

# MUSTANG MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

Volume XVI, Number 1

May 2021



## COMMANDER'S CORNER —

Hey OCs, It's reunion time again!

As most of you probably know by now, next year's Reunion will be celebrated on a Cruise Ship out of Galveston. Mary Small (Association CV) has set up our cruise for April 2022. The cruise group rate is still in effect but may change without notice.

If you have not received an Information Sheet from your Class Communicator please contact our Director of Communications, Tom Lubbers (k8tl@earthlink.net) or Mary Small, Reunion Chair (smallmaryc@aol.com). There's also a very informative article from Mary on the next page.

For everyone's information, Tom Hansen has volunteered to take Bob Harmon's place as Class Director for 63B and Jerry Nolan (that's me) is the Class Communicator for 63A.

The cruise Mary has scheduled will have three days sailing and two days of tours at stops. That should allow plenty of time for memories and not put too much strain on our senior bodies. Chuck Ulmer mentioned to me, that one of the people he corresponds with had mentioned that, at the Reunion, the youngest member of the Association will be 80 years old. Time sure goes fast.

On another personnel item, our Director of Operations, Jack Steele, (747captainjack@gmail.com) has happily accepted the task of handling funds donated for the maintenance of the Association Website. There's more information on that in the Webmaster's article (page 3).

For those of you who are considering the Cruise, keep in mind that this might be a good trip to share with your kids, grandkids, great grandkids. Just think, you can have a Family Reunion and an OCS Reunion during the same week. Life doesn't get much better than that. Who knows, your family might even begin to believe some of the stories you've told them, when they hear other people talking about: Victory at Sea, On the Wall, Flood Drills, Fire Drills, goody runs, using three uniforms and two pairs of shoes in a day, one of my favorites of course was Minute Caller for the First Class, or can you believe what the wives did with kids, being a mother for two or three other OCs and keeping up with social activities. Maybe we should compile a list of all the phrases that everyone who went to OCS will immediately recognize, but someone who hasn't been there would have no clue what they mean. (Had anyone ever heard of spacing your hangars or polishing a formica table with shoe polish?)

One thing you will notice that is missing from this Mustang Matters, is that there is no solicitation to buy OCS Coins. Some months ago, Tom Hansen sent me a box containing the Association's remaining coins and some other things. He recently received the empty, crushed box back from the USPS, marked as Undeliverable. Oh, well!

Hope to see a lot of you in April in Galveston.

—JERRY NOLAN, 63A

## 63<sup>RD</sup> WING ASSOCIATION STATUS —

The Association leadership continues to consider plans to retire the organization, which would allow us to close the records in an orderly fashion. Our plan is to continue to operate until after the cruise. Until that time we will continue to acknowledge deaths with donations to requested causes and plan something special for all

### 63<sup>RD</sup> OC Wing Officers

CC – Jerry Nolan ..... 719-649-9851

CV – Mary Small ..... 832-443-7501

DO – Jack Steele ..... 916-773-7880

DComm – Tom Lubbers .... 937-325-4013

Compt – Joe Scarlett ..... 719-593-9468

Website – [www.usafocsalumni.org](http://www.usafocsalumni.org)

association members participating in the cruise. After the cruise and any final expenses, we intend to contribute the remaining assets to the "Gold Star Mothers" as approved by the association membership at the reunion at Montgomery AFB, Alabama in 2015.

The creation of the AFOCS Association was initiated by Tom Hansen in 2003 at the first reunion of all FY 63 AFOCS classes. In 1992 Tom had organized a reunion of Classes 63A and 63B at Las Vegas. He and Bob Karre followed that up with a reunion of all AFOCS classes in 2003 which was held in San Antonio. At that reunion, Tom proposed the creation of an organization for the purpose of organizing future reunions and establishing memorials to perpetuate the memory of AFOCS, thus the beginning of the 63rd AFOCS Association. The effort was funded through any excess cash from the reunion, and the sales of hats, pins, coins, etc. We may not have a museum display, but we do have an Association Memorial Plaque in the AF Museum Memorial Park at Wright-Patterson AFB and two Memorial Benches at Lackland AFB's Memorial Park.

