

THE HISTORY OF

TEXAS A&M'S

COMPANY A-1

"ANIMAL A"

ESTABLISHED IN 1876

THE HISTORY OF COMPANY A-1

**ANIMAL A, THE WORLD'S LARGEST MARCHING ZOO,
THE BEST DAMN OUTFIT ANYWHERE!**

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Company A, Company A Infantry, and Company A-1 all have one thing in common. Company A-1 is, and will always be, the first Cadet Company of the Corps of Cadets.

Company A-1 began as Company A, the first outfit organized at A&M, in the Fall of 1876. From 1876-77 through 1903-04 the Company A Commander was also recognized as the First Captain, or the Ranking Cadet Officer in the Corps. This was the equivalent of the Corps Commander. The First Captain for 1876-77 was Alva P. Smyth from Mexia, TX.

Company A had a change of leadership in the spring of 1913 due to the result of "The Trouble of '13." Hazing had grown excessive by the fall of 1912. Supervision of the cadets had grown looser as the college tried to recover from the loss of Old Main and the Mess Hall due to fire, coupled with student body growth that was requiring many cadets to live in tents. When the administration dismissed 27 cadets for hazing (including many leaders), many cadets went on strike as a protest. 466 cadets would be dismissed for insubordination. Calm was restored by the fall, under a new A&M president.

In 1916-17, Company A was renamed "Company A - First Regiment" due to Corps growth.

After the U.S. entered WWI in April of 1917, most seniors left for Officer Training School at Leon Springs. They were granted their diplomas by the board, and received them in brief ceremonies near the camp, under an oak tree. Juniors assumed leadership positions until they, too, enlisted or were called to duty.

In the fall of 1917, special military training programs were established at A&M. The military programs worked separately from the Corps at first, but normal college protocols and academics suffered. Nearly all of the senior class of 1918 were drafted or joined the Army to attend officer training camp before the year was over. And, in the summer of 1918, nearly all of the Class of 1919 went to summer camp training, and were then directly inducted into the Army for immediate duty.

In September of 1918, normal Corps organization was basically suspended as cadets were made members of the Student Army Training Corps on campus. They were officially in the Army, and paid as privates while training on campus that fall under the supervision of regular Army officers in special units called Company 1, 2, 3, and 4. It was strict and intense, and only ended in December of 1918 because of the end of WWI with the Armistice on November 11th.

Later, a Class of 1920 historian wrote that this was the “darkest period in the history of the school ... the only thing that saved A&M as well as many other things was the signing of the Armistice.”

The administration quickly began a transition back to normal conditions in **January of 1919**, bringing back the normal organization of the college and the Corps. **Company A - 1st became Company A Infantry at this time, since differing branch-specific units were being established.**

After the tumult of the war period, only **three cadets** that had been in the outfit in 1917-18 were on the roster in 1919. **That preserved the outfit's continuity through the WWI period, despite the fact that no Corps outfits organizationally existed during the Fall of 1918.** Many members of the Class of 1919 were induced to return, since the college gave them a chance to finish their degrees in two special, fast semesters that spring. Thus, the Company A Infantry leaders shown in the yearbook for 1918-19 were leaders during the spring of 1919.

In the yearbook for 1935-36, short articles described attributes of each outfit. Company A Infantry's noted that they were proud to have won the Howell Trophy for being the best-drilled outfit in the Infantry Regiment for two years in a row. They also noted that they had compiled a better than average record in intramural athletics in recent years. They were proud of their record, having won playground ball, heavyweight boxing, wrestling, and basketball.

After the U.S. entered World War II, A&M went on a war footing designed to speed up the education and training of the cadets, and get them into the fight. A Summer-Fall-Spring trimester setup was used, starting in the Summer of 1942. Thus, the 1942-43 "school year" shown in the 1943 yearbook actually occurred in the Summer and Fall of 1942. The on-location shooting for the Hollywood movie about A&M "We've Never Been Licked" happened at this time, in the Fall of 1942, just before the demands of the war caused dramatic reductions in the size and stability of the Corps.

Due to the WWII Schedule, the "school year" shown in the 1944 yearbook occurred during the Spring of 1943. The Summer half of that "year" is not covered at all. Advanced course ROTC for juniors and seniors was temporarily abolished during the Spring of 1943, as the Army rushed to get

men to the war. Most cadets would be inducted into the service upon their 18th birthdays (there were only 11 grades in public school in those days, so most entering students were 16 or 17 years old).

The Corps was thus in a state of partial dismemberment and rapid turnover from March of 1943, when Class of '44 and '45 cadets began being inducted into the Army, through May of 1944. It consisted of fish and sophomores in the Class of '47, underage juniors in the Class of '46, and a handful of seniors who were either classified as 4-F or waiting to be called to active duty. The cadet officers were juniors, and all Army branches had been temporarily eliminated. Many outfits were broken up, and all units drilled as infantry, so the outfit was simply called **Company A, First Regiment** during this time. Fish and sophomores were being housed in areas separate from each other, as well as the upperclassmen. Cadet officers had been stripped of their normal authority over the underclassmen. The outfit still existed organizationally, but only minimally so in terms of carrying on any normal operations or unique outfit traditions.

A small group of cadet leaders emerged who worked with the administration to restore cadet officers' authority, and to restore the Corps to something closer to a state of normalcy in June of 1944. Among this group was the Company A Commander, **Marvin Eugene "Gene" Alley** of Sonora. He had joined Company A Infantry as a fish in June of 1942, and had been a sophomore cadet in the outfit in the spring of 1943, when the Class of '44 briefly commanded the Corps before being inducted into the Army along with the Class of '45, and returning to the campus to finish the semester as Army privates before shipping out.

Thus, we see that Gene Alley remained on campus and in what remained of the outfit throughout the period of turmoil, and emerged as the outfit CO when it was over. And, if we study the outfit rosters shown in the era's yearbooks, we see that the **only** cadet who was in the outfit before, during, and after the period of turmoil and disorganization was **Gene**

Alley. He is the one member of the outfit that allows us to say definitively that we have continuity through the period. He was there to restore whatever ways and traditions there were within the outfit that had existed at the start of the war period. **While it had been three cadets who provided the outfit continuity through the WWI period, he alone was the vital link through the WWII era that allows us to say that in terms of its organizational existence, and character and spirit, the outfit has existed since 1876.**

He would remain as the **Company A Infantry** C.O. into the following two semesters, the Summer & Fall of 1944. Those two semesters equated to what would normally have been the 1944-45 school year. One more set of “hurry through” trimester style semesters occurred in the Spring and Summer of 1945 before the normal school schedule resumed in the Fall of 1945.

Starting in 1947-48, and continuing through 1953-54, fish were separated from the regular outfits and placed in special freshman training regiment outfits. Thus, Company A Infantry and other regular outfits only had sophomores, juniors, and seniors as members. This was due to a conflict over new anti-hazing regulations that occurred during 1946-47.

Fish returned to Company A Infantry and all A&M outfits in 1954-55. Also, the Corps began a period of being noncompulsory that year. This would last through 1957-58. Compulsory Corps membership for fish and sophomores would return again in 1958-59.

In the 1956-57 yearbook, it is clear that some outfits are starting to use nicknames and logos. The A Infantry logo shows a campaign hat over crossed rifles and “Fightin’ A.” Also shown in the First Battalion were logos for “Battlin’ B” and

“Spider D!” The “Fightin’ A” Infantry logo also appeared in the 1957-58 yearbook.

Company A Infantry became Company A-1 in 1959-60. It was also at this time that the use of nicknames generally took hold in these new outfits. **Company A-1 would soon be nicknamed “Animal A.”** There are some indications, however, that the phrase might have been used occasionally as early as 1941.

Since Army ROTC instruction was changing from branch-specific to a general course, maintaining branch-specific outfits no longer made sense. So, the A&M Army ROTC regiments and outfits were reorganized into two new brigades, and the companies were given new names for 1959-60. **Company A Infantry became Company A-1, which originally meant that it was Company A in the First Brigade.** In the reorganization, some cadets who had been in other outfits were brought in.

The 1960 yearbook is the first to show a crude version of the outfit logo of a muscular Gorilla Fighter wearing an ammunition belt and holding a pistol and automatic rifle. The Gorilla Fighter was the outfit’s logo for 1961 to 1965.

USMC Maj. Gen Ted Hopgood ‘65, who has commanded the Marine University and Schools at Quantico, and who later served as A&M Commandant, was a member of the outfit as a fish. He has reported his opinion that A-1 was a remarkable outfit at that time. He said that, “A-1 was/is unique and special. For my fish year 1961-62 in A-1, the CO Donley Brothers, the XO, Mike Hix, and the 1stSgt, James Paul King all went on to successful 30 year careers in the Army and retired as Colonels...so we fish had strong leadership from the top of our outfit and it

was consistent despite our pissheads doing their very best to ensure we fish did not miss out on 'Ol Army!"

In 1965-66, Company A-1 won the General George F. Moore Award for the best outfit in the Corps. 1965-66 CO Jerry Lummus has reported that the outfit also won the Jouine scholarship award, placed first in intramural competition, and was first place in retention of their fish class that year.

1965-66 was also the first year for a permanently noncompulsory, totally voluntary Corps. The Corps was reorganized before the year began, since it was anticipated that the strength of the Corps would decline, and that fewer outfits would be needed. Cadets from ten eliminated outfits were placed into the 30 remaining units, and Company A-1 had an infusion of new members from other outfits (primarily from Co. B-1) as a result.

The 1966 outfit logo in the yearbook changes to a Rough Rider holding a saber aloft in one hand and pointing ahead with the other. This was used in yearbooks through 1968, but not used in other ways.

The 1968 outfit logo changed to the Gorilla Fighter, and remained the outfit logo until 1978. The 1979 and 1980 outfit logo changed to the Rough Rider, **but returned to the Gorilla Fighter in 1982, 1983, and 1984.**

1971-72 CO Tommy Hewitt has reported that the outfit placed second in the competition for the General Moore Award that year.

Cadet CO Kevin G. Troller wrote in an outfit newsletter that **Ray Price's "For the Good Times" became the outfit theme song during 1978-**

79. It was seen as a rallying song as they worked to save the outfit from the threat of being disbanded. It has been a tradition ever since.

On the outfit's page in the 1984-85 yearbook, the claim is made that the Animal A name of the company was first documented in 1941. It is not stated as to where that appeared. **The notation on the page also says that the outfit's logo was changed to show a "Ranger overcoming an obstacle" in 1983.** Its first use in the yearbook was in this one, however.

In the 1990-91 yearbook, it says on the outfit's page that A-1 had a reputation for molding leaders, that goals of scholastic excellence had made A-1 at the top of Corps grades, and that they also had goals of maintaining a professional attitude and remaining a "hard-charging" outfit.

In the 1991-92 yearbook, the outfit's page notes that four old Animals were working at the Trigon, that the 1991-92 Corps Commander John B. Sherman of Victoria was from A-1, that OD's for the t.u. game that year were from A-1, and that the outfit sang the "Animal Song" (Ray Price's "For the Good Times") before each home game march-in and at Final Review.

In the 1994-95 yearbook, the outfit page says that the company had produced leaders in all aspects of campus life, including two yell leaders, four bonfire brownpots, 11 Fish Camp counselors, a Fish Camp co-chair, Ross Volunteers, members in Parson's Mounted Cavalry, the Fish Drill Team, student government, and other clubs.

In the 1998-99 yearbook, the outfit page says that company members were involved in a variety of student organizations, from Student Senate to Fish Camp. It also notes that they were strong in athletics, scholastics, and service, and for bonfire that A-1 had two Red Pots, one junior Red

Pot, and one Centerpole Pot. This was the year before the bonfire tragedy that would end official, on-campus bonfires.

2000-2020

The 2006 yearbook notes that A-1 had many cadets involved in extracurricular activities, such as Student Government, and the Tradition Council. The outfit was contracting many seniors to the Army, and they were fundraising to assist Iraqi children with basic necessities from school supplies to hygiene products.

A year before Company A-1 moved from the First Brigade to the Third Brigade in 2011-12, the slogan “Finest of the First” was changed to “First of the Finest.” That was shown on a new **Animal A skull logo**, used for a short period of time starting in 2010-11. Then, the new **“Animal Company”** logo featuring an Ace of Spades, Infantry crossed rifles, A-1, and the new slogan began being used in 2011-12. It is still used.

Outfit awards in that era included 3rd place in the Army Marching Award for 2010-2011, and Best Freshmen Grades in the Fall of 2012. In the Spring of 2016, A-1 won the Jouine Award, for the outfit with the best GPA for the previous two semesters. The outfit also won the Jouine Award in 2018. Individual awards have included the Most Outstanding First Sergeant in 2011-2012, and the Most Outstanding Sophomore in 2011-2012.

For 2016-17, A-1 cadets with major positions included Zachary Butler ‘17, the 1st Brigade CO, and Jesse Orimoto ‘18, the 3rd Brigade Sergeant Major. For 2017-18, A-1 cadets with major positions were the 2016-17 First Sergeant Joshua Ratta serving as the CO for Company F-2, Allie Rios ’19 serving as the 2nd Brigade Sergeant

Major, and Ashley Ralph '19 serving as the 3rd Brigade Sergeant Major. For 2018-19, Ashley Ralph served as the Corps Chief of Staff on Corps Staff, and Allie Rios served as the Second Brigade Commander. A-1's Corbin Neuman '19 served as the 2018-19 A-1 Commander, and A-1's Larry Counts '19 served as the Company D-1 Commander.

The Covid-19 Pandemic, March 2020 to May 2021

The 2019-20 school year took a dramatic turn during Spring Break of 2020, when it was announced that community spread of the deadly Covid-19 coronavirus had arrived in Texas. Students would not be able to return to the campus after the break, as a lockdown began. This period of time would have to represent the biggest disruption in Corps operations since the period of turmoil during World War II.

Texas A&M transitioned from in-person to all online classes in March, April and May of 2020. The Corps and all other student activities were shut down during that period, and students were required to go online to finish all of that semester's classes. As a result, the Corps missed out on Family Weekend, Ring Dance, March to the Brazos, Final Review, Boot Dance, and many other end of year activities.

For School Year 2020-21 students took a mix of in-person and online classes. The Fall Semester began earlier in August than usual, and the semester concluded at Thanksgiving in order to minimize the possibility of having to have another shut down. Spring Break shrank to only one Friday for the same reason.

Assistant Commandant for Recruiting (and former A-1 CO) COL Sam Hawes '81 said that the Corps was able to operate during the 2020-21 school year, but there were big adjustments that had to be made to

virtually everything. COVID restrictions included the requirement to wear masks (except during PT) and to practice social distancing. Guests were also not allowed in the dorms, and limitations were placed on outfit activities in the dorms and cadet rooms.

