

A HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON (1902 to 1992)

Forward

Since the inception of military training at this institution in 1902, when it was the Carlisle Military Academy, hundreds of outstanding young men and women have been prepared for service as officers in the Armed Forces. The ROTC program, as we know it today, began when this institution became part of the Texas A&M System in 1917. The institution offered two years of military training and was known as Grubbs Vocational College. Grubbs became North Texas Agricultural College from 1923 until 1949 when, again, the name changed to Arlington State College. ROTC was mandatory for all male students of the college until the Spring of 1954 when ROTC was deleted from the College's core curriculum. However, cadets remained an integral part of college life because the Corps was intertwined with most campus activities. This close feeling has continued even until today.

In the Fall of 1959, the curriculum was expanded to four years, and by the Spring of 1961, the first class graduated with eight officers receiving commissions. Since that date up through December 1992, 851 officers had been commissioned through the Arlington ROTC program. In October of 1965, the institution was transferred to the University of Texas System. On May 17, 1968, Department of the Army General Order Number 20 was published and formally established The University of Texas at Arlington ROTC unit as a separate Army ROTC organization. Another major milestone in the history of Army ROTC was reached on April 15, 1986. On that date, the United States Army ROTC Cadet Command was organized with headquarters at Ft. Monroe, Virginia, blending the vibrance of a new command with traditions of the Army's oldest continuously active installation.

Today the Corps of Cadets of The University of Texas at Arlington is a vital link in the preservation of the freedoms this country enjoys. The proud legacy of the Maverick Battalion has been enriched by each generation that has served in time of peace to safeguard our security and in time of war to secure victory through supreme sacrifice. The tradition of the UTA Army ROTC Cadets is to live up to the magnificent example set by their former comrades-in-arms, in our land and overseas, as guardians of liberty.

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THE EARLY YEARS (1895-1902)

What was to become The University of Texas at Arlington began as Arlington College in 1894. This establishment grew out of a desire of some of the leading citizens of Arlington to have a private school which could provide a better education for their children than could be received at that time in the public schools.

The man who first suggested such a private school was Edward Emmet Rankin, owner of a hardware store and prominent merchant in Arlington. His personal drive and influence earned him the label “Father” of Arlington College. It is fitting that the “Father” of Arlington College and the institution that would produce over 851 Army Officers, was himself quite a colorful military character. In the Spring of 1861, Edward Rankin, along with his fellow Tennesseans, answered Nathan B. Forrest’s colorful call to arms:

I require able body men with good horse and gun. I wish none but those who desire to be actively engaged.....Come on boys, if you want a heap of fun and kill some Yankees, come ride with me.¹

¹ The Civil War, PSB series by Ken Burns 1991.

Rankin served with the 4th Tennessee Cavalry under the Command of Nathaniel Bedford Forrest, until his capture on July 18, 1864, outside of Atlanta. Private Rankin had seen action with N.B. Forrest, including the bloody engagement with Union forces under General U.S. Grant at Shiloh Church.

After his release from Union Custody, Rankin made his way to Texas, where he became a respected and successful merchant in Arlington. In the Spring of 1895, he suggested to the two co-principals of the Arlington public school, Mr. Lee M. Hammond and Mr. William M. Trimble, the need for a private school in Arlington patterned after the Webb School in Bellbuckle, Tennessee. He helped back the venture by securing donations for the new college. A block of land was donated by The Ditto and Collins Land Company (presently where Hereford University Center is located). Building materials were donated and funds were raised by the three men and local citizens. A two-story frame structure was constructed, with four classrooms on the ground floor and two classrooms with an assembly hall on the second floor.²

Arlington College opened in the Fall of 1895 with six faculty and 100 students. Since the college was private, it depended on tuition for its income. Rates of tuition ranged from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per month according to the grade. However, after the first year, the tuition had provided slender pay for teachers. The “College” agreed to teach public school (elementary to high school level) to offset costs. Arlington now had two public schools.

The curriculum included algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Courses were offered in English Grammar, Composition, and Rhetoric. Sciences included Physics, Physiology, Chemistry, and Astronomy. Latin and the Classics finished out the two-year course.³

Due to the lack of enrollment in the last year (1901) and the declining public interest to continue the public school, the Trustees of the Arlington College agreed to

² Junia E. Hudspeth, History of the North Texas Agriculture College August 1935

³ Junia E. Hudspeth, History of the North Texas Agriculture College August 1935

allow Prof. J. M. Carlisle the use of the grounds of Arlington College for his Carlisle School for Boys.

CARLISLE MILITARY ACADEMY (1902-1913)

In June 1902, Mr. James M. (“Colonel“) Carlisle came to Arlington to site the new location of his Carlisle School for Boys. At a meeting with local civic leaders, he submitted a proposal to move his school from Hillsboro to Arlington if the citizens would donate to him the Arlington College property and build a dormitory on the grounds. An agreement was made, and funds were raised to purchase an additional block of land and to build a two-story frame dormitory.⁴ This building was erected where Preston Hall now stands. It provided space for the residence of the Superintendent, a dining facility, and a dormitory for 30 cadets. Initially, it was referred as “Arlington Hall”; however, the name did not hold and soon after the name “South Barracks” was adopted by the cadets.⁵

The “Carlisle School for Boys” opened in Arlington on September 16, 1902, with an enrollment of 48 cadets for the Fall semester. In November, new uniforms and 80 Springfield and carbine rifles from Hillsboro arrived.⁶

The school staff for the first year of instruction was James M. Carlisle, Superintendent; Sydney Roland, Assistant to the Superintendent; and Preston A. Weatherred, the first Cadet Commander.⁷

The Arlington Journal in January 1903 announced that Professor Carlisle was “going to try to have the Texas Legislature pass a Bill this Session whereby the cadets of his school may become a part of the regular state militia, subject to instruction and inspection, but not subject to call.”

Cadets were under strict discipline in the dormitory and in classes. In addition to academic subjects, cadets were well drilled in the manual of arms and physical conditioning. At the end of the first school year, a competitive military drill contest was

⁴ Arlington Journal, June 12, October 3, 1902

⁵ The Seventh Annual Announcement of Carlisle Military Academy, 1907-1908

⁶ Arlington Journal, September 6, 1902

⁷ Arlington Journal, June 11, 1903

conducted with Dr. Frank D. Boyd of Ft. Worth presenting a gold medal to the best drilled cadet. The first annual Frank D. Boyd Award was won by Cadet Corporal Fred Weeks of Arlington.⁸

School reopened in September 1903 with an increase in enrollment and additions to the faculty. In October, the school secured a Charter from the State of Texas incorporating it under the name of Carlisle Military Academy, with the purpose of conducting an educational institution for the literary, military, and manual training of boys.⁹

Cadet Captain Weatherred had the cadets well drilled. There was a dress parade of the cadets at the Academy on December 18, and the cadets were occasionally marched through the principle street of Arlington.¹⁰

In the Spring of 1904, Carlisle Military Academy had its first interscholastic athletics with the formation of a baseball team. Games were played with Grandview Intercollegiate Institute in April and May.¹¹

Final examinations were held in the school auditorium and were open to the public. The editor of the Arlington Journal remarked that “ to listen to the examination of classes and watch the faces of the cadets, one was inevitably driven to the conclusion that the brain exercise had been intense. One could hardly help feeling that the strain had been even too great. Some faces showed such traces of mental strain as to be almost pathetic.”