—JERRY NOLAN, 63A

### FROM THE CV — RE: OCS REUNION CRUISE

I had hoped to wait and see how the cruise industry fared when they started sailing from U S ports but my agent, Milo Moon, suggested I not wait too long as the cabins were filling up and prices were rising. I can attest to that as when I booked a cruise for November all the balconies were gone. Cruisers are ready to cruise again! Therefore, I've taken the liberty of reserving a block of cabins for our group on Royal Caribbean Adventure of the Seas, departing April 6 - April 11, 2022 round trip from Galveston, Texas stopping at two Mexican ports.



The cruise group rate is still in effect but may change without notice. Balconies cost about \$1200 to \$1500 for two people. Inside and Ocean View are less. Refundable deposit is \$200 per cabin which will be applied to fare. Balance is due December 28th.

\*For those of you who have never cruised, the fare includes all you can eat and entertainment. You will have to pay extra for soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, shore excursions, gratuities, etc.

\*Passports are not required for the cruise but if you miss the boat or are hospitalized in Mexico and must fly back to the USA then they will be required.

\*The cruise line provides shuttle service from Hobby and Bush airports in Houston for about \$50 per person. You could probably rent a car for a week at the airport, pay for parking in Galveston and drive back to the airport for less money, especially if there are two or more traveling together.

\*If you decide you want to go you do not have to contact me to do so. Call a cruise specialist directly. You do not have to use my agent although I would recommend him highly. When you book tell them you want the OCS Reunion group and give them the name of the ship and dates.

\*I have used Milo at Vacations to Go for about 15 years. His number is 800 338 4962 ext 7224. He is there 10am-6pm (US Central Time), Monday thru Friday. You can also book online at the OCS reunion website built exclusively for our group: Group Web Page: [OCS Reunion Website](#).

\*If anyone has any questions, they can contact me (832 443 7501) or Milo.

\*I know it is a long time away but with such a low deposit and refundable it would be smart to reserve. The last reunion cruise I put together was booked within a week of my announcement, a year in advance, and only one person cancelled.

\*If you book with someone else, please notify me so I can arrange to have you included in our group activities and dining.

\*Jerry Nolan had a great idea: bring your kids and grandkids. There is plenty to do aboard ship for kids and they have special areas for them where they can go play with other kids and be chaperoned and supervised by cruise staff.

\*So far, Chuck & Sonia Lamb, Tom Watkins & Paula Murphy; John O'Connor & Kathleen Garringer, Mary Small, Fred & Pat Holmes, Jack Steele, Jerry & Marcia Nolan, Fernando Zepeda & Sandra Kennedy; Richard & Mary Ann Welling; Ray Oliver & Rebecca Osterhout, and Chuck Ulmer have signed up for the cruise.

\*I hope you all are as excited about getting together again as I am. There's talk that this will be our last reunion. Next year the very youngest of us will be 80 years old. Who would ever have thought we'd be so old?

**Again, the number for Milo is 800 338 4962 ext 7224 if you want to book.**

— MARY SMALL, 63D

FROM THE WEBMASTER/HISTORIAN —

### WEBMASTER MUSINGS

The construction of the new website is progressing with much work still to be done. I am recovering some earlier photos of classes that were in the old Word Press Gallery which was under the LINKS menu item. They will be published on the new website in a more easily reached location. Many of the reunions will also be posted in Albums for each reunion date as well as miscellaneous photos taken by OCS Alumni.

You can continue to view the old website, including the Shavetails. (See Historian's item on Shavetails and other Miami Beach history.)

***When you go to [www.usafocsalumni.org](http://www.usafocsalumni.org) on Memorial Day weekend, you will be entering the new website! Enjoy!***

Modernizing the website with current software programs and expanded content has come with a cost. Along that line, several graduates have donated funds to help keep the website active for approximately five more years. The following is information from Jack Steele, our DO, who volunteered to handle funds for this purpose.

