



Kadet Newsletter

Peacock Military Academy

Alumni Association, Inc.

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Dear Peacock Brothers,

On the 7th of October the Board of Directors met for our Fall meeting. Like always we had a full house, attendance was great. The meeting went well and many topics were covered. The following items were discussed:

Scholarship: The Peacock Memorial Scholarship Fund is closing in on 250K and we need some more contributions to help us get over the initial goal line. We are hoping to start giving out scholarships in 2018. Donna Peacock will be active in the selection of deserving scholarship recipients. Her vast experience in the education field is very valuable for criteria necessary for selecting candidates for the Peacock Scholarship.

Salvation Army: In attendance at our meeting were Lieutenants Ben and Charlsie Godwin. They are the new staff members from the Salvation Army who will be running the day to day duties of the Salvation Army. (Heidi Griffin, has stepped down, but will continue to volunteer). At dinner that evening

we were also joined by the Godwin's as well as Majors Robert and Carolyn Webb (Regional Commanders). They are dedicated to helping us preserve the legacy of our beloved school. Donna Peacock our First Lady of the Association was also present at the dinner.

Reunion 2018: During our meeting the Board of Directors picked the Wyndham Hotel in downtown San Antonio by the river, we have not had a reunion downtown in some time so a change in venue was in order. The hotel is within walking distance to all downtown popular locations. Please save the date, October 5-7, 2018. I highly recommend all classes to start contacting their fellow classmates to invite them to our next reunion. The class of 68 will celebrate its 50th reunion. For reservations call 1-866-764-8536. Ask for the Peacock Military Academy Reunion.

Committees: My special thanks to all the committees for the outstanding job they are doing for the good of the Alumni

Association. Thanks to Bob Birkenmier for maintaining our website, www.pmaalumni.org. For a password contact Bob at Birk@pmaalumni.org

Special Note: For those who remember Col William Feltner (professor of Military Science). Sam Gonzales 66 and I had lunch with him and his wife Mary. He is 96 years young.

I hope everyone of you and your families had the very best Christmas Season and I wish you a very healthy, happy and prosperous 2018.

Thank you for all your help, support and trust. God Bless

Raul Gonzalez
Class of 68
PMA Alumni Association President



PMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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William Jeff Riggs '67

TAPS

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Welcome New Life Member!!!

James Edward Claiborne, Jr. '65

Peacock Military Academy Memorial Scholarship Fund



Created to perpetuate the Peacock Legacy

All contributions are matched by a generous anonymous donor. You may send your donation along with your annual dues.

PMA Memorial Scholarship Honor Roll*

Ben E. Sutton '42

Edward Sebera '49

Johan Heidenreich '50

Arthur F. Wolf '51

L.B. Johnson '56

Terry L. Royall '57

Bernie L. Young '57

David S. Hale '62

Edwin R. Kollman '63

Kenneth Earl Porter '63

Edmund Valdes '69

NEW MEMBERS

John F. Kiel '47

Gene Hughs '60

James C. Norman '60

Class of '63 Deceased: Otho Bolton, Robert Bleuler, Richard Bradford, Jimmy Chamness, Charles Cole, Jack Gilpin, Robert Haley, Colon Lott, Leonard Millstead, Wyatt Myers, George Ochoa, Delbert Robertson, William Whitfield.

MOVING???

If you are moving, please let the Alumni Association have your new information: address, telephone numbers, etc.

awolf@pmaalumni.org

(817) 581-7715

2018 Dues

The Alumni Association is collecting dues for 2018 and a Dues Form is included with this Newsletter. The Dues Form may also be used to make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. If you have already paid your dues, please disregard the reminder!

THANKS!



PMA Web Address:

<http://www.pmaalumni.org>



PMA Facebook Page:

Peacock Military

Academy Alumni

Wesley Peacock House

Facebook Page:

W Peacock House

Our Webmaster Bob Birkenmeier '67 requests feedback on our website

REMINDER!

Board of Directors will meet on Saturday, April 7, 2018

The Wesley Peacock House



PEACOCK MERCHANDISE

Caps (Green or Khaki)	\$10.00
T-Shirts	\$10.00
Polo Shirts	\$25.00
Totes	\$15.00
Pennants	\$8.00
Decals	\$3.00
Koozies	\$2.00
Coffee Mugs	\$5.00
Aprons	\$10.00
Peacock Patches	\$3.50
Lapel Pins	\$7.00
DVDs	\$3.00

FOR PEACOCK MERCHANDISE
EMAIL ARTURO WOLF '73 AT :
awolf@pmaalumni.org

Please add \$5.00 for shipping and handling
FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING FOR ORDERS
OF \$40 OR HIGHER

A PEACOCK KADET BY PROXY

Please support our Peacock Memorial Scholarship Fund

I have presented many awards to many young students in the name of Peacock Military Academy. In each case when they knew the history of Peacock, they were honored to have received the award. But they had no idea that the award meant so much more to me because of my six years at Peacock. They were not part or aware of Sunday parades, Monkey Drill, Zouaves, McKinnon Rifles, Rangers, etc. I am grateful to Peacock for those experiences and memories. We are fortunate to keep our treasured memories in our minds, and relate them to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We have a great opportunity to make it possible for new generations to create their memories through the PEACOCK MILITARY ACADEMY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND. We have almost reached our first objective of raising a quarter million dollars! Soon we will be able to help a young man achieve his goal of education. Please try to be part of this wonderful endeavor with whatever you can. You will have the satisfaction of giving back and at the same time keeping the legacy of Peacock alive!