In the competitive military drill contest for the Frank D. Boyd Award, the Arlington Journal commented that

‘the struggle was fierce, but slowly and surely the cadets one by one, were counted out, until only two, Harry Weeks and Morris Champ were left. These were the two of the smallest cadets in school, and amid loud cheering, Cadet Captain Weatherred led them forth for the final contest. Again and again he carried them through every movement

⁸ Arlington Journal, June 11, 1903

⁹ Arlington Journal, October 8, 1903

¹⁰ Arlington Journal, December 17, 1903, January 21, 1904

¹¹ Arlington Journal, April 14 and 28, 1904, May 12, 1904

but with the eyes and ears ever alert they responded to the Captains quick orders, until the audience for very pity, cried out “Give them both a medal!” The suggestion was adopted and the youthful soldiers almost exhausted were born from the field on the shoulders of admiring friends. Dr. Boyd in a short address presented the medals, and after three cheers for Colonel G.T. West the inspecting officer, Dr. Boyd, and Cadet Captain Weatherred, the exercises closed.’¹²

The closing exercises for the second year at the Academy were well attended, and Preston A. Weatherred became the first cadet to graduate from Carlisle Military Academy.¹³

For the school year beginning in September 1904, the Academy made expansions in its faculty, facilities, curriculum, and athletics. Five instructors were added to the faculty staff. Laboratory equipment was added to enhance the teaching of Physics and Chemistry. Football was added to the athletic program, and games were played with Ft. Worth High School and Polytechnic College.¹⁴ A new brick barracks was constructed where the present day University Center is located. This building, known as East Barracks, was a single-story structure with 29 rooms. Each room accommodated two cadets. The rooms were furnished with two folding iron beds, small study tables, chairs, and closets. Each room was lighted with electrical light and had hot and cold running water.¹⁵

The life of a Carlisle cadet was not easy. Superintendent Carlisle’s philosophy of education, rules and regulations for the Academy were not relaxed. He expected his cadets to acquire a good mastery of the traditional subjects. Cadets were allowed very little free time. He strongly opposed the use of tobacco, especially cigarette smoking. Carlisle did not hesitate to dismiss cadets who could not or would not live up to his

¹² Arlington Journal, May 26, 1904

¹³ The Seventh Annual Announcement, 1907-1908

¹⁴ Arlington Journal, November 3, 1904

¹⁵ Arlington Journal, November 3, 1904

standards. Cadets were under military discipline to become well developed citizens, not to be made into soldiers. Carlisle believed that

“a military school creates habits of order, cleanliness, patience, promptness, punctuality, obedience, respect for authority, and a sense of duty, honor and manliness. The power of prolonged and quickened attention, accurate perception, and prompt decision and action gained in military exercises make a boy previously listless, slow, and dull, one that is alert, active, and bright. To accomplish the best results, the young student should be placed in surroundings favorable to industry; he should breathe a busy atmosphere. In the public school, left to himself to regulate his course of study, and exposed to the innumerable temptations of society and good fellowship, the pupil unconsciously or heedlessly loses valuable time. In a military school life, is as regular as clockwork. Not only recitation and drill, but also recreation, study, and even sleep have their allotted hours. In this way, the pupil learns method and acquires good mental habits.”¹⁶

Cadets were required to be in uniform at all times. The uniform most often worn was an Army regulation khaki for field drill. For academic classes and parades, “Blues and Greys” were worn. These included a blue blouse and cap, grey trousers, and black dress shoes. On formal occasions an all white uniform referred to as “White Ducks” were worn.

Cadets were in a constant state of inspection. Rooms were inspected daily and were subject to special inspections at all times. Before mess, cadets were in formation and inspections were held. Uniforms had to be brushed and buttoned and shoes highly polished.¹⁷

The curriculum consisted of two years of study below high school and four years at the high school level. English, Mathematics, History, and Latin were required each year during high school. English consisted of Composition as well as British and American Literature. Classic works from Shakespeare and Hawthorne were popular.

¹⁶ The Seventh Annual Announcement, 1907-1908

¹⁷ The Seventh Annual Announcement, 1907-1908

Math courses ranged from Arithmetic to Advanced Algebra and Geometry. American, Ancient, and Modern History also completed the list of required courses. Four years of Latin were also required. Electives consisted of two years of a Special Business Course, made up of Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Typing, or Commercial Law, and two years of foreign language in French, Spanish, Greek, or German. Classes in Military Science and Tactics, although not extensive, consisted of military history and the solution of tactical problems in the class and in the field. Military drill was a daily affair which included the manual of arms, inspections, close order drill, and parade reviews. Preston A. Weatherred, who had been attending Law School at the University of Texas, returned in the Fall of 1906 to become the first Commandant, an English Instructor, and the Director of Athletics.¹⁸

The academy added track to its athletic department in the Spring of 1907. At the State Interscholastic Meet held at the Academy on May 15, 1907, Carlisle Military Academy took first place with 11 medals and broke the state high school records for the pole vault and shot put. Cadet Lieutenant John Neece of Dallas was awarded the Academy Gold Medal for the best athlete of the corps.¹⁹

The school year 1907-1908 was the zenith year for the Carlisle Military Academy. The highlight of the year was the inspection of the School by the U.S. Army in the Spring. The inspecting officers gave high commendation to the academy. They were most impressed by the discipline of the cadets on the field and in the class. As a result of this inspection, the school was furnished with up-to-date training equipment from the U.S. Army. An active duty officer, Lt. Kelton L. Pepper, was assigned to the academy for the year 1907-1908 and given the title of Professor of Military Science and Tactics. Enrollment in the Fall increased to 129, the largest enrollment in the history of the academy. Work was also completed on the west barracks, which along with the East and South barracks housed over 100 cadets.²⁰

This was also a golden year for Carlisle Military Academy Athletics. The football team was undefeated in the season. In the game against Ft. Worth University, the opposing team was unable to make a single first down. The track team won the State

¹⁸ Arlington Journal, January 24, 1907

¹⁹ Arlington Journal, March 9, 16, 23, 1907

²⁰ Arlington Journal, May 9, 16, 30, 1907.

Track Meet at the University of Texas, earning scores far ahead of other competing teams. The Carlisle Baseball Team also had a “Grand Slam Season”.²¹

In March 1908 two battalions of cadets attended the Ft. Worth Stock Show and participated in the Military Tournament and Sham Battle. Company A won the competitive drill competition over Ft. Worth University.²²

The Academy’s Annual “End of the Year Picnic” was held at Lake Handley. The cadets engaged in competitive drills with an officer from the National Guard as an inspector, and the annual awards were made. The Officers’ Medal for best academic record was won by Cadet Captain Tom Lamonica, and the Frank D. Boyd medal was won by Roy Wakerfield.²³

With the opening of the Academy in the Fall of 1908, the twilight began to set for the future of Carlisle Military Academy. Enrollment dropped to 88 cadets. A loss of 41 cadets from the previous year may have been due to the economic panic and agriculture drought of 1907. Yet, in spite of the lower enrollment, the Academy upheld its standards and several cadets were dismissed for infractions of the rules.

During mid-season, the Academy was forced to disband the football team due to athletic injuries and remaining games were canceled.

Because the enrolled fell below 100 cadets, the U.S. Army recalled Lt. Pepper as Professor of Military Science and replaced him with a retired army officer.²⁴

In the Fall of 1909, the Academy purchased \$1500 in band instruments and the Carlisle Military Academy Band was formed. The cadet band gave several recitals during the year and played during cadet parades and retreats.²⁵

Preston A. Weatherred returned to the staff as Commandant and instructor in English during the Fall and would stay with the staff for three years.

At the track meet at the Texas A&M College in April 1910, the Carlisle boys placed second, behind Allen Academy, and G. Eagleton of Arlington was the star athlete.²⁶ Later that year, at a meet held at the University of Texas, the Carlisle Track

²¹ The Seventh Annual Announcement, 1907-1908

²² Arlington Journal, March 20, 1908

²³ Arlington Journal, May 22, 1908

²⁴ Arlington Journal, October 15, 1909

²⁵ Arlington Journal, May 20, 1910

²⁶ Arlington Journal, April 29, 1910

team won by such a high margin that they were honored on their return to Arlington by a parade through town and a special luncheon at the academy. At the second annual County Track Meet, the Carlisle Team won first place. The coach for the Carlisle Team was Captain Lewis Rupert.²⁷

At the end of the 1910 School Year, the George T. West Medal for the best cadet officer was awarded to Lt. Paul R. Davidson. The Frank D. Boyd Medal for the best drilled cadet went to Charles Eagleton, and the Academy Medal for the champion athlete for the last two years was awarded to William H. Slider. Four cadets were also presented certificates of graduation from the Academy. In the Fall of 1910, a new gymnasium and indoor swimming pool were made available to the students.²⁸

In the Spring of 1911, “Colonel” Carlisle proposed to open a second military academy on Galveston Bay, and that the Carlisle Military academy in Arlington would close after the current year. However the new school was not opened because the Arlington school was in financial difficulty.

