HISTORY OF TMI AND ITS CORPS OF CADETS

FOUNDBING OF THE SCHOOL

In 1893, the Bishop of West Texas, Rev. James S. Johnston, founded a school for boys on Government Hill, overlooking San Antonio, adjacent to Fort Sam Houston. Mrs. Edward Cunningham of Sugar Land, Texas, donated the land. The funding for the school originally came from donors from the Northeast United States. While Bishop Johnston was on a fund-raising trip in Massachusetts, he attended a temperance meeting at which the speaker said, "If all the time and money that had been spent in the temperance cause had saved but one boy, it would be money well spent." In reply, another gentleman questioned the seriousness of that statement, to which the speaker replied, "Yes sir; if it was my boy!" The Bishop then followed by saying, "Everyone is somebody's boy and for everybody that goes astray some mother's heart is caused to bleed. The good Father in Heaven, whose children we all are, showed His love for us in giving His only Son to save us and bring us home. Perhaps some of you have sons who cause you grief. May you not hope that if you help other mothers to save their boys, God will save yours." The Bishop's words inspired Mrs. George P. Andrews of New York to donate much of the initial funding and the school's furnishings.

In the school's early years, TMI cadets were reminded of her sacrifice and prayed for both her and that her wayward son might come home. Years later her son finally came home to die in the arms of his mother. At the time TMI was established, it was the only church school for boys south of Kansas and west of the Mississippi. Bishop Johnston felt that the best use of money was "To coin it into Christian character among the rising generation... for character is the only true wealth." Bishop Johnston is said to have stated, "The best education on earth is none too good for Texas boys."
The school opened as West Texas Military Academy on October 3, 1893 with twelve students and a Rector aided by a faculty of six teachers, a commandant, a school doctor, a house mother, and three music and dance instructors. The school stood on a commanding point on Government Hill overlooking San Antonio and adjoined Ft. Sam Houston, using the lower parade ground of the Fort for both drill and athletics. The school soon grew to forty-nine students to include twelve boarders, all except one being Texans. The stated purpose of the school was to prepare boys for entrance into college or the business of life with intellectual standing and unsurpassed moral tone. The school's aims were to furnish thorough instruction, Christian training, careful supervision emphasizing a sense of moral responsibility and instilling the principles of a well-regulated, manly life.

From the very first days, the school took on a military character. Cadets marched to and from classes. All students were cadets and were outfitted in gray uniforms patterned after those of West Point cadets. The TMI uniforms cost $15 to $18. Reveille was conducted daily at 6:30 a.m. and cadets drilled for 30 minutes at 10:00 a.m. The bugler sounded Tattoo, and finally, Taps was played nightly at 9:30 p.m. TMI's first two commandants were non-commissioned officers detailed from Ft. Sam Houston.

Rev. Allen L. Burleson was the first Headmaster or Rector and would continue as such until 1899. Rev. Burleson was an ideal choice to head the new military school. He had graduated from Racine College at the head of his class all four years and then from Bexley Theological Seminary where he earned three of the four graduation awards offered. As an educator, he had been Assistant Headmaster at St. John's Military Academy and Assistant Rector and Commandant at Kenyon Military Academy. Rev. Burleson felt that the combination of an academic and military education produced young people who were "Better fitted to fill positions in life where others are to come under their control." He further saw military training as an asset in religious education: "Military training in the American schools is a great moral agency for good which tends to give us better sons, better neighbors, better citizens." Perhaps no individual has had more of a lasting impact on the Corps of Cadets at TMI than the school's first Headmaster.

By the 1895-1896 school year, the school enrolled 109 cadets and the Corps was organized into two companies and a small battalion staff. The Commandant commanded the Battalion as was the custom of military
schools of that time. Between 1893 and 1896 the rapid growth of the school had taken it from a one building school to a five building complex to include a 1,680 square foot gymnasium. In 1898-1899 the Corps first received arms. Twenty 1860 model Springfield Rifles were purchased and issued to B Company. The entire Corps was under arms by 1901 with 125 Springfield .45 caliber Rifles.

Only five years after the founding of TMI, its graduates were proving their worth in and out of uniform. The Spanish American War saw 23 alumni in service of which 15 were officers (two in regular army and 13 in volunteer regiments). The first blood spilled by a TMI alumnus was Alexander M. Barrett, class of 1898, who was the Chief Bugler for the famous Astor Battery. He was wounded in the Battle of Manila. Shortly thereafter, at least nine alumni were involved in the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) and one in the Boxer Rebellion (1900). 1LT C.C. Kinney '97, was the first known alumnus to be decorated, awarded the Decoration of the Double Dragon from the Emperor of China for actions with 9th Infantry Regiment (the Famous Manchu Regiment) at Peking in the Boxer Rebellion. The school soon became known as the "West Point of the Rio Grande."

While the military accomplishments of TMI became known, its academic reputation was growing as well. The first former cadet to graduate from college, Charlie Quinn, class of 1896, graduated with highest honors at the top of his class from Purdue in 1899. Four years later, another former TMI cadet Douglas MacArthur, class of 1897 was at the top of West Point's class of 1903. By 1903, the Corps was manning a major portion of G Company, 1st Texas Infantry National Guard. During the summer of 1904, seventy-eight TMI cadets participated as soldiers of that company in maneuvers in California. Two years later the Corps of Cadets conducted its first field training trip. In November 1908, the TMI Honor System which had operated informally, became formalized as part of cadet life. TMI was awarded the highest ratings possible from the Department of the Army Inspections during the 1908-1910 school years.
By 1910, the land south of Ft. Sam Houston had developed rapidly into a residential district that prevented the needed expansion of the school. Faced with increasing enrollment demands, the school moved to Alamo Heights on College Boulevard in 1910. The new campus was 200 feet above the business district of San Antonio and overlooked both the city and Ft. Sam Houston. The decline of San Antonio real estate and a drought prevented the sale of the old Government Hill campus. In order to obtain funding for the Alamo Heights campus, Rev. Mercer Johnston, son of the Bishop, and former TMI faculty member, raised $100,000 through friends of the school.