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021, Jack wrote the following:

*Gentlemen,*

*The wing website checking account is officially open as of 8 Mar 2021. The account was opened with a deposit of \$200.00. Checks have been ordered and the \$25.00 will be debited when they are shipped. This is a separate sub account under my family trust. A letter of instruction will be executed when I get from you where the funds should be transferred upon my death. By having this separate account there will be no commingling of funds, monthly electronic statements will be issued, a credit union history will be available for the life of the account, and it will always be available for audit.*

*Effective today, I can accept deposits for this account. Checks should arrive within two weeks.*

*Deposit instructions: Make checks payable to **John Steele**. In the memo section of the check, please write "**OCS Website**"*

*Mail checks to: John Steele; 6417 Buckskin Lane; Roseville, CA 95747*

*Questions? Call or text me at 530-409-7880; or email - [747captainjack@gmail.com](mailto:747captainjack@gmail.com). EFT can be arranged on request.*

On Sat, Mar 20, 2021, Jack wrote the following:

*I am happy to announce that I received the checks for the OCS account. We officially have three donations totaling \$650.00. The printing charge for the checks was \$25.70 leaving \$624.50 available.*

On Mon, Mar 29, 2021, Jack wrote the following:

*So far during the month of March, I have received \$1150.00 from four donors. Way to go OCS!!!JS*

On Sat, May 15, 2021, Jack wrote the following update:

*I am happy to report our account balance as of 1 May 2021 is \$1,449.30. It will be great and very much appreciated if more OCs step up for this important project.*

Further donations have come directly to me from two donors for another \$400.00 towards expenses. With a ten-year budget in mind, further contributions will be appreciated.

### **HISTORIAN'S HIDEAWAY**

Research on some additional historical archives has revealed more information on the 'Miami Beach Training Center' location. I have found some pictures from early OCS classes that were not part of Shavetails. I am also posting an article from 'WikiMilitary' on the 'Miami Beach Training Center'. It contains many interesting facts and photos about happenings in and out of the OCS training.

As mentioned under the Webmaster Musings, research on eBay has turned up many Shavetails from the 1942 – 1944 class period. This helps to fill some outstanding gaps on the earlier years of classes. Any donations toward the purchase of these Shavetails will also be appreciated. Any donation for the Shavetails can be noted on the check or in a separate note if snail mailed.

Another surprising source was an email from a gentleman whose father graduated Class 46-A. Nothing was said about a Shavetail, but he has offered to let us copy letters between his father, while in OCS, and the family. He also revealed the name of another General Officer OC grad that we did not know.

That bit of information led my intrepid Newsletter Editor, Researcher, and life companion, Pat, to spend some informative research time at The Official Home Page of the U.S. Air Force (<https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies>). We now have a list of 47 OCS graduates who attained general officer rank.

I was also directed to a link to an AAF Motion Picture, "WINGS UP", a short film produced during World War II, highlighting the role of the United States Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School, narrated by Clark Gable. Everyone in our age group will immediately recognize his voice. A link to this YouTube video will also be posted on the new website.

– FRED HOLMES, 63B/C

### **FROM THE CHAPLAIN —**

Please inform me at [f4flh@yahoo.com](mailto:f4flh@yahoo.com) of the passing of any OCS graduate or spouse from the classes listed as part of the Association. All info will be appreciated and handled as appropriate. Their names are added to the Honor Roll page on the website, and the Association sends a donation to the specified charity as a memorial.

– FRED HOLMES, 63B/C

### **LATE BREAKING NEWS!!—**

Will Clark, 63-D, has a copy of the *Lackland Talespinner*, the Lackland Air Force Base newspaper, dated Thursday, June 20, 1963.

The newspaper announced a special feature depicting OCS, stating: "As an added feature this week the TALESPIINNER has endeavored to present a picture of OCS from its inception at Miami Beach to its closing days at Lackland."

This four-page feature was intended to be a lasting tribute to the officer commissioning school, recording 21 years of tradition and history.

Will applied himself to transcribing these articles from the newspaper so we could all enjoy them. Thanks, Will!!

The fruit of Will's transcribing labors is attached here. Also thanks to Will, the entire OCS article from the newspaper will appear on the USAF OCS Alumni website. Enjoy!

– FRED HOLMES, 63B/C

## **OCS Closes Friday With 119 Graduates**

Copied from Lackland Talespinner, Lackland Air Force Base,  
Thursday, June 20, 1963

(Front Page Introduction)

Tradition comes to a close Friday morning.

At this time, 119 officer candidates will be commissioned as second lieutenants and the final page in the history of Officer Candidate School will be written.

Femoyer Hall will be the site of this ceremony which will be the last of its kind. Time for the program is 9:30 a.m. and the guest speaker for the occasion will be Brig. Gen. Joseph R. DeLuca, chief of analysis staff, Supply Support Center, USAF headquarters, Washington, D.C.