In April 1911, Company A 4th Regiment of the Old Texas National Guard, which was made up of the Carlisle cadets, took first place in the State Tournament at Ft. Worth and was judged the best Company in the Texas National Guard. A large number of these cadets would become commissioned officers during America’s entry in the First World War.²⁹

In spite of its financial struggle, the Academy did not hesitate to expel half of the student body for breaches of discipline during the 1911-1912 school year.

Prior to the close of the 1912-1913 school year, the announcement was made at the close of the term that “Colonel” Carlisle would cease to operate his school in Arlington and that a new school would be established on the campus to be known as the Arlington Training School.³⁰

THE TRANSITION TO A STATE COLLEGE (1913-1917)

²⁷ Arlington Journal, May 13, 1910

²⁸ Arlington Journal, December 9, 1910

²⁹ Arlington Journal, May 19, 1911

³⁰ Arlington Journal, May 16, 1913

After the financial failure of the Carlisle Military Academy, it seemed very unlikely that an academic institution would continue. However, the board of directors and the citizens of Arlington were determined to continue the support of a college in Arlington.

In the summer of 1913, the board of directors appointed Professor H.K. Taylor as President of the school, now renamed “The Arlington Training School”. The school was in a poor state of condition, and repairs to many of the buildings and facilities were needed. Professor Taylor solicited support from several leading citizens and teachers to raise the necessary funds for repairs and administration. By the Fall of 1913, the Arlington Training School opened its doors to 66 pupils for the first school year. The purpose of the Arlington Training School very closely paralleled the doctrine of the Carlisle Military Academy set by Colonel James Carlisle which was

“to educate and to build men and women who could do things and fill responsible places in society.”³¹

The military standards established by “Colonel” Carlisle were retained in the school curriculum. Male students wore a mandatory uniform almost identical to the Carlisle cadet uniform. Besides the field service khaki uniform, cadets still wore the traditional “Blues and Greys” and “White Ducks”. There were regular hours for meals, recreation, study, exercise, and sleep. Athletics and physical training were stressed. The cadets made up the teams in football, basketball, and baseball and had very successful seasons. In 1914, the cadet band had 25 members directed by J.A. Ault.³²

However, as early as 1916, the school had already begun to show the strain of financial difficulty. In April of 1916, Judge V.W. Grubbs of Greenville proceeded with the prospect of adding industrial subjects at the school. In January of 1917, as the new State Legislature convened in Austin, conditions were favorable for creating branches of the existing Texas A&M College. Judge Grubbs represented the City of Arlington and fought during the legislation to help secure the institution. On March 10, 1917, the

³¹ The Arlington Training School Catalog, 1913-1914

³² Junia Hudspeth, History of North Texas Agriculture College

private institution in Arlington became the Texas A&M branch school known as Grubbs Vocational College.

Grubbs Vocational College
(1917-1923)

After John Tarleton University in Stephenville became a state institution in February of 1917, the motivation of local citizens in Arlington became enough to help pass the state legislation to make the college in Arlington a state institution to be name Grubbs Vocational College. During these early years, the College President, W.B. Bizzell, was its constant defender and promoter. He was responsible for its policies and for making it an integral part of the Texas A&M system.³³

In the Fall of 1918, America was involved in the “War to End All Wars.” The Corps of Cadets at Grubbs began their first important transition to produce military officers for World War I.

In October of 1918, the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) was inaugurated and Grubbs Vocational College became a war training school. The purpose of SATC was to provide scholastic and military training before being sent to Officer Training Camps and then to active duty. The War Department assigned 1st Lieutenant L.W. Caine to take charge, and the Corps soon turned civilians into well-drilled soldiers under his guidance. SATC students were paid \$30 per month and were billeted in West Barracks. The Corps was put through two hours of drill and 30 minutes of exercise each day. Classes in military tactics and camouflage were conducted and often a few sham battles were conducted.³⁴

Following the Armistice in November 1918, the SATC members received their discharge papers at the last assembly before Christmas. Lt. Caine presented the discharges, and his last speech to the SATC members would forever remain in their minds as an example of true leadership.³⁵

Besides drill, the SATC members were involved in many incidents both on and off campus. There were “scraps” in the Barracks, and on Halloween SATC members

³³ Junia E. Hudspeth, History of North Texas Agriculture College

³⁴ The Shorthorn Vol. 1 No. 1 April 1919

³⁵ The Shorthorn Vol. 1 No. 1 April 1919

were involved in incidents with the town boys of Arlington. The Grubbs College men found, on their return to campus in the Spring, that the SATC were sorely missed.³⁶

On October 2, 1919, the Grubbs Vocational College Band was formed. Thirty-six members were enrolled, and it was conducted by a Mr. Wylie.³⁷ Lt. Caine was assigned as manager.

The Reserve Officers Training Corps was established by the National Defense Act of 1916 and begun at Grubbs Vocational College in the Fall of 1921. The War Department assigned Capt. Carl A. Bishop as Professor of Military Science and Tactics (PMS&T) and Lt. L.W. Caine became Assistant PMS&T. After graduation from Grubbs, cadets could now seek commissions from the military by finishing their last two years of college and ROTC at a neighboring four-year institution.

The course in Military Science and Tactics covered subjects that were beneficial to the cadet either in peace or war. In military courtesy and discipline he was taught respect for and loyalty to authority. In military hygiene and first aid he was taught personal hygiene, first aid and prevention of diseases. A great part of the course was given to Drill and Command, which instills precision, soldierly appearance, bearing, and discipline. In addition, the cadet was taught rifle marksmanship, combat principles, scouting, patrolling, and the proper use of the automatic rifle.

The daily routine of a Grubbs cadet began at 6:00 A.M. with reveille. He had 15 minutes to shave and dress before formation at 6:15 A.M. If the cadet was late, weekly passes to town were usually taken away. Cadets participated in physical training conducted by the cadet chain of command until formation at 7:00 A.M. for breakfast. The Mess Hall was located at the east entrance of the Administration Building (currently Ransom Hall). In the Mess Hall, strict military discipline was maintained. Each cadet moved to his assigned seat and remained at the position of attention. At the command "Take Seats" by the senior student officer, cadets were seated and the meal was served. Students rotated to work in the Mess Hall during meal hours.

Room inspections were conducted at 6:45 A.M. each weekday, with wall locker inspections on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

³⁶ The Shorthorn Vol. 1 No. 1 April 1919

³⁷ The Shorthorn Vol. 2 No. 1 October 1919

Classes were conducted from 8:00 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. Mess call was conducted at 12:45 P.M. After lunch, classes continued until 4:30 P.M. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:50 P.M., drill was conducted. At 6:00 P.M., formation for dinner; and at 7:15 P.M., each cadet was required to be in his room studying unless he had a pass. Cadet Guards walked posts to ensure this was being done. All cadets were required to be in at 9:45 P.M., and at 10:00 P.M. taps was played and all cadets were to be in bed.³⁸

As in the military academies, cadets were subject to discipline and demerits. Depending on the severity of the violation, demerits were classed from 2 to 10. Freshman and Sophomores were limited to 125, and Juniors and Seniors were limited to 75, each term.

Cadet officers and non-commissioned officers were selected by the Commandant of cadets from the Senior, Junior, and Sophomore classes according to academic and military merits.

