

Augusta Military Academy

Oral History

by Ian McKnight, '72
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Proud to have been 'Best Cadet'

I have many great memories from my time at AMA, so it is difficult to find just the right ones, but I'll try. I remember feeling very proud to have been selected the "Best Cadet" representative from my company, "B" Company, for all six competitions.

I actually won all of them but one and in that one I came in second – only because I forgot the cardinal rule about accepting my weapon back with the bolt closed during an inspection drill. As soon as I put my hands out and took the weapon back, I knew I had messed up.

Then there was the time when many cadets were protesting the Viet Nam war by wearing black arm bands. It was a Study Hall period and I had finished all my work and was sitting with my head down on the desk and I had wrapped my tie around my arm just to see if the Study Hall Monitor (I forget his name right now) would notice. Being an Army person, he did and called on me.

As per usual protocol, I stood rapidly to attention and my tie fell into its proper place. I must have had a devilish smile on my face, because he looked baffled for a moment and then all he could say was, "TWO TOURS". I never served them and I don't know why, but I lost the "perfect cadet" status awarded at the end of the year because of it.

My friends and I also snuck out one day and went to the water storage tank in back of the barracks and went swimming. I don't know what we were thinking, but it was fun.

I was also on the JV fencing team and I remember that as a left hander and rather small, my opponents were a bit confused. That worked to my advantage and I had many successful matches that helped the team do well that year. It was great.

I am thinking of and remembering a lot more about my days at AMA lately. It seems as though I had put those days way behind me, but they are surfacing more and more now that I have discovered the AMA Alumni website and have begun to receive the "Bayonet".

Thank you for all you are doing to keep our memories alive. I, for one, do appreciate your efforts.