In the graduating class will be 18 WAF candidates.

Today's ceremonies include a graduation parade at the center parade grounds at 9 a.m. Due to the lack of a lower class, officers who are graduates of OCS volunteered to man all officer positions of the 15 basic training squadrons participating in the parade. The 24 officers are assigned to surrounding bases in the San Antonio area.

Instead of the recognition and change of command parade, the commissioned officers of the school conducted ceremonies at the Officers Open Mess last Friday evening to recognize the graduating class.

### **Student Honors**

Awards presented at the affair this week included the marksmanship award to OC Roger G. Wells, the physical fitness award to OC Donald Ward, the speech award to OC Bernard J. Russotti, the aerospace research award to OC Jeremy R. Kunz and the WAF drill and ceremonies award to OC Barchie S. Hauser.

Other awards will be presented Friday morning, according to Lt. Col. James V. O'Brien, commander of OCS.

These include the distinguished award, the military academic leadership and WAF achievement awards.

### **Dining-In Speaker**

Class Dining-In was held Tuesday evening with Dr. Hubertus Strughold as guest speaker. Dr. Strughold, chief scientist at Brooks AFB for the Aerospace Medical Division, received his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Muenster in 1922 while still in his native Germany.

Author of more than 150 professional papers on physiology, aviation and space medicine as well as books, the doctor is a member of many medical and scientific organizations, both national and international.

Text from his speech was not available at press time.

When final OCS ceremonies are conducted tomorrow morning, many former graduates of OCS will be in the audience.

## **Officer Candidate School**

### **Early Years. . .**

#### **OCS Established in Resort Town.**

The setting is Miami Beach, Feb. 16, 1942. The occasion is the opening of a revolutionary concept in training—Officer Candidate School (OCS).

Amid the various resort facilities in this tropical area, a program is now officially underway which will supply the hundreds of administrative officers currently needed by the Army Air Corps.

A huge undertaking which has seen many of the hotels on the beach turned into living quarters and classrooms, OCS is designed to run 12 weeks and encompass a curriculum which will train enlisted men in the facets necessary to accomplish an administrative mission.

Moving ahead into the months after the opening of the school, it is learned that the school graduates such celebrities as Clark Gable, Gilbert Roland, Bill Holden, Robert Preston, Ben Hogan and Hank Greenberg.

Altogether, during its stay in Miami Beach, OCS will see 23 classes complete the course which is extended to 16 weeks in 1943. As the months go by in Miami Beach, a total of 33,750 men are enrolled in the rugged training and before the school is moved from Florida, 29,159 “90-day wonders” have successfully completed the course and obtained commissions.

Classes vary in size while the school remains in Florida. During the peak enrollment period, class 42-F (begun Sept 21, 1942) has a huge number—4,089—enrolled. Of this number, 3,728 meet the demanding requirements and are commissioned.

Some months later—April, 1943—the enrollment slows and class 43-E goes into history as the smallest Miami Beach class. It enrolled 422 men and graduated 331.

As already stated, hotels played a major role in OCS during the formative years. At one time, 47 hotels were leased as barracks. This occurred during the peak population period of late 1942 and early 1943.

In addition, the Vanderbilt Hotel was leased by OCS and served as the main headquarters. The great number of hotels was required according to reports showing the square feet of living space —50—needed by each to live and study adequately.

Classes were held in some of the hotel lobbies as well as in vacant stores, theaters and in wooden shacks on a golf course. The golf shacks came to be known more commonly as “chicken coops” by those in attendance.

When the course was altered to cover a 16 week period instead of 12, it was to allow more time for training candidates in more specific career areas.

It had been reported from many agencies receiving the graduates that they were, in essence, having to be retrained upon reaching their initial duty station. Thus came about the longer, more specialized curriculum.

Successful for a brief period, the specialized form of training was later changed to what was termed a more generalized curriculum. Needless to say, as the times dictated, curriculum changes were appropriately enacted.

From its conception, the Florida school functioned smoothly and it may be assumed that this greatly surprised many service officials. It was no small task to train as many as 4,000 men in an area famous for pleasure and relaxation.

An atmosphere of tension was deliberately cultivated in classes of OCS as part of the overall program.

