

POST-VIETNAM WAR: 1973-1990

- APR 1973** Faculty and student doubts arose after Vietnam about the validity of NROTC curriculum. Conversely, extremely heavy arts and sciences course requirements, coupled with a naval science minor, required 150 or more credits to graduate, versus the university's minimum of 128 credits. This made it nearly impossible to graduate in four years, and made NROTC more costly.
- MU Liberal Arts College refused to ease its core requirements in favor of naval science. Technology (nuclear power, computer science) had advanced; engineering became the prime NROTC focus. The Navy needed fewer liberal arts students.
- 9 AUG 1974** Richard M. Nixon resigned as President due to the Watergate scandal. Vice President Gerald Ford replaced Nixon.
- SPRING 1975** MU NROTC graduates served in Operations Eagle Pull and Frequent Wind, which evacuated U.S. citizens and endangered civilians from Cambodia and South Vietnam.
- 1975** After the Vietnam War concluded, the Ford administration began phasing out NESEP. ANC and MU pleas to retain NESEP failed. The 1973 NESEP enrollment of 63 fell to 51 in 1974 and 25 in 1975. It plunged to eight in 1977. MU's last two NESEPs graduated in 1978.
- SUMMER 1975** Capt. Noel T. Wood, USN took command of MU NROTC until 1978.



Capt. Noel T. Wood, USN

- 1975** Since the early 1960s, Navy policy called for training allied foreign officers at U.S. colleges. Many students from allied nations fit in well at MU, but highly-paid midshipmen from the Imperial Iranian Navy lived in comparative luxury, causing resentment.
- 3 NOV 1975** Engineering emphasis at the Naval Academy and in NROTC increased, by directive this date from Admiral James L. Holloway USN, Chief of Naval Education and Training (son of the admiral who created the post-war NROTC.) The quota of "hard science" Navy students was raised from 60% to 80%, and more science and math were required of liberal arts students, to meet nuclear power needs.

Many contract students dropped out because of this impractical plan. Educators, administrators and C.O.s rallied in opposition to the “80-20 rule.”

FALL 1976

Women were admitted to the Naval Academy and NROTC.

MU NROTC two-week freshman orientation program, abandoned in the years of student protests, was reinstated. It led into the university’s freshman orientation week.

NOV 1976

Gerald Ford was elected president, serving 1977-1981.



President Gerald Ford

AUG 1977

Adm. Holloway revised judging criteria for NROTC effectiveness. It had been 100 men enrolled and 25 graduates per year, but was lowered when Vietnam protests cut enrollment. The new standard was to be unit enrollment of 195. At this time MU enrollment was 125. Only 12 of 58 NROTC Units reached the level of 125: 46 Units would have to close. So the Navy went back to the drawing board.

FALL 1977

The ROTC parade ground became a parking lot for the new Helfaer Sports Center on the west side of 16th Street. Drill moved to the Lalumiere Hall lawn. Classes for midshipmen unable to swim moved from various clubs to the Helfaer Sports Center pool.

NOV 1977

Association of NROTC Colleges opposed the Navy “80-20 rule”, proposing a core science/engineering curriculum that made room for other majors. Many C.O.s felt this would be even more restrictive.

Finally the Association, Navy and member schools agreed on a basic core curriculum: calculus, physics, English composition, American Military Affairs/National Security Policy (one year each); and computer science and foreign language (one term each). Marine Option students were exempted from math and science courses. Passing a test could eliminate the foreign language requirement.

SUMMER 1978

Capt. William T. Fantry, USN became MU NROTC commander, serving through 1982.



Capt. William T. Fantry USN

1979

New NROTC standards set 140 as the optimal enrollment, ending the long debate on unit effectiveness.

NOV 1980

Jimmy Carter defeated Gerald Ford in the presidential election, taking office in January 1981.



President Jimmy Carter

1981

Marquette U. 100th anniversary was commemorated in *Milwaukee's Jesuit University: Marquette 1881-1981*, a hardcover book written by Thomas J. Jablonsky of the Marquette History Department.

SUMMER 1982

Col. James A. Schumacher, USMC became MU NROTC commander, serving through 1986.



Col. James A. Schumacher, USMC

Half the Helfaer parking lot became the Emory T. Clark nursing building; the remainder reverted to ROTC drill field. It was later lost when the nursing building expanded. The gym is now used for drill.

23 OCT 1983

American military made up part of peacekeeping forces in Beirut, Lebanon. On this day two suicide truck bombers struck a building housing U.S. and French troops. Killed in the attack were 220 U.S. Marines, 18 U.S. Navy and 3 U.S. Army men: the worst single-day U.S. military death toll since Iwo Jima.



Beirut 1983 bombing.

Marquette's James J. Curzon, M.D. was decorated for his triage work at the Naval Hospital in Naples, Italy after the bombing.

Marquette's Kenneth G. Inhoff, a helicopter pilot in the Persian Gulf, was decorated for participation in retaliatory air strikes. (Later in 1988 he took part in Operation Praying Mantis, in retaliation for the Iranian mining of the Persian Gulf and the subsequent damage to the guided missile frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts. This battle was the largest of the five major U.S. surface engagements since WWII, and marked the Navy's first exchange of anti-ship missiles by ships.)

Marquette's Michael D. Dahms and Kenneth J. Schwingshagl served in the Gulf, destroying contact mines.

NOV 1984

Ronald Reagan won a landslide election over President Jimmy Carter and took office in January 1985. Under conservative government, NROTC regained prestige lost during and after the Vietnam War.



