

FACT SHEET

TCU & the Military



Texas Christian University's founding brothers were military veterans. TCU has always been an educational partner to the U.S. military and today serves host to Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs for the Air Force ROTC *Flying Frogs* Det. 845 and the Army's *Horned Frog* ROTC Battalion.

The first U.S. Armed Forces training activities commenced on the TCU campus when the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor was still more than a year away. In June 1940, men who were enrolled in the government's Civilian Pilot Training Program (later the War Pilot Training Program) were taught in TCU physics classes and were transported daily in buses provided by TCU to local fields for flying lessons.

From September 1942 to January 1944, Jarvis Hall was made available to the Special Flight Instructors Program (AV-P), which was an experimental effort by the Navy to utilize as instructor ensigns who were over age or did not meet the physical requirements to make combat pilots.

TCU was the first of only six such units in the United States. Other service units quartered in Jarvis during this same time were the Army's and Navy's Enlisted Reserve Corps and a Marine Corps group. The Navy V-12 program for training of naval officers brought approximately 200 officers and trainees to live in the old Clark Hall. Trainees took regular college courses and received special technical training.

In 1950, the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) was officially established on the campus, joined by the Army ROTC the following summer. Initially, the Transportation Corps was the only branch represented on campus, producing 24 TCU officers through 1954.

In the spirit of interservice cooperation, a joint Army-Air Force ROTC band was formed in 1952. In 1954, the Horned Frog Regiment Transportation Corps Officer Training Unit was redesignated as a General Military Science Reserve Officers' Training Corps Unit, offering commissions in all branches. In 1955 and 1956, the Army-Air Force Corps of Cadets merged into one organization, but the Air Force established a separate program in 1957.

Women were first admitted to the ROTC units beginning in the early 1970s. The first female cadet from TCU was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army in 1975. Two years later, Air Force ROTC Cadet Gayle Remaly became the first female to be given the rank of cadet colonel (the top cadet leadership position) and was placed as commander of all cadets at TCU. In 1980, the first woman from TCU's Air Force Detachment 845 was accepted to pilot training.

Each year, about 3 percent of TCU's graduating seniors go on to serve as commissioned officers in the U.S. armed forces. During World War II, TCU was one of 131 colleges and universities nationally that took part in the V-12 Navy College Training Program which offered students a path to a Navy commission.

TCU Masters graduate Gordon R. England held several roles including president of General Dynamics in Fort Worth and was part of the transition to Lockheed-Martin. Mr. England served as 72nd and 73rd Sec. of the Navy, and as first Deputy Sec. of Homeland Security.

He also acted as the U.S. Deputy Sec. of Defense and Acting Sec. of Defense in 2009. Mr. Gordon has also served on Fort Worth's city council, USO's Board of Governors, the Defense Science Board, and the Board of Visitors at TCU. He's currently a member of the Naval Order of the United States.

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