Tension, however, began to arise in permanent personnel in early 1944. It was rumored that the school would be moving. The rumor grew steadily and despite no knowledge of a new location, it became general knowledge that OCS was not long for Miami Beach.

Word confirming the rumor was not long coming and April 1, 1944, OCS was officially transferred to San Antonio. It was not until July 10, however, that the normal complement of four classes was in session at San Antonio.

A marked effect on morale was noted by the final group of students and instructors at Miami Beach. This stemmed primarily from the fact that a move had to be made from a luxurious tropical home to that of a placid Army post.

Toward the end of its Miami Beach stay, OCS was down to the occupation of about a dozen hotels. The waning months in resort town created a problem which greatly irked those remaining.

Cleanup or GI parties were plentiful. As fewer and fewer people were left, more hotels were emptied and these had to be cleaned thoroughly before a departure was complete. It is said that one man had the distinction of living in 25 hotels in 25 months without ever having been transferred.

Supply personnel had their work cut out for them when it was time to move. Approximately 85 percent of all training property had to be moved to San Antonio, much to the disfavor of supply people.

OCS at Miami Beach became history July 1, 1944.

### **Localite Instrumental In Organizing OCS**

Maj. James S. Stowell, executive officer, Randolph Field, was ordered to Washington Feb. 8, 1942, with no reason stated. The next day, 2d Lt. Henry J. Amen received the same orders.

Less than 24 hours later, on Feb. 10, the pair received word that they were to be project officers for establishing an Air Corps Officer Candidate School.

Initially, they were told it had to be in operation within six months. During the progress of the afternoon, however, the time was reduced with each hour and a location was finally determined.

The school was to be set up by the following Monday, Feb. 16, at Miami Beach, Florida.

Lieutenant Amen, now Colonel Amen, chief of Lackland's Physical Evaluation Board, and Major Stowell (now Ret. Maj. Gen.) immediately began making long distance calls to various points. Men were acquired in this way for the school staff. In addition, instructions were passed on as to how candidates would be selected. Two bases, Sheppard and Keesler, were given 250 man quotas and told to have the men in Miami Beach by Sunday.

Every detail was accomplished by phone. Three special trains would get the men and equipment to Florida—two strictly for the students.

The following morning, Wednesday, the pair left Washington with the chief of Air Corps. Contact was made with an engineering lieutenant (2d Lt. Richard Talley) who would handle hotel negotiations. Things, however, weren't going well and the pair had little rest on the night of Feb. 11.

Miami Beach was at the height of its tourist season and things took on an impossible look. The problem grew more intense because time was running out.

The Mayor of Miami Beach on the afternoon of Feb. 12 donated the municipal golf course to the school's use. By nightfall, headquarters was established and an indication that hotel acquisition was coming had hopes running high. The anticipated "break" however, turned out to be a "shady" deal.

This fell into place, however, and by Sunday, when the trains began arriving, preparations had been completed for the initial onslaught. Hotels were acquired thanks to the work of Lieutenant Amen and Major Stowell. Eating facilities had been established and the school was on its way.

When the students arrived, several months work had been completed inside a week through the diligent efforts of such men as the project pair and many others who worked behind the scenes to make Officer Candidate School a reality.

### **School's Curriculum Offered Intensive, Tough Training**

"The six months of training you receive in the USAF Officer Candidate School are arduous, complex and unrelenting."

These words begin a pamphlet entitled "The Whys of OCS" and if anything, they are mildly appropriate for the school which is now just another part of history.

What made OCS tough, rigorous, rugged and in the opinion of some—impossible? A brief look at the curriculum might provide an answer to most of the questions of this nature. A thorough well-rounded program of instruction was the objective of OCS throughout most of its more than 21 years.

Most who have looked to any extent at the growth of the school through the years will agree that it accomplished what can easily be termed a "magnificent job."

In the final years of its existence, OCS has devoted about half of its scheduled hours to classroom work. This work consisted of orientation, political geography, international affairs, aerospace power, astronautics, written and oral

communications, reading laboratory, military justice, Air Force organizations and functions, officer responsibilities, leadership and human relations and moral leadership.

Sound like a lot to cover in 24 weeks of schooling? It was a lot to cover but the job was done.

