

Newsletter of the Advocates for Tufts ROTC

Issue 3 *Supporting the Reserve Officer Training Corps and its students at Tufts University* June 2008



Elliot Ackerman in Iraq

Why I Joined

By Elliot Ackerman A03, F03

Since I enrolled in the Tufts Naval ROTC program in 1998, I've been asked on many occasions why I decided to join the Marine Corps. After four years of service and two deployments as an infantry officer I still have a difficult time answering this question succinctly. It is a multifaceted answer that is difficult to articulate. An experience I had as a rifle platoon commander most clearly encapsulated all the reasons why I chose to serve.

On November 11, 2004, my rifle platoon was two kilometers deep into the city of Fallujah. We had crossed the main east-west road that ran into the city to act as the vanguard for a larger assault that would attack another five hundred meters later that afternoon. That day we were the most far advanced platoon in the city. Throughout the course of the day insurgents had surrounded the building we occupied and we were engaged in a fierce fire fight as they attempted to dislodge us. By the late afternoon my platoon sergeant and another Marine had been shot and the armored ambulance that evacuated them had nearly been destroyed. My company commander came over the radio and told me to move the platoon out of the house and attack south into what I knew was intense enemy resistance.

Recognizing Veterans Day

These remarks were delivered by Gregory H. Arabian, A54, at Tufts University's Veterans Day ceremony in November 2006

Thank you for inviting me to join you in my Alma Mater's observance of Veterans Day.

My first recollection on attending Tufts was to survey the then newly built War Memorial Library, now labeled "Eaton Hall." I recall a deep sense of gratitude toward contributors of that facility, now dwarfed by the Tisch Library. These contributors gave graciously so future generations of Tuftonians could pursue their education in peace and security. May the memory of their generosity this day be blessed.

I am not here to make any kind of political statement. I am here to commemorate and praise our veterans; particularly from Tufts as well as others who have gone before from time immemorial to now.

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An Educator's Visit to ROTC Training

By Alva L. Couch

*Associate Professor of Computer Science,
Tufts University*

Last summer, I took part in an Army ROTC program at Fort Lewis, Washington, designed to introduce university faculty members and other academics to the training given to ROTC cadets. During this "Educator's Visit," I spent two days observing cadets going through their summer training, and met with cadets, Army ROTC personnel, and other academics from across the country.

When I arrived at Fort Lewis for the summer 2007 "Educators' Visit" to the Army ROTC training program, "Project Warrior Forge," I did not know what to expect in several ways. The disclaimer I had to sign when I arrived explained that some of the exercises involve "strenuous physical activities," and I had images of myself and four more busloads of academics running obstacle courses, climbing fences, and crawling under barbed wire! As I was to find out soon, intellectual and psychological challenges outweigh physical challenges in this unique training program.

The subtitle of the program, "Leadership Development Assessment Course" (LDAC), foreshadowed much of what was to come.

We started at the end of a typical cadet's training, at the graduation exercises, and moved backward in time through the experiences a cadet receives. We could do this because the program is a marvel of logistical pre-planning. The program is 31 days long for each regiment of participants, who stay together throughout the 31 days. At any one time, up to 10 regiments of cadets are going through the program, so that we could leapfrog from regiment to regiment and receive "hands-on" experience with the whole program in two days.

Quickly, I understood that my preconceptions about this program were false. The physical parts of the program were minor in comparison to the intellectual and psychological training. The so-called "obstacle course" challenges teams of 10 cadets to navigate past "obstacles" providing both intellectual and psychological challenges. For each "obstacle," one cadet is assigned as the "leader," and must direct the operation. We observed one team working on "the bridge of no return": the objective is to get a fuel drum across a gully (which simulates a river) using minimal resources, and assure that no one following you can use the same resources to cross. The primary obstacle in this exercise is not the river; it is being able – as leader – to acknowledge and utilize superior skills of others in your group, and – as follower – to provide constructive input without challenging command. This requires getting over the purely psychological hurdle of being able to realize that others are better than you at certain skills, and the intellectual hurdle of combining ideas from group members into a tactical plan.

The real goal of the exercise is to assess effective leadership, and getting across the river is not as important as how one leads the group and how group members interact.