COL Hawes also reported that the Corps dining procedure and feeding schedule changed several times over the year based on the COVID situation. Dining was like everything else in that the Corps adapted based on changing restrictions and conditions. The entire Corps was never able to all eat together in Duncan at one time, but ways were found to make it work so that all cadets were fed.

The Corps was able to conduct almost all of their normal activities and events, but some home football games had to be cancelled, and events like the Mardi Gras appearance for the RV Company and the National Drill Competition/Mardi Gras for the Fish Drill Team were cancelled. The Aggie Band videotaped their half-time performances prior to each game, and then they were shown to the size-restricted crowd on the Jumbo Tron at the game. The Aggie Band was also not allowed to travel to away games.

LTC Thomas J. Felts '78, the Deputy for Operations and Training with the Corps, stated that Final Review 2021 was especially notable, "because it represented the Corps' ability to overcome a long succession of adversities, perseverance in the face of an unknown future, and the ability to adapt, function, and achieve at a high level in a rapidly changing environment."

Corps Commandant BG Joe Ramirez '79 said that despite the many challenges the Corps faced due to COVID-19, it had been an excellent year for the Corps of Cadets. He noted that was a tough, challenging year, with many highs and lows, but the cadets and the Trigon staff had consistently overcome the obstacles they faced and remained

focused on completing the school year successfully - TOGETHER. He also emphasized that the Corps of Cadets posted an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.2 for the Spring 2021 semester. That was the highest Spring GPA the Corps had ever posted. It also marked the 11th straight semester that the Corps has posted above a 3.0 GPA. The graduating seniors of the class of 2021 posted a cumulative GPA of 3.27 - the highest GPA ever posted by a graduating class in the Corps. All four classes ('21, '22, '23, and '24) posted above a 3.0 GPA in spite of the difficult conditions.

Notable cadets in Animal A for the 2020-21 year included First Sergeant Anderson Tittle, who was honored as the Most Outstanding First Sergeant in the Corps. That was a huge honor for the outfit, too. She was also selected to be the First Brigade Commander for the 2021-22 school year. The outfit's 2019-20 1SG Johann Dube was also notable as the Ross Volunteer Company Commander for 2020-21.

Post-Pandemic Crisis Developments

Animal A's Gareth Jukes was selected to be the Company C-1 Commanding Officer for the 2021-22 school year. For 2022-23 Animal A's 2021-22 First Sergeant Bailey LaMotte was selected to be the Third Brigade Commanding Officer for 2022-23. The company exported three cadets into leadership positions for 2023-24. Those included Alexa Reichert for the Third Battalion Commander, Brinna Janish as the Company A-2 First Sergeant, and Kayli Woodward as the Company F-2 First Sergeant. A-1's Lanna Ahlberg also served on Corps Staff in 2023-24, as the Corps Recruiting Officer.

Commandant BG Patrick Michaelis reorganized the Corps in 2023-24, returning to having battalions and groups under an Army Brigade, a Navy-Marine Regiment, and an Air Force Wing. As a result, Company

A-1 again became a member of the 1st Brigade, and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion. The company won the J.J. Sanchez Recruiting and Retention Award for 2023-24. That major flag award is named for Animal A's J.J. Sanchez '93, who was killed in an automobile accident during the spring of his senior year. The outfit had set winning that award as a goal for their vision of the outfit's future.

Individual Animals who won awards in 2024 included the CO Kain Gala being named the Most Outstanding D&C Senior in the Corps, cadet Andrew Borsatto being named the Most Outstanding Academic Junior in the Corps, and fish Tyler Pomeroy winning a Superior Cadet Award from A&M's Army ROTC. Another notable cadet was Guidon Bearer Madison Cronin, who was selected to be the First Brigade Sergeant Major for 2024-25.

A&M Sesquicentennial Era Developments

Animal A emerged from the post-pandemic era as a strong outfit, under the command of Vincent Dente. That is shown by the large number of excellent cadets who were exported from the outfit to serve in command or staff positions for 2025-26. These included Madison Cronin as the First Brigade Commander, Jackson McNeill as the First Brigade Chaplain, Mackenzie Cronin as the First Regiment Sergeant Major, Tyler Pomeroy as the First Sergeant of Company B-2, Sofia Ortiz as the First Battalion Sergeant Major, Grace Prossner as the Third Battalion Sergeant Major, Emma Bents as the Third Battalion Staff Public Relations NCO, and Samuel Peterson as the Third Battalion Staff Training NCO. Individual Animals who won Corps awards in 2025 included Jordan Daugherty winning the Army Superior Sophomore Cadet Award, Maddisun Lee winning the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for an Army cadet, Tyler Pomeroy receiving the Bruce Dean Goodrich Award, and Oren Avila being named the Best Drilled Fish in the Brigade.

NOTABLE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

Frederick E. Giesecke, Class of 1886



Giesecke was the Company A Commander and First Captain of the Corps, and was the founder of the School of Architecture at Texas A&M. He joined the faculty only two years after graduating, and became the first Aggie former student to be named Commandant, acting as a civilian in that capacity from August to October of 1890. He designed and/or supervised construction of Sbisa Dining Hall in 1912.

In addition to Sbisa, Dr. Giesecke designed and/or supervised the construction of the Academic Building, Chemistry Building, System Administration Building, Cushing Memorial Library, Hart Hall, Walton Hall and 14 other buildings on campus. (The way you recognize a Giesecke-designed building is to note that it is still standing ... sturdy and with exquisite classical detail.) The only exception was Guion Hall, which was demolished by choice, not by need, by the administration.

Dr. Giesecke left A&M soon after Sbisa was finished in 1912 for the University of Texas where he set up their School of Architecture. He

returned to A&M in 1927 to resume his role as college Architect and Dean of the School of Architecture. But even though Giesecke was in Austin for 15 years, he still maintained close ties with TAMC and had a powerful voice in construction matters. Giesecke was the guiding hand for the development of Military Walk and he ramrodded the master plan for construction of everything east of the Academic Building. Dr. Giesecke is also a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor.

COL Charles C. Todd, Class of 1897



Todd was the Company A Commander and First Captain of the Corps, and he gave the valedictory address at his graduation. He was the first Aggie to receive a direct regular commission as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and fought in the Spanish-American War. He was among the first U.S. troops to land in the Philippines, and fought with the Filipino insurrectionists against Spanish forces. He was wounded in action near Manila.

As a Captain in April of 1898, Todd became the second Aggie former student to become Commandant of the A&M Corps of Cadets. He was appointed to fill the position for the remainder of the school year

when the previous Commandant was called back to his regiment for duty during the war. Later, as a Colonel, he returned to Aggieland and again served as the A&M Commandant from 1923 to 1925. Todd is also a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor.

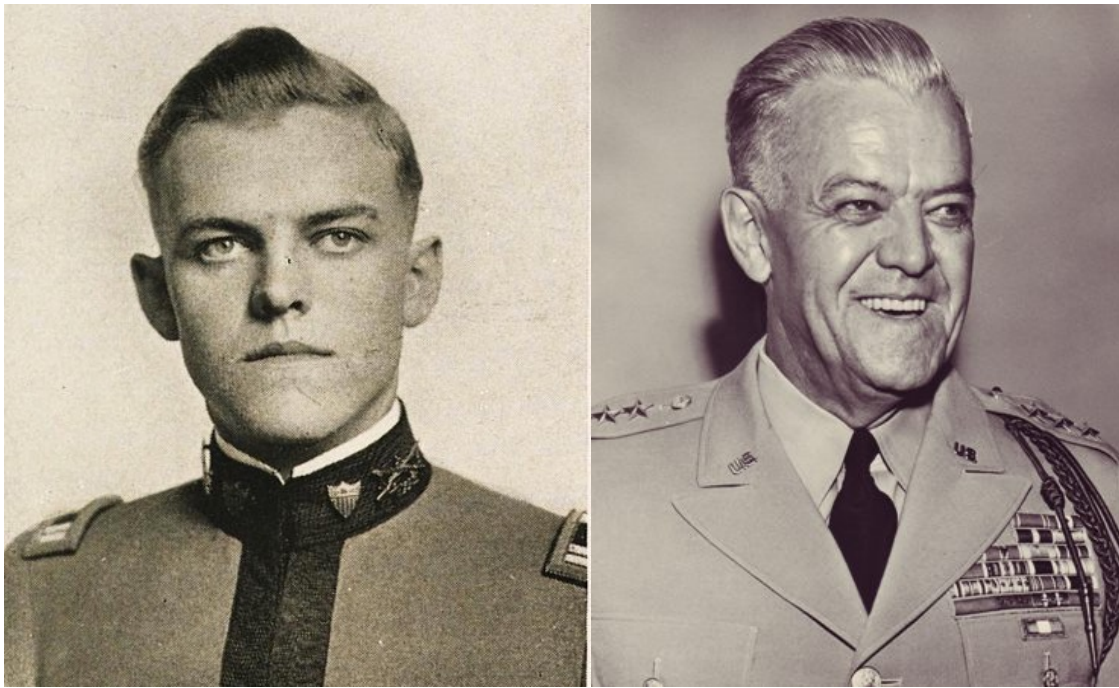
Edwin J. Kyle, Class of 1899



Kyle Field is named for him. He is the only A&M student to have simultaneously served as the Corps Commander (First Captain) and as the Commandant (during a search period for a new Commandant). He became a professor of horticulture at A&M in 1902, and was named president of the General Athletics Association in 1904.

Wanting to secure a permanent athletics field, he fenced off an area and personally financed the purchase of the first bleachers for the site, which immediately became known as Kyle Field. He served as Dean of Agriculture at A&M from 1911 until 1944. Kyle is also a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor.

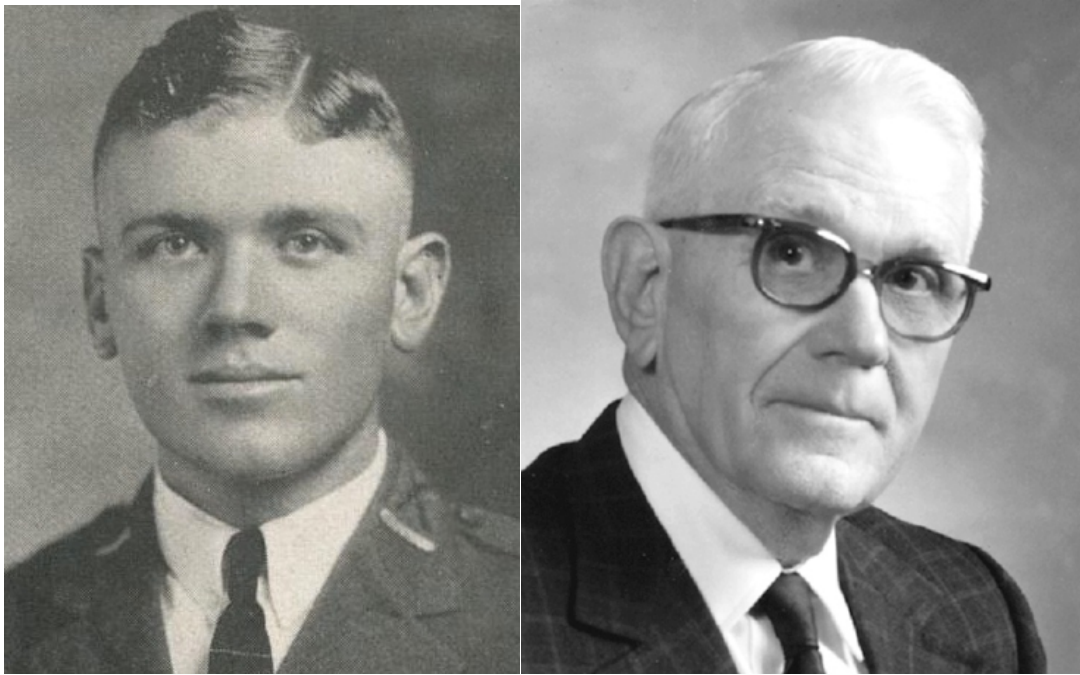
Lieutenant General Andrew Davis Bruce, Class of 1916



LTG Andrew Davis Bruce was a member of A-1, then known as A Company. His 38-year military career included earning the Distinguished Service Cross for valor in World War I, both Army and Navy Distinguished Service Medals, and the Air Medal in World War II. Following America's entrance into World War II A.D. Bruce was asked to create a new Tank Destroyer Center. He chose to locate the center at Killeen, naming it Fort Hood for General John Bell Hood. LTG Bruce is known as "the father and founder of Fort Hood," which has been renamed Fort Cavazos, for General Richard E. Cavazos.

In 1954 LTG Bruce retired to become the third president and later first chancellor of the University of Houston. He was the featured speaker at the 1960 Aggie Muster on the A&M campus, and he is a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor. Andrew Davis Bruce is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

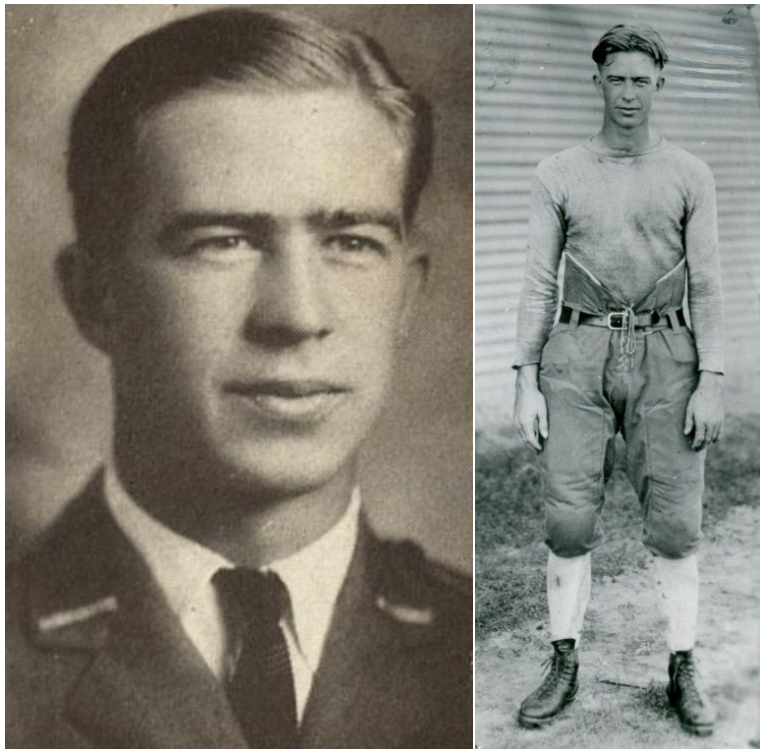
C. E. “Pat” Olsen, Class of 1923



Olsen was a member of the Ross Volunteers and lettered as a baseball pitcher between 1921 and 1923. Upon his graduation in 1923, Olsen entered professional baseball. He was signed to the New York Yankees organization and was a spring training roommate of Lou Gehrig, but he never made the Yankees major league roster.

