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Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Collection: Finding Aid

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Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Historical Collection | Finding Aid

Summary Information

Repository

Houston Cole Library
Alabama Gallery, 10th Floor
700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265-1602
256.782.8195

Creator

Houston Cole Library

Title

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Historical Collection

Date

1948-2016

Extent

13 scrapbooks, 4 boxes, 3,151 items

Background Information

Scope and Content Note

This collection is comprised of bound scrapbooks, CDs containing image files, photographic prints, photographic negatives and mounted slides, and documents (primarily copies of correspondence and official documentation establishing the JSU Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) unit, creating its insignia, and providing for its facilities).

President Houston Cole applied to the Department of the Army for the establishment of an Army ROTC unit at Jacksonville State Teachers College (now Jacksonville State University), and the application was approved on 28 January 1948. The unit was assigned ASU No. 3243. The unit began setup in July 1948 and accepted its first students for enrollment the following Fall term (September 1948). As an artillery unit, JSTC ROTC received equipment provided by the US Government including howitzers, machine guns, rifles, pistols, fire observation equipment, radio and wire communications, motor equipment and uniforms so that all phases of artillery training could be conducted at the college. The unit was given facilities at the former Jacksonville High School building, and later Rowe Hall was constructed for JSU's military science program. The first commander of the unit was Col. Thomas B. Whitted, assisted by Lt. Col. Robert C. Raleigh, with staff instructors Master Sgt. F.G. Fitzgerald, Master Sgt. T.H. Heath, and Master Sgt. C. Berry. All original ROTC personnel had served overseas during World War II.

(Sources: Information found in the materials and the Anniston Star newspaper.)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by item format, then chronologically:

- Scrapbooks [DIGITIZED]
- Box 1. [DIGITIZED]
 - Images: Prints (1980s-1990s)
- Box 2. [DIGITIZED]
 - Images: Prints & Compact Discs (2000s-2010s)
- Box 3. [DIGITIZED]
 - Images: Prints, Negatives, Slides, & Miscellaneous (c. 1950s-2000s)
- Box 4. [NOT DIGITIZED]
 - Documents and correspondence, 1948-1996

Administrative Information

Access and Use

This collection is open to researchers under the guidelines set out in the *Houston Cole Library Policy and Procedures Manual*, Alabama Gallery section. Please consult the policy for specific instructions.

In addition, digital surrogates of most items are being made available through the Library's Digital Collections: http://libguides.jsu.edu/digital_collections. These images are the property of Jacksonville State University and are intended for non-commercial use. Images may be copied for research, teaching, personal, or any fair use as defined by U.S. copyright law. Images may not be altered in any way. Users of these images are asked to acknowledge Jacksonville State University. For questions or further information about usage rights, please contact the Library's Digital Projects & Special Collections Department at 256.782.8195.

Preferred citation

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Historical Collection, Houston Cole Library.

Provenance

These items were transferred to the Library by Lt. Col. Travis Easterling, Professor of Military Science and commander of JSU's ROTC unit, in two batches: the first in April 2022 and the second on 10 June 2022. The original donation included the scrapbooks, CDs, prints, negatives, and slides. The second included a single folder of correspondence and other documents. These items were previously located in the Rowe Hall building.

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Bethany Latham, 2022.

Physical Condition

According to Lt. Col. Easterling, the scrapbooks and some other materials were stored in a space in Rowe Hall that experienced water intrusion and other damage during the tornado that struck JSU's campus in March 2018. By the time the materials were transferred to the Library, some of the scrapbooks had active mold growth and exhibited other signs of water damage. These materials were treated for mold and other preservation activities were initiated, such as securing scrapbook items which had come loose. The photographic prints, negatives, slides, and CDs were housed in a box which also contained debris; many photographs and some negatives were loose, some were in original paper sleeves from the

developer, and most had no identifying information. Some CDs were blank or corrupted to the point where no files could be retrieved; these have been discarded. The documents were all contained in a file folder labeled "1948-1972" and are in varying states of preservation; some are torn and/or stained, though most are in good condition. See condition notes in collection inventory for more information on individual items.