As in the active military, cadets also performed guard duty around the campus. The guard consisted of an Officer of the Day, Officer of the Guard, Sergeant of the Guard, and duty personnel (cadet privates) as needed. While on guard duty, cadets were excused from classes and performed duties set forth in the prescribed manual.³⁹

CPT Bishop's greatest desire was to make the cadet corps one of the best junior college organizations in the state. With his strong personality, his ability to organize, and his determination to accomplish something worthwhile, it was felt for sure that his efforts would not be at a loss.⁴⁰

“As a leader and a man, we admire him (Capt. Bishop); as a sport and a friend, we love him.” The Cadets 1924.⁴¹

The Rifle Team was organized by Capt. Bishop and, with careful coaching, took first place in the 8th ROTC Corps Area match and third place in the National Inter-collegiate match for military training in the 1921-22 school year. In the following school

³⁸ The Shorthorn Vol. 1 No. 1 April 1919

³⁹ The Blue Book, Grubbs Vocational College 1st Edition, September, 1918

⁴⁰ The Junior Aggie 1923

⁴¹ The Junior Aggie 1924

year, the team again took first in the ROTC Corps match and fifth in the Inter-collegiate match.⁴²

Since the name Grubbs Vocational College carried the idea of a school under private ownership and the word “vocational” seemed to limit the function of the school, a change in the name was desired by the citizens of Arlington. On July 24, 1923, Grubbs Vocational College became The North Texas Agriculture College.⁴³ Courses in Business Administration, Accounting, Pre-engineering and Carpentry were added to the curriculum.

THE NORTH TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (1923-1949)

In the Fall of 1923, the Corps was organized as a battalion with two companies. The Chain of Command consisted of Colonel Charles C. Todd, commanding ROTC at Texas A&M, CPT Bishop (PMS&T) at NTAC, and 1LT Caine, Commandant of Cadets at NTAC. The Cadet Commander was given the rank of Cadet Major (C/MAJ). Companies were commanded by Cadet Captains (C/CPT), each with two platoons lead by Cadet Lieutenants (C/LT). Interestingly, rank insignia for cadets has not changed at all since the inception of ROTC training at this institution.⁴⁴

NTAC’s first Corps Commander (1923-1924) was C/MAJ Eugene Marshall. A Company was commanded by C/CPT Russell Canfield who also commanded the Rifle Team. B Company was commanded by C/CPT Malcolm Swann.⁴⁵

On Oct. 11, 1923, Colonel Todd from Texas A&M conducted the first of his annual inspections of the Corps at NTAC.

In 1924, the Corps curriculum expanded to include mapping, the automatic rifle, bayonet drill, scouting and patrolling, hand and rifle grenades, and military hygiene. Due to the steady increase in enrollment, the Corps had 15 cadet officers who were

⁴² The Junior Aggie 1924

⁴³ Junia E. Hudspeth, History of North Texas Agriculture College

⁴⁴ Junior Aggie 1923

⁴⁵ Junior Aggie 1923

responsible for the enforcement of the regulations of the institution under the supervision of the Commandant and the PMS&T.⁴⁶

In 1925, the War Department replaced Captain Bishop with 1LT Rutledge M. Lawson as PMS. 1LT Caine continued as Commandant of Cadets. The Corps continued to grow, and another company was added to the Battalion. The Cadet Commander was now assisted by a C/2LT who carried on the duties of Battalion Adjutant.⁴⁷

1925 marked the year of the formation of this institution's oldest Corps organization, The Sam Houston Rifles. First known as "The Crack Company", the Sam Houston Rifles was organized and commanded by C/CPT Jack Dinwiddie. Cadets from A and B Companies made up the members of The Crack Company.

The NTAC band increased to 52 members, and during the summer it conducted a 13-week national tour billed as "The Lone Star Band."

The Officer's Club was first organized in 1925. Members included the PMS and Commandant, the cadet officers. The Corps Commander was appointed as Club President. The purpose of the Officers Club was to promote esprit de corps in the cadet officer corps and to organize the social functions during the year.⁴⁸

The Bull Pen Society was organized in the Fall of 1927. The Bull Pen consisted of off-campus cadets whose purpose was to assist new students in adjusting to their new surroundings at NTAC and to promote a better feeling of fellowship among the commuters.

In 1927, CPT Fred P. Norris replaced 1LT Caine as Commandant of Cadets; however, 1LT Lawson still remained as NTAC PMS&T.

The Rifle Team under C/MAJ Carl Norman took fifth place in the 8th ROTC Corps match.

On March 25, 1927, LTC C.R. Mayo, Commander of the 8th ROTC Corps area, inspected the campus of NTAC. At 10:00 A.M. the Corps was formed and a battalion parade was held. After passing in review, the battalion was formed in columns of companies and the band and rifle companies were inspected. The rifles and uniforms inspected were in excellent condition. The appearance of the band and instruments was

⁴⁶ Junior Aggie 1924

⁴⁷ Junior Aggie 1925

⁴⁸ Junior Aggie 1925

also excellent. After the inspection was completed, C/MAJ Norman held company drill for LTC Mayo. Following this the Corps was dismissed and the officers attended a leadership and field problem class conducted by LTC Mayo.⁴⁹

By the Fall of 1928, several changes on campus had occurred. Cadets were no longer housed in the East and West barracks. These buildings were torn down to make way for a larger parade field. Cadets were now housed in buildings according to Company designation. A Company resided in the old 1895 administration building, called by the cadets “Fish Hall”. B Company resided in a building next to the exchange store on campus known as “Lindbergh Hall”. Cadets would jokingly refer to the dorm as “Limburger Hall”. Cadets who resided off-campus made up C Company.⁵⁰

The new library building was open for the cadets and was located to the east end of the Administration building. This building currently stands on campus and is known as “College Hall”.

In the Fall of 1928, 1LT Lawson was replaced by CPT Edgar H. Keltner as PMS. LT Norris remained as Commandant of Cadets but in the following school year (1929-1930), CPT Keltner combined the positions of PMS and Commandant of Cadets. The battalion increased to four companies with the addition of D Company. D Company consisted of off-campus cadets from the Dallas area. (C Company consisted of those cadets from the Tarrant County area.)⁵¹

Along with the Officers Club and the Bull Pen Society, another club was organized in the Corps. The Sergeants Club, later known as the NCO Club, was organized under the guidance of CPT Keltner. All cadet NCOs were members, and its purpose was for the promotion of the NCO Corps and to sponsor several social events during the year.

In the fall of 1929, the NTAC band under the direction of “COL” Earl D. Irons placed first of 75 contesting units at the state band competition at the State Fair of Texas.⁵²

⁴⁹ Junior Aggie 1927

⁵⁰ Junior Aggie 1928

⁵¹ Junior Aggie 1930

⁵² Junior Aggie 1930

In the 1929-1930 school year, the corps increased to a total enrollment of 202 cadets. The Battalion staff increased to include, along with a Cadet Adjutant, a Cadet Quartermaster to coordinate the armory and supplies, and the Cadet Sergeant-Major to be the liaison between the NCO and officer corps and to assign the various guard duties on campus.

The NTAC Rifle team achieved their best firing record at the 1931 8th Corps match since they were organized. The competition was close, with NTAC finishing close behind Texas A&M, University of Arizona, and New Mexico Military Institute.⁵³

In the Fall of 1932, the corps increased in size with the addition of E Company. The corps still remained organized as a battalion with the rank of Corps Commander as Lt. Colonel. C/LTC Orsen E. Paxton was the first cadet to hold the rank of C/LTC.

Ranking in the NTAC band also changed. A cadet held the rank of C/MAJ and was the assistant to band director (similar to a Drum Major today).⁵⁴

The school year of 1933-1934 held many changes for the NTAC Corps of Cadets. Captain Keltner was replaced by Captain Thomas F. Joyce as PMS. With the continued increase in enrollment at NTAC, the Corps was now organized into a Regiment with two Battalions of three companies each and the band company. The Corps Commander now held the rank of Cadet Colonel and Battalion Commanders held the rank of C/LTC.