This exercise was one of many, but its structure was reflected in the whole program. Each group of 10 cadets was assisted by one instructor, two instructors' assistants, and one evaluator, for an instructor-student ratio of two instructors to every five students. The evaluator takes notes on each cadet's performance, and there is a performance

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Why I Joined

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Huddled around the radio in a corner of the building I attempted to decipher my company commander's orders over the din of the fight around me. The floor I was kneeling on was slick with blood from one of the Marines who had been shot earlier. I quickly glanced up from the radio and saw the six or seven Marines in the room staring at me as I discussed our impending assault with our commander. The anticipation in their stares showed me that they understood their livelihoods would depend on the outcome of the conversation I was having. At that moment, I had never felt more acutely the responsibility of command.

As the platoon commander, I was the platoon's only connection to our higher headquarters. It was my responsibility to convey the severity of our current situation, and to ensure that the assault progressed appropriately. Over the next ten minutes the appropriate orders were passed and later that afternoon we successfully assaulted into what turned out to be the heart of the insurgent's defense of the city.

Thinking about that moment on the radio I feel a deep sense of gratitude. I am grateful that I was able to make my contribution to the platoon at a significant moment. I joined the Marine Corps because I wanted a profession where whether or not I was successful or unsuccessful had serious consequences.

As a young man I have been very fortunate. I came from a loving family, which was financially well off, I was able to attend the best

schools and gain admittance to one of the finest universities in the country. In the words of another generation I am a "Fortunate Son."

The majority of the Marines I served with have not had such advantages. They are men who enlisted in the Corps to make their contribution to the nation, and improve their lot in life. What sort of leaders do they deserve? In my mind they deserve the best. An institution such as Tufts University produces the finest minds and future leaders in the nation. The qualities a school such as Tufts instills in its graduates are at the greatest premium in the service.

This is why I joined and still serve, and this is why an organization such as ROTC is so significant at a University like Tufts.

Captain Elliot L. Ackerman is a graduate of Tufts University. He received both a B.A. from the College of Arts and Sciences and an M.A.L.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 2003. In May of 2003 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps through the Naval ROTC program. As an infantry officer he has commanded a rifle platoon and 81mm mortar platoon. He currently serves in Special Operations Command. Captain Ackerman's personal awards include the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Action Ribbon.



ROTC Advocates Recognize Veterans

Jay Samuels, Margot Lenhart, Greg Arabian, Linda Dixon, and Erik Dahl at the Tufts November 2007 Veterans Day Ceremony

New Tufts Air Force ROTC Prize Award

October, 2007

Committee:

Gregory H. Arabian A54,
Chair

†John Baronian A50

Francis E. Donnelly E58

Paul F. Ferguson E53

W. Grant Heggie A61

Jack Lee A50

Alan M. MacDougall A65

Richard Palmieri A88

William D. Paxton A62

Rudolf Peksans A66

Glen W. Peterson A54

Dear Tufts Air Force Alumni:

It is a pleasure to write to you as an Advocate for Tufts ROTC. I want to ask for your assistance in establishing an annual Prize Award which will be given to an outstanding senior or junior Tufts Air Force ROTC student enrolled at Tufts University.

This award will be based on demonstrated leadership, scholastic achievements and special contributions by the candidate to Tufts University, the surrounding communities, and the Tufts ROTC programs.

The V-12/ NROTC Tufts Alumni currently present a Navy Prize Award each spring to Tufts Navy ROTC cadets. Our goal is to establish a Prize Fund of \$50,000. Its accrued interest would be sufficient to initiate and finance the AFROTC Prize Award at the spring 2008 Academic Awards ceremony.

As a special incentive, I will contribute \$ 25,000 as a challenge to our members matching all gifts given to the Air Force Prize Award. This challenge should help to speed up the process of establishing our fund.

I sincerely appreciate your interest and loyalty to the Advocates for Tufts ROTC. I hope you consider supporting this project which will serve the young men and women of the Tufts Air Force ROTC programs.

Sincerely,



Gregory H. Arabian, A54, Major, USAF HD
Member, Executive Committee
Advocates for Tufts ROTC

HOW TO GIVE:

Send a check...

made payable to

Trustees of Tufts University – AFROTC Prize Award.

Charge your gift...

to your Visa, Mastercard, AmEx or Discover card. If you prefer, you can call Tufts toll-free to make your credit card gift. The number is 1-800-326-4001.