Container Contents and Collection Inventory | JSU ROTC 1

Scrapbooks & Photo Albums

<i>Item</i>	<i>Title/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Scrapbook [red cover, oversized, portrait orientation] containing 8x10 prints and smaller, posters, newspaper clippings, Army ROTC newsletters, programs, <i>The Kaleidoscope</i> , etc.	1951, 1963-1992
2	JSTC ROTC Scrapbook [red, landscape orientation] containing 8x10 prints and smaller, newspaper clippings, <i>The Stu-Jack</i> , letters, etc.	1951-1965
3	JSTC ROTC Scrapbook [red, landscape orientation] containing 8x10 prints and smaller, newspaper clipping, letters, etc.	1965-1973
4	Spiral Album [pink/teal design] containing prints. [Condition note: some water damage to cover]	1969-70
5	The United States Army Scrapbook [green] containing 4x6 prints [Condition note: water damage]	c. 1972-2007
6	Scrapbook [maroon] containing 8x10 prints and smaller, newspaper articles, programs, and poems relating to those killed in action (KIA)	1951-2016
7	Album [purple] containing 4x6 prints [Condition note: water damage]	1984-2002
8	Scabbard and Blade Scrapbook [black] containing 8x10 prints and smaller	1976, 1980-81, 1989-90
9	JSU ROTC Scrapbook [red, leather] containing 8x10 prints and smaller, newspaper clippings, programs, invitations, stickers, etc.	1992-1998
10	Album [black, oversized, 6-ring] containing 8x10 prints and smaller	c. 1971-2000
11	Album [black, oversized, 6-ring] containing 8x10 prints and smaller [Condition note: some photographs stuck together]	c. 1973-2005
12	Album [black, oversized, 6-ring] containing 5x7 prints and smaller [Condition note: water damage throughout, some photographs stuck together, some pages torn]	c. 1986-1992
13	Scrapbook [black, oversized] containing 5x7 prints and smaller, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs, invitations, diagrams, stickers, etc.	1997-2007, 2009, 2013

Box 1 | Images: Prints (1980s-1990s)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Title/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
001-539	B/w & color prints, 4.5x6 and smaller [219 digitized, 320 duplicates not digitized (see negatives, slides, and scrapbooks)]	c. 1980s
001-348	B/w & color prints, 4x6 and smaller [232 digitized, 116 duplicates not digitized (see negatives, slides, and scrapbooks)]	c. 1990s

Box 2 | Images: Prints & Compact Discs (2000s-2010s)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Title/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
001-470	B/w & color prints, 4x6 and smaller [408 digitized, 62 duplicates not digitized (see negatives, slides, and scrapbooks)]	c. 2000s-2010s

1	Walmart CD [23 images]	c. 2 May 2003
2	2005-2006 Cadets CD [22 images, 3 videos]	c. 15 Oct 2005
3	2006 Military Ball CD [217 images]	c. 29 Jan 2006
4	2008 Walmart CD [222 images]	c. 24 Feb 2008

Box 3 | Images: Prints, Slides, Negatives, Miscellaneous (1950s-2010s)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Title/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
001	B/w print of Dr. Theron Montgomery, 2.5x3.5 [1 total]	c. 1950s
001-005	B/w prints, 8x10 and smaller [5 total]	c. 1960s
001-008	Color prints, 8x10 and smaller [8 total]	c. 1970s
001-036	B/w & color prints, 7.5x9.5 and smaller [36 total; 10 duplicates not digitized]	c. 1980s
001-022	B/w & color prints, 8x10 and smaller [22 total; 7 duplicates not digitized]	c. 1990s
001-002	Color prints, 5x7 [2 total]	c. 2000s
001-021	Color slides, mounted [21 total]	c. 1970s
001-085	Color slides, mounted [85 total]	c. 1980s
001-019	Color slides, mounted [19 total]	c. 2000s
001-1226	B/w & color negatives, 35mm [1226 total]	c. 1980s
001-196	B/w & color negatives, 35mm [196 total]	c. 1990s
001-119	B/w & color negatives, 35mm [119 total]	c. 2000s
001-014	Newspaper clippings (some laminated), brochures, invitations, programs, notes, etc [many were loose in scrapbooks and removed to this folder]	1950-2013

