

## At Camp Greaves and Beyond

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I taught my first course for the University of Maryland at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, Korea in 1974. As far as I can remember the semester began around the last part of August. At the time I was also teaching high school completion courses for Saint Louis High School at Camp Greaves, located on the far northern end of the highway (MWR) designated by the military as the Western Corridor. The highway began in Seoul and ultimately led to Freedom Bridge which spanned the Imjin River north of Moonsan.

After crossing Freedom Bridge, one came to Camp Greaves, Camp Liberty Bell, Camp Kitty Hawk, the Joint Security Area (JSA) at Panmunjon, the site of a second Freedom Bridge (known also as the Bridge of No Return) and then North Korea. Access to Camp Swiss-Swede, the residence of United Nations monitors was through Camp Kitty Hawk. There is now a large park called Imjingak (임진각) near Freedom Bridge on the south side of the Imjin River. It is a popular tourist destination. Camp Greaves itself has been shuttered since 2004. Following the United States military drawdown and relocation to Camp Humphreys the Republic of Korea Department of Defense elected to not utilize the base.

I applied to the University of Maryland through the Yongsan Education Center. At the time there was no Maryland director present in Korea, this may have been related to the fact that around that time two Far East Division directors had passed away in a relatively short period of time. I do not recall their names, only that ultimately, they were replaced by Doctor Joe Arden. Therefore, I dealt primarily with a Mister Lacey who provided me with the proper application forms and information. I later learned Mister Lacey was the Education Services Officer (ESO).

Part of the application process to become an adjunct faculty member required the submission of three recommendations from professors familiar with your academic work. I requested recommendations from three full professors at Michigan State University whose special interests matched mine: Doctor Paul Varg was a well-known historian of American diplomatic history, particularly in relation to the Far East; Doctor Harry Brown specialized in western history and had edited the Garfield Papers; and Doctor Paul Sweet who specialized in the history of international relations and had participated in the Nuremberg Trials. That was the last I heard of my application until one day I visited the Yongsan Library. Posted there was the schedule of courses for the coming eight-week semester. My name and course were on the schedule.

That first course I taught was History 225 (The United States as a World Power), comprised of about twenty civilians and three military members. Although I remember some of the students, I regret to say that I cannot recall the name of a single student. The best student was a career diplomat from the Agency for International Development (AID) who gave me a personal tour of

the United States Embassy. A second student was an Army captain who needed to complete a degree to retain his commission and continue his career with the Army. He was an excellent student and from multiple tours as an infantry officer in Vietnam a highly decorated soldier; I later learned that he completed his degree. A third student was a civilian lady who was deeply concerned about the grade she was going to receive. She was on track to graduate with honors; I was greatly pleased that she made an excellent score on the final exam. After the completion of the course, I was very careful to preserve the records of the class, a practice that I continued to follow for the duration of my teaching career. Unfortunately, in 1988 all my records were destroyed during a flood at my parent's house in Midland, Michigan.

While teaching my first course at Yongsan, Rodney Yamaoka, the ESO at Camp Greaves, asked me if I would be interested in teaching a University of Maryland course at Greaves. That marked the beginning of a three-year tour teaching for the University of Maryland at Camp Greaves. I don't remember exactly how many courses I taught there, but I do remember the pay scale was based on the number of courses that had been taught and just when I reached the top of the pay scale for instructors with a master's degree the university revised the method of payment. I no longer remember how that impacted my compensation.

When first hired as an adjunct instructor I was only cleared to teach History 225 and the first survey course of American history (History 156). That rather restricted the course offerings at Greaves as I was unable to teach the second survey course. That was the situation on the day that I first met Doctor Joe Arden. I do not remember the exact date, but Doctor Arden came to Camp Greaves not long after he was selected to be the Director of the Far East Division. After jokingly informing me that he intended to have a longer tenure as director than his predecessors he asked me if there was anything that he could do for me or the university.

