OWNER / SCAN RETURN
Submitted by: Kenneth Kay
His company

Commenced Training:
4 October 1968

COMPANY 3

Completed Training:
12 December 1968

1ST REGIMENT

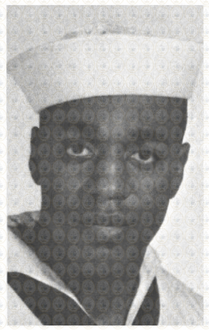
2ND BATTALION

LT Donald L. Moseley
Regimental Commander

CWO Howell Grimes
Battalion Commander

J. C. Grady, MM1
Company Commander

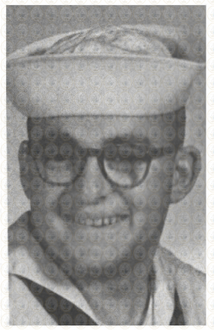
Wilbur Hawkins
RPOC & American
Spirit Honor
Medal Winner

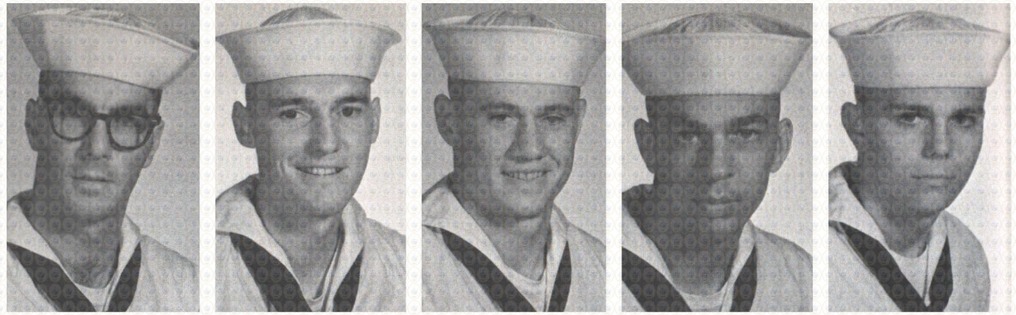


Donald Lightfoot
MAA

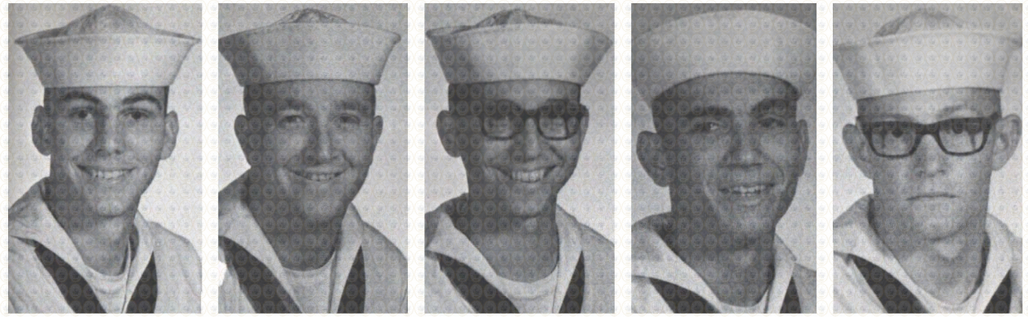
Roger Sacia
Yeoman

A. C. Zuehlke
Honorman

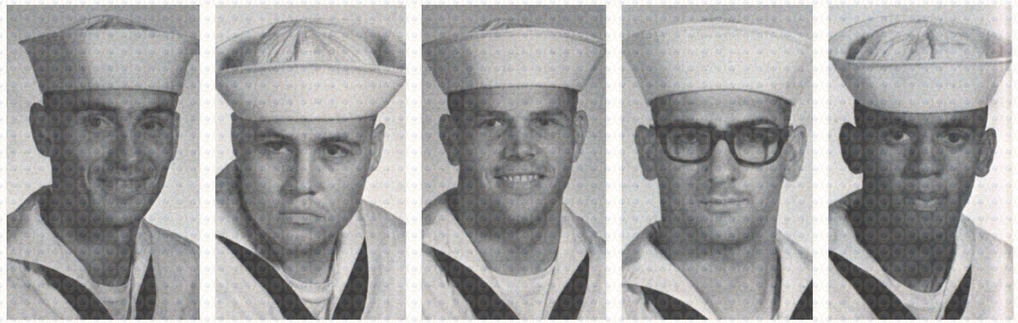




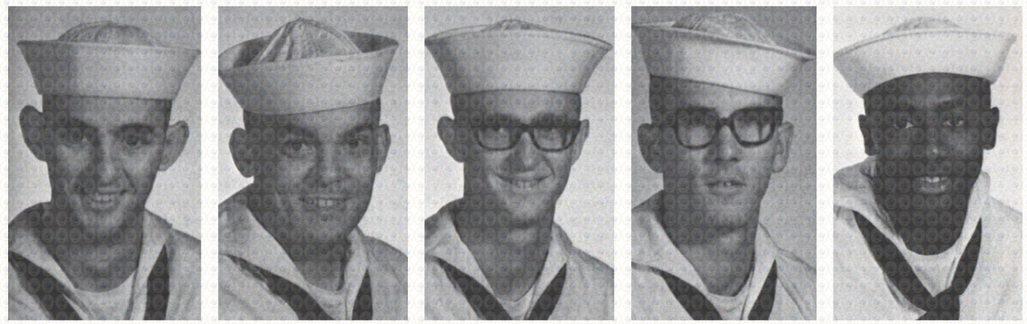
Jerry Allen
Lester Allen
Randy Anderson
James Babb
Thomas Benson



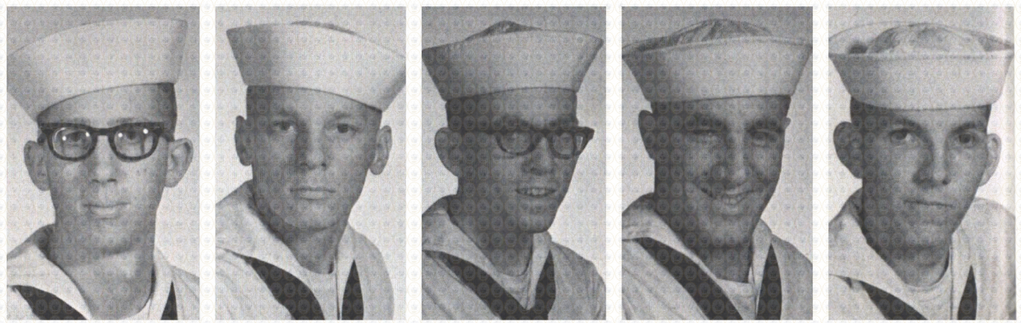
Ernie French
David Futrell
Dennis Gaines
Larry Gay
Arthur Green



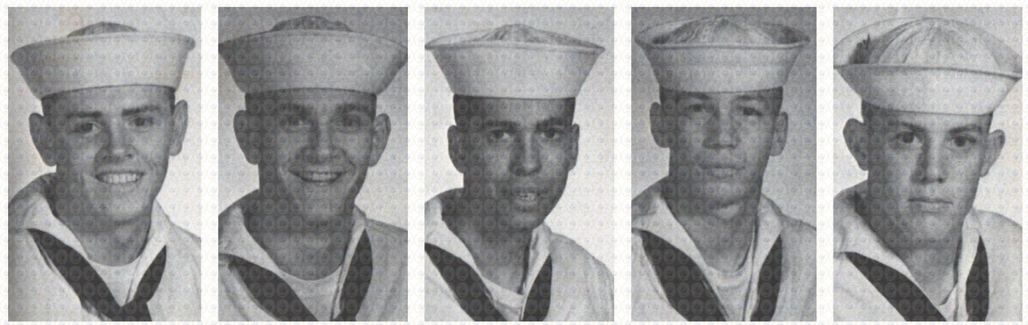
Stephen Bowers
William Bradford
Larry Brady
Gregory Brother
Cary Brown



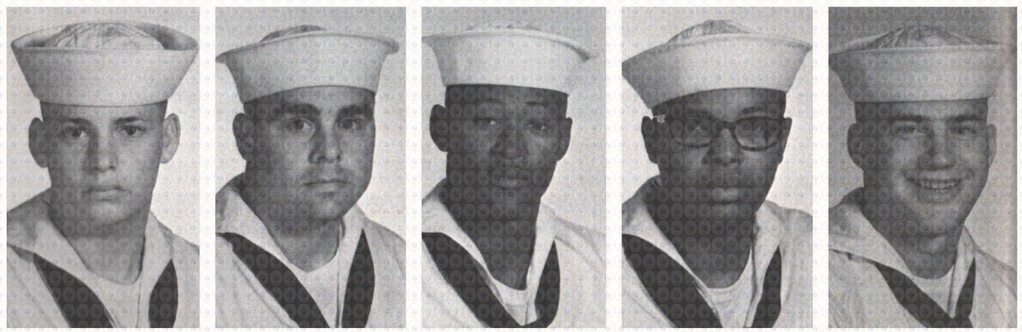
Gary Gregston
Billy Hames
Robert Hamm
Paul Herring
Gary Howard



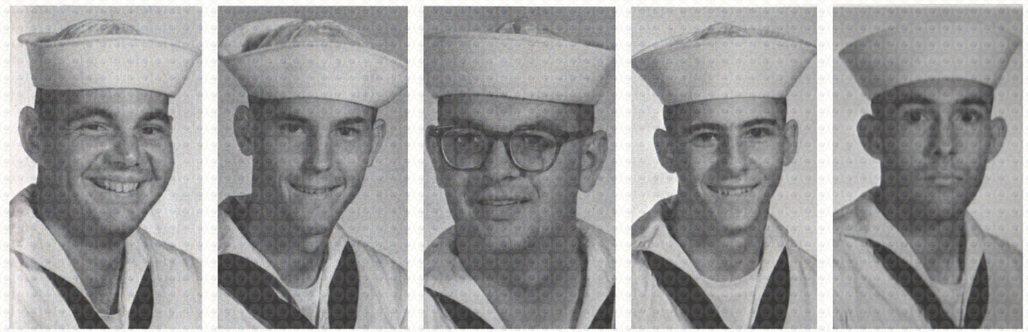
Robert Brown
Donald Buuck
Thomas Campbell
Frank Capozzi
Thomas Carr



