



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



FORT MONROE AND CADET COMMAND



The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) that we know today was not fully established until 1916 with the passage of the National Defense Act. It set about standardizing collegiate instruction in military training. At Fort Monroe the first camp was in 1919 with approximately 60 cadets. In May 1931, the 51st Coast Artillery Regiment was sent to Fort Monroe with a secondary mission to assist in the training of ROTC cadets. During the final camp in 1941, Fort Monroe had 370 cadets in attendance.

In 1948, the Selective Service Act passed and growth in ROTC commissioning continued. By 1953, ROTC was the largest source of Army officers. The ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964 improved training but did not provide adequate command and control. ROTC programs struggled to meet the Army's needs during the Vietnam War. In the 1973 post-Vietnam Army reorganization the Army placed ROTC under the newly formed Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) at Fort Monroe and split ROTC into four regions, each with their own leadership chain resulting in little to no uniformity or standardization in training.

TRADOC established a new command - U.S. Army Cadet Command on April 15, 1986, with a ceremony in Continental Park at Fort Monroe on May 2nd (see photo). For the first time in its history, ROTC had a strong command and control structure and standardized training throughout the program. Cadet Command brought together 300 college-level ROTC units and 800 Junior ROTC programs. The way cadets were recruited, selected, and trained emphasized the importance of quality in training the individual. ROTC officers produced by Cadet Command were fully prepared and capable, as proven during the Persian Gulf War.



For 40 years Cadet Command has been at the forefront of commissioning officers into the Army. Today, it continues to commission the largest number of active and reserve officers into the Army.



Contraband

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The Emerging History of American Contrabands

A Symposium at Fort Monroe

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Join us for the Contraband Historical Society's
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Across two days, sessions will integrate descendant knowledge, public history practice, and emerging scholarship to illuminate the names, lives, communities, and military service of **hundreds of thousands of self-emancipated people.**

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