Olsen founded Gearench Manufacturing Company in Houston in 1927. Olsen remained attached to baseball throughout his life and made significant financial contributions to various aspects of the game. In 1978, Olsen Field was dedicated as Texas A&M's baseball field.

E. King Gill, Class of 1924



As every Aggie knows, Gill was the original 12th Man, who came out of the stands, changed clothes with an injured player, and stood ready on the sideline during the Dixie Classic football game at Dallas Fair Park on January 2, 1922.

Gill was in Company A Infantry during his freshman and sophomore years. He was a talented athlete, and was captain of the A&M basketball team during his senior year.

He went on to become a physician, and he served in WWII as the CO of a Texas military hospital.

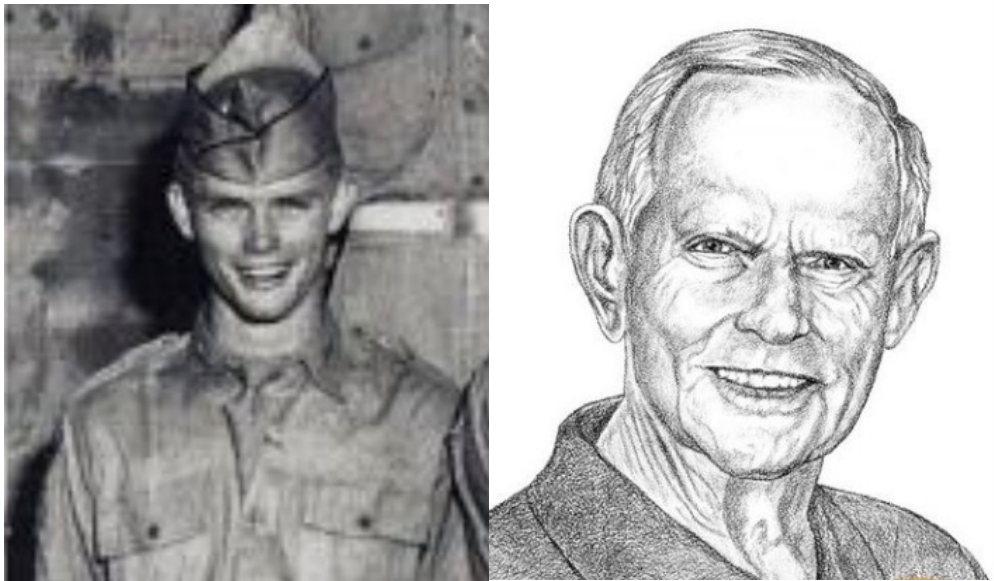
Lieutenant General John H. Miller, Class of 1946



John H. Miller was a member of Company A Infantry in 1942 and early 1943. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in May of 1943. As a Marine in World War II, he participated in the Battle of Okinawa. After the war, he returned to A&M and completed his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He then attended U.S. Navy Postgraduate School, and earned a Master's in Engineering Electronics.

He served as a Commanding Officer, Chief of Staff, Commanding General, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, as well as a Commanding General during his military career. His honors included the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, three Purple Hearts, and several others for his service in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Miller is also a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor.

Charles Lewis Pence, Class of 1951



Charles Pence was a member of our outfit when it was known as Company A Infantry. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1951 from A&M College. After graduation, Mr. Pence joined the Army and was deployed to Korea and Japan. He served as a First Lieutenant in the First Cavalry Division and was honorably discharged in 1953.

In 1955, Mr. Pence joined Humble Oil and Refining Company (now ExxonMobil) in the Exploration Department. He then became Senior Vice President of Friendswood Development Company. Mr. Pence led the development of Bayport Industrial Park and Clear Lake City during the time of rapid expansion of the NASA space program. Mr. Pence retired from Exxon after 27 years in 1982. He then became the Chairman and CEO of Jefferson Realty Company and transitioned to the investment of startup companies in Texas.

He was instrumental in the start-up of two churches, and is a lifelong supporter of scholarship programs for the Corps of Cadets. Mr. Pence

was a longtime member of the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association, and is a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor. He passed away after a battle with cancer in 2023.

James Earl “Bud” Rudder, Jr., Class of 1962

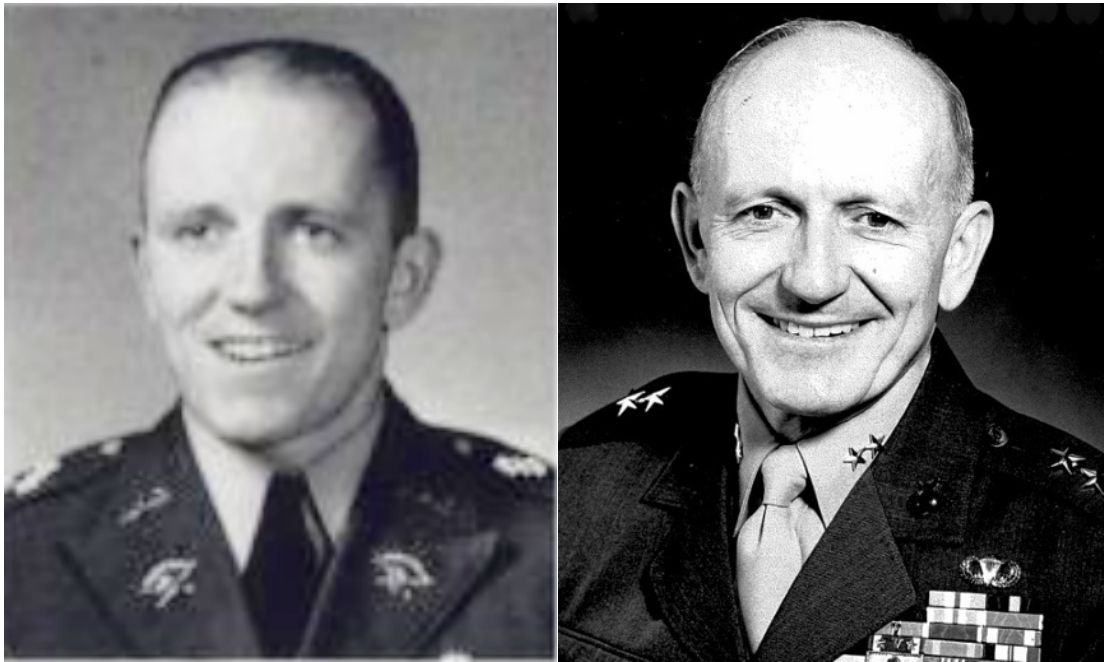


He was the son of A&M’s transformative president and D-Day hero James Earl Rudder ’32. Rudder was in the outfit during the time when it transformed from Company A Infantry to Company A-1. Rudder has said that his father wanted him to be in an outfit that would give him the full Aggie experience, and that he was, indeed, treated exactly like all of the other fish. Later, he was a major on First Brigade Staff, was in Town Hall, the Accounting Society, the Pre-Law Society, and the elections committee.

He served in various capacities while in the Army, including being the CO of a Basic Training Company at Ft. Benning during the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. He excelled in the world of auto sales for Volkswagen in Oklahoma and in the Dallas area, where he eventually opened his own

used car business. He retired and came home to Bryan/College Station in 2000, where he enjoyed reconnecting with his fellow Aggies, and following Aggie sports. He also enjoyed traveling across the U.S. and Europe representing his father and the Rudder legacy. He passed away suddenly in January of 2024.

MajGen Marvin Theodore “Ted” Hopgood, Jr., Class of 1965



Ted Hopgood was born in Bellville, IL, and began Texas A&M in 1961 in Company A-1 where he received the Outstanding Freshman in the Corps of Cadets award. As a fish, he joined the USMC Platoon Leaders Class program which required him as a sophomore to change to Company I-3 where all upperclassman were PLC cadets. He received the Outstanding Sophomore in the Corps of Cadets award. He was I-3 First Sergeant as a junior; served on 4th Battalion Staff as a senior; Yell Leader as a junior and senior; Ross Volunteer Platoon Leader and Firing Squad member; Distinguished Student; Who's Who; and President of the Semper Fidelis Society.

In 1965, he received his B.S. degree in Physical Education and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. After completing The Basic School (Quantico, VA) in December 1965, he served in Vietnam as Platoon Leader and Company Commander of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion 4th Marine Regiment. He completed Amphibious Warfare School in July 1969 and returned to Vietnam to command Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, serve as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General 3rd Marine Division, and command Echo Company, 2nd Battalion 1st Marine Regiment.

His 31-year Marine Corps career continued until he retired in 1996 as the President, Marine Corps University/Commanding General, Marine Corps Schools (Quantico, VA). He returned to Aggieland and served as the Commandant of the Corps of Cadets from 1996 to 2002, retiring with the title Commandant Emeritus. He sponsors two Sul Ross Scholarships and is a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor. He also holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and gold stars in lieu of a second and third award, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

CPT Joseph K. Bush, Jr., Class of 1966

Joe Bush '66 of Temple was an Aggie Head Yell Leader from Animal A who was later killed in action in Laos during the Vietnam War. In the summer of 1965 he was named the Outstanding Cadet among the 1,800 who attended ROTC summer camps in both the Fourth and Fifth Army ROTC training regions.



Commissioned in Field Artillery, he became an Army pilot and Raven Forward Air Controller. Later, he was an Army attache to the ambassador to Laos. He was killed in action during a late-night NVA enemy infiltration attack at Muong Soui airfield on 10 February 1969. His gallantry in drawing enemy fire away from injured and other unarmed Americans during his final battle was posthumously recognized by the award of a Silver Star.

He also received a Bronze Star with a "V" Device for Valor, and a Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions under fire as a night aerial artillery observer.

Charles L. Korbell, Jr., Class of 1971



Charlie Korbell received his BBA in Management from Texas A&M in 1971, and completed the Executive Program at the University of Virginia's Darden School in 1992. As a cadet, he was a member of our outfit, and served as the Guidon Bearer as a sophomore. He became the First Battalion Sergeant Major, the First Battalion CO, a Ross Volunteer, the MSC Town Hall Committee publicity chairman, a Who's Who designee, and was a Distinguished Military graduate.

He began his career at Clarke American in 1971, and spent his career there serving in Operations and Executive Management positions, retiring as the President/CEO in 2005. Clark American received the Texas Award for Performance Excellence, and was presented the Malcolm Baldrige National Award by President George W. Bush. He served on the United Way of San Antonio, the Quality Texas Foundation, and Junior Achievement of South Texas boards.

At A&M, he and his wife Cheryl have sponsored a Sul Ross Scholarship and a study room in the Buzbee LLC. He has also served on the Mays

Business School Development Council, been an MBA mentor, sponsored a Mays scholarship, and was named an Outstanding Alumnus of the Mays School in 2007. He has served as a '71 Class Agent for the Association of Former Students, and has volunteered his expertise assisting in the Commandant's strategic planning process. He has also served a five-year term as a member of the A&M President's Board of Visitors for the Corps, and he is a member of the Aggie Corps Hall of Honor.

COL Christopher E. St John, Class of 1974

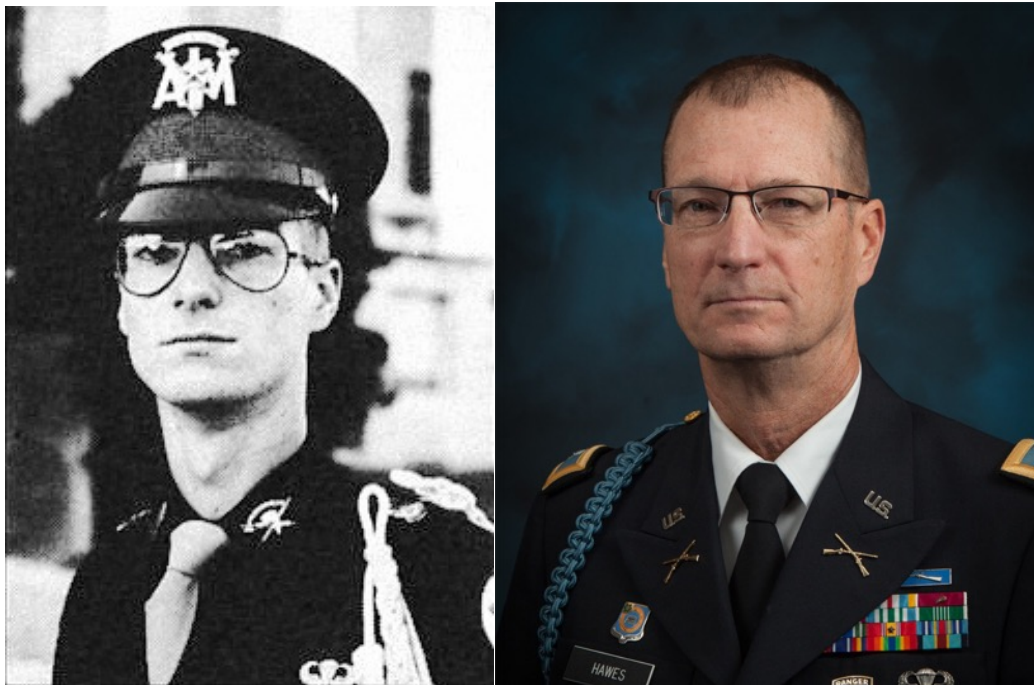


Chris St John '74 was inducted into the U.S. Special Operations Command's Commando Hall of Honor on 18 April 2017 at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. He was the 60th former special operator, and the first Aggie to be inducted.

He served as Animal A's First Sergeant in 1972-73. Following his commissioning in 1974, he served in the U.S. Army for 27 years in Airborne Infantry, Ranger, Psychological Operations and Special Forces assignments. Ultimately, he became the Commander of the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) from August 1999 to August 2001.

During his long and distinguished service to the United States, Colonel St John played a key and instrumental role as both a Special Forces and a Psychological Operations officer in numerous conflicts and operations, and made invaluable contributions to the Special Operations community.

COL Samuel R. Hawes, Class of 1981



Colonel Hawes received his undergraduate degree in Business Management from Texas A&M University in 1981. While at Texas A&M, COL Hawes commanded Company A-1 as a senior cadet, and was recognized as the Outstanding Outfit CO in the Corps that year. He was also a member of the Ross Volunteer Honor Company. As an ROTC cadet he completed U.S Army Airborne and Ranger School, received the Marshall Award as the most outstanding Senior Army ROTC cadet at Texas A&M, and was recognized as an Army ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate.

