

TEXAS FIGHT

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

Volume IV
2000 - 2021

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

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother and father, 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, the 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 laying the foundation for living happily ever after. The exceptions were those who had chosen the Navy as a career, very few in fact, and viewed by many as strange. Today perhaps would have been identified as thinking outside the box! Our population was about 130 million.

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 the 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
(11/30/1925 – 3/11/2016)
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)
October 2, 2015

Author's Note:

I first learned of Ken Haynes' passing in August of 2017, just doing a routine internet search and, of course, fearing the worst if anything came up. I had been trying to reach him by email and phone since about March 1, 2016, just a few days prior to his death, as it turned out, but had not received a response. Even my internet searches had yielded nothing until that time. It is ironic that shortly before learning of his death we were talking of awarding Ken a Distinguished Alumnus award in our Midshipmans Foundation board meetings. From the time I learned of his death I went about trying to track down any of his family members. I learned of his daughter Melinda, who was a Navy nurse and married to a retired Rear Admiral, Eugene Farrell. I was finally able to contact Melinda, or "Mindy," on October 9, 2017. I got some details about Ken and his wife, Margaret or "Peggy," who had passed away less than a month after Ken. Both Ken and Peggy were buried in a rare double interment at Arlington Cemetery, on August 4, 2016. I reported on these findings at our next Midshipmans Foundation board meeting on February 9, 2018. I had previously gotten an indication from Mindy that she would be pleased to

participate in any ceremony honoring her father. On August 21, 2018, a few days before our next Midshipmans Foundation board meeting, I submitted the nomination for Ken to receive the Distinguished Alumnus award posthumously. The nomination was received most positively and approved not long afterward. We wanted Mindy to attend the awards ceremony at our November 3, 2018 Reunion to accept the award, but alas our schedules could not be reconciled. Ken and one other posthumous alumnus awardee, Jim Adkins '55, were to be recognized at that ceremony. I accepted Ken's award on behalf of Mindy, and we hope to schedule a time in the not-to-distant future for her to personally receive this award for her father. Ken played such an important role in bringing about this Unit history project. He was there in my first summer cruise as a Midshipman, assuming command of the USS Providence (CLG-6) on June 22, 1971, to which I, and three other UT Midshipmen, were assigned; and he was there to help me with the research and writing of the first volume of this UT NROTC Unit history during the years 2014 and most of 2015. I am extremely pleased he agreed to write the Foreword for this work and I shall truly miss him.

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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, the *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, so 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 note 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 did not publish its own yearbook (*Longhorn Log*) very frequently. *Late Note:* With the “publishing” of the 2017 *Longhorn Log*, and one for each new year since then, that pattern may have changed more permanently for the better.

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

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.

how precious time was in starting the effort. Still, I thought someone else would surely spearhead the project.

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 plan was to release 20 years of Unit history as a separate volume each year until we had documented the first 80 years, roughly around 2020, the Unit's 80th anniversary.

Volume I, covering the years 1940-1960, was released in time for the 29th Annual Alumni Reunion on the weekend of November 7, 2015. Volume II, covering the years 1960-1980, was released in time for the 30th Annual Alumni Reunion on the weekend of November 12, 2016. The next volume took a little longer because of the lack of good, printed documentation in the 1990s. Volume III, covering the years 1980-2000, was released in time for the 32nd Annual Alumni Reunion on the weekend of November 3, 2018. With each release, an update of the Appendix, a companion volume of lists of names, dates and events, was released.

Volume IV was planned for release at our 34th Annual Alumni Reunion, which would have celebrated the Unit's 80th birthday but the Covid-19 scare intervened, starting during the spring break of 2020. The Alumni Foundation, which hosts the annual reunions, managed to cobble together a virtual reunion on November 14, 2020, where alumni could log into a Zoom meeting and, at least, learn what the Unit was doing and how it performed over that past year. They also were able to view an October 27th recording of Battalion members receiving scholarships from the Midshipmans Foundation. This was the first year that scholarship awards exceeded \$100,000. The total was \$112,500, plus five swords. The Alumni Foundation thought it best to save the other 80th birthday celebrations for the following year when everyone could meet in person again. As it turned out, the delay enabled the gathering of more complete documentation of the summer and fall of 2020 and even the spring, summer and fall of 2021. The 35th Annual Alumni Reunion is planned for the weekend of November 13, 2021. CAPT Koss has said that

The University plans to be totally opened for that fall so plans for the reunion have gone forward with that in mind.

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, the *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. *Longhorn Logs* began in 1963 and covered years up to and including 1975. They appeared again from 1981 and were pretty consistent through that decade. The 1990s saw only three published *Longhorn Logs*. The early 2000s saw just two, 2004 and 2005. The 2017 through 2021 issues of the *Longhorn Log* represent, I hope, a re-establishment of this annual tradition. Electronic publishing should make it a whole lot cheaper than it used to be. It was also helpful to have resources from ancestry.com. They have a wonderful collection of UT's *Cactus* yearbooks up to 1990. *Cactus* yearbooks were also found in the Perry Castaneda Library (Level 5, Section A) on campus and covered the years up to and including 2013, with just one or two exceptions. Personally, 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.

Another valuable resource that came available in March 2016 was the Unit's Command History Report (OPNAV Report 5750-1). In the narrative it is referred to as the "CHR." CAPT Brian T. Teets (PNS#28) was instrumental in helping us find this information resource. 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. 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.

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 came 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.

So as not to bog down the reader with a lot more detailed information, I gathered lists of programs, persons and other interesting information and attached it as an Appendix. It can be reviewed independently from the text. There were many unresearched subjects left in the Appendix which I would have liked to fill in, but with the 80th anniversary looming as the roll-out date, there just wasn't enough time.

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, 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 was 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*, and the CHR 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 in printed form. Maybe 2017 will start a new string of "published" *Longhorn Logs*, since the

advent of electronic publishing. 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 history. Those with parentheses around the class year were not commissionees of that class but identified with that class in some manner. As of July 31, 2021, there were 270 documented contributors.

Hume Cofer '43	Fred Falke '55	Ben Krause '65	E. T. Page '71
Grant Stoddard '43	Preston Kronkosky '55	Jeff Alexander '69	Albert Rich '71
Clyde Arnold '44	Jarvis Michie '55	John Boswell '69	Ed Tennison '71
Bill Barnhouse '44	Spotz Robertson '55	John Conly '69	Charles Dorsett '72
Marge Flados '44	Pat Tillery ('55)	Robert Ebner '69	Steve Howell '72
Howard Lowe '44	Dave Williams '55	Phil Erickson '69	Troy Pennington '72
Joe Smith '44	Jim Wright '55	Zack Forester '69	Mark Thoman '72
Sam Winters '44	Cub Amos '56	John Howard '69	Joe Koen '73
Sandy Crow '45	Ray Becker '56	Lee McMinn '69	Mark McAfee '73
Ivan Elmer '45	Robert Hughes '56	Chuck Mulroy '69	Spence Smith '73
Phil Gates '45	Henry McCown '56	Mike Nipper '69	Jim Voss '73
Bruce Jamieson '45	Jim Van Richards '56	Dennis Olson '69	Andy Aicklen '74
Dan Krausse '45	Max Miller '57	John Ballard '70	Dave Barron '74
Bob Bower '46	Brady Cole '58	Kenneth Bennight '70	Gary Bradley ('74)
Cy Eberhart '46	Weldon Koenig '58	Chip Bieseimeier '70	Doug Crawford '74
Dell Roy King '46	Clovis Vaughn '58	Carl Boren '70	Lenny Lanahan '74
Jim O'Donnell '46	Bob Lillie '58	Jim Broaddus '70	Bob Morse '74
Ken Haynes '47	Bob Carnes '59	Bruce Byron '70	Dean Nobles ('74)
Pat Morgan '51	Fred Ligarde '59	Ed Carman '70	Rob Pratt '74
George White '51	Don McLelland '59	Carlos Chapa '70	Jake Schaffner '74
Steve Albrecht '52	Weldon Hammond '60	Jim Clark '70	Bill Smith '74
Bob Brown '52	J. W. Pieper '60	Bob Felle '70	Dell Toedt '74
George Sullivan '52	Glenn Looney '61	Doug Fisher '70	Tom Bryce '75
Jack Underwood '52	Rod Koenig '62	Ron Kissmann '70	Bruce Cauley '75
Ted Wilson '52	Gene McWhorter '62	Fred Moon '70	Turk McCleskey '75
Bill Collins '54	Charlie Simons '63	Bob Ries '70	Pat Reynolds '75
Alan Bean '54	L.E. Spradlin '63	Paul Stewart '70	Zeller Robertson '75
Bill Collins '54	David Cotellesse '64	Max Tarbox '70	Clay Sayers '75
Ann Fulcher ('54)	Howard Hamilton '64	Dick Teel '70	Dave Schoeneman '75
Ben Rhodes '54	Francis Joe Schuck ('64)	Bob Thomas '70	Paul Thoman '75
Howard York '54	Don Tortorice '64	Dick Wellborn '70	Wayne Van Doren '75
Jim Adkins '55	Bob Gartner '65	Rhett Buck '71	Jim Wurzel '75
Pope Atkins '55	John Hitchcock '65	Bill Dvorak '71	Tony Ambrosetti '76
Bobby Dewar '55	Alan Johnson '65	Bob Mahan '71	Jim Bushee '76

Susie Jones '76	Mary (Kennedy) Thompson '85	Dale Seeley '92	Kevin Callahan ('06)
Steve White '76	Jim Wegmann '85	Rich Lofgren '92	Daniel Frias '06
Richard Ashmore '77	Steve Smith PNS#17	Jeff McCollum '93	Alex Tafreshi '06
Joe Molinari '77	Bill Carroll '86	George Olson '93	Beau Laird '07
Bob Wiseman '77	Jaime Chunda '86	Ronnie Rios '93	Drew Anderson '09
Keith Burtner '78	Susan (Dale) Toth '86	David Walt '93	Richard Marcantonio '09
Rand Drake '78	Rick Donohue '86	Buster Fauth '94	Colin Doherty '11
Bill Olsen '78	Gary Gilmartin '86	Boyd Kile '94	Richard Hecke '11
Rick Martin '79	Dave Mills '86	Launtz Rodgers '94	Matthew Little '11
Bruce Mergele ('79)	David Sampson '86	John Allison '95	Luca Simone '11
Dan O'Neil '79	Lonnie Teltschik '86	Fermin Espinoza '95	Michael Lowe '13
Gabe Salazar '79	Marlin Anthony '87	Rudy Uribe '95	Alexandra Michael '14
Ray Adams '80	Paul Acker '88	Jeff Chiang '96	Peter Thayer '16
Kevin Hugman '80	Courtney Brewer '88	Tim Griffin '96	Jeffrey Burds '20
Dave Bose '81	Blair England '88	Chris Ruckman '96	Patrick Russell '21
Michael Kidd '81	Paul Racicot '88	Dennis Lloyd '97	Ema Waring '23
Bill Cerny '82	Jim Reid '88	David Murray '97	Steve Smith PNS#17
Tim Kanegae '82	Eric Wills '88	Clay Person '97	Don Inbody PNS#23
Dennis Stanczak '82	Max Bell ('89)	Jason Pittman '98	Gabe Salazar PNS#24
Kelly (Terry) Bose '82	Bryan Klir '89	Duane Preiss '98	Mike Spence PNS#25
Marcus Wait '82	Robert Pereboom '89	Misty Roquemore '98	John Eden PNS#27
John Manley '83	Todd Ring '89	Brad Lewis '99	Brian Teets PNS#28
Randy Neal '83	Mick Wagoner '89	Seth Goldstein '00	David Koss PNS#29
Sheila Scarborough '83	Glen Butler '90	Nicholas French '01	Butch
Doug Smith '83	Joey Dodgen '90	Bettina Gehris '01	Neuenschwander XO
Russell Allen '84	Carlos Durr '90	John Griffith '02	Brian FitzPatrick XO
Scott Evans '84	Joe Marshall '90	Noelle Cormier '02	George Floyd XO
Roy Fulcher '84	Bill Avery '91	Nathan Kaspar '02	Alfonso Via AMOI
John Mendel '84	John Broomes '91	Dan Buie '03	Ron Lobato MOI#22
Trip Mills '84	Jeff Mullen '91	Jess Caldwell '03	Anthony Gantt MOI26
Will Thompson '84	Darren Woods '91	Jason Cole ('03)	LT Maressa Guynn
Steve Vissers '84	Scott Cates '92	Dave Cornell '04	Matthew Rutherford
Ernie Welker '84	Mark Calderon '92	Carter Old '04	PNS#30
Joe Baker '85	Benjamin Molina '92	Omar Rivera '04	Jason Levine MOI#27
Kevin Hannes '85		Daniel Rueda '05	

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.

The UT Registrar’s office provided some much-needed help in the gathering of information for this history project. Their website (www.utdirect.utexas.edu/registrar/degv.WBX) enabled a further refinement of the list of names. It provided attendance and degree information on students enrolled from fall of 1977 to present, even if they did not graduate. This information made it easier to identify who was commissioned during the summer. Also the Registrar’s office had Academic Calendars online for all semesters back to 1996 (<https://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/archive>). I put in a request and Samantha Bergen and Scott Schauer-West, from that office, were able to scan and send me copies of older semester schedules from 1939 to 1995, which was most helpful in developing academic year schedules of events. And these schedules listed planned commissioning dates, typically a tri-service event.

After 1990 Intramural Sports got less and less attention in the *Cactus* yearbook, and *Longhorn Logs* weren’t much better. Back in the spring of 2014 Bob Childress, who worked for UT Recreational Sports, RecSports for short, (www.utrecsports.org) connected with me, thanks to Fred Moon ’70, to put together photos of our NROTC IM Sports champions during the decade 1960-1970. He was putting together a story of the Navy ROTC as the “Team of the Decade” for their *InsideRecSports* newsletter. I wrote about that in Volume II. In trying to fill in IM activity for Volume IV, I tried writing back to Bob to, perhaps, enlist the help of RecSports to provide some information. Randall Ford wrote me back and said that Bob had retired in 2016, but he knew about that project from having talked to Bob. He gave me a couple of website pages to go to on their site to search for what I needed. It helped document a few of the years, but there was only time for a cursory look before going to press. Much more time will be needed to dig up any more details and Randall said he would like to help. Alumni recollections are more fun, though, when we can get them.

Chapter 8 – From One Gulf War to Another (1991-2008)

This chapter started in the previous volume with the first Gulf War and covered the first ten years of that period of time. Similar problems existed in the first decade of this new century as existed in the last decade of the previous century. Documentation was scant. Only two *Longhorn Logs* were published, 2004 and 2005. Five more were electronically published from 2017 to 2021. If the Unit newsletter, *Naval Orange*, was still being published, we have not recovered any issues as of this time and it is uncertain when its last issue was published. The Unit did start a new newsletter in February 2011, called the *Spurs & Anchor*. Two years later it was slightly changed to the *Spur & Anchor*. Its appearance has been fairly constant since 2011. The last Command History Report (OPNAV 5750) was submitted for calendar year 1999. It changed names sometime after that to the Command Operations Report (still OPNAV 5750) but the Unit did not submit the next one until calendar year 2004. Then there was another gap in its submission until 2013. To avoid confusion this narrative will continue to refer to it as the CHR. Since 2013 we've been able to preserve copies of this report for this documentary. The *Cactus* yearbook had only brief coverage, one or two pages, in 2000, 2006 and 2010. No *Cactus* yearbooks after 2013 have been viewed or discovered. One of the most helpful sources of information about these two decades has been the meeting notes from the two alumni organizations and the alumni newsletter. A complete collection has not yet been assembled, but the copies we do have, have been most helpful.

This first decade of this century was highlighted by the destruction of the World Trade Towers in New York City and the events that followed, leading up to the Second Gulf War. A new kind of enemy had to be defined and located since it had no borders. A new kind of warfare and rules of engagement had to be defined in order to combat it.

Academic Year 2000

Statistics:

Number of Students: 86 Midshipmen (Up 14), 3 MECEP and 8 OC for a Battalion of 97 (Down 1)

Number of Staff: 5 Officers (No change), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 9 (7 Navy, 2 Marine) (Down 11)

The *Cactus*, the 1999 Command History Report (CHR), meeting minutes from five Alumni Association Board meetings and two alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The 2000 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on just two pages. Most of the alumni Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 67 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately ten military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, Col John S. Cipparone, USMC. A staff listing in the December 1999 CHR provided names. SK2 Bryan Husky reported aboard prior to beginning of the fall semester to relieve SKC Rodriguez. On August 31st Gretchen Kays, Unit's Senior Office Assistant, left the staff and retired. She was replaced by Marion Waterous.

The Battalion was organized into two companies with two platoons each.² The 2000 *Cactus* pictured two companies, with a little over 20 members pictured in each. Battalion Commanders were Michael D. Ruffner '99 (fall) and Robert A. Waterston '00 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	23	23
Bravo	23	23

Fancy Drill Not Part of Buccaneer Routine

John Griffith, Nathan Kaspar, Jason Cole and GySgt Alfonso Via (AMOI) were helpful sources for Buccaneer information about the year. Mardi Gras was March 7th that year, so the drill team traveled on Friday, March 3rd and competed at Tulane on March 4th. Tulane was the only competition John Griffin remembered. The Buccaneers only competed in basic drill and inspection at Tulane.³ GySgt Via said that fancy drill was not used when he was there. The absence of fancy drill in the Buccaneer routine may have gone back as far as 1985, when use of bayonets was discontinued. Captioning on page 11 of the 1985 *Longhorn Log* only mentioned Basic Drill and Inspection. Only nine members have been tentatively identified for the year, so far. Since the team was about 14 members in 1999, it's probable that the team was that same size again. Therefore, five members have yet to be identified. Griffin identified MDN 2/C Stan Hensley as the Commander and MDN 2/C Jacob Lowery as the guidon. The use of a guidon was also an indication that the team was, at least, the same size as the previous year. Kaspar said "the Buccaneers competed at Tulane every year we were there [*i.e.* 1998-2001]." Cole also said they competed at Tulane. GySgt Via said that the Buccaneers generally got a good turnout from the freshman class each year and had usually 30 or more on the team. Research, so far, has only been able to identify a handful or so members during these years. A larger size also makes the two-year hiatus from competition (2002 and 2003), harder to explain.

The rifle and pistol team were still active, according to Jason Cole, although the PNS said, at an April 29th meeting of the AF Board, that UT had plans to raze the rifle range and build a new parking garage with a rifle range in it. GySgt Mangold was still the AMOI, overseeing the use of the pistol range. Bettina (Luis) Gehris '01, who had been on the rifle team the last two years, mentioned Stan Hensley as possibly still being on the team. Dawn Allen and Michael Ricketts, who were both pictured in the 1999 *Longhorn Log*, were still active in the Unit and were also probably on the rifle and/or pistol teams. There were no records of any participation in a meet during the year.

The 1999 *Longhorn Log*, pictured a five-member Color Guard (two MDN women, two MDN men, one MECEP) participating in the Tulane competition. No names were listed. Bettina Gehris mentioned John

² Recollections of Seth P. Goldstein '00

³ Recollections of GySgt Alfonso D. Via, Assistant MOI (April 2000-July 2003)

R. "Juan" Carrasco, Nicholas J. "Nick" French and Alejandro Jose "Alex" Araujo, being connected with the Color Guard. Carrasco (who was also on the Buccaneer drill team) and Araujo did not finish the program and we have no record of them past 1999. Nicholas French '01 said he was the "consistent" Color Guard commander from fall 1997 to the spring of 2000, because of his previous experience in high school. He said that the Color Guard competed in the Tulane meet all three of those years.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual University-wide Iron Man competition was hosted at UT (April 29-30). The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 7-9) was made, but the results of the flag football game between Texas and OU NROTC units were not known. Over half the Battalion participated in the run, culminating in a formation run through the fair grounds to the Cotton Bowl. Also MDN 1/C Nathan Kaspar was still on the UT varsity football team, playing on special teams, and played in that Red River Shootout that saw #23 Texas beat OU 38-28.

Sailing Program Revived

The August 1999 AF Board meeting revealed that a Sailing Program had been established at Lake Travis. A sailboat was stationed there for Midshipman training. The last documentation we had of a sailing program was in academic year 1993. Bettina Gehris '01 said the sailing program was revived during the second half of her time at the Unit, which would have started this academic year. Jason Cole also confirmed the program had restarted and he had done some sailing on Lake Travis. The Unit's desire was to introduce the program at freshman orientation and use it as a leadership program for upperclassmen. During the summer of 2000, three additional sailboats, one of which was a 14' Performance 420, and one chase boat were added to the small fleet on Lake Travis.

Major social events for the year included the Sea Services Ball (November 6) and the spring formal (May 5), which was a modified dining-in. The CO of the USS Nimitz was the guest of honor at the spring formal and Bruce Byron '70 was invited to present four \$500 scholarships and one sword from the Alumni Association. No field trips were documented for the year.

There was no Anchorette information available from any of the printed source materials used to research this volume of Unit history. However, Nathan Kaspar '02 said that "Yes, Anchorettes were still active through 2001."

Scholarship Fund Reaches \$100,000

The fall semester commenced on August 25, 1999. On August 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 4, (Aug-Oct 1999) Issue 2 was published. The 13th Annual Alumni Reunion began on October 22nd with the WWII alumni dinner at the Austin Country Club. The next day, Rodney C. "Rod" Koenig '62 was elected as the 8th President of the Alumni Association in the Board meeting, and \$1,500 in

scholarships were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion in the general business meeting. Jack Ritter '55 received the Alumnus of the Year and it was announced that the University of Texas Midshipman Foundation Trust Fund had reached \$100,000, thanks to a generous contribution of \$10,000 by Jack Ritter. A tailgate party was held before the football game. Texas beat Nebraska 24-20. In the evening, with excellent weather to boot, the alumni BBQ was held at Camp Mabry in its outdoor pavilion.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 25-27. Texas played A&M on Friday. On November 30th MDN Michael D. Ruffner '99 was relieved by MDN Robert A. Waterston '00 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. A Battalion awards ceremony was held on December 2nd and the semester ended on December 14th.

On December 17th a commissioning ceremony was held. Four Ensigns were commissioned. The T List (TL) provided the names. The T List was a table compiled by CAPT Brian Teets' staff that reflected the most accurate listing of commissionings from December 1991 to December 2016. The 1999 Command History Report only provided numbers. Guest Speaker for the program was Rusty Allman '66. See the Appendix.

The spring semester commenced on January 18, 2000, the day after the M. L. King holiday. RADM Steve Smith '69 visited the Unit and spoke to the Battalion (February 16-17). Spring Break occurred the week of March 13-18. Dan Buie '03 recollected that GySgt Alfonso Via served as AMOI from fall 2000 to spring 2003 and he sent me a link to him on LinkedIn. I wrote to Gunny Via and he answered. Alfonso Via said he relieved Gilbert Mangold in April 2000. On April 29th the Iron Man competition was held. Also that same day, the Alumni Association Board met in the 3rd deck wardroom of RAS. Col Cipparone told the Board that UT had plans to raze the rifle range and build a new parking garage with rifle range in it. On April 30th, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 5, (April 2000) Issue 1 was published. In May MDN Robert A. Waterston '00 was relieved by an, as yet, unknown member of the Battalion, as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The semester ended on May 17th. On May 18th, a commissioning ceremony was held. Two Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The T List provided the names and numbers. Seth Goldstein '00 also provided input. See the Appendix.

Summer 2000

At the June 24th Alumni Association Board meeting at RAS, Col Cipparone reported that Battalion strength was down to 60, which wasn't too unusual for the end of an academic year and before a new group of freshmen arrived. A week later Col Cipparone's relief arrived. On July 28, 2000, Col John S. Cipparone, USMC, was relieved by CAPT Carl E. "Gene" Garrett, USN, as the 22nd Professor of Naval Science at UT. The Change of Command was held at The LBJ School of Public Affairs. A retirement reception for Col Cipparone was held at Bass Lecture Hall afterward. He retired later in October.

Freshman Orientation was conducted at UT NROTC August 22-25, culminating with a BBQ for the new Midshipmen and their parents. Twenty-eight freshmen were in the new class, although 35 were expected. On August 24th a commissioning ceremony was held. One Ensign was commissioned. The T

List provided the name. See the Appendix. At the August 26th Alumni Association Board meeting CAPT Garrett reported that the Sailing Program had four sailboats and a chase boat. He also reported that surface ships in the Navy then provided free access to email for their crew members. He also reported that curriculum changes, at the Unit, included “ethics studies” for juniors and seniors.

Academic Year 2001

Statistics:

Number of Students: 83 Midshipmen (Down 3), 2 MECEP and 10 OC for a Battalion of 95 (Down 2)

Number of Staff: 5 Officers (No change), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 14 (11 Navy, 3 Marine) (Up 5)

Meeting minutes from four Alumni Association Board meetings and two alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. Most of the alumni Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT Carl E. “Gene” Garrett, USN

There were still 67 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately ten military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT Carl E. “Gene” Garrett, USN. CAPT Garrett was a native Texan, having graduated from the same high school in Kerrville, Texas, as did ADM Chester W. Nimitz. He graduated from Texas Tech University with a BS in Math and Physics in 1971, but initially entered the Navy as an enlisted man. He was able to get into OCS and received his commission in 1974. His career path was Surface Warfare. He completed his division officer and department head tours and was commissioning XO on the USS SAN JACINTO (CG-56), commissioned in Houston, Texas, on January 22, 1988, a ceremony attended by Vice President George H. W. Bush, Midshipmen of the UT NROTC and the author.

He went on to be commissioning CO of the USS STOUT (DDG-55), which was also commissioned in Houston, Texas (August 13, 1994). He went on to distinguish himself as Assistant Chief of Staff for COMNAVSURFOR, Atlantic Fleet, before he returned to his home state of Texas and relieved Col Cipparone back in July.

Staff changes were only revealed in the Alumni meeting minutes and Alumni newsletters. LT Mitch Tatum (Subs) reported aboard during the previous summer and relieved LT Gerken. LT Jennifer Mills (SWO) reported aboard during that year’s fall semester and relieved LT Chappell for the spring semester. Sometime during the year YNC(SW) Peter Porras reported aboard to relieve YNC(AW) Purcell. SK2 Husky apparently only served one year and was relieved that year by SKCS Benjamin Z.



Carl E. “Gene” Garrett

Valdeleon. It was likely that SK2 Husky was just an interim storekeeper, until they could assign a CPO to the post. And lastly, Gwen DeSilva probably replaced Marion Waterous sometime during the year.

The Battalion was organized into two companies with two platoons each. Battalion Commanders for the fall and spring semesters are still, as yet, unknown. See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	22	22
Bravo	22	22

Dan Buie, Brad Dyar and GySgt Via were helpful sources for Buccaneer information about the year. Mardi Gras was February 27th that year, so the drill team traveled on Friday, February 23rd and competed at Tulane on February 24th. The Tulane drill meet was billed as the “nation’s largest drill meet.” Dan Buie remembered that Brad Dyar forgot his uniform pants and wore some borrowed black (pleated!) slacks instead. He also recalled that the Bucs did not win anything. The Buccaneers only competed in basic drill and inspection at Tulane.⁴ Only six members have been tentatively identified, so far, and none were identified as the commander or guidon. Since the team was about 14 members in 1999, and probably in 2000, it was probable that the team was that same size this year or, at least squad-size (i.e. around 6-8). Since only six members have been tentatively identified, so far, the smaller size was more likely. Also 2002 and 2003 were documented as a two-year hiatus from competition, which further indicated a shrinking team size. GySgt Via said that the Buccaneers generally got a good turnout from the freshman class each year and had usually 30 or more on the team. Research, so far, has only been able to identify a handful or so members during these years. A larger size also makes the two-year hiatus from competition, harder to explain. According to the PNS Report in the June 30, 2001 alumni meeting minutes, the drill team participated in the University of Colorado competition sometime around the end of March or beginning of April.

At a January meeting of the alumni Board, CAPT Garrett said the pistol range would stay. Congresswoman Kay Bailey Hutchison got involved to keep the range. The Pistol Team participated in the University of Colorado competition sometime around the end of March or beginning of April, according to the PNS. Bettina (Luis) Gehris mentioned Stan Hensley as possibly being still on the team. GySgt Alfonso Via (AMOI) said there was no rifle team during his tenure at UT (2001-2003) and that the pistol team competed at the Texas A&M and the University of Colorado meets each year. There was no record of Color Guard activities during this year. Color Guard commander was unknown and no members have yet been identified.

⁴ Recollections of GySgt Alfonso D. Via, Assistant MOI (April 2000-July 2003)

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual Iron Man competition was hosted at UT (April 21-22). UT won several of the individual events. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 5-7) was made, but the results of the flag football game between Texas and OU NROTC units were not known. The Unit's Sailing Program was still very active. At the January alumni Board meeting, though, the PNS said that their sailing team did not participate in the Lake Travis Annual Sailing Regatta because "NROTC boats were spending a little bit too much time swamped." Still, he said, negotiations were underway to acquire more sailboats from Tulane. By May things were much improved. The top four Midshipmen in the program went to Monterrey, California, and competed in the Naval Postgraduate School Sailing Association 2001 Biswanger Regatta. They competed in a 30-foot sailing boat race and took 3rd Place! After that performance, the Unit started looking for a large sailboat to practice with (*i.e.* 30-foot with spinnaker, holding 5 people).

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (Oct/Nov) and the spring formal (April 27), which was a dining-out at the Renaissance Hotel. No field trips were documented for the year.

On the strength of the recollections of Nathan Kaspar, we assumed that the Anchoresses were still active during this school year. Also Noelle J. (Brigman) Cormier '02 said to check with Daniel Husted, a MECEP commissioned in December 2000. She said "His wife, Angela [Angela Tatavak Husted], was in charge of the Anchoresses while we were there." Also, Bettina (Luis) Gehris said they were still active in her last year (spring 2001) but down to about three members. She said that Darby Gray's wife was one of them. Darby Gray was only in the unit in '98 and '99, according to what little documentation we have. Attempts to contact Angela Husted have not been successful so far.

Unit's 60th Anniversary

The fall semester commenced on August 30, 2000. That year, the Unit celebrated its 60th Anniversary, although they did not yet know the exact date, just the year. On August 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 5, (August 2000) Issue 2 was published. The 14th Annual Alumni Reunion began on October 20th with a campus tour that day for attending alumni and a dinner that evening at the Austin Country Club hosted by the WWII alumni. The next day another \$1,500 in scholarships was awarded to deserving members of the Battalion. In the PNS briefing to the assembled alumni, CAPT Garrett reported that the Navy awarded 1,050 scholarships every year, one sixth of which went to Marine options. He said 100 more scholarships will be awarded next year and that nationwide, there were 57 NROTC units spread out over 69 sites. He said he would like to grow the UT Unit from 80 to 100. He said that Tulane has 280 Midshipmen, mainly because they include room and board in their scholarships. Efforts had been and continue to be made to bring that benefit to UT scholarship recipients. At the same meeting, Max Miller '57 received the Alumnus of the Year. Another tailgate party preceded the

football game. Texas beat Missouri 46-12. And that evening another fine alumni BBQ was held at Camp Mabry.

Alumni Website Created

Bob Collins '68 created and copyrighted the UT NROTC alumni website in October 2000 using Microsoft's Front Page to do the editing. The internet address, www.utnrotcalum.org, was first added to the alumni newsletter banner in the August 2003 issue. The look and feel of the website was Bob's creation, as well as much of the verbiage explaining the Alumni Association (later the Alumni Foundation) and the Midshipman Foundation Trust Fund (later the Midshipmans Foundation). Bob also gave his son a lot of credit in the site's creation. Bob demonstrated the website for the alumni at that year's annual reunion. The event was reported in the June 2001 *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 23-25. Texas beat A&M 43-17 on Friday. In December a Battalion Change of Command occurred but the names are still currently unknown. The fall semester ended on December 8th. On December 21st a commissioning ceremony was held. Two Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

The spring semester commenced on January 16, 2001. At the January 20th alumni Board meeting, CAPT Garrett reported that the Navy was combining Midshipman college programs. Annually 42,000 apply for NROTC scholarships. 1,400-1,500 were selected. STA-21 paid \$10,000 per year for books, tuition, twelve months of studies and no summer cruises. Regular NROTC scholarships were back up to \$1,450-\$1,490 per semester. PNS could award one scholarship per year now. Texas Tech and Rice were each trying to acquire an NROTC unit. In Rice's case, it was to reacquire their unit. Rice was currently a Consortium of University of Houston, Rice and Prairie View A&M. Other cross-town affiliates included Texas Southern University, and Houston Baptist University. The Consortium was created in August 1992. Spring Break occurred the week of March 12-17.

Cross-Town NROTC Agreements

On April 28th CAPT Garrett said, at an alumni Board meeting, that there was a cross-town agreement with Huston-Tillotson College and Austin Community College. We knew about the H-T agreement back in August 1999 but the ACC agreement was new. There was no mention as to whether or not the St. Edward's agreement, first mentioned in 1985, was still in force. CAPT Garrett also mentioned that UT loses scholarships to A&M and other schools because UT does not include room and board with their NROTC scholarships. In May the Battalion Commander was relieved by MDN Michael T. Rickets '01 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended May 4th. On May 17th a NROTC commissioning ceremony was held at 9 a.m. and a joint commissioning ceremony was held at 1 p.m. Five Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

Summer 2001

In June 2001, Maj Kenneth Kassner arrived to relieve Maj Baldwin as MOI. GySgt Via (AMOI) recollected that Capt Baldwin was a "mustang" and was promoted to Major a couple of months before

his departure. GySgt Via could not recollect any other duty station that Maj Baldwin went to, so he believed that Maj Baldwin, having his 20 years, retired after departing UT. On June 30th, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 6, (June 2001) Issue 1 was published.

Longhorn CO for “Old Ironsides”

On August 11, 2001, CDR Randall A. “Randy” Neal ’83 assumed command of USS Constitution, as her 67th Commanding Officer, homeported in Boston, Massachusetts. Randy attended the 2002 reunion and talked about this experience. On that same day at the alumni Board meeting in RAS, CAPT Garrett reported that 17-20 universities include room and board for NROTC scholarship students because those “fees” are specified as “mandatory.”



USS Constitution “Old Ironsides”

Freshman Orientation was conducted at UT NROTC August 22-25, culminating with a BBQ on Lake Travis for the new Midshipmen and their parents. There were 40 new freshmen in this class, although 55 (40 scholarship and 15 college program) were expected. On August 23rd a commissioning ceremony was held. Four Ensigns were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

Academic Year 2002

Statistics:

Number of Students: 80 Midshipmen (Down 3), 6 MECEP and 5 OC for a Battalion of 91 (Down 4)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (Up 1), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 17 (12 Navy, 5 Marine) (Up 3)

Meeting minutes from five Alumni Association Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. Most of the alumni Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 67 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately eleven military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Carl E. “Gene” Garrett, USN. Staff changes were only revealed in the Alumni meeting minutes and Alumni newsletters. Prior to the previous summer session, Maj Kenneth Kassner reported aboard and relieved Maj Baldwin as the MOI. In December 2001, LT Indalecio M. “Jack” Hernandez reported aboard as LT Tatum’s relief for the spring. LT Hernandez was a 1997 graduate of the Unit. Back in April 2001 CAPT Garrett had said that the Navy was going to increase the officer staff by one in order to have all the three major warfare specialties represented, but this did not happen until late in 2002.

The Battalion was organized into two companies with two platoons each. Battalion Commanders were Michael T. Ricketts '01 (fall) and Michael E. Alker '02 (spring)⁵. See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	21	21
Bravo	21	21

According to a statement in the 2004 *Longhorn Log* (page 20), the Buccaneers had been on a two-year hiatus from competition. That still made it possible that the group existed, but was “rebuilding.” At least three people have been identified by name, who could have been on the team. GySgt Via said that the Buccaneers generally got a good turnout from the freshman class each year and had usually 30 or more on the team. Research, so far, has only been able to identify a handful of members during these years. A larger size also makes the two-year hiatus from competition (2002 and 2003), harder to explain. Even though they weren’t competing, they may have participated in a parade or two, but fancy drill was not a part of their routine anymore.⁶

GySgt Alfonso Via (AMOI) said there was a pistol team but no rifle team during his tenure at UT (2001-2003) and that the Pistol Team competed at the Texas A&M and the University of Colorado meets each year. Only one name had tentatively been linked to that team but no other information has been gathered from what sources we have.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.

Run to Dallas – 20th Anniversary

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual Iron Man competition was hosted at UT (September 21-22) and again in the spring (April 12-13). The Iron Man Competition, sponsored by the Leathernecks, was supposed to be an annual event but there were some years it did not occur and a few where we have no documentation. The first one was held in 1982. The Battalion hosted a best ball scramble golf tournament at Crystal Golf Course in Leander, Texas (September 28) and Texas Tech and UT Gold Teams were invited to participate. Proceeds went to the Trust Fund and some morale items. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 3-5) was made. It was the 20th anniversary of that event. That year we know the results of the flag football game between Texas and OU NROTC units. Texas won! In the June meeting of the alumni Board, the PNS reported that the Sailing Program was very popular and that all Midshipmen were getting lots of hours sailing on Lake Travis.

⁵ Recollections of Noelle J. (Brigman) Cormier '02 and Nathan Kaspar '02

⁶ Recollections of GySgt Alfonso D. Via, Assistant MOI (April 2000-July 2003)

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 2) and the spring formal, a dining-in (April 19), at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Hilton Hotel. No field trips were documented for the year.

No More Anchoresses

According to Jason A. Cole, “There were no Anchoresses.” Nathan Kaspar had said that the Anchoresses were still active during 2001. Since Nathan was commissioned in August 2002 and did not extend his statement into the year 2002, we can deduce that the Anchoresses dissolved at the end of spring 2001 or the end of fall 2001 (*i.e.* this academic year). Nicholas French said that “The Anchoresses were around my freshman year (fall 1998) for sure, but died slowly thereafter.” With the advent of women in the Unit since the early 1970s it was probably inevitable that there would be no need for a women’s auxiliary. Also, the Unit had diminished in size considerably in the 1990s and would again toward the end of this score of years. Since the 1950s the women auxiliaries of the Unit, whether they were Sponsors, Sweethearts or Anchoresses, had been an incredible companion organization helping to bolster the morale of the Battalion.

World Trade Towers Destroyed

The fall semester commenced on August 29, 2001. On September 11th, the Unit’s 61st Anniversary, the twin high-rise towers of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, New York City, were destroyed by terrorists who flew highjacked passenger airplanes into them, setting them ablaze. The Pentagon in Washington, DC, was also hit and damaged, along with tremendous loss of lives. A fourth aircraft never made it to its target and went down in Pennsylvania because of the actions of a handful of brave passengers who got wind of the plot. As stated previously, the Unit did not yet know the exact date of its founding and wouldn’t know until 2009.



World Trade Towers in New York City
September 11, 2001. 9:04 a.m., Just after the
second plane hits the South Tower

The 15th Annual Alumni Reunion began on September 27th with a Navy League dinner. The next evening the WWII alumni had their annual dinner at the Austin Country Club. Other alumni were always welcomed. Informal class gatherings went to the historic Scholz Bier Garten. On Saturday September 29th, after a brief alumni Board meeting, \$2,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving Battalion members in the large classroom on the 3rd deck of RAS Hall. Bill Docekal '65 received the Alumnus of the Year. The alumni BBQ was held in the loading dock area of RAS Hall, which was a nice and secluded area. There was plenty of time to visit and float a couple of kegs. The football game wasn’t until that evening. Texas beat Texas Tech 42-7.

Afghanistan War Began

Also on September 29th RADM Baker (EDO), who was visiting the Unit, spoke to the Battalion about his special Navy community. On Sunday, October 7, 2001, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in a mission to search out Al-Qaeda and destroy them. It was code named Operation Enduring Freedom and was part of the U.S. response to 9/11.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 22-23. Texas beat A&M 21-7 on Friday. In December, MDN Michael T. Ricketts '01 was relieved by MDN Michael E. Alker '02 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day. On December 20th a commissioning ceremony was held. Six Ensigns were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

Civilian Pilot Training Approved

The spring semester commenced on January 14, 2002. At the February 2nd alumni Board meeting, CAPT Garrett reported that his new XO, CDR Ash, would be arriving soon, and that he had a new staff member, LT Jack Hernandez, a 1997 graduate from the UT NROTC. The PNS also reported that the Navy had approved civilian pilot training for Midshipmen. Spring Break occurred the week of March 11-16.

LtGen Jefferson Howell '61, Appointed Director, Johnson Space Center



Jefferson D. Howell, Jr.

On March 18th, the Alumni Association awarded four \$500 scholarships to deserving Midshipmen. Also in March, one of our Advisory Directors for the Alumni Association, LtGen Jefferson D. Howell, Jr., USMC (Ret), was appointed to be the eighth Director of the Johnson Space Center (JSC) for NASA. General Howell was a 1961 graduate of UT and received his commission in the Marine Corps through the PLC Program at UT. The effective start date for this new job was to be April 1, 2002. General Howell had to inform the Alumni Association Board that he would have to take a leave of absence while he served at JSC. He also told Board members that he would work to have us hold one of our Board meetings, as his guest, at JSC in his new board room there, in the not-too-distant future.

