at Valentine's Disco), a Dinner Playhouse and dance (November 13), a Tri-Service military ball (December 3), the spring picnic, and the Ring Dance formal (May 5). Spring Break occurred the week of March 20-24. No field trips were planned during that time. For the Navy Birthday CAPT Sorensen was senior and gave the first piece of cake to MDN 4/C Dave Bose, junior man present. The Tri-Service Ball was the first one since the late sixties to combine all the services. At the Tri-Service Military Ball, UT President Dr. Lorene L. Rogers was their special guest.

The Anchoresses numbered fifteen this year, no change in number from the prior year. They were all pictured as a group in the *Cactus* wearing a new style uniform. Officers were not mentioned. The Anchoresses held cookie calls after Tuesday drills in Memorial Stadium. They initiated a Big Sister program to help incoming Midshipmen adjust to college life. They accompanied the Buccaneers to New Orleans during Mardi Gras for their drill meet. Occasionally they made Sunday supper for residents of the Crow's Nest, and they helped decorate for the annual Ring Dance.

On October 28th, a presentation on the P-3 aircraft and ASW Operations was made on campus by two pilots from VP-31. The presentation was followed by indoctrination flights at Bergstrom AFB. Fifty-two Midshipmen and NESEPs were able to participate. The two pilots were UT alumni LCDR John Jarrat '65 and LCDR Steve Wilson '66. On November 16th, during Tuesday drill, a platoon drill competition was held. The Bucs scored the highest, 84%, with Bravo I coming in second at 77%. Also in November the Unit held a Run to Houston (specifically to the battleship *Texas*) to benefit the Capital Area Rehabilitation Center. It took 22 hours over a distance of 180 miles. This was a coordinated effort from the Midshipmen, NESEPs and Anchoresses.

A Tri-Service commissioning ceremony was held on December 20th. BGen Robert W. Taylor, USMC (Ret), assisted in awarding commissioning certificates. Four (NROTC) Ensigns, two (NESEP) Ensigns and three (NESEP) 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned.

On January 31, 1978, LtCol Porter, USMC, briefed all hands on the Mayaguez Rescue Operation. Over in the Med in February the author was umpiring a one-week exercise aboard the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) and got to link up with his classmate, Skip Sayers, who was a member of the F-14 Jolly Roger Squadron. He also tried to connect with Gordon Dorsey '76, whom he knew to be aboard also, but Gordon was a nuclear power engineer and spent most of his time in the engineering spaces. Boy, was I glad I steered away from nuclear power!

On February 11th, 21 of our Unit Midshipmen served as aggressors in joint field exercises with Marine reservists at Camp Swift, in Bastrop County, Texas. On March 16th and 17th, Midshipmen from the Unit visited the USS Texas (CGN-39) on the occasion of her visit to Galveston, Texas. The Bucs sponsored a blood drive from April 11th to the 13th. April 20th was the NROTC awards day to recognize outstanding Midshipman achievements during the spring semester. The UT Presidential Review was held on May 2nd, with Dr. Lorene Rogers reviewing the troops.

The joint spring commissioning ceremony was held on May 20th in the Music Building Auditorium. UT president Rogers was there to welcome the guests. RADM John H. Alvis, USN, Vice Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, was the special guest and helped distribute commissioning certificates. Five Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The 1978 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The CHR gave us numbers but no names. Many thanks to Norman J. Farley '78 for providing a program for the May 20, 1978 commissioning, which greatly assisted in this project. Six more Ensigns were commissioned during the summer. See the Appendix.

Over in the Med, the USS Albany was in Cannes, France for the film festival (May 17-22). The author heard that Farrah Fawcett was in town staying at the Carlton Hotel. She had been a Navy Sweetheart in the late 1960s. While on liberty I dropped by the Carlton but was only able to leave her a Hook 'em Horns note.

Ensign Ed's Excellent Adventures Continue...