Upon graduation from Texas A&M in 1981, he was commissioned as an

Infantry Second Lieutenant. He served 28 years in the Army in many of the Army's most storied units including command of the Second Battalion, Twenty Eighth Infantry Regiment. He served his final three years before his military retirement at Texas A&M as the Professor of Military Science, and he retired from the Army in 2009. Colonel Hawes finished his time at Texas A&M as the Assistant Commandant for Recruiting with the Corps of Cadets, where he helped the Corps grow to its largest size in 40 years. He retired from his duties at Aggieland in December of 2021. He also serves as a Class Agent for the Texas A&M Class of 1981. And, in 2014 he was selected by the Chief of Staff of the Army to serve as the Honorary Colonel of the 28th Infantry Regiment.

Bill Jones, Class of 1981



Bill Jones received his undergraduate degree in business management from Texas A&M University. While at Texas A&M, he was a member of Company A-1. He received the Outstanding Freshman in the Corps of Cadets award, was a member of the Ross Volunteers Honor Guard and became the First Brigade Commander. He earned his juris doctor degree from the Baylor University School of Law, where he was a member of the

National Order of Barristers, a Moot Court Champion and a member of the National Mock Trial Team.

After graduation, Jones launched a successful career as a lawyer, including trial and appellate work in state and federal courts of all levels involving complex business, contract, banking, oil and gas, construction, real property, products liability, personal injury, insurance policy and lender liability litigation. He was named the Baylor Young Lawyer of the Year in 1997 by the Baylor University School of Law. He was selected as a Texas Super Lawyer (Top 5%) and was featured in a cover story in the ABA Journal. Jones has been active with bar and community activities including serving as the 1996-97 President of the 20,000 member Texas Young Lawyers Association. As Texas Young Lawyers Association President, Mr. Jones also served on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors Executive Committee.

Jones served with distinction as a member of the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System, having been appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2003 and reappointed in 2009. During his tenure, he served the Board as Vice Chairman from 2005-2007, and as Chairman from 2007 to 2009. He was honored with the title of Chairman Emeritus of the board upon completing his service. Jones is serving, or has served, as a member of several other boards, including the chairing the Board of Regents at Prairie View A&M University, serving on the Baylor Law School Alumni Association Executive Board, Texas A&M Former Students Association Board, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System Foundation Board, Capitol Area Boy Scouts of America Board, Legacy Society Board, Texas Public Policy Foundation Board, Memorial Hermann Continuing Care Board, Memorial Hermann Public Policy Advisory Group and serving as the Texas State History Museum President for 2008-09. He has also been named by the Association of Former Students as a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus, the highest recognition a former student can receive.

Max B. Stalling, Class of 1989



Max Stalling is originally from Crystal City, and he attended kindergarten through high school in Carrizo Springs. At Texas A&M, he was a member of Animal A, and was the outfit's Commanding Officer in 1988-89. He also earned an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in Food Science. It was in graduate school that Stalling first picked up the guitar and began dabbling with songwriting. After college, Stalling moved to Dallas, where he entered the corporate world. He first worked for Campbell-Taggart Baking Company in product development and then for Frito-Lay as a research scientist. Once in Dallas, Stalling discovered the vibrant music scene of North Texas. In Dallas, Stalling started writing songs, recording albums, and developing his musical style. Eventually, Stalling was performing with a full band to back him. As soon as Stalling's music career started taking off, he quit his job with Frito-Lay and started pursuing music full-time. Stalling plays about 150 shows a year. He is a former member of the Board of Governors for the Texas Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, currently known as The Recording Academy. He has also received a star on the South Texas Music Walk of Fame in Corpus Christi.

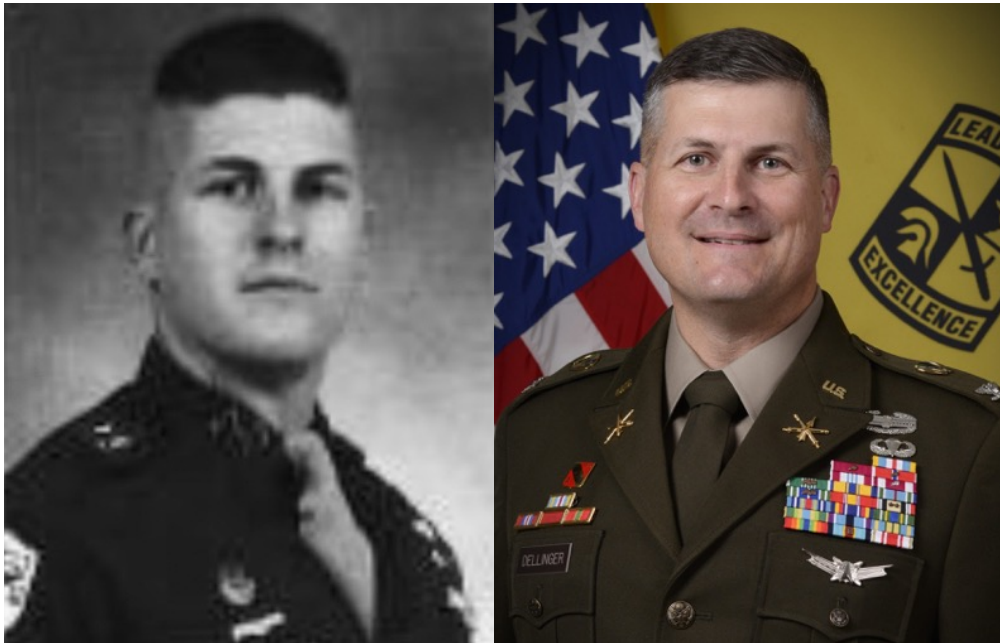
John B. Sherman, Class of 1992



John B. Sherman '92 is the Dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate of Texas A&M University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. While at Texas A&M, he was a member of Company A-1, was a Ross Volunteer and the Corps Sergeant Major in his junior year, and also served as the Commander of the Corps of Cadets during his senior year. He also earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Houston. After graduating from Texas A&M, Sherman was an air defense officer in the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division.

Sherman then served in national security for 30 years, holding senior positions in the Central Intelligence Agency, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). He was the chief information officer for the U.S. Department of Defense from 2021 to 2024. In that role, he served as the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense for information management, information technology and information assurance, as well as space systems, satellite communications and telecommunications matters.

COL Scott M. Dellinger, Class of 1997



COL Scott M. Dellinger '97 is the Professor of Military Science and Tactics for the Texas A&M University Army ROTC program. He was in Company A-1 during his time in the Corps of Cadets, served as the supply and inspector general sergeant on the First Battalion staff as a junior, and was the Third Battalion Commander as a senior. From Cypress, Texas, he was a Distinguished Military Graduate from Texas A&M University, and was commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery second lieutenant in 1997.

His past assignments include: Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle platoon leader and Linebacker battery executive officer of Bravo Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, followed by an assignment as the assistant operations officer for 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, where he later deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, as the Bravo Battery commander. After Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as a small group instructor for the Air and Missile Defense Captains Career Course at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was then an adviser to the Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces Institute in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, followed by service as the executive officer for 3rd Battalion, 43rd

Air Defense Artillery Regiment, at Fort Bliss and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

He later served at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command as a career manager for Air Defense Artillery field grade officers. His first joint assignment was at U.S. Northern Command as a missile defense officer and as the Ballistic Missile Defense Current Operations Branch chief. He then commanded the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan, followed by an assignment at the Pentagon on the joint staff J5 as the Air and Missile Defense Policy Division chief. His most recent assignment was the 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment commander at Ramstein Airbase, Germany.

COL Dellinger's military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course, Field Artillery Captains Career Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, and Army War College. He also completed the U.S. Air Force Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College through correspondence. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science in industrial distribution from Texas A&M University, a Master of Business Administration from Tarleton State University, a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies from the University of Texas at El Paso, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Some of his military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Valorous Unit Award, and the Japan Defense Cooperation Award Third Class. He also earned the Parachutist Badge, Space Badge, and Combat Action Badge.

FLAG OFFICERS



These are the former members of the outfit who have attained Flag Rank in the U.S. Armed Services:

Name	Class	Rank	Service
William C. Crane	1910	BG	U.S. Army
Attache to Japan in 1930's, So. Def. Cmd. Chief of Staff, CO of I Corps Artillery, CO of Ft. Bevans.			



Andrew D. Bruce	1916	LTG	U.S. Army
Served in WWI & WWII, Father & Founder of Ft. Hood, president & chancellor of UH after retired.			



Ralph H. Wooten

1916

MG

U.S. Air Force

CO of AAF Training Cmd., 6th AF Svc. Cmd., 6th AF, U.S. Army Forces in So. Amer., & Pacific Air Cmd.



Nat S. Perrine, Sr.

1917

BG

U.S. Army

Served on Mex border, earned Croix de Guerre in WWI, CO of 142nd Inf., & on War Dept. Gen. Staff.



John H. Miller

1946

LTG

U.S. Marine Corps

Fought at Okinawa in WWII, served in Korea & Viet Nam, later was a CO, Chief of Staff, & Com. Gen.



Robert M. Mullens

1948

BG

U.S. Army

Served in Korea & Viet Nam, CENTAG & NATO, Joint Chiefs of Staff, & CO of Air Defense, West Region.



Harry V. Steel, Jr.

1953

MG

Army Nat. Guard

Served in the 49th Armored Division, rising from positions such as Bn. CO to Asst. Div. Commander.



M. "Ted" Hopgood, Jr.

1965

MG

U.S. Marine Corps

Served tours in Vietnam as platoon leader, company commander, Aide-de-Camp; President; Marine Corps University/Commanding General, Marine Corps Schools; Commandant, Corps of Cadets, Texas A&M 1996-2002.



George A. Brinegar

1982

BG

U.S. Army Reserve

Served tours in Korea & Iraq, as Chief of Staff 36th Inf. Div., as Chief of Staff TX Army Nat. Guard, & as Deputy Commanding Gen.-Operations of Div. West, 1st Army.



HONOR ROLL

**Here we salute and honor the former members of the
outfit who have died while in the service of our
country:**

World War II

Name	Class	Known Details
Stanley Ezra Perrin	1917	CPT USAR or Guard Died 9-14-44



Wesley John Neumann	1931	MAJ Died, Indiana lightning 7-25-44
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Norman Jarvis McKendry

1937

CPT KIA 11-16-44 in Holland

James Edwin Rountree

1937

CPT Died 7-14-44 in France



John Frank Burns

1939

LT Died 7-3-42 in Alaska

John L. Hanby

1940

MAJ KIA 8-3-44 in France



Albert Boyce Yearwood, Jr. 1940

LT Died 10-4-44 in LA plane crash



Vincent DeSalvo

1942

LT Died 2-21-44 in NM plane crash

Dulanne Porter Gunn

1943

SSG AAF Gunner KIA 11-30-44 Germ.

William Walter Miller, Jr.

1943

2LT AAF Died 1-14-45 in AL plane crash



Irving Murland

1944

PFC Died 3-14-45 Luzon, Phil.



Monteith T. Lincecum

1946

CPL USMC KIA 2-28-45 Iwo Jima



Korean War

Charles S. Ware

1925

COL Died 4-3-52 in Korea, heart attack



John M. Cook

1939

MAJ KIA 7-16-50 on Kum River



Gordon D. Leesch

1950

LT KIA 9-30-52 at Songnae Dong



Viet Nam War

Milton A. Schrank

1939

COL USAF Died in svc 2-20-70



John M. Kessinger

1956

MAJ KIA 7-2-67 Rach Gia, VN



Byron C. Stone

1960

CPT KIA 8-20-64 Kien Hoa Prov VN



Joseph K. Bush, Jr.

1966

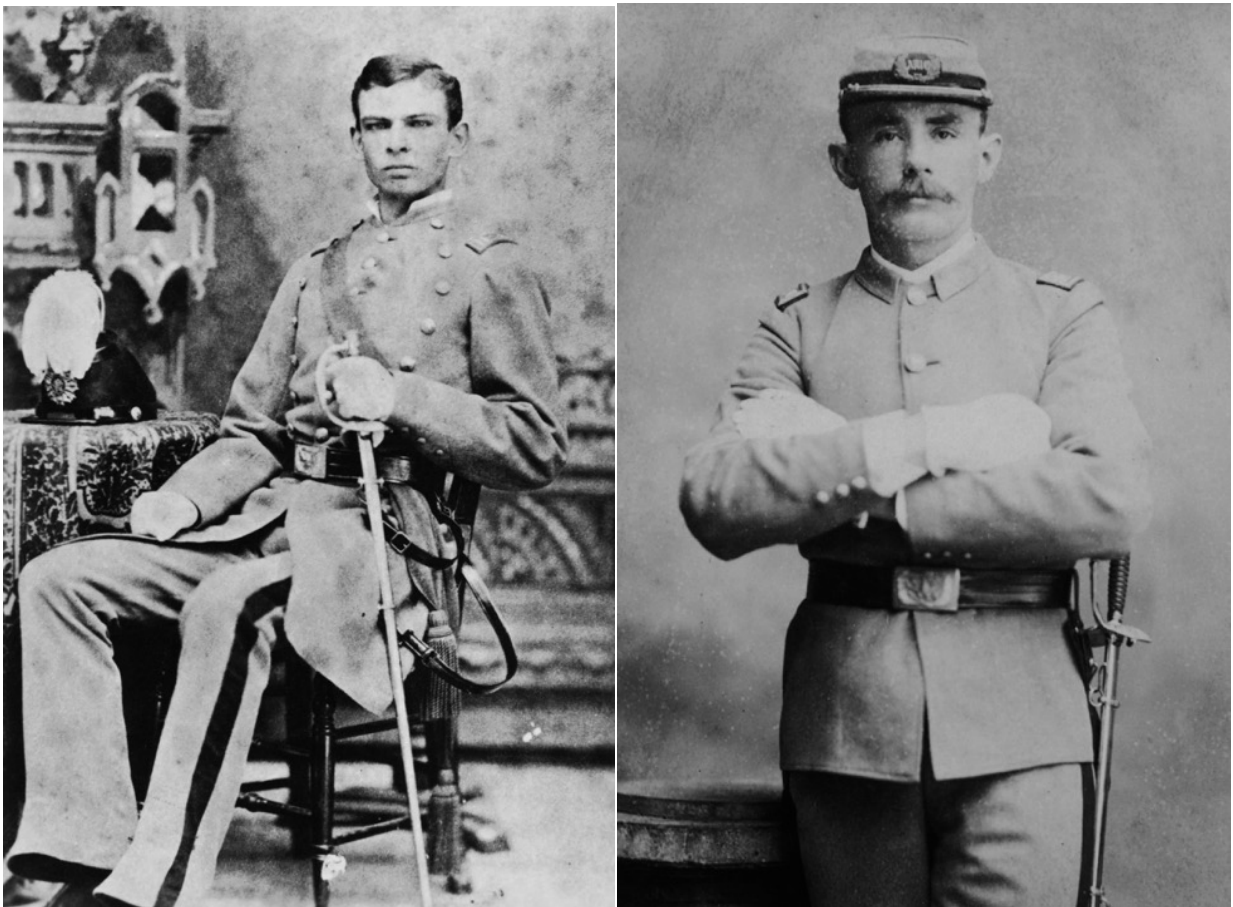
CPT KIA 2-10-69 Muong Soui Laos



CORPS UNIFORMS ACROSS THE DECADES

THE CADET GRAY ERA, 1876-1918

Corps uniforms in the beginning were based upon the cadet gray of West Point, and the designs of Civil War and post-Civil War militia, and Army officer undress coats. During and after WWI, the Corps changed to the Army's olive drab and khaki uniforms.