Willard E. Simpson '01 and Guy Simpson '02 were responsible for the construction of "Old Main," the first pre-cast, tilt-up concrete building in the United States. It was the only fireproof building in Southwest Texas at the time. The thirty acres of land were donated by Mr. Clifford George. The building became known affectionately as the "Shack." An additional building on campus was the "Bat Roost," a peculiar structure built in 1911 which housed bats that helped eliminate insects as a potential problem. It burned down in 1949. The school's athletic field was the largest in South Texas at the time. By the time the Corps moved to the Alamo Heights campus, school dances or "Hops" were routinely held, with music provided by one of the military bands at Ft. Sam Houston.

That first year at Alamo Heights, the command of the battalion passed from the commandant to the first cadet battalion commander, Cadet Major R.L. Burnnett, class of 1910. A Drum & Bugle Corps was organized for use at all formations. The level of proficiency in drill had reached new heights as reflected by the commendation of the British Military Attaché, COL MacLachlan. He said, "I have never seen a better drilled Corps of Cadets." Annual Field Training or "encampment" was held at New Braunfels on April 13-20, 1911 and was supported by a special train.

In the fall of 1915, the cadet regulations were updated and rewritten. Until then, the cadet regulations had been modeled as closely after West Point's as existing conditions would allow. The new regulations were based on those of the following institutions: West Point, Culver Military Academy, The Manlius School, Texas A&M, The Citadel, and Virginia Military Institute. In the fall of 1915, the Corps adopted a
new style dress uniform, a West Point style "Coatee Jacket with Shako." The total cost of the 1915 TMI cadet uniform was $67.29. Cadets also purchased a US Army regulation uniform which was olive drab and had a "choker" collar. The cadets wore what is now known as a "smokey the bear" style of hat for drill and the standard army cover of the day for more formal events. The cadet gray of West Point did not last through World War I. By 1918, the Corps was uniformed in army olive drab and the gray uniform was abandoned.

Prior to the United State's entry into World War I, former cadets were fighting for France. Major Edgar Tobin '14 and CPT H. Clyde Balsley '10 joined the French forces. Both were members of the famous Lafayette Escadrille. This French Fighter Squadron was composed of primarily American flyers. CPT Balsley '10 was one of the six original organizers and was awarded the Croix de Guerre and Medaille Militare for bravery at Verdun in 1916, where he was wounded. MAJ Tobin '14 became a famous World War I ace, having shot down eight enemy aircraft, including three in one day. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for action when he fought alone against three enemy aircraft and shot each down. He also received the Croix de Guerre with palm. The twenty-two year old Major was likely the youngest in US Army at the time; both he and CPT Balsley transferred to United States' 103rd Aero Squadron once America had joined the war. Also flying for the Army Air Service during the war was Lieutenant Walter Lockey '12 whose gallantry in action was recognized with the award of the Silver Star.

On the ground during World War I, Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur '97 served with the 42nd Division and was credited with naming it the "Rainbow" Division. Serving as the Division Chief of Staff and as a Brigade Commander, he led from the front during initial patrols into German lines. As first man out of the trenches, MacArthur, who was wounded twice, was awarded numerous U.S. and foreign awards for valor, including the Distinguished Service Cross.

LT James Siman '12 was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism while leading a platoon of the 23rd Infantry. He is credited with the capture of 250 enemy soldiers and was awarded the Croix de Guerre for actions at the Battle of Blanc Mont. CPT Tobin Rote '13 of the 357th Infantry was seriously wounded at St. Michiel and received America's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre and Ordre de la Couronne (Belgian) with the rank of Chevalier. Major Henry Terrell '05, who commanded a battalion of the 35th Infantry was awarded the Croix de Guerre for bravery on July 18, 1918. LT George C. Walker '14 of the 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division, was gassed twice, wounded twice, and cited twice for bravery in action at the Soissons in July 1918. Major Washington Grayson '05 the son of Chief of the Creeks, was the highest-ranking American Indian in the war and commanded the 336th Machine Gun Battalion of the 84th Division.

1LT Irving M. McCracken '03 was TMI's first war fatality. He was killed in a grenade explosion during training while serving with the 157th Infantry. In addition, at least two other alumni were wounded. TMI was only twenty-five years old, but had contributed at least 41 alumni to the war effort. This total includes 32 officers: one brigadier general, one colonel, seven majors and two army doctors. Four were awarded the nation's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and at least seven were awarded the French Croix de Guerre.

In 1916, the United States began the Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC). TMI was one of the first units designated as such on January 4, 1919. In July 1918, TMI further made contributions to the defense and war effort by training a company of 123 civilian volunteers. This volunteer group comprised of citizens, bankers, doctors, merchants, teachers, and real estate men were drilled and trained by the Office of the Commandant, with the aid of cadets. Overtures from Germany to Mexico gave added significance to TMI's training mission. In the fall of 1918, eighty-five soldiers of the Students' Army Training Corps lived and trained on campus.

In post war years, the Corps maintained its outstanding reputation. In 1921, TMI received highest honors among military schools from a five-region area. A cadet was selected as the "top cadet" at military training summer camp among 400 participants. In 1923, the Corps updated its uniforms to those associated with the World War II period. This olive drab (OD) uniform included an "OD" tie and coat.
In 1926, with the resignation of COL Williams, the school sought a new headmaster. That same year, Dr. W. W. Bondurant, Head of the San Antonio Academy, approached the Diocese about merging the two schools. The Diocese was in financial hardship and had been advised that West Texas Military Academy's relationship with the Diocese was not a sound financial policy. On September 21, 1926 the merger was completed, placing the school under a private corporation. The upper school of San Antonio Academy and the old West Texas Military Academy merged, presided over by Bishop Capers and Dr. Bondurant. The former rivals soon straightened out their "domestic wrinkles." The San Antonio Academy cadets did have something of a novelty with regard to their new military unit and the word was, "No more loafing now!" The cadets were integrated in the same classes and cadet companies and soon were on the closest of terms. With the arrival of the upper school of San Antonio Academy at the West Texas Military Academy campus, a name change was in order. After all, these two groups had been arch rivals. West Texas Military Academy was renamed Texas Military Institute. San Antonio Academy maintained the lower school responsibility.

Between 1926 and 1953 both schools fell under the administration of the Bondurant family. Both San Antonio Academy and TMI were under one superintendent, but were physically separated; each had their own president. TMI never stopped being an Episcopal school with the name change or legal status. Episcopalian Chaplains and the Book of Common Prayer were used. The Diocese continued to refer to TMI as "Our Church School for Boys." In 1936, the Diocese and the country were enduring the Great Depression. Likely due to this, TMI was sold by the Episcopal Church to Dr. W. W. Bondurant for $8,400, with Dr. Bondurant assuming a $62,000 debt. That same year, TMI's first Band Company was organized.