On any given weekday, officer candidates spent the morning in classes doing academic work. In the afternoons, school was devoted primarily to the military aspects.

Under the school's military department, such things as drill and ceremonies, physical training and marksmanship were taught. Military, however, enters into a description of anything taking place in the school for the Air Force.

Basically, the overall curriculum has been based on 1,000 hours of 25 weeks. All but some 142 hours of this period has been devoted to academic and military training.

During the 13th week of its school, each class was granted a one-week leave but aside from this brief period, things were geared to almost constant training in some form.

A typical day for an officer candidate began at 5:30 a.m. with reveille. Next came calisthenics, personal time for getting rooms and individuals ready, morning details and finally, breakfast.

After a "squared" not to be confused with square meal, the series of morning classes was begun. Then, another period for mealtime and back to an afternoon of training.

Following the evening meal, for an hour and a half, military training was continued. Finally, at 7:30 p.m. study and personal time arrived and the so called "midnight oil" was then burned to prepare for the coming day.

#### **Move to Lackland**

When OCS was moved to San Antonio's Aviation Cadet Center (SAACC) in the summer of 1944, the operation was looked upon as sort of an anti-climax. SAACC later was named Lackland.

Size of the school had been drastically reduced, even to the point where members of the staff were awaiting momentarily for the "cease operation" signal from Army Air Force Training command headquarters.

Possibly the greatest factor in the move, despite being only of a morale nature, was the change in location from idyllic Florida seashore resort to a typical Army post. Luxury hotels, adjacent to every metropolitan convenience, were exchanged for barracks, three quarters of an hour from a badly overcrowded city. Liberty became something which existed almost entirely in name only.

Ironically, however, the liberty or "free time" aspect was not considered any detriment to morale.

The movement was a complex one because in essence, a new school was created at SAACC.

Graduation ceremonies for an entire class occurred for the first time in this area Aug. 5, 1944, when members of class 44-H received commissions.

From a curriculum standpoint, the course of instruction following the move was basically that used at Miami Beach. Length of the course remained at 16 weeks.

Basic training comprised the first four weeks, followed by eight weeks of administrative courses. Specialized training in seven basic areas occupied the remainder of the school term. In addition, physical training, orientation and drills and ceremonies were spread over the entire 16-week period.

Histories compiled by OCS indicate that all was not distasteful in the transfer to San Antonio. Classrooms were markedly larger and acoustics in them definitely better. Another favored aspect of the move was the local terrain which afforded more realistic field training.

Comprehensively speaking, the overall installation was in general vastly improved.

Training at SAACC was still specialized for a brief period following the movement. Late in 1944, however, approval was granted for the return to a more generalized course of study. Length of the course remained.

According to historians, one of the major drawbacks in the first three years of OCS existence was lack of a firm communications channel, directly to headquarters. Generally speaking, there were too many levels of command in between.



Pointing out the condition is the fact that in three years, only four communications were addressed directly to OCS or returned by indorsement, which could be classified as policy directives.

Nevertheless, OCS continued as a smooth functioning operation, and established a definite place for itself in the armed forces.

### **OCS Packs Bags for Maxwell Field**

When moved to Maxwell Field, Ala., in June 1945, OCS lost its status as a separate autonomous organization. Despite this move, however, its function remained much the same as before and most of the personnel remained the same.

Begun more or less as an experiment, the move saw the unique establishment of a school composed of officer candidates and pre-flight school trainees. In the past, the two had been separate and vigorous activities.

Most of the difficulty in the movement lay in the supply areas. Instruction suffered for a time because of the lack of training aids and records. Once the move had been completed, however, things returned to their normal state of excellence.

On paper, the program of the military department of OCS remained unchanged. In fact, however, the military activities faced a great number of minor adjustments.

One problem which greatly affected the military aspects of training evolved from the compactness of the OCS area. Ridiculous as it may seem, the nearness of classrooms, mess halls and other facilities to the OCS barracks was a disadvantage. Accustomed to impressive formations and brilliant exhibitions of marching and singing, the candidates had much less opportunity for such things due to the centralization of training facilities at Maxwell.

Many changes came to OCS with the declaration of V-J Day, with the ensuing fluctuations in personnel and with the need for a machinery to rapidly discharge eligible men.

Since the overall Air Force plan for speedy demobilization of its men required the establishment of several separation stations, Maxwell's strategic location led to one of its selections.