At the left, Class of 1880 Company A CO and First Captain William Harrison Brown in the 1876-1880 dress gray frock coat, with black shako helmet. At the right, a Class of 1886 cadet officer in the 1880-1908 undress coat and gray kepi cap.



At the left, a surviving undress coat that was worn by Co. A cadet J.A. Russell in 1894-95. Right, a full view of the 1890-95 full dress coatee.



Left, 1896-1918 coat; Right, the "Rough Rider" style drill & field uniform.

WWI TO POST-WWII FOUNDATIONS OF CURRENT A&M UNIFORMS



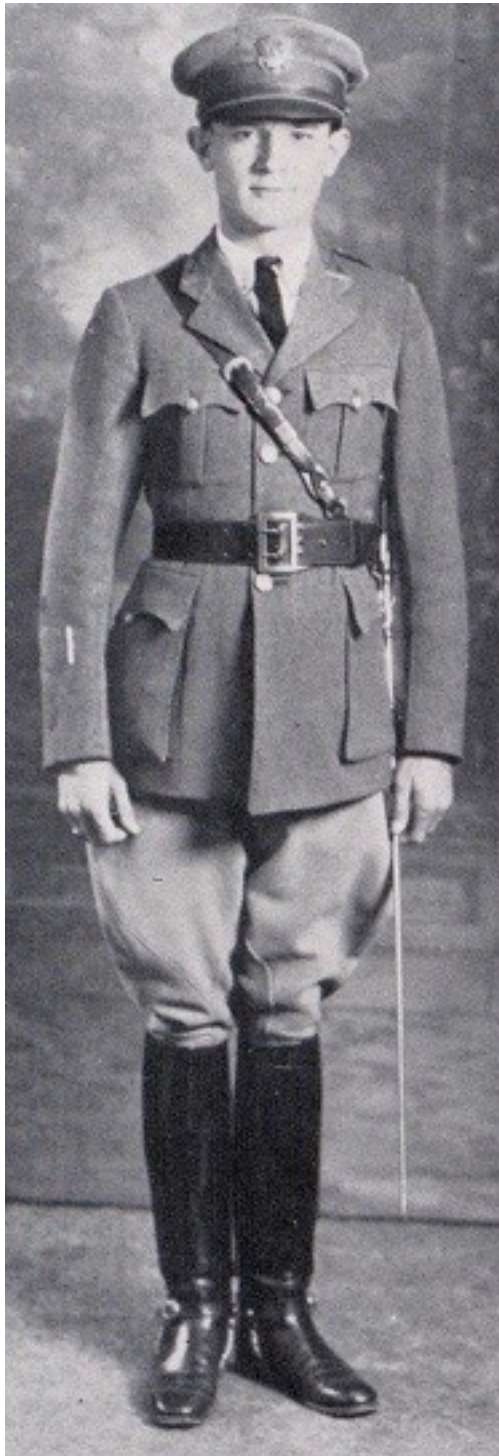
Left, a 1920-21 Senior in the WWI choker tunic with Senior Boots, at the official starting point of the boot tradition; Right, a 1923 Junior cadet in the olive drab wool daily uniform of the 1920's era.



Left, a surviving 1919-1921 A&M choker; Right, a surviving A&M turndown collar British style coat, worn with WWI style bronzed buttons 1921-24.



Left, coat with patches and bright brass as worn 1925-27; Right, breeches with side-laced leggings, as worn by fish through Juniors 1929-33.



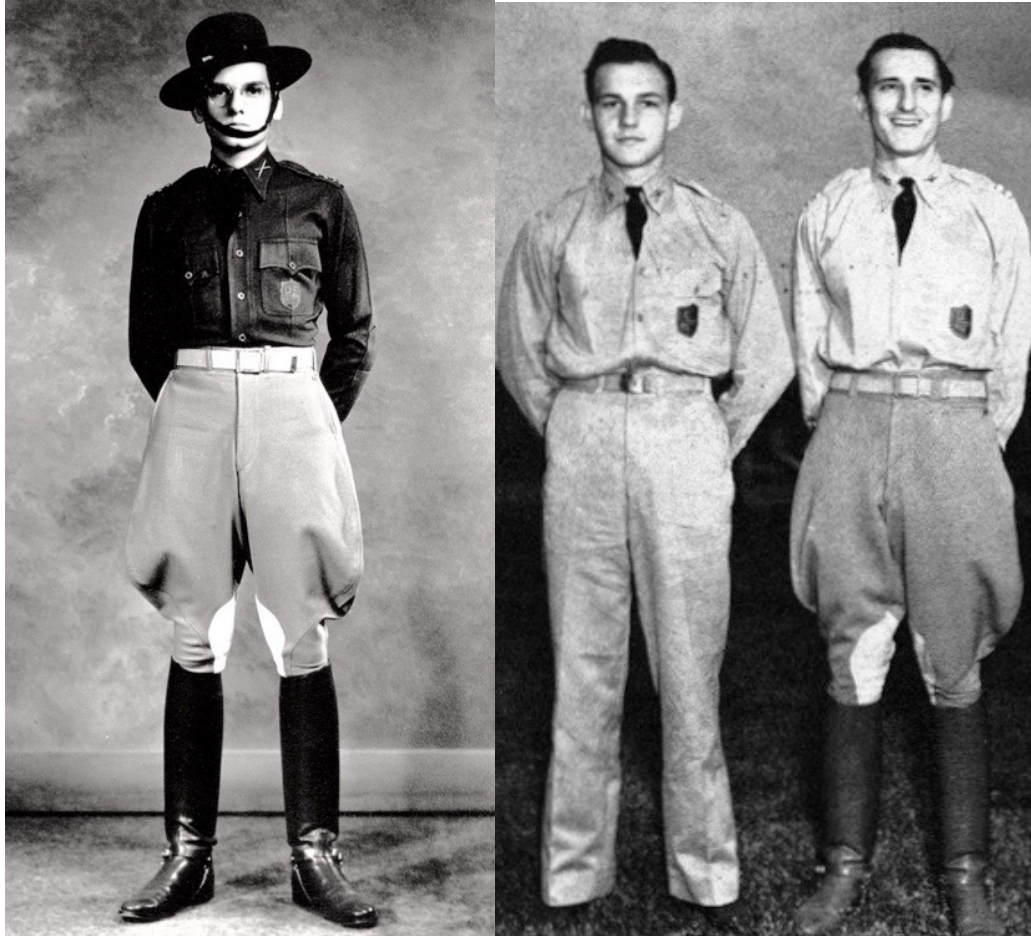
Left, a 1926-27 Senior in British style coat, & pinks breeches; Right, a 1935-36 Senior in Army officer's M-1926 style coat & pinks breeches, except for insignia, white shirt, and a lighter shade of olive drab on the era's coat, looking almost like today's male Seniors in Class A.



Left, fish & Sophomore enlisted quality coat, as worn 1933-1947; Right, a Senior's dress coat as worn mid-1930's to early 1940's.



OD became darker from the 1920's into WWII, and even varied during WWII, as shown by the three WWII coats on the right! That was due to fast production demands, and no computerized, digital color matching.



Left, the mid-1930's version of the daily uniform that was the forerunner of the Midnight uniform; Right, cotton khaki pants arrived for warm weather wear in 1941, and a Senior wears the version of the daily uniform that was the forerunner of today's Class B Winter "Bravos." Short sleeves arrived in 1960 for summer wear, and were authorized for winter wear in 1970-71.



Items added post-WWII to the uniform, and deleted later – the Ike Jacket as a custom option for Seniors, and the M-1 Aggie helmet liner.



Left, an M-1944 officers' Dark OD shade 51 wool elastique dress service coat, as worn by all classes at A&M from the late-1940's to mid-1960's.

Juniors were authorized to wear pinks with these coats instead of the matching Dark OD pants in 1947-48, and all classes were authorized to wear pinks in 1958-59. Note the Infantry blue cross stitching on the shoulder patches, as would have been worn by our outfit; Right, optional khaki wool gabardine "Serge" shirts, trousers and boot pants became popular purchases for Juniors and Seniors in the post-WWII era. The shirts began to be occasionally seen in the mid-1930's, and were also seen in WWII. The fancy cut of these custom-tailored items formed the design which is still reflected in the issued uniform items worn by today's cadets.



Vintage 1946 khaki cotton Aggie garrison caps. Along with winter wool ones, they replaced the campaign hat with the daily uniform in 1943.



Above left, when the Corps had to phase out outdated cotton khaki shade #1 uniforms starting in 1964-65, they chose to manufacture basic issue uniforms in the same pattern, but in the lighter shade 1193 khaki still used today. At that time, optional wool gabardine “Serge” uniforms from Zubik’s also had to change shades, as shown by this late 1960’s shirt on the right. Note the zipper that was used behind the button placket to keep the tightly tapered shirt from gaping open when the cadet sat down!



Tailoring details from the optional “Serge” uniforms that were purchased by Juniors and Seniors in the old days are copied as much as possible in today’s issued uniforms worn by all classes, as shown by the “Three-Peak” yoke on the Zubik’s shirt at the left, and the high back waist and rear pocket flap construction on these Zubik’s trousers at the right.



Above left, Juniors and Seniors began ordering short sleeve “Serge” shirts from Zubik’s to wear with Class B Summer uniforms by the late ‘60’s. This example would date from the mid 1970’s, with its NROTC patch. At the right, we see 1960’s summer and winter garrison caps for all four classes. These were required private purchases until their issue began in 1973-74. Winter caps all went pink in 1986-87.



Above, a 1960’s Zubik’s Midnight shirt, and a vintage 1970 pair of Zubik’s all wool light drab shade 54 “pink” elastique boot pants. Note the custom tapered wool elastique calves and zipper closure at the ankle. Modern issued uniforms still follow these patterns as much as possible.

OUTFIT LOGOS



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
FIGHTIN'



RH



Finest of the
First



ANIMAL A







COMPANY A-1 LEADERSHIP HISTORY

NOTE: From 1876-77 through 1903-04 the Company A Commander was also recognized as the First Captain, or the Ranking Cadet Officer in the Corps. This was the equivalent of the Corps Commander. The city shown under each CO, XO, or 1st SGT name is the person's hometown, unless an asterisk appears. That indicates that the city is the person's current residence or last known residence. A double asterisk indicates that this name is the likely XO or 1st SGT for that year, but the records are not 100% clear.

YEAR	COMMANDING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE OFFICER	FIRST SERGEANT
1876-77	Alva P. Smyth Mexia	Francis John O'Grady Boerne	Charles B. Howard Iola
1877-78	Charles Rogan Giddings	Morris Bates Brazoria	David J. Red Rockdale
1878-79	Charles Rogan Giddings	Jesse J. Baker Plantersville	Foster W. Fort Waco
1879-80	William Harrison Brown Navasota	Unknown Unknown	Unknown Unknown
1880-81	Salis Albert Hare, Jr. Sherman	D.H. Watson Brenham	W. T. Armstrong Buckhorn
1881-82	David Rice Houston	Unknown Unknown	Unknown Unknown
1882-83	William Edwin Mosley Jefferson	John Franklin Edwards Aubrey	William M Williamson Bryan
1883-84	R. Elijah Pennington Cleburne	G.W. Roach** Unknown	Mr. Rowell** Unknown
The other cadet 1LT who could have been the XO was Walter Wipprecht of College Station. The other cadet who could have been 1 st SGT was R. Rutherford, hometown unknown.			
1884-85	Robert M. Rutherford Seagoville	F.L. Pfeuffer** New Braunfels	F. E. Giesecke** New Braunfels
The other cadet 1LT who could have been the XO was F.E. Dudley of Coleman. The other cadet who could have been the 1 st SGT was a Mr. Whitlock, hometown unknown.			
1885-86	Frederick E. Giesecke New Braunfels	D. Adriance** Columbia	F. Flach** Comfort

The other cadet 1LT's who could have been the XO were the one of the famous twins in that class, J.W. Carson or J.M. Carson of Red Oak, or C.L. Burghard of Cuero. The other cadets who could have been 1st SGT were R. Flach of Comfort or Mr. Freeman, hometown unknown.

1886-87	John B. Hereford Dallas	F.L. Fordtran** Flatonia	W.H. Allen** Marlin
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The other cadet 1LT's who could have been the XO were H.J. McNair of Navasota, E.R. Knolle of Industry, or E. Gruene of New Braunfels. The other cadets who could have been 1st SGT were P.S. Tilson of Texarkana, R.H. Dietert of Kerrville, H.F. Jonas of San Antonio, or W.S. Jonas of San Antonio.