The dress or Class A Uniform worn today and based on the Army "Blues," was first worn at TMI in 1929. Beginning in 1932, TMI's shooters began an incredible run as one of the most successful rifle teams in the country. TMI would go on to win thirty of the coveted Hearst Rifle Trophies over the next nineteen years.

In 1941, prior to the United States entry into World War II, David Lee "Tex" Hill '32 joined the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) flying for China against the Japanese. This was reminiscent of TMI's World War I heroes flying for the French. Tex Hill had been a commissioned pilot in the US Navy. He became the Commander of the 2nd Squadron for the Flying Tigers and the second highest Flying Tiger ace (12 ¼ credits).

Later, as an officer of the US Army Air Corps, he commanded the 75th Fighter Squadron and then the 23rd
Fighter Group in China. While flying for the United States, Tex Hill added six more victories (18 ¼ total). Returning to the U.S. in 1944, he commanded 412th Fighter Group, the first jet group in the Air Force. Hill received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters, two air medals, two Presidential unit citations, the British Distinguished Flying Cross and was decorated by the Chinese six times.

At the opening shots of World War II TMI alumni were present. John M. Frost III ’35 was stationed in Pearl Harbor at Hickham Field during the attack. He flew a B-17 bomber in the defense of the Philippines and was killed after being shot down in 1942. Among others who defended the Philippines were General Douglas MacArthur ’97, CPT Leland D. Bartlett ’20, CPT Charles T. Brown ’24, and 2LT Robert Pennell ’32. 2LT Pennell was awarded the Silver Star for action as a Philippine Army battalion commander in the defense of Bataan.

Because of World War II, military courses at TMI were aimed to prepare cadets for actual combat. This included hand signals, battle formations, tactical troop movements, and weapons training. The latter was hampered somewhat by the Army’s recall of the Corps’ 1903 Springfield Rifles for arming combat formations. This situation was corrected by the reissue of the Springfield Rifles in 1943.

General MacArthur led a valiant, but hopeless defense of the Philippines against Japanese forces as Commander in Chief of American Forces. He was awarded the Medal of Honor and subsequently led the allied forces in the Southwest Pacific. General MacArthur’s strategy centered on island hopping and bypassing Japanese strongholds en route to liberation of the Philippines. His words, “I shall return,” became a battle cry of the allied forces. Many credit General MacArthur’s strategy with saving thousands of allied lives. In 1945, MacArthur fulfilled his promise by returning to the Philippines and marching into Manila. On September 2, 1945 General MacArthur assumed powers as Supreme Commander Allied Forces and accepted the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri.

In the air over the Pacific, MAJ William Hensley ’35 received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart and the Air Medal, flying the Spirit of San Antonio, a B-29 over Japan on more than 150 combat missions. Also, MAJ Jarvin P. Jones ’34 received the Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission over Engelskirchen, Germany flying an A-20 Bomber. The Silver Star was awarded to CPT Walter Steves ’35 for valor in air combat.

The beginning of what is now known as Special Operations included former TMI cadets. CPT James Breece ’36 was a member of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS was the forerunner of the Special Forces) who fought with partisan forces behind German lines in Bulgaria and Italy after he parachuted into Greece. Later, he served alongside Chinese Nationalist Forces. MAJ Cresson H. Kearny ’32 also served in China as a member of the OSS.

In the European Theater, the list of TMI alumni included MG John B. Coulter ’11 who commanded the 85th Infantry Division, COL Ralph Haines ’30 who commanded the 350th Infantry Regiment, and COL Chester Sluder ’32 who commanded the 325th Fighter Group-flying the P-47 Thunderbolts. MAJ Walter J. Fellenz ’35 was wounded and awarded the Silver Star commanding the First Battalion, 222nd Infantry. LT Radcliffe S. Simpson ’36 died from wounds received in the Battle of Normandy, where he piloted a glider during the D-Day invasion. LT George Gillespie ’42 was leading a rifle platoon through the hedgerows of France during the breakout from Normandy when he was killed in action. CPT Carl C. Ulsaker ’38 received the Silver Star as a company commander with the 378th Infantry.

World War II took a heavy toll on TMI alumni. Twenty-nine alumni died in service, from the Philippines to Normandy. The hardest hit was the class of 1942, which lost five former cadets in service. Approximately 433 former TMI cadets served in uniform in all theaters of war. Many cadets were commissioned as officers immediately following graduation. Regulations called for a minimum age of twenty-one, but in some cases, the war allowed the trusty TMI graduates to be commissioned as early as their seventeenth birthdays.

During the war and after, the Corps of Cadets maintained its high standards. In the fall of 1946, TMI replaced its 1903 Springfield Rifles with the M1 Garand Rifle. In 1948, the TMI Rifle Team beat 27 out of 30 colleges in the Fourth Army Area Match (one of the three that beat TMI had a former TMI cadet). The prior year, they received both the first and second place trophies. In post World War II years, TMI reached new
heights of academic success. Between 1949 and 1950, fifteen former TMI cadets attended West Point and two were selected as distinguished graduates. Former cadets included ten students at Princeton, the Valedictorian at Washington & Lee, and one of only two Harvard Summa Cum Laude graduates.

For many years, the cadets at TMI conducted “Sham Battles.” These maneuvers were common at military schools and served as both a training event and entertainment for spectators. During the 1949 Sham Battle, the cadets used 2,000 rounds of blank ammunition. In 1953, the Board of Trustees transferred TMI ownership back to the Episcopal Diocese. Although TMI would remain a separate, distinct, non-profit corporation, this ended the twenty-six years of outstanding leadership from the Bondurant family.

The Korean War saw former cadets in the ranks and in command. General Douglas MacArthur ’97 was the Theater Commander in Chief and General John B. Coulter ’11 commanded both I and IX Corps. General Coulter was awarded the Silver Star for rallying United Nations troops against overwhelming Chinese forces. CPT David N. Schlatter ’47 received the Distinguished Flying Cross as a pilot with the 430th Fighter-Bomb Squadron.

In April 1961, the Board of Trustees voted to do away with TMI’s military program. The Corps was incensed! The American flag was actually reported by local newspapers to have been raised upside down as a symbol of distress. The alumni and supporters of TMI wrote letters and sent telegrams of protest until the board withdrew its decision.

