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THE SKIES THE LIMIT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTERVIEW WITH CAPTAIN BUTLER	4
YOUR HANDY DANDY BATTALION STAFF GUIDE FOR SPRING '98	6
LONG LIVE MARDIS GRAS !!!	8
IM BASKETBALL AT LARGE	10
KERNEL BLITZ?	12

UT NROTC MOI CAPTAIN RAYMOND BUTLER

Article By: Midn 3/c Bryan Coultas



One of the tendencies of the military is the movement of its personnel from unit to unit throughout their career. While this action guarantees a constantly fresh influx of new experiences and ideas, it also has the downside of taking officers that are both respected and admired from their units. Such is the case with Captain Butler, who will be leaving us after this semester. Captain Butler hails from Jacksonville University, where he attended NROTC and earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Upon graduating from college Captain Butler was commissioned in the Marine Corps and was most recently stationed with the First Combat Engineer Battalion at Camp Pendleton where he served as the Motor Transport Officer. Prior to coming to the University of Texas, Captain Butler had on two separate occasions held the position of company commander, a position that he

describes as a 'pure leadership experience' and likens it to having command of a ship. While at the ROTC unit, Captain Butler believes the most important responsibility for an MOI is the training of midshipmen to become officers in the United States Naval Service through the balanced teaching of the core values and to ensure each trait is developed as fully as possible. He also feels that teaching is one of the most rewarding jobs at an NROTC command, whether it be in the more formal setting of his Naval Science classes or the impromptu instruction of proper military bearing on the quarter-deck. It is also his belief that the best way to learn something is by teaching it to someone else. It is with this philosophy that Captain Butler says he has become more 'historically sound' in the past three years than in the rest of his academic or professional career. One of the programs

Captain Butler says has the most potential is the mentoring program. He believes the benefits of leadership and esprit de corps this program offers will far surpass the effort put into it. He is also very pleased to have reestablished the pistol and drill team, both of which were dormant for several years before his arrival. He feels that these are also programs with great potential and ones which he has enjoyed seeing grow during his time here. Unfortunately, at the time of publication the location of his next command was unknown. However, it is assured that wherever he goes Captain Butler will be a leader, a teacher, and a coffee drinker. Just don't forget your Worf mug in Texas.



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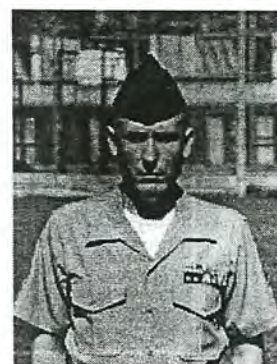
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Long Live Mardi Gras !!!

Article By: Midn 4/c Hensley



Starting back in August the buccaneer drill team start training its new members in the basics of Springfield 1903 rifle manual. Slowly but surely the new members learned how to spin, toss, and make every movement precise. Soon these members were ready to join the veterans of the squad.

Months of afternoon and Saturday practice followed. From August to January, the drill team worked to form its platoon exhibition for the up coming Tulane drill meet. Then, starting only a few weeks before the meet, members of the team were forced to back out due to academic conflict. Now, with only weeks of practice, Gunnery Sergeant Mangold, Staff Sergeant Hawthorne, and Midshipman Spradley rushed to reform the team and finish preparations for the trip. To ensure a complete drill team members of other platoons volunteered to join the team for the meet.

Now the reformed drill team began practice anew, with a new focus on platoon basic, squad basic, colorguard, and individual exhibition. Staff Sergeant Hawthorne brought his experience to platoon basic, as he and all the members of the team worked for hours at a time to prepare. Midn Spradley took charge of the six-person squad basic team. Midn Policarpio drilled the color guard, and Midn Papadopoulos and Midn Hensley volunteered for individual exhibition.

After weeks of practice and preparation it was time to head for New Orleans. The trip started at 0530 Thursday, followed by a 10-hour drive. While in New Orleans the drill team stayed on the USS Inchon (MCS-12). That night we had time for a quick jaunt into the city for dinner and then back to the ship for last minute preparations. Rifles were cleaned and shoes were polished, and then to bed to rest up for the next

