

Jump school 'wonderful' to attending cadets from A&M

FORT BENNING, Ga. — "It's really wonderful!" exclaimed a beaming ROTC cadet after completing another jump from the swing landing trainer at Eubanks Field.

The cadet, Frank F. Hillburn of Poteet, a student at A&M, is

Norris joins fish football coaches staff

A&M Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Emory Bellard announced Sunday that Rex Norris, line coach at Navarro Junior College in Corsicana the past two years, has joined the Aggie football staff as freshman line coach.

The 32-year-old Norris fills a vacancy created when Pug Gabrel recently accepted the post of offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State.

"Naturally, we regret Gabrel's leaving and we wish him well in his new position," Bellard said. "At the same time, we feel that Rex Norris will be a valuable addition to our staff."

The changes brought about a slight reshuffling of coaching assignments. Swede Lee moves from the freshman staff to replace Gabrel as defensive ends coach for the varsity, while Norris joins head freshman coach Paul Register and backfield coach Donnie Wigginton on the freshman staff.

Norris grew up in San Angelo where he was a guard-linebacker at Central High from where he was graduated in 1958. He played two years under Max Bumgardner at San Angelo College and then played two more years at East Texas State. He received his bachelor's degree in physical education and history in 1962 and then stayed on as a graduate assistant coach while obtaining his master's degree in education.

He was an assistant coach at Carrollton Turner High for six years, and was line coach and defensive coordinator when he left in 1970 to become an assistant at Navarro JC.

Norris is married to the former Doloras Teaff of Sweetwater. They have a daughter, Whitney Rae, 7 and a son, Rex Jr., 6.

attending airborne school along with 155 other ROTC cadets.

Cadets who undergo jump training are required to pay most of their own expenses as the course is offered only to volunteers, in addition to their six-week summer training camp.

In spite of the fact that he had to pay his own way to Fort Benning, Hillburn insisted that he thought the trip was well worth

the expense.

The ROTC airborne training program has been in effect since 1970, explained Capt. Edward M. Chamberlain, operations officer for the Airborne Department. Since the course's inception, over 1,000 Army, Navy and Air Force cadets have attended jump school.

In addition to the basic airborne training program, the jumpmaster course was recently opened to

ROTC cadets who are jump qualified, added Chamberlain. He is not surprised at the number of volunteers for airborne training, in spite of the conditions that cadets face on most college campuses.

"These men are generally in their third or fourth year of ROTC training," he explained, "and they are highly motivated."

The cadets have a seven per-

cent lower attrition rate than regular army volunteers. According to Chamberlain, the reason for this is that ROTC volunteers are generally better informed, more physically fit and better motivated than their regular army counterparts.

"The schools are fairly selective in that they insure candidates are physically qualified before they arrive at Fort Benning," Cham-

berlain said.

What about the students? Why did they volunteer? What are their impressions of airborne training?

"I volunteered because the cadets at school were jump qualified, and I was impressed," admits Karl Roesser, a junior at Wisconsin State University in Madison. "The training is definitely worthwhile." "Airborne training will help to

secure me a regular army mission," explained William White of Cleburne, a senior at A&M. There are some 100 cadets at Fort Benning.

Patrick M. Oatley of New Orleans, a senior at Tulane University, explained that "I just wanted to jump." Like most of his mates, Oatley found that from the 250- and 34-foot jumps was "easy."

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