From July 19th to the 25th, the USS Albany conducted a Buzzardex (*i.e.*, missile exercise). *Albany* was slated to decommission her Talos missile system, so it was decided to “decommission” (*i.e.*, offload) the remaining missiles through the launcher. The Talos missile was 38 feet long and 28 inches in diameter. A teardrop-shaped warhead was mounted in the front, around which air would pass and form a low-pressure area inside the missile. If one added fuel and a spark when the missile was traveling fast enough, one created a ramjet (*i.e.*, a jet engine with no moving parts). That is why Talos was called the “flying stovepipe.” To get the missile up to sufficient speed to light off the ramjet required a solid propellant booster, attached to the aft end of the missile. The booster added another 10 feet to the assembly. When the missile and booster, weighing nearly four tons, was run out on the launch rail, only the booster made contact with the rail. The missile was attached to the booster by a 2 inch band that released when the booster got the missile up to the proper speed for the ramjet to light off. Thirty-one missiles were in the forward missile house (my division) and thirty were in the aft house.

We brought techreps aboard in Sigonella, Sicily on our way to the firing range just north of Libya and Moammar Kadafi's “Line of Death,” which extended from Tripoli east to Al Bayda, just north of Benghazi. Essentially, Kadafi was claiming all the Gulf of Sidra, and he warned the world that anyone who crossed the line would die. The techreps modified the Talos missiles to fly Soviet profiles, and our surface ships and planes were to use them for target practice. We fired all 61 missiles in three days, heightening Kadafi's “pucker factor.” Ours was heightened, too, when the last missile fired from the aft house came back at us and flew between our two macks (combination of the words mast and stack). What happened next was even more “puckering.”

I was in the forward missile house for the firing of my last missile. I was at the launch captain's console just behind the blast shield. At the wing and fin station, where those elements are added to the missile assembly, my men used a non-flammable lubricant to “paint” the side of the booster with the words “THE LAST ONE.” We then ran it out on the rail and closed the blast doors.

When the countdown reached zero and the firing key was “pickled,” usually one would hear a loud roar followed by a “whoosh.” There was no “whoosh” with this one. I cleared everybody aft in the missile house. Even though the warheads were “dudged” there was still enough high explosive in the missile warhead to be problematic and dangerous. We waited.

The navigator was on the bridge and took Super-8 color movies of the shot. It showed the booster ignition and then the missile starting to burn out the back, as expected, *and* the front, which wasn't expected. Booster propellant was sending flames up through the ramjet, around the warhead and out the nose! Lacking enough thrust from behind, the booster stayed on the launch rail, with the missile attached, and burned. Toward the end of the "burn," the 2-inch restraining band holding missile and booster together was finally damaged sufficiently for the missile to separate from the booster. What we saw on the film was the missile just "popping" off the end of the booster and barely clearing the side of the ship as it went into the sea. The booster continued to burn until all the propellant was consumed. Upon inspection of the booster and launcher after all was clear, we could see that the heat from the burn caused the words written on the side of the booster to run. It took on an eerie appearance and someone got a good picture of it (below right).



Photo from Albany's Bridge showing flames coming from the front of the Talos Missile



The Talos Booster remained – Author looking up at it

Academic Year 1979

Statistics:

Number of Students: 100 Midshipmen (up 8), 21 NESEPs (17 Navy, 4 Marine Corps), 9 MECEPs

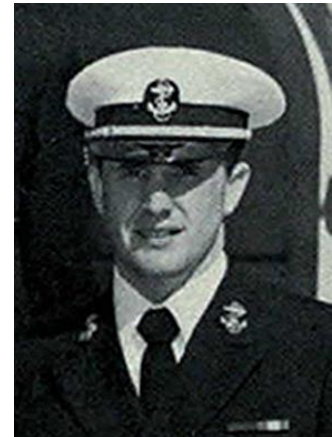
Number of Staff: 6 Officers (no change), 4 Enlisted (no change), 3 Civilian (no change)

Number of Commissionees: 29 (28 Navy, 1 Marine) (up 8)

The *Cactus*, CHR and the September 1978, December 1978 and April 1979 issues of the *Naval Orange* newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about this year. The 1979 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just four pages though there were other pages related to the NROTC as well. There was no 1979 *Longhorn Log* to cover the Unit more thoroughly for the year. See the Appendix.

There were still 55 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately fourteen military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Curtis S. Sorenson, USN. None was pictured in the *Cactus*. Fortunately, the spring 1979 issue of *Naval Orange*, (Vol. 7 No. 2) “The Unit Magazine for The University of Texas Navy-Marine Team” mentioned some names. With that, it was assumed that little or no changes occurred to the officer staff, save for, perhaps, LT Andrew E. Jackson reporting aboard as a relief for someone. Ray Adams ’80 added that CDR Rumelhart retired some time during the year and was replaced by CDR Lindsey. LTJG Bettisworth reported aboard in July 1978 and was subsequently promoted. YNC Leslie D. Bigler relieved YNC Ohlmeier. YN1 Norita was probably rotated out with no relief. It is assumed that there were no changes to the civilian staff.