Box 4 | Documents

<i>Item</i>	<i>Title/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Insignia patch (circular, red gamecock on a white field)	Circa 1948
2	Copy of a memo from J.J. Hamlin, Third Army Headquarters, Fort McPherson, GA, to President Houston Cole notifying him that the Jacksonville State Teachers College application for the establishment of an artillery ROTC unit has been approved by the Army, and will become effective 1 July 1948.	28 Jan 1948
3	Memo from George L. Darley, Department of the Army, Washington DC, to JSU ROTC regarding approval of shoulder loop insignia along with all specifications. Enclosed are copies of later insignia and badges and a Fax Cover sheet from 1996 noting "we do not currently wear the school shoulder patch. We do not have a list of manufacturers."	27 July 1950
4	Agreement signed by Dean C.R. Wood for President Houston Cole regarding the ROTC unit at Jacksonville State Teachers College.	21 Oct 1953
5	Series of memos From John Barnhardt, Fort McPherson, GA, and others regarding uniforms for JSU ROTC.	26 Mar 1963

6	Copy of Public Law 88-647, An Act to amend title 10, United States Code, to vitalize the Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and for other purposes.	13 Oct 1964
7	Memo from Melvin M. Vuksich, US Army Headquarters, Fort McPherson, GA, regarding ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964 along with new agreements for JSU's ROTC. Enclosed are other correspondence regarding these issues from January, February, and March 1965.	27 Jan 1965
8	Sketched map of Jacksonville State College campus showing the relationship of various buildings/facilities to each other.	23 Mar 1965
9	Memo from John A. Brock, commander of JSU ROTC, regarding JSU's ROTC program. Enclosed are multiple copies of the memo and an agreement application.	24 Mar 1965
10	Copy of signed agreement detailing facilities for the ROTC (the former Jacksonville High School building) and a campus map.	30 Mar 1965
11	Memo from Melvin M. Vuksich, US Army Headquarters, Fort McPherson, GA, regarding supplementary agreements for the JSU ROTC. Enclosed are the signed agreement from March 1965 detailing facilities for the ROTC (the former Jacksonville High School building) and a campus map.	6 Apr 1965
12	Memo from Melvin M. Vuksich, US Army Headquarters, Fort McPherson, GA, regarding supplementary agreements for the JSU ROTC. Enclosed are agreements and copies of related correspondence from May 1965.	14 June 1965
13	Memo from Melvin M. Vuksich, US Army Headquarters, Fort McPherson, GA, regarding supplementary agreements for the JSU ROTC.	16 June 1965
14	Letter to P.N. Kitay, commander of JSU ROTC, from Alex Navarro, N.S. Meyer Inc., regarding pricing information on manufacturing JSU ROTC insignia. Enclosed is an official price quote. There is also a photocopy of this letter.	29 Nov 1968
15	Letter from Major P.N. Kitay, commander of JSU ROTC, to the US Army Institute of Heraldry, Alexandria, VA inquiring if the regimental crest/insignia currently in use for the unit was registered with the Institute of Heraldry and, if not, approval and registry is sought.	3 Dec 1968
16	Memo from Lt. Col. G.W. Dundas at the US Army Institute of Heraldry to Major P.N. Kitay describing approval and registration of the ROTC Insignia, and enclosing original approval documentation from 27 July 1950.	11 Dec 1968
17	Letter from J.C. Godsey, Fort McPherson, GA regarding a supplemental agreement for supply, accounting, and other procedures for JSU's ROTC. Enclosed is a supplemental agreement.	14 Mar 1969
18	Letter to JSU President Houston Cole from Johnnie E. Mackin, Contracting Officer at Fort McPherson, GA regarding renegotiation of all contracts for training ROTC cadets under the Financial Assistance Program. Enclosed is an educational service agreement.	20 Aug 1969
19	Memo by Lt. Col. Walter B. Harris, assistant commander of JSU ROTC, regarding phone conversation with US Army Institute of Heraldry where it did not approve the design submitted due to unauthorized map areas and too many letters.	8 June 1970
20	Memo from Col. Forest O. Wells, commander of JSU ROTC, to US Army Institute of Heraldry, Alexandria, VA, regarding design of shoulder sleeve	13 Aug 1970