The C/COL's staff now included not only the Battalion Commanders and SGM, but also a Cadet NCO in charge of the Regiments Color Guard.⁵⁵

In the fall of 1934, CPT Julian Dayton replaced CPT Joyce as PMS for NTAC. On campus, other changes with the Corps Clubs occurred. The Sergeants Club was renamed the NCO Club in the Fall of 1934. Also in the Fall of 1934, the Kampus Klub Kadets (KKK) was organized in Fish Hall. Its membership composed entirely of cadets residing on campus. The purpose of the KKK was to bring the campus students together and unite them in close companionship.⁵⁶

⁵³ Junior Aggie 1931

⁵⁴ Junior Aggie 1932

⁵⁵ Junior Aggie 1933

⁵⁶ Junior Aggie 1934

In 1935, the Crack Platoon won the drill contest for junior colleges at the Southwestern Exposition and on March 21, 1936, won for the third consecutive time the competition at the Fat Stock Show.

The NTAC Rifle team placed fifth in the annual ROTC 8th Corps match.⁵⁷

In 1936, the Corps sponsored the first of the Spring Coronation Balls. Students voted on candidates, and the evening event was one of the highlights of the entire school year.

At this time, close to 80% of the students at NTAC were commuters (day-dodgers as they were called) and in 1936, the on-campus dormitory for cadets, Davis Hall (Brazos House today), was built. The Companies were reorganized so that all on-campus cadets were in the same company (C Company) and housed in Davis Hall. Also, companies were now organized into three platoons.⁵⁸

In the fall of 1937, the Crack Platoon was renamed and officially became what they are known as today, The Sam Houston Rifles.

In the following school year, Major Max G. Oliver replaced Captain Joyce as the PMS for NTAC.⁵⁹

During this period of time at NTAC, just before Europe plunged into the Second World War, the life of an NTAC cadet was one of academic learning, military discipline, and Saturday night dances.

One reason why attendance at NTAC jumped dramatically in the late '30s was the Aeronautical training offered under the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) program. Here students could obtain their private pilots' licenses while attending NTAC. NTAC and A&M were the only schools in Texas to offer this training. The Engineering Building housed the aeronautical instruction, and crop dusters from Delta Dusting Company were rebuilt in the building and flown at Grand Prairie Airport. Students were taught both the theory and practical applications of aviation.⁶⁰

A cadet entered the corps with the rank of cadet private. Through academic and military achievement, he was able to advance through the ranks as an NCO. After his

⁵⁷ Junior Aggie 1935

⁵⁸ Junior Aggie 1937

⁵⁹ Junior Aggie 1937

⁶⁰ Interview with Nickey Naumovich, March 15, 1992.

first year, he was in a position to accept a cadet commission in the cadet officer ranks. Because the corps was so integrated in campus life, the rank of a cadet officer was quite a status symbol. In fact, most of the girls on campus dated the cadet officers.⁶¹

Another organization whose membership was a campus status was the Sam Houston Rifles. All cadet officers were members of the Sam Houston Rifles and were usually commanded by the Corps Commander. The Sam Houston Rifles were proud of their group and were the “Big Shots” on campus at the time.

An NTAC cadet’s day began at 6:00 A.M. with formation of the corps soon after wakeup. Before first formation, the Davis Hall cadets had to ensure that their rooms were ready for the inevitable inspection to follow. After the first formation, cadets would form up and eat together in the Mess Hall, which was located behind the Library (College Hall). After breakfast, the cadet officers and NCOs would inspect the Billets. Any discrepancies would be marked as demerits for the cadet. Academic Classes began at 8:00 A.M. and lasted until noon. Usually cadets could be found in the afternoon socializing at the west end of the library where a soda fountain and shoppette were located.⁶²

On Thursday afternoon, the corps held a three-hour drill session on the parade field. A cadet DID NOT miss a drill session. As Colonel (Ret.) Cecil Roberts remembers,

‘I was moving to a drill formation and slipped and fell on the fourth floor of a ramp in Davis Hall. My ankle was swollen and was quite painful to walk on. I went to the Sergeant of Drill and asked permission to be excused from drill because of ankle. His replay was “Hell, you’ve got to be dead before you miss a drill. Get into formation!”’⁶³

There were four big parade reviews a year. The last was held on Mothers Day. Usually 5,000-6,000 spectators would attend. Awards were given at this last review, and a saber was given to the company commander for best company in the corps.

⁶¹ Interview with Cecil Roberts, March 21, 1992.

⁶² Interview with Nickey Naumovich, march 16, 1992

⁶³ Interview with Cecil Roberts, March 20, 1992

C Company (Campus Cadets) was housed in Davis Hall. This Company was under strict West Point Standards. Inspections were conducted of the barracks on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and excess of demerits would cause a trip to the Bull Ring to walk a tour on Saturday. The Bull Ring was located by the athletic field, and walking a tour consisted of walking guard duty for a few hours to work the demerits off.⁶⁴

One cadet was tasked daily to be the Officer of the Day (OD). The OD would not attend academic classes and during the entire day would walk around and spot check cadets to ensure standards were being kept with the Corps guidelines.

NTAC installed discipline, uniformity, and cohesion in the Corps. Many alumni felt that the NTAC Corps was far superior in its professionalism to any other ROTC unit.⁶⁵

Although the Corps at NTAC was professional and disciplined, they did give time out for a few campus and off-campus pranks. A few of the Agriculture students did manage to take a laxative-induced cow to the top floor of Davis Hall, where the cow managed to produce enough “fertilizer” on the tile floors for the entire parade field.⁶⁶

The big rival of NTAC was John Tarleton Junior College in Stephenville. Each Armistice Day (November 11) a football game was placed between the two schools. Bonfires were built, and the big deal was to burn down the other’s bonfire before their big pep rally and bonfire.

The Tarleton “Plowboys” succeeded in burning down NTAC’s bonfire before the game in 1939. Cecil Roberts remembers,

‘We attempted to retaliate with a couple of uncoordinated raids over the next few days, but all came to naught... Then one smart boy said, “We have an air horn, lets use it.” Some smart chemistry major made up some bombs of blown glass with phosphorus and water. Two of our stalwarts would fly down and toss the bombs into the Tarleton bonfire, and at least salvage some of our pride.

⁶⁴ Interview with Cecil Roberts, March 20, 1992

⁶⁵ Interview with Nickey Naumovich, March 16, 1992

⁶⁶ Interview with Nickey Naumovich, March 16, 1992

But this was not to be our day. On the first pass, two bombs were launched and they hit the roof of the dean's house. The second pass came in lower and placed two on the bonfire. Tarletonites could be seen up on the Dean's house and on the bonfire. The third pass would be the clincher. The pilot really came in on the deck, but the "Plowboys" threw up a barrage of sticks, one of which hit the propeller of the plane. This broke off about six inches of the propeller, causing the whole plane to begin to jump and vibrate. The pilot was so low, he went in-between two buildings and landed in the Dean's bluebonnet patch behind the house.'

Besides being expelled from school, the pilot and bombardier both received a "Special Tarleton haircut" for being captured on the mission.⁶⁷

Around the third week of the fall semester, the Corps held "Mineral Water Day." Here the upperclassmen would take the "Fish" (Freshman) to the Arlington Mineral Well located north of Abram Road. Once there, the Fish would be initiated by drinking "gallons" of mineral water. Hours later the Fish would begin to "feel" the laxative qualities of Arlington Mineral water.