One of the most memorable experiences for TMI cadets was in November of 1963 when President John F. Kennedy trooped the line of the TMI Corps while it was formed on the west-side of Broad Street at the intersection of College Boulevard. The TMI Cadet Band played the “Washington Post March.” The President’s car stopped and he shook the hand of Cadet Hugh Scott ’64—Acting Battalion Commander. The President expressed his appreciation for the honor paid by the Corps, and introduced Cadet Scott to Mrs. Kennedy and to Governor Connally. The next day in Dallas, the President was assassinated and the Governor wounded.

In the fall of 1962, TMI constructed an obstacle course on campus. The Army selected TMI as an Honor Unit in 1966 and 1967. In 1967, the Corps grew to its largest size in history, 277 cadets. Between 1967 and 1973, General Ralph E. Haines Jr. ’30 held the highest levels of command in the Army. He was Vice Chief of Staff of the US Army, Commander US Army Pacific and finally, Commander Continental Army Command.

TMI alumni fighting in the Vietnam War included Warrant Officer Don L. Sewell ’63, who was awarded the Silver Star twice as a helicopter ambulance pilot and LT William Haines ’61, who was wounded and awarded the Silver Star as a forward observer with the 1st Cavalry Division. Major Frederic Tolleson ’49 (USMC) received the Silver Star while serving as senior advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Brigade. Also awarded the Silver Star was LTC Arthur Pfeffer ’51. MAJ Phillip Blake ’56 and Charles M. Armstrong ’64 were wounded in action in Vietnam.

In 1970, E Company was reorganized with middle school cadets and an upper school first sergeant and commander. The military nature of TMI began to take its toll on enrollment. Action was taken to broaden TMI’s appeal and in 1972 females were first admitted. The female students were not required to be cadets although many did join. During this same period, more than fifty military schools nationwide closed or abandoned their military programs, a direct effect of the Vietnam War. In 1974, membership in the TMI Corps of Cadets became optional, similar to the change that occurred at Texas A&M (until 1963) and Virginia Tech (until 1964). The first year that TMI’s military program was not mandatory, the Corps dropped to 94 cadets and was reorganized into two companies. In 1976, C Company was reactivated after the Corps returned to 131 cadets - the largest cadet enrollment since the program became voluntary. The next year, the Corps received the Honor Unit with Distinction rating.
Crammed facilities and lack of room for expansion led to the construction of the third TMI campus in 1989. During spring break, the school moved north to its new location off Camp Bullis Rd. Among the benefactors who made the new campus possible were Mr. Albert B. Alkek for whom the campus is named. The Paul and Evelyn Howell family, whose three sons Steve '67, Doug '69, and David '73 attended TMI, donated the fifty-five acres of land. During the late 1980's, the M1 Rifles, which had armed the Corps since 1946, were turned in. A smaller number of drill rifles were used to equip the MacArthur Rifles drill team only. In the early 1990's, during the Gulf War, the country called on TMI alumni again.

During the 2000-2001 school year, cadet regulations were revised and patterned after those used at Texas A&M and Virginia Tech. A new cadet manual reflecting these regulations was published in August of 2001. Also that month, with the receipt of M1 Garand Rifles, cadets once again could pass in review under arms. Today, there are approximately 50,000 high schools in the United States in which TMI is one of only 45 classified as a military school. Since 1983, the JROTC program has received the highest rating possible from the US Army Cadet Command - Honor Unit with Distinction.

Between 2000 and 2002, TMI graduated 35 cadets. Of these nine (25%) went on to the Federal Military Academies, fifteen (42%) were offered ROTC scholarships, and others received major civilian scholarships. Schools attended by these cadets include: Yale, West Point, The Air Force Academy, The Naval Academy, The Merchant Marine Academy, and Vanderbilt. It is unlikely that any other school in the nation can boast of such an accomplishment.
Bishop James Steptoe Johnston
Founder of Texas Military Institute
Bishop, Soldier, Educator

The Right Reverend James Steptoe Johnston was born in Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi (near Natchez) on June 9, 1843. His father was Captain James S. Johnston, a wealthy planter and lawyer who was considered one of the most intellectual men of Mississippi. The son attended Presbyterian Oakland College in Mississippi (now Chamberland-Hunt Academy). Leaving Mississippi, he attended the University of Virginia with his brother Charles. In May or June of 1861, while attending the University of Virginia, he enlisted in the Confederate Army at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Joining I Company, 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, he served as a private through the following battles: Siege of Yorktown, Seven Pines, Seven Days, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, 2nd Massassas, South Mountain and Antietam. In the battle of Antietam, he was the Regimental Commander's orderly and messenger. In 1862, he was commissioned an Officer of Cavalry and was transferred to J. E. B Stuart's Cavalry Corps as the Drill Master of the Second Cavalry Brigade, commanded by General Robertson. He served with that organization as a Second Lieutenant until wounded in 1863. On leave in Mississippi, while recovering from his wound, Union Forces captured him. He spent the remainder of the War at Ft. Johnston, on Johnston Island* in Lake Erie as a prisoner of War. His brother, Charles, served in Darden's Battery (Jefferson Flying Artillery) in the Western Theater.

After the war Johnston married Mary M. Green and was employed as a lawyer until 1867 when he assumed management of the family plantation. Following his religious vocation, he was ordained deacon in 1869 and became a priest in 1871. He remained in Mississippi until 1876 as a parish priest. He served parishes in Kentucky and Alabama prior to his consecration as Bishop in 1887.

In 1887, Johnston became the Second Bishop of the Missionary District of Western Texas. This district covered 110,000 square miles. This required him to regularly travel by "hack" or stagecoach 10,000 miles to his parishes. That same year Bishop Johnston received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the University of the South. Bishop Johnston said his service in the Civil War prepared him well for the demands of his duties on the Texas frontier.

Bishop Johnston was a progressive churchman with an ecumenical heart. In the 1890s, he admitted a congregation of African American Methodists and founded the St. Philip's Female College for African Americans. The latter was one of the first such institutions in the United States. He was known to have taught Christian Interdominationalism and, in fact, had once written the Pope about reunification. Two themes dominated his religious life: Stewardship and Education. He was passionate about building up the Nascent Church in West Texas. He knew first hand the usefulness of military training for the formation of character and leadership.