The Iron Man competition, hosted by the Leathernecks, was held April 12-13 and a number of Midshipmen participated in it. At the April 13th alumni Board meeting, CAPT Garrett said the Unit size was approximately 75-80 strong with a growth of 10-11% over the next couple of years expected. The Navy was looking to recruit more Hispanic individuals who were interested in careers in Aviation (Pilots or NFOs). 54 individuals applied for scholarships to the UT NROTC. A spring awards ceremony was held on May 2nd. In May, perhaps the same day, MDN Michael E. Alker '02 was relieved by OC Brian S. Luebbert '02 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended on May 3rd. At 10 a.m. on May 16th a NROTC commissioning ceremony was held at the LBJ Museum 8th Floor Atrium. Guest Speaker was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jerry D. Jennings. Later that same day, at 1

p.m., a joint commissioning ceremony was held at the Bates Recital Hall. Dr. Larry Faulkner (27th President of UT) and RADM John W. Townes III, Vice-Chief of Naval Education and Training in Pensacola, FL, were the guests at that commissioning ceremony. Five Ensigns and four 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

Summer 2002

An Alumni Association Board meeting was held June 15th in the wardroom on the 3rd deck of RAS. The new commercial website host for alumni website would be Host Culture. The domain name for the new website was www.utnrotcalum.org. LtGen Jeff Howell stepped down from the Board of Directors to serve as the new Director of the Johnson Space Center. He could continue as an Advisory Director for the time-being. He proposed to have a board meeting at his new location after he got settled into the job. The new Unit XO, CDR Ned Ash, reported that he and his wife, Jackie, were settled in Austin now. He also reported that the new pilot option-civilian flight school gave potential aviators a chance to learn and earn more hours of flight time either during their last semester or after graduation just prior to going to Navy Flight School.

Two commissionings occurred during the summer: July 5th one 2nd Lieutenant and August 22nd one Ensign. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix. The Ensign, commissioned on August 22nd, was Nathan D. Kaspar. He was a UT “walk-on” football player, who lettered in that sport in 2001. In 2005, one of the American flags carried by the team, when they ran through the tunnel and onto the field, was given to the team by Nathan Kaspar.⁷ In the previous board meeting in June, it was then planned for Midshipman Kaspar to be commissioned on the football field at the opening game for the season with North Texas State on August 23rd. That plan fell through when the game was moved to August 31st. The delay didn’t help North Texas though. Texas won 27-0.

At the August 10th alumni board meeting, Jeff Howell offered the use of his board room at the Johnson Space Center for our Board meeting in the winter or spring. Further discussions were to be held. In the PNS report, it was stated that UT went to a flat tuition rate - \$73 for the first 12 hours and \$15 per hour after that. Other additional fees still made UT expensive. Freshman Orientation was conducted at UT NROTC, August 23-27, culminating with a BBQ for the new Midshipmen and their parents. There were only 9 freshmen in this new class. Harder admission criteria and medical reasons contributed to the greatly reduced number.

⁷ Website: www.texaslsn.org/nathan-kasper

Academic Year 2003

Statistics:

Number of Students: 62 Midshipmen (Down 18), 4 MECEP and 6 OC for a Battalion of 72 (Down 19)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 10 (10 Navy, 0 Marine) (Down 7)

Meeting minutes from four Alumni Association Board meetings and two alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. Most of the alumni Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

Staff Increased to Represent Three Major Warfare Specialties

There were now 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately eleven military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Carl E. “Gene” Garrett, USN. Staff changes were only revealed in the Alumni meeting minutes and Alumni newsletters. CDR William E. “Ned” Ash reported aboard just prior to the previous summer session and relieved CDR Bartek as XO. LT Oscar Toledo arrived in August, prior to the beginning of this academic year, and provided representation for the aviation warfare specialty.

Based on the documented Battalion organization in the following fall and the sharp almost platoon-sized drop in total Battalion strength, the follow tabular structure was probably how the Battalion was organized for the year. Battalion Commanders were Brian S. Luebbert '02 (fall) and Daniel Gordon “Dan” Buie '03 (spring).⁸ See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company/Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was down nearly twenty men from what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Third Platoon</u>
Alpha	22	22	22

From the 2004 *Longhorn Log*, the Buccaneers would have still been on their two-year hiatus from competition in this year. At least six people have been identified by name, who could have been on the team. A squad of six would have been the minimum size needed to compete. Perhaps they didn't feel confident enough to compete that year. GySgt Via said that the Buccaneers generally got a good turnout from the freshman class each year and had usually 30 or more on the team. Research, so far, has only been able to identify a handful of members during these years. A larger size also makes the two-year

⁸ Recollections of Daniel Gordon “Dan” Buie '03

hiatus from competition (2002 and 2003), harder to explain. Even though they weren't competing, they may have participated in a parade or two, but fancy drill was not a part of their routine anymore.⁹

GySgt Alfonso Via (AMOI) said there was a pistol team but no rifle team during his tenure at UT (2001-2003) and that the Pistol Team competed at the Texas A&M and the University of Colorado meets each year. The 2004 *Longhorn Log* (page 20) also showed a photo of the pistol team from spring 2003. It looked like there were ten members. MDN 1/C Austin Long appeared to be the team captain. Minutes from the April alumni Board meeting stated that the shooting team went to Colorado for a meet. No date was given. There were no records of the Color Guard activities during the year, although it is fairly certain that MDN 3/C Douglas Ivey was a member, since he was the Color Guard commander the following year.



Pistol Team at Colorado Meet, Courtesy of GySgt Via

Naval Orange Goes Digital

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Publications Officer or Editor of any sort. Dan Buie '03 did tell us that he was pretty sure the *Naval Orange* Unit newsletter was published in the spring of 2003. He also said he spent some time at the Unit, after graduating that spring, working on changing the newsletter format from print to an electronic format for publishing online or sending out in email.

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. In the August 2002 meeting of the alumni Board, the PNS reported that the Sailing Program on Lake Travis was continuing and that their first regatta would be in the spring. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 9-11) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. The annual Iron Man competition was hosted at UT (April 5). GySgt Via (AMOI) said "our team won the team event that year and there should have been a trophy for that." No documentation was found to confirm the sailing regatta in the spring, although one was held the following year.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 1) at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Hilton Hotel and the spring formal (March 22), which was a dining-out. No field trips were documented for the year.

⁹ Recollections of GySgt Alfonso D. Via, Assistant MOI (April 2000-July 2003)

The fall semester commenced on August 28, 2002. For two days, starting on August 29th, CDR Ash accompanied nine Midshipmen, interested in aviation, to the Johnson Space Center, at the invitation of Jeff Howell, the new Director. They were escorted around by three NASA astronauts, Judy O'Connor, LCDR Neil Woodward (a UT grad, but not NROTC), and CDR Butch Wilmore. They received hands-on experience, not just a tour. The visit was covered on page 2 of the August 2002 Alumni newsletter, which was published on August 31st.

CO of "Old Ironsides," an Alumnus, Attends Reunion

The 16th Annual Alumni Reunion began on October 3rd with the Navy League dinner on Thursday night. Guest Speaker was CDR Randall A. "Randy" Neal '83, 67th Commanding Officer of USS Constitution (Old Ironsides). He had been in that job since August 2001. Randy brought to town an exhibit of the USS Constitution, which was open at the LBJ Library Annex January 12-19, 2003. The Alumni Association donated some funds to help make this exhibit happen. Randy stayed in town and enjoyed the other reunion activities with his fellow alumni. The following day a Navy vs. Marine Corps golf match was added to the weekend activities. It was played at Star Ranch in Hutto, Texas. That evening the WWII alumni hosted their annual dinner at Austin Country Club. Other classes went to Scholz's that evening. Saturday morning, John C. "Rusty" Allman '66 was elected the 9th President of the Alumni Association as the Board meeting and \$1,500 in scholarships were awarded to deserving Battalion members in the large classroom on the 3rd deck of RAS Hall during the general business meeting. Bob Gartner '65 received the Alumnus of the Year. The football game was in the afternoon. Texas squeaked by OSU 17-15. The alumni BBQ was at the Camp Mabry Military Forces Museum that evening.



Randall A. "Randy" Neal '83

Two Marine Corps Generals Attend Reunion

The Class of 1952 attended the reunion in force with LtGen D'Wayne Gray, a class member, and MajGen Fred Haynes, MOI from that time period, adding their celebrity. The Class of 1952 ended up endowing another scholarship. Thanksgiving holidays were November 28-29. Texas beat A&M 50-20 on Friday. In December, OC Brian S. Luebbert '02 was relieved by MDN Daniel Gordon "Dan" Buie '03 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 6th. On December 19th a commissioning ceremony was held. Four Ensigns were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

33rd Commandant Started at UT

The spring semester commenced on January 13, 2003. On that same day Gen Michael W. Hagee relieved Gen James L. Jones as the 33rd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. He would serve 3 years and 10 months in



Michael W. Hagee ('68)

that office and be relieved by Gen James T. Conway.¹⁰ Michael Hagee started at UT in 1964 with the Class of 1968 but obtained an appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis and earned his commission as a Midshipman there.

At the January 25th alumni Board meeting at RAS, CAPT Garrett reported that the Navy had no plans to get rid of UT NROTC. In fact, two new units had been stood up in Florida that year. He also reported that Battalion size was 80. He went on to say that each year UT had 40-50 nominees but only 14-15 came. It was easier to transfer to UT than to enter as a first-year student! He concluded by saying that his relief was expected in June with the Change of Command on August 1, 2003. That changed slightly after the spring semester ended. At the same Board meeting, Jeff Howell invited all the Board members and their families to the Johnson Space Center for our April Board meeting. He wanted to make it a full day of tours and fun for our families, too. Just a week later, though, these plans were understandably delayed until January 2005 by a very tragic event.

Space Shuttle Columbia Destroyed on Re-entry

On February 1st, the Space Shuttle, *Columbia*, which was returning from a two-week mission, broke apart upon re-entry. Damage done to one of her wings during launch caused a catastrophic chain of events when she re-entered Earth's atmosphere and was on a trajectory across Texas and the southern United States to land at the Kennedy Space Center. Seven NASA astronauts perished in the accident. Jefferson Howell, Director of JSC and previously one of our Advisory Directors of the Alumni Association, helped usher NASA through these serious and trying times after the accident. Shuttle flights were suspended for more than two years, as they had been after the *Challenger* disaster 17 years prior.

Midshipmans Foundation revived as Keeper of the Scholarship Fund



More scholarships were awarded on February 20th. On March 3rd, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 8, (March 2003) Issue 1 was published. Spring Break occurred the week of March 10-15. In March trustees of the University of Texas Midshipman Foundation Trust Fund decided to use the old dormant Midshipmans Foundation to continue its business. This saved a lot of paperwork with the IRS, trying to establish a separate organization. A letter to the IRS on March 17th requested the reactivation of the Midshipmans Foundation. Bob Brown, who had originally created the Midshipmans Foundation and kept it in a dormant status, was probably the person who suggested this. The reader will recall that the original Midshipmans Foundation was created, back in 1970, to help the struggling Crow's Nest with its finances. Bob must have had a vision of its future usefulness. The logo on the left was created and used for this newly re-purposed organization. J. Weldon Koenig '58 was its first President.

¹⁰ Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Hagee

War in Iraq Begins

On March 19th U.S. forces and its allies invaded Iraq for a second time as a follow-on to its invasion of Afghanistan to weed out al-Qaeda in the region and depose Saddam Hussein, who was not abiding by the terms of his surrender in the first Gulf War. This was also part of the U.S. response to 9/11. On March 20th Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced. By the fall of 2008 things were relatively stable in the new Iraq. Power-sharing among the three primary factions (Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds), though, was still problematic.

Battalion members helped with judging for the Area 10 NJROTC drill meet (April 5-6) held at Stoney Point High School. At an alumni Board meeting on April 12th, CAPT Garrett said his relief, CAPT Paul Woodruff, would be arriving in late July so plans for the August 1st Change of Command were still on. In late April or early May, the Battalion held their spring awards ceremony. Four scholarships, totaling \$2,000, plus the CAPT H. Malcolm Macdonald sword were awarded by the Alumni Association.

In late April or early May, perhaps at the same awards ceremony mentioned in the previous paragraph, MDN Daniel Gordon “Dan” Buie ’03 was relieved by OC Addam D. Clark ’03 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. Clark was the first STA-21 Officer Candidate to assume the Battalion Commander position at UT. The spring semester ended on May 2nd. On May 15th a commissioning ceremony was held. Five Ensigns were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

Summer 2003

On June 30th a special meeting of the original MF founding Board of Directors was held by telephone. The five Founding Directors of the Midshipmans Foundation increased the Board to eight directors and elected J. Weldon Koenig ’58, Max K. Miller ’57 and John Hitchcock ’65 to the new Board. The five Founding Directors then resigned from the Board to leave a new Board with three new Directors.

For some reason plans for CAPT Woodruff to relieve CAPT Garrett were changed. CAPT Donald S. Inbody, USN arrived in June, a month earlier than expected, and relieved CAPT Garrett on July 1, 2003 as the 23rd Professor of Naval Science at UT. The ceremony was held at the LBJ Library. Originally, the Change of Command was scheduled for August 1st, but CAPT Inbody was able to arrive earlier, so the date was moved up. CAPT Garrett retired and moved to Fredericksburg, Texas, to take charge of the NJROTC Program there. GySgt Todd A. Schnakenberg arrived to relieve GySgt Via sometime in July 2003, according to Gunny Via. Gunny Via retired as SgtMaj Via in 2018. On July 15th a commissioning ceremony was held. One Ensign was commissioned. The T List provided the name. See the Appendix. LT Justin K. Whitt arrived just prior to July 26th to relieve LT Mills as the Surface Warfare Officer on staff, because both of them were at the July 26th alumni Board meeting.

First Meeting of the New Midshipmans Foundation

On August 14th the first in-person meeting of the newly revived Midshipmans Foundation was held at Frisch Auf! Valley Country Club in La Grange, Texas. Back in June 30, board members of the two old boards were shuffled around, ultimately ending up with three new Directors of the new Midshipmans

Foundation. Freshman Orientation was conducted at UT NROTC, August 22-26, culminating with a BBQ for the new Midshipmen and their parents. There were 30 freshmen in this new class, although 35 were expected.

Academic Year 2004

Statistics:

Number of Students: 70 Midshipmen (Up 8), 8 MECEP and 15 OC for a Battalion of 93 (Up 21)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 12 (11 Navy, 1 Marine) (Up 2)

The *Longhorn Log*, the 2004 CHR, meeting minutes from four Alumni Association Board meetings and two alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The 2004 *Longhorn Log* covered the NROTC Unit on 46 pages. This was the first *Longhorn Log* published in five years and the first to be published entirely in color. Most of the alumni Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT Donald S. Inbody, USN

There were still 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately eleven military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT Donald S. “Don” Inbody, USN. CAPT Inbody came from Kansas and embarked on a rewarding teaching career in music, after earning a MA degree in Music Education. Before too long he decided he would like to broaden his horizons, so in 1978, he enlisted in the Navy. He had always been interested in the Navy and started as a Radioman Third Class. He was able to get into OCS fairly quickly and was commissioned in 1979. His career path was Surface Warfare. After his department head tours on an amphibious ship and a destroyer, he taught Middle Eastern politics at the Naval Academy. After that tour, he served as XO on USS Ford (FFG-54). He then worked directly for SECNAV in Washington, D.C. for his shore duty tour before assuming command of USS Duluth (LPD-6) in 1996. His ship was deployed to the Persian Gulf with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked. After that he served as Chief of Staff for Amphibious Squadron Eleven in Sasebo, Japan. He then attended the Naval War College and served in a “think tank” group for SECDEF before coming to Texas in June of last summer.



Donald S. “Don” Inbody

All the staff were pictured in the *Longhorn Log*. Prior to the beginning of the year, the AMOI and supply officer positions changed hands. GySgt Todd A. Schnakenberg was the new AMOI and SK1(SW) Bernard W. Busano relieved SKCS Valdeleon.

The Battalion was organized into one company with three platoons in the fall semester and two companies with two platoons each in the spring. Battalion Commanders were OC Addam D. Clark '03 (fall) and David W. Cornell '04 (spring).¹¹ Battalion Staffs for fall and spring were listed in the *Longhorn Log* on page 14. See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company/Platoon leadership positions. The *Longhorn Log* pictured all Battalion members alphabetically with no company, platoon or class affiliations. Total Battalion strength was up about twenty men from what it was the previous year. The following tables assume an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff. The Leatherneck Platoon, mentioned in the *Longhorn Log*, was composed of all MECEPs and Marine Option Midshipmen in the Battalion and was mandatory. What wasn't explained was that this platoon was ad hoc. It only existed whenever Marine training was required. When the Battalion reorganized into just three platoons (again) in the spring of 2008, Maj Lobato (MOI at the time) said it was still like that.

Fall Semester:

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Third Platoon</u>
Alpha	28	28	28

Spring Semester:

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	22	22
Bravo	22	22

Bucs in Platoon & Squad Competition

Joshua Pero and the 2004 *Longhorn Log* were helpful sources for Buccaneer information about the year. Mardi Gras was February 24th that year, so the drill team traveled on Friday, February 20th and competed at Tulane on February 21st. Only six members have been tentatively identified, so far. According to the Midshipmans Foundation newsletter, dated 1/31/2004, MDN 2/C Joshua David Pero was the Commander, he had held that position for two semesters and was planning on leading the team to Tulane in 2004. From a captioned photo in the 2004 *Longhorn Log*, it appeared as though MDN 3/C Catherine J. Grosvenor was in command, too (she



Buccaneer Drill Team and Color Guard at Tulane Drill Meet, 2004 *Longhorn Log*, page 20

¹¹ 2004 *Longhorn Log*, Page 14

was wearing a sword). This probably indicated that she led the squad in competition and MDN Pero led the platoon. If so, this was the first recorded instance of the Buccaneers competing in two different configurations (*i.e.* platoon and squad) and having two leaders. A photograph in the 2004 *Longhorn Log* pictured 17 Midshipmen, at least seven of which were women. The caption said they were the drill team, but it's obvious from the colors being displayed that the five-member Color Guard was part of the photo. Allowing for a Color Guard of five, that left a drill team of twelve (including CO and Guidon). Buccaneers competed in Basic drill, Inspection and Individual Exhibition. It was possible that some members of that group of 17 performed on both the Buccaneers and the Color Guard. At least six more members of the drill team have yet to be identified. The Guidon was male but has not been identified by name yet.

The rifle and pistol teams were still active during the year. The *Longhorn Log* (page 20) said they competed at Texas A&M during the fall semester. The same page also documented a five-member Color Guard on the UT Main Mall (four men and one woman). It stated that a four-member Color Guard competed at the Tulane meet. The previously mentioned photograph in the 2004 *Longhorn Log* pictured a five-member Color Guard. So the Color Guard, composed of four men and one woman, competed at Tulane, too. Color Guard Commander was MDN 2/C Douglas A. "Doug" Ivey.

Return of the Longhorn Log

At the end of the spring semester the *Longhorn Log*, yearbook for the UT NROTC Unit, made its reappearance. The last *Log* was published for the 1999 academic year. This full-color *Log* represented a return to a more professional appearance, like the *Logs* of the 1980s. With *Cactus* yearbook appearances being rare and brief, the *Log* was an invaluable resource in piecing together the Unit history. There was no PAO documented on the Battalion staff. The 2004 *Longhorn Log* staff numbered about 16 Midshipmen and officer candidates. Its Senior Editor was MDN 1/C Zach Reich. Bravo Company, 2nd Platoon, was essentially in charge of putting the *Longhorn Log* together and getting it published. It was a very nicely done yearbook. No copies of the *Naval Orange* Unit newsletter have been recovered from this period.



By far, the extracurricular activity that drew the most participation was the intramural program. With a team in nearly every sport, the Battalion was well represented when competing against the rest of The University. The year started out slowly with the men's flag football team finishing with a dismal 0-4 record. With the addition of the ladies however, the co-ed team performed much better, winning three and losing only one, thereby earning a birth in the playoffs. Although they were soon eliminated, the combined team fought hard. While in Dallas during the annual run, the co-ed team also lost a hard-fought game against the Sooners' men's team. MDN Loschiano played fiercely, taking out OU's quarterback. The team redeemed itself later during tri-service play. Navy predictably gave the Army a solid beating. Alas however, the Air force won, having nothing better to do than practice flag football. The basketball team hooped it up Monday evenings in the spring, winning one of their four games. The

soccer team continued to play in the spring, with a record of 2-0-1, with more games yet to play at press time. With luck, the soccer team will perform as it had in past years. remaining undefeated until well into the play-offs. Remaining to be played that spring were softball, which traditionally did well, and an indoor soccer team. Responding to questions about the records of some of the teams, our coaches said, "we always start out a little shaky, but as all teams do, you learn the sport and the team." If only the seasons were a little longer, we would put together better records and besides, it isn't all about winning. The "point of intramurals is to compete but mostly to work together to achieve some goal...and to drink beer."¹²

The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 8-11) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. The UT co-ed team did not fair as well (see above). The annual Iron Man competition was only mentioned in the *Longhorn Log* but no date was given. It was probably held in April. The Sailing Program was quite active this year. A Sailing Regatta was held in the spring (April 24) at the Austin Yacht Club on Lake Travis. Platoons competed against each other with two-man teams. The event was covered by narrative and photos on page 21 of the 2004 *Longhorn Log*. From one of the captions, it looked like Platoon B-1 won.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 18) at the Omni Hotel in Austin and the spring formal (April 16) at the Texas Student Union. Guest Speaker at the Birthday Ball was BGen Howard T. Prince, II, USA (Ret). Cutting the cake were MDN Chapline (youngest) and OC Clark (oldest). Field trips and visits from Navy and Marine professionals to introduce Midshipmen to specific service communities were documented on pages 36 and 37 of the 2004 *Longhorn Log*, but no dates were given.

The fall semester commenced on August 27, 2003. On August 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 8, (August 2003) Issue 2 was published. The 17th Annual Alumni Reunion began with the Navy League dinner on October 2nd. The next morning was the Navy-Marine Corps golf match at Star Ranch. The evening was marked by another WWII alumni dinner at Austin Country Club and informal class gatherings at Scholz Garten. The next day, Robert L. "Bob" Collins '68 was elected 10th President of the Alumni Association at the Board meeting and \$4,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving Battalion members at the general business meeting afterward. The Class of 1952 showed up in force again this year. After the awards on the 3rd deck, a tailgate party was held in the loading dock area of RAS Hall before the football game. Texas beat Kansas State 24-20. The alumni BBQ was held in the evening at Camp Mabry Military Forces Museum. A special meeting of the board members of the old scholarship trust was held after the alumni board meeting that morning. They elected to transfer all their assets to the newly revived Midshipmans Foundation and dissolve the old trust.

Enlisted Commissioning Program Ended

Thanksgiving holidays were November 27-28. Texas beat A&M 46-15 on Friday. In December, OC Addam D. Clark '03 was relieved by MDN David W. Cornell '04 as the new Battalion Commander for

¹² Slightly edited version of narrative found page 16 of the 2004 *Longhorn Log*.

the spring. The fall semester ended on December 5th. On December 18th a commissioning ceremony was held. Four Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. ENSs Almond and Lang were the last two commissionees from the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP). All Navy Enlisted Officer Candidates were now coming from the Seaman to Admiral Program (STA-21). The T List and the 2004 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. See the Appendix.



December 18, 2003 Commissioning Class outside the Texas State Capitol, 2004 *Longhorn Log*, page 12
(L to R): ENS Addam D. Clark, ENS Amy D. Almond, 2ndLt Bradley R. Dyar & ENS Brian T. Wolf
Not Pictured: ENS Martin C. Lang (NECP)

The spring semester commenced on January 20, 2004. On January 24th an alumni Board meeting was held in the 3rd deck wardroom of RAS. “Midshipmans Foundation” was now the official name of the old Trust and to get things started with a bang, The Houston Endowment, mainly through the efforts of Rod Koenig ’62, made a donation to the MF in the amount of \$200,000, more than doubling the endowment corpus. Also at that meeting new commemorative coins were introduced to help in fund-raising. Clay Fulcher ’54 and Rusty Allman ’66 were the prime-movers for this project. The PNS reported that Battalion strength was at 90, that his budget had been cut in half and there were no travel

funds available currently. On January 31st, the *Midshipman Foundation Newsletter* Volume 1 (January 2004) was published. This was the only newsletter I believe the MF ever published after adopting their new name. Spring Break occurred the week of March 15-20. The *Longhorn Log* mentioned that ADM Stansfield Turner (Ret) spoke to the Midshipmen, but no date was given. An alumni Board meeting was held on May 1st. CAPT Inbody reported that there were six Midshipmen in the Nurses Corps. He also said a new swimming pool was being built next to the rifle range and that the Unit would lose its parking lot in the summer of 2004. A new Student Activity Center would be built on that site.

Alumni Scholarships Grow to \$1,000 Each

On May 6th more scholarships were awarded. Seven years prior, the Alumni Association began giving out scholarships to deserving Midshipmen and Officer Candidates of the Battalion. Most were given out in the fall at the annual alumni reunion. It took these seven years to grow the endowment to a level that would sustain \$1,000 scholarships. In the previous academic year, \$3,500 was the total scholarship amount given out, all were \$500 scholarships. This academic year the total was twice that amount, \$7,000, all in \$1,000 scholarships. In May, perhaps the same day as these scholarships were awarded, MDN David W. Cornell '04 was relieved by Sgt Troy H. Conrey '04 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended on May 7th. On May 20th a commissioning ceremony was held. Four Ensigns were commissioned. The T List and the 2004 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. The 2004 CHR provided numbers. See the Appendix.



May 20, 2004 Commissioning Class, 2004 *Longhorn Log*, page 13

(L to R): 2ndLt Edwin Baezotero, ENS Carter A. Old, ENS Robert L. Brown, Jr., CAPT Inbody, ENS Robert L. Nicolai & ENS Austin M. Long (Note: Sgt Baezotero did not commission for reasons yet unknown)

Summer 2004

On August 14th an alumni Board meeting was held on the 3rd deck at RAS. The Midshipmans Foundation announced that it was looking for additional members. CAPT Inbody said that Battalion strength was at 100. As part of the new group of students expected for orientation, he expected three E-6s and one E-5 for the two enlisted programs (MECEP and STA-21). Lastly he reported that the new swimming pool next to the rifle range did reduce the number of parking spaces for the ROTC Building.



August 16, 2004 Commissioning Class
(L to R): ENS Wesley A. Bourland, ENS David W. Cornell and
ENS Omar Rivera, who provided the photo

At 10 a.m. on August 16th a commissioning ceremony was held in Room 212 of the Main Building (UT Tower). Three Ensigns were commissioned. The T List and the 2004 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. Additional documentation was provided by Omar Rivera '04: a photograph and commissioning program. See the Appendix for other details. Freshman Orientation was held at UT NROTC, August 20-24. There were 25 new freshmen in this class. This was the same number that was expected.

Academic Year 2005

Statistics:

Number of Students: 68 Midshipmen (Down 2), 10 MECEP and 12 STA for a Battalion of 90 (Dn 3)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 17 (10 Navy, 7 Marine) (Up 5)

The *Longhorn Log*, meeting minutes from four Alumni Association Board meetings and three alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The 2005 *Longhorn Log* covered the NROTC Unit on 47 pages and was also, like the 2004 volume, published entirely in color. Most of the alumni Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately eleven military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Donald S. Inbody, USN. All the staff were pictured in the *Longhorn Log*. Prior to the beginning of the year the MOI and Aviation positions changed hands. Capt Michael P. Rath reported aboard to relieve Maj Kassner and LT Troy D. Roberts reported aboard to relieve LT Toledo. CDR Ash, the XO, retired on February 24, 2005. His relief, CDR Karl A. Hilberg did not arrive until April so the XO billet was “gapped” for about two months. LT Matthew J. “Matt” Gilbreath reported aboard in the fall and relieved LT Jack Hernandez '97 for the spring semester. YNC Gomez reported aboard in the fall and relieved YNC(SW) Porras as

Administrative Officer for the spring. SKCS Benjamin Z. Valdeleon retired since his last appearance on the staff and came back this year as a civilian and the new Human Resources Technician. He relieved Janice Creech in the spring. Gwen DeSilva also left at the end of the fall semester. She was replaced by Elaine F. Vianello as Administrative Associate.

The Battalion was organized into two companies with two platoons each. Battalion Commanders were Sgt Troy H. Conrey '04 (fall) and Sean G. McBeth '05 (spring).¹³ See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company leadership positions. The *Longhorn Log* pictured all Battalion members alphabetically with no company, platoon or class affiliations. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	21	21
Bravo	21	21

The 2005 *Longhorn Log* (page 21) covered the “Drill Team” at the Tulane drill meet. The name “Buccaneers” was not used. Only one member was named. Two more names were derived by educated guess. From the photographs in the *Log*, it can be gleaned that the team size was 15, plus the CO and a Guidon, both of whom were men. At least five in the photo were women. 12-14 members have yet to be identified by name. The photos also indicated that there was liberty in New Orleans. Mardi Gras was on February 8th that year but the Tulane website¹⁴, showed the meet occurring February 18-22, 2005. This must be an error since it’s the same date as the previous year. If the regular pattern was used the Tulane meet would have been February 4-6, 2005. Tulane was the only competition in which the UT drill team participated in that year.



Buccaneer Drill Team at Tulane Drill Meet, 2005 *Longhorn Log*, page 21

The rifle and pistol teams were still active during the year. The *Longhorn Log* (page 23) pictured three pistol team members, only one name mentioned, MDN 4/C Jason Cazes. The same page also pictured a five-member Color Guard probably competing at the Tulane meet. Only two names were mentioned, MDN 4/C Charles Tofel and MDN 3/C Beau Laird. Color Guard Commander was not identified. Five

¹³ 2005 *Longhorn Log*

¹⁴ Website: <https://nrotc.tulane.edu/content/unit-history>

other Color Guard members' names, along with a photo, were on page 40 of the same *Log*. Since the earlier two names were not included, the membership of the Color Guard probably changed between the fall and spring semesters.

There was no Battalion staff listed in the 2005 *Longhorn Log*, nor was any *Longhorn Log* staff listed or given credit for that publication. The 2005 *Longhorn Log* was a very nicely done yearbook, professionally printed, and nearly identical in design and looks as the 2004 version. No copies of the *Naval Orange* Unit newsletter have been recovered from this period.

The 2005 *Longhorn Log* (page 24) pictured Battalion members playing softball, basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer, but provided little more information. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 6-8) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. The annual Iron Man competition, hosted by the UT Leathernecks, was held (April 2), with 20 teams in competition. It was highlighted in the 2005 *Longhorn Log* on page 35. From the captions, it looked like one of the UT teams won. The Sailing Program was also going well. The annual Sailing Regatta at the Austin Yacht Club on Lake Travis (April 16) was pictured in the *Log* on page 37. The two-person team of Platoon A-1 were the winners. Sailing was also made a part of the Captain's Cup competition.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 15) at the Austin Country Club and the spring formal (April 1). Guest Speaker at the Birthday Ball was Gen Terrence R. Dake, USMC (Ret). Four of the six officer candidates in the Nursing Program at UT attended a Nursing Conference at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in November. UT was one of 21 NROTC Units with a Nursing Program. Alumni helped finance the trip. No other field trips were documented.

The fall semester commenced on August 25, 2004. On August 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 9, (August 2004) Issue 1 was published. The 18th Annual Alumni Reunion began on October 14th with the Navy League dinner. Guest Speaker was Gen Terrence R. Dake, USMC (Ret), former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. As late as August 31st the Unit and alumni were expecting Gen Michael Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, to be their guest speaker, but those plans fell through. The next morning was golf at the Star Ranch again. That evening there were two events at the Austin Country Club. The WWII bunch hosted their annual dinner, with all UT alumni invited. Next door the Battalion had their Navy & Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Gen Dake visited both but was the guest speaker for the birthday ball. The next day at the Alumni Association Board meeting in the 3rd deck wardroom of RAS, prior to the awards ceremony, the author was elected to the Board. At that meeting it was announced that Bob Gartner '65 and Clay Fulcher '54 were the newest members of the Midshipmans Foundation, bringing the total number of directors to five. After that meeting, the general business meeting was held down the hall in the large classroom. \$9,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion. Bob Brown '52 received the Alumnus of the Year. CAPT Inbody asked the assembly of alumni for donations of memorabilia and showed a framed flag from Don Torres '64 from his ship, which was fired upon during the Vietnam War. A tailgate party in the RAS Library

followed prior to the football game. That afternoon Texas beat Missouri 28-20. That evening the alumni BBQ was held at Camp Mabry Military Forces Museum.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 25-26. Texas beat A&M 26-13 on Friday. The Fall Awards ceremony was held on December 2nd in Robert A. Welch Hall. In December, perhaps the same day as awards were given, Sgt Troy H. Conrey '04 was relieved by MDN Sean G. McBeth '05 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 3rd. On December 16th a commissioning ceremony was held. Six Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The T List and the 2005 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. No group photo was available. Dates and numbers in the CHR were in error. See the Appendix.

Cpl Joseph E. Fite, USMC, ('03) - Killed in Action

The spring semester commenced on January 18, 2005. Nine days earlier Corporal Joseph E. Fite, USMC, was killed in action in the Anbar province of Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He would have been a member of the Class of 2004 but had to quit the NROTC program after just two years (2000-2003) to go to work full time. He had been in the Marine Corps Reserve and had maintained his status there when he was called to duty in Iraq. Although he did not finish the NROTC program and receive his commission, he gave his last full measure in service to his country and we count him as one of our own. The photo was taken as a member of Bravo Company.



MDN 4/C Joseph Fite
2000 *Cactus*, page 259

A Very Special Alumni Association Board Meeting

On January 21st the Alumni Association Board had their quarterly meeting at the Johnson Space Center near Houston (see photo on next page). The new Director of the Johnson Space Center was LtGen Jefferson Howell, one of the Advisory Directors on our Midshipmans Foundation, and he sent the alumni Board a special invitation to have their meeting in his board room at JCS. He also invited the families of Board members to accompany their spouses for a full day of special NASA tours. Astronaut Kenneth D. Cockrell (CAPT USN Ret and UT graduate) hosted tours for the Board members and their families. The author was one of those attendees (my first Board meeting as a Director) and it was an amazing day. It was one of those little surprises one could receive from serving on the Board. General Howell had promised to invite the alumni Board to the JCS ever since he was appointed to that position nearly three years ago. The Space Shuttle *Columbia* disaster in 2003 accounted for most all of the delay. At the meeting CAPT Inbody reported that 1,000-1,250 NROTC Scholarships were awarded by the Navy nationally each year. UT had a quota of 25 and would keep that number for the foreseeable future. On February 24, 2005, the Executive Officer, CDR Ned Ash, retired without a contact relief. His relief, CDR Karl A. Hilberg, wasn't expected to arrive until April, so the position was "gapped." On February 28th, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 10, (February 2005) Issue 1 was published.

NASA Astronaut Visits the Unit

Spring Break occurred the week of March 14-19. The Guest Speaker at the spring formal (April 1) was the very same CAPT Kenneth D. Cockrell (Ret), NASA Astronaut, who hosted tours at NASA in



January 21, 2005 Meeting of the Alumni Board at Johnson Space Center, 2005 *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, page 4
President of the Board was Bob Collins '68, wearing the orange shirt. To his left was General Howell, Director of JCS and our host for the occasion.

January for our alumni and their families. Also, during the month of April, Secretary of the Navy, Gordon R. England, visited the Unit and talked with the Battalion. On April 9th, an alumni Board meeting was held on the 3rd deck of RAS. The new XO, CDR Karl A. Kilberg, attended, so he must have arrived within the previous week. At the meeting, the Alumni Association and the Midshipmans Foundation formed a joint committee to process nominations for the new Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Service (DADS) awards. It would be another two years before the first award was given.

On May 5th, the Spring Awards ceremony was held at the McCombs School of Business. Guest Speaker was Gen Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret). More scholarships were awarded there by the Midshipmans Foundation, bringing the total of scholarship awards for this academic year to \$18,000. In May, perhaps the same day as awards were given, MDN Sean G. McBeth '05 was relieved by MDN Donald W. Peltier, III '06 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended on May 6th. On May 20th a commissioning ceremony was held. Three Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned (see photo on next page). The T List and the 2005 *Longhorn Log* provided the names.

The Last Hard-bound Longhorn Log

At the end of the spring semester the *Longhorn Log* was published again. Sadly, this would be the last hard-bound *Longhorn Log* published and it marked the beginning of another dry-spell for Unit yearbooks. It would last twelve years and make the capturing of Unit history that much harder.



May 20, 2005 Commissioning Class, 2005 *Longhorn Log*, page 41
(L to R): ENS Dagoberto Salinas, Jr., ENS Sean G. McBeth, 2ndLt Lucas M. Chesla, ENS Heather C. Courtney, 2ndLt Jose A. Guevara, Jr. & 2ndLt Frank Alba

Summer 2005

Steindam Hall Upgraded and Refurbished

On June 30th, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 10, (June 2005) Issue 2 was published. A series of structural upgrades to RAS were completed in the summer of 2005. These upgrades included the replacement of the 40-year-old roof, outfitting of computer rooms for student use, refurbishing of deteriorating electrical wiring, and the upgrading of the classrooms with computer and electronic/video aides that were the standard for The University. An elevator was also added to the west side of the building. Although some significant issues remained with the building's mechanical systems (HVAC, electrical distribution, plumbing, etc.), these systems were deemed adequate at the time and were not upgraded. As of the summer of 2005, The University's master construction plan had no provisions nor funding requirements identified for replacing RAS or for upgrading the mechanical systems of the building. It was apparent at that time that the UT long term facility plan intended to keep RAS as the

permanent home for the three ROTC units for the foreseeable future. On August 15th, the *NROTC Alumni Newsletter*, Volume 10, (August 2005) Issue 3 was published.

On August 19th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Auditorium of the State Capitol. One Ensign and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. A commissioning program from Dan Rueda '05 and the T List provided the names. See the Appendix. Freshman Orientation for UT NROTC was commenced on August 26th. There were 30 new freshmen in this class.

Academic Year 2006

Statistics:

Number of Students: 80 Midshipmen (Up 12), 4 MECEP and 12 STA for a Battalion of 96 (Up 6)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 18 (17 Navy, 1 Marine) (Up 1)

The *Cactus*, meeting minutes from four Alumni Association Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The 2006 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on only 2 pages. Most of the alumni Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately eleven military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Donald S. Inbody, USN. With the disappearance of the *Longhorn Log* again, staff changes were only revealed in the Alumni meeting minutes and Alumni newsletters. It is believed that LT Whitt remained in his billet for the fall semester and probably the spring, too.

The Battalion was organized into two companies with two platoons each. Battalion Commanders were Donald W. Peltier, III '06 (fall) and Timothy W. "Tim" Stone '06 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	22	22
Bravo	22	22

Minutes from one or more alumni meetings indicated that, the drill team went to the Tulane Drill meet (February 25-26) and the Color Guard, with alumni help in funding, went to a more traditional Color Guard meet in New York, rather than to the Tulane meet. Only one person was tentatively identified as a member of the drill team. A team of six (*i.e.* squad size) would have been minimal for competing at Tulane. Mardi Gras was on February 28th that year. The Buccaneers would have traveled there on February 24th and competed at Tulane on February 25th. During these years, the Tulane drill meet

appeared to be the one and only meet the drill team attended each year, especially with the allure of Mardi Gras and some fun liberty associated with it.

There was no documentation covering the composition or activities of the pistol or rifle teams although it is safe to assume they were alive and well. The Color Guard was probably the same five people mentioned and pictured on page 40 of the 2005 *Longhorn Log*, since they were all freshmen and probably just started in the spring of that year.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a PAO, Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 5-6) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. The annual Sailing Regatta at Austin Yacht Club on Lake Travis was held April 8th. The annual Iron Man competition was hosted by UT Leathernecks (April 22) in Zilker Park.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 29) at the Texas Student Union and the spring formal (March 25) at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake. No field trips were documented for the year.

The fall semester commenced on August 31, 2005. The 19th Annual Alumni Reunion started on October 13th with the Navy League dinner. Guest Speaker was RADM Steven G. "Steve" Smith '69. The next morning, the Navy-Marine Corps golf match was held at the Circle C Ranch. That evening eight members of the WWII bunch had their annual dinner at the Austin Country Club and celebrated the Unit's 65th Anniversary. That same evening, the Class of 1955 celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a dinner at the Texas Club in Memorial Stadium. The next day, several of the WWII veterans attended the morning Board meeting and expressed their desire that someone would publish a history of the UT NROTC Unit. The author was there. After the Board meeting, the general business meeting was held down the hall in the large classroom. \$9,000 in scholarships was awarded to deserving members of the Battalion. A tailgate party in the loading dock area was held afterward and before the football game. That afternoon, Texas beat Colorado 42-17. The alumni BBQ was held that evening at Camp Mabry Military Forces Museum.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 24-25. Texas beat A&M 40-29 on Friday. In December, MDN Donald W. Peltier, III '06 was relieved by MDN Timothy W. "Tim" Stone '06 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 9th. At 10 a.m. on December 22nd a commissioning ceremony was held in Room 212 in the Main Building (UT Tower). Three Ensigns were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

First News of Major Changes to RAS Hall

The spring semester commenced on January 17, 2006. CAPT Inbody announced to alumni at a Board meeting on January 21st that within the next 5-10 years RAS would probably be gutted, rebuilt and expanded. Also at that meeting, Bob Looney '62 said he would be relieving David Wells '69 as the alumni newsletter Editor. On March 2nd Gen Richard Meyers, USAF, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs spoke to the Battalion at Bass Lecture Hall. Spring Break occurred the week of March 13-18.

UT ROTC Liaison Committee Honored

On March 24th a reception and BBQ, hosted at Jack Ritter's home, saluting and honoring the support given to the ROTC units by the UT ROTC Liaison Committee, was held. Five members of that committee were present. They were Dr. Paul B. Woodruff, Director Plan II Honors Program; Dr. Hans Mark; John J. McKetta, Centennial Energy Chair in Engineering, Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics; Dr. Eli Cox, III, La Quinta Motor Inns, Inc., Centennial Professor in the Business, Department of Marketing Administration, Director, UT Business School Honors Program, Red McCombs School of Business; and Dr. Tom Hatfield, Dean, Division of Continuing and Extended Education. Dr. Peter John (Retired) was also honored. Prof. H. Malcolm Macdonald (Ret Navy CAPT, too), former chairman (the first) of the committee, who served on the committee during WWII and the Korean War, was also present. The author also attended this reception and was fortunate to be able to meet all these wonderful gentlemen.

On March 25th, an alumni Board meeting was held on the 3rd deck of RAS. It was announced that Board member, Glenn Looney '61 was elected as Central Texas (Houston, Austin & San Antonio) Area President of the Lone Star Region of the Navy League.