The Battalion was now organized into three companies and Headquarters Company (partly Buccaneers). Battalion Commanders were Dennis Wayne Wilborn (fall) and Michael V. “Mike” Meed (spring). OC Wilborn was the first NESEP to hold that position. The *Cactus* did not picture two separate platoons in each company, but the spacing made it clear that there were two platoons in each company. Headquarters company was large enough for two large platoons or three smaller ones, but the spacing in the photo looked like just two platoons; one was all Marine and the other was all Navy. Leadership was mixed Navy and Marine. Dennis Wilborn mentioned in his Battcom’s Corner of the September 1978 issue of the *Naval Orange* that the Battalion strength was 182, including Midshipmen, NESEPs and MECEPs but other evidence only supports a little over half of that number.



Dennis Wayne Wilborn – First NESEP Battalion Commander

| <u>Company</u> | <u>First Platoon</u> | <u>Second Platoon</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alpha | 11 | 11 |
| Bravo | 14 | 14 |
| Charlie | 14 | 14 |
| Headquarters | 18 | 18 (Bucs) |

The Headquarters Staff was pictured in the *Cactus*, numbering 34 people. Two more were added who should have been pictured, for a total of 36 (eight old-timers and 28 new arrivals). The picture was labeled “Headquarters Staff” and was made up of two platoons: one was entirely NESEPs/MECEPs in greens without rifles and one was all in blues with rifles and fixed bayonets. There were two females in ranks, one in each platoon. The nineteen members in blues (eight old-timers and eleven new arrivals) were assumed to be the Buccaneers because of the fixed bayonets. Buccaneer Commander was Raymond John Thornber. Executive Officer was James Michael Hale. Company CPO was Kevin Lewis Farris. Guidon was not documented. No one in the photograph was carrying a guidon. Based on previous practice, the Guidon could have been the one female member, Roxanne Liscomb. Events the Bucs participated in were the Veterans Day Parade in Austin (November 11), Tulane drill meet (February 22), the A&M drill meet in College Station (April 7), the Scabbard & Blade drill meet at UT (April 21), and the Lone Star drill meet at Trinity University in San Antonio (April 28).



1979 Headquarters Staff. Blues, swords and bayonets denote the Buccaneer Drill Team. 1979 *Cactus*, page 387.

There was no mention of a rifle or pistol team in the *Cactus* this year, but a five-man color guard was shown. The CHR was more helpful. It reported that on September 1st the pistol team won again, this time at the National NROTC Pistol Match. Also the pistol team competed and won honors at the UT Arlington Match on October 28th. Jerry Breshers (pistol team captain) mentioned, in the September issue of *Naval Orange*, that the pistol team was starting a new season after an undefeated string of victories over the last three years. He said this year's team was the youngest they had had in two semesters. Praetorian Guard included NROTC members, two of whom were pictured in civilian clothing. No officers were listed. Group activities this year were primarily co-sponsoring the Central Texas invitational rifle match with the UT rifle team, a Christmas party for foster children in the Austin area, and raising flags and pennants at Memorial Stadium prior to football games. Scabbard & Blade included NROTC members, too. They were listed and pictured in the *Cactus*. No officers were listed. This was S&B's 30th year on the UT campus. The group sponsored the 15th annual Southwest Regional drill meet during the spring (April 21).

The Publications Officer (PO) was David Knox. The Public Affairs Officer (PAO) was Ann Glover. She said in the September issue of *The Naval Orange* that the PAO co-ordinated *The Daily Texan's* coverage of the NROTC unit, photo layouts of the Unit in the *Cactus*, and maintained a Unit scrapbook. The *Naval Orange* staff numbered about eighteen midshipman staff and contributors. The Social Committee was chaired by Steve Creech.

Intramural sports were not covered in the *Cactus* and the *Longhorn Log* was not published for this year. The CHR was a little more helpful, stating that the Blue Angels basketball team finished their season 5-0

as champs of their division but did not make it through the playoffs. Both Navy softball teams, at press time, looked like they had a good chance for the playoffs.



