

A&M Cadets Find Excitement In Jumping Out Of Airplanes

A&M students from the Corps of Cadets have found a substitute for the old game of "chicken."

They regularly jump out of aircraft. Several went back for more to qualify to tell others when and where to jump.

Representatives admit part of the reason is the sheer thrill. Another part is recognizing and conquering fear by forcing it out into the open.

The third part, according to Gregory P. Walk of Houston and Bruce A. Brant of Stephenville,

is purely opportunistic. The Army ROTC cadets are preparing for better assignments when they report for active duty after commissioning.

The Corps of Cadets has 78 airborne qualified cadets, 13 who completed rugged Fort Benning training for Ranger tabs and eight jumpmaster-rated cadets.

Walk, a senior history major of Houston, led the latter group through a crammed eight-day training program at Benning be-

tween semesters. Training included 60 hours classroom work, six jumps and stringent tests. Walk scored 391 out of a possible 400 to become honor graduate of the 24-member class that included Maj. Jimmy R. Ellington, 1961 A&M graduate and Regular Army advisor to an Austin National Guard unit.

"Airborne training physically and mentally motivates the cadet to go to regular summer camp and do a better job," remarked

Sgt. Maj. John McDonald. "It was proved last summer by A&M cadets sweeping the top awards in both phases at Fort Riley. Better than half of the award-winners were airborne-qualified."

Responsibility carried by the jumpmaster for other jumpers caused more pressure at jumpmaster than Ranger school, Brant believes.

An early graduate, commissioned and now in a master's degree program in educational admini-

stration, he was the oldest of eight Aggies at Benning between semesters. There were four seniors and three juniors. They paid their own way.

Brant said his reasons for participating were "for military professionalism, for the challenge—of a very personal nature—and to help my career out."

Another advantage he cited is the opportunity for a cadet to make acquaintances and find out more about the Army and post

life.

"Maybe it was to prove something to myself," commented Walk, "but still it's a thrill, like leaning into a strong wind from an approaching storm." The element of risk stands out, and recognizing it is part of the training, Walk and Brant agreed.

"Everybody was scared to jump out at 1,200 feet, and everybody was scared to hang out of an aircraft at 1,200 feet, as jumpmaster looking for the drop zone," Brant

said. "But a person can control his own natural fear to do a job."

His advice to potential air trainees: "Prepare yourself for control fear."

Doubt comes only about ability, rather than in equipment or techniques, Walk added.

"I don't think anybody jumps unless he had confidence in his equipment," he said. "I've watched riggers at work last summer, and it gave me a lot of confidence."

Political Science Specialist Joins A&M Faculty

Dr. James L. Payne, specialist in Latin American and American politics, has joined the A&M faculty as full professor of political science, announced Dr. Paul P. Van Riper, department head.

Dr. Payne, 33, is author of five books, three of them on Peru, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

His best known book is "The American Threat: The Fear of War as an Instrument of Foreign Policy," published in 1970. It is sympathetic to U. S. foreign policy, including Vietnam, and has been criticized by opponents of the Vietnam war. More than 8,000 copies have been sold.

Currently Dr. Payne's interests are psychology and teaching-research methodology. He developed an incentive theory from his Latin American studies and is applying the theory to U. S. politics.

The incentive studies deal with psychological satisfactions from being in politics. Dr. Payne has completed an article determining the incentives of Virginia City councilmen and he is now planning a large scale study of state legislators in some state to be decided at a later time.

Dr. Payne comes to TAMU from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He also has taught at the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru, Wesleyan (Conn.) University and Yale University.

He received a B.A. degree from Oberlin (Ohio) College and the M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley, the doctorate in 1967.

Dr. Payne's books are "Labor and Politics in Peru: The System of Political Bargaining," Yale, 1965; "Patterns of Conflict in Colombia," Yale, 1968; "The American Threat: The Fear of War as an Instrument of Foreign Policy," Markham Press, 1970; "Incentive Theory and Political Process; Motivation and Leadership in The Dominican Republic," Heath, 1972, and "Foundations of Empirical Political Analysis," to be released in April by Markham.

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