Towards the end of the school year, the Corps held "Fish Day". This was the opportunity for the freshman to be able to payback any "unpleasantries" caused by any member of the upperclassmen during their time as a Freshman.⁶⁸

On Saturday nights, the Corps held dances. These were very popular, and the attendance was very high. Cadets and their dates danced the night away with the Big Band Music of Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey. Dancing varied from slow and smooth to wild and fast Jitterbugging.⁶⁹

"Life at this time was just so slow and easy," recalls Nickey Naumovich. "You did not have the numerous distractions that you have today. People knew each

⁶⁷ Roberts, Cecil, *A Soldier from Texas*

⁶⁸ Interview with Nickey Naumovich, March 16, 1992

⁶⁹ Interview with Cecil Roberts, March 20, 1992

other on campus on a first name basis. With the war in full swing over in Europe and hearing Hitler's speeches on the radio, Cadets did not think that the U.S. would be directly involved in the Second World War."⁷⁰

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the cadets at NTAC would find out how very much the war would indeed affect them.

Class of 1942 member Carl Knox vividly recalls the day he and his fellow cadets at NTAC heard the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor,

'We were having our Sunday parade on campus, when someone nudged me and said, "Pass it down, the Japanese just bombed Pearl Harbor". We all giggled and thought it was a good one.'

The Cadets became believers a few minutes later, when official reports of the attack were broadcast on their car radios and in their dorm room radios in Davis Hall.⁷¹

World War Two (1941-1945)

In the beginning of the spring semester of 1942, LTC Max Oliver started an "all out" military program for ROTC, which was at that time considered unequaled in any part of the country. He organized a "Commando" unit, offering training that would be immensely helpful under actual battlefield conditions. It was the first to be organized in any college institution.⁷²

The NTAC Commandoes consisted of over 100 cadets who were trained on how to clear barbed wire obstacles, bayonet fighting skills, hand-to-hand combat to

⁷⁰ Interview with Nickey Naumovich, March 16, 1992

⁷¹ Presence Vol. IV No. 2

⁷² Junior Aggie 1942

include Jui Jitsu techniques, the Japanese language, and a vigorous physical training program to get the men into top physical condition.⁷³

In the Fall of 1943, several additions to the Corps were added. LTC Max Oliver was replaced by MAJ George E. Watkins. In addition to the Army ROTC training, NTAC hosted the government V-12 program which again turned the university into a military training facility. Navy and Marine training cadre arrived in July 1943 to assist in the training of Navy and Marine personnel for the war effort. Four Navy and three Marine training platoons, each with their own training cadre, were assigned to NTAC. Besides training, the Marine and Navy men were an active part in the campus life of NTAC. Along with the Army cadets, the sailors and Marines attended the same classes day to day and were welcome in the social functions on campus. The popular NTAC Saturday night dances very closely resembled the USO because of the variety of armed service personnel.⁷⁴

In the Fall of 1944, two additional Army officers were attached to assist MAJ Watkins in the Army ROTC Corps. CPT Sydney Kerley and 1st LT Joe Stevens assumed the duties of Assistant Commandant of Cadets. With the decline in enrollment during the war years, the ROTC Corps shrunk to around 280 cadets by the Summer of 1945. During these times the NTAC rifle team and the Sam Houston Rifles were all but non-existent in the Corps during World War Two.⁷⁵

During the Second World War, the graduates of NTAC served their country proudly and with valor, even to the point of paying the price with the highest cost of all.

Almer Jasper Mann, (AJ) Class of 1939, acting as company commander in the area of the Roer River, was killed in action while leading his company in a successful engagement against the 10th German Panzer Division. Because of his heroic deeds, he was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously. His commanding officers recommended that the Distinguished Service Cross was in order and additional personnel work was looked into to award AJ the country's second highest award for valor.⁷⁶

⁷³ Junior Aggie 1942

⁷⁴ Junior Aggie 1943

⁷⁵ Junior Aggie 1945

⁷⁶ Hall of Honor 1990

John Luther Morgan, Class of 1941, was considered one of the best young pilots in Marine Corps Aviation. Despite overwhelming odds in one encounter, CPT Morgan destroyed three Japanese fighter planes in the period of 90 seconds. In preparation of the Iwo Jima and Okinawa operations, CPT Morgan was killed when his plane was hit by enemy ground fire on a strike against a heavily defended airfield near Okinawa on March 28, 1945. His awards included the Distinguished Flying Cross, and he was recommended for the Navy Cross.⁷⁷

Constance Mims, Class of 1940, was leading a five-man patrol on November 2, 1944, in the vicinity of Aulnois, France, to probe the enemy defenses. After deploying his men on the objective, he moved forward alone to reconnoiter, encountered a German soldier, and rendered him unconscious. He took a second German as prisoner. LT Mims lead his patrol back to American lines through a concentration of machine gun fire. By his aggressive leadership and determination, LT Mims secured vital information that lead to a successful attack launched in the area later. LT Mims was awarded the Silver Star for his actions. On December 17, 1944, LT Mims died of wounds resulting from close combat.⁷⁸

Neel E. Kearby, Class of 1931, having already completed his mission and returning to base, saw an enemy fighter below, attacked, and shot it down in flames. To his surprise, the fighter was part of a 37-plane escort for 12 Japanese bombers. Although his mission was completed, fuel low, and the odds were 12-to-1, Colonel Kearby ordered his squadron to attack. He shot down three planes in quick succession and, seeing one of his planes with two enemy fighters in tail, engaged and shot down both planes. Despite multiple enemy fighters attacking his plane he made one more pass on the formation of planes before leading his squadron to a U.S. base. Colonel Kearby was awarded the nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his actions.⁷⁹

Colonel Edger H. Keltner (PMS NTAC) was serving as Chief of Staff with the 91st Philippino Army in 1941. In 1942 COL Keltner was captured with the other survivors on Corrigodor and took part in the infamous Bataan Death March. He spent

⁷⁷ Hall of Honor 1990

⁷⁸ Hall of Honor 1980

⁷⁹ Hall of Honor 1981

the duration of the war in a Japanese POW Camp. General Jonathan Wainwright was a close and personal friend of Col. Keltner.⁸⁰

As the Second World War came to a close in September 1945, the Corps at NTAC began its movement through the post-War years. The Corps was no longer organized as a regiment like the pre-War days. The Corps consisted of a Battalion with four rifle companies. The Corps Commander held the rank of C/LTC, but the position was only held for one semester, after which a new chain of command was selected.⁸¹

The V-12 Program was discontinued during the Spring of 1946. NTAC was sorry to say goodbye to the sailors and Marines, who were prominent in scholastics as well as in athletics and social functions and made themselves well liked by both the students and faculty.⁸²

The school year of 1946-1947 saw a complete change in the military organization of the Corps of Cadets. Colonel Edger Keltner returned to the campus of NTAC to take his place again as the PMS, replacing MAJ Watkins.⁸³

On September 2, 1946, the campus at NTAC was the scene of an event receiving nationwide recognition. Before the entire Corps, student body, guests, and celebrities, General Jonathan M. Wainwright conferred on Colonel Keltner the nation's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Legion of Merit. Colonel Keltner's military record was one of outstanding achievement. His gallantry in the Philippines and his perseverance while a prisoner of the Japanese from April 1942 to August 1945 were reason enough to merit these awards.

The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded for gallantry in action during the defense of Bataan, and the Legion of Merit was the result of service as Chief of Staff of the 91st Philippine Army Division.

In decorating his fellow prisoner, General Wainwright spoke of Col. Keltner as a leader and former of examples. He praised the ROTC program, and foretold the future it held.⁸⁴

⁸⁰ Hall of Honor 1980

⁸¹ Junior Aggie 1945

⁸² Junior Aggie 1946

⁸³ Junior Aggie 1947

⁸⁴ Junior Aggie 1947

The ROTC battalion consisted of four companies, however Col. Keltner organized the battalion in a service branch organization. Two companies were organized as Infantry Rifle Companies, one Company organized as an Artillery Battery, and the fourth Company organized as an Armor Troop.