	insignia for JSU ROTC. Enclosed is memo from G.W. Dundas of the Institute of Heraldry with description of proposed insignia, reasons it is rejected, and suggested revisions.	
21	Memo from Col. Forest O. Wells, commander of JSU ROTC, regarding the ROTC's heraldry – the original Gamecock shoulder patch and suggested updated heraldry incorporating the university name. Enclosed are 3 suggested designs along with correspondence with Howard G. Blumberg of School Teachers Supply Corp from 23 June 1970, 30 June 1970, and 27 July 1970 regarding feasibility of manufacture of ROTC patches to specifications.	13 Aug 1970
22	1971-1972 ROTC Information Sheet by Col. Forest O. Wells, commander of JSU ROTC, outlining semester dates, dates for commissioning exercises, and list of instructors.	c. 1 Aug 1971
23	Memo from Col. Seth Wiard, commander of JSU ROTC, to Theron Montgomery, JSU VP of Academic Affairs, regarding feasibility study of conducting military science instruction at Gadsden State Community College with current ROTC staffing.	18 Feb 1972
24	Letter from Theron Montgomery, JSU VP of Academic Affairs, to Col. Seth Wiard, commander of JSU ROTC, regarding Wiard's memo on ROTC instruction at Gadsden State Community College.	23 Mar 1972
25	Memo from Col. Seth Wiard, commander of JSU ROTC, to Theron Montgomery, JSU VP of Academic Affairs, regarding the details of a program for cross-enrollment for Gadsden State Community College. Enclosures include a proposed agreement and program of instruction/course descriptions.	13 Apr 1972
26	Memo from Lt. Col. Robert Byrom, commander of JSU ROTC, regarding discussions of a contract with Gadsden State Community College to allow GSCC students to take military science courses and receive JSU credit.	8 May 1972
27	Memo from Lt. Col. Robert Byrom, commander of JSU ROTC, regarding tuition/fees and facilities reimbursement for contract with Gadsden State Community College to allow GSCC students to take military science courses and receive JSU credit.	19 May 1972
28	Memo from Lt. Col. Robert Byrom, commander of JSU ROTC, regarding fees/records for cross enrollment for contract with Gadsden State Community College to allow GSCC students to take military science courses and receive JSU credit.	19 May 1972
29	Typewritten document with manuscript heading "For Gadsden State Bulletin" detailing information about the cross-enrollment of GSCC students in JSU military science classes, including financial assistant programs, course descriptions, commissioning, and uniforms.	c. 19 May 1972
30	Memo from Col. Seth Wiard, commander of JSU ROTC, to US Army School/Training Center, Fort McClellan, requesting transfer for a M4A3E8 tank to be used for display in front of the ROTC building.	14 June 1972
31	Amendment to application agreement form for JSU ROTC Unit; copy of original form with manuscript modifications made (e.g., replacing "Houston Cole" with "Ernest Stone").	c. 1972

32	Agreement signed by JSU President Ernest Stone and Snead State Junior College President Virgil B. McCain allowing cross enrollment of ROTC students, whereby JSU would conduct certain military science courses on Snead State's campus and accept Snead State credit hours in military science for transfer to JSU.	29 May 1974
33	Memo regarding specifications for flying of the bicentennial flag.	c. 1975