I requested that he have my credentials reexamined so that I could teach the second survey course of American history (History 157). I also added that I had completed ample graduate work in that area. Joe cleared me on the spot and I could not have been happier. I had long wanted to teach that course as I was personally more interested in that time span than I was in the period covered under the first survey course. The additional clearance also benefitted many students as they were able to complete the entire first year of American history courses.

I have many memories of Camp Greaves and the courses I taught there for the university but there is one that stands out from the rest. The class (History 225) was featured in the Fall 1975 edition of *The Marylander* and included an excellent class photograph which included the battalion commander of the 1/31st Infantry and me. That photograph remains a source of many memories. As several of the students were soldiers from JSA, I was presented by them with a private tour of Panmunjom. To say the least the tour was extremely interesting. At that time there was no segregation of American and North Korean soldiers, and the intermingling was the source of a great deal of friction and confrontation between the opposing forces. The North Korean soldiers that we encountered on that tour looked me over carefully but said nothing. I always wondered what was on their minds.

Unfortunately, the commander in that photograph was later relieved of his command by Lieutenant General Henry “Gunfighter” Emerson, commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division. To this day I do not know all the particulars of the incident, but I was once told that he was relieved due to the accidental death of a soldier that occurred when an armored personnel carrier (APC) attempted to ford the Imjin River and tipped over. I emphasize that I only have hearsay knowledge of the incident. On a happier note, one of the soldiers identified in the photograph was Sergeant Mark Hovee. That class marked the beginning of his academic career and some years later he obtained a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from George Fox University. He also attained the rank of major in the Army Reserve and authored the book *Wayward Soldier*, a memoir that recorded his experiences while serving as an Army Reserve psychologist in Germany during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the day at Camp Greaves in 1976 that still is remembered by all who were present there at the time and is certainly a day that I will never forget. I was scheduled to begin teaching a course at the end of August for the University of Maryland; however, the events that transpired on August 18th would require the course to be rescheduled. Although I was not teaching a Maryland course on that date, I was teaching a high school completion course for Saint Louis High School comprised of around twenty soldiers. Classes were normally conducted from 0800 to 1500 at the NCO Club, located kitty-corner from the main gate of Camp Greaves. The NCO Club was considered the place of duty for the soldiers, and I was required to phone in a daily attendance report to the battalion S-3 shop at 0805.

On August 18th I called in the attendance report as usual. However, about two hours later I received a return call from the S-3. He said to have all students return to their units immediately, that a major incident had occurred at the JSA. That was all the information that I was provided. I immediately informed the students to return to their units. Of course, the students wanted to know exactly what was going on, unfortunately I didn’t know myself.

After the class had departed, I spent some time putting away the class materials and then headed back to the Education Center. On the way I saw a helicopter with a great deal of activity surrounding it on the helipad which was located some distance away on the far side of the parade field. I later found out that the activity was the medevac of Captain Arthur Bonifas and First Lieutenant Mark Barret, both had been attacked with axes by the North Koreans at Panmunjom. Barrett apparently survived for a short time before succumbing to his wounds, Captain Bonifas was killed almost instantly.

Needless to say, the event generated a great deal of excitement and activity at Camp Greaves. For myself I went to an area that had been predesignated as the civilian evacuation point should such an entity ever be required. Parked by the point was a jeep with a tow missile system mounted on it. After waiting there for a couple of hours I finally decided to evacuate myself and walked down to Freedom Bridge. A short time later a bus evacuating Korean civilian workers showed up. The Korean driver allowed me to get on the bus and we proceeded to Moonsan.

A few days later Operation Paul Bunyan was carried out and American soldiers, supported by

South Korean soldiers, cut down the poplar tree for which Barrett and Bonifas had given up their lives. When I returned to Camp Greaves about a week later the S-3 showed me remnants of the tree that had been chopped down. Looking at them I felt a great deal of anguish that two fine American officers had lost their lives over the tree. To this day I regret that Bonifas and Barrett had not utilized their sidearms.