Luther Howington
Clyde Hyden
Antony Jaime
Cletis Johnson
Kenneth Kay



Dickey Cummins
Michael Davis
Willie Deyamport
Eddie Duke
John Dunlop



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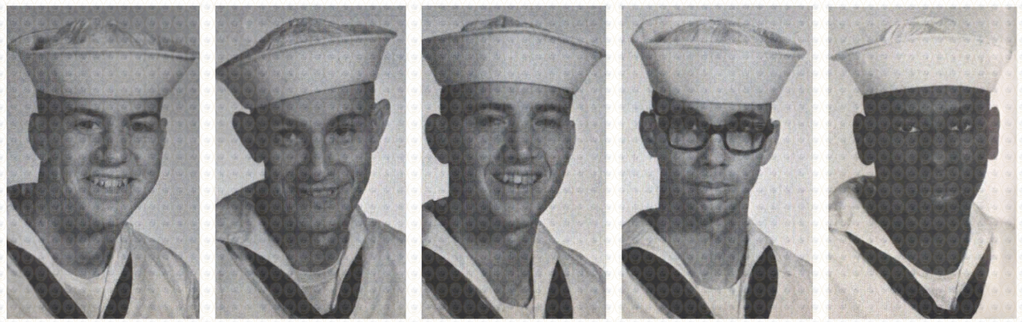
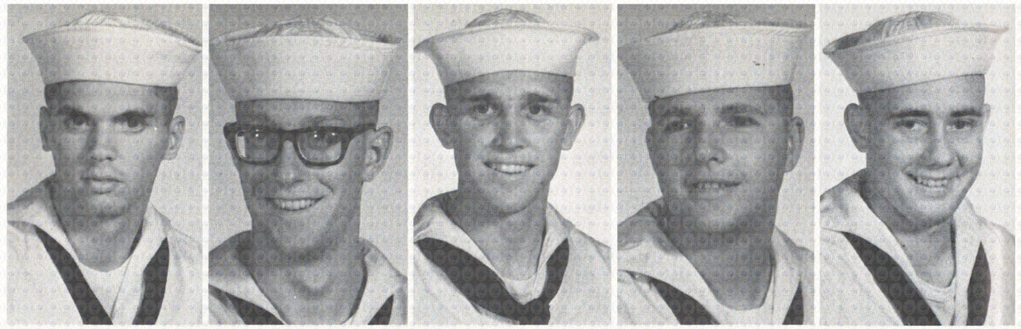
John Kimmins
William Lander
James Lechliter
Allen Linker



Joseph Dunlop
Joseph Flowers
William Flynn
Donald Fournier
Eddie Franklin

Kenneth McLean
Michael McNeese
Dennis Mellin
Paul Miller
Steven Moore

James Morrissey
Steven Nelson
Dennis Nessen
James Pace
Robert Poch



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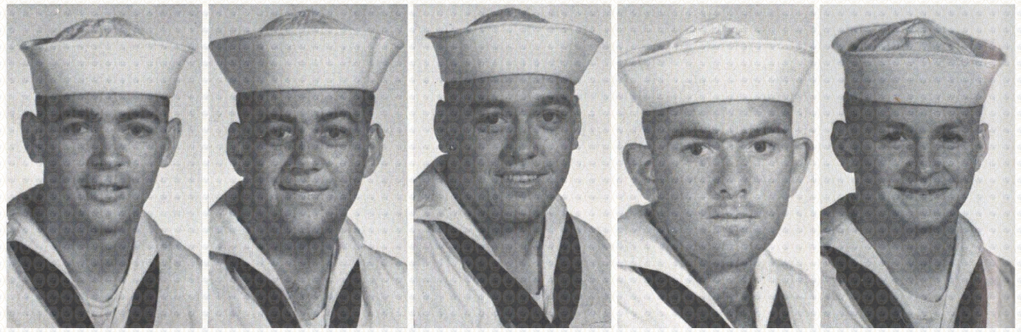
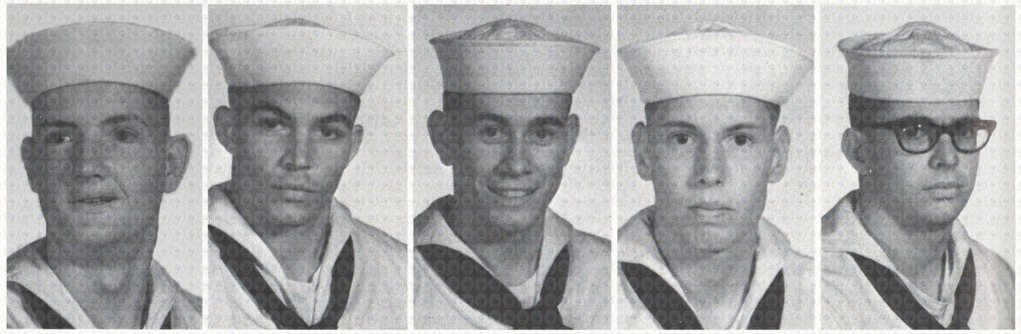
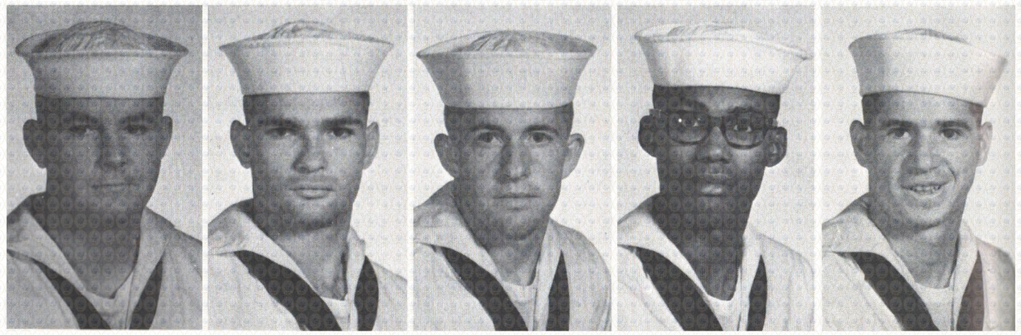
Jerry Rodgers
Jerry Rosamond
George Saliba
Paul Schaefer



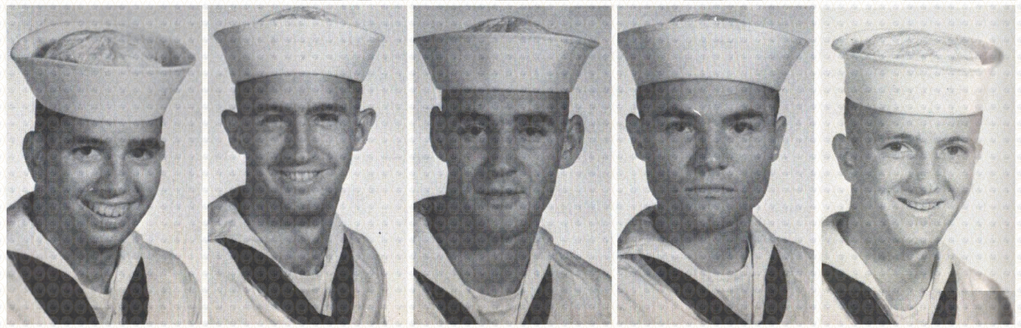
James Sharpe
Seward Sinclair
Richard Slaten
Robert Smith
William Springfels

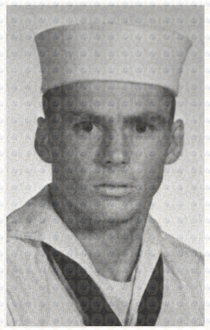


Joe Stewart
Daniel Strickland
Ernie Summerville
Theo Taylor
James Thomas

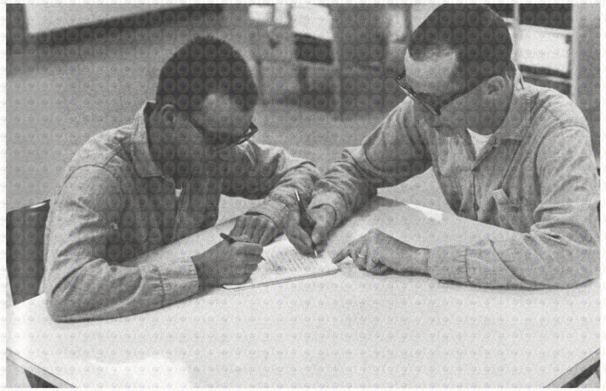


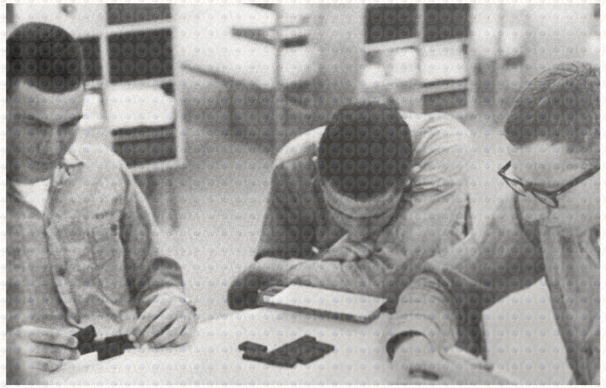
Michael Tudd
Wallace Trice
William Vanhoose
Robert Watkins
Stephen Weirich