We are forever indebted to our anonymous donor for his generosity in matching contributions for five years. I am proud to be associated with him.

Rudy Johnson '53

Note from the Editor:

Time is running out for matching funds from our anonymous donor. April 7th is the deadline. PLEASE HURRY and make your donation to this wonderful cause today. In the last Kadet Newsletter we reported being close to \$210 K. We are now at a little over \$240 K.



The Peacock Reunion in October

by Jeff Riggs '67

I want to see you at the reunion this October.

There's no human way to describe it. It's like we went to Heaven, and something very heavenly took place right before our eyes. It was the reunion which took place last time in San Antonio (October 2016). That's the reunion for all past Kadets from Peacock Military Academy that are, or may not be reading this.

I wrote a column for the Kadet Newsletter after the event, and the editors of the Newsletter were kind enough to allow me to write what was on my mind. I wrote how this was one of the greatest experiences of my life. During my two final high school years, I spent much time talking, eating and joking around with guys my own age at PMA, just like you did. They mean the world to us. They are our brothers. And to get to see them again after 50 years was something not everyone gets to experience.

It was Saturday, October 7 that the Board of Directors of the Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association met at the Wesley Peacock House, and discussed items of importance. These included: Call to order by Raul Gonzalez, prayer by Rudy Johnson, Salvation Army introduction by Mike Vlieger, reading of the minutes by Butch Daughtry, treasury report by Marty Cavanaugh, Peacock House report by Mike Vlieger, Scholarship Fund report by Arturo Wolf/Butch Daughtry, Reunion plans for 2018 by Raul Gonzalez/David Lewis and other committee progress by Arturo Wolf. While we were meeting, our wives were taken to lunch and shopping off campus on a small bus provided by the Board and driven by Kadet Sam "Val" Gonzalez '66. They ate at the Southerleigh Restaurant at the former Pearl Brewery. That night we all met over at Ernesto's Mexican Specialties, a fantastic place on Jackson Keller Rd. in San Antonio. Donna Peacock was also there.

All of the items discussed that day at the 3 hour meeting were important. But, the item that stands out to me more than any other, because of its importance and what it did for me last year, was the one dealing with the Reunion Plans for 2018. The vote was taken to conduct

the reunion at the **Wyndham Riverwalk in Downtown San Antonio**. One of the reasons was that it has been a while since a meeting has been conducted Downtown. It will be on **October 5, 6 and 7, 2018**. Like last time, there will be other events, like one at the PMA Senior Terrace beside the Peacock House, where Kadets will line up for the Grey Line Ceremony, and honor those Kadets who have passed on. Last reunion, I remember it was such a heart-warming moment, honoring and remembering those who had left us. There will also be dinners with the entire corps and their wives, girlfriends, who are present at the hotel as well as an assembly event. The hospitality suite is always a popular spot.

But, out of all the events, the great one for me was to talk at length with Kadets we had not seen in several decades. We talked about what each of us had done in the past 50 years or so. Topics covered accomplishments, happy moments and a few tragedies. We were able to be told if they got to the level of life we anticipated they would climb to.

I remember that many of my classmates had retired, because those of my class, 1967, are now in their 60's. They are either married, or have been. Most have children, grandchildren, and some have great-grandchildren. Quite a change since we were teenagers. We got the opportunity to hear face-to-face what life is like for them now, and how they got there. The reunion created unforgettable moments for us.

I also remember at both the October meeting this year and at the last reunion, entering the Wesley Peacock House which is still open on campus. I remember going into each of the rooms as if I was walking into the past. The room to the left, as you enter, was the one in which Col. Wesley Peacock interviewed me at his desk, with both of my parents sitting close, before my first year there ever began. All of the other rooms of the Peacock House are in great shape.

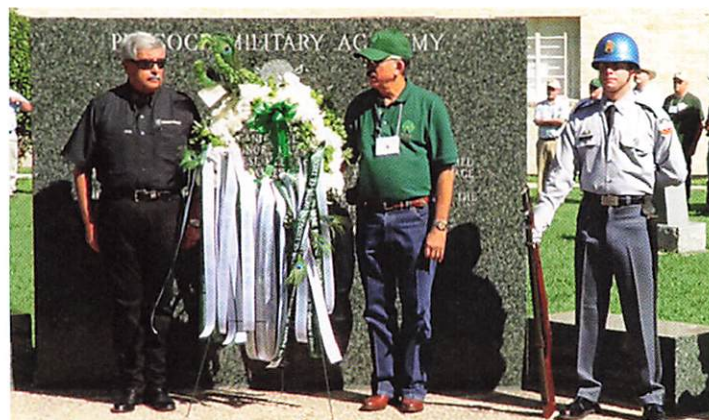
Now with the next reunion coming up, it is time to prepare and to plan. Save your money, and use your time to make this happen for you and your family. I want to see those I was closest to in my late High School years. Among those at the last reunion from my time at PMA were Vernon Nelson, Robert Birkenmeier, Marty Cavanaugh, Butch Good, Rob Bertoia, Steven Copenhaver, L.C. Clower, Robert Powell, Ken Scoggins, and the list of your friends and mine just goes on and on. There was also Donna Peacock.