In 1904, West Texas became a self-supporting Diocese and Bishop Johnston became its first Bishop. In 1913, Bishop Johnston retired to Kerrville, Texas and 1916 resigned after 45 years in the priesthood and 28 years as Bishop. On November 4, 1924 Bishop Johnston died. He left a lasting legacy in the Southwest - TMI being his proudest achievement.

*Johnston Island is where James S. Johnston's father was captured by Indians years prior to the Civil War and ransomed for "wampum."
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR ‘97 AND TMI

Douglas MacArthur was one of the original 49 cadets enrolled at West Texas Military Academy during its first year, 1893-1894. The Headmaster, Rev. Allen Burleson, said MacArthur was the "Brightest student he had ever known," not withstanding the thousands he had over his lifetime. Douglas was said to be a wizard at mathematics, knew history "up-side-down," and talked about famous men "As if they were his friends." He was a sponge for knowledge with a photographic memory. His grade point average as a freshman was 96.3, as a sophomore 95.15, as a junior 96.3, and as a senior 97.33. In mathematics, his last two years, he earned a 97.65% and 99.07%. As a junior and senior he was awarded medals for both the highest scholarship and military achievement. Years later, General MacArthur would write that TMI gave him "A desire to know, a seeking for reason why, a search for the truth." TMI prepared him well for the academic challenges of West Point. He achieved a record 93.33 % on the West Point exam (the next highest score 77.9%). At West Point, his grade point average was 98.14 and in several courses he was the only cadet ever to score a perfect 100%.

Douglas was not only a scholar, he was also selected as First Sergeant of A Company his senior year at TMI, a position of significant responsibility in the small cadet corps. His classmates credit TMI with his decision to become a soldier. Again, TMI prepared him well. According to a West Point classmate, "He entered West Point and instead of being a confused plebe, he was in many ways a veteran soldier." MacArthur went on to command the Corps at West Point. At TMI, he became a servant leader. He led by example and cared for those he led and his leaders. TMI's legendary reputation for collegiate scholarship was started in part because of this concern for others. In the spring of 1896, Cadet MacArthur was taking exams seated behind Cadet Charles Quinn '96, the Battalion Adjutant. Quinn's exam results would determine if he would continue on to college. The questions toward the end of the exam became more difficult, Quinn became discouraged, placed his exam in the trash, and left. MacArthur, seeing this, pulled the test out and put it on the teacher's desk. Days later, results were announced and Quinn had passed. Cadet Quinn went on to Purdue, graduated with honors at the head of his class and became the first TMI alumnus to receive a college diploma.

Douglas MacArthur was also an athlete. He captained the tennis team and in baseball, played shortstop. On the football team he was the team captain and quarterback. TMI played one team with a particularly nasty reputation for dirty tricks on the field. Douglas asked the opposing team how they would like to play, by the rules as gentlemen, or otherwise TMI was ready to give as tough as they got. The opposing team played the cleanest game ever and lost. Douglas always showed a fighting spirit for everything, whether it was in the classroom, on the drill or athletic fields.

According to his classmates, Douglas was a "regular fellow" and was liked by every member of his class and teammates. He attended the school dances and girls counted him a "prize," but in other ways he was different. He knew how to be at ease when the rest of the students were self-conscious. Despite his military assignments, Douglas returned to TMI three times after graduation. He visited as a lieutenant in 1911, as the youngest Chief of Staff of the Army in 1939, and finally as retiring General of the Army in 1951. General Douglas MacArthur said upon his visit in 1951, "This is where I started, and I thank a merciful God that I am able to come back to the school again."
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
SOLDIER, STATESMAN, AND ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES IN
AMERICAN HISTORY

- One of only nine officers to ever hold Five Star Rank
- Commander of Allied Forces Southwest Pacific in World War II
- Commander UN Forces in the Korean War
- Accepted surrender of Japan
- A member of the only two father-and-son pairs to be awarded the Medal of Honor
- Revered in Japan for molding the country into a modern democratic, economic giant
- Revered in Korea as Military Leader and Savior of the Country
- Youngest Chief of Staff of the Army in history
- Father of Modern West Point.
- Holder of three Distinguished Service Crosses and seven Silver Stars for valor

General MacArthur was the most controversial general in American history, having clashed with three Presidents over policy. After graduation from TMI and West Point, Douglas MacArthur went to the violence-torn Philippines in the closing days of the Philippine Insurrection. Traveling the Far East, he became familiar with the Japanese military and culture. In 1914, he was recommended for the Medal of Honor for bravery while performing reconnaissance behind Mexican lines during the United States expedition in Vera Cruz, Mexico. During World War I, MacArthur served with the 42nd Division and was credited with naming it the "Rainbow" Division because the division recruited its members nationwide.

Serving as the Division Chief of Staff and as a Brigade Commander, he led from the front. He led initial patrols into German lines and went "over the top" as first man out of the trenches attacking into "no man's land." MacArthur was awarded numerous U.S. and foreign awards for valor and was wounded twice.

After the war, MacArthur became the Superintendent of West Point and came to be known as the Father of Modern West Point. There he initiated summer training at military installations, modernized the curriculum, started intramural sports and curtailed hazing. In 1928, he led the U.S. Olympic Team to Amsterdam. In 1930,
President Herbert Hoover appointed MacArthur as the youngest Chief of Staff of the Army in history. Under the Hoover Administration, General MacArthur became a controversial figure. When thousands of veterans protested conditions during the Great Depression by camping in Washington D.C., President Hoover ordered regular army troops to evict them. General MacArthur took personal responsibility for the mission. Afterwards, some credited MacArthur with saving the country from communist agitators among the protesters, while others vilified him for overstepping his authority and dealing harshly with needy veterans.

Although President Franklin D. Roosevelt kept MacArthur as the Chief of Staff of the Army, these two clashed. When the President intended to cut the military budget, MacArthur went to the White House and threatened to resign; he believed the cuts would result in a loss of the next war. FDR relented and the military budget was not cut. FDR called MacArthur "the conscience of America" and America's "best general and worst politician." Upon retirement from the Army, MacArthur was named military advisor to the Philippines as the threat of Japanese militarism loomed ominously in Asia. The Philippine Commonwealth named him as Field Marshal.