Almost overnight, OCS found itself being constantly moved from one building to another, all due to the separation center's activities.

When class 1946-A graduated, OCS recorded its final Maxwell graduation. The school moved with classes 46-B and 46-C back to San Antonio's Aviation Cadet Center.

The candidates themselves began setting up the school when it returned because primarily they were interested in graduating on schedule or as nearly so as possible.

They were allowed to attend school on Saturday and thereby reduced their graduation delay to only one week.

With the move, there came a drainage in officer force to teach the candidates. Once again, however, the OCs came to the aid of their school. This time they taught subjects they had become familiar with while serving as enlisted men and warrant officers.

The school had finally found a home which would be permanent as long as the school existed.

### **An Era's End**

A significant chapter in Air Force history will be written at Lackland tomorrow.

This refers, of course, to the current disestablishment of OCS.

The somewhat subdued tone of these final days in which graduation preparations are being accomplished probably does not reflect activity equal to the historical significance of events.

The closing of OCS is another sign of a new era. It will stir nostalgic recollections by many Americans who served in uniform during the wars in the 1940s and 1950s and many who have done so in later years.

Perhaps the most poignant memories may be stimulated in the minds of those who know OCS as a myriad of swank hotels clustered along the seashore at Miami Beach. In those years following Pearl Harbor, officer candidates marched with loaded weapons along the edge of the surf, brushing off swarms of mosquitos and watching for signs of intruders launched from submarines and creeping ashore from rubber rafts.

Who will ever forget the sight of masses of white-helmeted “90-day wonders” packing the full length of Washington Ave. on parade in the steamy heat of a Florida summer? Those were the days when a sidewise glance through the goggles of a mask, if observed by the ever-alert training officer, was sufficient to draw a sharp reprimand.

Lifting a hand to wipe the sweat from a brow, or to shift a shoulder piece to a more comfortable position was ample cause for appearance before the wash-out board. The story goes, as it has been preserved in the now fond reminiscences of old-timers, that the motivation of the training staff in the burgeoning years of 1943-44 were to see how many candidates could be eliminated, rather than how many could be “brought along” and helped to survive to graduation.

Much of this motivation “rubbed off” on the advanced candidates themselves to whom authority was delegated generously for training and discipline. These “upper classmen” rapidly developed acute perception of tiny but costly slips in bearing, speech, conduct, and performance listed at varying values in the “gig” book.

Surely one of the most vivid memories of any officer candidate of those years must be the contrasts in the men who came from so many walks of life and fields of endeavor, survived the brief but intense molding experience, and emerged much more alike in attitudes and abilities shaped toward accomplishing the urgent goal of quality leadership of the nation’s Air Force at war.

There were movie stars, wealthy business men, politicians, old time soldiers, college boys, and promising young troops—all funneled through this plant for quick production of a huge officer corps possessing qualities that had to be adequate for leadership in those trying times.

Though they may have been far short in many areas now demanded of the professional products of the academies of the military establishment, they proved in retrospect to be superior to what most training experts could have anticipated under cold, calculated appraisal of the likely results of such a massive training program.

The success in volume output of commissioned personnel to meet the needs of war time pointed the way toward later refinements of this system of conversion of aspiring enlisted personnel into a substantial portion of the new officer input for the Air Force. Thus, OCS was retained while new sources were developed.

OCS has few, if any, blemishes on its record. It has served its purpose well. In addition to its direct military contributions, it gave a lot in lasting intangibles to its grads who returned to civilian roles. There is mixed feeling in many quarters as to the ultimate wisdom of the decision to do away with this school.

After long and careful analysis of all the factors that had to be taken into account over the long run, it was decided that the most decisive step in rapid strides toward an all-professional Air Force required that minimum time be devoted to the educational foundation of the officer corps. This meant that all embryo officers would have to start with a college degree except for a few highly selected enlisted men who still could earn the privilege of sponsored college attendance and enter the successor establishment—Officer Training School.

As many realize, OTS now has become the largest single source of new officers. It has gone through a trial period and a simultaneous rapid build-up during which time the concept of a basic military finish to the selected civilian educational background has been tested, evaluated and accepted as a reliable and promising channel.

End of History Story



63<sup>RD</sup> OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

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