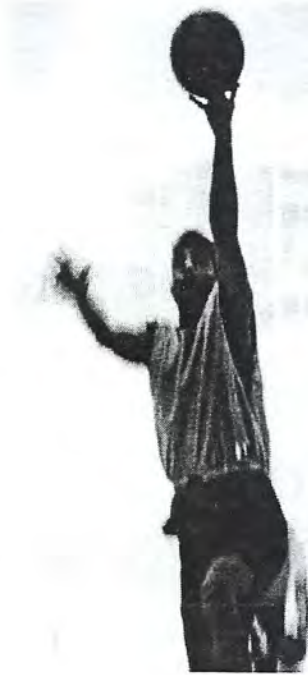


morning. Friday morning arrived and so did the drill meet. All the members of the team were squared away and had their heads in the game. After a few hours, all of the competitions were completed and it was back to the ship to get ready for some well-deserved liberty. The remainder of the day was spent on Bourbon St. getting a sample of that good old Mardi Gras spirit. One of the highlights of the night occurred when the drill team and a big group of battalion members, who had made the trip to go to Mardi Gras, met up at Café du Monde (and sang "The Eye's of Texas"). Then the drill team spent a few more hours on Bourbon St. before liberty was secured for the night. The next day had the drill team marching in the Krewe of Tucks parade. The parade took about 4-hours with stops time to time, working through the city, and ending on Canal Street. After, the parade there was little time for their feet to rest before everyone was back on Bourbon St. enjoying the last of liberty before the trip home. The next morning everyone packed up their uniforms and remaining beads and loaded up for another long trip back to Austin.

Six months of preparation, practice, and perseverance came down to four days in New Orleans. The drill team gave their best and had a great showing at the Tulane drill meet and the Tucks parade. Everyone went with high hopes and came back with a love of Mardi Gras and a readiness to go back next year. It was a lot of work, but it was worth every minute.



Navy Basketball,





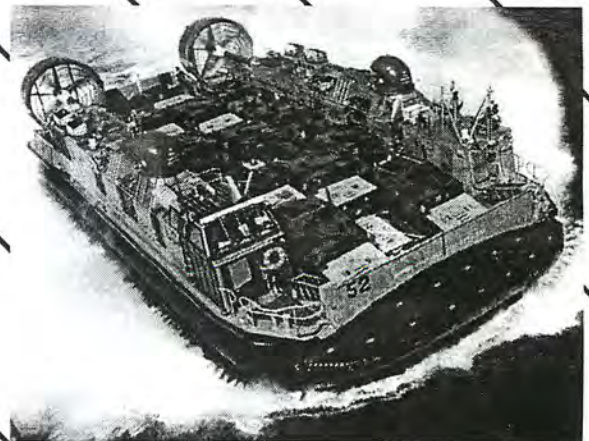
At Its Finest.

KERNEL BLITZ?

Article By: Midn 4/c Cormier

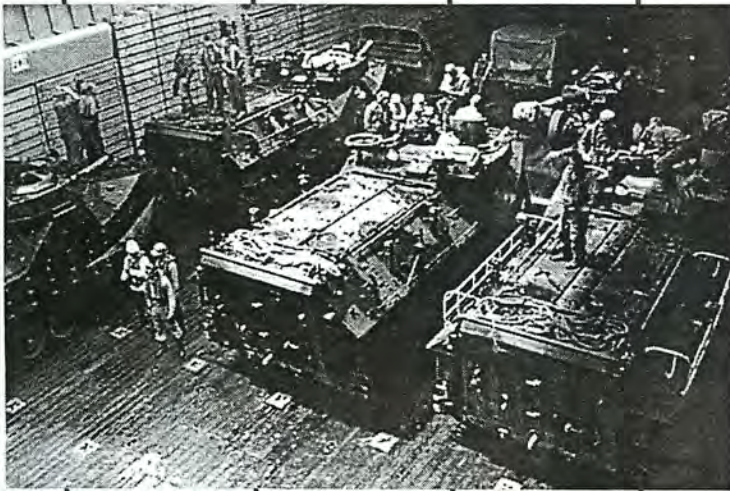
What is Kernel Blitz? Well, I can tell you this much, it's not a defensive play in the NFL! Kernel Blitz is a biannual military exercise that allows the Navy-Marine Corps to practice its amphibious mission. This mission involves the rapid projection of decisive combat power ashore. The most recent exercise, Kernel Blitz '97, took place at Marine Corps base, Camp Pendleton, near San Diego California from June 17 to July 1, 1997. The four tenets of the Kernel Blitz '97 mission included:

- 1) Prevention and Deterrence (Forward presence of Amphibious Group III and I Marine Expeditionary Force.)
- 2) Resolution (Long-range helicopter raids, an evacuation operation by 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and actual beach assaults.)
- 3) Termination (Force-on-Force combat and live-fire exercises both large weapons and air support to end the conflict.)
- 4) Joint Services (Units from the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Forces Reserve and Army National Guard participated.)