Alumni Newsletter Changes

Shortly before May 2006, Bob Looney '62 took over Editor duties from David Wells '69, and through his connection at Raytheon, Mike Hardaway, was able to secure their sponsorship for printing the newsletter. It changed in name and appearance, too. On or about May 1st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 11, Issue 1 was published. Pages were glossy and full color. The name was now the *NROTC Alumni Log*, from a recommendation made by Glenn Looney. Bob relinquished Editor duties for health reasons three years later, in 2009.



On May 4th the Spring Awards ceremony was held and the Midshipmans Foundation awarded \$10,000 in scholarships and swords. Afterward the Battalion held their Change of Command at the LBJ Library fountain. MDN Timothy W. "Tim" Stone '06 was relieved by MDN Travis C. Grell '07 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended on May 5th. On May 13th, CAPT Inbody had a party at his home in Buda, Texas for the new commissionees. On May 19th a NROTC commissioning ceremony was held at 10 a.m. in the Santa Rita Suite of the Texas Union. At 3 p.m. that same day a joint commissioning ceremony was held at Bates Recital Hall. Eleven Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. T List provided names.

***NROTC Alumni Log debuts
May 2006 (Vol. 11, Issue 1)***

Summer 2006

Three commissionings occurred during the summer: June 6th one Ensign and August 14th two more Ensigns. The T List and Ben Abeto '06 provided the names. See the Appendix. On July 4th the nation celebrated its 230th Birthday.

UT NROTC Alumni Foundation Created

On July 29th, the Alumni Association held a Board meeting in the wardroom on the 3rd deck of RAS Hall. In it the Board adopted by-laws and a Certificate of Formation was executed for the Alumni Association to become a registered non-profit corporation in the State of Texas. The new organization was officially named “The University of Texas NROTC Alumni Foundation.” It was announced at the same meeting that the Navy League was trying to get Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison to be their guest speaker at the Navy League dinner on Reunion weekend. She was instrumental in saving the rifle and pistol shooting range in 2001. Alas, those plans fell through.



First UT NROTC Grad to Assume PNS Duties

On August 24, 2006, CAPT Gabriel R. “Gabe” Salazar relieved CAPT Inbody as the 24th Professor of Naval Science at UT. CAPT Salazar was a 1979 graduate of the UT NROTC Unit and the first graduate to return as its Commanding Officer. He was also a classmate of the author’s younger brother, Bruce Mergele. Both were on the Buccaneer drill team. CAPT Inbody retired on that same date and settled in Buda, Texas. He later became an Advisory Director for the Midshipmans Foundation.

New Student Activity Center to Replace Steindam Hall Parking Lot

In the summer of 2006, The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the construction of a Student Activity Center (SAC) building on campus. The cost of the building was financed by an additional building fee charged to each UT student and required little direct financial support from The University of Texas System or UT. The SAC was intended to house student meeting rooms, classrooms and dining facilities for all students. This building was to be located on the parking lot and campus grounds immediately adjacent to and west of RAS (*i.e.* RAS was losing its parking lot). Freshman Orientation at UT NROTC was conducted August 24-28. There were 31 new freshmen in this class.

Academic Year 2007

Statistics:

Number of Students: 84 Midshipmen (Up 4), 3 MECEP and 5 STA for a Battalion of 92 (Down 4)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 3 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 15 (12 Navy, 3 Marine) (Down 3)

2007 would mark the beginning of a rebuilding of the North and South ends of DKR – Texas Memorial Stadium, with emphasis on highlighting the veteran’s memorial aspect of the stadium. It would take nearly a year to complete the project.¹⁵

Minutes from four Alumni Foundation (AF) Board meetings and three alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT Gabriel R. “Gabe” Salazar, USN

There were still 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately eleven military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT Gabriel R. “Gabe” Salazar, USN. CAPT Salazar was a native of Corpus Christi, Texas. His career path was aviation. He received his wings in 1980 and specialized as a pilot of patrol aircraft (*i.e.* P-3). While his squadron was deployed aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), he picked up his OOD (underway) qualification. After a couple of department head tours, he attended the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, and earned an MS in Financial Management. He next served as XO for Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) and a year later, “fleeted up” to command that same unit. During that time his squadron deployed to the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. He next served on the staff of the CNO and in 2002 assumed command of Training Air Wing Four at NAS, Corpus Christi, before coming back to UT.



Gabriel R. “Gabe” Salazar

Staff changes were only revealed in the Alumni meeting minutes and Alumni newsletters. In the Alumni meeting on July 29th, before his Change of Command, CAPT Inbody gave the Board of Directors an excellent listing of the Unit staff for the upcoming (*i.e.* this) academic year. Because of this, it can be deduced that LT Robert G. Yovich must have come aboard at the end of the spring semester in 2006 and relieved LT Gilbreath as the Submarine/Nuclear Officer on staff. Also, LT Blythe Blakistone reported aboard sometime during the summer and relieved LT Whitt as the Surface Warfare Officer on staff.

The Battalion was organized into two companies with two platoons each. Maj Lobato (MOI) provided an organization chart for spring 2007 to verify this. Battalion Commanders were Travis C. Grell '07 (fall) and Joshua K. “Josh” Brown '07 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company

¹⁵ Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darrell_K_Royal-Texas_Memorial_Stadium

leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	22	22
Bravo	22	22

All Freshman Drill Team Switches to M-1 Rifles

The PNS Report from the May 2007 Alumni newsletter confirmed drill team participation in the Tulane drill meet. No awards, size of team or member names were mentioned, although a minimum size team of six (*i.e.* one squad) would have been needed to compete. Mardi Gras was on February 20th that year so the team would have traveled to New Orleans on February 16th and competed at Tulane on February 17th. As of yet, no members of the team have been identified.

Drill With Rifles Changed to Learning Labs

CAPT Salazar said that the Buccaneer team was an all-freshman team that year. This made much more sense when one also considered his other remarks. Only freshmen were drilling with M-1 rifles. It was part of orientation to learn the manual of arms and to function as a group. “Drills” were now on Thursdays at 2 p.m. but were not spent marching around with rifles. Upperclassmen no longer were required to drill with a rifle and “drill” was turned into a lab so that other NROTC requirements could be taught. The cessation of drill with rifles may have happened as early as academic year 1997, when The University made drilling in Memorial Stadium or Clark Field “off-limits.” The change was probably brought about by the reintroduction of natural turf in Memorial Stadium.

There was no documentation covering the composition or activities of the pistol or rifle teams although it is safe to assume they were alive and well, at least the Pistol Team. There was also no documentation covering the composition or activities of the Color Guard, although it is highly probable that one of their members, from the previous year, stepped up to the plate and took command of that year’s group. They would have all been in their junior year.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a PAO, Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.

25th Anniversary of Run to Dallas

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 4-6) was made. It was the 25th anniversary for this event. Fifty Midshipmen and staff participated in the 197-mile relay run, which raised \$2,000 for Easter Seals. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. ABC and ESPN gave the Unit coverage prior to and during the Red River Shootout in the Cotton Bowl. The annual Iron Man competition was hosted by UT Leathernecks on April 14th.

Sailing Program Disappeared (Again)

There was no mention of a Sailing Program or any sailing regattas during the year. The next mention of it was in trying to revive it in the fall of 2011. Because of this, it was assumed that budgetary support (*i.e.* Navy financial support) and interest in the program died.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 10) and the spring formal at the end of March. Guest Speaker at the Birthday Ball was LtGen Jefferson Howell, USMC. The only field trip documented for the year was Battalion members attending the commissioning of USS Texas (SSN-775), an advanced multi-mission submarine, in Galveston, Texas (September 9). Austin Navy League participated as well.

WWII Oral Histories Project Started

The fall semester commenced on August 30, 2006. On August 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 11, (August 2006) Issue 2 was published. The 20th Annual Alumni Reunion started October 12th with the Navy League dinner. Guest Speaker was LtGen Jefferson Howell, USMC. He volunteered to be the guest speaker back in August, when plans for Senator Hutchison feel through. The next day the Navy-Marine Corps golf match was held at Star Ranch in Hutto, Texas. This was the first year to do interviews of our WWII veteran alumni. Dr. Tom Hatfield was the prime interviewer, assisted by his Program Director, Echo Uribe and Program Coordinator, David Zepeda. This first year was a year of preparation for the video interviews. Questionnaires were filled in and written interviews were made to determine who the first batch of video interviews would include. Fred Moon '70 was the primary alumni contact for coordinating the interviews. CDR Harry Newton, who was a special assignment to the staff for three years prior to his retirement, was a prime-mover on the Unit staff. Ivan Elmer '45 was the lead organizer of the WWII bunch. Fred Moon provided the needed coordination between the various groups. The annual WWII dinner at the ACC was held that evening. This year, with the interviews, they managed to assemble eighteen WWII alumni along with some of their family members. On October 14th, Frederick J. "Fred" Moon '70 was elected 11th President of the Alumni Foundation at the Board meeting and \$10,000 in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion in the large classroom on the 3rd deck of RAS Hall after the general business meeting. The alumni BBQ was held afterward in the loading dock area of RAS. Texas beat Baylor 63-31 in the afternoon.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 23-24. Texas played A&M on Friday. A Fall Awards ceremony was held on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, with a Battalion Change of Command afterward. MDN Travis C. Grell '07 was relieved by MDN Joshua K. "Josh" Brown '07 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 8th. On December 20th a commissioning ceremony was held. Two Ensigns were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

WWII Alumni Push for Unit History

The spring semester commenced on January 16, 2007. At a January 27th meeting of the AF Board in the wardroom on the 3rd deck of RAS Hall, a visitor, Bill Barnhouse '44, was there and stressed the need for getting a Unit history written and acknowledging those killed in action (KIA) who were commissioned at UT. Ivan Elmer '45 was also working on this idea. Plans for twenty short stories by WWII alumni was

presented by CAPT Salazar. Dr. Tully, History Dept. Chair and the Center of American History at UT was contacted. Money would need to be raised to fund the project, estimated at \$100,000 over 5 years. This was a different initiative from the one being conducted by Dr. Hatfield. The idea did not die but the methodology was revised by the WWII alumni themselves. It was also announced at that meeting, that Board member, Jim Brotherton '68, was elected as President of the Austin Chapter of the Navy League. On January 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 12, (January 2007) Issue 1 was published.

First Huston-Tillotson Graduates Commissioned

Spring Break occurred the week of March 12-17. The Unit's Spring Awards ceremony was on March 30th and the Midshipmans Foundation awarded another \$10,000 in scholarships and officer swords to deserving Battalion members. In May MDN Joshua K. "Josh" Brown '07 was relieved by MDN Patrick G. Barber as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The Leathernecks traveled to Texas A&M to conduct their field exercise (FEX) in April. The spring semester ended on May 4th. An AF Board meeting was held on May 5th in RAS, but now on the 1st deck in the library. CAPT Salazar reported that the new Student Activity Center will be built in the summer of 2008 and that it would be followed, fairly soon, by a replacement building for the ROTC Building (RAS). The replacement building may have a different name and serve other academic disciplines. On May 17th a BBQ dinner, for graduating Midshipmen and their families, was held at the UT Golf Club at Steiner Ranch. On May 18th a commissioning ceremony was held in Austin City Hall. Eight Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. One Ensign and one 2nd Lt had graduated from Huston-Tillotson University, an Austin University which had a cross-town agreement with the UT NROTC Unit since 1999. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

New COLA Building Planned for RAS Site

At the May 5th meeting of the AF Board, CAPT Salazar told attendees that a new Student Activity Center would be built in the summer of 2008 in the existing parking lot for RAS Hall. This project would be followed, fairly soon, by a replacement building for RAS Hall. In the late spring of 2007, an initiative was started by the College of Liberal Arts (COLA), the sponsoring entity at UT for all ROTC programs, to build a single structure on campus that would house many of its departments. As originally envisioned, this facility would bring together, for the first time at the UT campus, much of the COLA faculty and students in one centralized location and thereby address COLA's significant dispersal problem and resulting lack of synergy and collaboration concerns. The new Liberal Arts facility was to provide department administrative spaces, faculty and graduate student facilities and meeting rooms, and classrooms under one roof. The location identified on the campus was the campus area where RAS and the adjacent rifle range (RRN) were located.

The new Liberal Arts building initiative was undertaken by COLA to capitalize on the Student Activity Center construction planning that was already underway in the spring of 2007. Construction analysis showed that by building the two buildings simultaneously, significant cost and construction challenges brought about by the confined construction area on campus would be avoided. COLA gained University of Texas approval for the project and began an aggressive fund-raising campaign to finance the cost of

the new Liberal Arts building. On May 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 12, (May 2007) Issue 2 was published.

Summer 2007

Crow's Nest Plans Revealed

At the July 21st meeting of the AF Board, it was announced that the Crow's Nest group was working on having an operational site by August 2008. Three commissionings occurred during the summer: June 27th, one Ensign and August 13th, one more Ensign and one 2nd Lieutenant. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

COLA and ROTC Leadership Work on Space Requirements

In the summer of 2007, the three ROTC departments were approached by COLA representatives to assess their building space requirements. The three departments were advised that they would be placed in the new Liberal Arts facility upon its completion. Space requirements, to include unique ROTC training requirements, were needed to be properly included in the scope of the new facility. Detailed discussions were conducted to determine to what extent the 33,000 square feet currently utilized by the ROTC departments in RAS could be reduced. The three ROTC departments acknowledged reductions could be made through consolidations, eliminations, and sharing of facilities with other departments that were to be relocated in the new facility. A 22,000 to 24,000 square foot requirement was initially agreed upon. Additionally, interim re-location to other campus facilities during construction was discussed and several options were presented by the COLA representatives to the three ROTC departments. All of these options included temporarily placing some of the ROTC functions (*e.g.* department administrative staff, supply and storage of ROTC unique equipment, etc.) off campus at a university owned building on 15th and Guadalupe Street. It was agreed that meeting rooms for students and shared offices for ROTC advisors were to be provided on campus during the construction, but no specific offices or meeting rooms were identified.

Also in the summer of 2007, Maj Ron Lobato and GySgt Michael L. Kiernan arrived to relieve their predecessors, Capt Rath and GySgt Schnakenberg.¹⁶ Freshman Orientation was conducted at UT NROTC August 24-28. There were 30 new students in that class, Midshipmen, Officer Candidates and MECEPs. A picnic was held in front of RAS the last day of orientation for new students and their parents.

¹⁶ Recollections of Maj Ron Lobato, Marine Officer Instructor (Summer 2007- Spring 2010), MOI #22

Academic Year 2008

Statistics:

Number of Students: 85 Midshipmen (Up 1), 10 MECEP and 2 STA for a Battalion of 97 (Up 5)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (Down 2), 2 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 15 (11 Navy, 4 Marine) (No change)

Minutes from four AF Board meetings and two alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately ten military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Gabriel R. “Gabe” Salazar, USN. Staff changes were only revealed in the AF meeting minutes, alumni newsletters and recollections of Maj Lobato. Maj Ron Lobato and GySgt Michael L. Kiernan reported aboard during the summer of 2007 to assume their positions. SK1(SW) Busano retired at the end of 2007, according to CAPT Salazar. It took a year to get the Navy to authorize him to return a year later as a civilian Supply Technician, so the position was “gapped” for this year. Celeste McKinney, a retired PO1, came aboard in the fall and relieved Ben Valdeleon as Human Resources Technician for the spring.

The Battalion was organized into two companies, each with two platoons in the fall. In the spring, the Battalion was re-organized into just three platoons, according to Maj Lobato. This was confirmed for fall 2007 by Maj Lobato’s org chart and for spring 2008 by his table of staff assignments. Battalion Commanders were Patrick G. Barber (fall) and Charles J. Tofel ’08 (spring).¹⁷ See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company/Platoon leadership positions. MECEPs and Marine Options were integrated with the rest of the NROTC unit, filling in the platoons and staff positions like everyone else. The Leatherneck platoon only formed when they had USMC-specific training.¹⁸ That was the practice until after Maj Lobato departed in spring 2010. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

Fall Semester:

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>
Alpha	23	23
Bravo	23	23

Spring Semester:

<u>Company</u>	<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Third Platoon</u>
Alpha	31	31	31

¹⁷ Recollections of Bradley S. Lewis ’99

¹⁸ Recollections of Maj Ron Lobato, Marine Officer Instructor (Summer 2007- Spring 2010), MOI #22

The PNS did not mention the Tulane Meet in the May 2008 AF Board meeting or the June 2008 alumni newsletter. Mardi Gras was on February 5th that year, so the Buccaneers would have traveled on February 1st to New Orleans and competed at Tulane on February 2nd. Again, a minimum size team of six (i.e. one squad) would have been needed to compete. As of yet, only two members of the team have been tentatively identified as new arrivals. That would leave at least four others unidentified. The team was still predominantly all freshman and used M-1 rifles.

The Pistol Team competed at the University of Colorado in Boulder in the March/April timeframe. There were lots of competitors and the UT Team returned with a 4th Place trophy. There was no documentation of who was on the Pistol Team or its Team Captain. The Battalion also put the rifle range to good use. It hosted its first High School NJROTC Air Rifle Meet, which attracted 60 participants from all over the State. There was also no documentation of the composition or activities of the year's Color Guard. There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a PAO, Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.

Iron Man Morphed Into Zimmerman Recon Challenge

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 3-5) was made. The Battalion raised \$10,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. There was no ABC or ESPN coverage that year. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. The annual Iron Man competition morphed into the Zimmerman Recon Challenge and was held on April 5th. One of the MECEPs, SSgt Nick Hooge, was in the same unit as Zimmerman when he was killed in action. It was thought fitting to make that tough physical event about honoring one of our fallen.¹⁹ It was an endurance, strength, and team building event to honor a local fallen Marine, SSgt Christopher Michael Zimmerman, and was sponsored by his family. The event was held in Walter E. Long Park. From a flyer, provided by Maj Lobato, the event consisted of an 800-meter swim, 40 pull-ups (200 per team), a 5K run, 100 push-ups (500 per team), a 5K run with 35 lb. backpack, 200 sit-ups (1000 per team) and another 5K run, all very similar to the Iron Man competition. It was open to anyone who felt up to the challenge, including civilians and females.

Leadership Conferences Added to Unit Activities

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 8) and the spring formal (Mar/Apr). The latter was a dining-in format. Guest Speaker at the Birthday Ball was VADM John Harvey, Chief of Naval Personnel. Guest Speaker at the dining-in was LtGen Jeff Howell. This was the first year for Leadership Conferences to be added to annual activities. Only a handful of Midshipmen attended each of these, so they were not like a typical field trip with 12-20 students making the trip. The 25th Annual Leadership Conference at the Naval Academy (February 3-6) in Annapolis,

¹⁹ Recollections of Maj Ron Lobato, Marine Officer Instructor (Summer 2007- Spring 2010), MOI #22

Maryland, was the first. Three Midshipmen attended. In late February there was one on the UT campus, the Hatton W. Sumner Conference. The last was the 13th Annual Conference at Notre Dame (April 10-13) near South Bend, Indiana. Three different Midshipmen attended it. No field trips were documented for the year.

Dr. Tom Hatfield Talked about the Oral Histories Project

The fall semester commenced on August 29, 2007. On August 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 12, (August 2007) Issue 3 was published. The 21st Annual Alumni Reunion began on September 27th with the Navy League dinner. Guest Speaker was Dr. Thomas Hatfield, Director and Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Studies in American Military History, University of Texas Center for American History. Dr. Hatfield was spearheading the Oral Histories Project, which was started last year. He spoke about that WWII history project and interviews. The next morning Navy and Marine Corps squared off for their annual golf match. This year it was at the Circle C Golf Course in South Austin. It was highlighted by Bob Brown '52 scoring a hole-in-one. That afternoon the Oral Histories Project for WWII alumni got underway with video interviews of twelve alumni. One can view and listen to these personal stories on the Briscoe Center website²⁰. The WWII alumni hosted their annual dinner at the ACC that evening. The Class of 1957 attended, too. It was their 50th Anniversary. On September 29th the AF Board met in the library at RAS. Then the Board had to trek down Speedway to the Robert A. Welch Hall (WEL) to meet with other alumni for the general business meeting and awards ceremony. \$13,000 in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion in the large auditorium there (Room 2.304). This venue was much nicer than the 3rd deck classroom that had been used since the first reunion. The seating was more comfortable and there was more room, since we were growing. UT President Bill Powers attended this meeting and addressed the attendees. The alumni BBQ was in the RAS loading dock area after the ceremony. Texas played Kansas State that afternoon.

The Thanksgiving holidays were November 22-23. Texas played A&M on Friday. In December, or early November, a Battalion Change of Command occurred. MDN Patrick G. Barber was relieved by MDN Charles J. Tofel '08 as Battalion Commander for the spring. Barber failed to commission due to medical reasons. The fall semester ended on December 7th. On December 21st a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. Three Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. Guest Speaker was Governor Rick Perry. One more Ensign was commissioned for the Fall on February 14th. The T List and Beau Laird '08 provided the names. See the Appendix. On December 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 12, (December 2007) Issue 4 was published.

Disturbing Developments in COLA Building Plans

By the end of the fall semester in 2007, the leadership of COLA came to the realization that funding would not be in place in time to build the new Liberal Arts facility simultaneously with the Student Activity Center (SAC). However, construction analysis showed that approximately \$15 million in costs could be avoided if the two projects were done sequentially. A decision was made by COLA, and

²⁰ Website: http://www.cah.utexas.edu/museums/naval_rotc.php

eventually approved by The University and Board of Regents, to begin construction of the new Liberal Arts facility in the summer of 2010 to coincide with the completion of the SAC. Additionally, the scope of the new facility was increased to approximately 200,000 square feet and the cost was increased to approximately \$100 million. With the exception of three departments that remained in their centrally located buildings on The University's south mall, the larger structure would now be able to house all of COLA academic (non-ROTC) departments. Additionally, all of the College's two dozen centers of excellence, such as the acclaimed Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies and the Populations Research Center, were to be moved to the new Liberal Arts facility. Construction was set to begin in the fall of 2010 and the facility to be completed by the summer of 2013.

Distinguished Alumni/Distinguished Service Award

The spring semester commenced on January 14, 2008. Spring Break occurred the week of March 10-15. After the January 26th AF Board and the February 29th Midshipmans Foundation (MF) Board meetings a different process was adopted to recognize alumni and others who made special contributions to the UT NROTC alumni organization and the Battalion. The old Alumnus of the Year program was replaced with the Distinguished Alumnus and Distinguished Service awards (DADS). Distinguished Service awards could now recognize those who were on staff or from other walks of life, not necessarily alumni, that made important contributions. The first such award was presented on April 29th to James Mulva '68, Chairman and CEO of Conoco-Phillips. He received the Distinguished Alumnus award in Houston from representatives of the Alumni and Midshipmans Foundations at a luncheon in Mr. Mulva's Corporate Headquarters. The number of these awards was flexible. There was no quota to fill. Nominations could come from anywhere. The recipient was presented with a framed certificate, a framed photograph of the current Battalion and a lapel pin to wear. These awards were given at a luncheon or dinner to really focus on the awardee(s) and the awardee's family and friends were invited to attend.



James J. Mulva '68
First Distinguished Alumnus

Suspensions Rise on COLA's Real Plan

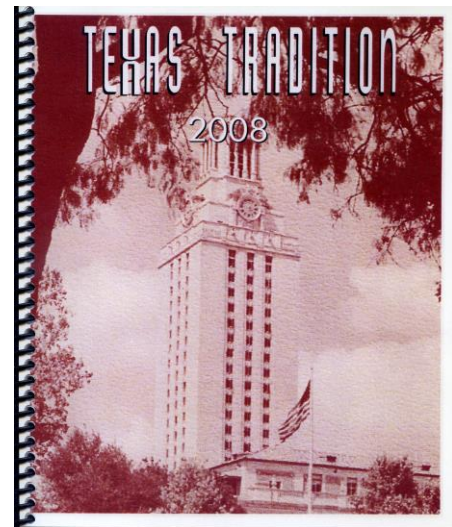
The decision to increase the scope of the Liberal Arts building to be able to accommodate all but three of COLA academic departments resulted in the three ROTC departments being removed from their planned inclusion in the new structure. The three ROTC departments were approached in the spring of 2008 and offered space in the Geography (GRG) building. GRG was dedicated in 1950 and contained approximately 16,000 square feet of usable space. The space allocation for ROTC would be comprised of office, classroom and storage space only and would not include the rifle range. Most of the reduction in square footage would come from storage areas and student common use areas such as lounges, meeting rooms and libraries/heritage spaces. To the ROTC leadership, it looked like the goal posts were being moved. With each incremental step in the "plan" it looked like the ROTC units were getting less and less and slowly being squeezed out. CAPT Salazar kept both alumni boards constantly up-to-date on developments, but it looked like even the Department of Defense didn't care to get involved.

In April or May, MDN Charles J. Tofel '08 was relieved by MDN Wesley A. "Wes" Hozapfel '09 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended on May 2nd. On May 3rd at the AF Board meeting in RAS, CAPT Salazar reported that the ROTC parking lot would cease to exist in July since construction was expected to begin. On May 15th a NROTC commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. Seven Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. A Joint Commissioning ceremony was held the following day in Bates Auditorium. Six of these graduates got to stay at the Unit during the summer, "stashed" as they say, and awaiting orders. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

Summer 2008

Texas Tradition 2008

Norm Flados '44 had passed away back in October of 2006, but his wife, Marjorie or "Marge" Flados, was still quite active with the remaining WWII alumni and their wives. She was an author in her own right and put together a booklet of memories from eighty-three UT NROTC alumni who responded to her call for input. They shared their memories of UT and WWII. The book paid homage to the Unit's first yearbook, *Texas Tradition*, 1944, by using the same name. Bill Barnhouse, who worked on the yearbook staff for the original *Texas Tradition*, wrote the Foreword for this publication, *Texas Tradition*, 2008. It is likely that Marge was hard at work, during this summer, preparing this publication for the upcoming reunion in the fall of 2008. Unlike the effort in 1995 to assemble a collection of memories from the WWII veterans, this was a much more professional-looking collection and was written in a narrative format, rather than fill-in questionnaires. Marge also got twenty-three more alumni, than the previous effort was able to get, to provide input. Marge Flados did a terrific job of putting this together, getting it printed and distributed. We shall forever be indebted to her for her efforts.



NROTC Program Funding Shrinking

On June 8, 2008, VADM Bill McRaven '77 assumed command of Joint Special Operations Command, which would oversee the Osama bin Laden raid. CAPT Salazar said that LT Eric Rasmussen reported aboard during the summer as a relief for LT Roberts. There were no commissionings during the summer. On June 30th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 13, (June 2008) Issue 1 was published. On August 8th the MF Board met in La Grange. On August 9th at the AF Board meeting on the 1st deck of RAS, in the library, CAPT Salazar gave the Board a SITREP. Construction of the Student Activity Center was due to start soon and take about 2 ½ years to complete. The ROTC Building was expected to be torn down in 3-4 years. The Unit was expected to move into the Geography Building during construction of the ROTC replacement building. CAPT Salazar laid out his budget for the upcoming year and requested roughly \$10,000 in supplementary funding (*i.e.* the Navy doesn't pay for any of it) to

do all the activities he outlined (*e.g.* Birthday Ball, Orientation luncheon. Leadership conferences, drill meets, marksmanship competitions, spring formal, nursing conference, Iron Man competition and Intramural Sports). This funding was needed in addition to the funds the Battalion raised each year. Many programs in the Department of Defense were being “run on a shoestring,” during that timeframe, and the NROTC Program was one of them. And it would not improve for the next eight years.

After the Board meeting most of the members strolled over the Memorial Stadium. RADM Clay Fulcher (Ret) '55 and CAPT Max Miller (Ret) '57 were both presented with Distinguished Alumnus awards at a UT Club luncheon. The UT Club was in Memorial Stadium, Eastside. Freshman Orientation commenced on August 23rd. At the conclusion of this orientation, those freshmen who “survived” to take the oath of office, were treated to a Texas BBQ luncheon and their parents were also invited. There were 37 new freshmen in this class.

Chapter 9 – The Rise of ISIS

A power vacuum was created in Iraq by the U.S. disengagement from Iraq starting in the spring of 2009, and ending in its precipitous withdrawal of forces on December 18, 2011. It was further exacerbated by the U.S. encouragement of the Tunisian Revolution on December 18, 2010, which led to the removal of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali; the Egyptian Revolution on January 25, 2011, which led to the removal of President Hosni Mubarak; the Libyan Revolution on February 15, 2011, which led to the removal and death of Muammar Gaddafi; the Yemenese Revolution in mid-January 2011, which led to the resignation and flight of President Ali Abdullah Saleh; and the Syrian civil war which began on January 26, 2011 and continued for another five years. Militant Muslims, mostly Shiite backed by Iran, filled the void and on June 29, 2014, the beginning of Ramadan, called for an Islamic State or “caliph” to be located in largely dysfunctional parts of Syria and Iraq. Al-Qaeda terrorism, its proxies, spin-offs and remnants, had morphed into a whole new Islamic “State” in Iraq and Syria, referred to as ISIS. The “War on Terrorism” reached a whole new level. And now it had resources of oil and captured or abandoned U.S. weaponry to fuel the fire. This was the environment our officers were being sent out to protect against.

Academic Year 2009

Statistics:

Number of Students: 99 Midshipmen (Up 14), 9 MECEP and 2 STA for a Battalion of 110 (Up 13)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (Up 1)

Number of Commissionees: 21 (15 Navy, 6 Marine) (Up 6)

Minutes from four AF Board meetings and four alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately ten military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Gabriel R. “Gabe” Salazar, USN. Staff changes were only revealed in the AF meeting minutes and alumni newsletters. In August, prior to this school year starting, LT Walter L. “Walt” Sack ’01 reported aboard to relieve LT Yovich as the Submarine/Nuclear Officer on staff. Sometime also prior to the beginning of the school year, SK1 Busano was authorized by the Navy to return as a civilian Supply Technician. CDR David Hogsten reported aboard sometime in October and relieved CDR Hilberg as XO.

The Battalion was still organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and 3rd, according to Maj Lobato. Battalion Commanders were Wesley A. “Wes” Hozapfel ’09 (fall) and Cody S. Hoffman ’09 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was a little more than the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Third Platoon</u>
34	34	34

The PNS Report from the 4/18/2009 AF board meeting minutes, and the February 2009 and June 2009 alumni newsletters provided helpful input about the drill team. Mardi Gras was on February 24th that year, so the Buccaneers traveled on February 20th to New Orleans and competed at Tulane on February 21st. CAPT Spence mentioned in the 9/26/2009 AF Board meeting that the Buccaneers won 1st Place in Platoon Inspection in March (sic). On March 28th the Buccaneers competed in the Second Annual Beale Street Drill Meet at the University of Memphis, Tennessee, 2nd largest meet in the country. This was mentioned in the February PNS report as a future event but his April report did not confirm attendance. If the Buccaneers won in “Platoon” inspection that should indicate that the team was larger than just a squad that year. Historically, Buccaneer “platoons” had been anywhere from eight to 25 members. Most likely it was a twelve-member platoon, plus the CO. Only two have been tentatively identified, leaving another eleven, as yet, unidentified. The team was still predominantly all freshman and used M-1 rifles.

The Pistol Team was scheduled to compete again that year at the University of Colorado meet in the March/April timeframe. The meet had to be cancelled due to a snowstorm; however, the Unit came up with a different solution that allowed teams to compete remotely at their own ranges and send in their scores. The UT Pistol Team took 1st Place under these improvised conditions. Again, the team members and Team Captain were not documented. There also was no documentation of the year’s Color Guard.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a PAO, Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.



Faith Zimmerman congratulates MDN 1/C Drew Marcantonio (L - 2nd) and SSgt Nick Hooge (Right - 1st)

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 8-11) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. The Zimmerman Recon Challenge (formerly Iron Man), was held on April 4th, again in Walter E. Long Park. Members of the University of Texas Naval ROTC Battalion took first, second, and third place; SSgt Nick Hooge ('09), MDN 1/C Richard A. “Drew” Marcantonio '09 and MDN 1/C Sean M. Fuhrmann '09, respectively. There were 17 competitors for this charity benefit.

This was the cover story for the August 2009 *NROTC Alumni Log* newsletter.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 24) and the spring formal (Mar/Apr). There was also a senior Mess Night (Apr/May). Only two Leadership Conferences were documented that year: The Naval Academy (January 26-29) and Notre Dame

(Jan/Feb). The Midshipmans Foundation started helping with the travel expenses to these conferences, too. No field trips were documented for the year.

Student Activity Center (SAC) Construction Began

The fall semester commenced on August 27, 2008. Construction of the Student Activity Center, in the old ROTC Building parking lot, also began in the fall of 2008 and was scheduled for completion in the summer of 2010. On October 31st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 13, (October 2008) Issue 2 was published. The 22nd Annual Alumni Reunion began on November 6th with another eight WWII alumni video interviews conducted by Dr. Tom Hatfield and David Zepeda at the Doubletree Hotel again. That evening the Navy League dinner featured RADM Steven G. “Steve” Smith ’69 as its guest speaker. The next morning the annual Navy-Marine Corps golf match returned to Star Ranch.

Reunions Better In-Synch with Veterans Day

On November 7th our WWII veteran alumni participated in the rededication of Memorial Plaza in the new North end of Memorial Stadium. When UT remodeled the North end of the stadium, they relocated all the plaques and statues and placed them in more prominent places to promote the “Memorial” part of DKR-Memorial Stadium. From that point on the Alumni Foundation made it a point to try to schedule our alumni weekends on a home game weekend when The University celebrated Veterans Day. It’s surprising no one had thought about that before. Since many of us were veterans and since UT usually celebrated veterans at these home games, it just made sense. We were more likely to get a fly-over, too. *Texas Tradition*, 2008, was distributed to the WWII vets at this reunion, too. It was put together and edited by Marge Flados, wife of the late Norm Flados ’44.

First Alumni Awards Dinner at ACC

The Class of 1958 celebrated its 50th Anniversary on the evening of November 7th with a dinner at the UT Club. Also on that same evening, the Midshipmans and Alumni Foundations had their first awards dinner at the ACC with the WWII group included. The alumni presented LtGen D’Wayne Gray (Ret) ’52, the Distinguished Alumnus award, while half a dozen of his classmates from 1952 looked on. Also that evening the Class of 1968 celebrated their 40th Anniversary at Scholz Garten in the Bismarck Room.

On November 8th, Edwin W. “Ed” Mergele ’75 was elected 12th President of the Alumni Foundation in the Board meeting and \$26,000 in scholarships and officer swords was awarded to deserving members of the Battalion in the general business meeting afterward. The ceremony was held in an auditorium in Robert A. Welch Hall. UT President Bill Powers attended this meeting, too, and addressed the attendees. CAPT Salazar reported that the ROTC parking lot was fenced off with construction of the new SAC due to start soon. The Unit was to move to the Geography Building in 3-5 years, not the best of news. The Texas-Baylor football game was right after the general meeting (Texas won 45-21). The alumni BBQ was at Camp Mabry, Military Forces Museum, in the evening. Five flag officers attended the reunion this year. Thanksgiving holidays were November 27-28. Texas actually played A&M on Turkey Day that year and won 49-9.

In December, MDN Wesley A. “Wes” Hozapfel ’09 was relieved by MDN Cody S. Hoffman ’09 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 5th. On December 19th, a commissioning ceremony was held. One Ensign and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. One more Ensign was commissioned for the Fall on February 12th. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT James M. “Mike” Spence, USN

The spring semester commenced on January 20, 2009. The MF Board met on January 30th in La Grange. The Unit Change of Command was held in the Texas State Capitol Senate Chamber on February 6th. CAPT Salazar was relieved by CAPT James M. “Mike” Spence. A farewell reception was held for CAPT Salazar at the Alumni Center. CAPT Spence was a 1980 graduate of the Naval Academy. He chose aviation as his career path and earned his wings in 1982. He flew the A-7 Corsair aircraft early on but transitioned to the F/A-18 aircraft. He was deployed aboard USS Saratoga (CV-60) during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and flew combat missions during the latter. He attended the Naval War College and served in NATO overseas. In 1996 he assumed XO duties of VFA-22, “Fighting Redcocks” and soon “fleeted up” to commanding officer. In that capacity his unit deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63). A year later his unit deployed again to the Arabian Gulf aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) this time for combat operations in support of Operations Desert Fox and Southern Watch. After his command tour he worked for the CNO and did a short tour working with the Air Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He did another command tour in command of CVW-9 on the Carl Vinson again in support of Operation Sea Dragon in the Arabian Gulf. He then worked for Central Command in Bahrain as Assistant Chief of Staff. Before coming to Texas, he did another tour, heading up the Programming Branch for OPNAV.



James M. “Mike” Spence

On February 7th, at the AF Board meeting at RAS in the Library on the 1st deck, former PNS, Gabe Salazar ’79, was selected as a Board member of the Alumni Foundation. Bob Looney also said he would be stepping down as alumni newsletter Editor. On February 28th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 14, (February 2009) Issue 1 was published, the last one by Bob Looney. On March 6th an Alumni Awards dinner was held at Frisch Auf! Valley Country Club in La Grange, Texas. RADM J. Weldon Koenig (Ret) ’58 and W. Robert Brown ’52 were presented with the Distinguished Alumnus award. CAPT John W. Hitchcock (Ret) ’65 and W. Robert Brown were presented with the Distinguished Service award. Bob Brown was the first alumnus to be presented with both awards. The author was master of ceremonies.

Alumni Added Linked-In Network

Spring Break occurred the week of March 16-21. After the break, twenty-seven members of the UT NROTC Marine Corps platoon (i.e. Leathernecks) participated in a 30-hour field exercise at Camp Bullis (March 28-29) outside San Antonio, Texas. At the April 18th AF Board meeting, Howard Lowe '44 donated his Navy-related library to the Unit to establish a WWII alumni collection. Also, the Board made a decision to create a UT NROTC Alumni Group on Linked-In to facilitate better networking between staff, students and alumni. Dan O'Neil '80 was instrumental in making that happen.

During the April-May timeframe NROTC won the President's Cup Tri-Service Competition for the second year in a row. A Battalion Awards ceremony was held on May 7th at the UT Business School. There, the Midshipmans Foundation awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to two Midshipmen. After the ceremony, the Battalion held their Change of Command. MDN Cody S. Hoffman '09 was relieved by MDN Christopher M. Olander '11 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended on May 8th. On May 22nd a NROTC commissioning ceremony was held in the Student Union Quad Room. On the following day, a joint commissioning ceremony was held in the Bates Recital Hall. Twelve Ensigns and four 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

COLA Plans for ROTC Changed for the Worse

In the spring of 2009, COLA commissioned an interior design architect and space planner to make recommendations on required renovations and to allocate specific spaces to ROTC offices and functions in the Geography Building. COLA stated that renovation funding was promised by the Provost since all available COLA resources were going towards construction of the new Liberal Arts facility. It was acknowledged at the time that renovation funding would be constrained by reductions in The University endowment and state-mandated budget cuts. Planning was also hampered by the fact that renovations, exceeding \$50,000, would invoke aspects of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) forcing even larger structural renovations requiring a much larger budget. It had become quite obvious, to those of us watching from the outside, that COLA was not planning on ROTC returning to the new COLA Building, as was originally promised. Now they weren't going to use any of their fund-raising resources to properly house the ROTC programs in temporary quarters during construction. Temporary quarters were looking more and more like permanent quarters. The Department of the Navy, and later Department of Defense, which had insisted on a proper campus home for NROTC for nearly 20 years prior to one being built, chose to take a hands-off approach.

Summer 2009

New Marine Regulation "O" Course Planned

On June 20th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 14, (June 2009) Issue 2 was published. The author took over Editor duties with this newest issue. On June 25th former Navy Sweetheart, Farrah Fawcett died. At the July 18th AF Board meeting, in the 1st deck library at RAS, fund-raising and plans got underway for a new USMC-style "O" course (Estimated cost \$20,000). The "O" Course was planned for completion in

spring 2010 at the J. J. Pickle Research Center. Also at the meeting the PNS said plans still called for a move in the summer of 2010 to the Geography Building and the start of demolition of RAS in October 2010. Although COLA's fund-raising efforts to build the new building were starting to fall short, there were no plans to delay the demolition of RAS.

Unit Officer Staff Downsized

Probably in June of 2009 LT Blakistone left without a relief. The Surface Warfare Officer position was not filled. The precise reason was not known. Unit size was above 100. It could have been done in anticipation of lower unit sizes in the future or it could have been done because of the need for junior officers elsewhere, "the needs of the Navy." At the July 18th AF Board meeting at RAS, CAPT Spence reported that plans still called for NROTC to move in summer 2010 to the Geography Building for "temporary" quarters during construction of the new COLA building. Demolition of the old ROTC Building was due to begin October 2010. At the same meeting plans were discussed for the new obstacle course and CAPT Spence's proposal to expand the Birthday Ball to include Navy League, alumni and other Navy and Marine Corps people in the area. The "O" course was expected to cost \$20,000 and be built at the J. J. Pickle Research Center for completion in the spring of 2010. Two commissionings occurred during the summer: July 30th, one 2nd Lieutenant and August 17th, one Ensign. The T List and Sean Fuhrmann '09 provided the names. Freshman Orientation was conducted for UT NROTC August 21-25. There were 28 new freshmen in this class. On August 22nd, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 14, (August 2009) Issue 3 was published. With that issue, the motto "Heritage, Scholarship, Leadership, Camaraderie" was added to the banner but no other dramatic changes were made, just a subtle change of style.