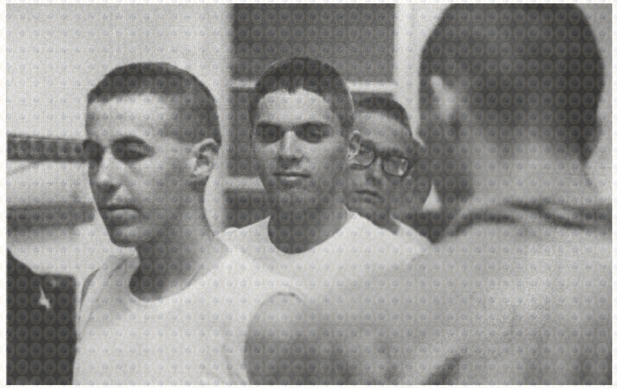


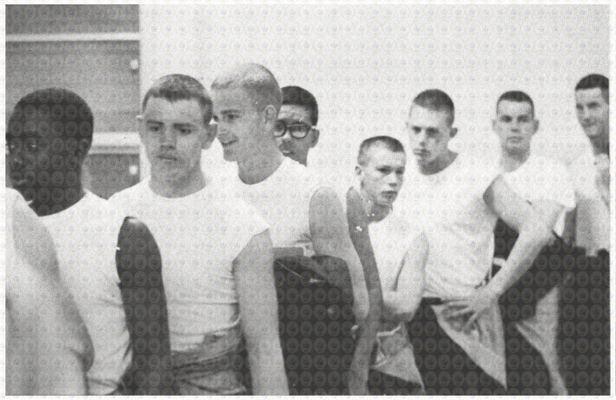
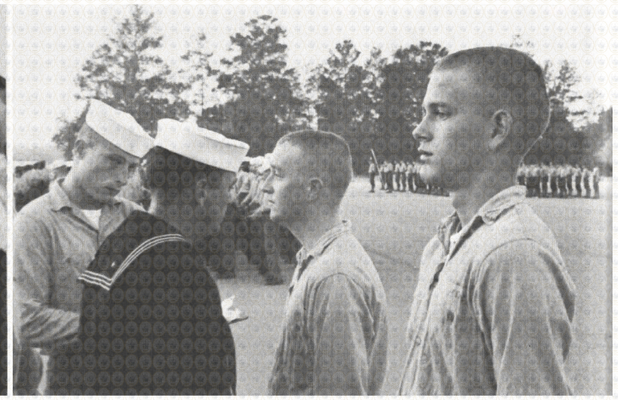
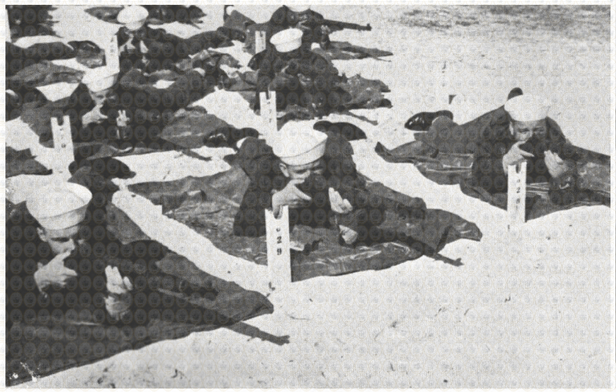
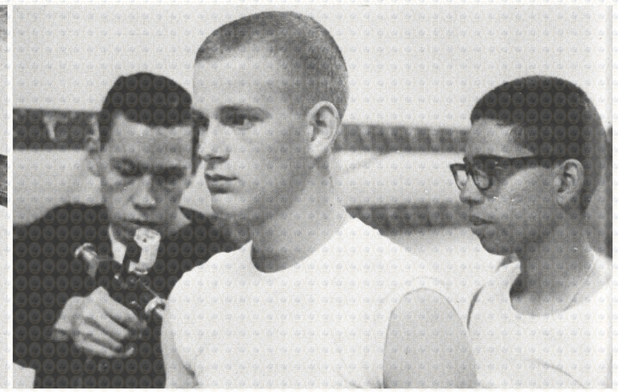


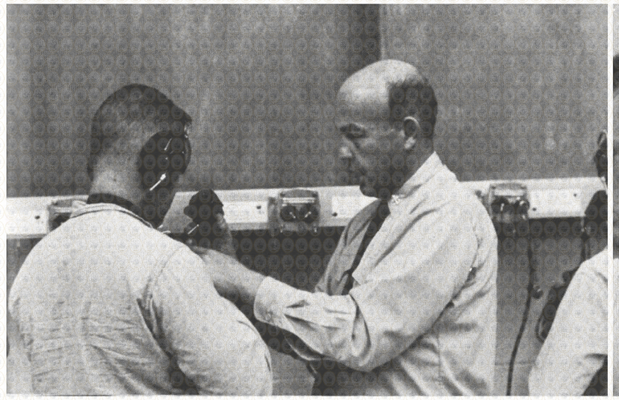
Maxie Sowell

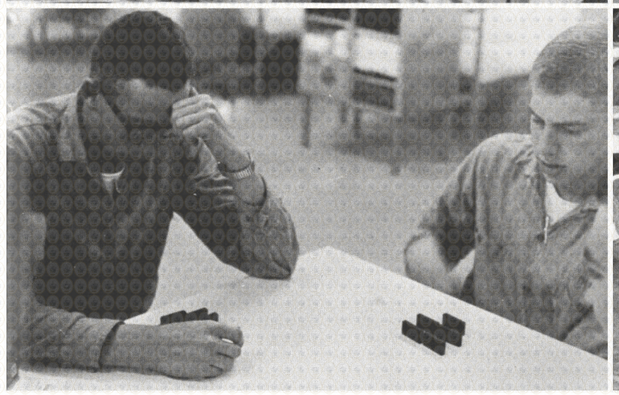


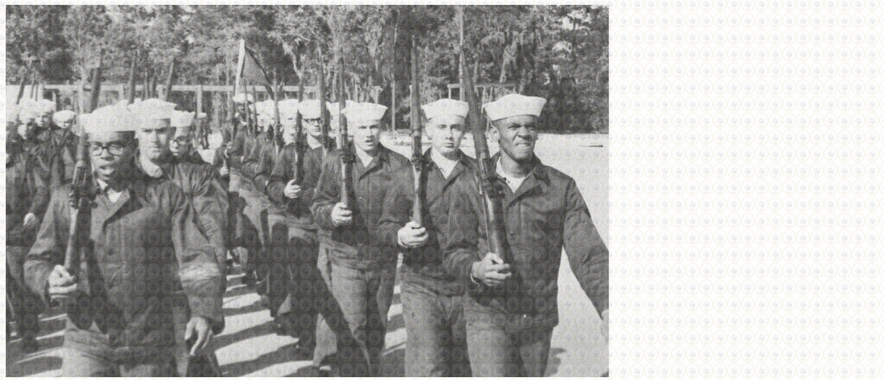


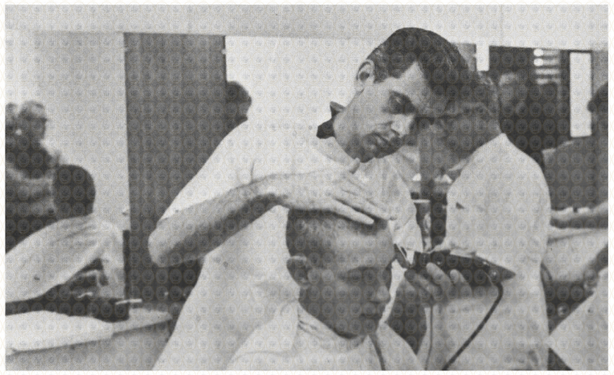


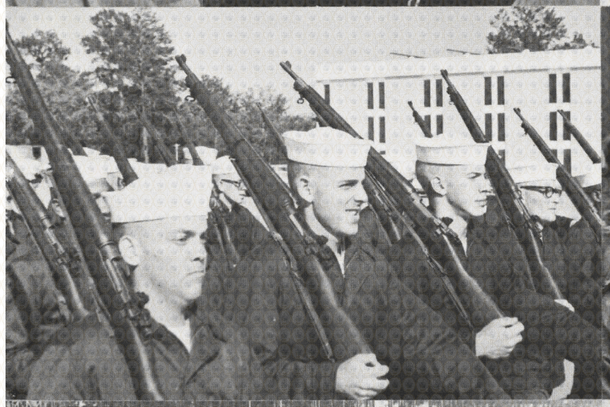





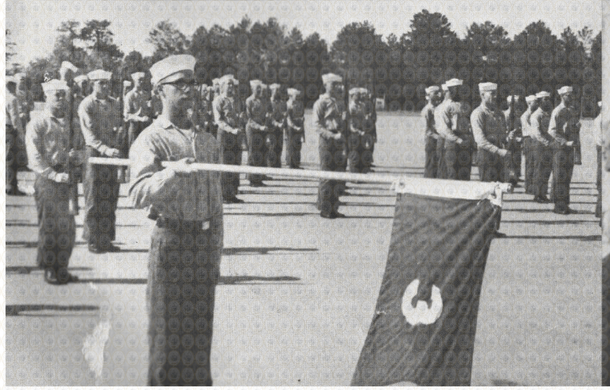


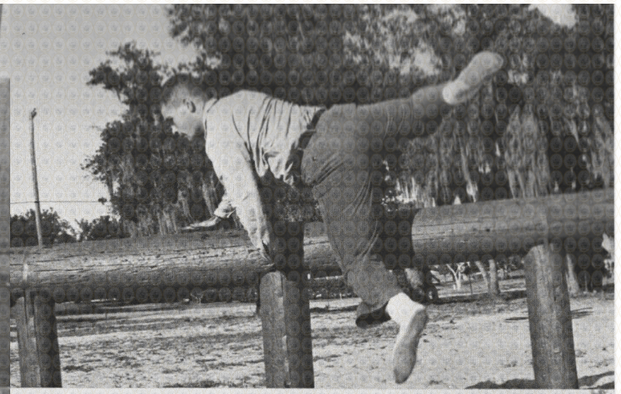


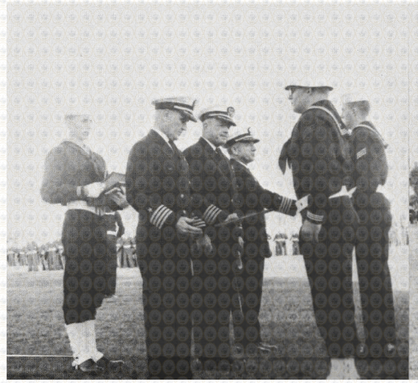
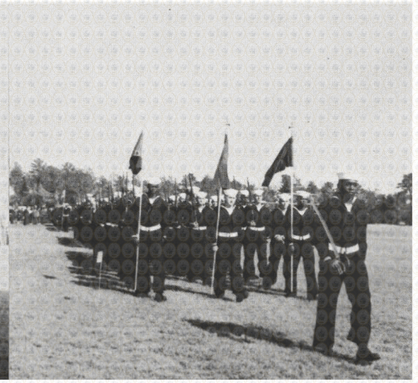