Supporting exercises included, Exercise Bell Thunder and Bell Orca. These two Exercises were both EOD and mine counter measure drills used to test new technology. Also, Charlie Golf One, a medical drill that involved a two-day massive casualty practice was among the additional exercises incorporated into Kernel Blitz '97.

Kernel Blitz '97 took place in Southern California and the waters offshore with more than 12,000 sailors, Marines, soldiers, guardsmen, and airmen involved. So now you know and knowing is half the battle. G.I. Joe



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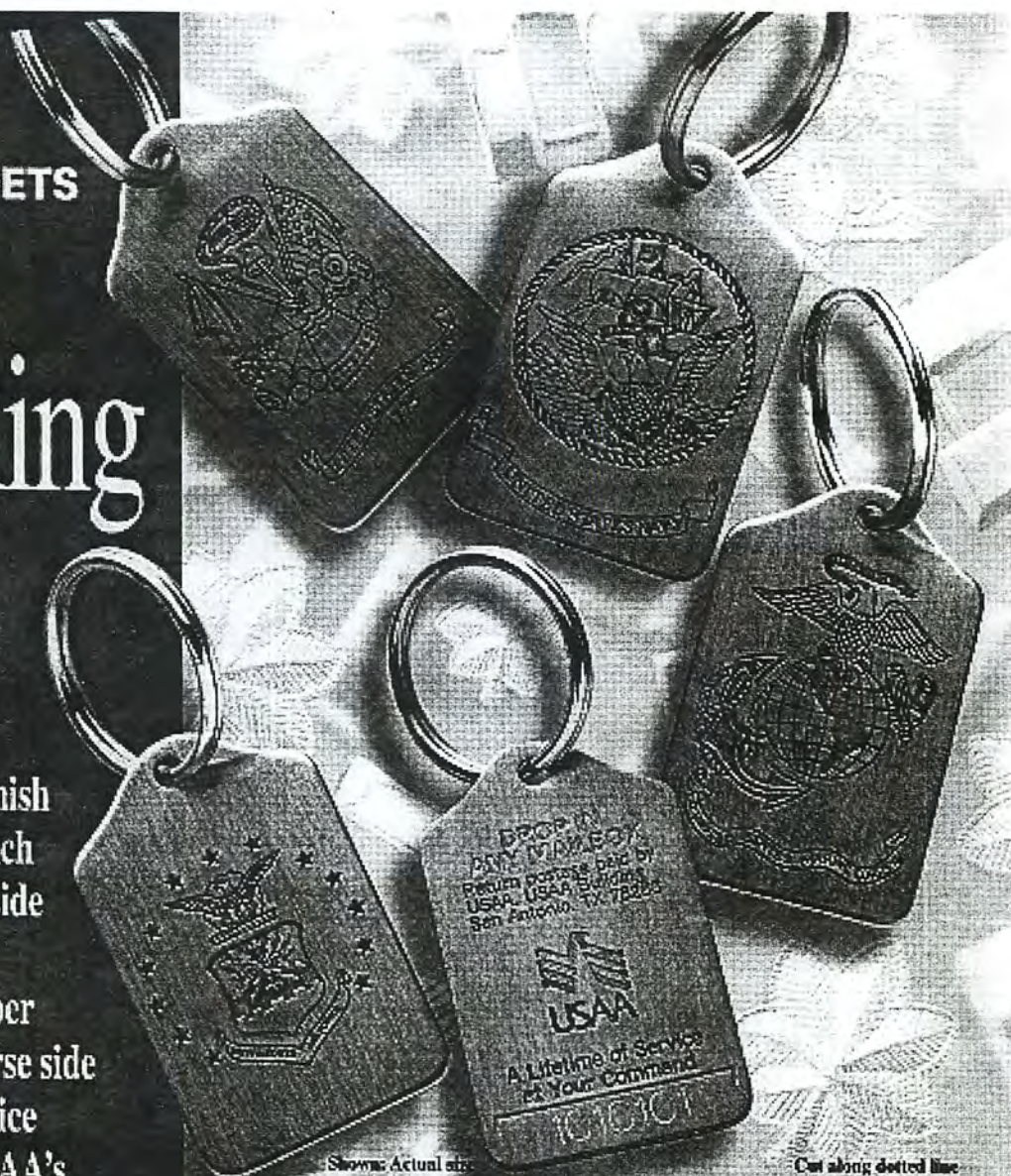
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