COLA Plans Proceed to House All ROTCs in Old Geography Building

The architect and interior designer conducted a thorough study of ROTC space utilization and mission requirements through the summer of 2009. At the request of the ROTC Commanders, a study of structural changes required in order to optimize the Geography Building (GRG) to the missions and functions currently conducted in each unit was included in this analysis. The study came away with two principle conclusions: 1) Basement renovations to convert the current wet labs to appropriate space for the storage of government equipment and a minimum of rehabilitative work, painting and re-carpeting, on the upper three floors would cost approximately \$850,000. Since this ground floor area of the building was accessible to the disabled, it was hoped that these renovations could take place while not triggering ADA compliance issues for the rest of the building. This work needed to start in the early spring of 2010 to be ready for a planned move of ROTC units in the summer of 2010. 2) A more thorough renovation to optimize the upper three floors including movement of walls to provide a more open office environment for all three ROTC unit executive staffs, conversion of some restroom facilities to provide single or dual shower stalls, and the enlargement of some classroom spaces would cost another \$1.8 million. The length of time required to complete these more extensive renovations required a phased approach with further details to be worked out. Within the two proposed work packages, it was acknowledged by all that the basement conversion was an absolute necessity. The renovation of the upper floors was treated as a design study in case a determination was made the Geography Building (GRG) would be the long-term home of ROTC and resources became available.

As noted, at no time was the on-campus reconstitution of the shooting range contemplated in planning. Proposals were floated by COLA to contract out both the shooting range and deep storage equipment requirements to off-campus facilities. These proposals would significantly increase the logistical burden on the ROTC units.

Academic Year 2010

Statistics:

Number of Students: 91 Midshipmen (Down 8), 8 MECEP and 1 STA for a Battalion of 100 (Dn 10)

Number of Staff: 5 Officers (Down 1), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 8 (5 Navy, 3 Marine) (Down 13)

The *Cactus*, meeting minutes from five AF Board meetings and three alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The 2010 *Cactus* covered the NROTC Unit on only two pages. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 69 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT James M. “Mike” Spence, USN. He relieved CAPT Salazar last spring in February, to become the 25th Professor of Naval Science at UT. Staff changes were only revealed in the alumni meeting minutes and alumni newsletters. Prior to this school year starting, Mike Rossman, a retired Senior Chief, replaced Celeste McKinney as Human Resources Technician. Other changes took place after the spring semester was completed.

Previously it was thought that the three-platoon organization of the Battalion had not started until the fall of 2011, based on evidence in the Unit newsletter. When Maj Lobato provided documentation that this structure started earlier, in the fall of 2009, it changed the assumption of the Battalion organization for the 2010 academic year. The Battalion was organized into three platoons. Battalion Commanders were Christopher M. Olander ’11 (fall) and Matthew C. Mayo ’10 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was close to what it was the previous year, but down about 10%. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Third Platoon</u>
31	31	31

The December 2009 Alumni newsletter said the Buccaneers were planning on Tulane and Colorado drill meets in the spring. Mardi Gras was on February 16th that year, which meant the Buccaneers traveled to New Orleans on February 12th and competed at Tulane on February 13th. The team took 1st place in inspection. Since inspection was typically platoon-sized, the team was probably the same size as last year, twelve members plus the CO. Only four have been tentatively identified, leaving at least nine others.

The Colorado meet was in March/April. It was documented that the pistol team went there to compete, but no documentation to confirm the Buccaneers went.

The Pistol Team competed at Texas A&M (February 6) and took 1st Place. They also went to the University of Colorado for a meet in the March/April timeframe. There was no documentation of who was on the Pistol Team or its Team Captain. There was also no documentation of the composition or activities of that year's Color Guard.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year and no known newsletters have been found yet. So, no documentation has yet been found to show that there was a PAO, Publications Officer or Editor of any sort.

The only documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year was found in searching the UT Recreational Sports website (RecSports).²¹ On that site it was found that NROTC fielded teams in flag football and volleyball in the fall, and basketball and flag football in the spring. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 14-15) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was that Texas won. The Zimmerman Recon Challenge (formerly Iron Man), was held on April 10th in Walter E. Long Park.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 5) at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center (Texas Exes facility), Longhorn Ballroom and the spring formal (Mar/Apr), typically a dining-in. The Birthday Ball was expanded this year to include Navy League and other "sea service" members in the immediate region. ADM James G. Stavridis, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander, United States European Command, was the Guest Speaker at the Birthday Ball. MDN 4/C Michael Lowe, the youngest member of the Battalion, cut the cake with a Navy Officer's sword. The oldest member present, former Marine W. Robert "Bob" Brown '52, then cut the cake using a Marine Corps Officer's sword. Only two Leadership Conferences were documented: The Naval Academy and Notre Dame (both occurred January 25-28). No field trips were documented for the year.

Midshipmans Foundation Reorganized

The fall semester commenced on August 26, 2009. A MF Board meeting was held August 28, 2009 in La Grange, Texas. Partly because of the growing size of the Board, a reorganization took place and the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman were added. J. Weldon Koenig moved from President to Chairman. The first Vice Chairman was W. Robert "Bob" Brown '52, who also retained his position as Chairman of the Gifts Committee. Max K. Miller '57 moved up from Vice President to President. From its original organization of three officers/directors in 2003, the Midshipmans Foundation now had eight officers/directors and four advisory directors.

²¹ Website: www.utrecsports.org.

The 23rd Annual Alumni Reunion began on September 24th with the Navy League dinner. Guest Speaker was RADM John D. Butler (Ret), 1974 graduate of UT and the NUPOC program. WWII alumni had dinner together in the evening at the Courtyard Café at the Doubletree Hotel North Hospitality Suite, their reunion headquarters. The next morning another Navy vs. Marine Corps golf match was held at Star Ranch. That evening the WWII alumni hosted another dinner at the ACC and informal class gatherings were at Scholz Garten. The Class of 1969 celebrated their 40th Anniversary there.

Unit Learned of Its Official Birth Date

On September 26th \$22,000 in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving Battalion members in a ceremony in Robert A. Welch Hall. UT President Bill Powers attended and ceremonially presented Joe Smith '44 with a framed copy of the Unit's Charter letter. John Boswell, who was researching his history of the Army ROTC at UT, dug up the historic letter at the Briscoe Center and presented a copy of it to our Unit. It established the Unit's date for its official birthday as September 11, 1940. President Powers then addressed the assembly and told everyone how pleased he was with this group and the NROTC. After the ceremony Texas played UTEP at 2:30 p.m. in Memorial Stadium and won 64-7. The alumni BBQ was after the game at RAS Hall in the loading dock area.



UT President Bill Powers presented Joe Smith '44 with framed Unit Charter Letter while RADM Weldon Koenig '58 looks on

On November 6th the Distinguished Service award was presented to Judge John Wildenthal '44 at a luncheon at The Hampton in Houston, Texas. The author was present as President of the Alumni Foundation and participated in the presentation. John and I had gotten to know each other, as fellow City of Houston employees, through our participation on the UT NROTC Alumni Association.

ROTC Commanders Object to COLA Developments

On November 10, 2009 all three ROTC programs wrote a joint letter of concern to President Bill Powers. It was signed by the three Professors of Naval and Military Sciences. Their misgivings about the changes in COLA's plans were troublesome. In response to the study, performed in the previous summer, it stated that the long-term effectiveness of ROTC at UT was at risk. The letter noted the COLA-proposed GRG remodeling package would not provide suitable offices, adequate storage, or the full complement of currently available student assembly, drill, shooting range, or heritage areas. It was also noted that the proposed move of ROTC units to GRG violated current space provision agreements between UT and the respective Service Departments. The letter asked the President to hold the ROTC

relocation in abeyance until short and long-term solutions and resources were identified. In response, the President directed the Provost to meet with COLA and ROTC Commanders to discuss a way ahead. COLA wanted to go ahead with demolition of RAS and RRN to take advantage of the contractor already on site building the SAC next door, but COLA did not have enough funds to start construction on a new building, let alone fund any temporary facilities for the three ROTC programs.

Life Sponsorship of Alumni Foundation Created

On November 14th the AF Board met in the 1st deck Library, now the Lowe Library, in RAS Hall. The “O” Course project was on hold while some design and construction issues were being studied. The “Life Sponsorship” donation level was established for the Alumni Foundation as a means of raising seed money for each year’s reunion and for other Unit expenses that were not being budgeted by the Navy. These donations were to be invested with only the interest being used, when necessary, to supplement the Foundation’s annual operating budget.

Alumni Foundation Decided to Go to General Quarters

Lastly, a lengthy discussion, regarding the inadequacy of the alternative facilities proposed by The University and the College of Liberal Arts, was held at that same Board meeting. The future for all three ROTCs on the UT campus was not looking good. I, the author, was President at the time and also, the alumni newsletter Editor. We had become so alarmed by the way events had unfolded that we thought all three ROTCs were truly at risk of being pushed off campus. The three Service Departments had essentially a “hands off” policy so the three ROTC commanders had their hands tied on any activism. It was decided to issue an emergency newsletter asking for a letter-writing and phone-calling campaign to respectfully voice our displeasure with the turn of events.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 26-27. Texas beat A&M 49-39 on Turkey Day! On December 3rd, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 14, (December 2009) Issue 4 was published. It included an article about the beginning of the Buccaneer Drill Team, written by Pat Morgan ’51, their first drill team commander. In December, or perhaps late November, MDN Christopher M. Olander ’11 was relieved by MDN Matthew C. Mayo ’10 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 4th. On December 18th, a commissioning ceremony was held. One Ensign and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The T List provided the names. See the Appendix.

ROTC Commanders Got Some Feedback from COLA

In December of 2009, ROTC Commanders were notified by COLA that funding had not been identified by the Provost for either proposed renovation packages. In addition, difficulty was encountered in finding space for current GRG inhabitants. ROTC Commanders were asked to consider utilizing space for storage in the Anna Hiss Gymnasium (AHG) basement. While significant unused space existed in AHG, it was not a COLA facility and significant renovation would have been required to meet storage security requirements. Final approval for funding and construction of the proposed Liberal Arts building by The University of Texas System Board of Regents was scheduled for May 2010.

Emergency Alumni Newsletter Issued

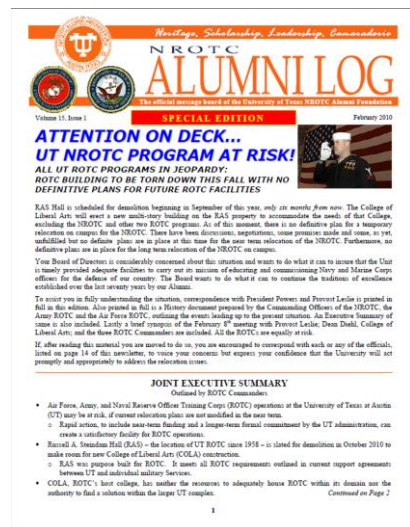
The spring semester commenced on January 19, 2010. On February 18th the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 15, (February 2010) Issue 1 was published. This was an emergency newsletter. By late February 2010 NROTC alumni received this newsletter outlining the problem. COLA now had no funding for the three ROTC programs to renovate temporary quarters during construction. And now their fundraising for construction of the new building was ebbing. They needed \$15 million more for construction. In the meantime, they were going ahead with plans to demolish RAS. Our newsletter gave names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses for key university leaders and decision-makers. We encouraged our alumni to contact them and strongly, but tactfully, get them to hold off on demolition until interim plans could be funded and the temporary housing issue for all three ROTCs solved. Another issue loomed in the background. COLA had essentially convinced the three service commanders that they were going to get a new home in the new building when construction was complete. Otherwise why would they be so cooperative in RAS demolition plans. Now it appeared COLA was going to renege on that agreement. On March 5th, the MF Board met in La Grange.

Spring Break occurred the week of March 15-20. Leathernecks held their spring field exercise (March 27-28). On March 27th CAPT Spence provided a status report to the AF Board, which was meeting in the Lowe Library of RAS Hall. Three major unresolved issues were outstanding: (1) the University had not identified the interim space required by all three ROTC programs, until the COLA building was completed, (2) the need for a Memorandum of Understanding, committing The University to providing adequate training spaces on campus was needed but UT was resisting, and (3) the need to have a replacement for the pistol range. In addition, the three ROTC Commanders strongly recommended that the new COLA building be named for 1stLt Russell A. Steindam. Not only was Russell A. Steindam an Army ROTC student and a recipient of the Medal of Honor, but he was a Liberal Arts major as well.

On March 30th UT President Bill Powers met with the ROTC Commanding Officers to discuss plans and developments. On April 29th the Battalion Spring Awards ceremony was held at the LBJ Library fountain. The Midshipmans Foundation awarded \$3,500 in scholarships to deserving Battalion members. A Battalion Change of Command occurred after the awards ceremony. MDN Matthew C. Mayo '10 was relieved by MDN Lee A. Patterson '11 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. On that same day, another alumni newsletter was issued with an update of the COLA situation.

COLA Update in April Had Good News and Bad News

On April 29th the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 15, (April 2010) Issue 2 was published. In it an update of the COLA building crisis was provided. The alumni website link, www.utnrotcalum.org, was also added to the newsletter banner. A long-term solution acceptable to the Commanding Officers of all the



ROTCs had been proposed by the UT Administration, subject to future developments. CAPT Spence, our PNS, had been advised that negotiations were underway by the UT Administration with an anonymous donor who had expressed willingness to contribute substantial funds to the completion of the new COLA building on condition that the three ROTCs be provided space in the new building which was to be constructed on the site created by the demolition of RAS. The proposed space would be the entire top floor with adequate square footage for all the ROTC programs. The AF Board was hopeful that this development would fully materialize and chose to remain optimistic but vigilant. That was the good news. Of great concern was the lack of any written agreement or documentation from the administration as to what was being discussed or offered. CAPT Spence and the other two ROTC Commanders had furnished the only real written documentation for what they had heard from the Administration, but the Administration had failed to reciprocate. It was feared that once ROTC was moved out of RAS and demolition commenced whatever bargaining leverage they had would be lost.

The bad news was that the date for the move of all ROTCs from RAS Hall had been shortened from September to July of 2010, giving them only three months to prepare. And there was still no definitive plan for the near-term locations of the ROTCs on campus. At a recent meeting with UT Officials, the ROTCs were advised of several possible relocation possibilities on campus and plans were underway to inspect those existing facilities and then perform the necessary work to prepare the designated facilities for occupancy. At the time, though, no facility had been selected and no planning had been done to prepare a selected facility to receive the ROTCs. During the construction of the new COLA building, which could last as long as three years, the three ROTC Units would probably occupy separate interim facilities. There was also no current planning for a replacement for the rifle range being used by all the ROTCs and The University. Also, of concern, but not resolved, was the retention of the name of the building, Russell A. Steindam Hall. It would have been just as fitting a name for the new building as it was for the old one, since Steindam was also a graduate of the College of Liberal Arts.

On May 1st the graduating seniors held a luncheon. The spring semester ended on May 7th. On May 20th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. The following day a joint commissioning ceremony was held in the Bates auditorium. Two Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The T List and a commissioning program provided the names. See the Appendix.

The UT Board of Regents met in late May 2010 and the COLA building was on the agenda. Alumni were confident from our letter-writing campaign and other more personal entreaties that any outstanding issues would be resolved by the time they met. But we encouraged everyone to keep up the campaign and not let up until all avenues had been exhausted. One of the benefits from having gone through this “General Quarters” exercise was better and more timely communications with our alumni. A newsletter takes time to prepare, mail and deliver. We sought better methods. As a result, more emphasis was to be placed on our website.

Obstacle Course Approved

Earlier in the spring CAPT Spence (PNS) and Maj Lobato (MOI) had been meeting with the Marine Corps Executives, a loose affiliation of former-Marines in the Austin business community, who were

interested in helping build an obstacle course for the Unit, to Marine Corps specifications. The PNS and MOI put them in touch with Ms. Kathleen Aronson, head of the COLA Development office to coordinate pledges. \$30,000 would have to be raised to do the project. CAPT Spence then asked the alumni if they would be interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor. He asked that we contact COLA Development directly if we were.²² Whenever obstacle course training had to be done, usually by the Marine option and MECEP students, our Midshipmen and officer candidates had to travel to Texas A&M to use their obstacle course. It was not only somewhat embarrassing to have to use their course but travel expenses were also getting harder to come by.

Naturally, the Marines were the most enthusiastic about this project and Maj Lobato took the lead in getting the project done. Almost immediately upon hearing of this opportunity the alumni enthusiastically joined the campaign to raise funds and started a conversation on who the course should be named for. An email from Maj Lobato, dated May 21, 2010, stated that the course proposal had been 100% approved by Grant Barger, COLA. He had met with a civilian engineer, two days prior, who certified the construction plans. He anticipated plans being sealed by the engineer the following Tuesday. An Army engineer battalion took another couple of days to see if the materials list was in synch with the plans, then orders were placed for those materials. Lastly, he said that donations and pledges were doing great. One third of the \$30,000 had already been pledged or collected.

It was indeed strange that COLA worked so cooperatively and enthusiastically with the Unit on this project while acting somewhat more mysteriously with our offices and classrooms on campus. COLA put up the seed money to build the course and the collected donations went to reimburse them for that. The project also involved a commitment from the Unit for a share of the annual maintenance of the course. The site of the course was in the southwest corner of the J. J. Pickle Research Center, several miles northwest of the main campus. It was a 340-foot course built to Marine Corps standards. When talk of a dedication plaque with donors' names came up, COLA wasn't quite as enthusiastic. The decision for that was kicked upstairs to President Bill Powers. Plans went forward anyway with design of a dedication plaque and ceremony for the reunion weekend in 2011.

Summer 2010

Complete Change of Uniformed Staff

On June 1st CDR Vernon E. "Butch" Neuenschwander reported aboard to relieve CDR Hogsten as XO. Also at the end of the spring semester, Capt Ty Kopke reported aboard to relieve Maj Labato as MOI. This was just the beginning of an unique occurrence. During the summer of 2010 the NROTC went through a complete change of uniformed staff. It was unusual for so much of the staff to rotate at the same time. It is likely that LT Greg Lozeau reported aboard during the summer of 2010 to relieve LT Rasmussen as the Aviation Officer and that LT Christian Rivera reported aboard similarly to relieve LT Sack as the Submarine/Nuclear Officer. Also, it is more certain that GySgt Jason Roush reported

²² Email from CAPT Spence to alumni alerting them to this opportunity, sometime prior to May 2010

aboard during the summer of 2010 to relieve the AMOI, GySgt Kiernan. Before the summer ended, the Commanding Officer position would change hands, too.

Summer Status Report from the PNS

On June 12th the AF Board met in the Lowe Library on the 1st deck of RAS Hall. At that Board meeting CAPT Spence reported several developments. UT was committed to providing 20,000 square feet of space for all ROTC (8,500 for NROTC) at the new building yet nothing was in writing yet. The George I. Sanchez building (SZB) was identified as providing temporary facilities for the Army and Navy ROTC programs. The Air Force would be housed in a part of Memorial Stadium, referred to as Belmont Hall. Then current SZB facilities provided 6,500 square feet for Navy alone. There were no plans to replace the rifle/pistol range. CAPT Spence said these spaces were sufficient. Separate from this issue, COLA spent \$31,000 to construct the “O” course at J. J. Pickle Center. It expected to be reimbursed from donations that were being solicited. Work began on July 7th.

On June 28th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. Two Ensigns were commissioned. The T List, a commissioning program and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix.

NROTC Moved to Temporary Facilities

While the nation was celebrating its 234th Birthday, the NROTC was moving into its new home, for the duration of construction of the new COLA building. The move was completed by July 6th. This facility was the George I. Sanchez building (SZB). SZB was right on MLK Blvd between the old path of Speedway (east) and an alley, formerly named Wichita Street (west). That last name may sound familiar to some of our alumni since it was the street on which the first Crow’s Nest was located. In fact, the original Crow’s Nest and SZB were in the same 1900 block of Wichita. Navy spaces were on the 5th deck toward the north end of the building. By July 12th CAPT Spence reported that all NROTC spaces in SZB were operational. On or near July 31st the NROTC spaces in RAS Hall were fully vacated. The MF Board met on August 13th in La Grange.

Unit Received M-16 Rifles

On August 19, 2010 CAPT Daniel N. “Dan” Dixon, USN relieved CAPT Spence as CO of the Unit. On August 20th, Freshman Orientation commenced for UT NROTC on the grounds outside their new home in the George I. Sanchez building. There were 17 new freshmen in this class (5 MECEP, 4 nurses and 8 Navy Midshipmen). After the swearing in, the new Battalion members and their parents in attendance were treated to a BBQ. A story about it appeared, in the brand-new Battalion newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor* (pages 8-9), which debuted in February of 2011. It also pictured freshman training with M-16 rifles. They must have received them sometime during the summer because no one had any knowledge of them being there prior to this time.

The new Executive Officer, CDR Neuenschwander, reported aboard amidst all the turmoil of the move. He very quickly came up to speed and helped guide the move from RAS to the George I. Sanchez building (SZB). The Navy would be in this building during construction of the new COLA building. The

spaces were nicely remodeled for the program's interim needs. The move was completed in time for the start of classes in fall of 2010. At the August 21st meeting of the AF Board in SZB, CDR Neuenschwander provided a status report. Battalion strength was approximately 85. No plans were yet in place for a replacement rifle/pistol range. The Unit was using a local law enforcement facility and that was working well. COLA was reimbursed for the cost of "O" course construction, \$31,000. Excess donations were applied to ongoing maintenance for the course. Re-naming of new COLA Building issue was not yet resolved. ENS Rebecca C. "Becca" White, a "stashed" commissionee, was working on a history of the Unit. COLA was okay with the NROTC Unit naming the "O" course after whomever they wanted. Initial nominated names were listed in the minutes.

Academic Year 2011

Statistics:

Number of Students: 78 Midshipmen (Down 13), 5 MECEP and 2 STA for a Battalion of 85 (Dn 15)

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

Number of Commissionees: 24 (14 Navy, 10 Marine) (Up 16)

Three issues of the new *Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (2/7/2011, 5/18/2011 and 8/26/2011), meeting minutes from four AF Board meetings and four alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The new Unit newsletter was published electronically (pdf format) and provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT Daniel N. "Dan" Dixon, USN

There were now 70 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT Daniel N. "Dan" Dixon, USN. CAPT Dixon, a native of Maryland, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1983. After that, he earned an MS in Physics at UT Austin in 1984. He chose a career path in aviation and earned his wings in 1986. He flew the F/A-18. He made two WestPac deployments then a flight instructor tour in the U.K. and a tour as a test pilot with the Air Force at Nellis AFB. He made two more WestPac deployments after that as a department head. He then served as an instructor at the Navy's Top Gun before deploying again for his XO and CO tours with VFA-25 aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72). He returned to Top Gun again for a department head tour. He deployed again as Air Wing Commander and CAG aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) and finished with a tour in the Office of SECDEF before coming to Texas (again). On



Daniel N. "Dan" Dixon

August 19, 2010 he relieved CAPT Spence, to become the 26th Professor of Naval Science at The University of Texas.

Staff changes were only revealed in the AF Board meeting minutes and alumni newsletters. Also, when the new Unit newsletter came online in February 2011, some staffing changes were deduced from information contained in those issues. Mike Rossman left after the fall semester and was replaced by Ricky Sands as the new Human Resources Technician.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and 3rd. One of the numbered platoons was referred to as the Navy Platoon.²³ The other numbered platoon was primarily made up of 4th Class Midshipmen and provided most all of the members for the Buccaneer drill team. Battalion Commanders were Lee A. Patterson '11 (fall) and Jason A. Tucker '11 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was down from the previous year. This was probably one of the contributing factors in keeping the Battalion organized into just three platoons. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Third Platoon</u>
27	27	27

The March 2011 Alumni newsletter didn't mention Buccaneers going to Tulane but the PNS talked about the plans in the spring for the Beale Street drill meet in Memphis. Mardi Gras was on March 8th that year which meant that the Buccaneers traveled to New Orleans on March 4th and competed at Tulane on March 5th, if they went. The 4th Annual Beale Street drill meet was held in Memphis,



Buccaneer Drill Team at Beale Street Drill Meet in Memphis
Photo from May 2011 *Spur and Anchor*, page 4

Tennessee, on April 2nd. The trip to Tennessee was confirmed in the May 2011 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter. The drill team competed in inspection, squad drill and tandem exhibition drill. The photograph only showed four of the squad members being inspected, including one female, although it probably cropped out at least 3-4 more members. Only two members were mentioned by name. A squad would have typically been about six members, plus their commander. The uniforms were summer khaki, with garrison cap, and it looked like M-1 rifles were used, with drab olive-colored slings. The drill team was not referred to as "Buccaneers" and they made the trip with the Color Guard and

²³ 5/18/2011 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter, Page 8.

Endurance Team, who also competed, 17 total in the group. If the E Team had four members and the Color Guard had five members, that would have left a drill team of eight.

The Pistol Team also competed at the Beale Street meet. The May 2011 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter did not mention any names for the Pistol Team or Color Guard. A photograph of the Color Guard at the Birthday Ball in October (February 2011 *Spur and Anchor*) showed a Color Guard of five members. All looked like males but flags obscured a more accurate accounting. The May newsletter also said the Color Guard presented colors at the Spurs vs. Lakers basketball game in San Antonio. A game between those two teams was played in San Antonio on March 6th of that year.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year, but the Battalion did start a new Unit newsletter, *The Spurs and Anchor*. Its first issue was February 7, 2011 and we have managed to save a copy all issues since then. Unfortunately, it did not provide any documentation on Battalion staff positions, such as PAO, Publications Officer or Editor of any sort. This Unit newsletter did not even provide credits for who produced the newsletter itself.

The only documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year was found in searching the RecSports website. On that site, it was found that NROTC fielded teams in flag football in the fall, and basketball in the spring. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (September 29-October 1) was made. The game ball, that the Unit ran to Dallas, was given to them by Coach Mack Brown at the torchlight parade rally Tuesday night before OU weekend, in front of the UT Tower. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units on Friday was that OU snapped Texas' 8-game winning streak. Neither the Zimmerman Recon Challenge nor its forerunner, the Iron Man competition, was documented anywhere for the year. Scanning ahead it looked like there were no more occurrences of either of these events. Peter W. Thayer '16 confirmed this for years 2013 through 2016. The new obstacle course, built to Marine Corps specifications, was completed and opened for use at the beginning of the year.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 29) in the Texas Union Ballroom and the spring formal (Apr/May). Guest Speaker at the Birthday Ball was RADM Weldon Koenig '58. MDN 4/C Meyers, who was only 17 at the time, and the oldest service member present, former U.S. Marine Mr. Bob Brown, born in 1929, were served the first two pieces of cake. There was also a Mess Night for juniors and seniors (April 29). Leadership Conferences were expanded to four this year: The Naval Academy (January 30-February 2), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT in February, the Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA 56) at Texas A&M also in February and Notre Dame (February 24-27). Three field trips were documented for the year: a visit to the Navy/Marine Advanced Jet Training squadron at NAS Kingsville, a visit to the DoD-funded underwater acoustic research facilities at the Applied Research Laboratory in the J. J. Pickle Research Center in Austin, and a trip to Lockheed Martin Aeronautics facility in Ft. Worth, Texas (April 8). Dates for the first two field trips were not documented.

Russell A. Steindam Hall is Decommissioned



UT President Bill Powers and John Boswell remove the RAS Dedication Plaque from the R.O.T.C. Building

temporary quarters for the anticipated two-year duration of demolition and construction of a new building for the College of Liberal Arts, hopefully including all three ROTC programs, as promised.

The fall semester commenced on August 25, 2010. On a bright sunny day, August 27, 2010, beneath the shade of the trees lining the East Mall, a crowd of guests, university officials and members of all three ROTC programs on the UT campus gathered for a solemn occasion: the decommissioning of the building that had served, for over 50 years, as the home of UT ROTC, Russell A. Steindam Hall (RAS). The ceremony was held at 1000 in front of RAS within the construction barriers that had already been erected around the building. Both the ROTC Building and the Rifle/Pistol Range had been vacated in July and all three programs were now in their

The decommissioning ceremony lasted an hour or so but was full of touching moments. The guest speaker, Mr. John Boswell, gave a speech that traced the history of just how ROTC got onto the UT campus in the first place. It was quite entertaining and strange at the same time. After two abortive attempts by the Army, the Navy finally got approval in 1940 to stand up an ROTC unit. 2010 marked the 70th anniversary of that event. Mr. Boswell was a contemporary of Russell A. Steindam and knew him when they were both in the Army ROTC during the late 60s. It was especially poignant when he pointed to a spot on the East Mall just behind us where he had last seen and heard the newly commissioned 2ndLt Steindam. Steindam told them to “beat the Aggies.” After the address, Mr. Boswell and President Bill Powers removed the dedication plaque that officially changed the name of the building from the ROTC Building to Russell A. Steindam Hall on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 1972. This was the author’s first contact with John Boswell.

Members of all three ROTC units were in formation during the ceremony and the Navy definitely stood out in their whites. The other two services elected to wear cammies. It was fitting, though, that the Navy ROTC should stand out. They were given the honor of retiring the colors one last time. Members of the Battalion slowly lowered the flag and carefully folded it for the closing act of the



NROTC Color Guard Lowers the Colors One Last Time on RAS

ceremony. The colors were presented to the Senior Associate Dean of COLA, Dr. Richard R. Flores, PhD, who represented Dean Diehl, who was unable to attend. The RAS bronze dedication plaque was removed from the front of the building and placed on an easel along with other memorabilia that the Army put together to give the attendees a taste of the building's history. After the ceremony, guests were invited to view the pictures and plaque and have a few refreshments before departing.

Many already knew the name of the generous donor who enabled the three ROTC programs to stay on campus and have nicer facilities prepared for them to move into two years hence. The University had a suitable recognition for him planned in the fall. I don't know how close we really came to being squeezed off campus. It was spooky just thinking about it. I'm glad and grateful to all those who stepped forward and helped ensure our continued presence on the UT campus.

A Navy Alumnus Saved the Day

Over the next few weeks we came to find out that the anonymous donor was James J. "Jim" Mulva, a 1968 graduate of UT, commissioned through the UT NROTC as an Ensign in the Navy, the same year Russell A. Steindam received his commission through the UT Army ROTC. At the time of his donation, Jim was Chairman and CEO of Conoco-Phillips. It turned out that his secretary saw our emergency newsletter when it arrived and brought it to Jim's attention right away. Jim then apparently picked up the phone and called UT President Bill Powers to get briefed on the status and any developments. Jim pledged the \$15 million that COLA needed to finish construction but he wanted assurances that all three ROTC programs went back into the new building. UT took him up on his offer and plans moved along a little smoother after that. As an aside, during this period Jim found out that he and Bill Powers had more in common. It turned out that Bill was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy, too, after graduating from UC Berkeley. He and Jim were stationed near Bahrain at about the same time, although they didn't know each other at the time.



Jim Mulva '68

Unit's 70th Anniversary

On September 11th the Unit celebrated its 70th Anniversary. On September 14th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 15, (September 2010) Issue 3 was published and CAPT Spence became an Advisory Director for the Midshipmans Foundation. The new COLA building was expected to be open in January 2013. A KIA Plaque project was begun at the behest of our WWII alumni four years ago. Fred Moon '70 took the conn on this project and, as of that time, had identified five WWII and one Vietnam alumni who were killed in action. Two more KIA would be found before the project was "complete."

Demolition of RAS Began

In October and November, short "Breaking News" bulletins were mailed out, mostly about changes in the reunion schedule. The website was relied upon more for these late changes in the future. Demolition of RAS began on November 1st and proceeded, even during our 24th Annual Alumni Reunion. Bricks

were saved from the old building and raffled off to raise money for scholarships. In addition to the 1972 RAS bronze dedication plaque, other items were salvaged as well, including a part of the original dedication plaque. The anchor from the *USS Randolph* was temporarily stored during demolition and construction. One early commissioning was held in the Eastwood Room of the Texas Union also on November 1st. One 2nd Lieutenant was commissioned.

VADM Bill McRaven Attended 70th Anniversary Reunion

On November 12th the 24th Annual Alumni Reunion began with the Navy-Marine Corps golf match at Star Ranch. No Thursday night Navy League dinner was held. The Alumni Foundation again refocused on getting better in-synch with UT's Veterans Day celebrations, which were during a home game nearest November 11th. VADM Bill McRaven '77 came to the Reunion that year. He played in the golf match with the author, Dan O'Neil '80 and Ray Adams '80. Bill said he never expected to be promoted above CAPT since there were only two of them in the SEALs at the time, one East coast and one West coast. 9/11 changed all that. The author was McRaven's Company Commander in 1974 and his Battalion Commander in 1975. He said he remembered me but I did not remember him. Back then there was no alumni group to provide that type of networking and camaraderie. Ray Adams '80, who was two years junior to McRaven, formed a friendship with Bill that lasted over the years, because both belonged to the Crow's Nest. The Marines won the golf match that year by one stroke. VADM McRaven talked to the Midshipmen at SZB during the afternoon. The awards dinner at ACC in the evening had two WWII vets, Howard Lowe '44 and Joe Smith '44, in attendance, as well as VADM McRaven. Four alumni were honored, CAPT Jack F. Ritter (Ret) '55 as Distinguished Alumnus and Robert L. Gartner '65 for Distinguished Service. Two more Distinguished Alumnus awards were given, posthumously, to the attending families of Keys A. Curry '58 and Wayne E. Miers '65. The Class of 1970 gathered at Scholz' Garten to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Midshipmans Foundation Endowment Reached \$1 Million

On November 13th a new Howard Lowe/WWII Library was dedicated in the Sanchez building spaces. Howard and his family were in attendance. In the AF Board meeting that morning Michael L. "Mike" Waldron '67 was elected 13th President of the Alumni Foundation and Bob Collins said he was looking for someone to take over webmaster duties. The General Business meeting and awards ceremony were held down Speedway in the Robert A. Welch Hall auditorium. UT President Bill Powers spoke to the alumni assembled and thanked them again for their help in moving the COLA building along. \$26,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion. CAPT Dixon briefed the alumni on the Unit's activities. VADM McRaven helped pin warfare specialty pins on Midshipmen. The MF endowment reached the \$1 million mark, probably during the reunion, but dipped back below that number by the end of the year. VADM McRaven spoke to the assembly before it disbanded. The alumni BBQ that year was on Speedway, near the East Mall, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Bricks from the old ROTC Building were auctioned off for donations. The author secured one as a memento because his wife won the bid on one of them. Texas played OSU that evening. VADM McRaven participated in the coin toss and was there with his wife, Georgeann.

“O” Course Named for 1stLt James A. Burns, USMC, ’68

President Powers approved naming of the new obstacle course after 1st Lt. James A. Burns ’68. There were many worthy names submitted but Burns’ sacrifice as one of the Unit’s KIA was very compelling in the selection. A dedication was to be scheduled after the course construction was completed.

All New Commissions Were Now Reserve Commissions

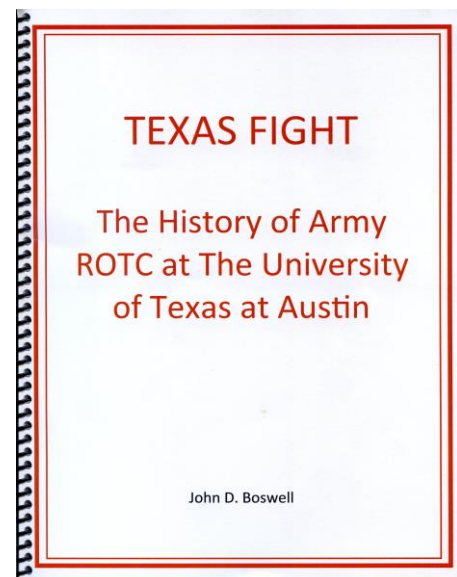
During the General Business meeting of the reunion, CAPT Dixon reported that all new graduating seniors were now placed in an inactive reserve status until they reported to their first duty station. Augmentation to a regular commission would have to be sought by officers after their initial four-year obligation. Even the Naval Academy made this change. He also reported that the first alumni-sponsored breakfast for Midshipmen was held and was quite successful. He encouraged its continuance. These were a one-hour get-together with juniors and seniors and volunteer alumni. Over breakfast tacos and other breakfast fare, the alumni brought a short sea story to share and they answered questions that students had about what they might expect as Navy and Marine Corps officers.

Thanksgiving holidays were November 25-26 and Texas actually played A&M on Turkey Day again. In December, or perhaps late November, MDN Lee A. Patterson ’11 was relieved by MDN Jason A. Tucker ’11 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 3rd. On December 17th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. One Ensign and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. Three more Fall commissionings were held on January 29th, one 2nd Lieutenant, and March 25th, two more 2nd Lieutenants. The latter ceremony was held in the Texas Union Theater. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix.

New Book About Army ROTC at UT Published

On December 19th John Boswell, who was the speaker at the RAS decommissioning, contacted the author and told him that he had written a book *Texas Fight, The History of Army ROTC at the University of Texas at Austin*. He wanted to publicize it with our NROTC alumni since it contained a lot of information about our own unit, predating the arrival of the Army on the UT campus. By Christmas, the author, also the new (and still learning) webmaster, posted the information he gathered about John’s new book on the alumni website. The look and main title of John’s work would be used by the author of this work, at John’s request. John wanted an Air Force friend of his to write a history about the Air Force ROTC at UT to complete the “set.”

The spring semester commenced on January 18, 2011. Several spring events were covered in the Battalion newsletter and elsewhere but no dates were given. Among these were that Navy won the Tri-Service UT President’s Cup competition; the Navy platoon won the Captain’s Cup



UT Army ROTC History by John Boswell

challenge; RADM Garry J. Bonelli, Deputy Commander of the Naval Special Warfare Community, came to speak to the Midshipmen; and Major Jeff Broaddus, who commissioned into the Marine Corps in 1999, shared his experiences in the military and how it transferred over to his civilian career.

Groundbreaking for New Liberal Arts Building

On a chilly Thursday morning, February 3, 2011, Midshipmen, cadets, longhorn band members, faculty, university officials and a very distinguished guest and fellow alumnus, gathered together in a large tent at the site of the new College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Building for a groundbreaking ceremony. This new building was being built on the site of the old ROTC Building, known since the seventies as Russell A. Steindam Hall. Speeches were made, music was played, songs were sung, shovels were thrust and the



(L to R) CAPT Dixon, Col Bowman, President Powers, Jim Mulva, Miriam Mulva, Dean Diehl and LtCol Robinson

earth was turned for this time-honored tradition in the life of every new building. It was indeed a festive occasion. Finally, a dream come true for the largest college on The University of Texas at Austin campus: a building of their own. A model and architect's rendering of the new six-story building was also on display for attendees to visualize how it would look when it took its place on the landscape of the East Mall. When it was completed in 2013, at a cost of just under \$100 million, the new building became the new home of all three ROTC programs, all on the top floor, naturally. These three programs had given up a building they inhabited, nearly exclusively, for over 50 years. It was fitting that they should be on the top floor.

The distinguished guests were James and Miriam Mulva. Their generous gift made the new building a reality. The occasion was used to honor them for that gift and their continued dedication to The University of Texas. After the groundbreaking event was completed, attendees were invited to a reception next door in the new sister building to the COLA building, the Student Activity Center (SAC). It was built on our old parking lot and had a nice view of the new COLA site. Tours were given of that new facility which gave the guests a feel for how the new COLA/ROTC building would be similarly equipped and appointed. Among the primary participants there to honor Jim and Miriam Mulva were CAPT Dan Dixon, Professor of Naval Science; Dr. Randy L. Diehl, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Bill Powers, President of UT; Col Chris Bowman (Air Force CO); and LtCol Boris Robinson (Army CO).

Spur & Anchor, the Unit Newsletter, Debuted

The MF and AF Boards met on February 3rd and 4th, respectively, both in their typical meeting location. On February 7, 2011 the first issue of *Spur & Anchor* was distributed. For the first three years it had been alternately called *Spurs & Anchor* and *Spur & Anchor*. Like its predecessors, it publicized news about the Unit and Battalion during different parts of the year. Several issues were published each year. Some issues were used to publicize commissionings and highlight the commissionees. At this writing, it was the current newsletter of the Battalion. It replaced the *Naval Orange*.

On February 26th Battalion members participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association walk and Fire truck pull at Barton Springs Square Mall. Battalion members took 1st place in the fire truck pull. \$25,000 was raised in all. On March 5th the Explore UT event was held to show young people a thing or two about UT. Usually the NROTC members hosted the rock-climbing wall booth, which was very popular. Spring Break occurred the week of March 14-19. March 18-20 Battalion members participated in a fundraiser at Car2Go. They raised \$10,000 in one weekend to help produce accessible smart cars. On March 25th, two 2ndLts were commissioned in the Texas Union Building Theater. On March 30th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 16, (March 2011) Issue 1 was published. On April 26th, a Spring Awards ceremony was held on the LBJ Library lawn. The Midshipmans Foundation awarded \$6,000 in scholarships to deserving Battalion members. Two days later a Battalion Change of Command was conducted. MDN Jason A. Tucker '11 was relieved by MDN John B. Goodrich '12 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. On April 30th, the NJROTC Roundup was held. 143 NJROTC students from five schools around Austin attended.

Osama bin Laden Killed

On May 2, 2011, just prior to the spring semester ending, Joint Special Operations Command launched and carried out a raid on an Al-Qaeda stronghold in Pakistan, where it was thought the head of that group, Osama bin Laden, was hiding. Al-Qaeda was responsible for the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. nearly ten years prior to this. The raid resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden.

The spring semester ended on May 6th. On May 18th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Texas Union Theater. The next day a joint ceremony was held in the Bates Recital Hall. Twelve Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. Two Battalion members being commissioned were on the Dean's Distinguished Graduates list of only 12 students in that category: Stephen Mercer and Nubia Betancourt. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the complete list of names. See the Appendix.



Cover of New Battalion Newsletter

Also on May 18th, the second issue of the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter was published with several events written about for the spring semester for which no dates were given. Several have already been mentioned. Another was the Texas A&M endurance challenge, in which our Endurance Team competed. The Endurance Team also competed in the Piney Trails Run in Houston (10 miles). Four Midshipman were on the “E Team.” MDN 4/C Barone won 1st Place in his age group and 2nd Place overall. MDN 1/C Tucker won 2nd Place in his age group and 4th Place overall.

At the May 21st AF Board meeting CAPT Dixon further explained what he first mentioned at the reunion. He reported that, for the first time, some graduates will be placed on IRR (Individual Ready Reserve), pending assignment. The policy was established in April 2010 and began with commissionings in December 2010. Time spent in IRR didn't exceed twelve months and didn't impact future rank or promotions.