With the surge of enrollment, due partly by the G.I. Bill, the Corps also felt a surge with 645 enrolled in the Corps. The Corps was well organized as a regiment again, with two battalions of three companies. The first battalion was designated as a rifle battalion and the second battalion was organized with a rifle company, a battery company, and a troop company.⁸⁵

The Sam Houston Rifles, after being all but disbanded during the War years, were back with a full enrollment in the Jodies. The Corps Rifle Team was reorganized and was lead by a C/Cpt and sponsored by a cadre member.

The last school year for NTAC probably could not have ended any better. The Corps increased to an enormous size of 900 cadets enrolled, comprised of two regiments. Each regiment was comprised of two battalions with three companies. The Cadet Regimental officers for the last year of NTAC were C/LTC Willard Latham and C/LTC Dan Minihan.

This year, the Corps was rated as one of the outstanding units in the 4th Army Area with a superior rating in its annual inspection. Cadets now wore a wreath-enclosed star on their right sleeve to indicate that they were members of a superior rated ROTC unit (only three schools were rated superior). In the Fall of 1949, the North Texas Agricultural College was renamed Arlington State College but still remained in the Texas A&M system.⁸⁶

ARLINGTON STATE COLLEGE (1949-1966)

With the naming of a new university, the Corps of Cadets were also reorganized. The first Corps Commander for Arlington State College was C/COL Dan

⁸⁵ Junior Aggie 1947

⁸⁶ Junior Aggie 1949

Love in the Fall of 1949. Each semester, as before, a new chain of command was designated to include the Corps Commander. The Corps was organized as one Regiment with three Battalions. Each battalion consisted of three companies with three platoons.⁸⁷

The Corps Rifle Team gained more members and notoriety. The Rifle Team was coached by a cadre member and emerged victorious in matches with teams from all over the nation. On March 26, 1949, NTAC hosted the 4th Army Area rifle match and placed fourth in the competition. During the entire school year, the Rifle team placed first in 11 of 12 matches.⁸⁸

During this time, the Army issued each cadet approximately \$180 worth of clothing and equipment, everything for the Army dress uniform, Khaki's, and Fatigues.⁸⁹

In 1953, Colonel Wesley R. Gough replaced Colonel Keltner as PMS for the Corps at Arlington State College.⁹⁰

In the Fall of 1954, the Corps added the attractiveness of having pretty coeds represent their various units as Corps Sweethearts. The coeds were nominated by the Companies, Sam Houston Rifles, the Rifle Team, and Band Company. Each wore the dress uniform with the distinctive organization cords and were given the honorary rank of C/CPT.

The organizational Sweethearts would then compete for the title of Corps Sweetheart with the honorary rank of C/COL, with the winner being announced at the Winter Ball in December.⁹¹

Also in the Fall of 1954, compulsory military training was discontinued at ASC. It was now an all-volunteer Corps of Cadets. The Corps suffered a dramatic drop in enrollment, from 1200 cadets in the Spring of 1954 to 466 enrolled in the Fall.

On December 18, 1955, members of the Sam Houston Rifles planted a tree and dedicated it to the memory of a fallen Jodie, John Luther Morgan. The tree still stands in the east end of College Hall.⁹²

⁸⁷ Reveille 1950

⁸⁸ The Shorthorn, December 19, 1955

⁸⁹ Reveille 1950

⁹⁰ Reveille 1954

⁹¹ Reveille 1955

⁹² The Shorthorn, December 19, 1955

In May 1956, the Corps held its annual Field Training Exercise at Eagle Mountain Lake. During the weekend of the 19th, cadets were given practical applications to tactics taught in the classroom.⁹³

In the Fall of 1956, Col. Kirk Brock replaced Col. Wesley Gough as the PMS for ASC. In the following year, ASC for the first time received a returning alumni to become the Assist/PMS. Capt. Willard Latham rejoined the Corps in the Fall of 1957.⁹⁴

On January 22, 1957, members of the Sam Houston Rifles marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in a Grand review for the Inauguration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.⁹⁵

On 27 March 1958, ASC six-man rifle team won the Intercollegiate National Championship sponsored by the NRA.

On 9 April 1958, The Corps at ASC was rated as one of the top in the nation during its annual Spring Inspection by the 4th Army Area inspection officers.⁹⁶

In the Fall of 1958, the ASC rifle team once again placed tops in a national competition. During the Central Texas Rifle match, ASC took first place. At the National Intercollegiate competition, ASC placed eighth among 77 competing universities.

In the Fall of 1959, ASC finally became a four-year institution. With that, the Corps could now begin offering senior ROTC instruction and commission Army Officers. C/Col. Joel Ward was the Corps Commander for its first year as a four-year institution.⁹⁷

In April of 1960, Col. Kirk Brock left the Corps at ASC and was replaced by Maj. Charles McDowell.

Because the summer of 1960 would be the first year for ASC cadets to attend advanced camp at Ft. Hood, the Corps wanted to enter Ft. Hood with a fireball approach. Sixteen of the 28 cadets from ASC would road march an unprecedented 160 miles in four days to begin advanced camp.

⁹³ Reveille 1957

⁹⁴ Reveille 1958

⁹⁵ The Shorthorn, Jan 22, 1959

⁹⁶ Reveille 1958

⁹⁷ Reveille 1960

During the Spring semester, cadets trained hard and road marched long miles to physically prepare them for the march to Fort Hood. On June 11, 1960, Capt. Latham and 16 hard-charging cadets started the long march to Ft. Hood. With only the loss of two cadets, who could no longer keep up, the ASC men on the fourth day marched proudly through the gates of Ft. Hood. They were met by a large welcoming party to include Commanding General Edward Farrand. When they arrived, General Farrand said, "I admire you for your intestinal fortitude... You look very healthy and happy. I am glad that we still have Americans who can walk on their own feet."

LTC (Ret) Joel Ward recalls, "The road march to Ft. Hood gave me a test of endurance that I will never forget." Ward remembers "that at advanced camp the word was out from the cadre to "watch out for the ASC men." In fact, some of the cadre were somewhat intimidated by the gaunt, mean look of the ASC men marching through the gates of Ft. Hood. Of the 28 cadets attending camp that summer, 19 were recommended for Distinguished Military Graduate, which says a lot about the entire training program at ASC."⁹⁸

In May of 1961, Arlington State College held its first commissioning ceremony and eight officers became Second Lieutenants in the United States Army.

With the government's interest in a new type of low intensity conflict that the military might be involved in the next few years, Army ROTC was directed to teach Guerrilla Warfare and tactics to those cadets interested. In the Fall of 1962, the Insurgent Team was founded to train cadets in the fundamentals of insurgency and counterinsurgency history, tactics and techniques. The Insurgent Team (IT) would train on Saturdays in the area of Highway 360. The ITs would soon adopt the black beret as their distinctive headgear in the Corps.⁹⁹

On December 12, 1962, the Corps, as well as the campus of Arlington State College, was visited by Vice-President Lyndon Johnson. Mr. Johnson inspected an honor guard of the Sam Houston Rifles commanded by C/Col Jerry Houston.¹⁰⁰

Also in the Fall of 1962, the newly organized Pistol Team in their first year became the National Intercollegiate Champions. The Rifle Team defeated Texas A&M

⁹⁸ Interview with Joel Ward, March 10, 1992

⁹⁹ Reveille 1965

¹⁰⁰ Reveille 1963

to win the Southwest Rifle Association Championship. In the Fall of 1966, the Rifle Team won the Central Texas Conference Championship. This school year the Rifle Team placed third in the 4th Army area and fourth at the National Competition at OSU.¹⁰¹

In the Fall of 1963, COL Charles Johnston replaced LTC Charles McDowell as the PMS for Arlington State College.

Because approximately 90% of the student body at this time were commuters to the campus of ASC, the Corps life was modified from the days of NTAC to fit this lifestyle. Most cadets lived off campus and also held down part-time jobs to help pay for the costs of tuition. There was not an organized Physical Training Program; however, cadets were involved in many strenuous organizations (Sam Houston Rifles, IT's, etc.) that kept them in top shape.

