

# Augusta Military Academy

## Oral History

Dan Mossien, '65  
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Even though I was only there one year, AMA played an important part in my life.

As an 8th grader in a public school, a wise ass and performing much below my ability, I decided that I should attend military school to get my life together – and I did, at AMA.

I learned a ton from AMA, **Captain Lea**, **Colonel Hoover** and the cadre. I also learned that bracing guaranteed that you would return to walk the stoops and linger around like a real cadet.

After going AWOL and getting into a touch of trouble because **Colonel Livick** had to drive with his wife to wherever I ended up, I knew that I was destined to be a private for life. I also knew that in my sophomore year I could drive and learn about young women in lieu of going to dances that were totally chaperoned; therefore, my exit from AMA!!!

I next went to a private day school in Rochester, New York, with the rich kids that I couldn't really relate to. I was not asked to return after my sophomore year because of various really cool pranks I played on the Headmaster.

He told my Dad, a Corporate Officer at Bausch and Lomb, that if he donated 10 microscopes to the Biology Department that I could return. My Dad asked me if I wanted to do that and I said, "F\*\*\*" no!" and got reamed for the words, but he respected my decision.

Then off to public school where I was a better prankster and went into the U.S. Army after graduation, because I knew I would flunk out of any college that my Dad could buy my way into. Boy, bracing was bush league!

This RA ended up at Sandia Base in Albuquerque and never saw Viet Nam, thank God. After leaving the Army I graduated from the University of New Mexico with a BA in three years and then a MA in Architecture in three more and then became an Architect in New York State.

Since starting my own firm in 1979, I have completed many notable projects, including a \$6mil expansion to Oak Hill Country Club, home of the Ryder Cup and the PGA next year, where I am also a 14-year member.

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## *Oral History*

I can honestly say that **Captain Peyton Lea III** was my idol and a stable force for me. All of the other officers meant nothing to me as they were somewhat pompous about their rank and position, sorry Tower guys. I believe that Captain Lea made me what I am today -- a successful Architect and an important addition to my many areas of the state, our Country and even Mexico and Korea and to many Boards of Governors and Directors and not-for-profit activities including the Epilepsy Board which I serve among many others.

In summation, holding the M-1 out in front of my chest forever until someone confessed to the long distance unpaid calls is still in my memory banks and always will be. Hope someone paid!!!

Daniel Eric Mossien Class of 1965

P.S. I took my kids by the school many years ago and walked through the weeds to show them my room, which meant nothing to them, spoiled brats that I have raised.