1887-88	Walter H. Allen Martin	Paul Braun San Antonio	Louis D. Amsler Hempstead
1888-89	Edward W. Hutchinson Denton	Benjamin F. Rogers Jefferson	James S. Hereford Dallas
1889-90	Sam Houston Hopkins Waelder	Henry Calvin Flynt Waelder	George McCormick, Jr Columbus
1890-91	Clifford R. Morrill Austin	Charles B. Welhausen Flatonia	Edgar Wright Paris
1891-92	Edgar Wright Paris	Walter S. Beesley Lancaster	Bert C. Parsons Kerrville
1892-93	Bert C. Parsons Kerrville	Joseph Weidel San Antonio	Frank N. Houston Holland
1893-94	Frank N. Houston Holland	W.L. Dazey Fort Worth	P.P. Mills Waco
1894-95	Asa Urbin Smith Huntsville	Russell Cabell Watkins Mount Willing, Ala.	Abe Gross Lampasas
1895-96	C.M. Park Dallas	S.E. Rhodes Bryan	Charles C. Todd Jefferson
1896-97	Charles C. Todd Jefferson	W. Horace Cavitt Bryan	Gus Newton Milano
1897-98	Gus Newton Milano	W.A. Scherer Graydon	C.K. Bowen, Jr. N. Galveston

1898-99	Edwin Jackson Kyle Kyle	A.C. Love Franklin	A.K. Short Decatur
1899-00	William I. Bryan Chambersville	R.B. Boettcher Weimar	Thomas J. Pinson Forney
1900-01	Walter T. Garbade Witting	R.J. Rhome Fort Worth	Harry Gleason Hico
1901-02	Victor M. Foy Corsicana	E. Kloss Millheim	E.C. Erhard Bastrop
1902-03	Lawrence W. Wallace Garfield	John A. Baum Corsicana	James E. Pirie Parita
1903-04	James E. Pirie San Antonio	August F. Dahme Yorktown	Marion S. Church McKinney
1904-05	Gustavus Calder Street, Jr. Houston	Howard Woodall San Marcos	Bennet Puryear, Jr. Orange
1905-06	Joseph Samuel Welboan Alvin	Loura Gerhard Lenert La Grange	Warren A. Gilbert Dallas
1906-07	Warren Alexander Gilbert Dallas	Felix S. Puckett Buda	Charles W. Homeyer Burton
1907-08	Charles W. Homeyer, Jr. Burton	Lem Adams Buda	Orville W. Reagin Forney
1908-09	Albert Carl Giesecke Marble Falls	Raymond Edward Huckabee Temple	George E. Byars Waco
1909-10	Cecil M. Crockett Prosper	George E. Byars Waco	Charles E. Sandford Shiner
1910-11	Carl L. Williford Waco	Claude Wilson Florence	Patrick S. Devine Laredo
1911-12	Richard B. Barnitz San Antonio	Joseph Sayers Farmer Junction	Harry A. Giles Houston
1912-13	Wallace W. Steele Fall Sem. Weatherford	Harrison Howard Fischer Port Arthur	Verner Smitham Walnut Springs

1912-13	Harrison Howard Fischer Spr. Sem Port Arthur	William Clifton Torrence Waco	Verner Smitham Walnut Springs
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NOTE: The reason for the differing leadership in the spring of 1913 was the result of "The Trouble of '13."

1913-14	Wyatte G. Beasley Cleburne	Ed Lee Ayers DeLeon	Samuel F. Clark Hico
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1914-15	Oscar Floyd Washam Crawford	Jefferson Edgar Bell Luling	Milton S. Beringer Gonzales
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1915-16	Milton S. Beringer Gonzales	Melrose Truett Garrett Winnsboro	William T. Barbee Hico
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In 1916-17, Company A is renamed "Company A - First Regiment" due to Corps growth.

1916-17	John August Otto Ottine	John Franklin Blanton Hewett	Felix E. Whitely Alpine
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1917-18	Joseph Henderson Melton Leonard	Robert Daniel Crawford Grand Prairie	George M. Davis Milford
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In 1918-19 differing branch-specific units began, and Co. A-1st became "Co. A Infantry"

1918-19	Ralph Rupert Abicht Sherman	Sidney Hill Miley Bastrop	Walter F. Hamilton Denton
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NOTE: Due to the disruptions of the normal Corps organization that occurred in the Fall of 1918 during WWI, the leaders shown for 1918-19 were in command during the Spring of 1919, when two shortened semesters allowed returning WWI veterans of the Class of '19 to catch up and finish their degrees.

1919-20	Walter Fenton Hamilton Denton	Rowley McKaine Landon Kaufman	Lee R. Reed Sterling City
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1920-21	Lee Rotan Reed Sterling City	Clyde H. Edwards San Antonio	Robert L. Carruthers Fort Worth
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1921-22	Robert L. Carruthers Fort Worth	Chester F. Fischer New Braunfels	William C. Weir Georgetown
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NOTE: Two more cadets are also listed at 1st SGT for this year. They were Ben F. Brown of Rockwall, and Edward G. LeSturgeon, Jr. of San Antonio.

1922-23	William Calvin Weir Georgetown	Glen A. Lindsey Bartlett	Theodore R. Stephens Mission
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1923-24	George McKoy Lewis Fort Worth	Harry Morton Meyer Flatonia	Archie M. Damon Houston
1924-25	Archie M. Damon Houston	Hansel T. Beckworth Sinton	Ross F. Mayfield Fort Worth
1925-26	Glen Edwin Garrett Weimar	Herbert William Beutel Houston	Adam D. Leatherman Palmer
1926-27	Sylvester Robert Gohmert Yorktown	Roy Alfred Wilson Farmersville	Francis L. Gerdes Corpus Christi
1927-28	Frederick Fenwick Dexter Houston	Francis Leo Gerdes Sinton	Ralph E. Bauer Houston
1928-29	Ralph Elliot Bauer Houston	Monroe Homer Jackson Sherman	Andrew H. Peyton Marlin
1929-30	Marvin T. Rowland Houston	Charles Leslie Mowery Almeda	Landis C. Baker Dale
1930-31	Landis Clyde Baker Dale	George Henry Follett Houston	Roy C. Horne Corpus Christi
1931-32	Roy Clifford Horne Corpus Christi	Archie H. Christian Malakoff	Joseph M. Henderson Calvert
1932-33	Joseph Martin Henderson Calvert	James Douglas Howder Fort Crockett	Kermit H. Heinrich Corpus Christi
1933-34	Kermit H. Heinrich Corpus Christi	Robert James Blair Fort Worth	Julius A. Franz Dallas
1934-35	Louis Milton Thompson Throckmorton	Jerome W. Sorenson, Jr. Corpus Christi	Joseph W. Foster, Jr. Calvert
1935-36	Robert T. Norwood Mart	William Taylor Wilkins Franklin	Julius Rektorik Robstown
1936-37	Julius Rektorik Robstown	John H. Zick Needville	John R. Jackson Center
1937-38	John R. Jackson Center	Levi J. McNeill, Jr. Brazoria	Beal D. Hargrove Troy

1938-39	Beal D. Hargrove Troy	G. Patrick Easley Caldwell	John L. Hanby Mesquite
1939-40	John L. Hanby Mesquite	Harley Neal Reavis Livingston	Dan B. Orr Graham
1940-41	John H. Robinson McAllen	Paul R. Wignall Port Arthur	Robert D. Brown Putman
1941-42	Samuel L. Evans Beaumont*	Neal A. Taylor Water Valley	Claude G Henderson Trinity*
1942-43	Felix A. Bucek Schulenburg	Jackson D. Webster Sweetwater	John Robert Singleton Beaumont
NOTE: Due to WWII Schedule, this was during Summer & Fall of 1942.			
1943-44	John R. Singleton Orange	James Robert Simons Fort Worth	Eugene J. Vacek Weimar*

NOTE: Due to WWII Schedule, this was during Spring & Summer of 1943. Advanced ROTC for juniors and seniors was temporarily abolished during the spring of 1943, as the Army rushed to get men to the war. The Classes of '44 & '45 began being inducted into the Army in March. Most cadets would be inducted into the service upon their 18th birthdays (there were only 11 grades in public school in those days, so most entering students were 16 or 17 years old).

The Corps was thus in a state of partial dismemberment and rapid turnover from March of 1943 through early 1944. It consisted of freshmen and sophomores in the Class of '47, underage juniors in the Class of '46, and a handful of seniors who were either classified as 4-F or waiting to be called to active duty. The cadet officers were juniors, and all Army branches had been temporarily eliminated. All units drilled as infantry at that time. A small group of cadet leaders emerged who worked with the administration to restore the Corps to something closer to normalcy in early 1944. Among this group was the Company A Commander, Marvin Eugene "Gene" Alley of Sonora. He would remain as the Company A Infantry C.O. into the following two semesters.

1944-45	Marvin Eugene Alley Sonora	John R. Wade Edcouch	James B. Striplin, Jr. Ballinger
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NOTE: Due to WWII Schedule, this was during Summer of 1944 & Fall of 1944.

1945-46	Stan Wyble Port Arthur	John M. Cox Temple	John R. Copeland Brownwood
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NOTE: Due to WWII Schedule, this was during the Spring & Summer of 1945.

1945-46	Orville Baker Baytown	John M. Cox Temple	Richard F. Reed Houston
NOTE: Returning to regular schedule, this was during the Fall of 1945 & the Spring of 1946.			
1946-47	Richard F. Reed Houston	Olen D. Loffer Marietta	Sam C. McKenzie Alvin
1947-48	Sam C. McKenzie Alvin	Guinn C. Fergus Temple	John E. Dieb Fort Worth
1948-49	Gerald R. MacManus Raymondville	James E. Sauls Cisco	Donald P. McClure Corpus Christi
1949-50	John W. Turcotte Kingsville	J. W. Turcotte (also XO) Kingsville	Arthur W. Noll San Antonio
1950-51	Arthur W. Noll San Antonio	Joseph A. Perry Ozona	Dick M. Jennison Pearsall
1951-52	Dick M. Jennison Pearsall	Richard E. Bickham Van Vleck	Albert E. Massengale Austin
1952-53	William K. Zimmerman San Antonio	William Guy Delaney Houston	Louis J. Casimir Houston
1953-54	Louis John Casimir Houston	Winston R. Kimzey Fort Worth	J. Mac Moore Lometa
1954-55	Albert Ray Frankson Houston	Raul Ceballos Del Rio	John L. Lorms San Antonio
1955-56	John M. Kessinger Janesville, Wisc.	Edward R. Castle, Jr. Dallas	Charles A. Beever, Jr. Pearsall
1956-57	Charles A. Beever, Jr. Pearsall	Jack E. Gilpin San Antonio	Harold J. Conrad Devine
1957-58	Harold J. Conrad Devine	Franklin Demuth New Braunfels	Thomas L. Johnson Ysietta
1958-59	Thomas L. Johnson Ysietta	James A. Wiesner Dallas	Weldon K. Curry Houston

NOTE: Company A Infantry became Company A-1 in 1959-60. It was also at this time that the use of nicknames generally took hold in these new outfits. Company A-1 would soon be nicknamed "Animal A." There are some indications, however, that the phrase might have been used occasionally as early as 1941.

Since Army ROTC instruction was changing from branch-specific to a general course, maintaining branch-specific outfits no longer made sense. So, the A&M Army ROTC regiments and outfits were reorganized into two new brigades, and the companies were given new names for 1959-60. Company A Infantry became Company A-1, which originally meant that it was Company A in the First Brigade. In the reorganization, some cadets who had been in other outfits were brought in.

1959-60	Weldon K. Curry Houston	Byron C. Stone Houston	Joe L. Gilbert, Jr. Cotulla
1960-61	Joe L. Gilbert, Jr. Cotulla	Thomas A. Nelson Houston	Marion M. Walton New Iberia, LA
1961-62	Donley W. Brothers Gonzales	William M. Hix Fort Worth	James P. King Odessa
1962-63	Lytle A. Weaver, Jr. Houston	Charles R. Schuenemann Houston	Kent E. Hudson Missouri City*
1963-64 Fall Sem.	Wayne M. Duke Fort Worth	Richard Michael Harwell Lampasas	Foster L. Watts, Jr. San Antonio
1963-64 Spr. Sem.	Richard Michael Harwell Lampasas	Wayne M. Duke Fort Worth	Foster L. Watts, Jr. San Antonio
1964-65	Thomas Wayne Templer Crystal City	Billy Britt Jarvis Stinnett	Jerry L. Lummus Denison
1965-66	Jerry Lynn Lummus Denison	Louis Sabayrac, Jr. Houston	Robert H. Lackland Dallas

NOTE: Company A-1 won the General George F. Moore Award for the best outfit in the Corps this year. 1965-66 was also the first year for a permanently noncompulsory, totally voluntary Corps. The Corps was reorganized before the year began, since it was anticipated that the strength of the Corps would decline, and that fewer outfits would be needed. Cadets from ten eliminated outfits were placed into the 30 remaining units, and Company A-1 had an infusion of new members from other outfits (primarily from Co. B-1) as a result.

1966-67	Robert H. Lackland Dallas	Kim Keisling Eagle Pass	Harlan J. Berger Weimar
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1967-68	Harlan J. Berger Weimar	Gregory A. Peyrefitte New Orleans, LA	Jack O. Robinson Clarendon
1968-69	George C. Magby Corpus Christi	Barnett Gershen Houston	Mark X. Vandaveer Freeport
1969-70	Mark X. Vandaveer Freeport	John W. Potts Carlsbad, NM	Jeffrey R. Schaub New Orleans, LA
1970-71	Frank D. McAllister Lamesa	James C. Griffin, III Fort Worth	Thomas E. Hewitt Bryan
1971-72	Thomas E. Hewitt Bryan	James R. Grant Midland	Marlin R. Smith New Braunfels
1972-73	Marlin R. Smith New Braunfels	John C. Fichtner San Antonio	Christopher E. St John U.S. Virgin Is.
1973-74	David I. Friedli San Antonio	Henry O. Wahrmond, III Houston	William D. Thornton Houston
1974-75	John M. Ebner Fort Worth	Thomas M. Horton San Angelo	John L. Friedli San Antonio
1975-76	John L. Friedli San Antonio	Kenneth W. Lynch Amarillo	Terrance G. Moran Biloxi, MS
1976-77	Terrance G. Moran Biloxi, MS	Joe E. Stalling Crystal City	James C. Snyder Bowie, MD
1977-78	James C. Snyder Bowie, MD	Michael R. Debruin Peachtree Corners, GA*	Kevin G. Troller Thousand Oaks, CA
1978-79	Kevin G. Troller Thousand Oaks, CA	Jeffery W. Laufer Midland	Allen W. Scasta Bryan
NOTE: Troller wrote in an outfit newsletter that Ray Price's "For the Good Times" became the outfit theme song during this year. It was seen as a rallying song as they worked to save the outfit from the threat of being disbanded. It has been a tradition ever since.			
1979-80	James A. Duncan Caldwell*	Larken O'Hern Tyler	Samuell R. Hawes Dallas
1980-81	Samuell R. Hawes Dallas	Robert L. Butler, Jr. San Antonio	Michael A. McDaniel Kerrville