Summer 2011

Alumni Webmaster Changed

In July 2011 Bob Collins, due to teaching obligations (*i.e.* he was still working), gave the webmaster duties to Ed Mergele, your author. I had already been given access and was learning how to manage it, for the past few months. Since I was already the newsletter Editor it made good sense for the same person to be putting together information for both venues. Bob Collins and John Hitchcock '65 were very helpful in helping me get up to speed, since I had never hosted a website before. But I had a strong desire to learn. Front Page was the software that was being used to manage the site, but it was aging and its last version was in 2003. I thought something might have to be done about that at some point. In the meantime, I dove in and learned how to edit webpages and post them to the site. The site was being managed through Pow-Web and the domain was kept current through DreamHost. So I got plugged into those two internet companies and on I went.

Obstacle Course Finished

By July of 2011 the Obstacle Course at the J. J. Pickle facility was nearly finished. A few weeks prior to that, President Powers had been pushed to make a decision on the dedication monument. The Unit and alumni assured him that we would maintain it and move it, if the “O” course was ever forced to move to a new location. They agreed and approved the limestone monument with dedication plaque. A dedication ceremony had been planned for the upcoming reunion weekend. By this time, the name for the course had been decided, 1stLt James A. Burns, a 1968 graduate. He had been killed in action in Viet Nam and so seemed to be the most fitting person for whom to name the course. Those alumni from the Class of 1968, organized by Bob Collins, had previously worked with Burns' sister, Judy Enstone, on creating and funding a scholarship, named for Burns and his classmates, that would be awarded each year in perpetuity. So it was natural for Bob to take the lead in organizing the ceremony to be held in the fall. On July 26th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 16, (July 2011) Issue 2 was published. From a story in it, eleven UT Midshipmen were on CORTRAMID (Summer cruise), which involved one week each of surface warfare, submarines, aviation and Marine Corps. The MF Board met on August 5th in La Grange.

LCDR Jonas B. Kelsall – Killed in Action

LCDR Kelsall, Class of 2001, was killed in Afghanistan on August 6, 2011, along with 24 other SEAL Team members and twelve other crew members and passengers, in a CH-47 *Chinook* helicopter shootdown. Jonas was a Navy SEAL troop commander. He was the 7th KIA (Killed-in-Action) to have been connected with the NROTC program at The University of Texas.



LCDR Jonas Benton Kelsall

First 4-Star Flag Officer Selected

On August 8, 2011 William Harry “Bill” McRaven ’77 relieved ADM Eric Olson as Commander, Special Operations Command (SOCOM), MacDill AFB, Florida and donned his fourth star. He was the first UT NROTC alumnus to achieve that rank. Bill was also a Navy SEAL and it’s eerie that he should have achieved that milestone just two days after his fellow alumnus and Navy SEAL, Jonas Kelsall, was killed in action.

2ndLt Luca Simone ’11 Appointed AMOI

In August GySgt Roush (AMOI) departed without a relief. One wasn’t expected until spring of 2012. Luca Simone had been a MECEP GySgt who was commissioned August 19th. Since he was available, awaiting orders for TBS, which wouldn’t start until March 2012, he took over the AMOI job for the upcoming fall semester, at the request of the MOI, Maj Ty Kopke. This was probably the first and only time the AMOI slot was filled by an officer.

On August 15th, a commissioning ceremony was held. One Ensign was commissioned. On August 19th, another commissioning ceremony was held. One 2nd Lieutenant was commissioned, Luca Simone. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix. Freshman Orientation for UT NROTC was conducted August 16-20. Twenty-nine new freshmen were welcomed, although 40 were expected.

Academic Year 2012

Statistics:

Number of Students: 60 Midshipmen (Down 18), 8 MECEP and 5 STA for a Battalion of 73 (Dn 12)
Number of Staff: 5 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (No change)
Number of Commissionees: 8 (6 Navy, 2 Marine) (Down 16)

Three issues of *The Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (12/16/2011, 5/18/2012 and 8/30/2012), meeting minutes from four AF Board meetings and three alumni newsletters were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The Unit newsletter provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were now 71 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Daniel N. “Dan” Dixon, USN. The new Unit newsletter, along with AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters, provided some useful information on staff changes. GySgt Damian Reed reported aboard during the Christmas break in order to relieve 2ndLt Luca Simone as AMOI for the spring.

Leatherneck Platoon Named

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck. Leatherneck Platoon was no longer an ad hoc platoon. Battalion Commanders were John B. Goodrich ’12 (fall) and Brandon C. Strain ’12 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was down from the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Leatherneck Platoon</u>
23	23	23

In the February 2012 alumni newsletter, the PNS mentioned plans for the Tulane drill meet. Mardi Gras was February 21st that year, which meant that the drill team and Color Guard traveled on February 17th to New Orleans and competed at Tulane on February 18th. Participation in the Tulane meet was confirmed in the May 2012 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter. MDN 2/C Daniel V. Culpepper was the commander and he referred to them as Buccaneers. The photographs showed a Color Guard of five; a squad of seven, plus the female Commander, probably MDN 4/C Callista Annelora; a platoon with male Commander (Culpepper) and male Guidon. The



Buccaneer Drill Team at Tulane Drill Meet in New Orleans
 Photo from May 2012 *Spur and Anchor*, page 8

The platoon looked like 15 members, plus the CO and Guidon. Only five members have been tentatively identified, leaving twelve. Culpepper said in 2013 that the team was all 4/C Midshipmen. Uniforms were service dress blue, and from photos in the May 2012 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter (page 8), M-1 rifles were probably used. They were probably put in storage shortly after this appearance. Peter Thayer ’16 said all drill was with M-16s while he was there and he did not remember any M-1s (or Springfields) being in the armory. The team competed in platoon drill, squad drill, platoon inspection and individual exhibition drill. GySgt Reed, the AMOI, was the team coach. The Fifth Annual Beale Street drill meet was April

12-13, 2012 in Memphis, Tennessee. Since it was not mentioned in that same May 2012 newsletter, it was assumed that the drill team did not go that year.

There was no documentation of composition or activities of the pistol or rifle teams for this year and the absence of a firing range, which was torn down the previous year, may have had something to do with that. The Color Guard traveled to Highland Park Baptist Church (October 27) and taught Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts how to present the colors. As stated previously, they also competed in the Tulane Meet. No names have been identified yet for the Color Guard that year, but it was assumed that it had five members like the previous year.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year, but the Battalion was publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*, at least twice per year (*i.e.* each semester). Sometimes it was one spur and sometimes it was two spurs. This year a PAO was mentioned and given credit for the newsletters, MDN 2/C Carley M. Tadlock.

Run to Dallas – 30th Anniversary

The only documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year was found in searching the RecSports website. On that site it was found that NROTC fielded teams in flag football in the fall, and softball in the spring. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 5-7) was made. It was the 30th year to participate in that tradition. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was not known. The Longhorn Network crew went along and filmed events. At the August 2011 meeting of the AF Board, the PNS reported that the Battalion expressed a desire to resurrect the Sailing Program. It was proposed that the alumni support the program. A boat would cost \$15,000 and annual operations and maintenance costs would amount to \$5,000. Scanning ahead it looked like this effort to revive the Sailing Program never got any further attention. Peter W. Thayer '16 confirmed this for years 2013 through 2016.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 11) in the Carpenter-Winkel Centennial Room at Memorial Stadium and the spring formal (Apr/May). There was also a Mess Night for juniors and seniors (April 29). Four Leadership Conferences were attended this year: The Naval Academy (January 29-February 1), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 23-26), SCONA 57 at Texas A&M at the end of February and Notre Dame (February 23-26). One field trip was documented for the year: members of Leatherneck Platoon went to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio (September 23) to visit wounded warriors and the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Detachment there. No other field trips were documented for the year.

The fall semester commenced on August 24, 2011. On August 26th, *The Spurs and Anchor*, Volume 2, Issue 1, was published. On August 27th the AF Board met in the Navy spaces on the 5th deck of the Sanchez building. At the meeting the author told members that he had taken over webmaster duties from Bob Collins during the summer and was quickly getting acquainted with how it operated. CAPT Dixon reported that UT's Building Committee VP for Operations was not allowing a permanent memorial for the obstacle course. Gabe Salazar and Max Miller said they would talk with the Provost

about the memorial for the “O” course. The memorial did get built. On September 22nd, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 16, (September 2011) Issue 3 was published.

U.S. 2nd Fleet Deactivated

Second Fleet was established in February 1950. The Cold War with the U.S.S.R. had been heating up since the end of World War II, necessitating that move. On September 30, 2011, Second Fleet was deactivated in view of the United States Government’s perception that the potential military threat posed by Russia had diminished.²⁴ This fleet covered the western Atlantic and our Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The author’s first assignment as an Ensign was to the flagship of this fleet, USS Albany (CG-10) at the time. It was homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.

A Tale of Two Buddies

Clay Fulcher kept in touch with his old buddy, Alan Bean, and gave one of his sons, Joe, the middle name “Alan” in honor of him. In October of 2011, Clay’s wife, Ann, called Alan to tell him that Clay was in an ICU in Temple, Texas, and was not expected to win his battle with cancer. Alan dropped everything and drove there. Alan spent two days with him before Clay died on October 19th. Alan Bean spoke at Clay’s funeral, noting that Clay was the finest person he had ever known. Alan also had a son, who bore the name “Clay.”

Time Capsule Opened

On October 14th the Midshipmans Foundation hosted another wardroom breakfast for seniors and juniors. On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, the ROTC and UT Veteran’s Committee gathered at the UT Club located within the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium to crack open a 4” x 12” x 18” copper box which had been recovered from a wall cavity of the old ROTC Building when it was demolished last fall. No one knew what was in it but all suspected that it was a 54-year-old undocumented time capsule. “World War II



Frank Denius, UT Alumnus and WWII Veteran, Shows One of the Treasures from the Time Capsule

veteran and UT alumnus Frank Denius removed the time capsule’s lid to reveal a treasure trove of important historical documents. Among the books and papers was a 1957 senior ROTC manual personally endorsed by former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and biographical information on

²⁴ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Second_Fleet



The Opened Copper-Clad Time Capsule

the Professors of Naval Science from 1940 to 1957. The book included rare photographs and a letter from the 1954 Board of Regents approving the construction of a new purpose-built ROTC building.”²⁵ Our Unit’s Executive Officer, CDR Butch Neuenschwander, and Professor of Naval Science, CAPT Dan Dixon, were present at the opening, along with the Professors of Military Science, LtCol Joseph Kopser, and Air Force Science, Col Jeffrey Staha.

The UT President’s Cup Tri-Service competition was held October 25-27. On November 4th the 25th Annual Alumni Reunion began in the early morning with the Navy vs. Marine Corps golf match at Star Ranch since there was no Thursday night Navy League dinner.

Obstacle Course Dedicated

Later that afternoon, a brand new obstacle course, built to Marine Corps standards, was dedicated at the J. J. Pickle Research Campus in Austin to 1stLt James A. Burns, USMC, Class of 1968, who was killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam in 1969. Master of ceremonies was Bob Collins ’68, a classmate of Burns, and Burns’ sister, Judy Enstone, with her husband, David, were in attendance. LtGen Jefferson D. “Beak” Howell, USMC (Ret) made the dedicatory address. Howell was a 1961 graduate of UT who obtained his commission through the PLC program. He served on the MF Board as an Advisory Director. The weather was sunny and warm as the author remembers. CAPT Dixon (PNS) had several groups of the Battalion run the course for the assembled spectators. It was a competition of sorts and I believe the freshman class won. More than \$30,000 was finally collected by donors with the excess donations going to maintenance. Both the Midshipmans Foundation and the Alumni Foundation were donors for the course, as well as many other individuals, whose names appeared on the plaque.



Obstacle Course Built to USMC Standards



Dedication Plaque and Monument

²⁵ *Daily Texan*, October 20, 2011, Article “Rare relics recovered in time capsule” by John Farey

The awards dinner, that evening at the ACC, had three alumni honored, all for Distinguished Alumnus. Robert L. Armstrong '53 and John T. Monford '65 were on hand to accept their awards. ADM William H. "Bill" McRaven '77 was unable to attend to accept his. The next day all gathered in one of the auditoriums in Robert A. Welch Hall. A Canadian film crew, working on a documentary of NROTC, filmed the general meeting. \$33,500 in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion. After that ceremony those who had tickets attended the Texas-Texas Tech game in Memorial Stadium. Texas won handily 52-20. Those who did not have tickets got to wander around campus, shop for UT gear at the Co-op or whatever they wanted. They could have also viewed the construction progress of the new COLA building on the East Mall. At 3 p.m., after the game, the alumni BBQ was set up on the East Mall at Speedway. It lasted well beyond the 6 p.m. posted end time.

Last Turkey Day Game for Texas and Texas A&M

On or about November 18th the time capsule, found at RAS, and its contents were turned over to the Dolph Briscoe Center of American History for safekeeping. Dr. Tom Hatfield, director of the center's Military History Institute, accepted the items for the Briscoe Center. At the time there were plans to return the items to the new College of Liberal Arts building after its completion sometime in 2013. As of this writing, that hasn't happened yet. Thanksgiving holidays were November 24-25. Texas and Texas A&M actually played on Turkey Day that year. Texas won 27-25. As it turned out this was the last year for this age-old tradition that dated back to their first meeting in 1894. Their first Turkey Day game was in 1900. Back then Thanksgiving was traditionally celebrated on the final Thursday of November. Franklin Roosevelt changed it to the fourth Thursday in November to facilitate more shopping days before Christmas. That was just one year before the UT NROTC Unit was established. It took UT and A&M several years to get used to the new date, so some "Turkey Day" games were on the traditional date and others were on the new date.

In December, or possibly late November, MDN John B. Goodrich '12 was relieved by MDN Brandon C. Strain '12 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended on December 2nd. On December 16th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Texas Senate Chamber. One Ensign and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix. On December 31, 2011, the Midshipmans Foundation fund balance was back above \$1 million and hasn't dipped below that mark since then.

The spring semester commenced on January 17, 2012. There were a few events during the spring for which we had no dates. There was another NJROTC Roundup. The Battalion had a BBQ and Mess Night for Juniors and Seniors was at the Iron Cactus on 6th Street. In February 2ndLt Luca Simone '11 departed to report to The Basic School in March. He was relieved by GySgt Damian Reed, who arrived during the holiday break between semesters. Simone said this was not an "acting" position. He had the real job of Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, "name plate and all."

At the February 25th AF Board meeting in the Sanchez Building, we learned from CAPT Dixon that the 10% rule was still adversely affected scholarship student's admittance to UT. Some attended Huston-

Tillotson and several graduated from there. “Sideload” scholarships were reinstated where college program students could compete for scholarships in the spring of their freshman and sophomore years. Construction of the new COLA building was two months ahead of schedule, so the Unit’s move would probably be in November/December. Naming rights were still not settled but President Powers supported naming the new building after Russell Steindam. But, he said, the decision would be up to the Board of Regents. Delay was probably due to The University waiting to see if another donor appeared. Lastly, the directors were told, by the new webmaster, that the website then contained much more historical information. On February 29th the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 17, (February 2012) Issue 1 was published. On March 9th, the MF Board met in La Grange.

NROTC Unit History Project Got Inspiration

Spring Break occurred the week of March 14-19. On March 26th the author visited John Boswell. Both of us lived in San Antonio. I obtained a copy of his new book, *Texas Fight, The History of Army ROTC at the University of Texas at Austin* and started reading it that afternoon. I believe that it was around that time that I started thinking that I could be the one to put together a history of the NROTC at UT. John later encouraged me to do so and suggested I use a similar title for the Navy version. John hoped that that would inspire an old friend of his, who was in Air Force ROTC, to do a history of that unit, too. Still I was not totally committed to it, but I thought that it might be fun to, at least, start looking for material. The seed had been planted. I had already received some Unit history from alumni who contributed to the *NROTC Alumni Log* newsletter stories. Some information was easy to acquire but other information proved to be tough to find. On March 30th the Midshipmans Foundation hosted another wardroom breakfast for the juniors and seniors. The President’s Cup competition was held April 4-5 and 13. Navy finished 2nd by one point.

Alumni Website Used to Amass and Share Unit History

On April 13th I transitioned the website files to Adobe’s Dreamweaver since it was more current than Microsoft’s Front Page and because I was already using Adobe products (e.g. Acrobat, Photoshop, Illustrator, etc.). I started putting more current news on the website to keep up with the Unit and alumni activities. A hit counter was added to see how much interest was being generated. History became another primary focus on the website, with the inspiration from John Boswell. Lists of PNSs, XOs, MOIs, Battalion Commanders, Flag Officers, Presidents of the Crow’s Nest, Unit sports accomplishments, alumni killed in action, alumni of the year, distinguished alumni and deceased alumni (with obituaries) were compiled and provided online. NROTC pages from the *Cactus* were scanned, when available, and included. So were yearbooks published by the Unit (e.g. *Texas Tradition* and *Longhorn Logs*). Old unit newsletters, when available, were scanned and included (e.g. *Spun Yarn*, *Naval Orange*, *Spur & Anchor*). A connection link was made to Dr. Tom Hatfield’s Oral Histories Project which interviewed a dozen of our WWII vets. A history matrix was provided to connect with information saved on the site from 1940 to the present (e.g. calendars of events, class listings, reunion attendees, etc.). All this had to be gathered in order to do a decent job of cobbling together a history of our Unit.

On May 1st, a Battalion Awards ceremony was held in the Sanchez building, Room 104. The Midshipmans Foundation awarded \$6,000 in scholarships to deserving Battalion members. A Change of

Command was held afterward. MDN Brandon C. Strain '12 was relieved by MDN Thomas R. "Tom" Shirley '13 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended on May 4th and on that same day, ADM Bill McRaven gave a speech at the Frank Erwin Center. On May 16th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. The next day a joint ceremony was held in the Bates Recital Hall. The Guest Speaker at the joint commissioning was RADM William G. Sizemore, II. Four Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. Marissa Sciore asked to be commissioned with that class, since she had started with it before transferring to the PLC Program. The T List, a commissioning program and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix. On May 18th CAPT John G. Eden, USN relieved CAPT Dixon as the 27th Professor of Naval Science at UT.

Summer 2012

On June 2nd, the AF Board met. They decided to do just one newsletter per year, in connection with the reunion registration, and limit it to just eight pages. The Board wanted to put more effort into using other means of communicating with alumni (e.g. the website and social/professional networks). During that same meeting, CAPT Eden reported that the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts recommended to President Bill Powers that the new COLA Building be named for Russell A. Steindam. Lastly, during the same meeting, Raymond J. "Ray" Adams '80 was elected 14th President of the Alumni Foundation due to Mike Waldron's early resignation. Mike and his family had moved from the Austin area to California and he found it harder to carry out his duties from that far away. On July 8th, a commissioning ceremony was held. One Ensign was commissioned, Aaron Tallant. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the name. See the Appendix.



May 16, 2012 Commissioning Class, Texas State Capitol Senate Chamber, May 2012 *Spur & Anchor*, page 13
(L to R): 2ndLt Jared P. Thompson, 2ndLt Marissa D. Sciore (PLC), ENS Daniel E. Walker, ENS Aaron M. Tallant, ENS Brandon C. Strain, ENS Ryan C. Millsap & ENS John B. Goodrich Note: ENS Tallant's official date was July 8, 2012

On July 25th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 17, (July 2012) Issue 2 was published. On August 17th, the MF Board met in La Grange. At the August 18th meeting of the AF Board, a bell ceremony, recognizing those alumni who had passed away since our last reunion, was first introduced, by Board President Ray Adams, as a recurring agenda item for AF Board meetings. The pledge of allegiance was also added. The Life Sponsorship fund was up to \$10,500. Freshman Orientation for UT NROTC was conducted August 23-26. Forty-three freshmen were in this class, although up to 50 were expected. All passed the initial PRT. Only 4 out of 60 NROTC Units accomplished that.

Academic Year 2013

Statistics:

Number of Students: 98 Midshipmen (Up 38), 6 MECEP and 4 STA for a Battalion of 108 (Up 35)
Number of Staff: 5 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (No change)
Number of Commissionees: 17 (10 Navy, 7 Marine) (Up 9)

Three issues of *The Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (2/20/2013, 5/10/2013 and 6/3/2013), the 2013 CHR, meeting minutes from four AF Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The Unit newsletter provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT John G. Eden, USN

There were now 72 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT John G. Eden, USN. CAPT Eden was a native of Texas but graduated from that “other school.” He chose a career path in aviation and was commissioned through the Aviation Officer Candidate School. He earned his wings in 1987, as an NFO. He flew the F-14 Tomcat and attended Top Gun at Miramar. He left Top Gun to become a test pilot. He made several WestPac deployments. He later transitioned to the FA-18 Hornet and did XO and CO tours on more WestPac deployments. He became Commander, Carrier Air Wing Two and led that group during WestPac deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn, before returning to Texas and assuming command last May.



John G. Eden

The May 2012 *Spur and Anchor* said that LTs Lozeau and Rivera were leaving the following summer. LCDR Chris “Ditto” Field reported aboard during that summer of 2012 to relieve LT Lozeau as the

Aviation Officer and LT Christopher Hoover reported aboard similarly to relieve LT Rivera as the Submarine/Nuclear Officer.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck. Battalion Commanders were Thomas R. “Tom” Shirley ’13 (fall) and Andrew G. Watkins ’13 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was up considerably from the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Leatherneck Platoon</u>
34	34	34

The June 2013 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter said Tulane was cancelled due to lack of funding (*i.e.* Sequestration). Mardi Gras was on February 12th that year so the Buccaneers would have competed at Tulane on February 10th if they had gone. The Sixth Annual Beale Street drill meet in Memphis was April 12-13, but if the Buccaneers did not go to Tulane due to lack of funding, they surely did not attend the Memphis drill meet. It was likely that the Buccaneers had, at least, 17 members since it was all but certain they had 17 in 2012 and probably in 2014. Only three members have been tentatively identified, leaving 14 others.

There was no documentation of composition or activities of the rifle team for that year. According to Peter W. Thayer ’16, there was no pistol team that year either. With the demise of the old firing range two years ago, the Unit was forced to seek other solutions. The Color Guard, like the drill team, could not compete at the Tulane meet due to lack of funding. The February 2013 issue of the *Spur and Anchor* newsletter carried a nice information-packed story about the Color Guard on page 9. It was accompanied by three photographs, all portraying a five-member team, not always with the same members. The Guard presented colors at several UT Women’s soccer games. At the end of October, the Color Guard traveled again to Highland Park Baptist Church and taught Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts how to present the colors. In November they participated in Alumni weekend activities (“O” Course dedication, awards dinner and scholarship presentations). They also performed at two dinners, one for ADM McRaven and one for the Navy League. They performed at the Birthday Ball, a Veterans Day event and the Texas-TCU football game. They performed in eleven events in just the fall semester alone. Thirteen names of Midshipmen, associated with the Color Guard, were mentioned in the article. MDN 2/C Andrew C. Dinmore was their Commander for the fall semester.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year, but the Battalion was publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*, at least twice per year (*i.e.* each semester). That year, special issues of *The Spur and Anchor* were first used like commissioning programs. No PAO was mentioned or given credit for the newsletters that year.

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The UT NROTC Endurance Team or “E Team” traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to compete in the 6th Annual Dronet Challenge (October 5-7). The 15-man team took 4th Place overall. The annual Run to

Dallas for OU weekend (October 10-13) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was not known.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 3) in the Texas Union Ballroom and the spring formal (Apr/May). There was also a Mess Night for juniors and seniors (April 20) aboard *The Commodore*, cruising Lake Austin. Guest of Honor was LtCol Little. Four Leadership Conferences were planned that year: The Naval Academy (January 27-30), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 21-24), SCONA 58 at Texas A&M (February 21-24) and Notre Dame (February 21-24). UT and SCONA were cancelled due to sequestration. No field trips were documented for the year.

Alumni Got Sneak Preview of New COLA Building

The fall semester commenced on August 29, 2012. The 26th Annual Alumni Reunion began with the Navy League Dinner on the evening of October 18th at Austin Women's Club. The Guest Speaker was ADM William H. "Bill" McRaven '77, Commander U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB, Florida. The Navy vs. Marine Corps golf match was held the next morning at Star Ranch in Hutto, Texas. This year the format was changed to a best ball scramble. Crow's Nest alumni got together for a meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in the afternoon. That evening an Alumni Awards dinner was held at the ACC. Kenneth J. Moore '64 was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus award. Class gatherings were at Scholz Bier Garten for those not attending the dinner. On Saturday, October 20th, walking tours of the new COLA building were conducted. James and Miriam Mulva were in the first walking tour of the new facility. Later, in Robert A. Welch auditorium, room 2.245, \$40,500 in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving Battalion members as part of the alumni general business meeting. CAPT Eden told the assembly that he would be seeking alumni assistance in funding a field trip for Battalion members to the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas. Travel funding within the Navy had all but dried up. After the ceremony, the alumni BBQ was held on Speedway just outside Welch Hall. ADM McRaven dropped by for the BBQ. Texas played Baylor in the evening and won 56-50.



Reunion Attendees are given a Guided Tour of the New NROTC Spaces by the Unit XO, CDR Butch Neuenschwander

NROTC Moved into the New COLA Building

The President's Cup Tri-Service competition was held (November 6-8). Thanksgiving holidays were November 22-23. Texas A&M left the Big 12 for the SEC so there was no more Turkey Day traditional football game between these two teams. On November 29th the Battalion Awards ceremony was held in the Sanchez building, Room 104. Afterward the Change of Command was held. MDN Thomas R.

“Tom” Shirley ’13 was relieved by MDN Andrew G. Watkins ’13 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. On December 7th another wardroom breakfast for Seniors and Juniors, hosted by the Midshipmans Foundation, was held in the Sanchez building. That same day, the fall semester ended. On December 10th CAPT Eden reported by email that the Sanchez building was packed and ready for the move to the new COLA building. By December 18th CDR Neuenschwander (XO) reported by email that all NROTC spaces in the Sanchez building were vacated and the move to new NROTC spaces on the 5th deck of the new COLA building was completed. The new COLA building was then named the Center for Liberal Arts (CLA). Renaming it to honor Russell A. Steindam Hall had not yet been resolved. On December 21st a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. Two Ensigns were commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix.

New ROTC Building Open for Classes

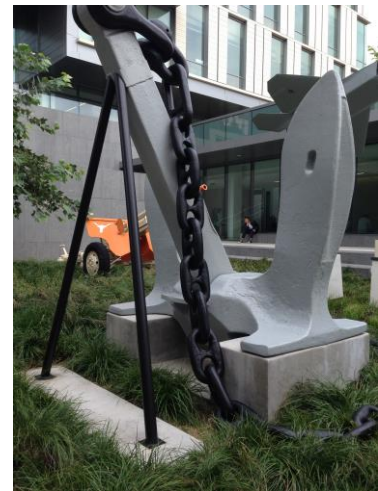
The spring semester at Huston-Tillotson University (H-T) commenced on January 7, 2013. This was the first recorded instance in the CHR of a cross-town affiliated campus. On January 11th, the MF Board met in La Grange. The spring semester at UT commenced on January 14, 2013. The new NROTC spaces were open for business on the 5th deck, designated the James J. Mulva Center, of the Center for Liberal Arts (CLA). Although we had no date for it, the Leatherneck Platoon won the Captain’s Cup competition for that semester. On January 24th, an open house and dinner for special families was held at the CLA. Those families were the Kellsalls and the Mulvas.

Sea and Anchor Details

The anchor from *USS Randolph* was again mounted and put on display on the east side of the new Center for Liberal Arts (CLA), a.k.a. the new ROTC Building. The plaque for it, which had yet to be mounted, read “U.S. Navy and Marine Corps – Firmly Anchored at UT.”

KIA Plaque Design Finalized

On February 9th, the AF Board held its first meeting in the new CLA, Room 5.402, which was designated the ADM William H. McRaven classroom. Fred Moon reported that he was finalizing the design on the KIA plaque. The Life Sponsorship fund of the Alumni Foundation was now up to \$13,500 and the Board authorized these funds to be invested separately to make a better rate of return. The Board also authorized the webmaster, yours truly, to add a Pay-Pal button to the alumni website for capturing donations to the Alumni Foundation. The Board contributed \$305 toward the cost of a TV for the new Midshipman’s lounge. CAPT Eden made a pitch for any quality artifacts that we may have that would highlight the history or traditions of the Unit or Naval Service.



USS Randolph (CVS-15) Anchor

On March 5th, the author started putting together some Unit history material, that had been included in earlier newsletters, and started posting some on the alumni website. Spring Break occurred the week of March 11-16. The Leatherneck Field Exercise was March 22-23. The President’s Cup Tri-Service

competition was held March 26-28. NJROTC Roundup was on April 6th. On April 9th, a PNS Inspection of the Battalion was held and a Battalion photograph was taken. On April 19th, another wardroom breakfast for Seniors and Juniors, hosted by the Midshipmans Foundation, was held in the McRaven classroom. A Battalion Spring Awards ceremony was held April 23rd at the Jackson School of Geological Science, across the mall from CLA. On April 25th a Battalion Change of Command was held. MDN Andrew G. Watkins '13 was relieved by MDN Taylor D. Poli '14 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. That same day the Navy had its PFA and the Marines had a PFT. The spring semester at H-T ended on April 26th. The spring semester at UT ended on May 3rd.

The Spur and Anchor Used for Commissioning Program

On May 17th a NROTC commissioning ceremony was held in the Texas Union Theater. Later that same day a joint ceremony was held. Six Ensigns and seven 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. The 2013 CHR provided numbers. See the Appendix. This marked the first time that *The Spur and Anchor* newsletter was used as a colorful commissioning program.



May 17, 2013 Commissioning Class, Texas Union Theater, May 2013 *Spur & Anchor*, page 8
(L to R): 2ndLt Jordan A. Reyes, 2ndLt Jason C. Haglund, 2ndLt Daniel V. Culpepper, 2ndLt Zachariah M. Harvey, 2ndLt Joseph C. Wright, 2ndLt John A. Garcia, 2ndLt Ricardo Fernandez, ENS Thomas R. Shirley, ENS Charles G. Cahoon, ENS Carley M. Tadlock, & ENS Alyssa A. McKinney Not Pictured: ENS Andrew M. Adams & ENS Jalyssa R. Bridges

Summer 2013

The June 3rd Battalion newsletter stated that the Midshipman's new lounge was able to scrounge a pool table from the athletic department. It also confirmed that the Tulane meet was cancelled due to lack of funding. At the June 8th AF Board meeting CAPT Eden revealed that the Unit calendar was kept online and the members could link to it. On June 14th, at the MF Board meeting in La Grange, By-Laws were amended to call for just two regular meetings per year (August and February). Also duties of officers were revised and Emeritus positions were created.

NROTC Alumni Log Reduced to an Annual Publication

On August 1st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 18, (August 2013) Issue 1 was published. With that issue the alumni newsletter would only be issued once per year in connection with the annual reunion registration. At the August 17th AF Board meeting, the Treasurer announced that an investment account at USAA had been opened with the Life Sponsorship fund to get a better return on our "rainy day" fund. On August 20th, a commissioning ceremony was held at 11 a.m. in the Eastwoods Room of the Texas Union. Two Ensigns were commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix. Freshman Orientation for UT NROTC was held August 22-26. There were 15 new freshmen in this class.

Academic Year 2014

Statistics:

Number of Students: 80 Midshipmen (Down 18), 4 MECEP and 1 STA for a Battalion of 85 (Dn 23)
Number of Staff: 5 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (No change)
Number of Commissionees: 9 (6 Navy, 3 Marine) (Down 8)

Six issues of *The Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (12/2/2013, 12/23/2013, 2/11/2014, 5/8/2014, 6/3/2014 and 9/3/2014), the 2013 and 2014 CHRs, meeting minutes from four AF Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The Unit newsletter provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 72 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT John G. Eden, USN. Capt Lucas "Luke" Balke reported aboard in June 2013 to relieve Maj Kopke as MOI prior to the start of this school year.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck, although 1st and 2nd Platoons were referred to as "Divisions" for 2014 and 2015. Battalion Commanders were Taylor D. Poli '14 (fall) and Joseph M. Barone '14 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Division/Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was down considerably from what it was

the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff. In the fall there was no 2nd Division.

<u>1st Division</u>	<u>2nd Division</u>	<u>Leatherneck Platoon</u>
26	26	26

There was no documentation of composition or activities of the rifle team for that year. According to Peter W. Thayer '16, there was no pistol team that year either. With no conveniently located firing range since the fall of 2010, enthusiasm for rifle and pistol teams was not easily fomented. There was no documentation of composition or activities of the Color Guard either, although from the group of eight freshmen who worked on Color Guard from time to time in the previous year, it would be easy to believe there were more than enough members to field a five-member Color Guard for the year.

Mardi Gras was on March 4th that year, which meant the Buccaneers traveled to New Orleans on February 28th and competed at Tulane on March 1st. They won 1st Place in Inspection and placed 8th overall out of 24 teams. Inspection typically denoted a platoon-sized team. So it is reasonable to assume that they were still a 17-member team. Only four have been tentatively identified, leaving at least 13 more. According to Peter Thayer '16, weapons were M-16 rifles. A photo in the June 2014 *Spur and Anchor* confirms the M-16 rifles (in the foreground) but also showed 25 Midshipmen dressed in Service



Buccaneer Drill Team at Tulane Drill Meet in New Orleans
Photo from June 2014 *Spur and Anchor*, page 1

Dress Blues. A guidon is also shown. This could have represented a platoon and a squad or there may have been Color Guard members included. Also, on March 8th, UT Midshipmen helped judge at the Hays High School Drill meet.

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year, but the Battalion was still publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*, at least twice per year (*i.e.* each semester). There were even issues in the early fall that covered summer activities. This was the first year that Battalion staff appointments were listed. Public

Affairs Officers for the fall and spring were MDN 3/C Gretchen M. Ledesma and MDN 3/C Leslyn Rachelle Baker, respectively.

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 9-12) was cancelled, due to the government shutdown. The

UT NROTC “E” Team traveled to College Station to compete in the Texas A&M SEAL Team Challenge (March 1). The team took 3rd Place overall out of six competing teams.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 9) in the Texas Union Ballroom and the spring formal (Apr/May). There was also a Mess Night for juniors and seniors (April 26) at Abel’s on the Lake. Four Leadership Conferences were attended this year: The Naval Academy (January 26-29), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 20-22), SCONA 59 at Texas A&M (February 20-22) and Notre Dame (February 20-23). All hands visited USS Texas (BB-35), moored in the Houston Ship Channel, South of Houston (November 4), at the San Jacinto Battleground. A new annual field trip began for incoming freshmen, a visit to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas (April 26). Planning for this annually recurring event started last year. No other field trips were documented for the year.

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 26, 2013 and two days later at UT. Although we had no dates for it, the “Schmuckatellies” won the Captain’s Cup competition for the semester. An Inspector General Assist Visit was conducted (September 18-20). The Midshipmans Foundation hosted another wardroom breakfast for the Seniors and Juniors on October 25th.

All Freshman Visit Pacific War Museum



USS Pintado (SS-387), seemingly surfacing out of the ground in front of the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas. The 7th Professor of Naval Science at UT, CAPT Donald G. Irvine, USN, was Commanding Officer of this diesel-electric submarine during the latter part of WWII in the Pacific Theater. Photo from Museum website.

The 27th Annual Alumni Reunion got started on October 31st with a Navy League dinner at the Austin Women’s Club. Guest Speaker was Dr. Hans Mark, Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at UT. Dr. Mark was a member of the ROTC Liaison Committee. The next morning another best ball scramble between Navy and Marines was held at the Star Ranch golf course. Crow’s Nest alumni met at the Embassy Suites in the afternoon. At the Alumni Awards Dinner at ACC that evening, four Distinguished Alumni awards were presented to RADM Henry C. “Cub” Amos (Ret) ’56, RADM Brady D. Cole (Ret) ’58, CAPT Rodney C. Koenig (Ret) ’62 and Luis de la Garza ’66. Informal class gatherings were at Scholz Bier Garten at that same time. On November 2nd it was

announced that the IRS had approved the Alumni Foundation for 501(c)(19) status, a veteran's group, and that links to NROTC-related groups on Facebook and Linked-In had been added to our alumni website. At the alumni general business meeting the scholarship awards ceremony was held. \$49,750 in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving Battalion members as family members, alumni and staff looked on in the Student Activity Center auditorium, next door to CLA. After the ceremony, the alumni BBQ was held on the Eastside Patio deck of CLA. Texas beat Kansas 35-13 in an afternoon game in Memorial Stadium. An informal get-together was held that evening at the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium on 47th Street.

On November 5th a PNS Inspection was held. On November 21st the Navy held a PFA and the Marines held a PFT. On November 22nd the author lamented in his journal that no one had yet taken up the project of putting together a Unit history and was quickly coming to the conclusion that it would have to be himself. On November 23rd the Leathernecks conducted an FEX at Camp Mabry. On November 25th the author wrote Dr. Tom Hatfield, PhD, who had conducted interviews with our WWII veterans, and asked for advice on putting together a history of the NROTC at UT. Dr. Hatfield had been helpful and supportive when John Boswell put together his history of Army ROTC at UT. Thanksgiving holidays were November 28-30. On December 3rd the Battalion conducted its Fall Awards ceremony and Change of Command at 7 a.m. MDN Taylor D. Poli '14 was relieved by MDN Joseph M. Barone '14 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended at H-T and UT on



December 17, 2013 Commissioning Class, Texas State Capitol Senate Chamber, December 2013 *Spur & Anchor*, page 10 (L to R): 2ndLt Albert J. Quintanilla, Jr., 2ndLt Nelson A. Lovos, Jr., ENS Andrew G. Watkins & ENS Michael J. Lowe

December 6th. On December 17th a commissioning ceremony was held at 10 a.m. in the Texas Senate Chamber of the Capitol. Two Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned (see photo on previous page). The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. The 2014 CHR provided numbers. See the Appendix.

UT NROTC History Project Officially Began

January 1, 2014 The UT NROTC Unit History Project officially began as a New Year's resolution by the webmaster and newsletter Editor, yours truly. After several years of procrastination and hoping someone else would step up to the plate, the commitment was made. There had been many other such efforts, like this, started but never finished. I wasn't able to find much evidence of these previous efforts, sad to say. On January 10th a Pay-Pal button was added to the website for donations to the Alumni Foundation.

The spring semester commenced at H-T and UT on January 13, 2014. On February 3rd, the Command History Reports (CHR), now called Command Operations Report, still OPNAV 5750-1, resumed documenting Unit activities with calendar year 2013. The last one was filed for calendar year 2004. The MF Board met on February 14th in La Grange. At the February 15th AF Board meeting it was announced that the Life Sponsorship fund had reached \$15,000 and that an email blast communication tool had been added to the AF arsenal.

Spring Break occurred the week of March 10-14. NJROTC Roundup was held March 29th. The Leathernecks conducted their spring field exercise (April 11-13) at Ft. Hood, Texas. A PNS Inspection of the Battalion and a Battalion Spring Awards ceremony were conducted on April 15th. Navy did its physical readiness training (PRT) on April 17th. A Battalion Spring Awards ceremony was held on April 22nd at the Jackson School of Geological Sciences. The Midshipmans Foundation awarded \$15,750 in scholarships to deserving Battalion members there. The President's Cup Tri-Service competition was held April 22-25. On April 26th, Mess Night was held in Austin at Abel's on the Lake. The Battalion Change of Command was held April 29th. MDN Joseph M. Barone '14 was relieved by SSgt Philip Stephen Urban '15 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended at H-T and UT on May 2nd. A wardroom breakfast for Seniors and Juniors, hosted by the Midshipmans Foundation, was held in the McRaven classroom that morning.

One of Our Longest-Serving Executive Officers Retired

On May 3rd, an Anchors Aweigh BBQ was held to honor those graduating. On May 14th, CDR Brian FitzPatrick relieved CDR Vernon E. "Butch" Neuenschwander as Executive Officer. Butch served nearly four years as XO and during a time of great upheaval and transition he brought continuity to the process. At 11 a.m. that same day, CDR Neuenschwander had his retirement ceremony in the Texas State Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol, where many of our Midshipmen and Officer Candidates received their commissions. The next day, the NROTC held its commissioning ceremony at 1 p.m. in that same venue. One 2nd Lieutenant



**CDR Vernon E. 'Butch'
Neuenschwander, USN**

and three Ensigns were commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. The 2014 CHR provided numbers. See the Appendix.

ADM McRaven's "Make Your Bed" Speech

On the following day, May 16th, a Joint Commissioning ceremony was held at 3 p.m. in Bates Recital Hall. Guest Speaker was U.S. Senator Ted Cruz. Four Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned in both ceremonies. On May 17th, ADM Bill McRaven '77 gave the UT Commencement speech on the Main Mall, the "Make Your Bed" speech, which went "viral" on You Tube. He made the speech in full dress whites.

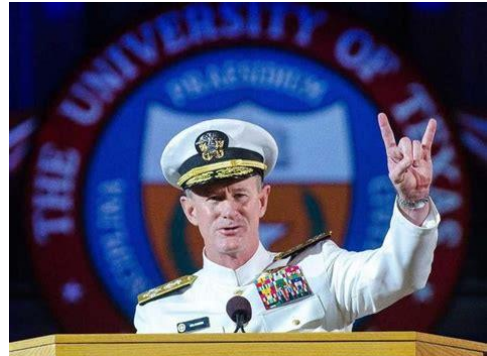


May 15, 2014 Commissioning Class, Texas State Capitol Senate Chamber, June 2014 *Spur & Anchor*, page 11
(L to R): 2ndLt Jeremy C. Barton, ENS Taylor D. Poli, ENS Andrew C. Dinmore, ENS Ryan D. DeFranco & ENS Joseph M. Barone, IV

Summer 2014

ADM McRaven Selected UT Chancellor

By June 6, 2014 nearly all alumni had been grouped into commissioning classes and listed on the alumni website. At the June 14th AF Board meeting, plans were approved to add Pay Pal to the website for donations and reunion registration. Also CAPTCHA protection was added to the website to prevent web bots from filling in our online forms. On July 30th, the UT Board of Regents unanimously selected ADM William H. “Bill” McRaven ’77 as their new Chancellor. His “Make Your Bed” speech, apparently, had a positive affect toward this decision.