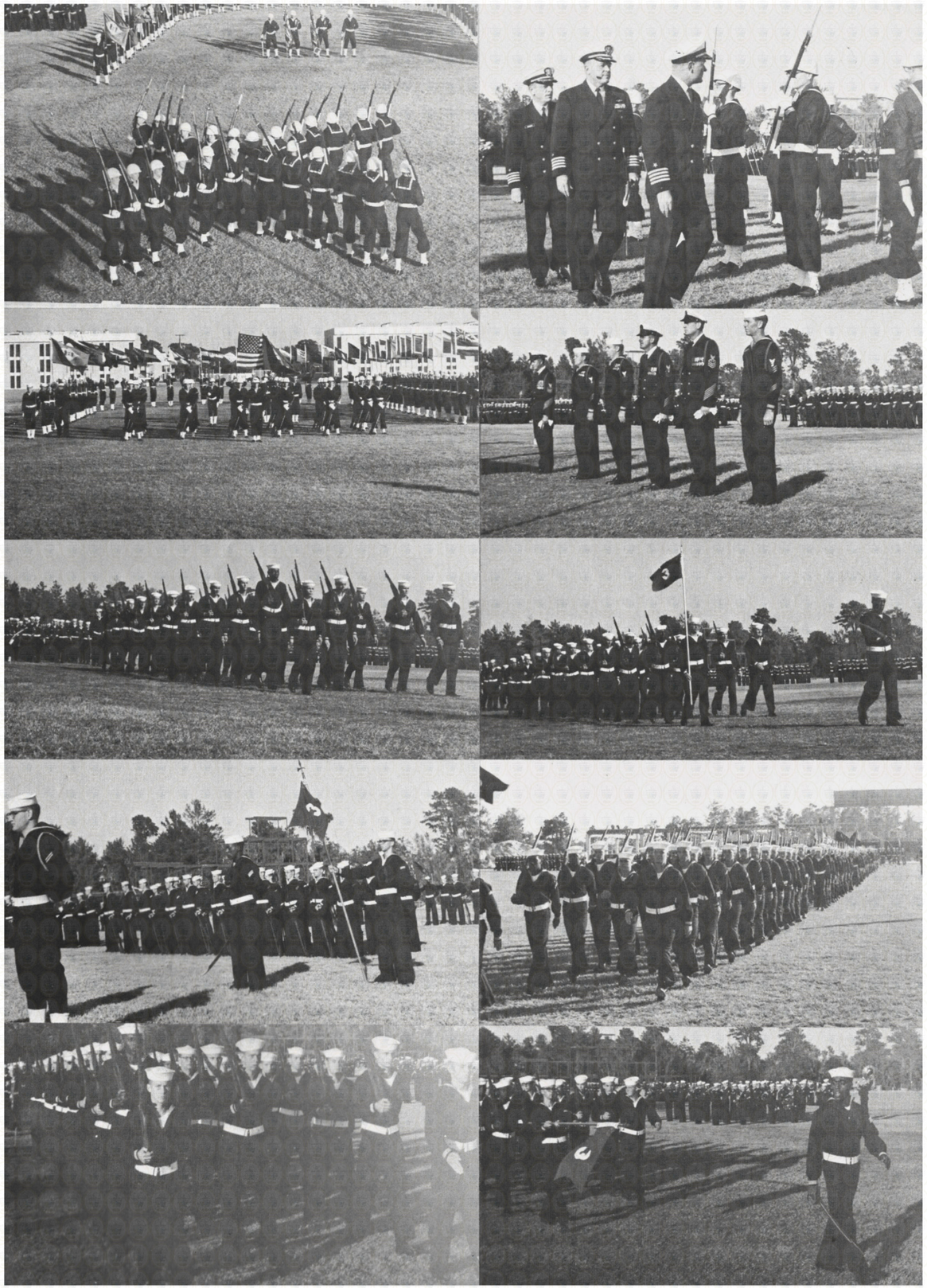








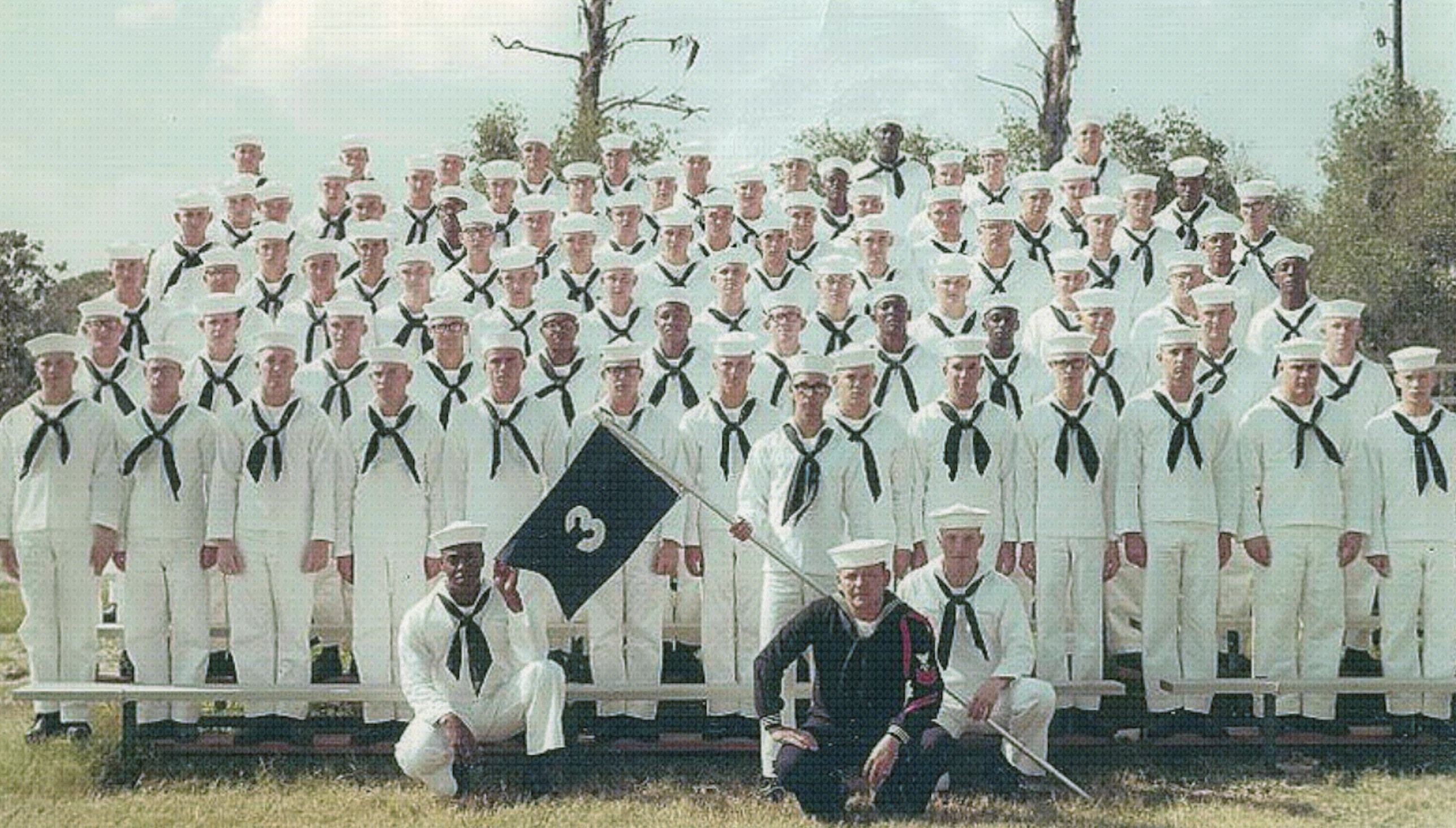


Preserving Our History - One Rudder At A Time

THE RUDDER REVISITED
1968 - 1994

Recruit Training Command
Orlando, Florida
United States Navy

This Rudder is part of "The Rudder Revisited" collection.



PIR

PIR

PIR

PIR

PIR

PIR

300 Recruits Per Week

Orlando Naval Training Center

INAUGURAL RECRUITS
. . . Greeted by the captain

RECRUITS ARE PUT RIGHT TO WORK
. . . Even before they get uniforms

First Navy recruits began arriving at the brand new Orlando Naval Training Center Oct. 1.

They were immediately given haircuts, an issue of clothing, a bunk, foot locker, a mop and a broom.

Recruits now are arriving at the rate of 300 per week, building up to a camp capacity of 4,000 men.

Camp capacity at present is 3,200 men, but will increase to 4,000 next October when a fifth recruit barracks building is completed.

In the coming fiscal years, construction will continue at the training base until there are enough facilities for two camps, each comprising 4,000 recruits.

At that time, 800 recruits per week will be coming into the center.

Congress in July put a $5.2 million ceiling on new construction for 1969 at the base. In 1968, appropriations amounted to 13.4 million, and in 1967, $14.9 million.

Other than four main barracks buildings, construction projects on the base include classrooms, an advanced weapons school, cold storage warehouse, training pool and gymnasium and theater, chapel and reception center, interim recruit dispensary and a community center.

One of the strangest will be a mock up of a Navy destroyer, two-thirds standard size of the regular ship. Its cost will be $287,000, and is being constructed across from Glenridge Junir High School. Completion date is February.

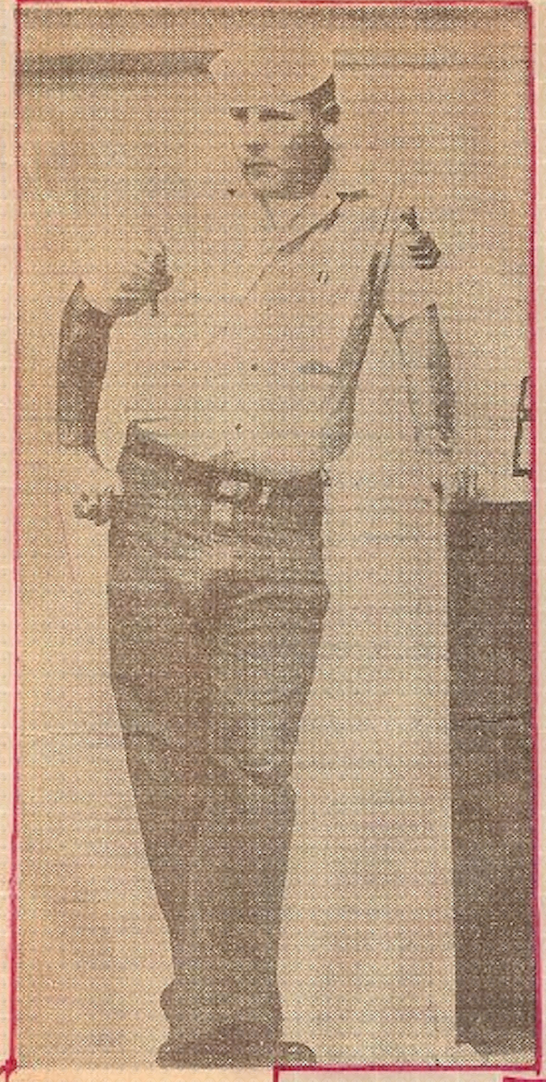
The first recruit company will graduate on Dec. 12. The new sailors will then report to various units of the fleet and other naval activities.

The naval training center was activated in Orlando July 1, turned over to the Navy when Orlando Air Force Base was decommissioned on the same date.

