

Cadet Corps Focuses On Future

"Texas A&M is writing its own military history in the blood of its graduates. No name stands out more brilliantly than the heroic defender of Corregidor, General George F. Moore. Whenever I see a Texas A&M man in my command, I have a feeling of confidence." No other statement such as the above by the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur can better exemplify the high regard held for the Corps of Cadets at A&M University.

To preserve and enrich such a rich heritage Col. Denzil L. Baker, commandant of the Corps of Cadets since August 1, 1963, is striving to build the corps along with the "Blueprint for Progress" initiated in November of 1963.

Col. Baker, a 1933 A&M graduate, is a highly-decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict. He came to A&M in July of 1963 from the Pentagon where he was chief of the special Review Division of the Office of Army Personnel.

In June, 1963, The Board of Directors adopted a recommendation by President Rudder, to consolidate the duties of commandant with those of a regular officer and eliminate the staff of civilian tactical officers.

A&M is the largest single source of reserve officers in the nation and its highly qualified students are eligible for regular commissions the equal of those offered by West Point and the Air Force Academy.

All students are required to take elementary training in the Air Force or Army ROTC if they are under 21, of sound body and a citizen of the United States.

Air Force Cadets
Air Force Cadets apply for enrollment in the advanced course during their second year of basic air science. They take the Air Force Officers Qualification Test and those who qualify are given a physical examination. Advance course cadets are deferred from

draft by the Selective Service. They receive uniforms and approximately \$500 during their two years in the program. During the summer between the first and second years of the advanced course, the cadet attends a four-week summer camp on an Air Force base.

During the senior year, a cadet who has applied for Air Force pilot training after graduation is given 36½ hours of flight training in light aircraft and 35 hours of ground school.

Flight training is provided at the University by an FFA approved flying school operator, and upon successful completion the student is eligible for a private pilot license.

If a student is admitted to the advanced course, he must agree to accept a commission as an officer in the Air Force Reserve.

He must also agree to serve on active duty for not less than four years after being commissioned, or, if applying for flight training either as a pilot or as a navigator, he must agree to serve for four years upon completion of flight training. Col. Raymond C. Lee, who has combined air force careers as a jet pilot and teacher, is a professor of Air Science and the new head of the Air Force ROTC at A&M.

Army Cadets

While the four year Army ROTC program normally leads to a reserve commission, the Army relies upon this source for half of the new Regular Army Officers appointed each year.

The Army program is a general military science curriculum and under the Distinguished Military Graduate Program, interested cadets may apply for regular commissions.

Under the term of the contract, Army program graduates are required to serve for two years in the Regular Army and for four years with the Army Reserve.

Branch assignments for regular and reserve commissions are made by the Department of the Army and are based on the curriculum of the student's major field of study, student preference, leadership and technical qualifications.

On Feb. 17, 1964 the Corps of Cadets assembled in Guion Hall to hear a suggestion from Col. Baker, Corps Commander Paul Dresser

and Deputy Commander Richard Railston for the members of the Corps to begin following the regulations to the letter in the treatment and disciplining of Freshmen.

Corps Reputation

At the Monday meeting, Dresser said the reputation of the Corps of Cadets was the major difficulty in recruiting freshmen. Under the

suggested, Col. Baker could tell parents when they came to him with their complaints, that such things were just not done.

Baker said that if this was done, he could see a 5,000 member Corps in two years.

The Corps Commandant said March 16, that three general things constitute a military school designated such as that which A&M

has officially received from the Department of Army. They are that there be a four-year ROTC program, that uniforms be worn at all times and that military discipline be present.

On January 15, Cadet Col. of the Corps Dresser said, "For the sake of uniformity of the Corps, cadets will not wear the 'Midnight' uniform in its present form next year."

On March 20, it was announced that approximately \$70,000 would be spent by the university in an effort to "dress up" the Corps of Cadets.

Last year, the Corps of Cadets was run by the seniors. Col. Baker said the corps was set up this way because seniors had been asking for years to run the Corps, the system creates a better military organization, and a maximum opportunity for students to "practice leadership," is available.

'Corps Will Grow'

On April 28, Neil L. Keltner said, "The Corps of Cadets will grow if people will have the right attitude. If everybody doesn't put out, we won't have anything." Keltner was chosen to head the cadets during the 1964-65 school year.

On Wednesday, June 24, the U. S. House of Representatives passed H. R. 9124 to vitalize the Reserve

Officer Training Corps. This bill, if passed by the Senate and President, will authorize military departments to provide scholarship assistance to students in the four year ROTC program.

The bill would consist of two elements, payment of books, laboratory fees, etc., for each academic year and payment of monthly retainer pay in the amount of \$50 a month, for 10 months at an annual cost of \$500 for each student.

Students receiving financial assistance will be required to commit themselves to a minimum period of four years of active duty.

Increase in travel allowance from five cents per mile to six cent per mile was also proposed in the bill. In addition summer-camp pay will be increased from \$78 per month to \$111.15.

The new program, if it is passed by the Senate in its present form, is expected to provide much incentive to the Corps of Cadets and ROTC establishments all over the United States.

A general across-the-board pay increase had also been hoped to be included in the bill for all contracted ROTC students. However no mention of this was included in the bill's present form.



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University, Cadets Have Early History

A&M University, like all land-grant institutions all over the United States, owes its origin to the Morrill Act.

Approved by Congress July 2, 1862, the act provides for the donation of a specified amount of public land which was to constitute a perpetual fund, the principal of which should remain forever undiminished.

On April 17, 1871, the state legislature accepted the provisions of the Act and provided for the establishment of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The institution was opened at College Station and instruction began on October 4, 1876.

Although the school has actually had university status for many years, the title was not changed until 1963.

Since 1876 when A&M first opened its doors with six students it has been a military school.

For many years, A&M has had the largest military school in the United States. It is now one of seven military colleges and universities.

At least two years of military training are required of all students, except veterans, physically handicapped, foreign nationals, men over 21 years of age and transfer students with more than 30 hours of credit.

Organized in military units and living under military supervision, the cadets wear their uniforms throughout the school year.

In World War I, 52 former students died in military service.

Following the war, the New York Sun, in an analysis of war participation by American college and universities, declared that A&M had furnished a greater proportion of its alumni as commissioned officers than any other school.

PUBLISHED 4 TIMES WEEKLY

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