ADM Bill McRaven '77 on the Main Mall at Commencement Ceremonies

MF Continuity Plan & \$1.5 Million Milestone

At the August 8, 2014 meeting of the MF Board, several changes took place as part of its continuity plan. The Plan involved implementation of classes with three-year terms that would rotate new people in every year and the more seasoned members off the Board. For the first group to rotate off the Board, the “Emeritus” title was created for Directors Emeritus, Chairmen Emeritus and Founders Emeritus. Earlier, Bob Brown assumed the duties of Chairman as Weldon Koenig stepped down as the first Chairman Emeritus. Bob stepped down as the second Chairman Emeritus at that meeting so Max Miller was then the new Chairman. John Hitchcock also stepped down at that time as Director Emeritus. Weldon, Bob, Max and John were all given the title of Founders Emeritus. Rodney C. “Rod” Koenig ’62, who had been serving on the Board for one and a half years, moved into the President’s position. The author, who had been serving as an advisory director, moved to director and assumed Bob Brown’s unexpired three-year term. The Plan would help to ensure a steady influx of new people with fresh ideas, without too much loss of corporate memory. It was also announced that the MF endowment fund had crossed the \$1.5 million milestone. The next day, the AF Board met on campus on the 5th deck of CLA.

First Time for Online Reunion Registration

On August 19th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 19, (August 2014) Issue 1 was published. In that issue it was announced for the first time that online reunion registration would be employed that year, using the service “Brown Paper Tickets.” That was the last full-color glossy version of the alumni newsletter, at least for the time-being. This was the last issue that was sponsored by Raytheon Company of McKinney, Texas. They had been printing full color newsletters, of 8-16 pages, since May of 2006, and we, the alumni, were deeply grateful for their sponsorship, under the leadership of Mr. Mike D. Hardaway. Freshman Orientation for UT NROTC was held August 21-24. There were 25 new freshmen in this class, 14 of which were on scholarships. On August 24th a Pay-Pal button was added to the alumni website for donations to the Midshipmans Foundation.

ADM McRaven Retired from the Navy

On August 28th ADM McRaven was relieved by LtGen Joseph Vetel at SOCOM and retired shortly after that with 37 years of service. Since the popularity of ADM McRaven's commencement speech in May, support had been growing for him to come back to Texas and assume this important role. There were no commissionings in the summer. Freshman Orientation at UT NROTC was conducted August 21-24. There were 25 new freshmen in this class, 14 of which were scholarships.

Academic Year 2015

Statistics:

Number of Students: 79 Midshipmen (Down 1), 5 MECEP and 3 STA for a Battalion of 87 (Up 2)

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

Number of Commissionees: 9 (7 Navy, 2 Marine) (No change)

Six issues of *The Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (12/2/2014, 12/22/2014, 5/15/2015, 5/29/2015, 8/7/2015 and 9/15/2015), the 2014 and 2015 CHRs, meeting minutes from three AF Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The Unit newsletter provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 72 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT John G. Eden, USN. LT Ryan B. Edwards reported aboard in December to relieve LCDR Field as Aviation Officer for the spring. GySgt Gilberto T. Rosas reported aboard in January to relieve GySgt Reed as AMOI for the spring. LT Christopher B. Ehlinger reported aboard in March to relieve LT Hoover as the Submarine Officer for the remainder of the spring.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck. Battalion Commanders were SSgt Philip Stephen Urban '15 (fall) and Mark K. Jbeily '15 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>1st Division</u>	<u>2nd Division</u>	<u>Leatherneck Platoon</u>
27	27	27

Buccaneers Compete as a Platoon and as a Squad

The May 2015 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter provided useful information. Mardi Gras was on February 17th that year, which meant the Buccaneers traveled on February 13th and competed at Tulane on February 14th. They competed in Platoon inspection, Platoon basic drill, Platoon exhibition drill, Squad basic drill, and individual exhibition drill. The Buccaneers had 17 members (15 members plus CO and Guidon) and

competed against 18 other units. The Buccaneer Commander was MDN 2/C Jacob R. Whiteman. The squad-sized drill unit (six plus CO) was led by MDN 1/C Anthony Saldana. This was the first year that documented two drill teams, platoon and squad, and with separate leaders. It is likely, though, from little bits of evidence, that this organization of the drill team had existed for a few years prior to this one. From photos in the newsletter, both teams, for platoon and squad competitions, wore service dress blues. According to Peter Thayer '16, weapons were M-16 rifles. No trophies were brought home, but two days of liberty in New Orleans was part of the trip. Only six drill team members have been tentatively identified, leaving eleven more.



Buccaneer Drill Team (Squad) at Tulane Drill Meet
Photo from May 2015 *Spur and Anchor*, page 2

There was no documentation of composition or activities of the rifle team for that year. According to Peter W. Thayer '16, there was no pistol team that year either. The Color Guard was composed of five members and led by MDN 3/C Destiny Lewis. They also competed at the Tulane meet. No other activities were documented and only one other Color Guard member has been tentatively identified.

The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 8-11) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was OU won by just one point, in overtime. The whole Battalion traveled to Ft. Hood, Texas, to participate in a Leadership Reaction Course (March 28).



Buccaneer Drill Team (Platoon) at Tulane Drill Meet
Photo from May 2015 *Spur and Anchor*, page 2

There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year, but the Battalion was still publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*, at least twice per year (*i.e.* each semester). There were even issues in the early fall that covered summer activities. Public Affairs Officers for the fall and spring were MDN 3/C Conor Martin and MDN 3/C Destiny Lewis, respectively.

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 25) in the Texas Union Ballroom and the spring formal (May 8) aboard *The Commodore*, cruising Lake Austin. There was also a Mess Night for juniors, seniors and active duty (April 24) and a “Spring Fling” dining-out

(May 2) open to all students. There was also an Anchors Aweigh BBQ (February 7). Four Leadership Conferences were attended that year: The Naval Academy (January 25-28), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 26-28), SCONA 60 at Texas A&M (February 19-21) and Notre Dame (February 26-March 1). Although it was not documented the visit to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, for incoming freshmen, was probably made, too. No other field trips were documented for the year.

NROTC Championship Flag Football Team

The only documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year was found in searching the RecSports website. On that site it was found that NROTC fielded a team for flag football in the fall. That 12-man/2-woman team finished with a 6-1 record for the season and were the Orange C League Flag Football Champions for the fall. There were 35 teams across the C League competing to be the C League Champion. The team name was “Shellbacks.”



Fall 2014 Class Orange C Football Champions, The Shellbacks.

Front Row (L to R): John Miller, Brian Hannum, Levi Baugh (Capt/Mgr), Ben Summers and Matthew Waddingham
Back Row (L to R): Jacob Whiteman, Theron Dingas, William Heaton, Joshua Ruiz and Parker Rost
Not Pictured: Cecilia Beavers, Scott Birdsall, Destiny Lewis and Peter Thayer

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 25, 2014 and on August 27th at UT. On September 11th a Tri-Service ceremony was held on the Main Mall in recognition of the 9/11/2001 attacks. It just so happened to also be the NROTC Unit's 74th Anniversary, exactly. On September 25th an Academic Awards ceremony was held. A PNS Inspection of the Battalion was held on October 21st. The President's Cup Tri-Service competition (November 5-7) was held and Navy came in 2nd Place.

The 28th Annual Alumni Reunion started on November 6th with the Navy League dinner. Guest Speaker was RADM John D. Butler (Ret), who graduated from UT in 1974 and received his commission as a NUPOC student, a program not under the command of the Professor of Naval Science. The Navy vs. Marine Corps golf scramble was played at Star Ranch the next morning. A Crow's Nest reunion meeting was held in the afternoon at the Embassy Suites. The Alumni Awards dinner was held in the evening at the ACC, where a Distinguished Alumnus award was presented to RADM John D. Butler (Ret) '74 and Distinguished Service awards were presented to Robert L. "Bob" Collins '68 and CDR Edwin W. "Ed" Mergele (Ret) '75. Informal class gatherings were at Scholz Bier Garten on the same evening. At the AF Board meeting the next morning on November 8th, Kevin H. Hugman '80 was elected 15th President of the Alumni Foundation. At the general business meeting, next door in the SAC after the Board meeting, it was announced that the Alumni Foundation now had a Facebook page for the sharing of photographs. Also two special guests spoke to the assembled crowd: VADM William Moran, Chief of Naval Personnel, and UT President Bill Powers. \$56,500 in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion and VADM Moran participated in the ceremony. The alumni BBQ was next door on the 5th deck of the CLA (NROTC spaces) after the ceremony. Texas played West Virginia in the afternoon and won 33-16. An informal get-together was held in the evening at Flying Saucer Draught Emporium on 47th Street.



December 19, 2014 Commissioning Class, Texas State Senate Chamber, December 2014 *Spur & Anchor*, Page 1
(L to R): 2ndLt Philip S. Urban, ENS Alexandra Meyers & ENS Rene A. Perez

The Leathernecks conducted their Fall Field Exercise (November 14-16) at Ft. Hood, Texas. On November 21st a wardroom breakfast for Seniors and Juniors, hosted by the Midshipmans Foundation, was held in the McRaven classroom. The Navy conducted their PRT on November 24th. Thanksgiving holidays were November 27-30. A Battalion Change of Command was conducted on December 2nd. SSgt Philip Stephen Urban '15 was relieved by MDN Mark Kamil Jbeily '15 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The Marines conducted their CFT on December 4th. The fall semester ended at H-T and UT on December 5th. On December 19th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. Two Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. The 2014 CHR provided numbers. See the Appendix.

Bill McRaven '77, Chancellor of the UT System

The spring semester commenced at H-T on January 12, 2015 and on the 20th at UT. Back in July, ADM McRaven was unanimously selected to be the next UT System Chancellor. That had to wait until he was relieved of his SOCOM post and could retire from the Navy in late August. On January 5, 2015 ADM Bill McRaven, now retired, succeeded Francisco G. Cigarroa as the 12th UT System Chancellor. Both McRaven and Cigarroa were natives of San Antonio, Texas.



Chancellor Bill McRaven

An Academic Awards ceremony was held February 10th. On February 11th, Joe Smith '44 arranged for Ivan Elmer '45 to send the author a box of WWII alumni documents for safe-keeping. The MF Board met on February 13th in La Grange. At the February 14th AF Board meeting, it was announced that select NROTC-related pages from the *Cactus* yearbook (1971-1983) were now posted on the website and the Life Sponsorship funds had nearly reached \$16,000. The PNS SITREP reported that 21 members of the Battalion had a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Lastly the “O” course had to be regraded after flooding, to repair the damage and prevent future flood damage.

Bill Powers, UT President, Distinguished Service Award

On February 27th, the Midshipmans and Alumni Foundations jointly presented their Distinguished Service award to UT President Bill Powers at a ceremony and dinner held at the UT Golf Club. President Powers had been a good friend of the UT NROTC Unit, Battalion and alumni during his tenure and had taken time to speak at our alumni gatherings on many occasions. On March 7th ten members of the Battalion helped judge the Hays High School Drill meet.

Spring Break occurred the week of March 16-21. On March 28th a squad competition was held at Ft. Hood, Texas, on the leadership reaction course. The whole Battalion participated. The Marines conducted their Spring FEX (April 10-12). A PNS Inspection of the Battalion was held April 14th. The UT President's Cup Tri-Service competition was conducted (April 21-24). A Spring Awards ceremony was conducted on April 28th. Navy PRT and Marine PFT were conducted on April 29th and 30th, respectively. The spring semester



May 21, 2015 Commissioning Class, Student Activity Center Auditorium,
May 2015 *Spur & Anchor*, page 9
(L to R): ENS Angelica G. Jimeno & ENS Mark K. Jbeily

ended at H-T on May 1st. A Battalion Change of Command was conducted on May 5th. MDN Mark Kamil Jbeily '15 was relieved by MDN Brian G. Hannum '16 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring semester ended at UT on May 8th. On May 21st a commissioning ceremony was held in the Student Activities Center Auditorium. A Joint Commissioning ceremony was held the next day in Bates Recital Hall. Two Ensigns were commissioned (see photo on previous page). The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix.

On May 22nd key alumni and Unit officers met for lunch at the UT Club in Memorial Stadium to discuss and plan activities for the Unit's 75th Anniversary. Two articles were planned to publicize the event, one for the *Alcalde* and another for the College of Liberal Arts' "Life and Letters" newsletter. The author was tapped to do the writing. A special 75th Anniversary patch was created by Ray Adams (see photo on the next page) and used on special ball caps that were to be embroidered and given to special alumni such as those still-living plank owners, flag officers and distinguished alumni or service awardees.



75th Anniversary Logo
Created by Ray Adams

Summer 2015

Summer Cruises

CORTRAMID West (Career Orientation and Training of Midshipmen), Phase One, was conducted May 20th to June 20th. CORTRAMID West, Phase Two, was conducted June 22nd to July 17th. CORTRAMID East, Phase One, was conducted July 8th to August 8th.

A Peek at Midshipman's Pay

On June 4th the Summer Semester commenced at UT. On June 6th an AF Board meeting was conducted in the McRaven classroom of the CLA. At that meeting, CAPT Eden told the author that freshmen Midshipmen (MDN 4/C, Scholarship only) got \$250/month. Sophomores (MDN 3/C, Scholarship only) received \$300/month. Juniors (MDN 2/C, Scholarship and Advanced Standing College Program) received \$350/month and Seniors (MDN 1/C, Scholarship and Advanced Standing College Program) received \$400/month. Also at that meeting, it was announced that more *Longhorn Logs* and *Cactus* excerpts were added to the website. *The Alcalde* article for the 75th Anniversary was submitted to the Texas Exes. The COLA article was still in the works. Sixty-three alumni had, by that time, contributed stories and information to the Unit History Project. Also, the AF decided to discontinue trying to offer or coordinate parking for the annual reunion. With the loss of the old ROTC Building and its parking lot, along with the development of Speedway into a pedestrian mall, this task had become all but impossible to keep up with.

On June 12th the author received a box of documents and photographs from Ivan Elmer '45, who had been the "engine" that kept the WWII alumni reunion going for years. Some documents covered the lives and times of those alumni when they were at UT and others documented their time at war. On June 19, 2015, CAPT Brian T. Teets, USN, relieved CAPT Eden, to become the 28th Professor of

Naval Science at UT. By June 29th the author had two articles written for the *Alcalde* and *Life & Letters*. COLA was interested in the longer article. The Texas Exes were interested in something shorter. On July 28th the Summer Semester ended at UT. On August 1st, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 20, (August 2015) Issue 1 was published. On August 17th the Texas Exes publication, *The Alcalde*, carried an extremely shortened version of the Unit's 75th Anniversary article (*i.e.* a note with some nice photos).²⁶



August 18, 2015 Commissioning Class, Texas State Capitol Senate Chamber, August 2015 *Spur & Anchor*, page 5
(L to R): 2ndLt Anthony Q. Saldana, ENS Gopishankar Sethurathinam, ENS Zachary D. Cates & ENS Levi A. Baugh

On August 18th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. Three Ensigns and one 2nd Lieutenant were commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix. Freshman Orientation at UT NROTC was conducted August 20-23. There were 26 new freshmen in this class.

²⁶ Website: <http://alcalde.texasexes.org/2015/08/navy-rotc-celebrates-75-years-on-campus/>

Chapter 10 – Starting the Second 75 Years

Starting the Unit's second 75 years just seemed to be a milestone to note in passing. It was not marked by any “new” wars but by the continuation of old ones, such as a seemingly unending war in Afghanistan. We were in the fifteenth year of that conflict with no end in sight. It was also marked by escalating tensions with the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) which grew into armed conflict about this time. Warfare was changing and the U.S. would have to adapt. Manpower problems at UT NROTC would also plague the Unit for the next five years, making recruiting and retention problematic.

Academic Year 2016

Statistics:

Number of Students: 62 Midshipmen (Down 17), 10 MECEP and 0 STA for a Battalion of 72 (Dn 15)

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

Number of Commissionees: 12 (10 Navy, 2 Marine) (Up 3)

Five issues of *The Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (12/1/2015, 12/18/2015, 5/12/2016, 6/6/2016 and 8/31/2016), the 2015 and 2016 CHRs, meeting minutes from five AF Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The Unit newsletter provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT Brian T. Teets, USN

There were still 72 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT Brian T. Teets, USN. CAPT Teets was a native of Ohio and was commissioned through the NROTC Program at Ohio State University. He was also an aviation officer and chose to fly helicopters, specifically the SH-60 Seahawk. He made several deployments to the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas, and the Arabian Gulf, aboard frigates, cruisers and carriers in support of operations, such as Desert Fox and Enduring Freedom. Ashore he served aboard the staffs of CNET, NAVPERS and the CNO. He attended the Naval War College and earned MS and MA degrees, related to National Security, there. He did his XO tour with HSL-37 “Easyriders” in Hawaii and “fleeted up” to assume command in 2009. He then went back ashore to work on the staff of the Joint



Brian T. Teets

Chiefs. After that he commanded USS WASP (LHD-1), before coming to UT back in June. LT Tyler Arp reported aboard in April of the spring semester to relieve LT Ehlinger as the Submarine Officer for the remainder of that semester.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck. Battalion Commanders were Brian G. Hannum '16 (fall) and Theron Caleb Dingas '16 (spring)²⁷. See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was down from what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff. Peter Thayer remembered that there were two Navy platoons and one Marine platoon (i.e. Leathernecks).

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Leatherneck Platoon</u>
21	21	21



Buccaneer Drill Team (Squad) at Tulane Drill Meet
 Photo from June 2016 *Spur and Anchor*, page 2

The June 2016 *Spur and Anchor* provided useful information. Mardi Gras was on February 9th that year so the Buccaneers and Color Guard traveled on February 4th to New Orleans and competed in the Tulane meet on February 5th and, perhaps, the 6th. The meet was reported as occurring on February 13th but this must have been in error since there was one day of liberty in New Orleans for Mardi Gras. The Buccaneers competed against 27 other units. They had seven members (plus the commander) and participated in squad basic drill. See photo on the next page. The Bucs took 2nd Place. Their uniform was service dress blue with M-16s. According to

Peter Thayer '16, just before he left, there were plans being made to get the Springfields and M-1s out of storage and clean them up for use. Six members have been tentatively identified, leaving two more. The drill team was commanded by MDN 2/C Cecilia Beavers.

There was no documentation of composition or activities of the rifle team for that year, and according to Peter W. Thayer '16, there was no pistol team that year either. Thayer did say, though, that the Unit was laying groundwork to restart pistol and rifle teams, when he left in the spring of 2016. The June 2016 *Spur and Anchor* provided useful information. The Color Guard competed at the Tulane meet, too. It was commanded by MDN 3/C Gray and took 4th Place. They, too, got one day of liberty for Mardi Gras. Photos in the newsletter showed a five-member Color Guard, all-male. No names were mentioned

²⁷ Recollections of Peter W. Thayer '16

except for Gray (just a last name). Five other possible Color Guard members have been identified but not verified.

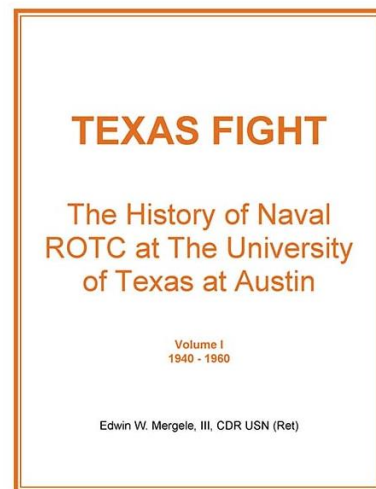
There was no *Longhorn Log* published that year, but the Battalion was still publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*, at least twice per year (*i.e.* each semester). There were even issues in the early fall that covered summer activities. Public Affairs Officer for the spring was MDN 2/C Cecilia L. Beavers. There was no one assigned to that position in the fall.

There was no documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year except a remark made in an AF Board meeting in May that the NROTC Volleyball team made the playoffs. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 7-10) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was UT won 19-6. On the Saturday following the annual Run to Dallas, Texas beat #10 OU 24-17 in the Red River Shootout. The whole Battalion traveled to Ft. Hood, Texas, to participate in a Leadership Reaction Course (March 26).

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 23) in the AT&T Center Grand Ballroom and the spring formal (May 6) aboard *The Commodore*, cruising Lake Austin. There was also a Mess Night (*i.e.* dining-in) for juniors, seniors and active duty (April 23) at Brass House in Austin. Four Leadership Conferences were attended that year: The Naval Academy (January 24-27), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 26-27), SCONA 61 at Texas A&M (February 18-20) and Notre Dame (February 25-28). VP-45 hosted a P-8 static display at Austin Bergstrom airport for aspiring aviators (March 3). And although it was not documented, the visit to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, for incoming freshmen, was probably made, too. No other field trips were documented for the year.

Unit's 75th Anniversary

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 24, 2015. It began on August 26th at UT. An Academic Awards ceremony was held on September 1st. September 11th was the Unit's 75th Anniversary. On September 12th an AF Board meeting was held off-campus for, perhaps, the first time. The location was Café Express, 3418 North Lamar Blvd. On October 6th there was a PNS Inspection of the Battalion. In addition to the Unit's celebrating an historic anniversary, it was a special year for the Navy, the Marine Corps and the United States, their 240th Birthday. RADM Christopher Grady, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic was the Guest of Honor at the Birthday Ball in October. The President's Cup Tri-Service competition (October 20-22) was not a good one for Navy that year.



UT Naval ROTC History by Ed Mergel

Unit History Volume I Released

On October 20th, *Texas Fight, The History of Naval ROTC at The University of Texas at Austin*, Vol. I (1940-1960) was released in limited printed copies for the upcoming Reunion. A pdf version was released on jump drives, along with an updated alumni directory. Both were initially used as fundraisers for those who contributed \$10 or more to the Alumni Foundation or Midshipmans Foundation. Volume I contained an expanded Table of Contents and Appendix to demonstrate the breadth of this project. The first volume was planned for release in celebration of the Unit's 75th Anniversary. The project was planned to turn out a new volume every 1-2 years so that by the fall of 2020 there would be a complete 80-year history of the Unit for its 80th Anniversary. Breaking up the work into 20-year segments also made it possible to get something out fairly quickly to accommodate the WWII alumni, who had been advocating a Unit history be written, so they could participate in the project and see some results from their participation and input.

The 29th Annual Alumni Reunion began on November 5th with the Navy League dinner. Guest Speaker was CAPT Donald S. "Don" Inbody (Ret). CAPT Inbody was the 23rd Professor of Naval Science at UT and a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at Texas State University. He also spoke about his forthcoming book, *The Soldier Vote*, a history and current status on absentee voting by military personnel and Americans living overseas. CAPT Inbody also served as an Advisory Director for the Midshipmans Foundation. The Navy vs. Marine Corps golf scramble was held the next morning at Star Ranch. The Marines won that year. In the afternoon Crow's Nesters from all eras gathered at the Embassy Suites to share memories and discuss their ongoing efforts to build their scholarship fund. In the evening the



UT NROTC World War II Veterans (L to R): Howard Lowe '44, Sandy Crow '45, Warren Freund '45 and John Love '46
The Alumni Foundation President, Ray Adams '80, stands with them

alumni awards dinner was held at the ACC. Distinguished Service awards were presented to CDR John C. Allman (Ret) '66 and Charles W. Simons '63. Informal class gatherings were at Scholz Bier Garten.

Last Reunion for WWII Veteran Alumni Group

The reunion weekend continued the next day, November 7th. It began, as it typically did, with an AF Board meeting. That was held in Welch Hall, Room 3.260. ADM McRaven provided memorabilia for a display case in CLA. The general business meeting and scholarship awards ceremony was held afterward in the Robert A. Welch Hall auditorium. Four WWII Veterans of the Unit attended: Howard Lowe '44, Sandy Crow '45, Warren Freund '45 and John Love '46 (see photo previous page). Howard Lowe was also a Plank Owner. Bill Barnhouse '44 was also invited but could not make the trip from New Mexico. Nevertheless, he got a special ball cap as another of UT's few surviving Plank Owners. All got to see the first installment of the Unit History Project, something they had wanted and asked for, for the past few years. This would be the last reunion for most WWII alumni, because the trip was getting harder to make and their numbers were diminishing. The assembled crowd received its annual briefing on Unit activities and accomplishments from the Professor of Naval Science. \$75,500+ in scholarships and officer swords were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion. Immediately following the ceremony, the alumni BBQ was held on the plaza in front of Gregory Gym. UT System Chancellor, William H. "Bill" McRaven '77, joined everyone for the BBQ and signed copies of his book, *Spec Ops*. He also participated in the award of a medal to one of his fellow SEALs at that event. Texas played Kansas in the evening and won 59-20. The WWII Vets and McRaven participated in the coin toss before the game. An informal get-together was held in the evening, after the game, at the NXNW Restaurant and Brewery, just down the street from the Embassy Suites.

On November 10th, the College of Liberal Arts Magazine, *Life & Letters*, carried the Unit's 75th Anniversary article.²⁸ The Leathernecks conducted their Fall FEX at Camp Bullis, near San Antonio (November 13-14). Marine CFT was November 19th and Navy's PRT was November 25th. On November 22nd, the author started going through the contents of the box, sent to him by Ivan Elmer. Some items (*i.e.* photos) were scanned and others converted to wordprocessing files. The document, *Men and Their Memories*, was preserved in that manner. Thanksgiving holidays were November 26-29. A Battalion Change of Command was conducted on December 1st. MDN Brian G. Hannum '16 was relieved by MDN Theron Caleb Dingas '16 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester probably ended at H-T on December 2nd and definitely ended at UT on December 4th. At 11 a.m. on December 16th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Jamail Academic Room of the Main Building (UT Tower). One Ensign was commissioned. The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the name. See the Appendix.

Weekly Drill with Rifles Reinstated

The spring semester commenced at H-T on January 11, 2016 and at UT on the 19th. On January 28th (Thursday) CAPT Teets brought weekly drill with rifles back to the schedule, starting with freshmen.

²⁸ Website: <https://lifeandletters.la.utexas.edu/2015/11/navy-rotc-celebrates-75-years/>

The next drill date was February 2nd (Tuesday). Drill day varied between Tuesdays and Thursdays as the schedule dictated. Marching on “drill” days with rifles had stopped roughly ten years ago. Maybe this was why plans were being made to take the M-1s and Springfields out of storage and clean them up. The Unit was always receiving grief from some quarter on campus about the use of rifles. Certainly the M-16 looked more intimidating than the older M-1 and Springfield. And that could have been another reason for taking them out of storage. The manual of arms was also easier to do with one of these older rifles.

Friends of the Midshipmen Program Proposed

The MF Board met on February 12th in La Grange. The AF Board met at the CLA on February 13th. The KIA plaque was still being researched by Fred Moon '70. The PNS reported that Joint Commissioning ceremonies might soon end. At that same meeting the Friends of the Midshipmen (FOM) program was outlined by Luis de la Garza '66, Chairman of the Gifts Committee. It was patterned after a similar program the Boy Scouts of America used. Over the years NROTC budgets had been getting smaller and smaller, forcing Battalion members to spend part of their time in fund-raising efforts in order for some members to participate in extra-curricular activities. Some of these activities, like the leadership conferences, were extremely helpful for professional development as an officer. Some taught skills that would be needed as an officer in the military, such as dining-ins and pistol matches. Others promoted teamwork, and a competitive spirit, such as the rifle and pistol matches, drill competitions and the Run to Dallas. Some were just for fun and camaraderie, such as some social events. All helped shape a well-rounded officer. Some NROTC units just couldn't participate in these activities because they didn't have the money and fund-raising did take away from study-time. UT had been exceptional in that regard. The Midshipmans Foundation had provided scholarships and officer swords for years to help fill the gap. A few years back, they added assistance for leadership conferences. The Alumni Foundation had provided smaller monetary assistance, because of its more limited resources, to help with drill meets, pistol matches, “O” course maintenance and social events. The FOM targeted the Unit's projected budgetary needs for an upcoming academic year and put it in terms of what additional funds *each Midshipman* needed for that year, in order to participate in those activities, not funded by the Navy. This made the donations more personal. Donors could see on what their donations were being spent and could tailor their donation to help one or two Midshipmen during that year.

At the Notre Dame leadership conference in late February, Midshipmen met up with one of the Unit's Marine Officer Instructors from the early 1990s. Back then he was a Major. Twenty years later he was MajGen James W. “Jim” Lukeman, USMC. An Academic Awards ceremony was held on February 23rd. On March 5th, UT NROTC volunteers hosted the rock-climbing wall at the annual Explore UT event for youth, interested in attending UT.

RADM Kenneth Haynes Passed Away

The Unit's first flag officer passed away on March 11, 2016 in San Antonio. His wife, Margaret, passed away just three weeks later. They were buried together in a rare double ceremony at Arlington Cemetery on August 4, 2016, with full military honors. Ken was an incredible resource in piecing together the Unit's early history and how it dovetailed the NROTC program with the V-12 program.

Spring Break was the week of March 14-18. On March 24th another wardroom breakfast for seniors and juniors was hosted by the Midshipmans Foundation. On March 26th a leadership reaction course was run at Ft. Hood, near Killeen, Texas. The Leathernecks conducted their spring FEX at Ft. Hood on April 9th. On April 12th RADM Christopher Grady, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic visited the Unit. He had lunch and dinner with the Midshipmen. At Mess Night in April, LT Ehlinger bid farewell and gave each commissionee a departing gift to prepare them for the fleet. The President's Cup Tri-Service competition was held April 19-22. On April 22nd, twenty-two Midshipmen and MECEPs conducted another FEX. A PNS inspection was conducted April 26th. Navy had their PRT on April 27th and the Marines had their PFT on the following day.



May 19, 2016 Commissioning Class, Texas State Capitol Senate Chamber, June 2016 *Spur & Anchor*, page 11 (L to R): 2ndLt Jason P. Slavin, 2ndLt Jacob R. Whiteman, ENS Sheena R. Ancho (partially hidden), ENS Leslyn R. Baker, ENS Ryan A. Conaghan, ENS Joshua R. Culpepper, ENS Theron C. Dingas, ENS Brian G. Hannum, ENS Christopher M. Joseph, ENS Andrew G. Masters, ENS Robert S. Olivarez and ENS Peter W. Thayer

Battalion Commander Rank/Name Changed

The spring semester ended at H-T on April 29th. It ended at UT on May 6th. On May 3rd, a Spring Awards ceremony was held, followed by a Battalion Change of Command. MDN Theron Caleb Dingas '16 was relieved by MDN Cecilia Lauren Beavers '17 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. It was at this time that the Battalion Commander's rank was, again, reduced to Midshipman Commander, to reflect the reduced size of the Battalion. Also the Battalion Commander was referred to as the Battalion Commanding Officer. That was a new development. On May 5th a Battalion drill competition was conducted at Clark Field, near Jester Center, at 0730. At 10 a.m. on May 19th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol. Nine Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned (see photo on previous page). The T List and the *Spur & Anchor* newsletter provided the names. See the Appendix.

Summer 2016

At the June 4th AF Board meeting CAPT Teets mentioned a new initiative on campus, called "Living/Learning Centers." The program allowed students in related studies to room together in UT dormitories. He thought it might be a way of creating a new Crow's Nest. He was going to look into it further and get back to the Board. Capt Jonathan "Jon" Grubb reported aboard in July 2016 to relieve Maj Balke as MOI. No commissioning ceremonies were held during the summer. Freshman Orientation for UT NROTC was conducted August 17-21. There were 20 new freshmen in this class.

Academic Year 2017

Statistics:

Number of Students: 58 Midshipmen (Down 4), 11 MECEP and 0 STA for a Battalion of 69 (Dn 3)

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

Number of Commissionees: 16 (8 Navy, 8 Marine) (Up 4)

The *Longhorn Log*, two issues of *The Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (1/20/2017 and 5/23/2017), the 2016 and 2017 CHRs, meeting minutes from four AF Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The 2017 *Longhorn Log* covered the NROTC Unit on 63 pages. This was the first *Longhorn Log* to be published electronically (pdf format). The Unit newsletter provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were now 76 U.S. universities with NROTC units. Of the four new units, two were known and two, as yet, were unknown. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Brian T. Teets, USN. All the staff were pictured in the *Longhorn Log*. SK1 Busano (Ret) left at the end of the fall and was replaced by Lee Maloy, a retired Army MSgt as Supply Technician for the spring.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck.²⁹ Battalion Commanders were Cecilia Beavers '17 (fall) and Jobin Murickan '17 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. The *Longhorn Log* pictured all Battalion members alphabetically by class and program, with no platoon affiliation. Total Battalion strength was about what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Leatherneck Platoon</u>
21	21	21



Buccaneer Drill Team (Platoon) at Tulane Drill Meet
 Photo from 2017 *Longhorn Log*, page 53

five people. That left 16 for the drill team (15 plus the CO). No Guidon was pictured. The May 2017 *Spur and Anchor* had a good photograph of marching Buccaneers (15 plus CO) in Service Dress blues, and one of a six-man squad in summer khaki. M-16 rifles were used by both groups. The name “Buccaneer” was not used in the newsletter. MDN 2/C Parker Rost was the drill team commander, according to GySgt Linares. Five members have been tentatively identified, leaving eleven more.

Mardi Gras was on February 28th that year, so the Buccaneers and Color Guard would have traveled on February 24th and competed in the Tulane meet on February 25th, and possibly the 26th. The drill squad placed 2nd in regulation drill. They had liberty in New Orleans. There was a photo on Facebook and in *Spur and Anchor* showing 21 people with a trophy. The Color Guard looked like it had



Buccaneer Drill Team (Squad) at Tulane Drill Meet
 Photo from May 2017 *Spur and Anchor*, page 1

Rifle and pistol teams met in the wardroom the evening of January 26th to get organized. They began shooting again in March, after signing a contract with The Range, a shooting facility in South Austin. The Unit had, at that time, four functional rifles and nearly twenty pistols. They were looking to procure additional rifles. No competitions were attended that first year. The Color Guard performed at the Texas vs. Iowa State Men’s Basketball game (February 7), the Tulane meet (February 25), and for a Navy League meeting at Ben Hur Shrine (March 23). They posed with the Buccaneers for a Facebook photo of 21 Midshipmen and a trophy won at Tulane. The Color Guard was a five-man team. Color Guard

²⁹ 2017 *Longhorn Log*, Page 12

Commander was MDN 2/C Ryan Stuart Carr. At least five other probable members of the team have been identified.

The Longhorn Log Returns

The *Longhorn Log* was published electronically that year, first *Log* to be produced in 12 years. It was not released until September 2017. The *Longhorn Log* staff was listed on page 2. The Editor-in-chief was MDN 2/C Rachel Pagio. The Battalion was also still publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*, at least twice per year (*i.e.* each semester). There were even issues in the early fall that covered summer activities. Public Affairs Officers for the fall and spring were MDN 2/C Eric Barragan and MDN 2/C Rachel Pagio, respectively.

The only documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year was found in searching the RecSports website. On that site it was found that NROTC fielded a team for sand volleyball in the spring. The newly revived *Longhorn Log* did not cover any Intramural Sports. The *Spur and Anchor* newsletter from January mentioned IM sports, showed a small trophy, a basketball game and a group of, what looked like, runners. One could infer, from that sketchy evidence, that the Unit fielded a basketball team in the fall and they won 1st or 2nd Place, thus warranting a trophy.



“Expanded Games” for OU Weekend

The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 5-8) was made. It was the 35th anniversary of this event. On the 7th the UT NROTC and OU NROTC units met at Wilmer-Hutchins High School in Dallas for some competitive activities. This was the first year of “expanded” games to give other Midshipmen something to do, not just the football teams. UT beat OU, 19-6, at flag football. UT also beat OU in the soccer game. OU won the tug-o-war and the “artillery” game (using rubber bands and rubber balls). Other sources said the games were held at Glencoe Park, in Dallas. The competition was expanded to include more Battalion member participation. Soccer and tug-of-war were two of the events added.

Warfare Specialty Clubs Formed

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (November 5) in the Texas Student Union Ballroom and the spring formal (May 6) aboard *The Commodore*, cruising Lake Austin. There was also a Mess Night (*i.e.* dining-in) for juniors, seniors and active duty (April 28) at American Legion Post #76. The American Legion also hosted a dinner for the Battalion at Charles Johnson House (April 17). Five Leadership Conferences were attended that year: The Naval Academy (January 22-25), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 23-25), SCONA 62 at Texas A&M (February 16-18), Notre Dame (February 23-26) and Yale University (April 6-8). This was the first year to send Battalion members to Yale for a conference. A C-130J static display at Austin Bergstrom airport

was held for aspiring aviators (September 3). The Air Warfare Club attended the “Wings Over Houston” Air Show at Ellington Field (October 23). The formation of warfare specialty clubs was used for camaraderie within each warfare community and better-tailored training activities and opportunities (e.g. field trips) for those who chose that specialty. Aviation, Surface Warfare and Submarine/Nuclear Propulsion were the three main communities. This was the first documented instance of their use, but they could have been started earlier. The MECEPs and Marine Option Midshipmen hosted a FEX at Camp Bullis, outside San Antonio, on March 25th, to show Navy Midshipmen what life as a Marine was like. MDN 4/C visited the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, as part of NS 312 Seapower and Maritime Affairs class, on April 22nd. No other field trips were documented for the year.

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 22, 2016. It began at UT on August 24th. At the MF Board meeting on August 26th, CAPT Teets told the author that the Battalion was organized into three platoons, two of Midshipmen and one entirely made up of Marines (MECEPs and Marine Option Midshipmen), called Leathernecks. The three-platoon structure of the Battalion actually started back in the spring of 2008. The Leatherneck designator for one of these platoons came later. The Battalion would be fairly stable at about 65 men and women for some time to come. He was reintroducing rifles and a manual of arms to the drill routine, which had been dropped for some time. He had also contacted the other ROTC leaders at UT and the National Scabbard & Blade organization in an attempt to restart the UT Chapter, which had ended nearly 30 years ago. No interest has since been shown by the other ROTCs in reviving Scabbard & Blade. At that same Board meeting the MF budgeted \$10,000 for Battalion support. The following day, at the AF Board meeting the alumni budgeted \$3,000 for Battalion support. The Navy just was not doing its job in supporting these NROTC units with adequate budgets. Those units without a strong alumni association, were just having to do without or their members had to spend an inordinate amount of time on fund-raising. UT had the strongest alumni support in the nation and was admired by other units at every PNS conference. To the author’s knowledge, that position remained unchallenged for the duration of this project.

On September 5th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 21, (September 2016) Issue 1 was published. On Friday, September 9th, a Battalion birthday cake was cut and consumed at noon, in celebration of the Unit’s 76th Anniversary, which fell on Sunday, September 11th. A book fair was held September 15th. A Battalion Commander’s inspection was held September 27th on the Main Mall. On September 29th VADM Raquel C. Bono, Director, Defense Health Agency, visited the Unit and spoke to the Battalion.

A PNS Inspection of the Battalion was held on the Main Mall on October 11th. On that same day, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) visit, with a luncheon in CLA, to educate Battalion members about the EOD community, was held. The President’s Cup Tri-Service competition was conducted at 5:40 a.m. (October 18-20) at Clark Field.

Unit History Volume II Released

Texas Fight, The History of Naval ROTC at The University of Texas at Austin, Vol. II (1960-1980) was released November 9th in limited printed copies for the upcoming Reunion. A pdf version was released on jump

drives, along with an updated alumni directory. Both were used as fundraisers for those who contributed \$10 or more to the Alumni Foundation or Midshipmans Foundation. Volume II contained a Table of Contents for only that volume. A separate updated Appendix accompanied the new volume.

The 30th Annual Alumni Reunion began on November 10th, the Marine Corps' 241st birthday, with a Navy League dinner at the Austin Women's Club. Guest Speaker was Dr. Hans Mark, Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at UT. Dr. Mark was guest speaker at that same event three years ago. The Navy vs. Marine Corps golf scramble was held that next morning at Star Ranch but no competition was held that year. Crow's Nest members met at the Embassy Suites that afternoon. They had endowed a second \$1,000 scholarship. The Alumni Awards Dinner was held that evening at the ACC. J. Stephen Quinn '64, and James B. Sales '56 were awarded Distinguished Alumnus awards and Frederick J. Moon '70 was awarded for Distinguished Service. Informal gatherings that same evening were held at the NXNW Restaurant and Brewery, just down the street from the Embassy Suites.

FOM Program Starts

On November 12th at the morning AF Board meeting, the Friends of the Midshipmen (FOM) program was kicked off by Luis de la Garza '66. He outlined the needs for the coming year and handed out pledge cards. The initial goal was to raise \$16,000 (\$6,000 from the AF and \$10,000 from the MF) in pledges to provide funds for the 2017 academic year. 65 pledges of \$250 each would meet the goal. At the general business meeting afterward, the FOM kick-off was announced. It was also announced that the AF Life Sponsorship fund had reached \$17,805. It was also announced that Jim Mulva '68 had extended his initial 5-year challenge of matching \$50,000 each year indefinitely or until the challenge was not met. After that brief business meeting, forty-six scholarships, totaling \$77,500, including three officer swords, were awarded to deserving Battalion members. The ceremony was held in the basement auditorium of CLA, now named for Russell A. Steindam. The football game was at 11 a.m. that year and Texas narrowly lost to West Virginia 24-20. The alumni BBQ was held after the game, on the first deck patio at CLA and in the Glickman Center on the same level. UT System Chancellor, Bill McRaven, came by for the BBQ and visited and had photos made with many Midshipmen. He congratulated those who had received scholarships earlier that day.