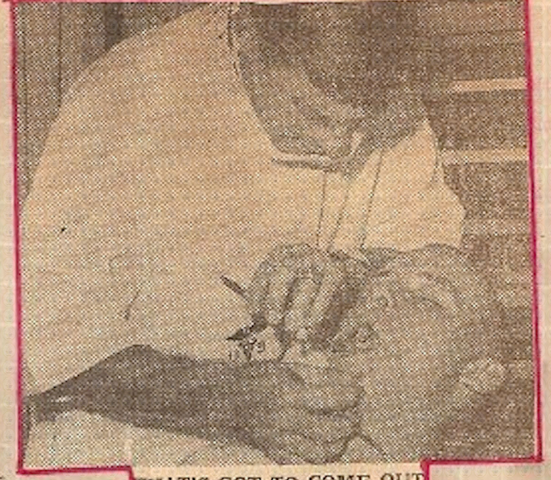
Captain Enders P. Huey is base commander, with Capt. B. W. Brender, commanding officer of the Recruit Training Command.

OPENING OF THE CENTER

OCT. 1, 1968

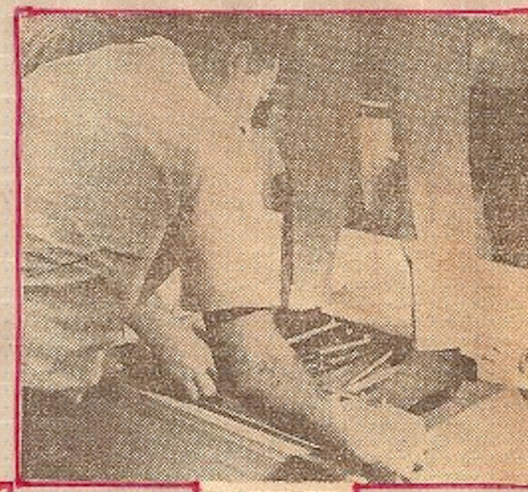


RECRUITS' FIRST SIGHT
. . . It's not his mother



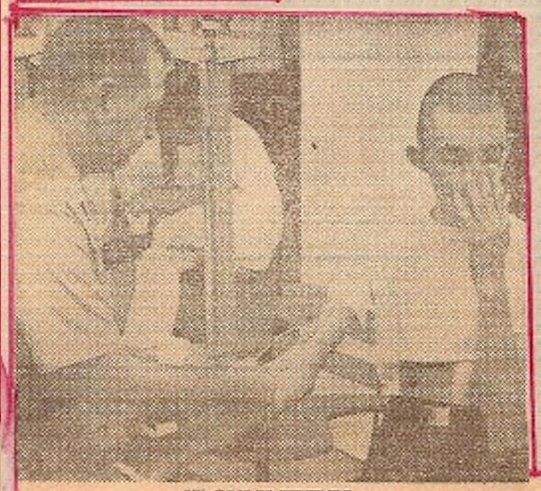
THAT'S GOT TO COME OUT
. . . Free dental check

CLOTHING



IF SHOE FITS
. . . Wear it

Orlando Sentinel
Classified GA 3-4511
Sunday, Nov. 24, 1968



IT ONLY HURTS
. When I laugh, Kenneth Mathis, Chattanooga, Tenn.

FIRST LESSON
. . It's ship not boat

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN,

TUCSON, ARIZ.

ORLANDO

BARRACKS

OPENED ON OCTOBER FIRST, 1968.
ARRIVED OCTOBER, SECOND, 1968.

TRAINING BUILDING

MESSHALL

C—SIXTEEN
BRIDGPORT SUNDAY POST, OCTOBER 6, 1968

NEW NAVY "BOOT CAMP" IN FLORIDA — The U.S. Navy opened its new Recruit Training center at Orlando, Fla., last week and three Connecticut youths selected to be members of the initial company, from left, are Robert C. Phillips of Niantic, John J. Bepko, III, of 125 Sunnyside court, Milford; and Paul J. Szeligowski of Carrington road, Bethany. They were chosen from applicants at the state's 12 recruiting offices. A total of 300 "boots" reported from the country's 50 states to undergo the first cycle of training at this third recruit center. The Milford youth was graduated from Milford High and the University of Connecticut and worked as a letter carrier for the U.S. Post Office in his home city during the summer while awaiting call to duty under the Navy's "Cache" program. He has applied for acceptance at the Naval Officer Candidate school, Newport, R.I.

Recruit Training Outlined

Twenty of the Naval Recruit Training Command's senior petty officers are attending a company commander's school in preparation for the first recruits who will arrive next week.

The four-week school, which started Sept. 16, is designed to prepare Recruit Training Command officials to become commanders of recruit companies.

THE FIRST week of instruction covered indoctrination.

Prospective commanders learned in the second week how to teach recruits to maintain their seabags. This part of the training covered clothes folding, barracks cleaning, clothes washing, and stowing and caring for their uniforms.

The final two weeks encompass infantry. Classroom sessions will be conducted in the new training building, and the prospective commanders will drill each other on the parade field.

This part of the program prepares students to conduct full - dress inspections and other formations the recruits will be standing.

"THE SCHOOL will be operating on a continuing basis in order to keep the Recruit Training Command with a full complement of company commanders and replacements due to transfers and retriements," said Lt. R. Hawkins, division officer of the school.

The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Florida) · 03 Sep 1968, Tue

FROM THE Orlando Area CofC's Military Affairs Committee visit to the Naval Training Center, Orlando, came some interesting notes:

The first recruit class will graduate on Dec. 12. Future classes will graduate on succeeding Fridays.

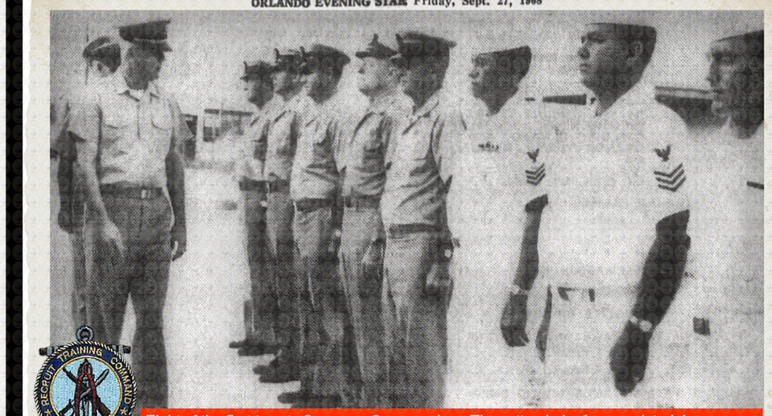
Dec. 12 falls on a Thursday. Someone asked why the first class would graduate on that particular date.

"The admiral doesn't like to fly on Friday the 13th," was the answer.

The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Florida) · 12 Dec 1968, Thu · Page 3

GRADUATION
First Class, Orlando Naval Training Center Recruits, NTC, 10 a.m.

ORLANDO EVENING STAR Friday, Sept. 27, 1968



Eight of the first twenty Company Commanders. They attended a four-week training course to prepare them in training the incoming recruits due to arrive 1 October 1968.

LT. H. B. HAWKINS
. . . Inspects company commanders to be

CHIEF QUARTERMASTER VAN BAKER
. . . Teaches blanket folding

Running Up Colors

Servicemen's Center at corner of Concord and Magnolia in Downtown Orlando, held its first flag raising ceremony Monday, getting ready for influx of Navy personnel coming to Orlando Naval Training Center. Left to right participating in ceremony are Chief Richard H. Duperry, Lt. Cmdr. Ray Gearing of Salvation Army, Lt. Richard A. DeVinny and BM2 John N. Eady. (Sentinel Photo by E. B. Mitchell)

SEMINOLE
ORANGE
Orlando Sentinel
METRO
OSCEOLA
Tuesday, Oct. 1, 1968

News-Press (Fort Myers, Florida) · 10 Dec 1968, Tue · Page 7

Service Notes

Seaman Recruit Paul M. Herring, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Herring of 1439 Coconut Dr., Fort Myers, will carry the flag of Florida as part of a Fifty-State Flag Team Thursday at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Orlando, as the first classes of recruits graduate from boot camp.

Herring and 49 other recruits will carry the flags of the separate states in the U.S. Each of the flag carriers will be natives of the state whose flag they bear. Ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. at the new training center Thursday to graduate 400 men in the first five companies to complete the 10 weeks of training.

Orlando Evening Star (Orlando, Florida) · 06 Dec 1968, Fri · Page 30

Florida Magazine HIGHLIGHTS

NAVAL TRAINING CENTER'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

During the first graduation ceremony to be held aboard the Naval Training Center, Dec. 12, each state flag will be carried by a man native to that state. Florida Magazine tells about the training period and graduation ceremonies Sunday.

The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Florida) · 07 Dec 1968, Sat · Page 13

Adm. Moorer To Speak

Recruit Graduation Slated

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chief of Naval operations, the highest ranking officer of the Naval service, will be the reviewing officer during Naval Training Center Orlando's first recruit graduation and review ceremonies at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Adm. Moorer will speak to the recruits and present awards won by individuals for accomplishments during their training cycle.

MASTER CHIEF Gunner's Mate D. D. Black, the most senior enlisted member of the Navy, will be on the reviewing stand.

Chief Black, who bears the title of master chief petty officer of the Navy, is the first man to hold this position as the senior enlisted adviser to the chief of Naval personnel.

His attendance at the graduation will mark his second visit to Orlando.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony. Guests should be seated by 9:45 a.m. to witness the entire program, which will be held in the recruit training area.

Moorer

Black

Brender To Speak

Capt. Bernard W. Brender, commanding officer of the Orlando Naval Recruit Training Command, will speak on "Pearl Harbor and Aftermath" during an American Legion Auxiliary National Security meeting at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Park Plaza Hotel. The Florida Department of American Legion is holding its Mid-Winter Conference at Orlando this weekend.

ORLANDO EVENING STAR
Phone GA 3-4411
Classified GA 3-4511
Page 3—A
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1968

Navy Recruit Center To Graduate First Class Thursday

Orlandoans who have traveled General Rees Avenue during the past 11 weeks have probably caught glimpses of young men in blue being put through their paces in military drill at the Recruit Training Command.

This training will be culminated Thursday, when 400 recruits complete their training during 10 a.m. graduation ceremonies to be held at the training area.

THE PUBLIC is invited to attend this impressive formal military ceremony, and should be seated by 9:45 a.m. to witness the full program.

The recruit regiment will pass in review. Receiving the honors will be Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chief of Naval Operations, the highest ranking officer in the Navy.