Matching gifts...

can double or even triple your gift to Tufts. If you or your spouse are affiliated with a matching gift company, please contact your personnel office to obtain a matching gift form and return it to Tufts with your gift.

Send Contributions to:

Advocates for ROTC

Tufts University

80 George St. Medford, MA 02155

Phone: (617) 627-3485 (800) 326-4001

Fax: (617) 627-4425

Ellie Short

(617) 627-3622

Ellie.Short@tufts.edu

Wounds From Vietnam Era Have Not Fully Healed

By Bob Brudno

The following is an excerpt from a letter by Robert J. Brudno, Tufts A'66, published in the Winter 2000 issue of "Tuftonia". Bob recently sent us a copy of his letter, noting that "it might help those who wonder why there is such a big to-do over ROTC to understand better the consequences of the short-sighted decisions that were made back in the late sixties," when the NROTC on campus was closed. "America supports the troops today, but did not then, and those who were ignored or worse cannot fully heal until America thanks them for their service too."

I was an NROTC graduate of Tufts and served in the Navy from 1966 to 1970. While I never was assigned to Vietnam, my brother, who had completed the AFROTC program at MIT, was captured by the North Vietnamese in October 1965, only 33 days after he arrived in Southeast Asia. He was a POW until February 1973. The Vietnam War was, therefore, not a political issue for me; it was very personal.

I had joined the NROTC program because I wanted to go to sea. My brother wanted to fly. Neither of us wanted to napalm people. Like thousands of others who served, we did not seek that war, did not start it and were in no position to stop it, yet we both were personally affected by those who opposed it.

When Tufts decided to throw NROTC off the campus, I was outraged. Tufts had joined other institutions in capitulating to those who believed that any means were justified by their desire to see an end to that war. The result, however, was making pariahs of those who chose to serve their country in uniform. Few living in the protected world of the Tufts campus could imagine how it felt to be expected to put one's life at risk for others, then have to hide one's uniform when back home.

For my brother, the protests were no small inconvenience. They caused real pain. I respected the right of anyone to protest and could even excuse the extremists because of their youth, but Tufts was run by adults. For Tufts to, in effect, assist in their efforts to blame the

warriors for the war was shameful. Tufts' craven capitulation symbolized the inability of too many then to at once oppose the war and still appreciate the importance of service to one's country. It would have taken courage on the part of the administration to defend the greater good of having future military leaders come from a liberal arts institution like Tufts, but it would have been the right thing to do. Throwing NROTC off campus did not end the training of future naval officers; it just left it to others.

I will admit that my memories of those days are clouded by the tragedy that ended my brother's life after a brief five months of freedom. But I cannot forget the zealotry, intolerance and insensitivity that so many of us had to confront during those war years.

Whether the war was 'right' or 'wrong' was really irrelevant to those who had to fight it. The protests may have prolonged or shortened the war. But the actions of fellow Americans so many years ago still cause real pain to veterans who served then, and few protestors who crossed the line have been held to account.

Army ROTC Scholarships are Available

The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is military leadership coursework done on college campuses. ROTC graduates serve as Army officers after graduation. This service can be full or part-time (Guard/Reserve). The program can be done as an elective without obligation for the first two years.

Tufts students can compete for ROTC Scholarships through the program at M.I.T. The scholarships are full tuition. They can be for 2, 3, or 4 years, and can be used for both undergraduate and graduate programs. The service obligation for the scholarship is Active Duty, National Guard, or Army Reserve service after graduation.

Scholarship winners receive a \$300-\$500 monthly stipend as well as \$1200 per year for books.

To be eligible for an ROTC scholarship, you must be an American citizen, in good health, able to pass the medical requirements.

ROTC schools and scholarship applications can be found at www.armyrotc.com. Army officer careers can be explored at www.branchorientation.com.

The M.I.T. Army ROTC number is 617-253-4471 and the web address is <http://web.mit.edu/armyrotc/home.html>

Recognizing Veterans Day

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Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day, from November 11, 1918 to June 1, 1954. Armistice Day intended to commemorate and mark an end to World War I, a so-called “war to end all wars.”

Sadly, we came to recognize that world conflict seemed to be a fact of life, so that we now commemorate November 11 of each year as Veterans Day.