1981-82	Michael A. McDaniel Kerrville	George A. Brinegar Waco	Richard D. White Fort Worth*
1982-83	Richard D. White Fort Worth*	Thomas J. McGee San Antonio*	James H. Kane Bullard
1983-84	James H. Kane Bullard	Michael F. Buccola Amarillo	Matthew A. McCray Timpson
1984-85	Matthew A. McCray Timpson	George T. Dugan Texarkana	David L. Draper Breckenridge
1985-86	David L. Draper Breckenridge	Stephen D. Edge Houston*	James S. Katinas Richardson
1986-87	James S. Katinas Richardson	Ancel P. Nunn Houston*	Russell V. Brown San Antonio
1987-88	Terrance D. Dill Camden, SC	Jerry L. Butler Victoria	Max B. Stalling Dallas*
1988-89	Max B. Stalling Carrizo Springs	Stacey Smith Corpus Christi	Joel J. Vallejo Harlingen
1989-90	Daniel F. Snyder Katy*	A. David Bird Double Oak	Chris Cottingame Richardson
1990-91	Chris Cottingame Richardson	Richard P. Clifton Suffolk, VA*	Erik Moore Paris
1991-92	Erik Moore Paris	Jeff Shipley Austin	James Bushong Woodridge, VA
1992-93	James Bushong Woodbridge, VA	Michael R. Liverpool Crofton, MD*	Brandon E. Leonard McKinney*
1993-94	Brandon E. Leonard McKinney*	Chad M. Pyland Katy*	Thomas Tanner Marshall
1994-95	Bryan Scott Whitaker Austin*	Robert Cody Smoot Houston*	Kyle N. Robinson Sulphur Springs*
1995-96	Kyle N. Robinson Sulphur Springs*	Stephen Mayo Texarkana	Lawrence (Bo) Arnold Texarkana

1996-97	Laurence (Bo) Arnold Texarkana	James L. Hunter Williston, ND*	Robert Leedy Richardson
1997-98	Joshua B. Comstock The Colony*	Robert Leedy Richardson	Jeffery Faulk Lake Jackson
1998-99	Jeffery Faulk Lake Jackson	Hans Peter Miller Rochester Hills	Jason Phillips Atlanta
1999-00	Jason Phillips Atlanta	Adam White New Caney	Cory Whitaker Bowie
2000-01	Cory Whitaker Bowie	James Leiskau Spring	John D. Reid Corpus Christi*
2001-02	Joseph E. Trevino Houston*	Matthew F. Dunne Stafford, VA*	Thomas C. Stilwell New River, AZ*
2002-03	Thomas C. Stilwell New River, AZ*	Nicholas W. Sikes Houston*	Travis Thompson Carrollton*
2003-04	Travis Thompson Carrollton*	William Mach, III Garland	Wesley Tidwell El Paso
2004-05	Wesley Tidwell El Paso	Douglas Martin Arlington	Kevin Hicks Ft. Leonard Wood, MD*
2005-06	James Bruckart Fort Hood	Joel Hillborn Unknown	Alec Porteau Unknown
2006-07	Alec Porteau Unknown	Steven Rendon Harlingen*	Kenneth W. Horton Alexandria, VA*
2007-08	Kenneth W. Horton Alexandria, VA*	Collin W. Russell Falls Church, VA.*	Alistair Giles Unknown
2008-09	Shane R. Covert Fayetteville, NC*	Alex Arkin Unknown	Christina Schwennsen Fort Worth
2009-10	Christina Schwennsen Fort Worth	Clayton Auburg Sugarland	Michael Lazo Houston
2010-11	Michael Lazo Houston	Harold Bishop Karnes City	Joseph Emmons Little Elm

2011-12	Marshall Stallwitz Amarillo	Jacob Ellison (Fall Sem.) Plano Holly Sullivan (Spr. Sem.) Houston	Christopher Newhouse Sugarland
2012-13	Christopher Newhouse Sugarland	Zachary Williams Harker Heights	Grant Jones Lumberton
2013-14	Grant Jones Lumberton	Cody Barfknecht Lewisville	Kate Frenz Derwood, MD
2014-15	Paul Mathy Palm Desert, CA	Ben Smith Wylie	Tyler Edwards Cedar Park
2015-16	Tyler A. Edwards Cedar Park	Colton Lammons Round Rock	Zachary Butler Roswell, GA
2016-17	Anthony McKee Plano	Lauren Sim Katy	Joshua Ratta San Antonio
2017-18	Joseph Johnson Killeen	Logan Melvin Harker Heights	Larry Counts Kaufman
2018-19	Corbin J. Neumann Dallas	Washington Le Dallas	Reese Bennett Franklin, TN
2019-20	Lily Connolly Santa Barbara, CA	Mario Mendez Dallas	Johann Dube Aledo
2020-21	Aaron Barnard Katy	Connor MacKenzie Weatherford	Anderson Tittle Houston
2021-22	Michael Rodriguez-Garza Harlingen	Patrick Howell Richmond	Bailey LaMotte Belton
2022-23	Jack Detten Hereford	Katie Humphreys Cypress	Kain Gala Hallsville
2023-24	Kain Gala Hallsville	Silas Daik Cypress	Vincent Dente North Plainfield, NJ

2024-25 Vincent Dente
North Plainfield, NJ

Greyson Castillo
Las Cruces, NM

Michelle Palma Meraz
El Paso

2025-26 Michelle Palma Meraz
El Paso

Patrick Cary
Monroe, NJ

Jordan Daugherty
Fishers, IN

ACROSS THE DECADES:

A SAMPLE OF OUTFIT PICTURES THROUGH HISTORY

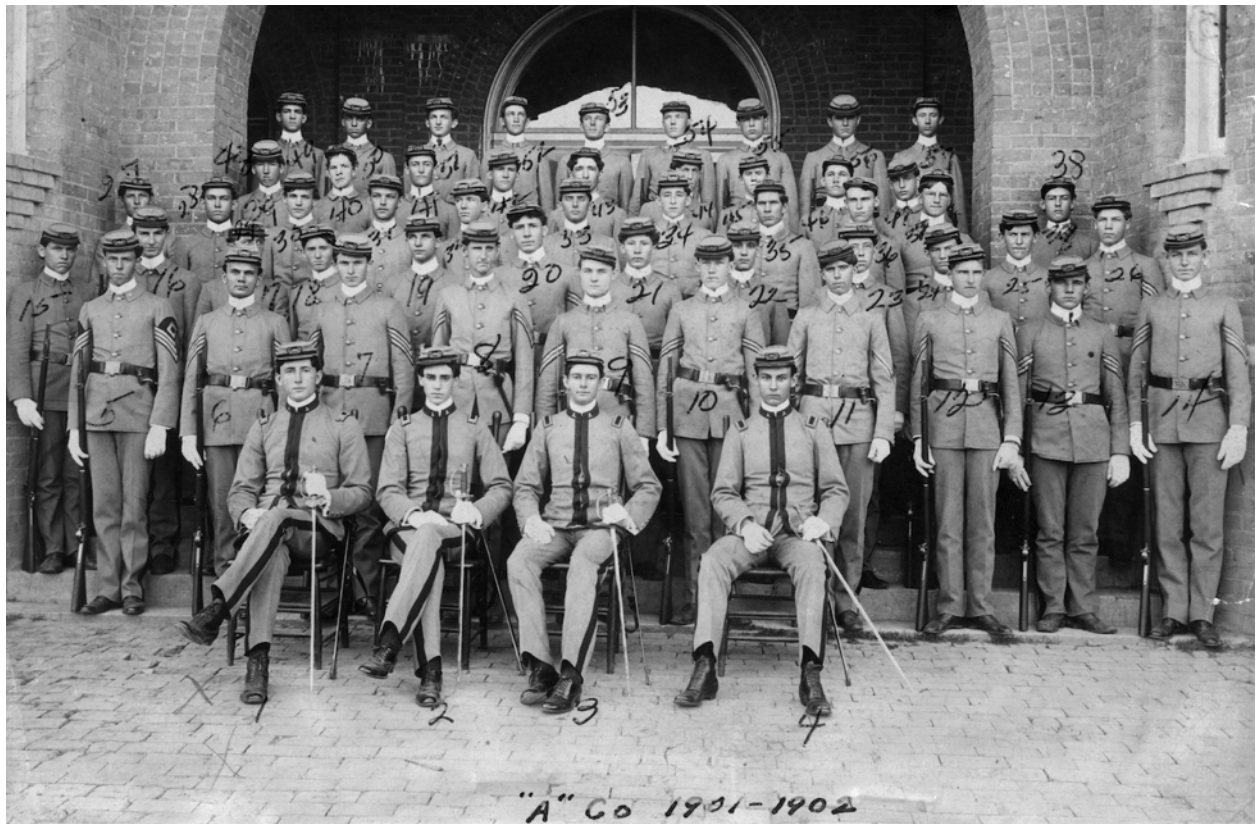


Company A, 1890-91

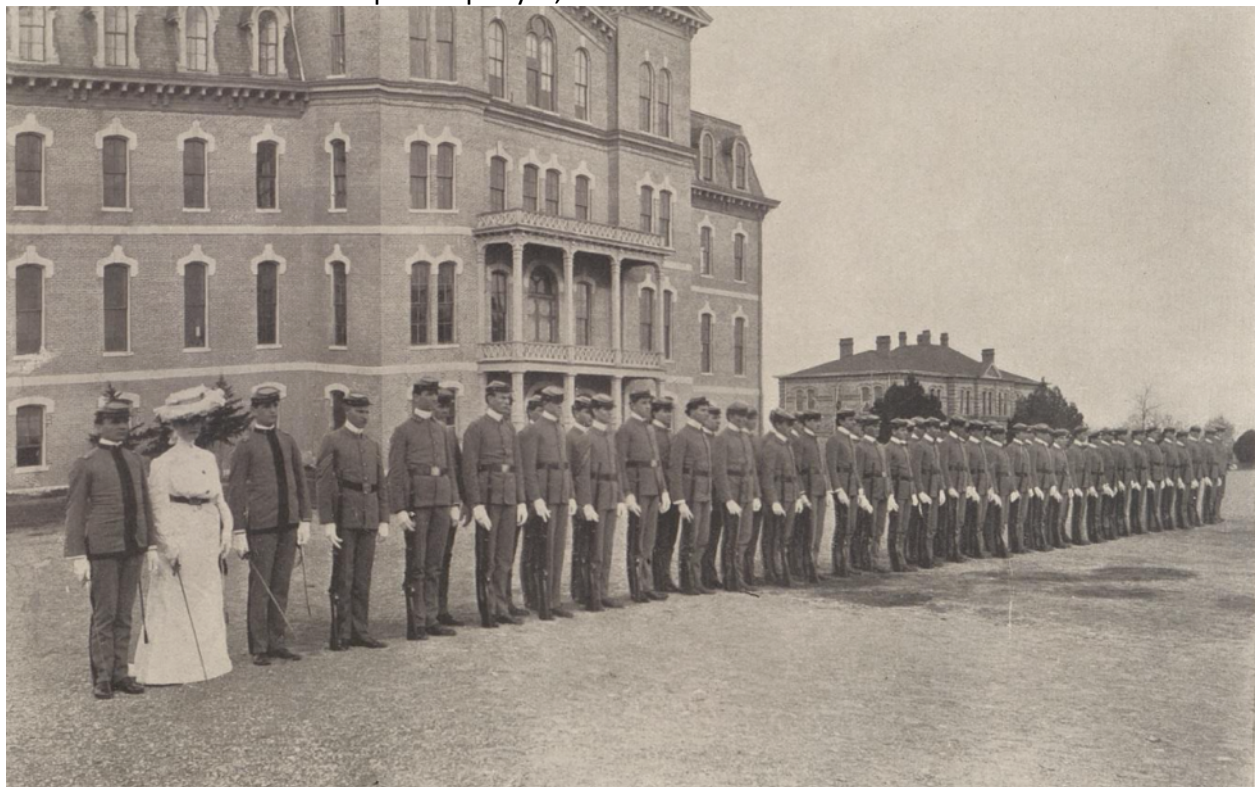


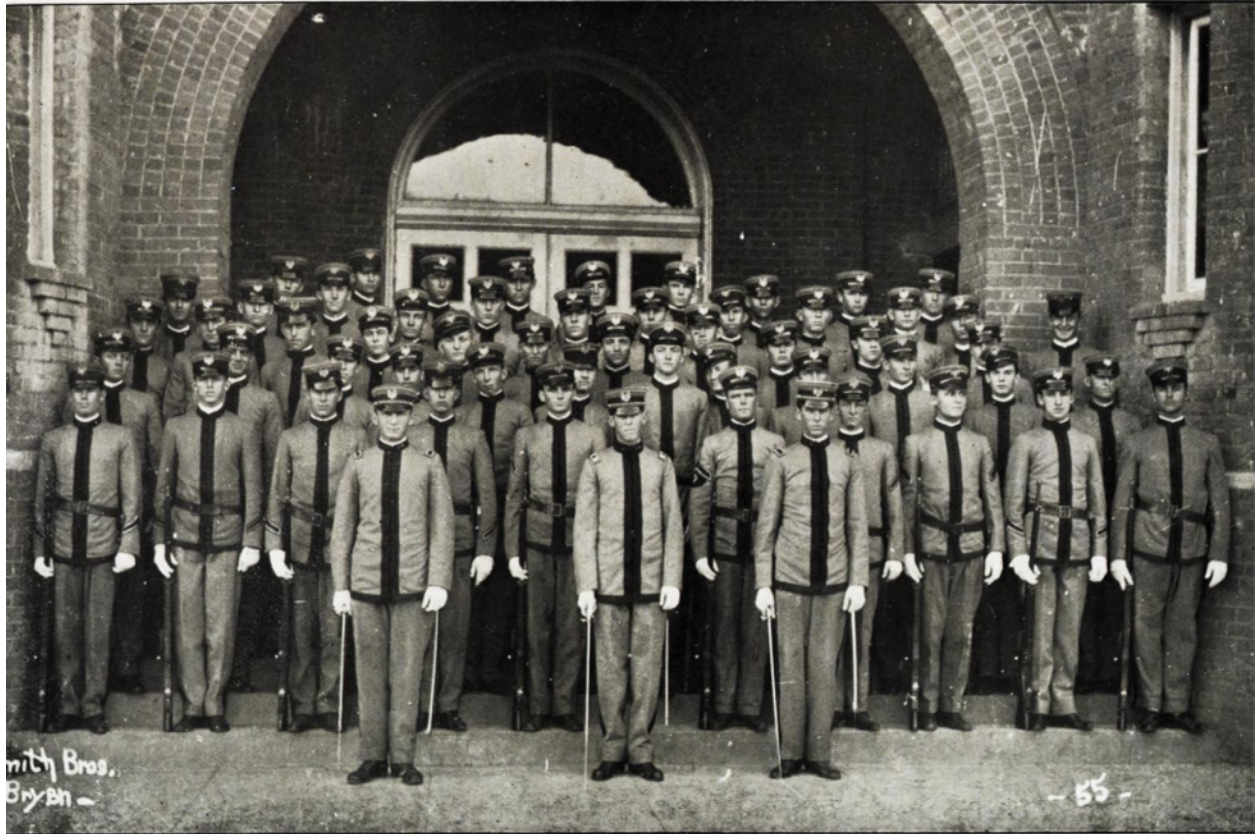
Top: Company A, 1891-92 Bottom: 1894-95



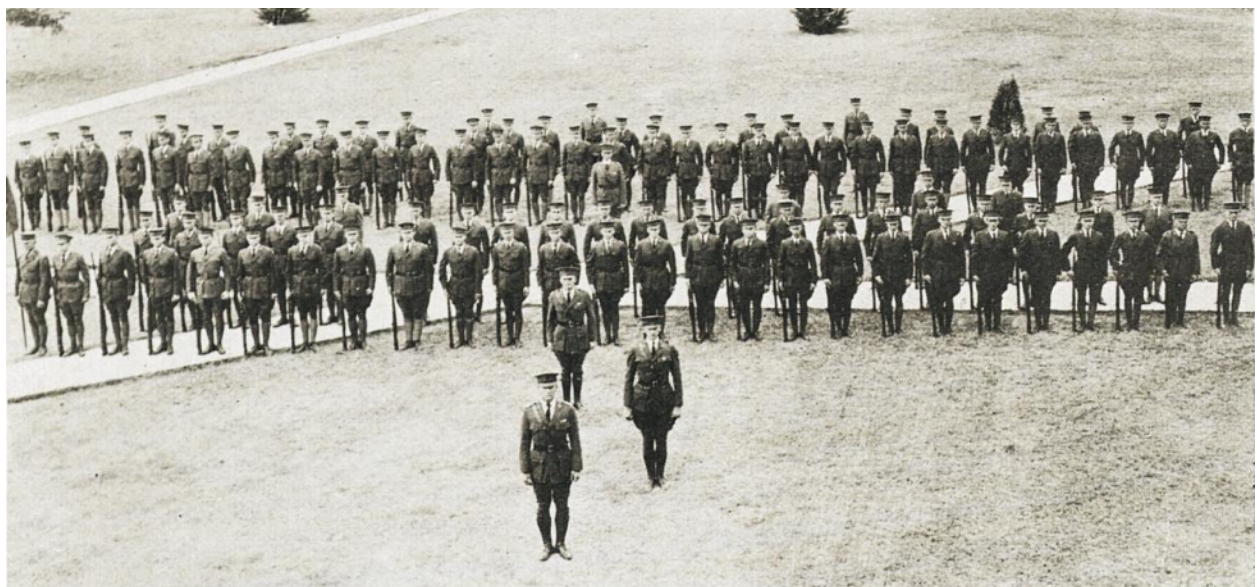


Top: Company A, 1901-02 Bottom: 1902-03

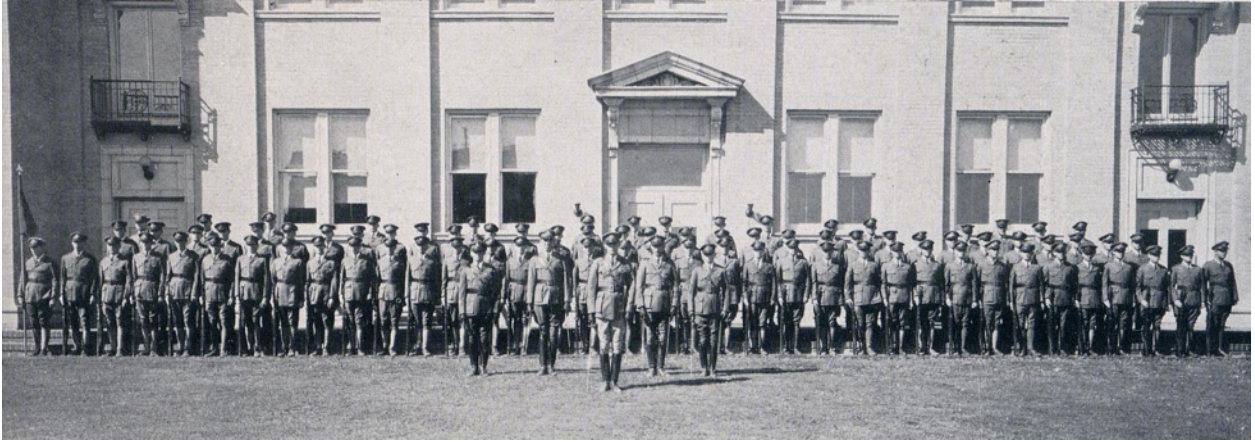




Company A, 1910-11



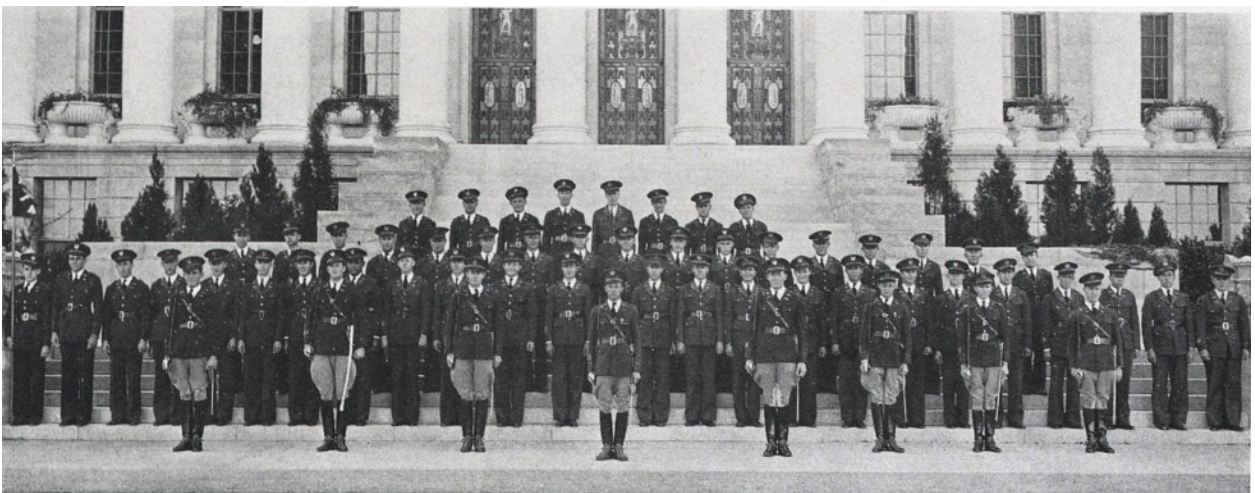
Company A Infantry, 1921-22



Company A Infantry, 1926-27



Company A Infantry, 1932-33



Company A Infantry, 1936-37



Company A Infantry, 1944-45, CO Gene Alley



Company A Infantry, 1948-49



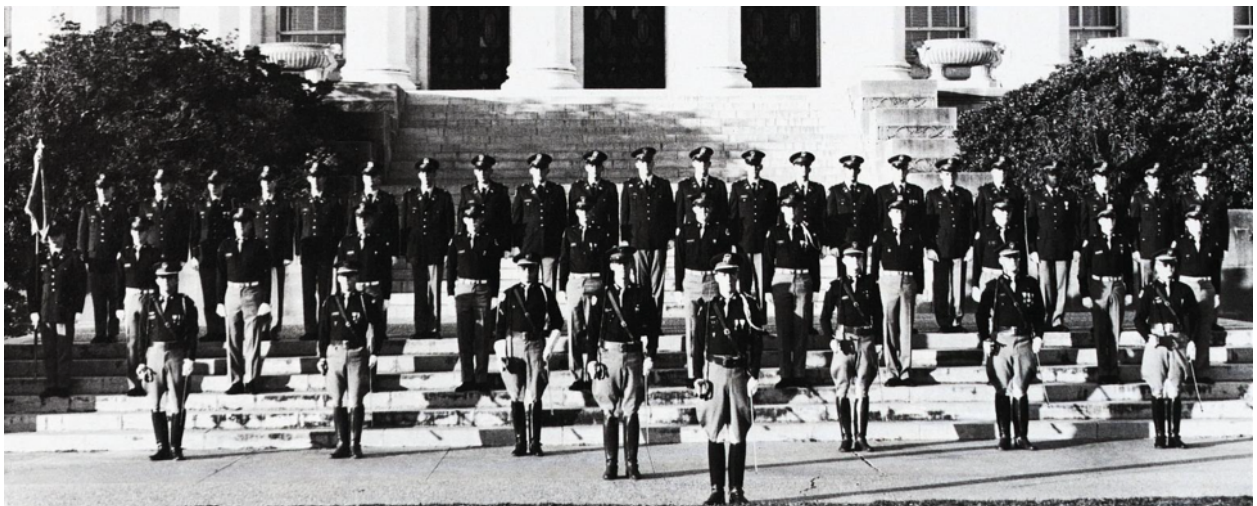
Company A Infantry, 1957-58



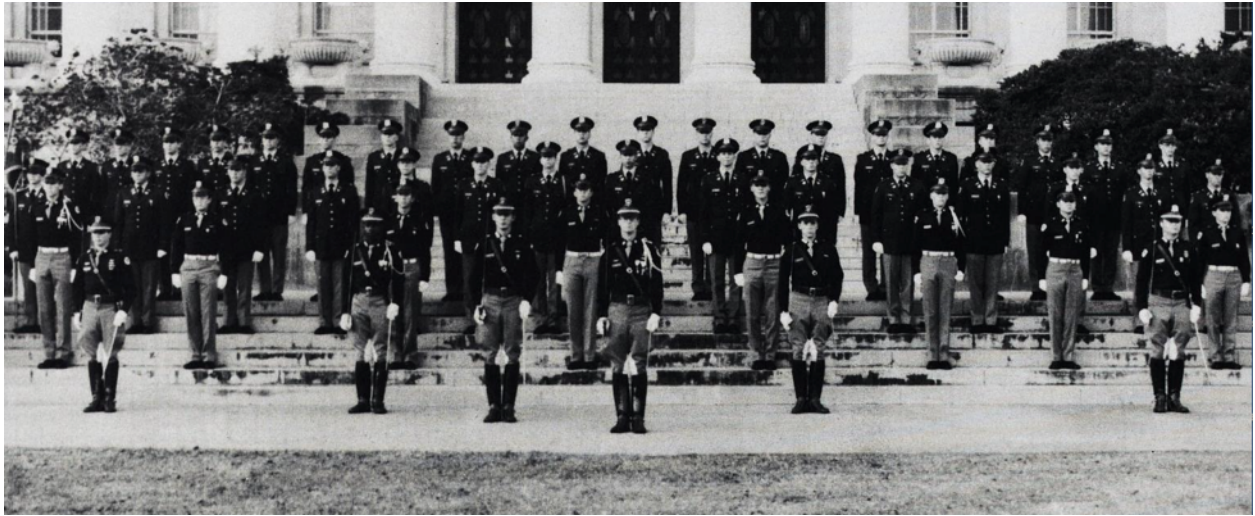
Company A-1, 1965-66 General Moore Award Winners



Company A-1, 1970-71



Company A-1, 1978-79



Company A-1, 1980-81



Company A-1, 1986-87



Company A-1, 1995-96



Company A-1, 2003-04



Company A-1, 2013-14

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Email correspondence with 2015-16 Company A-1 CO Tyler A. Edwards, 1980-81 CO COL Sam Hawes, former A&M Commandant Maj. Gen. Ted Hopgood '65, John B. Sherman '92, 2003-04 XO Will Mach, Andy Mach of the Class of 2006, 2016-17 CO Anthony McKee, 2019-20 CO Lily Connolly, 2020-21 CO Aaron Barnard, 2021-22 CO Michael Rodriguez-Garza, 2023-24 CO Kain Gala, the 2024-35 CO Vincent Dente, and the 2025-26 CO Michelle Palma Meraz.

Files of early cadet photographs and cadet unit photographs from the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University.



This photo shows the presentation to the company of the first edition of this Company A-1 History and of a historic Animal A outfit sign, in October of 2016. Shown left to right are 2016-17 CO Anthony McKee, 2016-17 XO Lauren Sim, 1970-71 XO James Griffin, and 1970-71 CO Frank McAllister. This memorable event was also attended by many other members of the A-1 Class of '71, as well as several members of the A-1 Classes of '73 and '74, and representatives of the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association.

This Company A-1 history was conceived by **A-1 Class of 1971 CO Frank D. McAllister** as a companion piece to be presented to the outfit with a framed historic outfit sign that he had acquired in a Corps of Cadets Association fundraising auction. He recruited **A-1 Class of 1971 XO James C. Griffin, III** to assist with much of the research and writing. Their close collaboration on the polishing and formatting of the material yielded the final result.

Frank D. McAllister served as the Managing Partner & CEO of the McAllister Partnership Ltd. from December 2005 to June of 2024. The McAllister Partnership Ltd is actively engaged in farming, ranching, wildlife management, and oil & natural gas production in Texas and New Mexico. Prior to this, Mr. McAllister served as a Principal of En*Vantage Inc., an energy consulting company started in Houston in 1999. Prior to that, he served in executive positions with ExxonMobil, Tenneco Energy, and Oasis Pipe Line in Dallas and Houston. He also served in the US Army Reserves, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring in 1997. Frank received his B.B.A. degree from Texas A&M University in 1971 and was a member of the Corps of Cadets and a Ross Volunteer. He was also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards included the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

He was married to Cary Lynn (Richardson) and they had two children, James and Sarah. His father was a Class of 1943 Aggie, and his uncle was a Class of 1947 Aggie. Frank and Cary Lynn lived at their ranch headquarters in Menard, TX until his sudden death in June of 2024.

James C. Griffin, III holds a B.A. in History with Minors in Business and Education from Texas A&M University, a Masters of Education in Secondary Education Supervision with a Minor in History from the University of North Texas, and a Doctor of Education in Secondary Education with a Minor in Higher Education Administration from the University of North Texas. He also received his commission as an Army Reserve officer from Texas A&M, rising to the rank of Captain during his eight years in the reserves.

The retired career teacher and administrator worked as a history teacher, high school social studies department chair, and director of the award-winning educational, community service radio program for Mesquite ISD. He has been active in the Mesquite community for many years, and has served as a board member for the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce. He is also a past president of the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra Association board, and is a past president of the Mesquite Rotary Club. He remains active in the Mesquite area community as a board member of the Mesquite Rotary Club, and as a member and former vice-president of the Mesquite Association of Retired School Employees, the local affiliate of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. His book on the history of the A&M Corps uniform, *Pressed, Clean, and Properly Fitted*, was published by the Texas A&M University Press in April of 2025.

A Fort Worth native with old family roots in the Forney community, James has been married to his wife Barbara (Freeman), who is also a Class of 1972 Aggie, since 1973. His father was a Class of 1938 Aggie, and her father was a Class of 1940 Aggie. The Mesquite/ Sunnyvale area residents have one daughter, Amy, who is a Class of 2012 A&M graduate.