On November 18th the Midshipman Foundation hosted another wardroom breakfast in the McRaven classroom. On November 19th, the Leathernecks conducted a FEX at Ft. Hood. The Marines held their CFT and the Navy its PRT on November 21st. Thanksgiving holidays were November 23-25. A Battalion drill competition was held on November 29th. The Battalion conducted its Change of Command at 7 a.m. on the Main Mall, December 1st. MDN Cecilia Lauren Beavers '17 was relieved by MDN Jobin Murickan '17 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended at H-T on December 2nd and at UT on December 5th. At 10 a.m. on December 16th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Lee Hage Jamail Academic Room of the Main Building (UT Tower). One Ensign and two 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned (see photo next page). The T List and the 2017 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. See the Appendix.



December 16, 2016 Commissioning Class, Jamail Academic Room, Main Bldg (UT Tower), 2017 *Longhorn Log*, Page 48
(L to R): 2ndLt Christopher B. Grieg, 2ndLt Veronica L. Ortega & ENS Gretchen M. Ledesma

The spring semester commenced at H-T on January 9, 2017 and at UT on January 17th. The Navy PRT and Marine PFT were both conducted on January 19th. Second Class swim qualifications were held on February 6th by SSgt McGuire (MECEP). The MF Board met on February 10th in La Grange. On February 11th the AF Board meeting was delayed for a memorial service. Rusty Allman '66 passed away. He had been our host at the ACC for the evening dinners for many years and previously served as President of the AF. The Board meeting was held later that day and announced that the FOM goal of \$6,000 had been reached and exceeded. That same day the Leathernecks were on a 4-mile hike at Camp Mabry. Ship selections for Surface Warfare candidates was conducted February 15th. On February 22nd, Chancellor McRaven hosted a social for Battalion seniors and Unit staff at Bauer House in Austin. Explore UT, for youth who would like to attend UT, was held March 4th, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on campus. Volunteer Midshipmen from the Battalion sponsored the popular rock-climbing wall. A Battalion Commander's inspection was conducted on the Main Mall at 7 a.m. on March 7th. That same day, the Leathernecks did a 6-mile hike at Camp Mabry. Spring Break occurred the week of March 13-18.

Austin celebrated Navy Week, March 19-26. A Safety Inspection was conducted by Naval Safety Training Command (NSTC) on March 20th. The PNS conducted an inspection of the Battalion on the Main Mall on March 21st. On March 31st the Midshipmans Foundation hosted another breakfast for seniors and juniors in the McRaven classroom. On April 3rd the Unit shifted to summer whites. The Leathernecks conducted their annual spring FEX at Fort Hood April 8-9. The Battalion PT for the Captain's Cup competition was held April 10th at Clark Field, near Chilling Station No. 3. The MOI hosted a breakfast on April 12th, 6:30 a.m., at Mi Madre's Restaurant in Austin. MDN 2/C and 3/C swim qualifications, immunizations and sea bag issue was on April 14th. The President's Cup Tri-Service

competition was held on the J. J. Pickle campus (April 18-21). There they competed on the USMC-style “O” course. The final Navy PRT and Marine PFT were conducted on April 27th. On April 28th RADM Margaret G. Kibben, 26th U.S. Navy Chief of Chaplains, visited the Unit during the afternoon. The spring semester ended at H-T that same day.

MDN Bayliss Injured in Act of Heroism

On May 1st MDN 3/C Stuart Bayliss, Marine option, was attacked and wounded on the UT campus by Kendrex White, a 21-year-old fellow student, who had already killed one student and stabbed two others. Bayliss was defending others from being harmed when his hand was slashed by White. The injury put into serious doubt as to whether or not Bayliss could recover the use of his hand sufficiently to be a Marine.



MDN 3/C Stuart Bayliss

On May 2nd the NROTC platoon and senior drill competition was held at Clark Field. On May 4th the Battalion held a Change of Command at 7 a.m. on the Main Mall in front of the UT Tower. MDN Jobin Murickan '17 was relieved by MDN Parker G. Rost '18 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. Later that same day the annual spring awards ceremony was held in the Jackson Geological Sciences Building (JGB), directly across the East Mall from CLA. On May 5th a Captain's Call for Midshipmen Second Class was conducted and the spring semester ended at UT.



Retro Commissioning Photo Taken in Front of Gregory Gym

Recital Hall. Seven Ensigns and five 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. CAPT Teets and the 2017 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. See the Appendix.

On May 17th the senior class photo was taken in front of Gregory Gym just after noon. CAPT Teets asked the author for an old photograph of senior Midshipmen getting photographed in front of Gregory Gym back in the early 1940s. He staged the year's senior picture to be similar to that one and had a black and white version of it prepared. LT Jonathan “Jon” Hemler came aboard on May 17th and relieved LT Edwards in June as the Aviation Officer for the summer. At 9 a.m. on May 19th a joint commissioning ceremony was held in the Bates



May 19, 2017 Commissioning Class, Steps of Gregory Gymnasium, 2017 *Longhorn Log*, page 23, With Names & Color (L to R): Top Row - 2ndLt Kevin Rodriguez, 2ndLt Christopher M. Guerra, 2ndLt Rene A. E barguen, 2ndLt Martin Sanchez, Jr. & 2ndLt Cruz Ashe
 Front Row - ENS Conor B. Martin, ENS Luis Sanchez, ENS Jacob R. Bishop, ENS Jobin G. Murickan, ENS Cecilia L. Beavers & ENS Joshua I. Ruiz *Not Pictured: ENS Destiny M. Lewis was delayed until June*

Summer 2017

LT Edwards departed in June. On June 1st the summer semester commenced at UT. On June 3rd the AF Board met and changed their fiscal year to June 1st to May 31st to better keep income and expenses for the reunion in the same year. The AF also presented CAPT Teets with a 75th Anniversary plaque for the Unit. CDR George A. Floyd reported aboard on July 10th to relieve CDR FitzPatrick as XO. On July 25th the summer semester ended at UT.



Old Shipmates Meet

On June 9th, the author met with Jimmy Serna, a LTJG mustang when the author was “Ensign Ed.” We both brought cruisebooks and had a good reunion. Jimmy and I were on USS Albany (CG-10). He was

in charge of 5th Division and had the after Talos missile house. I was in charge of 3rd Division and had the forward Talos missile house. Jimmy and my most excellent GMCM Nelson were excellent mentors in helping me to “learn the ropes” on my first ship assignment.

At 9 a.m. on August 18th a commissioning ceremony was held in the Lee Hage Jamail Academic Room of the Main Building (UT Tower). One 2nd Lieutenant was commissioned. CAPT Teets provided the name. The 2017 CHR provided the date and number. See the Appendix. Freshman Orientation was conducted at UT NROTC August 21-27. There were 15 new freshmen in this class and 15 were expected (13 on scholarship, 2 college program) and (12 Navy, 3 Marine Option). The MF Board met on August 25th in La Grange. The AF Board was due to meet the following day in Austin, but Hurricane Harvey (Category 4) delayed that.

Academic Year 2018

Statistics:

Number of Students: 51 Midshipmen (Down 7), 8 MECEP and 1 STA for a Battalion of 60 (Down 9)

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

Number of Commissionees: 15 (11 Navy, 4 Marine) (Down 1)

The *Longhorn Log*, one issue of *The Spur and Anchor* Unit newsletter (5/10/2018), the 2017 and 2018 CHRs, meeting minutes from five AF Board meetings and one alumni newsletter were the primary sources of Unit information about the year. The 2018 *Longhorn Log* covered the NROTC Unit on 63 pages and was also published electronically (pdf format). The Unit newsletter provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes and newsletters provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were 76 to 78 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT Brian T. Teets, USN. All the staff were pictured in the *Longhorn Log*. GySgt Samuel J. Linares reported aboard in March 2018 to relieve GySgt Rosas as AMOI for the remainder of the spring. GySgt Rosas retired after being relieved. Capt Grubb left on May 15th, just short of his relief's arrival.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck.³⁰ Battalion Commanders were Parker Rost '18 (fall) and Matthew Corey '18 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. The *Longhorn Log* pictured all Battalion members alphabetically by class and program, with no platoon affiliation. Total Battalion strength was down a little from what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff. In the fall there was no Leatherneck Platoon.

³⁰ 2018 *Longhorn Log*, Page 15

First Platoon
18

Second Platoon
18

Leatherneck Platoon
18



Unidentified Photo from 2018 *Longhorn Log*, page 39
Probably Members of the Buccaneer Drill Team

MDN 2/C Jaganathan Ravichandran, according to GySgt Linares. A photo in the 2018 *Longhorn Log* (page 39) of a formation of Midshipmen, dressed in Khakis and sporting M-16s in the Mulva ROTC Center lobby, may be the drill team, but there was no caption identifying them as such.

Mardi Gras was on February 13th that year, but the UT NROTC drill team did not go to the Tulane drill meet. They went to the University of Colorado drill meet, in Boulder, instead, since it offered other competitive events for the Color Guard, Pistol/Rifle teams and the Endurance team that allowed more Battalion members to travel and participate. The Colorado meet was March 2-4. The May 2018 *Spur and Anchor* covered the meet but did not mention the drill team. GySgt Linares said the drill team competed at Colorado in platoon drill and individual drill. Platoon competition would have meant about twelve members plus the CO. Only two have been identified with eleven remaining. The drill team commander was

Pistol Team Returned to Competition

The Pistol Team (4 members), Color Guard (5 members) and Endurance Team (6 men) all went with the drill team to the Colorado meet. This was the first competition for the Pistol Team after being inactive for about seven years. The team had 10 members. Just four made the trip to Colorado and they came back in 4th Place. MDN 1/C Rachel Pagio was the probable Team Captain. No other names have yet to be identified. The May 2018 *Spur and Anchor* covered the Colorado meet. The Color Guard also performed at official UT functions on January 27th and February 3rd. Color Guard Commanders were MDN 2/C Trevor Wilson Penwell (fall) and MDN 3/C Jeffrey Thomas Burds (spring). Five other names have been identified as being associated with the Color Guard. The team was probably the typical five-member squad.

The *Longhorn Log* was published electronically again that year. The *Longhorn Log* staff was not listed nor was the Editor. The Battalion was also still publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*. Public Affairs Officers for the fall and spring were MDN 1/C Austin Douglas and MDN 2/C Tori Wagner, respectively.

The only documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year was found in searching the RecSports website. On that site it was found that NROTC fielded a men's flag football

team in the spring. The *Longhorn Log* did not cover any Intramural Sports. The annual Run to Dallas for OU weekend (October 11-13) was made. The result of the flag football game between the Texas and OU NROTC units was not known. This was the second year where the games were expanded beyond just touch football. On the Navy's 242nd birthday, the NROTC Midshipmen from UT and OU met on the field of play at Wilmer-Hutchins High School and conducted various athletic matches in connection with OU weekend. Page 40 in the *Longhorn Log* showed a Championship Trophy, which makes one infer that UT was victorious in those games. The whole Battalion traveled to Ft. Hood, Texas, to participate in a Leadership Reaction Course in the spring (no date given). The event was covered in the *Longhorn Log* (pages 54-55).

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 27) in the UT Alumni Center and the spring formal (May 4). There was also a Mess Night (*i.e.* dining-in) for juniors, seniors and active duty (April 20). The American Legion also hosted an appreciation dinner for the Battalion at American Legion Post #76 (April 16). Chancellor McRaven hosted a social for a group of Battalion and Staff members (February 21). Four Leadership Conferences were attended that year: The Naval Academy (January 20-24), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 22-24), SCONA 63 at Texas A&M (February 13-17) and Notre Dame (February 7-11). Six field trips were documented for the year. The XO, CDR Floyd, escorted seven Midshipmen to the 30th Annual Surface Navy Association (SNA) Conference, in Washington, DC (November 9-11). The Air Warfare Club attended the "Wings Over Houston" Air Show in Houston (October 23). The "Heart of Texas" Air Show was in Waco, Texas (April 5-8). A SEAL Exposure Weekend was held at Holy Cross (April 6-8). Some Battalion members went to Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas (April 2-8) to participate in Navy Week activities. Five members of the Surface Warfare Club made a trip to the Maritime Simulator System (MSS) at Texas A&M University. And the visit to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, for incoming freshmen, was made, too (April 14).

"Blueberry" Cammies Go Away

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 28, 2017 and at UT on August 30th. On September 1st the 2017 *Longhorn Log* was released. Events covered in that yearbook covered some from the previous year since no yearbook was created for 2016. An AF Board meeting was held on September 16th, which was originally scheduled for August 26th. It was delayed due to the arrival of Hurricane Harvey (Category 4). It was announced that Volume III of the Unit History would be delayed due to the scarcity of documentation. CAPT Teets reported that MDN Bayliss was recovering from his wounds and was expected to resume his studies. His status as a Marine was still in question pending the results of his rehabilitation. Some upgrades and repairs were made to the "O" course. Some of the logs needed replacement and the PNS was trying to get UT to install lighting so it could be used at night. The Battalion Commanding Officer held an inspection on September 26th. On September 28th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 22, (September 2017) Issue 1 was published. "Blueberry" cammies for the Navy were replaced by green ones. Hallelujah! On October 10th there was a PNS Inspection held on the Main Mall. On November 1st a fall awards ceremony was held. The Midshipmans Foundation sponsored another wardroom breakfast for the seniors and juniors on November 3rd in the McRaven classroom.

The President's Cup Tri-Service competition was held (November 7-9). Navy came in 2nd Place that semester.

The 31st Annual Alumni Reunion started the evening of November 9th with a Navy League dinner. Guest Speakers were Dr. Thomas Hatfield, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Studies in American Military History, University of Texas Center for American History; and Frank W. Denius, WWII veteran of D-Day and Longhorn Legend. Mr. Denius had just published a book, *On the Way: My Life and Times*, through the Briscoe Center. The "speech" was in the form of an interview of the author, conducted by Dr. Hatfield. The next morning, the Marine Corps' 242nd birthday, the annual Navy vs. Marine Corps golf scramble was held at Star Ranch. In the afternoon the Crow's Nest meeting was held at the Embassy Suites. The Alumni Awards dinner was at the ACC that evening. CDR James Broaddus (Ret) '70 was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award and CAPT Gabriel Salazar (Ret) '79 was awarded for Distinguished Service. Informal gatherings happened in the evening at the NXNW Restaurant and Brewery, just down the street from the Embassy Suites.

The next day, on Veterans Day, at the morning AF Board meeting, Fred Moon, who had spearheaded the effort, formally presented the Unit with the KIA plaque, which had been in the works for several years. Readers may recall that Bill Barnhouse attended an AF Board meeting in January of 2007 and asked that someone work on a unit history and acknowledge those who had been killed in action. The wait yielded one additional KIA to be added.



The Long-Awaited-For Plaque Paying Tribute to Naval and Marine Corps Officers Killed in Action While in the Service of their Country, Who Were Members of the UT NROTC Battalion

In the awards ceremony after that, \$74,500 in scholarships and officer swords, were awarded to deserving members of the Battalion in front of an array of alumni, staff, family and friends. The alumni BBQ was immediately after that on the first deck of CLA and in the Glickman Center on the same level. Texas played Kansas at 5 p.m. and won handily 42-27.

Leathernecks conducted their FEX at Fort Hood November 17-18. Navy Midshipmen performed their final PRT for the semester on November 20th. Marines conducted their final CFT for the semester on November 30th. Thanksgiving holidays were November 23-24. The Battalion conducted its senior drill competition at Clark Field on November 28th.

Russell A. Steindam Honored

On November 29th the Travis County Courthouse was renamed the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building, by a unanimous 5-0 vote of the Commissioners Court. Russell A. Steindam was a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient during the Vietnam War. When the Russell A. Steindam Hall on the UT campus was replaced with the CLA, only an auditorium in the building was dedicated using the name, although there were many efforts to try and reuse the RAS name for the new building. Ironically Russell A. Steindam was not only an Army ROTC cadet at UT, he was also a liberal arts major. It was heartening to see Travis County step in where UT failed to suitably honor a Medal of Honor recipient.

KIA Plaque Displayed in CLA

On November 30th, a KIA (Killed in Action) plaque was hung in the NROTC spaces on the fifth deck of the Center for Liberal Arts (CLA) building just outside the ADM McRaven classroom. It was the first time members of the NROTC Battalion had been so recognized. The first five men were all killed in WWII, one in the European theater and four in the Pacific theater. One was killed in Vietnam, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. All have been detailed elsewhere in the Unit history. Six were Navy and two were Marine Corps. On December 4th the Unit shifted to Service Dress Blues. A Battalion Change of Command was held on the Main Mall at 7 a.m. on December 5th. MDN Parker G. Rost '18 was relieved by MDN Matthew Corey '18 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. The fall semester ended at H-T on December 8th and at UT on December 11th. On December 15th Chancellor McRaven resigned his position and took a faculty position at UT. He served until May 31st, when his relief took the helm. On December 22nd a Joint Commissioning ceremony was held but there were no Navy or Marine Corps officers to be commissioned. According to CAPT Teets no Navy or Marine Corps commissions were made for the fall.

The spring semester commenced at H-T on January 8, 2018 and at UT on January 16th. The MF Board met on February 9th in La Grange. At the AF Board meeting on February 10th, it was announced that the Life Sponsor fund had reached \$24,065. Gabe Salazar recommended that the AF let True North manage the investment of these funds. They were already managing the MF endowment and the addition of AF funds would only constitute a separate account. The investment strategy would be identical. It was also announced that there would be no alumni awards dinner at the ACC next fall. Everyone wanted to try a more informal get together event at the hotel to promote more alumni participation and interaction. Surface Warfare Officer ship selections were made (February 13-14) by SWO candidates of the Battalion. Navy Week was celebrated in San Antonio (February 19-25). Chancellor McRaven held another social on February 21st. This was for seniors and Unit staff and was his last one as Chancellor. On March 3rd the Explore UT event was held again that year, with volunteer Midshipmen manning the rock-climbing wall booth (again). The Battalion Commander held an inspection on March 6th. Spring Break occurred the week of March 12-17.

Navy Week in Austin was March 17-23. The PNS Inspection was conducted March 20th. A submarine social visit was held on March 21st. The Midshipmans Foundation hosted another wardroom breakfast for seniors and juniors on March 30th in the McRaven classroom. Uniform shift to summer whites was

April 2nd. A spring FEX was conducted, April 6-7. The Longhorn Run was held on April 14th. The President's Cup Tri-Service competition was held April 17-20. Navy came in 2nd Place again. On April 24th the platoon and senior drill competition was held at Caven LaCrosse & Sports Center, Clark Field.



May 18, 2018 Commissioning Class, Steps of Gregory Gymnasium, 2018 *Longhorn Log*, page 62
(L to R): Top Row - ENS Sebastian E. Camacho, ENS Garrett K. Bohannon, ENS Charles E. Ryan, ENS Benjamin M. Summers, ENS Austin C. Douglas, ENS Matthew C. Waddington & ENS Eric A. Barragan
Front Row - ENS Ryan S. Carr, ENS Matthew J. Corey, 2ndLt Parker G. Rost, 2ndLt Mallory VanderSchans, 2ndLt Jeremy B. Cerf, ENS Joshua R. Marks & ENS Rachel Pagio *Note: Pagio was actually commissioned June 25, 2018*

The spring semester at H-T ended on April 27th. Senior photos were taken that same day in front of Gregory Gym (see photo above). On May 1st a Battalion Change of Command was conducted on the Main Mall at 7 a.m. MDN Matthew Corey '18 was relieved by MDN Jaganathan Ravichandran '19 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The spring awards ceremony was held on May 3rd. Another wardroom breakfast for seniors and juniors was sponsored by the Midshipmans Foundation on May 4th.

The spring semester ended at UT on May 4th. On May 15th Capt Jonathan "Jon" Grubb, MOI, vacated that position and departed. At 9 a.m. on May 18th a Joint Commissioning ceremony was held in the Bates Recital Hall. Guest Speaker was Gen James F. Amos, USMC (Ret) 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Ten Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. CAPT Teets and the 2018 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. See the Appendix.

Tale of Two Buddies, Final Chapter

On Saturday, May 26, 2018, Alan Bean '54 passed away at age 86. Back in 1969, as part of Apollo 12's all-Navy crew, he was the fourth man to walk on the moon. Clay Fulcher '54, Alan's best buddy, had preceded him in passing seven years prior, in 2011. Early after the launch of Apollo 12, two lightning strikes on the Saturn V caused all kinds of irregular and false readings on the telemetry NASA was receiving. John Aaron, the EECOM back at Mission Control remembered a training simulation from a year ago that might solve the problem and Alan Bean was the only crew member who remembered the simulation and where the switch was located. By Alan Bean finding and closing that switch the crew and NASA were spared an early abort of the mission. Telemetry cleared up and they were, once again, on their way to the moon. The quick-thinking by Aaron earned him the reputation of a "steely-eyed missile man."



Astronaut Alan Bean '54

Summer 2018

2018 Longhorn Log Released

Summer cruises were conducted from June 1st to July 31st. At the June 2nd AF Board meeting the Board opted to have True North manage their Life Sponsor fund along with the MF endowment they were already managing. There would be no cost to the AF since True North was already being paid by the MF and the additional funds represented very little additional work by True North, other than keeping a separate account. Capt Anthony J. Gantt, Jr. reported aboard on June 15th to fill the vacant MOI position. On June 16th, the 2018 *Longhorn Log* was released. This was a promising development, being the second year in a row that Battalion members put this together. A NSTC Inspector General Assist Visit was conducted (June 27-29). Two days after Independence Day, our nation's 242nd birthday, CAPT David E. Koss, USN relieved CAPT Teets as CO, UT NROTC Unit, and became UT's 29th Professor of Naval Science. CAPT Teets retired shortly afterward. Ricky Sands, the Human Resources Technician, had been having medical problems so he retired about the same time as CAPT Teets did. Mr. Sands was replaced by Edward "Jack" Schultz.

On July 31st it was announced that the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) building would be renamed in the fall to the Robert L Patton Hall (RLP) due to a \$20 million gift to the College of Liberal Arts from Sherri and Robert L. Patton, Jr. Two commissioning ceremonies were held during the summer: June 25th, one Ensign in NROTC spaces and August 21st, one 2nd Lieutenant also in NROTC spaces on the 5th deck of the CLA building. Capt Gantt (MOI) and the 2018 *Longhorn Log* provided the names. See the Appendix. New Student Orientation (NSO) was conducted at UT NROTC August 20-25. There were 17 new students in this class. Only 12 new students were expected. The name change was because not all new students were freshmen.

U.S. 2nd Fleet Reactivated

On May 4, 2018, Admiral John M. Richardson, the Chief of Naval Operations, announced plans to reestablish Second Fleet amid heightened tensions between NATO and Russia. It was reestablished on August 24, 2018, with Vice Admiral Andrew "Woody" Lewis in command.³¹ It had been deactivated since September 2011, nearly seven years.

Academic Year 2019

Statistics:

Number of Students: 37 Midshipmen (Down 14), 10 MECEP and 3 STA for a Battalion of 50 (Dn 10)
Number of Staff: 5 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (Up 1)
Number of Commissionees: 10 (6 Navy, 4 Marine) (Down 5)

The 2018 and 2019 CHRs provided good input. The 2019 *Longhorn Log* covered the NROTC Unit on 54 pages and was also published electronically (pdf format). The Unit newsletters (12/2018 & 5/2019) provided articles by the CO, XO and MOI as well as stories on Unit activities. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes (four) and newsletters (one) provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT David E. Koss, USN

There were still 76 to 78 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT David E. Koss, USN. CAPT Koss was commissioned from the Naval Academy and chose a career path in aviation. He earned his wings in March 1995. He flew several fighter aircraft, including the FA-18 Hornet. After deployment to operations over Iraq and Bosnia, while embarked on USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), he reported to Top Gun for training in Nevada. After serving as an instructor there he deployed again aboard different carriers in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He did a command tour with the "Tophatters" while embarked on USS Nimitz (CVN-68), again in support of Enduring Freedom. From 2010 to 2011 he was attached to the Blue Angels. This was followed by tours in the Pentagon and National War College, where he earned a Masters degree. This was followed by a Deputy Commodore tour and command of the largest Type Wing in the U.S. Navy. He had one more staff position with Commander, Naval Air Forces, Pacific, before coming to UT.



David E. Koss

³¹ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Second_Fleet

All the uniformed staff were pictured in the *Longhorn Log*. Prior to the beginning of the year, the CO (in July) and MOI (in June) positions changed hands. Also during the summer the Human Resources Tech was replaced by Jack Schultz.

The Battalion was organized into three platoons: 1st, 2nd and Leatherneck. Battalion Commanders were Jaganathan Ravichandran '19 (fall) and Alex Thompson '19 (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Platoon leadership positions. The *Longhorn Log* pictured all Battalion members alphabetically by class and program, with no platoon affiliation. Total Battalion strength was down again from what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members, less Battalion staff.

<u>First Platoon</u>	<u>Second Platoon</u>	<u>Leatherneck Platoon</u>
15	15	15



Buccaneer Drill Team (Squad) at Colorado Drill Meet
Photo from May 2019 *Spur and Anchor*, page 3

Mardi Gras was on March 5th that year, but the UT NROTC drill team did not go to the Tulane drill meet again. They went to the University of Colorado drill meet, in Boulder, instead since it offered other competitive events for the Color Guard, Pistol/Rifle teams and the Endurance team that allowed more Battalion members to travel and participate. The Colorado meet was March 1-4. The meet was covered in the May 2019 *Spur and Anchor* but the drill team was not mentioned. GySgt Linares said that UT sent their “Drill

Squad” and that they competed in platoon drill and individual drill. Platoon competition would have meant a team of about 12 plus the CO. Only one has been identified, MDN 2/C Jeffrey Burds, the Drill Team Commander, leaving a dozen more. A photo in the May 2019 *Spur and Anchor* (page 3) and again shown in the 2019 *Longhorn Log* (page 42) showed a squad of six, plus commander, all dressed in cammie uniforms and drilling with M-16s.

GySgt Linares (AMOI) said that UT sent their Pistol Team, Color Guard, and Endurance Team to the Colorado meet with the drill team. The Pistol Team Captain was MDN 2/C Joshua Staton. No other names have yet to be identified with the Pistol Team. The Endurance Team Commander was MDN 2/C Elias Terrazas. The Color Guard also performed at official UT functions on September 8th, October 26th, November 8th and December 5th. The Color Guard Commanders were MDN 2/C Elias Terrazas (fall) and MDN 3/C Joseph Mpande (spring). Color Guard also performed at the H-T Commencement (May 11). Seven other names have been found to be associated with the Color Guard that year. The five-member squad was probably the size used.

The *Longhorn Log* was published electronically again that year. The *Longhorn Log* staff was not listed nor was the Editor. The Battalion was also still publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*. Public Affairs Officers for the fall and spring were MDN 2/C Ashley Wright and SSgt Marc Mascorro (MECEP), respectively.

UT NROTC Unit: One of Top Ten Units

The only documentation found covering participation in Intramural Sports for the year was found in searching the RecSports website. On that site it was found that NROTC fielded flag football and volleyball teams in the fall. The *Longhorn Log* did not cover any Intramural Sports. The annual Run to Dallas (RTD) for OU weekend (October 3-5) was made. On that Friday, UT and OU NROTC teams squared off at Wilmer-Hutchins High School in Dallas for an evening of competitive athletic matches. OU won the flag football game. UT won the soccer game and relay run. They tied at tug of war. Navy Federal Credit Union made a video of the run and awarded UT \$2,500 for being one of the top ten NROTC units in the country. To top off the weekend #19 Texas beat #7 OU in the Red River Shootout 48-45. The RTD event was covered in the *Longhorn Log* (pages 34-35).

Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 27) in the Texas Student Union and the spring formal (May 11) at Lonestar Riverboat Dock. There was also a Mess Night (*i.e.* dining-in) for juniors, seniors and active duty (April 20) at the UT Club. The Submarine crew had a social (October 25). Former Chancellor and now UT Professor McRaven hosted a dining-out (November 29). The Capitol Battalion Leadership Conference was held (October 18-20). Another Navy SEAL exposure weekend was held (November 2-4). Five other Leadership Conferences were attended that year: The Naval Academy (January 21-24), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (February 21-23), SCONA 64 at Texas A&M (February 14-16), Notre Dame (February 7-10) and Yale University (April 5-6). Four field trips were documented for the year. There was a F/A-18 Static display (September 14) probably at Austin-Bergstrom Int'l Airport. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal exposure weekend (September 27-30) was held in Panama City, Florida. A SEAL exposure weekend was held September 28-30. And the visit to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, for incoming freshmen, was made, too (March 9).

CLA Building Changed to RLP Hall

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 20, 2018 and at UT on August 29th. An AF Board meeting was held on August 25th in the McRaven classroom on the 5th deck. On September 7th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 23, (September 2018) Issue 1 was published. On September 13th, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) building was officially renamed the Robert L. Patton Hall (RLP). The University of Texas celebrated its 135th birthday on September 15th. It opened in 1883. September 16th was the 9/11 Hero's Run. The Battalion Commanding Officer held an inspection on September 25th.

First UT Midshipman to Make 4-Star General

On October 5th, while the UT Midshipmen were running the last leg of their Run to Dallas, one of their own, from the Class of 1984, Gary Lee Thomas, was awarded his fourth star and then assumed the post of the 35th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. Gen Thomas was Battalion Commander in his last semester at UT before commissioning. A PNS Inspection was held on the 25th and, later that day, so was a Submarine crew social. On November 1st the Leathernecks made a 6-mile hike, probably at Camp Mabry. The Folds of Honor Golf Tournament was on November 2nd.

Unit History Volume III Released

Texas Fight, The History of Naval ROTC at The University of Texas at Austin, Vol. III (1980-2000) was released November 1st in pdf format only, along with an updated alumni directory, on jump drives, for a small donation. Those who still had their jump drives got a free download. Volume III contained a Table of Contents for only that volume. A separate updated Appendix accompanied the new volume. Also at that time, all three of the Unit history volumes and the appendix were available as a free download from the alumni website. Donations were encouraged but not required.



Gen Gary Lee Thomas, USMC, '84 Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

The 32nd Annual Alumni Reunion began on that same day with a Navy League dinner in the evening. Guest Speaker was Dr. F. Michael Pestorius, Senior Research Engineer, Applied Research Laboratories at UT. He spoke on what UT does for the submarine force. The next morning was the traditional Navy vs. Marine Corps golf scramble but it was held at the Bluebonnet Hill Golf Course that year due to scheduling conflicts at Star Ranch. The Crow's Nesters met again at Embassy Suites in the afternoon. The evening that year was a little different. The traditional dinner at the ACC was not held and a free social get-together was scheduled for the Embassy Suites in the evening instead. It was an experiment to see how many liked a more informal gathering and to promote maximum participation by the alumni. It was very well-attended and considered a success, worthy of continuing.

On November 3rd at the morning AF Board meeting, Daniel F. "Dan" Rueda '05 was elected 16th President of the Alumni Foundation. At the general business meeting of the alumni afterward, two posthumous awards were given, that would have ordinarily been given at a Friday night dinner at the ACC. RADM Kenneth G. Haynes '47 the Unit's first Midshipman to obtain flag rank was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus award. His family could not attend but the author accepted the award on their behalf and spoke briefly of Admiral Hayne's accomplishments and contributions. The Distinguished Service award was presented to the family of Dr. James M. "Jim" Adkins, MD '55. After these alumni awards, it was time for the student awards. \$88,500 in scholarships and officer swords was awarded to deserving members of the Battalion before the assembled crowd. After that ceremony, the

alumni BBQ was held on the first deck patio at RLP and in the Glickman Center on the same level. #17 Texas played #13 West Virginia at 2:30 p.m. and narrowly lost 41-42.

Battalion Honored 41st President

The President's Cup Tri-Service competition was held (November 6-8). Battalion members participated in a wreath-laying ceremony on Veterans Day. The Leatherneck's fall FEX was conducted (November 16-18). Thanksgiving holidays were November 22-23. A Battalion drill competition was held on November 27th at Clark Field. Leathernecks did their final CFT on November 29th. A fall FEX was conducted again (November 30-December 2). The fall semester ended at H-T on November 30th. On December 1st, the Unit shifted to their winter uniform. On December 4th, a Battalion Change of Command was held on the Main Mall at 7 a.m. MDN Jaganathan Ravichandran '19 was relieved by MDN Alex Thompson '19 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring. On December 6th Midshipmen traveled to Texas A&M University to honor former President George H. W. Bush, at his Presidential Library there. President Bush passed away the previous week on November 30th.

On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, the Midshipmans Foundation sponsored another wardroom breakfast in the McRaven classroom. The fall semester ended at UT on December 10th. On December 21st, a joint commissioning ceremony was held in the Main Building (UT Tower). One 2nd Lieutenant was commissioned. A later Fall commissioning was held on February 26th in NROTC spaces on the 5th deck of RLP Hall, one Ensign. Elaine Vianello, civilian Administrative Associate for the Unit, provided the names. See the Appendix.

New Whitman Book Released

The spring semester commenced at H-T on January 14, 2019. It commenced at UT on January 22nd. On Friday, January 25th the author received an email from Joe Schuck telling me that he finally got his book published about Charles Whitman, the tower sniper. Joe had reviewed my portion of this Unit history, concerning Charlie, and said that it was satisfactory for that time, since there were a lot of stories out there that weren't entirely honest about Charlie. Charlie and Joe were both NESEP students at UT, in the early 1960s, and were very close friends. The title of the book is *The Charlie I Knew*. As of this writing, the author had not read the book. Once this is accomplished, there may be revisions to the narrative concerning Charles Whitman.

ADM Christopher W. Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, visited the Unit (January 28-29). The MF and AF Boards met on February 8 and 9, respectively. Surface Warfare candidates got their ship selections, February 20-21. Another AF Board meeting was held on February 9th in RLP, 5th deck. March 2nd was Explore UT Day for youth. Battalion volunteers manned the rock-climbing wall again. A Battalion Commanding Officer's inspection was conducted March 5th. Leathernecks ran their PFT at Camp Mabry on March 7th. The Navy midterm PRT was on March 14th. Spring Break occurred the week of March 18-23.

On March 26th a PNS Inspection was held. On April 1st the Unit shifted to its summer uniform and some Midshipmen had breakfast at 7 a.m. with Professor Bill McRaven. On April 4th NJROTC units

from Bastrop and Elgin, Texas, visited the UT NROTC Unit. The Leatherneck spring FEX was conducted at Ft. Hood, April 12-14. The Midshipmans Foundation sponsored another wardroom breakfast in the McRaven classroom on April 12th. Leatherneck's final PFT was April 18th. The President's Cup Tri-Service competition was held, April 23-26. The Battalion conducted their Change of Command on the Main Mall at 7 a.m. on April 30th. MDN Alex Thompson '19 was relieved by MDN Elias Terrazas '20 as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. On May 2nd a Spring Awards ceremony was held in the Jackson Geological Sciences Bldg. (JGB), just across the east mall from RLP Hall.

The spring semester ended at H-T on May 3rd. Senior photos were taken in front of Gregory Gym on May 6th. The spring semester ended at UT on May 10th. At 10 a.m. on May 24th a commissioning ceremony was held in the State Capitol Extension Auditorium. Five Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. A commissioning program saved by Max Miller '57, an attendee, provided the names. The photo of the class was not taken at the Capitol or Gregory Gym, but in front the of Main Building with the iconic UT Tower in the



May 24, 2019 Commissioning Class, Steps of Main Bldg (UT Tower), 2019 *Longhorn Log*, page 52

(L to R): 2ndLt Cesar Gonzalez, ENS Alexander J. Thompson, ENS Samuel Quach, 2ndLt Chandler Casey, ENS Megan L. Rogelstad, ENS Jaganathan Ravichandran & 2ndLt Duane Kampa and in the middle of the "V" Formation: ENS Trevor W. Penwell

Auditorium. Five Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. A commissioning program saved by Max Miller '57, an attendee, provided the names. The photo of the class was not taken at the Capitol or Gregory Gym, but in front the of Main Building with the iconic UT Tower in the

background. The Guest Speaker was VADM Mary Jackson, Commander, Navy Installations Command. See the Appendix.

Summer 2019

On June 1st an AF Board meeting was held at RLP. Summer cruises started then, too, and ended around July 31st. In June, LT John Bolchoz reported aboard to relieve LT Arp as Submarine Officer for the summer. On August 19th, one 2ndLt was commissioned in the Sinclair Suite of the Texas Union. On July 26th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 24, (July 2019) Issue 1 was published. New Student Orientation (NSO) was conducted at UT NROTC August 20-23. There was only one new student in this class, although 11 were expected (five scholarship and six college program). The new freshman was MDN 4/C Lofgren, son of the newest AF Board member, Rich Lofgren '93. Originally 29 scholarships were awarded. Seven were accepted, 14 denied and eight cancelled their applications. For a unit which typically attracted 25 to 30 new students each year, this was quite a shock. And it would remain so for the next two years. Clearly, a new approach had to be adopted to not lose these prospective students. This, and another unexpected event that was brewing in the U.S., possibly as early as the fall of 2019 and rearing its ugly head during Spring Break of the following semester, would also challenge CAPT Koss, his staff and the Battalion over those same two years. On August 23rd a MF board meeting was held in La Grange. The following day, an AF Board meeting was held in RLP on the 5th deck.

Academic Year 2020

Statistics:

Number of Students: 36 Midshipmen (Down 1), 8 MECEP and 6 STA for a Battalion of 50 (Same)
Number of Staff: 5 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (No change)
Number of Commissionees: 15 (7 Navy, 8 Marine) (Up 5)

The 2019 and 2020 CHRs provided good input. The 2020 *Longhorn Log* covered the NROTC Unit on 55 pages and was also published electronically (pdf format). The *Spur and Anchor* newsletter (Summer 2020) provided some useful information. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes (four) and newsletters (one) provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were still 76 to 78 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT David E. Koss, USN. No staff changes were anticipated. The 2020 *Longhorn Log* listed three company commanders, showing the Battalion was reorganized into companies rather than platoons: Alpha, Bravo and H&S. H&S stood for Headquarters and Staff. Alpha and Bravo companies were further divided into platoons. Alpha had three and Bravo had two. LT Guynn explained that this reorganization was for the Battalion to be organized in accordance with Regulations of Officer Development (ROD), even though the resulting groups were not typical company and platoon-sized groups. Battalion Commanders were Elias Terrazas (fall) and Brendan Michael Nash (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company

leadership positions. The *Longhorn Log* pictured all Battalion members alphabetically by class and program, with no company or platoon affiliation. Total Battalion strength was the same as it was the previous year. UT admission rules continued to be a problem. The following table assumed an even distribution of members. Battalion staff was part of H&S Company.

<u>Alpha Company</u>	<u>Bravo Company</u>	<u>H&S Company</u>
16	16	18



Buccaneer Drill Team (Squad) at Tulane Drill Meet
Photo from 2020 *Longhorn Log*, page 51

Mardi Gras was on February 25th that year, and the UT NROTC drill team did go to the Tulane drill meet (February 21). According to MDN Burds, the Buccaneer commanders that year were MDN 3/C Joseph Michael Martinez and MDN 4/C Penny Pellegrini. The former was in command of squad competition and the latter in command of platoon competition. The Buccaneers may have also gone to the University of Colorado drill

meet (March 4-8) in Boulder, most of that time spent traveling. The meet itself was March 6-7. Since there was platoon and squad competitions performed, the Buccaneer team must have been, at least, 13



Buccaneer Drill Team (Platoon) at Tulane Drill Meet. Photo from 2020 *Longhorn Log*, page 51

members, only two of which have been identified by name. From the Tulane photos the squad was larger than in the past, 12 members, and the platoon showed 15 members.

The Pistol Team went to the Colorado meet that year, along with the Color Guard (6 men), Endurance Team (6 members), the drill team (7-13) and a new one, the Knowledge Team (4 men), a group of 23 Midshipmen. Some were on more than one of these teams. They were accompanied by Capt Gantt (MOI) and GySgt Linares (AMOI). Pistol Team Captain was MDN 1/C Joshua N. Staton. Three other Midshipmen were on the Pistol Team but were not identified by name. The Color Guard was a six-man team. Color Guard Commander was MDN 2/C Joseph Mpande and all its members were identified by name. The Color Guard also went with the drill team to compete at the Tulane meet in February.

The *Longhorn Log* was published electronically again that year. It was not acquired by the author until April of 2021. The *Longhorn Log* staff was headed up by OC Patrick Russell, the Editor-in-Chief. The Battalion was also still publishing its newsletter, *The Spur and Anchor*, although there was no newsletter for Summer 2019, Fall 2019 or Spring 2020. Public Affairs Officers for the fall and spring were MDN 1/C Jeffrey Thomas Burds and OC Tyrone Andrew Johnson (STA-21), respectively.

No Intramural Sports were documented in the *Longhorn Log* or *Spur & Anchor* newsletter. Major social events for the year included the Navy and Marine Corp Birthday Ball (October 25) in the Texas Student Union, Shirley Bird Perry Ballroom and the spring formal (May 9). There was also a Mess Night (*i.e.* dining-in) for juniors, seniors and active duty (April 19) at the UT Club. Both the spring formal and Mess Night were cancelled due to Covid-19. Five Leadership Conferences were planned that year: The Naval Academy (January 20-23), Notre Dame (January 31-February 1), SCONA 65 at Texas A&M (February 11-15), the Hatton W. Sumner Conference at UT (Feb/Mar) and Yale University (April 3-4). The UT and Yale conferences were cancelled due to Covid-19. Five field trips were planned for the year. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal exposure weekend (September 26-29) in Panama City, Florida and the 32nd Annual Surface Navy Association (SNA) Conference in Washington, DC, were the only ones attended. The visit to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, for incoming freshmen, was scheduled for March 7. A Naval Service Symposium for Women in Ann Arbor, Michigan, scheduled for March 20-22 was cancelled. And lastly, a USNA Conference on Foreign Affairs was scheduled for April 8-11, but was also cancelled due to Covid-19.

2019 Longhorn Log Released

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 26, 2019 and at UT on August 28th. The 2019 *Longhorn Log* was released on August 27th.