Six months prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, FDR recalled MacArthur to active duty to command the Philippine and United States' forces. Despite improvements in training and equipment, the Philippine Army and United States' small force were no match for the Japanese. General MacArthur led a valiant but hopeless defense of the Philippines against Japanese forces. Falling back to Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island, General MacArthur begged for reinforcements, but none were sent. As the ill-armed and diseased-ridden Philippine and United States' forces came close to being overwhelmed, MacArthur was ordered to leave the Philippines to lead the Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific. Departing in a PT boat, he proceeded to Australia.

From there, General MacArthur's strategy centered on island hopping and bypassing Japanese strongholds en route to liberation of the Philippines. His words, "I shall return," became the battle cry of allied forces. General MacArthur's strategy was in sharp contrast to that of the Central Pacific where frontal assaults against heavily defended strongholds cost heavy Marine Corps casualties. Many credit General MacArthur's strategy with saving thousands of allied lives. In 1945, MacArthur returned to the Philippines and marched into Manila.

On September 2, 1945 General MacArthur assumed powers as Supreme Commander Allied Forces and accepted the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri. He personally oversaw the rebuilding of Japan. A new constitution, land reforms, freedom of the press, trade unions, and women's right to vote were radical introductions to the Japanese culture. His impact on peace in Asia, especially the refocusing of Japan from samurai to entrepreneur, is felt today and will continue to be felt by future generations.

In 1950, with the invasion of South Korea by the communist North, General MacArthur again took command, this time of all United Nations forces. His landing at Inchon, behind enemy lines, is considered a brilliant military maneuver that saved an allied force on the brink of defeat in the defense of the Pusan Perimeter. Under his leadership, UN forces drove North Korean troops back to the Chinese border along the Yalu River. At that time, China entered the war by launching a massive counterattack, catching UN forces by surprise.

General MacArthur wanted to blockade China, bomb enemy supply lines in China, and use Chinese Nationalist troops in the war. Disagreements over strategy led to a sharp division between MacArthur and President Truman. Ultimately, President Truman relieved MacArthur of his command. Despite the setback, General MacArthur was given a hero's welcome throughout the United States. In a farewell speech to Congress, MacArthur made the 'now famous' observation that "old soldiers never die, -- they just fade away."
General Officers From TMI
General of the Army Douglas MacArthur 1897 (US Army)
Lieutenant General John B. Coulter ’11 (US Army)
Brigadier General Allen Driscoll Rooke ’11 (US Army)
Brigadier General Arthur Bee McDaniel ’12 (US Air Force)
Brigadier General John Harry Stadler ’19 (US Army)
General Ralph E. Haines, Jr. ’30 (US Army)
Brigadier General David Lee Hill ’32 (Texas Air National Guard)
Brigadier General Arthur W. Kellond ’35 (US Air Force)
Brigadier General Willard Hill ’43 (US Army)
Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr. ’45 (US Army)
Brigadier General Robert M. Wilson ’45 (US Army)
Major General Miles Cutler Durfey ’47 (US Air Force)

Distinguished TMI Cadet Alumni
Julian Onderdonk Class of 1900 Father of Texas Painting
Frank A. Juhan Class of 1906 Bishop/Football Hall of Fame
Rafaelo Diaz Class of 1912 Metropolitan Opera Star
Edgar Tobin Class of 1914 World War I Ace
Ross Youngs Class of 1920 Baseball Hall of Fame
Robert R. Brown Class of 1927 Bishop
David "Tex" Hill Class of 1932 World War II Ace
Cresson H. Kearny Class of 1932 Rhodes Scholar
John B. Armstrong Class of 1937 King Ranch Manager
Robert M. Ayres, Jr. Class of 1944 Chancellor, University of the South
Tom C. Frost, Jr. Class of 1946 Frost Bank Chairman
Dan Blocker Class of 1946 TV Star (Bonanza)
Porter Loring, Jr. Class of 1947 Porter Loring Mortuary Chairman
Henry E. Catto, Jr. Class of 1948 Ambassador
David R. Scott Class of 1949 Astronaut
Lewis Sorey III Class of 1951 Pulitzer Prize Nominee
Lamar Smith Class of 1965 Congressman

TMI Honored War Dead
World War I
Irving M. McCracken ’03

World War II
Hugh B. Abbey ’42
Charles Armstrong ’40
Kelts C. Baker, Jr. ’35
James Edward Bastion, Jr. ’36
Ben C. Broocks, Jr. ’41
Russell Carrico ’40
Robert E. Condon ’36
F. Welbourne Dodd ’3
Roland V. Dover II ’40
Edward R. Downie ’36 Albert
C. Duetsch, Jr. ’42
John Frost ’35
George W. Gillespie ’42
C. Henry Goulette ’32
Arthur Bee McDaniel ’12
R. Murchison ’40
William C. Ocker ’43
Robert Pennell ’32
William Phillipe ’39
James L. Rice ’38
Charles F. Rowsey ’37
Henry Sartwelle ’42
Radcliffe Simpson ’36
C. Edward Smith ’42
Robert B. Taylor ’39
Albert R. Tillotson, Jr. ’39
J. Warren Weissheimer ’35
Theodore Wuerpel ’36
Glen D. Zimmerman ’46

Korea
William P. Stacey ’47

Died In Service
Joseph M. Davis ’46
Creed A. Sewell ’58
MEDAL OF HONOR

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1897

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur 1897 (DSC with Two Oak Leaf Clusters)