Also, among the military and civilian dignitaries in the reviewing party will be Master Chief Gunner's Mate D. D. Black, the senior enlisted member of the Navy, who bears the title of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

PROVIDING martial and ceremonial music for the graduation will be the Naval Training Center Band, whose members have performed publicly for throngs of Orlandoans as part of the "Orlando Presents" series held at the Band Shell in Lake Eola park.

The program will start at 10 a.m. when honors will be accorded Admiral Moorer upon his arrival at the reviewing stand.

The recruit regimental commander will then report to Capt. B. W. Brender, commanding officer, Recruit Training Command, by stating, "Sir, the

Moorer Brender

regiment is formed." Capt. Brender will reply, "Very well, carry on with the review."

THIS short, but traditional exchange will open the new training center's first graduation review.

Capt. F. W. Brink, senior chaplain, will give the invocation.

The center band will then play the National Anthem which will be followed by the recruit choir.

THIS 35-MAN choir, with Chaplain Charles Dorr as officer-in-charge, will sing "Anchors Aweigh" and "Eternal Father," the Navy Hymn. The choir is directed by Seaman Recruit Don Schilke. The choir rehearses twice weekly and performs at divine services held for the recruits.

The Drill Team Recruit Chief Petty Officer, after presenting the drill team to Adm. Moorer, will commence the team's exercises.

Following this presentation, the chief of naval operations will address the recruit regiment.

AFTER remarks by Adm. Moorer, Capt. Brender will present the honor company award to its recruit chief petty officer.

This award is given to the company (approximately 86 men) which has gained the most points for finishing first in weekly academic tests; two weekly personnel inspections; daily barracks and locker inspections; and infantry competition.

Company honormen will then receive certificates from Adm. Moorer and also the congratulations of Capt. Brender and Capt. Huey.

ONE MAN from each company will be so honored. His fellow recruits select him by voting for the man in their company who has demonstrated the highest attention to duty, military conduct, responsiveness to orders, cooperation, loyalty and comradeship.

The "American Spirit Honor Medal" will be presented by Adm. Moorer.

This, the highest honor a recruit can achieve, will go to the man who has displayed outstanding qualifications of leadership expressing American spirit, honor, loyalty, initiative, and who has set the highest example to his comrades-in-arms.

HE WILL be chosen by the Battalion and Military Training Department Staffs from observation and by recommendations from the Company Commanders.

The recruit regiment will then "Pass in Review," Lt. Bruce Jayne, commentator for the ceremonies, will mention the awards the recruit companies have won during competitions.

This will conclude the official graduation ceremonies. About half of the graduates will go directly to the ships for on-the-job training, and the other half will go to other navy schools for additional technical training.

The reviewing party will then proceed to the center mess hall where an informal cake cutting ceremony will be held for the award recipients, official guests, regimental staff and their families.

16-D THE TAMPA TRIBUNE-TIMES, Sunday, December 8, 1968

Navy's Orlando Facility Graduating Its First Recruits

By BILL DAUM
Tribune-Gannett Service

ORLANDO—Some 400 brand new sailors will step out and honor the Navy's highest ranking admiral here next Thursday morning as the first class of recruits graduates from the Navy's newest training center.

Five companies of recruits will step-off at 10 a.m. to the strains of a Navy band to wind up an 11-week stint here.

On the reviewing stand will be Adm. Thomas H. Morrer, chief of Naval operations. He will be joined by ranking Naval officers from the command, and Master Chief Gunner's Mate Delbert D. Black, who is master chief petty officer of the Navy.

At least 1,000 onlookers plus invited guests are expected at the ceremony, which is open to the public. It will take place on the huge recruit parade ground.

Wednesday evening, Adm. Morrer will be the guest of the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce military affairs committee. He will speak to civilian and military guests at a dinner reception at Rio Pinar County Club here. The senior U. S. Naval officer on active duty will brief the group on the future of the training center and the Navy role in central Florida.

The graduation Thursday will be the first and only Thursday ceremony of its kind for local Navymen. After a Friday graduation Dec. 20, the Navy will skip three weeks, then resume its planned weekly ceremonies on Jan. 17. The Dec. 12 date was made in deference to Adm. Morrer's tight schedule, a Navy spokesman said.

On the stand with Adm. Morrer will be Capt. Enders P. Huey, commander of the training center, and Capt. Bernard W. Brender, who heads the recruit training command. Retired senior officers in the area also are expected to be among the guests to share the reviewing stand. City and county officials also will be on hand.

More than 1,000 recruits are now undergoing training here. They arrive at an approximate rate of 200 a week. They are formed into 86-man companies for the 11 weeks of training that follow.

Upon completion of a fifth recruit barracks next year, the recruit population is expected to swell to about 4,000 at any one time. The training staff will then reach 300. And, by 1972, when an additional five barracks are due to be completed, recruits will be arriving at a rate of 800 a week, and on-board strength will stand at 8,000.

During the ceremonies here this week, Adm. Morrer also will present awards to outstanding recruits in each of the companies. As of Friday, officials had not determined who the winners will be.

According to a report from Capt. Brender, some 50 per cent of the graduates will be assigned directly to the fleet with the remainder going to service schools or other shore-based organizations.

The first group of graduates represents at least two men from each of the 50 states. Of the first 86 recruits formed into the first company, records show, all but four graduated from high school, and 16 of them have college degrees. The trend has continued since the first group arrived. Few of those now in training have failed to complete high school.

Recruits, their families, guests and officials will meet at the giant messhall Thursday after the parade and review. There Adm. Morrer will cut a large ceremonial cake to signal the end of the day's events.

The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Florida)
29 Oct 1968, Tue • Page 37

Hawkins Reports To Orlando Base

SANFORD — Seaman Wilbur E. Hawkins, USN, 19, son of Mrs. Catherine H. Hawkins of 1203 W. 12th St., has reported for recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Orlando, the Navy's newest Recruit Training Command.

With the approximately 85 others in his company he will be housed and trained in new air-conditioned buildings designed specifically for recruit training.

Hush Puppies

18—D
Thursday, Dec. 12, 1968
Orlando Sentinel
Classified GA 3-4511

By Charlie Wadsworth

IT WILL BEGIN that way but before it's over this very definitely will not be like any other day in the young life of Naval Training Center, Orlando.

Things will start to change about 10 a.m. which is "10 hundred hours" or 4 bells, depending on how Navyish you want to get. For some 400 young recruits, the parade which starts then will be the real thing. The first class of recruits at the training center will be on the way to graduation.

WHEN ASHORE, the Navy does things a little different.

For example, at 5 a.m. today there was no sound of cannon, nobody blew on a bugle, no whistles or klaxons sounded. Lt. Dexter Reynolds' band is sleeping soundly at this hour.

From the battalion office of each barracks a member of the instruction staff will step up to a microphone and say something about it being time for reveille and that it would be nice if everybody hit the deck. Recruits, I'm told, respond to this message as frantically as their old dads did to early morn World War II gunfire and bugling.

IT WON'T BE like this for Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, who's staying on base. The admiral probably won't want to arise at 5 a.m. He has two aides to awaken him, a commodore and a Marine major. Or, if he prefers, a steward can do the honors. Today being the big day that it is, the admiral may awaken the aides and the steward.

Like the recruits, the admiral probably will start his day off with orange juice at breakfast. After that, schedules differ.

The admiral goes to a press conference. The recruits return to barracks and Chief David Pitts. After 10 weeks, instructors like Chief Pitts sort of grow on Navy recruits. He's the guy who has brought them to this big moment.

They'll miss him later on. Today, however, all most of them can think about, as they shine their shoes and give their uniforms a final going over, is that in a couple of hours they can stop trembling everytime Chief Pitts approaches them. After the parade they can greet his entrance with, "What's new, Chiefie baby?" or something like that. They'll discover after the parade that the chief is an all right guy, a fine human being.

Pitts Joyce Brender Snow

FIVE COMPANIES or about 400 men will graduate.

The five companies due to graduate a week later, on Dec. 20, also will be in the parade today as well as a company of reserve recruits here for two weeks of active duty training.

Afterwards, says Lt. Bruce Joyce, an information officer, most of the recruits will receive 10 days leave. A few, however, will be going direct to advance schools. They'll get their time off when they complete the courses.

LT. JOYCE says that a poll of the first graduating class showed that 50 per cent of them expect parents or guests to attend today's graduation. He estimated that between 400 and 500 parents or guests from out of state will be here today for this event.

The classes will continue to number between 300 and 400 members until the fifth barracks building is completed next year. The size will increase again when the second camp is completed.

Contrary to what you may have heard, classes will graduate every Friday, whether the date falls on the 13th or 28th. This Thursday date was chosen to fit Adm. Moorer's schedule. There will be no graduation ceremonies after the one on Dec. 20 until Jan. 17.

Recruits who arrived here before Nov. 11 will get to go home for Christmas. Those who arrived afterwards will stay on base.

IT'S LIKE CAPT. Enders Huey said when he arrived not too long ago. Things are going to start happening.

Today things are happening. When Training Center commander Bernard Brender returns the salute of the recruit regimental commander this morning he'll set a lot of wheels into motion.

And 400 young Navy recruits will be making history for Central Florida — just as 1,500 students did a couple of months ago at Florida Technological University. These are two really big events to happen to a town this size in the same year.

NOW THAT the first class of recruits is about to graduate, don't you think it's time the powers that be remove that Orlando Air Force Base directional sign at the corner of E. Colonial Drive and Bennett Road, and replace it with one reading Orlando Naval Training Center?

The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Florida) • 12 Dec 1968, Thu • Page 2

First From Orlando Center

Navy Recruits Graduate

It's "Anchors Aweigh" for 400 Navy recruits Thursday, the first group to be graduated from the Orlando Naval Training Center.

The 10 a.m. ceremonies for the five companies which began their recruit training here Oct. 1 will see Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chief of naval operations, present as guest of honor.

A 50-STATE flag team will be one of the more colorful units taking part in the graduation. A massed formation of flags from each of the 50 states will be paraded during the ceremony.

Each state flag will be carried by a native of that state. The graduating group was drawn from all over the nation, but future recruits will consist mainly of men from the Southeastern United States.

THE CEREMONIES are open to the public and visitors are urged to arrive and be in their seats at the parade grounds by 9:45 a.m.

Graduations will be held each Friday from now on except during the coming holiday season. The next will be Dec. 20, but the regular schedule will not be resumed until Jan. 17.

COMPANY 001 was selected as the honor company of the five companies and one man from each company was selected by his fellow trainees as honor recruit.