I taught my last course for Maryland in 1978 but it was not at Camp Greaves. By then I was employed as an administrator in the University of Hawaii High School Completion Program at Camp Humphreys, and it was there that I taught my last course for the University of Maryland. The course was History 157, the second semester of American history. There are two students in particular that I remember from that class. The first was a soldier, a Haitian immigrant who told me after the class concluded that she was very pleased with the course and was now sure that she would be able to pass her citizenship examination. Such people made teaching worthwhile. The second student was a retired military member. He was an excellent student but later ran afoul of Korean customs police. He had somehow gotten involved in selling illegally imported European furniture, for his trouble he had to serve time in the Incheon prison. His experience was not uncommon in Korea at the time; many people ruined their lives trying to make an easy dollar in the Korean black market.

Not long after teaching that course I was selected by the University of Hawaii to become the supervisor of their Basic Skills and High School Completion programs in the 2nd Infantry Division area. As luck would have it the Army had decided that one contractor was sufficient to operate those programs and in the ensuing bid for the contract the University of Hawaii lost out to my former employer, Saint Louis High School. That development left me unemployed. Enter Joe Arden. As I explained my situation to Joe he immediately offered to put me on the schedule in Okinawa. I accepted the offer with gratitude but shortly thereafter I was offered the position of coordinator of programs for the Pusan-Taegu area with Los Angeles Metropolitan College (LAMC), formerly Los Angeles Community College. Although it was a telephone call I reluctantly made, I had to call Joe back and inform him that I wanted to accept the position with LAMC. I told him that I would still go to Okinawa if desired, but he said there would be no problem and graciously wished me good luck in my new position. I felt a great sense of relief and gratitude after completing that call.

I held the position with LAMC for about a year and a half and in 1979 I was selected to become the guidance counselor at Osan Air Base. The Osan Education Center was experiencing a rather tumultuous time, the previous ESO had been terminated by the base commander and there was a great deal of friction between the new ESO (who had hired me) and Los Angeles Metropolitan College. All that aside my Osan experience was a positive one.

In conjunction with the University of Maryland we developed a program that if completed would fulfill the mathematics requirement needed to apply for the Airmen's Educational Commissioning Program (AECM). I also assisted quite a few airmen in meeting the requirements to apply for Officer Training School (OTS), most were Maryland graduates. In fact, during the time

I spent at Osan there were more airmen selected for the AECF and OTS programs than from the rest of PACAF combined. I was quite proud of that achievement, particularly since Osan was classified as a short-tour assignment area at the time. However, the achievement would not have been possible without the assistance of the University of Maryland and their cooperation in conducting mathematics courses that had far fewer enrollments than the required minimum.

I remained employed as a guidance counselor for the Army and Air Force for nineteen years at various bases around the world. RAF Bentwaters, England, Fort Hood, Texas, Ayers (Kirchgoens) Kaserne, Germany and Yokota Air Base in Japan were all stops along the way. Of course, the University of Maryland had a program at many of these bases; however, as a civil service employee of the Education Centers I was prohibited from teaching for the university on the grounds that such employment would constitute a conflict of interest.

At Fort Hood during the First Gulf War, civil service employees with prior military experience were able to volunteer to fill military positions while the 1st Cavalry and 2nd Armored Divisions were deployed. As I had had some experience in the military supply side of things, I was given responsibility for a property book that totaled some thirty million dollars and included the custodianship of about forty to fifty buildings. Fortunately, there was never any report of survey required; however, I was somewhat relieved when the war ended and the soldiers returned.

In 1998 while employed as a guidance counselor at Yokota Air Base I was selected to be the ESO at Lajes Field in the Azores. In the years following I held ESO positions with the Naval Recruiting Command in Houston, Ray Barracks in Friedberg, Germany, Dugway Proving Ground and Fort Douglas in Utah, NATO Headquarters (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium and Pope Army Airfield (part of Fort Bragg). I also spent four years in Rosslyn, Virginia as an education specialist with the Defense Leadership and Management Program (DLAMP). At Pope Army Airfield (actually an Air Force operation) I was the Deputy ESO and in 2013 I retired out of there. By then I had completed thirty-eight years of federal service.