President Ronald Reagan

1986

The U.S. had been conducting "Freedom of Navigation" operations for several years in the Mediterranean, challenging Libya by crossing its so-called "Line of Death." Hostilities ensued on 23 March after a Libyan installation launched two surface-to-air missiles at Navy aircraft. Operation "El Dorado Canyon" was subsequently conducted on 15 April after Libyan agents bombed the "La Belle" nightclub in West Berlin. Air strikes were conducted by the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force in response.

SUMMER 1986

Capt. David G. MacPherson, USN took command of MU NROTC until 1990.



Capt. David G. MacPherson, USN

1987

Marquette NROTC Alumni & Friends Association was created.

NOV 1988

George H. W. Bush defeated Michael Dukakis soundly, becoming president in January 1989.



President George H. W. Bush

3-4 JUN 1989

Chinese government ordered martial law to control thousands of student protesters who had occupied Tiananmen Square for seven weeks. On June 4 the Chinese military slaughtered hundreds of protesters, horrifying the world.

1990

50th Anniversary of NROTC at Marquette University

A history of the first 50 years of NROTC at Marquette was compiled in a limited edition 170-page soft cover book, with photos: “*Gentlemen of Liberal Education*”, by Delbert Patrick Thomas Carey. It is the principle source for this “Timeline History.” It will be reprinted and made available for purchase by alumni and friends in 2015.

Fr. Albert J. DiUlio, S.J. replaced Fr. John P. Raynor, S.J. as MU President, serving through 1996.



Fr. Albert J. DiUlio, S.J.

Unit Midshipmen: 94 (85 Navy, 8 Marine Corps, 1 MECEP*). In 1990 the Secretary of the Navy expanded the NROTC program to include applicants pursuing for a four-year nursing degree, leading to a commission in the Naval Nurse Corps.

26 JAN 1990

Drill competition at Northwestern U., Champaign, IL

28 JAN – 4 FEB 1990

Basketball vs MU AROTC & AFROTC, UW NROTC & AROTC

4 FEB 1990

NROTC Alumni & Friends Association meeting


10 FEB 1990

Basketball 16-team tournament at Notre Dame: MU won 3, lost 2

16 FEB 1990

Marine Corps Mess Night: guest speaker Maj. Robert E. Wilson, USMC

**MECEP: Marine Enlisted Commission Education Program*

- 17 FEB 1990** **Basketball vs UW NROTC & UW Oshkosh AROTC**
- 24 FEB 1990** **Unit marched in New Orleans Mardi Gras parade and competed in Tulane drill meet, placing sixth; Basketball tourney at U of Illinois NROTC/AFROTC, Champaign, IL**
- 25 FEB – 3 MAR 1990** **Basketball tourney vs Purdue, IN and MU AROTC**
- 12 MAR 1990** **San Diego, CA submarine facility field trip**
- 31 MAR 1990** **Great Lakes NTC basketball tourney; MU season record 19 won, 8 lost**
- 12 APR 1990** **Battalion Physical Readiness Test (PRT)**
- 21 APR 1990** **Awards Day & Spring Naval Services Ball: guest speaker Capt. Steven T. Milliken, USN, NTC Great Lakes Chief of Staff**
- 27 APR 1990** **Battalion Field Meet (3-mile formation run, sports, food)**
- 5 MAY 1990** **Senior Mess Night, Marc Plaza Hotel: guest speaker CDR Kenneth Reighter, USN, NASA space shuttle astronaut**
- 19 MAY 1990** **Spring commissioning: 16 Navy Ensigns, 5 USMC 2d Lt's.**
- JUNE 1990** **Midshipmen sailed Unit's sloop "Esprit" from Milwaukee to Charlevoix, MI and back**
- 1 JULY 1990** **Cdr. C. A. Pierce, USN assumed temporary command of the unit**
- 12 JULY 1990** **One Navy Ensign commissioned.**
- 12 JULY 1990** **Capt. James R. MacDonald, USN took command of MU NROTC until 1994.**
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- Summer 1990** **Summer CORTRAMID* cruises and Marine Corps "Bulldog" training**
- 19-23 AUG 1990** **NROTC freshmen orientation and parents' reception & picnic**

**CORTRAMID: Career Orientation and Training of Midshipmen*

8 SEP 1990 **Battalion picnic**

15 SEP 1990 **Marine option field trip to Gettysburg, PA battlefields**

22 SEP 1990 **Midshipmen participated in *AI's Run* for Milwaukee Children's Hospital.**

4 OCT 1990 **Marquette NROTC 50th anniversary celebration, CNET visit.**

6 OCT 1990 **Navy Birthday Ball at Milwaukee War Memorial; guest speaker VADM Partington, USN, Commander – Naval Sealift Command. Homecoming NROTC Alumni & Friends meeting, NROTC/AROTC football game.**

18 OCT 1990 **Battalion PRT**

20 OCT 1990 **Football Marquette NROTC versus Northwestern NROTC.**

25 OCT 1990 **Nuclear power indoctrination visit by Capt. Baggalio, USN, CNET, N-12.**

5 NOV 1990 **Unit marched in the Milwaukee Veterans Day parade.**

8-9 NOV 1990 **USMC birthday party and ball at Cudworth Post; guest speaker Col. Schumacher, USMC.**

6 DEC 1990 **Battalion Field Meet.**

7 DEC 1990 **Battalion Christmas party at Cudworth Post.**

19 DEC 1990 **Two Navy Ensigns commissioned.**