1979 Crow's Nest. 1979 *Cactus*, page 332.

Secretary, Treasurer, work manager, food buyer and faculty advisor were not documented. An ad in the *Naval Orange* said the Crow's Nest charged \$162.50 per month for room and board (ten cooked meals per week) during fall and spring semesters. The charge was \$120 per month for the six-week summer session, for room only. The fall and spring rate represented a slight rise from the previous year. The Nest also hired a new cook that year, who was "fantastic."⁴⁸

Major social events for the year included an Anchorette Picnic (September 23rd), a Beer Float (September 30th), the Anchorette Rush picnic (Oktoberfest October 14th), Country Dinner Playhouse, a Dining-In at the Crow's Nest to celebrate the Navy's birthday (October 12th), a cake-cutting ceremony for the actual date of the Navy's Birthday (October 13th), a cake-cutting ceremony for the Marine Corps' birthday (November 9th), an informal Disco dance (November 17th), a Tri-Service military ball (Texas Union on December 9th), a Crow's Nest sponsored Dining-In at the Pecan St. Café (March 7th), the spring picnic (April 8th), Scabbard & Blade Dining-Out (April 27th) and the Ring Dance formal at the Armed Forces Reserve Hall (May 5th). Spring Break occurred the week of April 9-13. No field trips were planned during that time. Between May 14 and 17 there was a Naval Aviation field trip planned for NAS Corpus Christi.

⁴⁸ *Naval Orange*, Spring 1979 issue, Vol. 7, No. 2

The Crow's Nest had 33 men, representing a net gain of one man from the previous year. All were listed in the *Cactus*. Only 21 were pictured. The comical costume group photo was taken again in front of Southern Pacific No. 786, which was still on static display in Brush Park. A comparison of names showed 25 were old-timers and eight were new arrivals. Its location was still 2610 Rio Grande Street. Its President was Raymond James "Ray" Adams. Vice President,

The Anchorettes numbered eleven this year, down four from the prior year. They were all pictured as a group in the *Cactus* wearing civilian clothing. Officers were not mentioned, but they were identified in the September 1978 issue of the *Naval Orange*. President was Kathy Romanchek, Vice President was Heather Murphy, Treasurer was Cherry Holmes, Social Officer was Kikka Harrison, Historian was Wendall Whatley, Pledge Trainer was Noreen Jasper, Athletics Officer was Virginia Stevens, and Publications Officer was Debbie Maurstad. The Anchorettes held Cookie Calls after Tuesday drills in Memorial Stadium and Beer Calls on Friday evenings at the Crow's Nest. They helped with the Tri-Service Ball and the fall and spring picnics.

From November 6th to the 7th UT hosted the annual meeting of the Association of NROTC Colleges and Universities. On November 7th Texas elected its first Republican Governor since 1870, Bill Clements. November 7th was also the Battalion's Platoon Competition. December 5th was the NROTC awards day and Battalion Change of Command.

December 21st the NROTC fall commissioning ceremony was held. Thirteen Ensigns were commissioned.

Shah of Iran Deposed

On January 16, 1979 the Shah of Iran was forced to leave his country because of the growing revolution. The author was onboard USS Albany, which was in the middle of a two-week exercise when word reached Sixth Fleet. VADM James Watkins, later to become CNO, wanted to sortie through the Suez Canal and to the Persian Gulf, but his superiors told him to sortie two other ships instead. We were told that Sixth Fleet does not leave the Med.

On February 14th, a SACLANT Team came to UT to give a brief on NATO. A Triannual inspection of the Unit was conducted by Headquarters, Chief of Naval Education and Training, from February 26th to the 28th. The Unit received a SAT grade. (One can only receive a "SAT" or "UNSAT" grade, so that was good.) The inspection team remarked that UT was in the upper half of NROTC units, and they especially complimented the Unit on integrating NROTC and NESEP programs together into one battalion. CAPT Lund, who headed the inspection team, noted favorably that UT was one of only a handful of non-military schools that marched with rifles. The Battalion sponsored a Swim-a-Thon on March 24th and raised \$800 in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy. Seventeen swimmers from NROTC participated. On April 8th, Midshipmen participated as aggressors in joint training at Camp Swift with the Marine Reserve. On April 12th VADM Bobby R. Inman, Director, NSA, made a presentation on Soviet Sea Power. The Commanding Officer held an inspection of the Battalion on April 17th. April 26th was the NROTC Awards Day. The UT Presidential Review was held on May 1st, and Dr. Lorene Rogers, UT President, reviewed the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC troops. On May 3rd the Battalion held a Change of Command. Michael V. "Mike" Meed '79, a Marine Option, was relieved by Dean Bradley Creech. Twenty Midshipmen, one officer candidate and one officer escort attended aviation indoctrination at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, from May 14th to May 17th.