Airman Recruit Gale Simon, Tolstory, S.C., won the honors in Company 001; Seaman Recruit James McEneaney, Dover, N.H., in Company 002; Seaman Recruit Alvin Zuehlke, Casa Grande, Ariz., Company 003; Seaman Recruit Ronald Turner, McColl, S.C., Company 004, and Seaman Recruit Ned McCord, Atlanta, Ga., Company 005.

THE HONOR graduates were selected on the basis of attention to duty, military conduct, responsiveness to orders, cooperation, loyalty and comradship.

Adm. Moorer

First Orlando Boot Camp Graduates Put on Great Show

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE, Friday, December 13, 1968

By BILL DAUM
Tribune-??????I

ORLANDO — The U.S. Navy nearly outdid itself here yesterday morning in the first of its recuit gradutations at the Orlando Naval Training Center, when more than 3,000 spectators watched some high class drill and cir umstance under the four-star eye of the chief of naval operations.

It was a grand day for the Navy.

Clear skies and a following wind, as old sailors say, keynoted ceremonies here which featured a straight from the shoulder talk from the most senior sailor of them all, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer.

In his talk to the graduates, Moorer stressed the importance of teamwork in the service, noting that "I assure you will not find duty dull in the Navy, if you take advantage of the opportunities the Navy offers."

The chief of naval operations then added to an earlier comment, made during a press conference yesterday, in which he stated in reply to a question that the present younger generation will probably find that their own children are just as "far out" as some members of the older generation think now.

"But just remember," Moorer cautioned, "neither the Navy nor the country owe you a living. But the Navy will give you an opportunity to exploit all the ability you possess."

He urged the graduates and all recruits assembled on the massive parade field "to seek knowledge. It's the secret of strength," Moorer said. "The Navy makes opportunity available to all of you. You are facing horizons unlimitied, but it still is up to each and every one to take advantage of it all."

Moorer's extemporaneous talk followed a series of presentations by the crack training center band, a drill team — led by a St. Petersberg recuit — and a billowing, 19-gun salute to honor the admiral.

A highlight of the ceremony was presentation of the center's first American Spirit Honor Medal to 20-year-old Wilbur Hawkins, of Sanford, who was named the outstanding recuit of the entire five company first phase group which began training Oct. 1. Hawkins, who is a graduate of Crooms High School, Sanford, and who attended Seminole Junior College, won the award for his leadership, honor, loyalty, initiative, and as the man "who set the highest example for his comrades in arms."

Hawkins is a Negro.

On hand to accept the award with her son was Mrs. Catherine Hawkins, and a 6-year-old sister, Eloise.

She was joined in the cutting by (Adm.) Moorer, who obviously emjoyed every moment of it, plus Capts. Bernard W. Brender, recruit training command skipper and enders P. Huey, commander of the trining center.

Huey, who was just as obviously happy that the affair was over during the cake ceremony at the recruit mess hall, commented that "some you win, and some you lose; But we think e've won this one."

More than 1,000 recruits took part in the doings. One of the highlights, too, was the recruit drill team. Under the direction of Robert H. Sackett, of St. Petersberg, which received the biggest round of applause for their work on the parade ground. Joining in the applause was Sen.-Elect Edward J. Gurney, the ranking civilian guest at the affair.

In his closing statement to the graduates, Admiral Moorer noted that first of all, "it's men who make the Navy, regardless of all those complicated machines." He also emphasized that each and every navyman is important to the team, and that experience and the friendships gained in the Navy "will give you invaluable assists, and some of the best memories and associations you will ever recall."

Orlando Sentinel METRO

Thursday, Dec. 12, 1968 1—B

Ceremony To Start At 10 A.M.

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Navy Center Graduates First 400 Recruits

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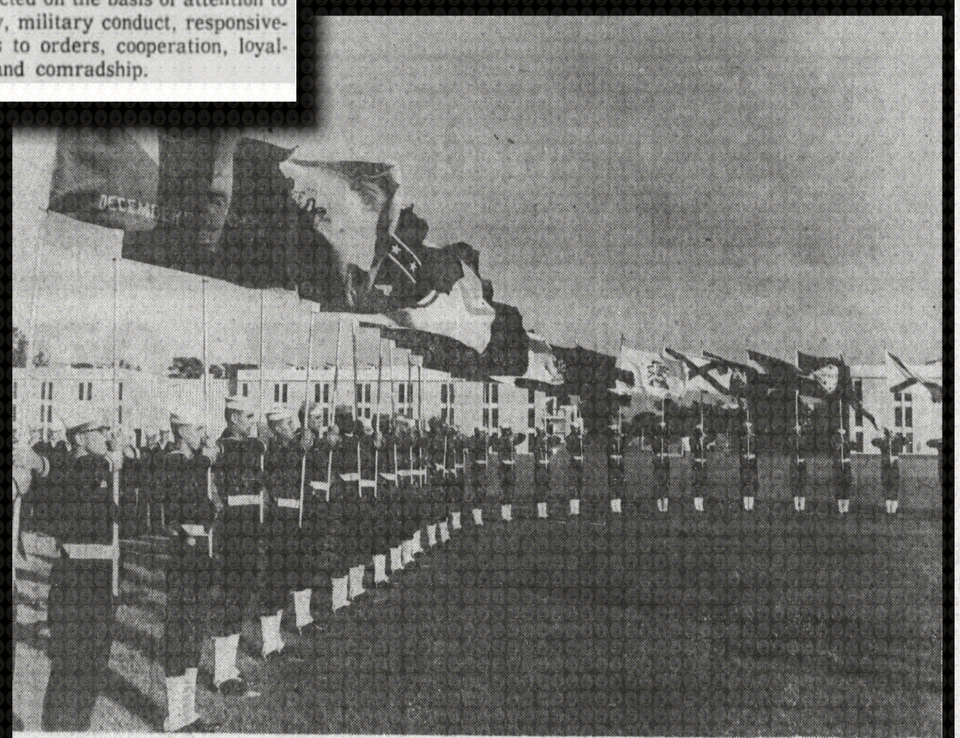
THE HONOR graduates were selected on the basis of attention to duty, military conduct, responsiveness to orders, cooperation, loyalty and comradeship.

McCord will report for duty aboard his ship the, USS Gearing, based at Newport, R.I., and the attend Navy technical schools before being assigned duty stations.



Star Photo By Gene Blythe

First Graduation At Naval Training Center

Training which started Oct. 1 for 400 Navy recruits at Orlando Naval Training Center ended Thursday morning when they were graduated in ceremonies at which Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chief of naval operations, was guest of honor.

Next graduation will be Dec. 20.

Weekly Friday graduation ceremonies will start Jan. 17.

ORLANDO EVENING STAR
Orlando, Florida, Thursday, December 12, 1968

Admiral Moorer May Retire Here

The Navy's highest active officer, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chief of naval operations, in Orlando Thursday morning to witness the first graduation of the Orlando Recruit Training Command indicated Central Florida might fill his own retirement demands.

"Well, my criteria go something like this: It must have full shooting facilities, golf, plenty of good fishing, and I don't want to wear a coat," the admiral said.

CAPT. ENDERS P. Huey, commander, Naval Training Center, gave Orlando "five stars in each category" but the admiral did not commit himself.

Commenting on the Navy's role in training today he said, "Our dominant interest is to train men to handle complex equipment and, of course, to impart motivation and dedication." He also remarked he has not seen a finer, more dedicated generation of American youngsters.

Asked if any possible Navy manpower cutbacks would be felt here, he said, "We can't put the finger on who would feel the pinch. Certainly the Navy wouldn't make such a large investment unless we had concrete plans for Orlando."

ADM. MOORER said the Orlando Training Center is in no way in competition with the Navy's other recruit training centers in San Diego, Calif., and Great Lakes, Ill.

On international matters involving the Navy, Adm. Moorer denied the two destroyers that withdrew from the Black Sea Wednesday were "recalled."

"This was a routine visit to the Black Sea, nothing more." He further denied the Russian navy's buildup in the Mediterranean Sea prompted the destroyers' visit. The cruise of the ships, Adm. Moorer stated, has been duplicated many times in the past.

OF THE Russian navy, he said a heavy emphasis is put on submarines, while "we have a balanced Navy, including sea-based airpower."

Star Photo By Gene Blythe

Orlando Sentinel

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for thou alone, O Lord, makest me dwell in safety.—Psalms 4:8.

Friday Morning, December 13, 1968

Young Men Of The Navy Inspire Their Orlando Audience

THE ORLANDO Naval Training Center graduated its first class of recruits Thursday, and many a civilian in the audience was forced to fight back tears.

They were tears of pride and joy — pride in these young men, and in this great country which they symbolize, and joy to be a part of such an inspiring occasion.

It was a great day for the Navy, but it was an even greater day for the civilians who crowded the grandstand and the edge of the reviewing field.

There on the field paraded more than 800 young Americans—clean-cut, ramrod straight, proudly showing off the uniform of their country.

There on the field was the youth of America — the backbone of this nation.

They represent 99 per cent of young America — not the tiny fraction of bums who seem to get most of the headlines and dominate the TV network news shows.

They advertised to the world that this is the future of America — and it is in good hands.

* * *

THIS FIRST graduating class is very special to the Navy because it represents the fulfillment of the new training center. Thursday's ceremonies were so important that they attracted the nation's highest ranking Navy officer — Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chief of naval operations.

But it represents even more than that. This class, and the Orlando Naval Training Center, are symbolic of today's Navy where training is so important.

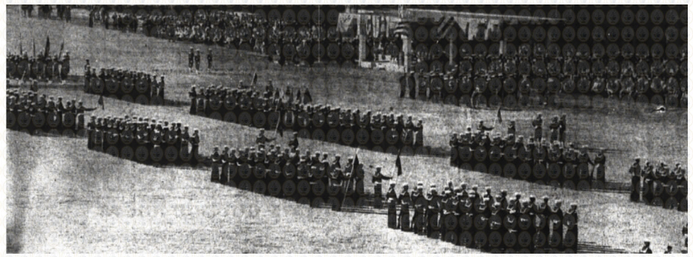
This is a modern Navy, with sophisticated electronic equipment, nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft that may cost $10 million each.

Our Navy is an educated one, and this is the importance of the Orlando Naval Training Center and Thursday's ceremonies. That, plus the great and thrilling feeling of patriotism these young Americans brought to their audience.