Spur and Anchor Newsletter Goes on Hiatus

Although the 2019 *Longhorn Log* was released in August there was no Summer 2019 issue of the *Spur and Anchor* newsletter. The Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 issues were also not published, according to LT Guynn. The reasons were not apparent for the first two. The Spring 2020 issue was undoubtedly due to the Covid-19 scare that was yet to come.

UT NROTC Began Its 80th Year

With the passing of September 11, 2019, the Unit began its 80th year of operations on the UT campus. Beginning in the new year 2020 the spring semester would bring more reminders of this, culminating

with the actual 80th Anniversary next fall and a very special Alumni Reunion in November (little did we know at this time). October 9-10 was the annual Run to Dallas. CAPT Koss said it was “awesome!” One Midshipman put in 29 miles. On October 11th the UT and OU NROTC units met at Wilmer Hutchins High School to compete against each other. UT won the flag football game 28-0, soccer 4-1 and 2 out of 3 tug-of-wars. The next day they all got to enjoy the Texas State Fair and the Annual Red River Shootout between the Texas and OU football teams in the Cotton Bowl. In early November the Unit competed against the other two ROTC units in the semiannual President’s Cup, and UT won big. On November 7th, members of the Battalion participated in a wreath-laying ceremony paying tribute to three Longhorn Medal of Honor recipients: Col. Neel E. Kearby, 1943; Col. John C. Morgan, 1943; and 1stLt Russell A. Steindam, 1971.

The 33rd Annual Alumni Reunion began on that same day with a Navy League dinner in the evening. Guest Speaker was CAPT David E. Koss, 29th Professor of Naval Science at UT. He spoke about his time with the Blue Angels and at Top Gun. He also talked about his combat experiences over Afghanistan and Iraq and the State of the UT NROTC Unit. The next morning was the traditional Navy vs. Marine Corps golf scramble at Star Ranch in Hutto, TX, at 8:30 a.m. The Crow’s Nesters met again at Embassy Suites in the afternoon. A free social get-together was scheduled for the Embassy Suites in the evening during happy hour. Later that same evening, an Alumni Awards Dinner was held at the AT&T Conference Center on campus. The Distinguished Alumnus award was presented to Col. Thomas G. Bowman, USMCR (Ret) ’69 and previous Deputy Director for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Distinguished Service awards were presented to Paul D. Jones ’56, Col. David M. Wells, USMC (Ret) ’69 and Raymond J. Adams ’80.

On November 9th, the morning AF Board meeting was held in the McRaven Classroom at RLP. The general business meeting and scholarship awards ceremony were held across the East Mall from RLP in the Jackson GeoSciences Building (JGB) auditorium. \$90,500 in scholarships, including three swords, was awarded to deserving members of the Battalion. The Alumni BBQ was immediately after that event, on the first deck patio at RLP and in the Glickman Center on the same level. In the afternoon, Texas played #16 Kansas State and won 27-24!

On November 15th, Battalion members supported the UT Ring Ceremony. Leathernecks did their fall Field Exercise (FEX) at Ft. Hood, Texas, November 15-16. On November 26th, MDN Elias Terrazas ’19 was relieved by MDN Brendan Michael Nash ’20 as the new Battalion Commander for the spring, in a ceremony held on the Main Mall. On December 3rd, RADM Joey B. Dodgen, Deputy Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, visited the Unit. RADM Dodgen was a 1990 graduate of UT and member of the NROTC Battalion. The Midshipmans Foundation sponsored another wardroom breakfast in the McRaven classroom on December 6th. The fall semester ended at H-T and UT on December 9th. On December 12th, the Unit was visited by RADM Milton J. Sands, III, Commander, Naval Service Training Command.

On December 20th a NROTC Commissioning ceremony was held at 9 a.m. in the State Capitol Auditorium. Two Ensigns and four 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned (see photo on next page). The *Longhorn Log* provided the names. See the Appendix.



December 20, 2020 Commissioning Class, State Capitol Auditorium, 2020 *Longhorn Log*, page 25
 (L to R): ENS Stuart Bayliss, ENS Matias Wilson, 2ndLt Elias Terrazas, 2ndLt Jesse Adkins, 2ndLt Anthony Biggs and 2ndLt Sam Kellogg

MDN 1/C Stuart Bayliss Commissioned

The reader may remember that back on May 1, 2017, then MDN 3/C Stuart Bayliss, Marine option, was attacked and wounded on the UT campus by a fellow student, who had already killed one student and stabbed two others. Bayliss was defending others when his hand was slashed by the assailant. Bayliss went through several surgeries and procedures to help him recover the use of his hand sufficiently to be a Marine. Alas, this proved unattainable. He was then given an opportunity to select another option. His next choice was to be a Naval aviator. He had to do some additional training to “catch up” since the requirements for a Naval officer were different from those in the Marine Corps. He was able to accomplish those additional requirements and was set to graduate and commission in the fall of 2019. At the time, Bayliss was serving as the Battalion Executive Officer. Then there cropped up some additional medical requirements that needed attention. Those would cause a delay in his being able to



ENS Stuart A. Bayliss '20

commission with his class. The Unit allowed him to go through the ceremony on December 20th with his classmates but his actual commissioning had to wait almost six more months for the results of this last medical hurdle. Finally on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, MDN 1/C Stuart Bayliss, an exceptionally brave young man and a patient one, too, was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy with orders for flight school in the near future. It was a special ceremony, with his family in attendance. CAPT Koss reported this happy ending to the alumni at their Board meeting on May 30, 2020. ENS Bayliss will continue, though, to be listed with his class as one of the two Ensigns commissioned in December. Fair winds and following seas, ENS Stuart A. Bayliss!

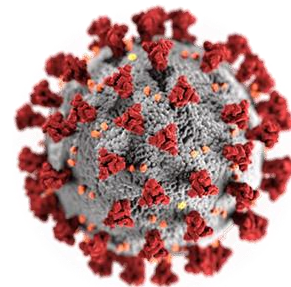
The spring semester commenced at H-T on January 13, 2020 and at UT on January 21st. ADM Christopher W. Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, visited the Unit (February 3-4). The MF and AF Board meetings were held on February 14th and 15th, respectively, both in their usual location. Swimming qualifications were held February 20th. Battalion Commanding Officer's inspection was held March 3rd. March 7th was Explore UT Day and NROTC hosted the rock-climbing wall again.

Spring Break was scheduled for March 16-21 but was extended when the Covid-19 panic occurred. Everyone was told not to return to campus. Classes would be resumed online using Zoom software. Most all events, scheduled to happen before Spring Break, were executed. Events scheduled to occur during or after Spring Break were cancelled, rescheduled or reconfigured to conduct online.

Covid-19 Put a Damper on Unit Activities

The following is an excerpt from an email CAPT Koss sent to all the alumni on April 11, 2020:

“I know you would all agree that although we have faced difficulties in the past, Covid-19 presents some unique challenges and has forced us to develop unique solutions to stay on mission. Our priority remains ensuring we meet commissioning requirements while keeping the conveyor belt moving such that each class has what they need to progress. As most of you know, Spring Break started on Friday the 13th of March and was extended through Monday the 30th. The decision was later made that the students were not to return to school following Spring Break. As a result, we have resumed classes in a “social distancing” environment. We conduct Leadership Labs, staff meetings and all classes online using Zoom which allows us to virtually gather and continue the education process. Unfortunately, we cannot meet for PT but we are stressing the importance of being physically ready to commission and lead. A decision was recently made to conduct all ROTC graduations online. We are working on a solution to provide a ceremony that is worthy of the effort they have put into their professional growth and ultimately their commissioning. Fortunately, none of the battalion members have been directly affected by the virus.”



Covid-19 Virus

Some of the Unit's planned activities for the spring were captured from their Operational Calendar before it was scrubbed, so the reader can have some idea of what opportunities were lost or had to be re-engineered, by reading this narrative and the appendix.

On April 28th, MDN Brendan Michael Nash was relieved by MDN Bailey Marie Blackwell as the new Battalion Commander for the fall. The typical ceremony on the Main Mall was cancelled, though. The spring semester ended at H-T on May 1st and at UT on May 8th. At 10 a.m. on May 22nd a NROTC commissioning ceremony was held outside at the Denius Memorial, DKR-Texas Memorial Stadium. Five Ensigns and three 2nd Lieutenants were commissioned. A commissioning program, obtained by the author, provided the names. The Guest Speaker was Gen Robert B. Neller, USMC (Ret), 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps. It was a slightly unusual commissioning because of the virus scare. Commissionees and program participants were all seated, spaced six feet apart. Masks were worn by most, except when speaking. No guests were allowed but the ceremony was recorded and streamed live through the Unit's Facebook page. Although the commissioning program and the spring commissioning section of the *Longhorn Log* contained the name and photograph of 2ndLt Caleb Miller, LT Guynn said he graduated later in the summer. See the Appendix.



May 22, 2020 Commissioning Class, at the Denius Memorial, photo from 2020 *Longhorn Log*, page 25
(L to R): 2ndLt Jeffrey Burds, ENS Ashley Wright, ENS Joshua Staton, ENS Brendan Nash, ENS Robert Steele,
ENS Ryan Mauk, 2ndLt Steven Keenan and 2ndLt Marc Mascorro.

First Online Meeting for Alumni Foundation

At the May 30, 2020 meeting of the AF Board, CAPT Koss gave a SITREP to the group. This was the first time the Alumni Foundation had an official meeting online. The group used Zoom Video Conferencing. Restrictions on campus had necessitated this move, even though it was a method we needed to test out for future use. At that time, CAPT Koss reported, all travel in the Navy and Marine Corps was restricted to a 50-mile radius of the service member's duty station. Exceptions were made on a case-by-case basis. Effectively those at the unit, staff and Battalion members, were told to stay inside the State of Texas. This policy made all nine of the newly commissioned officers "stashed" at the Unit, until the Navy and Marine Corps solidified their plans for travel and training. UT was planning on opening for the fall semester a bit early and shortening the length of it so all would be finished in time to go home for the Thanksgiving holidays. And, of course, they wanted there to be a 2020 football season, with fans in the stands.

Friends of the Midshipmen Name Changed

At that same AF Board meeting, on May 30th, a name change was made to this very successful program. It had been in use since the fall of 2016. At the recommendation of CAPT Koss, it was changed to Friends of the Battalion since there were two other officer ascension programs, other than Midshipmen, represented at the UT NROTC Unit (*e.g.* STA-21 and MECEP). These officer candidates also benefited from the program.

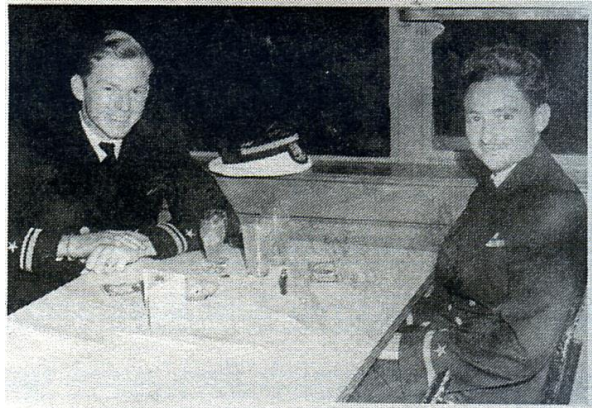
D-Day Remembered

On June 5, 2020, I received an email from a dear friend and fellow alumni, who had been working with me ever since the beginning of this project, Howard Lowe '44. He sent this email to me and several other friends he likes to keep in contact with:

"All – Tomorrow is the 76th Anniversary of the invasion of Normandy. June 6, 1944 lives on in the minds of those of us who were present on 'The Longest Day.' Now, at 96, I am the only one of 11 officers who served on LST-312 who is still alive. I have not forgotten any of them - two were KIA when a V-1 bomb hit the ship while she was moored in the Thames Estuary south of the center of London. The others went back to civilian life - two became MDs, one a banker, one an engineer, one remained in the service, two became lawyers, one a Catholic priest, and then me - petroleum engineer geologist. I guess fair enough, I was the youngest officer on the ship. I thank my lucky stars I was there; but I'd never want to go through it again. I have been back to the Memorial Cemetery in back of Omaha Beach five times - the last time with my wife [Lillian] in 2014 - 60th anniversary. It is a moving experience. REMEMBER D-DAY. Howard"

The author met another WWII vet, CDR Harold M. Risener, USN (Ret) in San Antonio, through a mutual friend. He had written a book, *Beyond Pearl Harbor: My World War II Experience*. I got a copy of his book and read it with great interest. In the Philippines near the end of the war, Harold was promoted to LTJG, and assigned as Commanding Officer of USS LST-459. When I got to page 193, I read the name of his Executive Officer, Howard Lowe! And on the very next page of his book was the photo you see on the next page of this book. Harold must have been promoted so recently before the photo that he had not yet changed the rank on his sleeves. Howard was the XO when Harold assumed command and

stayed on long enough for the both of them to take the ship back to the U.S. after the war ended. Howard was senior to Harold but did not “fleet up” to Commanding Officer because he had enough points for discharge. I scanned a copy of the photo in Harold’s book and sent it to Howard, telling him of my discovery. He was quite tickled to hear about Harold. LST-459 was similar to the LST-312 that Howard mentioned he was on during D-Day. Howard added that he and Harold brought the ship back to Long Beach. There he bumped into one of his instructors from UT NROTC, LT Bob Martin, who tried to talk Howard into staying on active duty. Bob, at the time, was engaged in “mothball operations” of the 19th Fleet. Howard was determined, though, and left on a train for Austin. He then went on inactive duty and stayed in the Naval Reserve for a total of 14 years, attaining the rank of LCDR. At that point the business he had started was growing so quickly and becoming so demanding of his time, he had to drop the reserves six years short of retirement. He had no regrets, though. He had done his duty for God and country and had built a tremendously successful internationally-based business in oil and gas exploration, using the Engineering and Geology degrees he earned from the University of Texas. Incidentally, Howard was one of those surprised juniors who got commissioned a year early and had to come back to UT to finish those degrees. It’s no wonder that Howard was anxious to get back to Austin.



LTJG Howard Lowe '44 (Left), Executive Officer of USS LST-459, with his CO, Harold Risener, January 1946

Summer 2020

July 20, 2020 was the 51st Anniversary of Apollo 11 landing on the moon. On that same day, CDR Floyd announced the arrival of LT Maressa “Arya” Guynn, who relieved LT Hemler in August. LT Guynn came “from VAW-116 deployed aboard USS Nimitz (CVN-68) where she broke as the #1 LT!”³² On July 24, 2020 CDR Robert D. Young relieved CDR George A. Floyd as Executive Officer of the UT NROTC Unit. CDR Young reported to UT following a “tremendously successful and impactful tour as the Assistant Reactor Officer aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69), the Mighty IKE! IKE recently set the record for consecutive days at sea while on deployment in the Persian Gulf.”³³ Just after LT Guynn’s arrival, Mr. Chau Le arrived to take the vacated Supply Technician position left by Lee Maloy, who left in June before LT Guynn’s arrival.

Reflections on August 6, 1945

In reflecting on this historic date, while writing our Unit history, I looked back to see how I treated it in Volume I, when it happened. At that time I just mentioned VE Day and VJ Day and WWII coming to

³² Email, dated July 20, 2020, from CDR George A. Floyd

³³ Email, dated July 20, 2020, from CDR George A. Floyd.

an end. But on that date in 2020, I received an email from my old friend, Howard Lowe '44, who was asked to reflect on the dropping of the first atomic bomb. This is what he wrote:

“A friend of mine sent an e-mail asking me about my recollections on dropping of the bomb on Japan. Our Houston luncheon group of five guys were interested in what went on out in the Pacific when the two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in August 1945. He asked where I was and what I was doing at the time. He knew I had served in the Pacific. It brought back a lot of memories. Here is my reply.

We were closing in on 6 August. We were staging in Subic Bay, PI in early July 1945 following the invasion of Borneo, for the invasion of Kyushu in November. We had already drawn gear for Cold Cold Weather – fur lined jackets and parkas. We all guessed Flotilla 7 LSTs would be in the brunt of the landings – we were the oldest LSTs in the Pacific. Why? Our sailors were being drilled in rifle tactics, in case we got stranded on the beach. We knew the casualties would be higher than any invasion prior to this one. The Japs never surrendered and on the home islands, this would include a population ready to die for their Emperor. Personally, I was almost fatalistic – figured I'd come through Normandy with only a scratch, none at Mindoro or Lingayen Gulf, and on to the last landing of the war in Borneo with nothing happening to me, I wondered if I had 9 lives like a cat. Sounds a bit crazy, but most of our officers and enlisted men were actually looking forward to the landings - we thought – finally - we could end this war quickly. Surprisingly, the morale of all the American forces was high.

On August 6th, the radio announced the dropping of a super weapon on a Japanese city. It said the entire population was obliterated. Subic Bay erupted - guns fired indiscriminately - small arms, mostly. In fact, there were deaths from the celebrations. We happened to have a load of provisions - and beer we were about to take to Panay. It never got there - you can guess why. We were beached, so we abandoned ship except for a couple of watch standers - the crew was on the beach guzzling beer, screaming, shouting, and yelling. The officers drank a few beers then headed for the makeshift officer's club at Tacloban. We had hangovers for a couple of days – but - the war was over as far as we were concerned. Three days later when a 2nd bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, we were sure - the war was about over. Frankly, at this point, we hoped a 3rd bomb would be dropped on Tokyo and wipe out the entire Japanese race. However, time cures all those terrible thoughts - war is just hell, and it will always be the same. There was no big celebration when the 2nd bomb fell - we were still recovering from the celebration on the 6th; but when V-J day came the real celebration came, it lasted for a couple of days. About the first thing I did on V-J Day was open my Episcopal Prayer Book and give thanks that I was alive and would soon be heading home to my wife and little one-year old son.”

The Potsdam Declaration on July 26, 1945 offered generous terms for Japan's peaceful surrender and return to a more democratically-inclined government. Although some of these terms were spelled out, the allies still wanted “unconditional surrender” or the alternative would be Japan's “prompt and utter destruction.” Leaflets were air-dropped all over Japan proclaiming this ultimatum. Although there were mixed feelings within the Japanese government on how to respond, their most official response was to “continue our fight to the end.” That made the decision, to drop the bomb on Hiroshima on August

9th, much easier. Japan had hoped that the Soviet Union would mediate on their behalf in any negotiations for peace, since they still had a secret neutrality pact with the Soviet Union that was agreed to at the Yalta Conference. That never materialized and time ran out. The Soviets abrogated that pact on August 9, 1945, and invaded Manchuria on three fronts the same day the U.S. dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, thus starting the short-lived Soviet-Japanese War.³⁴

The author's own father was a 19-year-old sailor aboard the USS Joseph T. Dickman (APAH-13), a large troop transport and hospital ship that was converted from the ocean-going liner *Theodore Roosevelt* for use during the war. They were transporting 2,000 troops and their equipment from San Francisco to the Marshall Islands in the Western Pacific for the invasion of Japan. They anchored at Enewetak Atoll, with hundreds of other war ships, awaiting further orders. They were certainly relieved when they got word that the dropping of two super bombs on Japan had finally hastened their surrender. The *Dickman* then sailed to Manila Bay in the Philippines and dropped off the invasion force of soldiers to relieve the troops that had been there. *Dickman* then served as an evacuation ship to bring back prisoners of war, who had been there almost since the beginning of the war. Many of them were survivors of the Bataan Death March. Operation Downfall was the planned invasion of Japan, which was to be executed in two phases, beginning in November 1945. Casualty predictions varied widely, but were extremely high. Depending on the degree to which Japanese civilians would have resisted the invasion, estimates ran up into the millions for Allied casualties.³⁵ I was extremely grateful and I know Howard Lowe's family was equally grateful that our loved-ones didn't have to go through that. That was 75 years ago!

According to CAPT Koss, no commissionings occurred during the summer, however, 2ndLt Caleb Miller did commission sometime during the summer. He had been included with the spring 2020 class, so it would have been fairly early in the summer. New Student Orientation (NSO) was conducted, in person, August 24-28. Thirteen scholarship students were expected and a small number of college program students. Only five scholarship students showed up and all passed their PRT. The story on NSO was on page 4 of the Summer 2020 *Spur and Anchor*.

Academic Year 2021

Statistics:

Number of Students: 32 Midshipmen (Down 4), 6 MECEP and 8 STA for a Battalion of 46 (Down 4)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (Up 1), 1 Enlisted (No change), 3 Civilian (No change)

Number of Commissionees: 11 (8 Navy, 3 Marine) (Down 4)

The 2020 CHR provided good input for the fall semester. The 2021 CHR had not been submitted by the time this volume went to press. The *Spur and Anchor* newsletters (Summer 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021) also provided helpful, although a sketchy schedule of Unit activities for the year, at least not as

³⁴ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potsdam_Declaration

³⁵ Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Downfall

robust as they were used to experiencing. Most of the AF Board meeting minutes (three) provided a briefing from the PNS, or his designated representative, on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

There were now 79 U.S. universities with NROTC units. A brand-new unit was stood up at The University of Hawaii at Manoa, with classes beginning that academic year. The first Executive Officer of that unit was our very own CDR George A. Floyd, who was relieved in July of that year to assume the post. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the CO, CAPT David E. Koss, USN. Three staff changes, two military and one civilian, occurred during the summer, prior to the start of this academic year. LT Matt Ziesmer arrived in December to relieve LT Bolchoz for the spring semester. LT Roy L. Reinartz, III, an aviator, arrived in March 2021 but did not relieve anyone. He was considered “excess staff” but will serve a full three-year tour. Elaine Vianello, Administrative Associate, was promoted to another job on the UT campus and it was tough to lose her, but the staff was happy for her promotion. A replacement was hired for the spring, Marissa Hernandez, but turned out to be a “no show.” So, the position remained vacant until a replacement was hired the following September. Luckily Elaine was close by and she happily helped out when she could, to provide some continuity.

The Battalion was still organized into three companies: Alpha, Bravo and H&S. The Battalion Commanders were Bailey Marie Blackwell (fall) and Zachary James Cartwright (spring). See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was down again from what it was the previous year. The following table assumed an even distribution of members. Battalion staff was part of H & S Company.

<u>Alpha Company</u>	<u>Bravo Company</u>	<u>H&S Company</u>
15	15	16

Battalion Strength At Its Lowest

The last record low period the Battalion experienced was in academic year 1993, when the total was 69. In 2017 Battalion strength dipped to that same number again and was going down each year since then. As one can see in the summary above, the Battalion started the year at 46 members. According to LT Guynn, that was down to 41 in the spring. The biggest obstacle had been UT’s entrance requirements. The Unit was slowly making some progress with UT on allowing exceptions. A young man or woman who has gone through all the screening and testing to be an officer in the Navy or Marine Corps is a highly capable and motivated student. And when they are already holding a full four-year scholarship in their hands and have elected The University of Texas at Austin as their primary choice of schools, UT should very much want that person to attend.

According to LT Guynn, all Unit activities after the Thanksgiving holidays were virtual. So there were no drill meets, pistol matches, Color Guard activities, Intramural Sports, social events or field trips. All Leadership Conferences were virtual, which saved money on travel expenses.

Spur and Anchor Resumed / Longhorn Log Published

The fall semester commenced at H-T on August 24th and August 26th at UT. On or about August 27th the Summer 2020 issue of *The Spur and Anchor* newsletter was distributed. The newsletter had been on hiatus for the last three issues. On or about that same date the 2020 *Longhorn Log* was also issued.

First Online Meeting for Midshipmans Foundation

On August 28, 2020 the MF Board met, using Zoom Video Conferencing. The meeting venue that had been used for the past 17 years, Frisch Auf! Country Club, outside La Grange, Texas, was open again, but was restricted to 50% occupancy. That, the travel involved for some and the age of some of the members, made it a more prudent decision to make. Much of the discussion was held on how to get scholarships to the Battalion as soon as possible.

34th Annual Alumni Reunion “Reshaped”

The next day, August 29th, the AF Board also met, using Zoom Video Conferencing. The meeting venue that had been used for the past seven years, the new ROTC Building (a.k.a. Robert L. Patton, Jr. Hall) was available, but was not large enough to accommodate all attendees, with social distancing restrictions in place. Most attendees participating in the meeting, thought that the reunion would be totally cancelled and everything put off until 2021. Building on discussions that were started the previous day, at the MF Board meeting, the group thought it very important to get scholarships to Battalion members sooner than later. A plan was developed to hold a combination board and general business meeting on the appointed date, limiting it to just one hour, and invite all alumni to join the Zoom teleconference. This way they would get briefings on alumni, Unit, Battalion and UT activities. A second hour would be devoted to showing a pre-recorded awards ceremony, where the scholarships were personally awarded to the recipients and donors were recognized. The live event was held on campus during a regular Tuesday in-person Battalion meeting.

UT NROTC’s 80th Anniversary

On September 11, 2020, the University of Texas Naval ROTC Unit celebrated its 80th Birthday. On September 18th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 25, (September 2020) Issue 1 was published. The Battalion Commanding Officer’s personnel inspection was held September 22nd on the Main Mall. The Surface Warfare Officer’s Club met October 1st on Zoom. October 7-8 was the annual 190-mile relay Run to Dallas (RTD) to deliver the game ball to the UT Coach Tom Herman (since the game was played, someone had to deliver the game ball). There was no Texas State Fair, though. A more limited number of UT and OU Battalion members were able to participate in presenting the game ball to Coach Herman. Others, back at their respective units, competed online. The RTD story, with photos, was on pages 2-3 of the Fall 2020 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter. A personnel inspection of the Battalion by the PNS was held on the Main Mall on October 20th. On October 27th, the Battalion held an Awards Ceremony, in person, in Belmont Hall. A limited number of local alumni attended to award scholarships and swords. That was the event that was recorded for alumni to view online later. A story about the awards ceremony, with photos, appeared on page 4 of the Fall newsletter. A ceremony celebrating the Marine Corps’ and Navy’s birthdays, 245 years, was held on November 3rd.

Scholarships Exceed \$100,000

November 14, 2020 was the 34th Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend. Volume IV of the UT NROTC Unit History was originally planned for release in time for that event, but was understandably delayed. This was the first year that over \$100,000 in scholarships were distributed (\$112,500 to be exact) to deserving Battalion members. The beginning of the fall semester actually marked the beginning of the 81st year for the Unit. On November 25th the fall semester ended at H-T and UT. On December 1st, a Battalion Change of Command occurred. MDN Bailey Marie Blackwell '21 was relieved by Zachary James Cartwright '21. As mentioned on page 5 of the Fall newsletter, the usual Change of Command Ceremony on the Main Mall, with the Battalion participation, did not occur. On December 18th a NROTC Fall Commissioning ceremony was held in the William C. Powers Student Activity Center (SAC) Auditorium. Three Ensigns were commissioned. A short story, with photos, was shown on page 6 of the Fall newsletter.

The spring semester began at H-T on January 11th and on the 19th at UT. January 11-13, the 33rd Annual National Symposium, sponsored by the Surface Navy Association (SNA), was held online. A drill competition was held at Hays High School on January 16th and our Battalion was planning to help with the event, as they had in the past, but circumstances prohibited it. Freedom Fridays resumed on January 29th and the last one for the semester was on March 12th. February 11-13, Texas A&M sponsored an online Leadership Conference, SCONA-66. MF and AF Board meetings were held, using Zoom, on February 12 and 13, respectively. February 15-18, the Naval Academy also sponsored an online Leadership Conference. February 15-23, the campus was closed so no PT or Leadership Labs were held. February 22-26, Notre Dame sponsored an online Leadership Conference. Ship Selections for the Unit's three future Surface Warfare Officers was held, February 24-25. The event was covered in the Spring 2021 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter, page 2. The MF Board and AF Board met, via Zoom teleconference, on February 12th and 13th, respectively. March 8-12, PRT was conducted for the entire Battalion. On the last day of that evolution, swim qualifications were conducted. On March 9th the Battalion Commanding Officer's inspection of the Battalion was held on the Main Mall. This event was covered on page 3 of the Spring newsletter.

Spring Break was March 15-20. On March 30th the PNS conducted a personnel inspection of the Battalion on the Main Mall. A Spring Awards Ceremony was documented on the Spring newsletter, page 4, with a list of who won what award, but there was no date given. Although it could have occurred in April, after Spring Break, it quite possibly occurred on the same day as the Change of Command. The spring semester ended at H-T on April 30th. On May 4th, a Battalion Change of Command was held on the Main Mall, with the whole Battalion in attendance. MDN Zachary James Cartwright '21 was relieved by MDN Joseph James Sharpee '22 as Battalion Commanding Officer for the fall. The event was covered on page 5 of the Spring newsletter. The spring semester ended at UT on May 7th and that same day, a retirement ceremony was held for CAPT Koss, who would be staying onboard well into the summer to give his relief a thorough turnover. The retirement ceremony was covered with photos and a short narrative on page 6 of the Spring newsletter.



May 21, 2021 Commissioning Class, at the Denius Memorial, photo from Spring 2021 *Spur and Anchor*, page 7 (L to R): 2ndLT Christopher Merrill, 2ndLt Corbin Tyler, 2ndLt Mitchell Rice, ENS Joseph Mpande, ENS Zachary Cartwright, ENS Christopher Bowling, ENS Bailey Blackwell and ENS Jazzlyn Birk-Cockburn.

Some Real Good News

The AF Board met on May 8th in a virtual meeting, using Zoom software. We learned a lot about the technology and would be using it in the future to include members who were sick, on vacation or otherwise remotely located, and could not attend in person. At the meeting, plans were set in motion for having an in-person reunion in the fall of 2021. That was good news, but the highlight of the meeting was CAPT Koss' briefing to the attendees. CAPT Koss said that The University was intent on fully opening the campus for the fall semester and, hopefully, getting things back to normal. That would certainly better facilitate an in-person reunion if everyone could return to campus and the NROTC spaces for that event. Also in his briefing, the PNS said that there would be 14 NROTC scholarship students, three college program students, five MECEP and one STA-21 Officer Candidates attending the NSO (August 16-20). That's an incoming class of 23! That was extremely good news but it was tempered with his advising us that nine of those scholarship students were initially turned down by UT Admissions. The difference that year was that CAPT Koss got names for those, who were offered scholarships, early enough to get their names to UT Admissions for a review of their individual cases. The Captain, assisted by LT Guynn, aggressively worked with admissions to get them to reconsider their initial decisions. These students were highly motivated to come to UT (*i.e.* their first choice), they had a

scholarship in hand and they had excellent leadership potential, since they were being considered for an officer's commission in the Navy or Marine Corps. Also, CAPT Koss wrote to each awardee, individually, telling them we wanted them and encouraging them to visit the campus and talk with the staff and other Midshipmen. CAPT Koss initiated other programs too, such as visiting local high schools and working with the recruiting offices to grow our future field of prospects. If the Unit can get back to incoming classes of 25-30 students, as it once was, the future will be much brighter. A Spring Commissioning Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on May 21st at the Denius Memorial, DKR-Texas Memorial Stadium. Five Ensigns and three 2ndLts were commissioned (see photo on previous page). The event was covered on page 7 of the Spring newsletter.

Summer 2021

Elaine Vianello's replacement did not show in May, as expected, so the position of Administrative Associate stayed vacant until late September of the following fall semester. Capt Jason "Jay" Levine arrived in May, after the end of the academic year, and relieved Maj Gantt as MOI, starting in the summer. Bryan Gillentine replace Jake Schultz as Human Resources Technician in June. On July 19, 2021 CAPT Matthew F. Rutherford relieved CAPT Koss to become the 30th Professor of Naval Science at UT. On August 7, 2021, one Ensign was commissioned after graduation from Huston-Tillotson University. NSO was held at UT NROTC (August 16-20). There were 23 new students in the class, which gave the Battalion new life and the promise of a brighter future. SSgt Zachari Parker arrived in August, just prior to the beginning of the new academic year, and relieved GySgt Linares as AMOI.

Academic Year 2022

Statistics:

Number of Students: 50 Midshipmen (Up 18), 8 MECEP and 6 STA for a Battalion of 64 (Up 18)

Number of Staff: 6 Officers (No change), 1 Enlisted (No change), 2 Civilian (Down 1)

Number of Commissionees: *NOTE: At press time, no commissionings had yet occurred.*

The 2021 CHR was not available when this volume went to press. The *Spur and Anchor* newsletters (Spring 2021 and Summer 2021) provided useful information on Unit activities for the summer and upcoming fall. The 2021 *Longhorn Log*, released during the summer, also provided some help in piecing together this portion of the Unit history. AF Board meeting minutes (one) provided a briefing from the PNS on the status of the Unit. See the Appendix.

New CO: CAPT Matthew F. Rutherford, USN

There were still 79 U.S. universities with NROTC units. At UT there were approximately nine military and civilian staff members of the Unit, including the new CO, CAPT Matthew F. Rutherford, USN. CAPT Rutherford was a native of Baltimore, Maryland and graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1997 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He chose a career path in aviation and, specifically, the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community. CAPT Rutherford's operational assignments included junior officer and department head tours with the "Skinny Dragons" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 in

Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer onboard the USS Nimitz (CVN-68); executive and commanding officer of the “Golden Knights” of VP-47, also in Kaneohe Bay; and Commander of Task Force 72 in Atsugi, Japan. His shore assignments included instructor pilot with VP-30, the MPRA fleet replacement squadron; executive officer for the Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command’s Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JFCC-ISR); and Chief Strategist and Legislative Advisor to the Chief of Naval Personnel. On July 19, 2021, CAPT Rutherford assumed command of the NROTC Unit at The University of Texas and became its 30th Professor of Naval Science.



Matthew F. Rutherford

Four staff changes occurred during the summer, prior to the start of this academic year. In addition to the CO, Capt Jason “Jay” Levine and SSgt Zachari Parker arrived to relieve the MOI and AMOI positions, respectively, and Bryan Gillentine filled the Human Resource Technician position, although he could only remain in that job for the fall semester. Ms. Emily Bohls arrived in late September to fill Elaine Vianello’s vacant position. And since Elaine was still employed on the UT campus, she helped train Ms. Bohls for that position.

The Battalion was still organized into three companies: Alpha, Bravo and H&S. The Battalion Commander for the fall was Joseph James Sharpee. See the appendix for a listing of Battalion Staff and Company leadership positions. Total Battalion strength was up from what it was the previous year, largely due to a new proactive approach to recruiting on campus and convincing admissions to review all cases of scholarship students who might have otherwise been denied admittance. The following table assumed an even distribution of members. Battalion staff was part of H & S Company.

<u>Alpha Company</u>	<u>Bravo Company</u>	<u>H&S Company</u>
21	21	22

The fall semester began at Huston-Tillotson on August 23rd and at UT on August 25th. In the MF Board meeting on August 27th and the AF Board meeting the following day, the new PNS, CAPT Rutherford, made his presentation about the State of the Unit and plans for the upcoming year. The Battalion was making plans for a “normal” school year. The Run to Dallas (40th Anniversary) was planned. The Birthday Ball, to celebrate the Navy and Marine Corps’ 246th Birthdays, was also planned. For the spring, leadership conferences, drill meets (Tulane and Colorado), Mess Night and a spring social were in the works.

UT NROTC Ended Its 81st Year

Drill was on Fridays at 7 a.m. and started on September 3rd. Color Guard was practicing weekly. With the passing of September 11, 2021, the Unit ended its 81st year of operations on the UT campus. The Alumni and Unit did not get to celebrate its 80th Anniversary as we had planned, so they were going to make the most of the 81st Anniversary. On September 28th The *Spur and Anchor* newsletter was published. On October 4th, ADM Christopher W. Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, visited the Unit.

Run to Dallas – 40th Anniversary

The annual Run to Dallas started after the pep rally on the Main Mall at UT on Wednesday night (October 6) and ended the following day and 190 miles later at the Cotton Bowl. It was the 40th anniversary of that event. The Battalion had three of its runners exceed 30 miles each. On the following Friday the UT NROTC Battalion competed with the OU NROTC Battalion at Wilmer Hutchins High School in Dallas. UT lost to OU in flag football, tug-of-war and soccer (in overtime). And in the Cotton Bowl on Saturday the Longhorn football team managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory late in the 4th quarter, losing to #5 OU by one touchdown.

On October 16th, the *NROTC Alumni Log*, Volume 26, (October 2021) Issue 1 was published, a little late, announcing plans for the 35th Annual Alumni Reunion and soliciting registrations. An online registration process was provided via the alumni website before the newsletter was mailed. Brown Paper Tickets was not used for registration online, as it had been for the past few years. The mailed version was glossy and full color again. Perhaps that look may return.

The President's Cup tri-service competition was held November 2-4. Navy won six of the nine events and came in 2nd on the other three, putting them in 1st place. On November 5th, the Midshipmans Foundation hosted another wardroom breakfast for seniors and juniors in the McRaven classroom. The Fall Formal (a.k.a. The Navy & Marine Corps Birthday Ball) was held at the AT&T Hotel & Conference Center, 1900 University Avenue, at 6 p.m. (November 6). For the cake-cutting, MDN 4/C Porter was the youngest Marine option. MDN 4/C Wheeler Betz Handford was the youngest Navy option. SSgt Bolivar Fortuna-Rodriguez was the oldest MECEP (Marine). OC Patrick William Russell was the oldest STA-21 (Navy). Guest Speaker was Dana DeCoster, CDR USN (Ret), UT NROTC Class of 1999. He served on active duty for 20 years as a Navy SEAL and came back to Austin to start a technology company, Roper Solutions.

Return of the “Normal” Reunion

The Reunion “weekend” was set to begin on Veterans Day, November 11th, with a Navy League dinner in the evening. Guest Speaker was planned to be Gen Gary Thomas, USMC, Class of 1984, who received his fourth star in 2020 and had been serving as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. Those plans were dashed when Gen Thomas informed the alumni and Navy League that he would not be able to attend. The Navy League cancelled their dinner plans because the Austin Women's Club was unavailable. They did schedule an evening program with a guest speaker, though, but it was through Zoom only. The guest speaker was CDR Michael Knickerbocker, USN, a UT fellow at the

Clements Center at LBJ School at UT. The next morning was to be the traditional Navy vs. Marine Corps golf scramble at Star Ranch in Hutto, Texas. The Crow's Nesters were to meet that afternoon at the headquarters hotel, the Embassy Suites at the Austin Arboretum. A free social get-together was scheduled for the Embassy Suites that evening during happy hour. Later that same evening, an Alumni Awards Dinner was planned for the AT&T Conference Center on campus. Two Distinguished Alumni (DA) and two Distinguished Service (DS) awards were planned for presentation during the event. Gen Thomas was actually voted his DA award in 2020 but he could not make it to the reunion that year either. The other DA award will be to Astronaut Alan LaVern Bean, CAPT USN (Ret). It will be awarded posthumously to his daughter, Amy Sue Bean, a 1985 UT NROTC commissionee. While he was alive, Alan declined all our attempts to present him with this most-deserved award. The two DS awards were planned to be given to Bob Hancock '67 and Dan O'Neil '79. As of this writing, Howard Lowe '44 told the author that he was planning on attending the Reunion and bringing his grandson along, to help convince him that the Navy was a better outfit to serve in than the Army. Howard and his son both served as Naval officers.

\$1 Million Mark in Scholarship Awards Achieved

The next morning would be the "Main Event." After a morning AF Board meeting in RLP, all alumni and the Battalion would assemble for the general business meeting and scholarship awards ceremony down Speedway in the Robert A. Welch Hall. Over \$130,500 worth of scholarships and officers' swords were to be awarded. During that time a major milestone would also be achieved. The \$1 million mark in cumulative scholarships and swords awarded, to date, would be matched and exceeded. The Alumni BBQ was planned for immediately after that event, on the first deck patio at RLP and in the Glickman Center on the same level. In the afternoon, according to our plan, Texas would play Kansas. We were hopeful that the game would be at 2:30 p.m., or later, but had contingency plans for an alternate BBQ time, if the game were earlier.

Marine Corps personnel had a field exercise (FEX) scheduled for November 19th. Battalion members were due to participate in the Texas Exes Ring Ceremony that same day. Thanksgiving holidays were scheduled for November 24-27. The last day of classes at UT and H-T was scheduled for December 6th. Commissioning for all ROTCs was scheduled for December 17th.

Epilogue

A lot has happened in the last 80 years. The delay in releasing Volume IV was actually beneficial in more fully documenting the last semester of those 80 years, Fall 2020. The author did not acquire the 2020 *Longhorn Log*, the Summer and Fall 2020 *Spur and Anchor* newsletters and the Command Operations Reports (CHRs) for 2019 and 2020 until April 2021. Some stats and events have been included for the spring and summer of 2021 because they were available when this volume "went to press." The Command Operations Report for 2021 will not be available until after that year ends in December. The Spring 2021 *Spur and Anchor* newsletter was available at the end of March 2021. The 2021 *Longhorn Log* was available during the summer of 2021 so its contents were included as well. Since this volume was delayed until the fall of 2021 there was little included in this academic year that occurred by the time the volume was "published," although the author did try to keep up with events to the very last minute.

So, we will have to end this historical narrative here and hope that the effort and interest will be continued. It's been quite a ride, digging for documentation, researching books and internet sites, and corresponding with nearly 300 alumni to piece together this Unit's history. All the while we had to keep abreast of the current history the Unit was making every day. I know of no other NROTC unit in the country that has embarked on such an extensive project, another first for the UT NROTC. I appreciate all the input I received from alumni, as well as the compliments and encouragement. Of course, there will be ongoing efforts to fill in blanks, correct errors and add new material. I have already been collecting some of those. The Unit is writing its history every day and it is hoped by this author that this effort to document it will be taken seriously as one of the Unit's missions. A lot of lessons can be learned from history and a lot of problems avoided by the scholarly study of it, but none of that is possible without a good written record of what happened. I believe a majority of the alumni share this sentiment and want to continue to assist in the effort and bring historical perspective to events that happen in the present. We cannot rely on the Navy or Marine Corps to document our legacies, nor can we count on The University of Texas. We must rely on ourselves, our respect for the past and a faith in the future.

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 2nd 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 6th 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 18+ 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, TX. He was recalled to active duty twice: once in 1985 to assist the Operations officer for the Chief of Naval Reserve in New Orleans, LA 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. 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.