When that fateful day of September 11, 2001 occurred I was the ESO at Ray Barracks in Friedberg, Germany. As an historical aside I would point out that Elvis Presley was once stationed there. Although Elvis lived off-post in Bad Nauheim he also maintained a presence in the barracks, I was once given a tour of his domicile. There was also Elvis memorabilia in the command area. But I digress. In 2001 Ray Barracks formed part of the 1st Brigade of the 1st Armored Division.

In March 2001 Colonel Michael Tucker, who would eventually become Lieutenant General Tucker, assumed command of the 1st Brigade. Colonel Tucker had graduated from the University of Maryland; his coursework had been completed largely in the Erlangen region where he served as a noncommissioned officer (NCO) cavalry scout with the 1st Battalion of the 35th Armor. The motto of the 1st Brigade was "Ready First" and as a firm supporter of civilian education Colonel Tucker established "Ready University" within the brigade. The courses offered in the program were those of the University of Maryland. Classes were scheduled in a manner so that class time was split into two parts; half of the class was held during duty hours and half was held during off-duty hours. In other words, a soldier was expected to give up something to gain something.

The program was very popular with soldiers and enjoyed large enrollments. In conjunction with the field representative, Ms. Patty Martinez, we were always able to make up a schedule of courses which fulfilled the needs of students and that would “go.” All that came to end on September 11th. People of my generation always speak of the day President Kennedy was assassinated and where they were at that particular moment, his death became very much personalized. Nearly the same can be said of September 11th. For myself, I was working in my office when Brian Williams, the supervisor of the vocational education program of Central Texas College, came to my office and said that he had just watched on television an airliner being flown into the World Trade Center. The event greatly impacted Ready University.

Soldiers were immediately placed on alert and dispersed around the Friedberg and Giessen communities which also included Bad Nauheim and Butzbach. From that time forward soldiers were assigned to my daughter’s school bus and since our residence was located on the far side of Butzbach, quite some distance from the Roman Way Village housing area where her school was located, my daughter, a fourth-grader, was the first one on and the last one off the bus.

For soldiers enrolled in Ready University it was a challenging time. Although Colonel Tucker attempted to keep the program going the truth is very few soldiers were able to complete their courses. Patty Martinez and I spent much of our time trying to obtain withdrawal forms from soldiers and memorandums from commanders that were needed in order to relieve soldiers from having to reimburse the government for any lost tuition assistance (TA). On several occasions I found myself tromping through forests and housing areas while attempting to locate soldiers and complete their course withdrawals. In the end I finally ignored regulations and looked the other way as far as TA reimbursements were concerned.

After leaving Ray Barracks I had no further interaction with the University of Maryland for nearly seven years. Three of those seven years were spent at Dugway Proving Ground where I was in charge of the Education Center, the Family Support Center and the post library. I was also assigned the duty of being a base spokesman to the public media should an incident ever occur. At Dugway this was not taken lightly; to fulfill treaty obligations chemical weapons were being destroyed, there was always the possibility of an accident occurring. Fortunately, nothing ever happened. At Dugway we were also constantly scrutinized from a nearby mountain by a group who believed Dugway Proving Ground was the place where space aliens captured by the military were kept. I have no comment on this matter; however, I will point out that there were signs posted in certain areas of the base which stated that the use of lethal force was authorized.

In 2009, after spending a four-year tour in Washington D.C. working in the Department of Defense DLAMP program, I was selected to be the ESO at SHAPE in Mons, Belgium. SHAPE was the hub for Education Centers in the Benelux and included USAG Schinnen in the Netherlands and USAG Brussels. USAG Chièvres and Daumerie near Mons was tasked with providing logistical support to American personnel at SHAPE, the Education Center reported to the Command there. I always had great support from the Command at Chièvres and Daumerie; the S-3 provided great support and the base commander had been stationed at Ayers Kaserne in Germany at the same

time I was there twenty years earlier. We had known many of the same people.