President Wilson’s phrase, “war to end all wars,” proved to be a misnomer, given subsequent conflicts such as World War II, The Korean “Police Action,” the Cold War, and other regional and no less lethal conflicts such as Vietnam, Bosnia, The Middle East, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

World conflicts continue without end, contrary to our hopes and wishes, due to repeated failures of diplomacy.

Yet, thanks to the efforts of our veterans, 24.5 million of them to date, we have been blessed with security and safety, and this has allowed us to pursue our education and our careers.

Of 24.5 million veterans, 9.5 million veterans are age 65 or older. This gives us some idea of how long our quest for peace and security has endured and the cost we have paid for it.

Statistics show, as well, the reality of multiple conflicts and how much we have depended on those who are now our veterans who served in these multiple conflicts following the “war to end all wars.”

Of those 24.5 million veterans, 376,000 served in World War II *and* the Korean War. 432,000 veterans served *during both* the Vietnam era and in the Gulf War, and even today, 25,000 American troops serve in Korea, some 60 years after the Korean “Police Action” that plagues peace in that volatile area to this day and thousands more serve in other hot spots around the world.

When General Douglas MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945, which saw a final end to World War II, he stated: “Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. . . . Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of

nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. We have had our last chance. If we do not now devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of the human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all material and cultural development of the past two thousand years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.”

His pronouncement was prophetic but premature, because World War II was not our “last chance.” Many conflicts followed. Armageddon always seems to be at our door more often than not. Our veterans have seen to it that Armageddon is kept away while we pursue our various careers.

As prescient as MacArthur was, hunger within the human character more than anything else seems to be the problem. Conventional and unconventional conflicts, killing in the name of patriotism, the need for food, resources, and land, in the name of religion by those who hide in our midst, bent upon destruction, amenable to no discussion, no negotiation and armed with one purpose only: to kill, leaves us with the only alternative: to defend ourselves, again, by conventional and unconventional means while honoring our traditional constitutional values.

So while we engage the enemy in a number of modes, protected these days by a 100 per cent volunteer force, veterans of recent conflicts can relate the added burdens placed upon them to preserve our values in the face of life-threatening challenges.

On the other hand, defended by them, our world continues to pursue almost matchless advances in science, space, liberal arts and education, as we develop our art, literature, material and cultural development even to this day. It is the veteran who by affording us this protection, allows us to do so.

Today’s military surveys a radical change in warfare because the soldier is now expected to win the peace as well—under the most challenging and unconventional circumstances.

No longer does the soldier defend us with vehicles

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Recognizing Veterans Day

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and weapons of war; he is a postwar politician, construction engineer, translator, educator and many other things.

The soldier provides meaningful alternatives to those devastated by oppression, hunger, blighted economies, and much of what they envy and desire in the United States. Consider, for instance, what our soldiers have thus far accomplished in Iraq:

As of October 30, 2006:

They have renovated 11 of 20 hospitals.

They have opened 833 schools, providing classrooms for 325,000 students.

They have paved 239 kilometers of 424 kilometers of village roads.

They have added 419,000 cubic meters of water treatment capacity to serve 2 million Iraqis.

They have completed 342 of 399 police facilities.

They provided a 911 emergency response dispatch system covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities.

They have completed 248 of 253 reinforced border forts.

They have added 1,420 megawatts of electricity to serve 370,000 homes.

They have increased oil production to 2.5 million barrels per day.

Today's soldier is no longer involved solely in combat; he represents our way of life.

Diplomacy has always been attempted as the answer to conflict resolution between and amongst nations. But diplomacy sometimes fails, and that failure causes us to be concerned with our safety and security. Pure defense becomes necessary because diplomacy failed. For this, we have turned to our military forces.

Our veterans have, unquestionably, traditionally, loyally, allowed us to pursue our peaceful efforts at advancement while keeping us secure and safe. So we cannot help but thank those who have provided us with that security; they are our veterans.

Thank God for them, and bless them, and their efforts, their sacrifices, and their steadfastness in defending our democracy and our democratic way of life.

Thank you.

*Gregory H. Arabian, A54
Major, USAF HD*

New Members of the Advocates

Here are the names of the Tufts ROTC graduates and others who have joined the Tufts Advocates for ROTC since Spring 2007. If you haven't joined yet and would like to, please fill out and mail the form on page 8.