During the spring semester the ASNE at UT sponsored a seminar on the “New Generation of Tactical and Strategic Weapons” presented by the Army War College, and a tour of the new Omega Navigation System being built at TRACOR, a major Austin electronics firm.

On May 19th the joint spring commissioning ceremony was held. Eleven Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The Captain’s Log in the spring 1979 issue of *Naval Orange* said that seventeen Midshipmen and NESEPs would be commissioned between May 19th and the start of the next academic year (*i.e.*, before the fall semester). In that same newsletter fifteen were pictured and/or named for the spring. Three more were on our alumni roster as having been commissioned in this year. These were probably the other two commissionings to take place in the summer. The 1979 *Cactus* gave no indication of the number of commissioned officers or when they were commissioned. The CHR gave us numbers but no names. The *Naval Orange* unit newsletter also offered some help. See the Appendix.

2nd Class Cruise

In the spring 1979 *Naval Orange* newsletter Ray Adams ’80 described his 2nd class cruise with 150 other Midshipmen.

“We started in San Diego with nuclear power indoctrination (two days underway on USS Snook (SSN 592)). Next, on to Coronado and the “killer” SEAL obstacle course and some surface warfare training, then to Camp Pendleton to see how the Marines do things and study some amphibious warfare. Lastly, it was aviation indoctrination at NAS Corpus Christi back in Texas. Second class cruise is a lot of indoctrination in multiple facets of the Navy and Marine Corps in one concentrated six-week time period. This is the only cruise where you train with your whole class (*i.e.*, all the sophomores).”

Naval Reserve and More UT Alumni

During the late spring and early summer the author was transitioning from Regular to Reserve officer, returning stateside, starting his architecture apprenticeship and starting to participate in monthly drills at the San Antonio Naval Reserve Center, where he would run into a bunch more UT NROTC alumni.

About the Author



Edwin W. “Ed” Mergele, a native of San Antonio, graduated in 1975 from UT with a Bachelor of Architecture (BAR), Magna Cum Laude. In 1975 he also completed his fourth year as a UT NROTC midshipman and received his commission as a Line Officer in the Navy. He spent his first six months of active service in training to prepare for the Surface Warfare specialty and as a Talos missile battery officer. His first ship was the USS Albany (CG-10), flagship of the Second Fleet, homeported in Norfolk Virginia. Eight months later *Albany* “crossdecked” with the USS Littlerock (CLG-4) in Gaeta, Italy to take over duties as flagship of the Sixth Fleet. In 1979 Ed returned to the United States and traded a regular Navy commission for one in the Naval Reserve.

During the next twenty years, he served another eighteen plus years in the Naval Reserve, retiring as a Commander, and earning his pennant as Commanding Officer of Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 108 (MIUWU-108), based at Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. He was recalled to active duty twice: once in 1985 to assist the Operations officer for the Chief of Naval Reserve in New Orleans, Louisiana and the second time with MIUWU-108 for service in Operation Desert Storm. The latter was served in Ad Dammam, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait City, Kuwait. Among his awards are the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

While serving in the Naval Reserve, he earned an MBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He pursued a career as an Architect and Realtor in the private sector from 1980 to 1984. After a move from San Antonio to Houston in 1985 he moved to the public sector and served the City of Houston as an Architect, ultimately resulting in his being appointed City Architect. After 22 years he retired from the City of Houston and served a brief time as Building Official for the City of Hunter’s Creek Village. Upon moving back to his hometown of San Antonio in 2007 he helped his three other siblings with the family business, EWM Company in Boerne, Texas and served on the boards of the UT NROTC Alumni Foundation and the Midshipmans Foundation. His interest in researching and documenting the history of the UT NROTC unit is a natural outgrowth of his work as the alumni newsletter editor, the alumni Webmaster and his love for history.