Cadets would attend their academic classes either on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. These classes were usually held from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. On Thursday afternoons the Corps held a mandatory drill session. These were usually held for two hours and consisted of mostly close-order drill. The Corps emphasis on drill made membership in the Sam Houston Rifles a valuable asset. R. Zack Prince recalls that it was very rare to be a cadet officer and not be a member of the Sam Houston Rifles or the Rifle Team. Also, membership in the Jodies or the Rifle Team placed you in the "Big Men on Campus" classification. Many pretty coeds would be seen at campus social gatherings with a Jodie on her arm.

In the winter, around December, the Corps would host a military ball, usually held at the University Center. These were fairly popular on campus, and at this function they would announce the Corps Sweetheart for the year from the organizational sweethearts competing for the title.

Besides the formal functions, cadets during their free time could be found in the numerous Coffee Houses both on and off campus talking over classes or upcoming Corps events.¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ Reveille 1963

¹⁰² Interview with Joel Ward March 1992

With the American involvement in the conflict in Vietnam slowly rising, the war did not hit home at Arlington and ASC until the news that LT Dennis B. Easley (ASC Corps Commander Class of 1965) was killed in action near An Ky, Vietnam, while flying a night medical evacuation mission on July 20, 1966. LT Easley became the first soldier in Arlington to give his life to the service of his country in Southeast Asia.¹⁰³

In the fall of 1966, Arlington State College withdrew from the Texas A&M System and became part of The University of Texas System. The school was renamed The University of Texas at Arlington.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON (1966-1992)

On October 18, 1967, The UTA Rifle Team, under the command of Lanny Bassham, competed at OSU for the International Shooting Union Match by the National Rifle Association. The Team returned with a third place rating but the big news was that Cadet Bassham set a new national record, set for the highest score set in a match sanctioned by the National Rifle Association. Cadet Bassham scored an incredible 1158 out of 1200 points and was ranked in the top ten shooters in the nation.¹⁰⁴

In November of 1967, LTC Eugene Shea became the new PMS for UTA, replacing COL Johnston.

In the competitive year of 1968-1969, the UTA pistol team was ranked as best in the South after losing only to the United States Military Academy and the Naval Academy. The Team was ranked first on the International Course, second on the Conventional Course, and first in the Nation in the NRA League.¹⁰⁵

In the Fall of 1969, UTA celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the ROTC program. On November 6, 1969, the Corps hosted a luncheon joined by former PMSs. Attending were Col. (Ret) Edgar Keltner, LTC (Ret) Charles McDowell, Col. (Ret) Kirk

¹⁰³ Hall of Honor 1983

¹⁰⁴ Reveille 1969

¹⁰⁵ Reveille 1969

Brock, and LTC (Ret) John Chambers. Arlington Mayor Tom Vandergriff signed a Proclamation declaring November as ROTC month.¹⁰⁶

These were indeed the dark days of the ROTC program at the UTA campus. With an unpopular conflict overseas, distrust of national elected leaders and the military in general, it was a difficult time to be a UTA Cadet. Several student organizations targeted their frustrations of the Vietnam conflict to the most visible military presence on campus, which was Army ROTC. For several years various student groups unsuccessfully attempted to remove ROTC from the UTA campus. Members of the Corps and the Jodies decided, so as not to create any incidents, not to wear their uniforms to academic classes, and even the Jodies were forced to drill in the basement of College Hall.

In 1969, due to lack of enrollment, the Sam Houston Rifles and the Rifle Team, for the first time, opened their organizations for the entire student body.

In the Fall of 1970, Capt. Jerry Houston (ASC 63) returned to the Corps as a member of the cadre and became sponsor to the Sam Houston Rifles.¹⁰⁷

In the Fall of 1971, LTC Shea was replaced by LTC Thomas Brogan as PMS for UTA. Also in the Fall, for the first time, two females, Karen Mat'l and Sherry Strong, joined a traditional all-male Rifle Team to compete in shooting matches.¹⁰⁸

In the 1972-1973 school year, the Board of Regents approved the award of a Minor in the study of Military Science for students who met the requirements.¹⁰⁹

In the fall of 1973, LTC Brogan was replaced by LTC Sands Weems as PMS for UTA. This year was the first year that females were allowed to join the Corps of Cadets as active members and seek commissions in the United States Army. It was not until the Fall of 1974 that three female cadets became members of the UTA Corps, and the next year the number rose to 23.¹¹⁰

In July 1976, LTC Grady Jones became the new PMS replacing LTC Brogan. LTC Edward Rebholz replaced LTC Jones in the Summer of 1977, and in the Summer of 1979, LTC Raymond Andrea became PMS replacing LTC Rebholz.

¹⁰⁶ The Shorthorn Nov 6, 1969

¹⁰⁷ Reveille 1971

¹⁰⁸ Reveille 1972

¹⁰⁹ Reveille 1973

¹¹⁰ Reveille 1975

With the closing of the 1970s, attendance in the Corps was on the rise due partly to a more popular image of the military replacing the bad press of not so long ago.

In the Summer of 1981, Col. Harry Chandler became the PMS for UTA replacing LTC Andrea. On March 15, 1983, the Corps Cadets at UTA added another organization to its ranks. The Carlisle Cannons were organized with the receiving of six 75mm pack howitzers. Capt. Munden, a cadre member, was largely responsible for the organization of the cannons and one of the cannons, "Mundens Muzzle," was dedicated to him. UTA became the ONLY Army ROTC unit in the nation with a salute battery. An annual event for the Cannons would be the firing at the Ft. Worth Mayfest in the Spring. The Cannons would fire as the Ft. Worth Symphony played the 1812 Overture.

In June of 1984, Col. Joel Ward returned to UTA to become the PMS. Col. Ward became the first cadet ever to return as cadre and hold the position as the Professor of Military Science. Col. Ward was a member of the first senior ROTC Class and a veteran of the June 1960 road march to Ft. Hood.

On April 15, 1986, the ROTC Program at UTA became under the command of ROTC Cadet Command at Ft. Monroe, Virginia.

Cadet Command, in the Fall of 1986, began the Ranger Challenge Competition between ROTC Universities. With that the UTA Insurgent Team was reorganized with a new competitive mission and renamed the UTA Ranger Challenge Team.

In the Fall of 1986, LTC Larry Hamre replaced Col Joel Ward as PMS for UTA. LTC Stuart Powell became the PMS in July of 1988.

During this time, ROTC Cadet Command began to offer academic and professional incentives for prior-service soldiers. With programs such as Green to Gold, many ROTC units were attended by prior-service cadets on the ROTC Scholarship. Of the Ranger Challenge Team for the Fall of 1989, 70% were prior service, to include three former Army Rangers and a Grenada Combat veteran. The team placed eighth of 16 teams in the competition.

In April 1990, LTC Jimmie J. Hataway replaced LTC Powell as the Professor of Military Science at UTA. In the Fall of 1990, the U.S. committed military forces in Operation Desert Storm/Shield. One ROTC member, Cadet Joan Black had to put her

academic studies on hold as her Reserve Unit was activated and deployed to support the mission in Southwest Asia. Cadet Black returned to the Corps in the Spring of 1991, when her unit redeployed back to the U.S.

Also in the Fall of 1990 another first event took place in the Corps of Cadets. All of the Corps Commanders (Battalion Commander and Company Commanders) shared something in common. All were graduates of the U.S. Army Ranger School.

The 1990 Ranger Challenge Team, in competition at Ft. Hood, placed fifth among the 16 competing teams. The following year the Team placed eighth among the 16 competing teams.

In the Spring of 1992, the Corps deployed to Ft. Wolters for the weekend to apply practical applications to tactical field problems applied in classroom instruction.

The Sam Houston Rifles, in its first competition in six years, placed first in competition at Texas A&M in the Spring of 1992. The Jodies were up against drill units such as the Naval Academy and The Aggie Corps.