

TEXAS FIGHT

The History of Army ROTC at The University of Texas at Austin

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From the Introduction:

Among the finest academic works on the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is Michael Neiberg's Making Citizen-Soldiers: ROTC and the Ideology of American Military Service. In his introduction, he stated: "Studying ROTC therefore presents an opportunity to examine the history of military personnel procurement, American higher education, and American beliefs about the military."¹ In this spirit, my study, while focusing on The University of Texas at Austin's Army ROTC unit (hereafter referred to as UT AROTC), provides the reader with a broader understanding of how The University of Texas, the state of Texas, and our nation have dealt with campus-based officer training in times of peace and war. To the best of my knowledge, this represents the first serious attempt to write a history of UT AROTC. My loyalty to UT and its AROTC program, from which I was commissioned in 1969, and my curiosity about a program which meant so much to me but about which I knew very little provided the motivation to undertake the task.

¹ Neiberg, Michael. Making Citizen-Soldiers: ROTC and the Ideology of American Military Service. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000, p. 6.

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