Edward H. Alexander
James E. Alexander
L. Weston Anderson
Salvatore J. Angelico
Nikolas Babich
Richard L. Baird
Donald C. Bettencourt
John J. Biagioni
William H. Brooks
Peter G. Brown
Robert J. Brudno
David W. Buermeyer
Richard E. Caldaroni
John A. Campbell, Jr.
Arnold D. Castagner
Philip J. Coady, RADM
Matthew Colehour

Michael A. Covell
Dan Crenshaw
Henry R. Delaney, Jr., MD
Frances J. Dixon
Linda Dixon
Peter Downes
William O. Duryea
Capt. Howard B. Ellis
Robert Every
Harold G. Farrell
Harry K. Fiske
Capt. Mark E. Flandreau
Robert L. Fletcher
Robert Frahm
John L. Giunta
Maurene Golden, Esq.
Donald R. Grayson, MD

M. Leighton Greenough
Lesley Grinspoon
George D. Guzzi, Jr.
Norman E. Hansen
Betty J. Haywood
Kyle Hiatt
Arthur E. Hill
Edward W. Kelly
Caroline Kennedy
David L. Kerstein
William M. Koplovsky
Henry A. Kowalski
Sumner C. Kraft, MD
Robert P. Kraynak, Jr.
William V. Lange
Raymond Larter
Hon. Gerald J. Lewis

Paul Leyton
Timothy Lind
Don R. Main
Paul Maliakel
Bruce R. Marshall
F. Kenneth Martin
Robert T. Mayo
Sean McCooey
Kari McIntyre
John A. McTammany
Joseph Monaco
Marvin E. Mulligan
Richard B. Newbert
Rev. David M. O'Leary
Richard Palco
Fleetwood Pride, Jr.
Michael C. Quaid

More New Members

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Joseph C. Regan
Norman G. Ricker, Jr.
Thomas C. Roche, Jr.
Paul B. Rosenberg
Matthew J. Russo
Nicholas Schrobach
Gardner H. Snow
Richard Palmieri
Charles A. Payne, Jr.
Robert A. Perron
Sean Pezzini
Harry W. Poole
David Porter
Paul F. Sullivan
Elwin O. Swicker, Jr.
Edward T. Tedeschi

Arthur C. Vallas
John Alan Watson
H. Richmond Woods
Paul I. Wren, Jr.



2007/08 Tufts ROTC students

Army

Jesse Dunklee 08
Clarke Burns 09
Eric Catalanotti 09
Christopher Ocasio 09
Brian Thompson 09
Edward Chao 11
Sean O'Loughlin 11

Navy

Peter Accomando 2009
Stephen Graham 2009
Andrew Lee 2009
Edgar Luna 2011
John Sison 2009
Austin Worth 09
Daniel Yoon 2011

Air Force

Daniel Darlington 2011
Nathan Elowe 2010
Nancy Henry 2009
James McKinney 2009
Edward Warren 0808

If you would like to join the Tufts Advocates for ROTC, please fill out and send in the form below. There is no fee to join, just a willingness to support Tufts' ROTC program and our cadets.

I support the continuance and enhancement of ROTC programs at Tufts and would like to join the Advocates for Tufts ROTC mailing list.

Name _____ (Please Print)

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address (helps save \$\$\$ in keeping you informed) _____

Phone _____ (daytime) _____ (evening)

I am a (please check all that apply):

Tufts Graduate (Year _____) ROTC alum

Veteran (branch of service: _____) (Highest rank achieved: _____)

Tufts faculty or staff (position: _____)

Other positions, distinctions achieved, or comments: _____

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please mail to Ellie Short, Coordinator, Advocates for ROTC, Tufts University Advancement, 80 George St., Medford, MA 02155

A Professor at ROTC Training

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review of each cadet every two days. There are no failing grades: the grades are “E – Excellent”, “S – Satisfactory”, and “N – Needs improvement.”

The statistics on instructional resources are staggering; at any time, 1000 instructors and instructor-aides are present, comprised of army staff and recently-graduated commissioned officers who were former cadets. One can instantly recognize the instructors, who wear desert camo while the cadets wear forest camo. There are roughly 300 hours of instruction in 31 days, compared to 39 hours in a typical Tufts course lasting 13 weeks.