(Sentinel Photo by Gene Blythe)

PART OF THE 50 STATE FLAG TEAM AT THE EXERCISES . . . A feature of each Friday's (except during holidays) graduation

Florida Today (Cocoa, Florida) · 13 Dec 1968, Fri · Page 18A



THE PARADE GROUNDS: SPIRITED BANDS, PROUD SPECTATORS AND THE REVIEWING STAND AWAIT TRADITIONAL COMMAND "EYES RIGHT"

Big Day for 'Orlando Navy'

By BILL DAUM
TODAY—Tampa Tribune News Service

ORLANDO — The U.S. Navy nearly outdid itself here Thursday in the first of its recruit graduations at the Orlando Naval Training Center, attended by more than 3,000 spectators including the chief of naval operations and Senator-elect Ed Gurney.

It was a grand day for the Navy. Clear skies and a following wind, as old sailors say, keynoted ceremonies which featured a talk from Adm. Thomas H. Morrer.

The chief of Naval operations emphasized "neither the Navy nor the country owe you a living. But the Navy will give you an opportunity to exploit all the ability you possess."

Morrer's address followed a series of presentations by the crack training center band, a drill team — led by a St. Petersburg recruit — and a 19-gun salute to honor the admiral.

A highlight of the ceremony was presentation of the center's first American Spirit Honor Medal to 20-year-old Wilbur Hawkins, of Sanford, who was named outstanding recruit of the five company first phase group which began training Oct. 1. Hawkins, a graduate of Crooms High School, Sanford, won the award for his leadership, honor, loyalty, initiative, and as the man "who set the highest example for his comrades in arms."

On hand to accept the award with her son was Mrs. Catherine Hawkins, Hawkins' 6-year-old sister, Eloise. They joined Adm. Morrer, in a cake-cutting ceremony. Capt. Bernard W. Brender, recruit training command skipper, and Capt. Enders P. Huey, commander of the training center, also took part.

Picture Report

Staff Photos
By Bob McDonald

HAWKINS, HIS SISTER, AND ADM. MORRER CUT CAKE

SEN.-ELECT ED GURNEY

A DRILL TEAM, SHINED AND SHARP, RAISES WHITE GLOVES IN 'PRESENT ARMS'

Orlando Sentinel
Friday, December 13, 1968

Moorer Galloway Robertson Gurney

Hush Puppies

By Charlie Wadsworth

THE SHOW will tighten up a bit here and there, mainly from experience gained from the shakedown parade.

But, judging from the standing ovation reaction from the more than 3,000 visitors on hand, there doesn't appear to be too much room left for improvement of the recruit graduation reviews at Orlando Naval Training Center.

The first one turned out to be that good.

THE NAVY knew it had a winner going, because you can't beat pomp and ceremony and tradition. The question was how long would it take to iron out all the rough spots?

They accomplished this during the first 10 weeks and for that reason everyone aboard, from Capts. Enders Huey, commander of the Naval Training Center, and Bernard Brender, commander of the Recruit Training Command, down to the lowest boiler tender rating is to be complimented.

There were some close calls along the way. For example, the van scheduled to bring the cartridges used in the saluting battery broke down. A call went to the Navy base at Mayport and a truckload of the cartridges was dispatched immediately, and arrived in Orlando hours before the battery boomed a 19-gun salute for Adm. Thomas H. Moorer.

DURING THE review, one of the young recruit company commanders almost dropped his sword as they met in front of the reviewing stand.

Boiler Tender 1.C. Paul Kizer, a color guard drill instructor, breathed a sigh of relief when it was obvious that the youngster was very much in command of both his faculties and his sword.

"We wet their gloves down this morning so they could hold on to the swords. I guess we didn't wet his down enough.

"We have had only one real dress rehearsal. As we get a little older, we'll have more time to teach the recruits more, but these kids have done very well today. They've been very good," he added.

THAT FEELING was shared by former Navy Capt. Joe Galloway, the Winter Park Telephone Co. president, who came to the review from the U.S. Independent Telephone Association meeting in Miami and left immediately afterwards to join some of the association members in a tour of the Kennedy Space Center.

Ex-Captain Galloway, it should be noted, wasn't taking any chances with the weather. He showed up wearing a topcoat, but by review time, the sun had warmed things up beautifully.

Another appreciative former Navy officer present was Robert Robertson.

THE PRESSURE was on Thursday morning. Just before the "Pass In Review" order was sounded, two young recruits, who apparently hadn't learned to relax while standing at attention, keeled over. One fainted the afternoon before, during the dress rehearsal.

THERE WERE some lighter moments. When Recruit Wilbur E. Hawkins of Sanford was named winner of the American Spirit Honor Medal, his mother was escorted onto the field to stand in line with Adm. Moorer and Capts. Huey and Brender, as her son received his certificate.

Hawkins saluted the admiral and two captains, moving smartly across the row of officers. As he stepped in front of his mother he raised his arm as if to salute her before he grabbed her up in a bear hug. This lad, like others in his class, hadn't seen any of his family in 10 weeks.

"I kind of thought she might be there, but I was surprised. And I sure was glad to see her," Hawkins said later, using his sword to join the admiral in slicing a huge cake. A delighted but somewhat awed spectator to this operation was his 6-year-old sister, Eloise.

THAT SALUTING battery, a twin gun battery mounted on a trailer, banged briskly in the early morning cool. It also poured a considerable amount of smoke, so much that Herndon Airport Tower, a mile or so away, radioed the pilot of the charter plane carrying Sentinel photographer Frank Russell aloft on an aerial photo assignment and asked, "Where's all the smoke coming from?"

ALSO HERE for the inaugural event was a prominent retired admiral, J. J. Clark. The last time Bernard Brender saw Clark was 20 years ago on the bridge of the U.S. carrier Midway.

Then Capt. Moorer was operations officer aboard the carrier. Brender recalled that Admiral "Jocko" as he's known, predicted then that Moorer would some day become the Navy's chief of naval operations.

Clark is traveling with Adm. Moorer, going with him from here to California where Moorer is to be guest of honor at a banquet.

Retiring in 1953 and now living in New York, Clark has authored two successful books, "Sea Power and Its Meaning," and "Carrier Admiral."

"I'M MOST happy to be here. It was a fine day for a graduation, a fine thing for the Navy and a fine thing for the country. I like your weather," he said.

U.S. Senator-elect Ed Gurney, standing nearby, smiled as Brender told Clark what a big factor weather was in selecting Orlando for a recruit training center.

"You saw where we were today and how it was. At Great Lakes they're graduating in the drill hall," he said.

Gurney, an Army tanker in World War II, said he thought some of the regimental drill teams in his day would equal the Navy's, but that he was quite impressed by the first recruit parade and the amount of progress made at the training center.

AFTERWARDS in the classroom areas where some tender reunions took place, two statements issued by fresh graduates rather summed up the morning's great experience:

"Hi, dad. I saw you up in the stands when we passed by . . . but I couldn't wave at you."

"Okay, Mom, you gotta get used to the idea that I'm grown up now."

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Navy Graduation

Members of Fifty-State Flag Team, in massed formation of flags from all 50 states, participate in ceremony for first class of 400 graduates at Orlando Naval Training Center. Each state flag was carried by a graduate who was a native of the state.

More than 3,000 persons turned out for graduation of recruits, who passed in review before Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chief of naval operations. Next graduation ceremony will be Dec. 20. (More photos, stories on Page 3-B) (Sentinel Photo by Frank Russell)

I found Mr. Hawkins back in 2017. He was living in Florida. While researching at NARA, I scanned a couple of photos of Mr. Hawkins (like in the above article) and they also had a separate photo of the little girl, his sister, listed as unknown. I gave copies of these articles to one of the archivist to put with the photos pertaining to Mr. Hawkins. I also sent the same to Mr. Hawkins. Never know when someone may come along researching his lineage and it helps 'fix' our Naval history and to make sure it is properly documented. ETCS Wilbur Hawkins retired from the U.S. Navy.

(Sentinel Color Photo by Gene Blythe)

(Sentinel Photo by Jim Muncaster)

RECRUITS STAND AT ATTENTION . . . At Navy graduation ceremony Thursday

WILBUR HAWKINS, SANFORD, (BACK TO CAMERA) HONORED AS TOP GRADUATE . . . By Adm. T. H. Moorer, Capt. Enders Huey, Capt. Bernard Brender

Navy's Graduation Day Big Event For 400 Men

Thursday was many things for the first 400 recruits to graduate from the new Recruit Training Center at Orlando: Family reunion day, a day of imminent homecoming as ex-recruits checked and rechecked to see if they still had their plane tickets.

It was also a day of sorrowful parting from friends of what seemed a lifetime.

"I'M A FREE man now," exulted Seaman Dan Schilke to his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schilke of Sanford. 'You look wonderful," remarked his admiring aunt.

One mother hugged her tall son so hard that white finger marks appeared on his sunburned neck when she released him.

All of the graduates have two weeks leave coming. Most were leaving the same afternoon. Then it's more schooling before embarking on the final adventure: assignment to the fleet.

"We'll see you around," fast friends reassured each other, not daring to exchange glances.

"WILSON," one sailor was heard to shout to a departing shipmate. "Don't give 'em too much trouble in the fleet."

Another youth was overheard telking to his family as they headed for their car. "I've been called 'worm' and 'scum' and so many things—it's good to feel like a human being again."

"Welcome back to the human race, son," his father said, smiling.

400 Sailors Graduate Into Fleet

By RON WIGGINS
Sentinel Staff

At 1100 hours Thursday 400 young men in navy blue passed in review before the highest ranking officer in the Navy and graduated "into the fleet," as young salts like to say.

The officer was Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chief of Naval Operations.

It was Orlando's first batch of recruits to pass the 10-week initiation into the United States Navy since the Recruit Training Command opened in October.

MORE THAN 3,000 spectators and relatives and friends of sailors spilled over the grandstands and crowded fringes of the parade field to witness the pageant.

After receiving a 19-gun salute, Adm. Morrer offered his "warmest congratulations" to the sailors and told them about the Navy.

"Your horizons are unlimited; what you make of your Navy years is solely up to you.

"Some of you will serve on submarines, some on ships and aircraft, and some will serve ashore at various support activities. I assure you that you will not find it dull in any sense if you take advantage of what the Navy has to offer.

"NEITHER the Navy nor your country owes you a living. But both have given you a great opportunity," Moorer said.

He urged the young men to further their training and reach out for knowledge. "Knowledge is power," he said.

The Admiral reminded them they are members of the most modern, best equipped navy in the world.

"Yet it is the men who make the Navy, who make decisions, fight battles and wage wars," he stated.

Seen among the spectators were U.S. Senator-elect Ed Gurney and Dr. Charles Millican, president of Florida Technological University.

Also present were a number of Orange County and Orlando officials and area civic leaders.

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