LT James Siman '12
CPT Tobin Rote '13
MAJ Edgar Tobin '14
BG David Lee Hill '32

HEADMASTERS OF TMI

There have been twenty-six "Headmasters" at TMI. They have had various titles; Rector, Principal, Superintendent, President, President-Headmaster and finally Headmaster. Seven have been Ordained Priests of the Episcopal Church, eight PhDs, and at least six former military officers. During the leadership of the Bondurant Family there appears overlap in the list below. This is because the responsibility for both TMI and San Antonio Academy rested with the superintendent and there was a TMI President.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1893-1899</td>
<td>Rev. Allen L. Burleson</td>
<td>Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>1899-1901</td>
<td>Rev. Mercer G. Johnston</td>
<td>Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>1901-1902</td>
<td>Rev. H. W. Starr</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>1902-1904</td>
<td>J. F. Howard</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904-1905</td>
<td>Mr. A. G. Blacklock</td>
<td>Superintendent &amp; Headmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1908</td>
<td>Rev. A. W. S. Garden</td>
<td>Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908-1912</td>
<td>Mr. Angus McD. Crawford</td>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912-1915</td>
<td>Mr. J. F. Howard</td>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915-1917</td>
<td>Mr. Charles J. Lukin</td>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917-1926</td>
<td>COL J. Tom Williams</td>
<td>President &amp; Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926-1947</td>
<td>Dr. W. W. Bondurant</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943-1952</td>
<td>COL W. T. Bondurant</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944-1953</td>
<td>Dr. J. D. Miller</td>
<td>Headmaster &amp; Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954-1954</td>
<td>MG J. R. Sheetz</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954-1961</td>
<td>Mr. Addison B. Craig</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961-1964</td>
<td>Mr. Robert M. Sandoe</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964-1970</td>
<td>Dr. Edward P. Droste COL USA (Ret)</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970-1972</td>
<td>Rev. Canon Spencer Edwards</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972-1974</td>
<td>Mr. Leslie Huff</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974-1976</td>
<td>Rev. Leonard A. Duce</td>
<td>President &amp; Headmaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976-1987</td>
<td>Dr. Canon A. Nelson Daunt</td>
<td>President &amp; Headmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-1989</td>
<td>Rev. Clifford S. Waller</td>
<td>President &amp; Headmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1994</td>
<td>LTG William H. Schneider USA (Ret)</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-1995</td>
<td>Dr. Elizabeth E. Hollamon</td>
<td>Headmistress</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-1999</td>
<td>Dr. James C. Robison LTC USA (Ret)</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-present</td>
<td>Dr. Mark Desjardins</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thirty-nine individuals have served as commandant at TMI. All have had Army service except one who served with the Air Force. The first two commandants of cadets at TMI were both non-commissioned officers detailed by Ft. Sam Houston. This started a long and important relationship between TMI cadets and army NCOs. Starting in 1895, Ft. Sam Houston detailed an officer to act as commandant. After 1906 the United States Army detailed active duty officers to be the military senior instructor and commandant. This arrangement continued until the mid-1970s when retired officers served at TMI. The title commandant over the years has been used interchangeably with Professor of Military Science and Senior Army Instructor. Between 1966 and 1970 a retired Air Force Officer was the Commandant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Commandant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1893-1894</td>
<td>SGT Famel</td>
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<tr>
<td>1894-1895</td>
<td>SGM C. K. Landis</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895-1898</td>
<td>CPT E. E. Hatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1898-1899</td>
<td>1LT James H. Harbord</td>
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<tr>
<td>1899-1900</td>
<td>CPT W. E. Ayer (Fall) and LT H. R. Perry (Spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1906</td>
<td>COL C. C. Cresson - (Major USA-former Civil War Colonel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906-1910</td>
<td>CPT O. B. Rosenbaum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-1913</td>
<td>LT Erle M. Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-1915</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>1915-1917</td>
<td>2LT Paul C. Raborg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918-1919</td>
<td>1LT Alfred Fauntleroy Wallace Mac Manus (CPT in Spanish American War)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920-1921</td>
<td>MAJ Henry Terrell, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922-1923</td>
<td>CPT Otho W. Budd</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923-1927</td>
<td>1LT Lowell M. Riley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-1932</td>
<td>CPT Karl E. Henion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932-1935</td>
<td>CPT Charles P. Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936-1939</td>
<td>MAJ Carl M. Ulsaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939-1941</td>
<td>LTC Charles Deahl</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941-1942</td>
<td>MAJ Robert S. Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>LTC E. B. Spiller</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>CPT Arthur L. Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>COL W. T. Bondurant (Professor of Military Science was CPT Arthur L. Walker 1944-1945)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>CPT Edward H. Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-1949</td>
<td>COL D. E. Bradford</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949-1952</td>
<td>LTC Samuel G. Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952-1954</td>
<td>MAJ Richard I. Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954-1955</td>
<td>CPT H. B. Edward</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-1958</td>
<td>MAJ Rex A. Wilbanks</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958-1962</td>
<td>MAJ Olen E. Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962-1963</td>
<td>CPT William Herbert Bloss</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963-1967</td>
<td>MAJ Gary E. Lindquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967-1970</td>
<td>Lt Col Donald S. Irwin USAF (Ret)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1971</td>
<td>LT Bill Johnson (Senior Army Instructor was CPT Gary E. Lindquist 1970-1971)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-1973</td>
<td>CPT Vivian Villareal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-1976</td>
<td>MAJ Robert T. Hickey</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976-1978</td>
<td>LTC William M. Greenberg USA (Ret)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978-1991</td>
<td>COL George M. Rodgers USA (Ret)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-1999</td>
<td>LTC Tom D. Moore USA (Ret)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>LTC Bob Blake USA (Ret)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-present</td>
<td>LTC John A. Coulter II USA (Ret)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMANDEANTS OF CADETS**
FOUNDER'S PRAYER
Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this school set apart to the glory of thy great Name, and the benefit of thy Church and Nation. Let thy Holy angels dwell herein and preserve us in peace and let thy blessing be upon us evermore. Give thy grace to those in authority, the headmaster and faculty, that they may exercise holy discipline and be themselves patterns of charity, self-denial and diligent scholarship. Bless those who are prepared here; take from them all vanity and give them true humility, genuine virtue, and sound character. Enlighten their minds, purify their hearts, and go forth from here to proclaim thy gospel, show forth thy love and manifest thy glory. Open, O Lord, the hearts and hands of thy people that they may be ready to give and glad to distribute to our necessities. Bless the founders and benefactors of TMI and recompense them with the riches of thy everlasting Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE TMI CORPS OF CADETS
Gracious heavenly Father, Who searches the hearts of humankind, help us to draw near to You and worship You in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of You be heartfelt. Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish. Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorn to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear. When truth and right are in jeopardy. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance, and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer. May we find genuine pleasure in clean and wholesome mirth and feel inherent disgust for all coarse minded humor. Help us, Lord in our work and in our play, to keep ourselves physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight, that we may the better maintain the honor of the Corps untarnished and unsullied, and acquit ourselves like ladies and gentlemen in our effort to realize the ideas of TMI in doing our duty to You and to our country. We ask all of this in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ALMA MATER
On our city's border
Reared against the sky,
Stands our alma mater, dear old T.M.I.
Hey! Hey! Hey!
We swear allegiance,
Orange and Black held high.
Hail to the colors,
T.M.I.