Another impressive facet of the training was how the Army is reacting quickly to changing times. This was the first year in which the program included “cultural awareness” training. Based upon role-playing training for police and first-responders, this training gave cadets the opportunity to play roles in realistic situations they might encounter in foreign countries. We observed a training class in which cadets are faced with a tense situation in dealing with residents of a small town. They are met by the mayor of the town and his police chief (played by recently graduated officers). Without warning, a woman bursts in yelling “you killed my child” and they must deal with the situation. Unknown to the cadets, though, the play-actors have a different goal: to make the participants *laugh*. If and when they succeed, all mayhem breaks loose as the actors interpret the laughing as a cultural insult. A hard lesson is taught well.

Coping with the unexpected is a constant theme. The final exercise includes a big surprise. Cadets are told their objective is to proceed to and occupy a town. Halfway through the exercise, though, a pregnant woman in labor is discovered in their path, and the objective changes to protecting her and her baby from potentially hostile forces. How they react to this change is observed, recorded, and assessed.

My visit did not just consist of contact with ROTC officials. I learned much by talking with my academic



Professor Couch takes aim during paintball training

colleagues. I discovered quickly that – among four busloads of academics, I was the only faculty member who was not an active instructor or dean in an ROTC-affiliated program. Two busloads – with which I was associated – were comprised of deans and military science professors from stakeholder universities. The other two busloads were comprised of leaders and instructors in ROTC nursing programs. Deans with whom I compared notes rated ROTC as something between “essential” and “critical” to their school’s success. Some deans reported that it was their primary source of financial aid in a dwindling financial aid situation (ROTC programs award over 120 million dollars a year in scholarships).

In short, I was very surprised by what I learned on the visit. The Fort Lewis training program is about creating leaders, and the skills they teach are skills I wish my own students all had. The program is clearly beyond the means of any modern University, and employs a staggering number of instructors to provide a top-notch educational experience. I left Fort Lewis in awe of the program, and with a new standard for what “training America’s future leaders” really means.

“An ROTC scholarship is one of few ways students of modest means may enter costly, private, but superior education. And all services need many good people.”

*--Comment sent to the newsletter by
Harry Wenzel*

Help Name the Newsletter

In our last issue, we asked for suggestions for better names for this newsletter than simply the “Newsletter of the Advocates for Tufts ROTC.” So far the leading contender appears to be *The Tufts ROTC Advocate* – not much of a change, perhaps, but it seems to have more of a ring to it. We will announce the new name in our next issue, but in the meantime here are some of the suggestions we received, and who submitted them. Thanks to everyone who sent us their ideas!

Tufts ROTC Advocate

-- Henry R. Delaney, Jr., M.D. A44

ROTC Advocate

-- Mike Covell, CAPT, USN (ret.) E61

TUFTS PATRIOTS or From the Trenches

--Joseph W. Carlin A46, A47 (US Navy)

The Tufts Eagle, or The Jumbo Eagle

--Arthur C. Vallas E54 (US Air Force)

Tufts ROTC NOW

--John Giunta A58

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THROUGH TUFTS ROTC

--Jack Couture

ROTC On The Hill

--Tony Rickley E47

The Cadet Gazette

--Bob Cohan of the Class of 1947

TOPPS (for "Tufts Officer Preparation Programs Support"), or **TOPS** (for "Tufts Officer Programs Support"), or **ROTC REVUE TRAIN** (for Tufts ROTC Advocates Initiatives and News)

-- Capt. Mark E. Flandreau USNR(Ret)

Some variation of “**Sweet**,” for Sweet Hall, where the V-12 cadets lived at Tufts.

--William M. (Bill) Koplovsky

And this final comment:

I think Tufts and other leading universities should have ROTC to insure that the military has highly intelligent leadership. Therefore the title of the newsletter should reflect the need for intelligent naval officers.

This advice is worth what you are paying for it!

--Paul E. Leyton, Class of 1950



Pictured at the Ton Son Nhut Air Force Base in Vietnam, circa 1967, is Bill Balestra, Hank Brandli (Tufts '59) and Walt Ebo. Brandli, a longtime Needham *Bulletin* columnist and well-known Bostonian, passed away in October 2007. A memorial service was held November 5 at St. Joseph's Church in Needham, MA.