For better or worse Army Education Centers were in a state of transformation by the time I arrived at SHAPE. Not only had there been an overall reduction in military personnel, but distance learning had also grown increasingly popular with soldiers which made it very difficult to sustain a viable on-base college program. In addition, the everyday operation of Education Centers had been contracted to Central Texas College which in theory relegated the role of the ESO to that of a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR). However, tradition dies hard, and I was still viewed by the Command and CTC employees as being completely in charge of the Education Centers. All things considered, the arrangement worked if employees cooperated in carrying out the basic mission of providing educational services to soldiers and community members. However, there was a considerable amount of turnover in personnel.

There was also a general lack of support from the Army command structure in Heidelberg for education at that time and the number of senior education management positions was markedly reduced as was the funding available for the daily operation of Education Centers. The Headstart language program which had operated in Europe for decades and that was of great value to the SHAPE community was also canceled. With the commander's approval, I wrote a letter of protest to Heidelberg concerning the program's cancellation, but nothing ever became of it. Eventually a very watered-down version of Headstart was developed but the program was handed over to Family Support Centers to administer. The cancellation of Headstart confirmed the view I had long held that education programs shouldn't have been placed in the hands of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (MWR). Their capabilities and aptitudes were better suited to the operation of gymnasiums.

As far as the University of Maryland was concerned the period witnessed a serious decline in on-base enrollments. However, although the Maryland program at SHAPE was reduced, Bernard Slayton, a retired Army major and former All-American football player at James Madison University, who served as the Maryland Benelux coordinator managed to keep a program going. USAG Schinnen also continued to conduct on-base courses; however, the Education Center in Brussels was reduced to one contracted Central Texas College employee and eventually the University of Maryland, as well as other schools, had to close their offices there.

The tour at SHAPE marked my last affiliation with the University of Maryland and one year after leaving SHAPE I retired from government service. Career-wise I always considered myself a very fortunate person. Working in military Education Centers all over the world was both personally and professionally very satisfying and the four years I taught for the University of Maryland was a highlight of that experience. While teaching American history in a quonset hut a couple of miles from North Korea may not have been glamorous, it was unforgettable. I will always appreciate having been given the opportunity to do so.

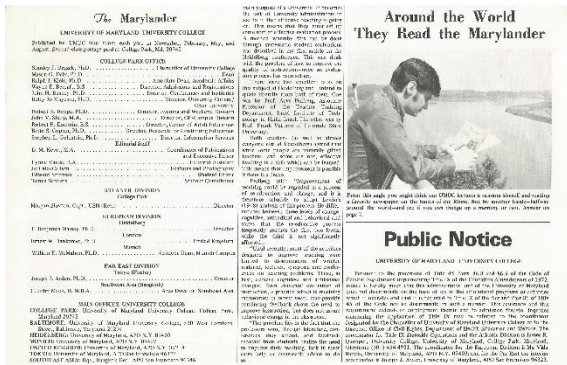
All photographs are from the Spring 1975 and Fall 1975 editions of *The Marylander*.



Left to right: Patrick O'Donnell (University of Maryland instructor) (Camp Greaves Education Counselor) Lee Kuk Jin (University of Maryland faculty member)



Front left to right: SPC Mark L. Rozycki (JSA) Sgt Mark J. Hovee (HHC 1/31 Inf.) SPC Duane E. Stacher (HHB DIVARTY) Rear left to right: LTC James McFadden (Commander, 1/31 Inf.) Patrick O'Donnell (instructor) 1LT. Charles Stecker (B Co. 1/31 Inf.) PFC Dennis Henderson (B Co. 1/31 Inf.) SPC Stephen Hulsey (HHB DIVARTY) SPC Ernest Sutton (JSA) SPC Harry West (HHC 1/31 Inf.) SSGT Sewall Hutchins (JSA)



Patrick O'Donnell reading *The Marylander* on the patio of the Officer's Club at Camp Greaves. The Imjin River is in the background.