TMI SIGNIFICANT DATES
• 1893 TMI opens as the West Texas Military Academy on Government Hill near Ft. Sam Houston.
• 1911 TMI moves to the Alamo Heights Campus
• 1926 West Texas Military Academy incorporates the Upper School of San Antonio Academy and the school is renamed the Texas Military Institute. The Episcopal Diocese transfers the property to the leadership of the Bondurant Family.
• 1952 After twenty-six years of service under the leadership of the Bondurant Family, the ownership of TMI returns to the Episcopal Church.
• 1961 Board of Trustees votes to discontinue the military program at TMI. Resulting outcry from the Corps and alumni caused the board to reverse its decision.
• 1972 After seventy-nine years as an all-male school the Board of Trustees made the decision to admit female students. Participation in the Corps is optional for the newly admitted females.
• 1974 The Board of Trustees votes to make the military program at TMI Optional.
• 1989 Campus opens at West Tejas Trail.
TMI TRIVIA

• TMI was founded in 1893.
• Bishop James Steptoe Johnston founded TMI.
• The original name of TMI was West Texas Military Academy (WTMA).
• Douglas MacArthur was A Company's First Sergeant.
• Besides Douglas MacArthur only nine others have had five star rank: Admiral William Leahy, Admiral "Bull" Halsey, General George C. Marshall, General Henry "Hap" Arnold, General Omar Bradley, Admiral Chester Nimitz, General Dwight D. Eisenhower.
• TMI (WTMA) was known as the West Point of the Rio Grande.
• Three presidents have reviewed the TMI Corps of Cadets: The Corps attended ceremonies for President Taft at Ft. Sam Houston. President Kennedy visited campus and reviewed the Corps on Broad Street in San Antonio the day before he was assassinated. Additionally, the Corps marched in future President George W. Bush's 1998 governor's inaugural parade in Austin. Also, it is believed that future President Theodore Roosevelt met with TMI cadets while stationed with the 1st Vol. Cavalry Regiment (Rough Riders) prior to their deployment to the war in Cuba.
• Bishop Johnston gave the Rough Riders their departing sermon.
• TMI first marched in the Battle of Flowers Parade in 1899.
• Major Edgar Tobin, Class of 1914 and CPT H. Clyde Balsley '10 flew for France with the Famous Lafayette Escadrille during World War I. MAJ Tobin was a World War I ace with eight victories.
• Five alumni have been awarded the nation's second highest award for valor, The Distinguished Service Cross.
• One alumnus of TMI has been awarded the nation's highest award for valor, The Medal of Honor: Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1897. He is a member of one of only two father-son teams to receive this award. His father received the medal in the Civil War.
• Twelve TMI Alumni have become General Officers.
• There have been three TMI campuses: Government Hill, Alamo Heights and Tejas Trail.
• Females first joined the TMI Cadet Corps in 1974.
• The TMI Cadet Corps became voluntary in 1974.
• Females first attended TMI in 1972.
• The First Female TMI graduate was Miss Jeanette Centeno in 1973.
• First Female Cadet Battalion Commander was Cadet Elizabeth Ann Wiatrowski, Class of 1993.
• The first female cadet graduate was Cadet Susan Mengden, Class of '76. She was also the first female cadet officer.
• The first female to complete four years as a cadet in the upper school was Cadet Robin A. Davis '79.
• The first African-American cadet battalion commander was Cadet Michael Burns '96.
• Twenty-six people have been Headmaster at TMI.
• The first football forward pass was thrown in Texas by the TMI (WTMA) football team on Thanksgiving Day 1904 in San Marcos. TMI used the pass after hearing about its use by Yale that season. TMI won their game that day.
• Current school colors are Black, Orange, and White.
- Original school colors were Purple and Gold.
- During World War I an active army unit was stationed and trained on the TMI campus - a company of 85 soldiers of the Student Army Training Corps. Members included several former cadets who upon discharge returned as cadets.
- During World War II twenty-nine alumni died in service. The Class of 1942 lost five members alone.
- The first former cadet to graduate from college, Charlie Quinn, Class of 1896 - graduated with highest honor at the top of his class from Purdue in 1899.
- Brigadier General "Tex" Hill, Class of 1932, World War II ace was a member of the famous Flying Tigers in China during World War II. He is credited with shooting down 18 ¼ enemy aircraft with an additional 20 possibles.
- Astronaut David Scott, was a member of the Class of 1949. He was co-pilot and orbital space walker for Gemini 8 and Apollo missions. He was portrayed prominently in the HBO series "To the Moon and Back."
- Thirty-two former TMI cadets have sacrificed their lives in service to their country.
- New York Yankee, Baseball Hall of Famer, Ross Young was a right fielder and member of TMI Class of 1922.
- Henry Catto, Class of 1948, has served as both the Ambassador to El Salvador and to the United Kingdom.
- TMI mascot is the Panther.
- The TMI Salute Cannon is named "The Bishop" in Honor of Bishop James Steptoe Johnson. It is a Model 1841 Mountain Howitzer.
- TMI’s Alumni Publication has been called the Bugle Notes, TMI Times and TMI Today.
- The TMI student newspaper has been known as the Bulletin, Panther, Texas Cowboy, and Panther Picayune.
- The second highest ranking alumni is General Ralph E. Haines, Jr. ’30 who served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.
- Julian Onderdonk, class of 1900 is considered the Father of Texas Painting and has several of his paintings in the White House.
- The MacArthur Rifles (TMI’s Drill Team) was so named after General MacArthur’s death in 1964.
- The 85th Infantry Division’s shoulder patch in World War II was the letters “CD” for Custer Division.
  The troops received the unofficial “Coulter's Dogs” during the hard fought Italian Campaign while under the command of MG John B. Coulter ’11.
- The school’s yearbook has been called The Shack, The Blue Bonnet, and The Crusader.
- The first two commandants of cadets were non-commissioned officers.
- TMI Veterans of the Spanish American War numbered - 23, World War I - 41, and World War II - 433.
- The American flag carried by General Douglas MacArthur ’1897 from Corregidor, in the Phillipine Islands, to Australia to take command of allied forces in the South Pacific during World War II hangs in the TMI library.
- The strangest structure on a TMI Campus was the Bat Roost at Old Main. This building housed bats to control insects in the area. It was built in 1911 and stood until it burned down in 1949.
- During World War I TMI trained a militia of San Antonio citizens to defend Texas.
- During the Civil War Bishop James Steptoe Johnson survived being the single target of 1600 Pennsylvanian rifleman during the battle of Antietam.