To honor his memory and service to our country, we received permission to reprint from the Winter 2007 issue of *Tufts Magazine*, the following article:

The Man Who Saved Apollo 11

By Kara Peters

Reprinted from *Tufts Magazine*, Winter 2007

In July 21, 1969, the day after the Apollo 11 moon landing, Captain Henry Brandli, E59, reported to work as usual at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. A meteorologist with two master's degrees from MIT, he analyzed images from a weather satellite that was part of the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP). The orbiter provided extremely precise weather forecasts for Corona, a top-secret satellite system that photographed Cold War hot spots. So highly classified was Corona that when Brandli began working on it while serving in Vietnam, he was led to believe that his weather reports were simply aiding the war effort. Brandli became one of the few people briefed on the DMSP's real mission when he moved to Hawaii in 1967. His forecasts ensured that Corona film capsules returned to earth in clear weather. "It was really hush-hush," Brandli says.

The millions of dollars' worth of ultra-advanced equipment he controlled fascinated him. "No one had anything like it at the time," he says. "I saw stuff that no one else had ever seen before—ocean currents, the insides of hurricanes and typhoons, the aurora borealis up close. It was like seeing images of Mars thirty years before the Mars Rover." Among the DMSP satellites' futuristic talents was the ability to forecast weather five days in advance anywhere from the equator up to 25 degrees latitude. That July day, as astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins sped toward Earth, Brandli was poring over some frightening DMSP data: in just 72 hours, the astronauts would splash down in the midst of a deadly thunderstorm known to meteorologists as a "screaming eagle."

"I knew Apollo 11 was scheduled to splash down three hundred miles north of the equator in the Pacific, about one hundred miles from Christmas Island," Brandli says. "I knew how fast a screaming eagle moved, and calculated that it would be right in their path as they descended. The storm would have destroyed their parachutes, and the astronauts would have been killed."

Brandli was the only person with access to this critical information—NASA's satellites weren't nearly as advanced—and he was forbidden to share what he knew. "I could have lost my commission," says Brandli, "but there was no doubt in my mind about what I had to do." He picked up the phone.

Fortune favored Brandli's decision. The man in charge of forecasting for Apollo 11, Navy Captain Willard "Sam" Houston, happened to know about DMSP. Brandli arranged a clandestine meeting in a parking lot at Hickam, where he hurried Houston into his office and showed him the ominous images.

Houston was convinced. He managed to persuade his superiors—without proof—to reroute the entire USS *Hornet* carrier task force, which would greet the Apollo 11 crew on splashdown. In a risky move, the task force was redirected even before receiving official orders, and NASA and the Navy changed Apollo 11's reentry plan at the last minute. "Thank God Sam Houston knew about the project," says Brandli. "If it had been anybody but him, I don't know what I would have done."

After the Corona project was declassified in 1995, Brandli learned that reconnaissance planes had been sent out to double-check his forecast. "I was right on the money," he laughs.

He shared his story in *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine in 2005, and was recently honored for his service by the National Reconnaissance Office. Brandli, who retired from the Air Force a lieutenant colonel and now lives in Melbourne, Florida, has no regrets about keeping mum all those years. "Working with that technology enabled me to be more advanced in my profession than anybody else, and that was enough for me," he says. "Besides, I just alerted the right person. After that, it was in God's hands."

Do we have your correct email address?

We are working to make sure our membership list of the Advocates for Tufts ROTC is correct and up to date. E-mail addresses can be especially useful (and save money) for contacting people and getting the word out, but in many cases our information is incorrect. If you have provided us your email address but haven't gotten email from us, or you would like to give us your address now, please send a "test" email to Margot Lenhart at margot.lenhart@tufts.edu, so we will have your correct email. Thank you!

Request for contributions

We're always looking for articles and other interesting and useful information to include in the newsletter. We would especially like to receive first-hand comments about what Tufts and ROTC were like back "in the good old days," as well as contributions from more recent Tufts graduates who are currently serving in our Armed Forces.

If you would like to contribute, please call, write, or email us. Points of contact are listed on page 2.

Events (Spring and Fall 2008)

Pass in Review	April 25, 4pm	MIT Barry AstroTurf Field
Tri-Service Awards Ceremony	April 24, 5pm	MIT Tang Center (E51)
Tufts Academic Awards	April 25, 7:30pm	ASEAN Auditorium
Commissioning Ceremony	May 17, 1:30pm	Tufts Goddard Chapel
Commencement	May 18, 9am	Tufts "On the Green"
Veterans Day Ceremony	November 11, 11:30am	Tufts Memorial Steps



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