Make this the top of your plans for this Fall. Go back in time, visiting those people and places which were so very important to you. Go to the next Peacock Military Academy reunion next October. Make this part of your bucket list. For more information, contact Arturo Wolf, PMA Class of '73 at awolf@pmaalumni.org or Raul Gonzalez, PMA Class of '68 at raulgonzalez48@hotmail.com

You will never enjoy anything more, I promise. I was there last time. I know. I so look forward to seeing every one of you there.

Jeff Riggs PMA Class of '67

Note: Make your reservations now at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk at 1-866-764-8536. Ask for the Peacock Military Academy Reunion. Or you can use the following web link: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/PeacockMilitary>



Grey Line Ceremony 2016

PEACOCK KADET NEWS

1. Our Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association President, Colonel Raul Gonzalez '68 was with his Texas National Guard unit in Houston on an important mission this past Fall. His unit was involved in aiding displaced victims of Hurricane Harvey. We thank him and his team for their service. His mission coincided with the presence of President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania at the Houston Convention Center.



Col. Raul Gonzalez '68 (front row, 4th from left) with his Unit in Houston



Col. Raul Gonzalez '68 (1st from right) with President Donald Trump in Houston Convention Center.

2. A couple of weeks ago we received a message from Gary Blum '62. He told us that he and his wife Vivian were relaxing at home one evening when all of the sudden they saw Kadet Rudy Johnson '53 on the television. Rudy was speaking about the wisdom of diversification of your portfolio by investing in gold. By the way, Kadet Johnson is a true follower of the golden rule.
3. The Peacock Military Academy Alumni Association has suffered two very sad blows in the past few months. We lost two very esteemed Members: Dr. Philip Dunlap '57 and Thomas Cole '58, son of Col. George Cole. They were both very active and loyal members of the Association Board and will be dearly missed. Our condolences were sent to Mrs. Shelagh Dunlap and Mrs. Martha Cole. We will honor our brothers Phil and Tom this Fall at our Alumni Reunion .
4. Kadet Jonathan Hodel '64 from San Ramon, California is currently active with Boy Scouts He is the Scout Master Assistant in charge of the Tomahawk Range. Thank you Jonathan for the wonderful work you do with young men.
5. Ms. Mary K. Kiel Huff informed us of the passing of her father John F. Kiel '47. Ms. Huff sent a generous contribution to the Peacock Scholarship Fund in honor of Kadet John Kiel. We thank her for her donation which bestows John F. Kiel a place in the Scholarship Honor Roll.
6. Other inductions into the Peacock Scholarship Honor Roll are Kadets Jim Norman '60 and Gene Hughs '60, and The Deceased of the Class of '53. We thank the Kadet donors for contributing to their induction.



Jonathan Hodel '64, Boy Scout Tomahawk Instructor

7. Kadet Paul Calvo '54 served as Governor of Guam during the 1980's. He is a respected leader and businessman. His distinguished family is very prominent in business and politics of the island. His son Edward Baza Calvo is the current Governor of Guam following in his father's steps.

Because of the recent issues with North Korea, Governor Eddy Calvo had conversations with President Trump who assured him his island would be safe. Asked by a reporter if he felt safe, Governor Calvo who was dressed in a tropical style shirt replied: Do I look like I am concerned? His uncle Edward Calvo '55(deceased), brother of Paul Calvo '54, was also a Peacock graduate. The American Territory of Guam is safe thanks to leaders like the Calvo family.



Paul McDonald Calvo PMA '54 with Ronald Reagan in 1981

8. Jim Oakley '65 has a great collection of Peacock Memorabilia in his "man cave" in Chesapeake, Virginia. The collection includes items belonging to him and his brother Robert Oakley '62. He remembers his years at Peacock



Peacock Memorabilia in Jim Oakley's "man cave".

as a landmark in his life, especially the influence that Col. Snowden had in his life. We will honor Robert this coming Fall at our Gray Line Ceremony.

9. The Peacock Motorized Cavalry recently had the great pleasure of getting together with Colonel Feltner, Military Science Professor. He is 96 years young. It is wonderful to know that he and his wife Mary are doing excellent. Sam Gonzalez '66 and Raul Gonzalez '68 visited with him.



Col. Feltner '96, riding on Peacock Motorized Cavalry "Horse".

10. Johnny Lee Isbell '57, a very successful entrepreneur who started Apache Oil Company with only \$300 lives in Pasadena, Texas. He became Mayor of Pasadena in 1981 and served for 7 terms (28 years). Because of limits in terms he stepped down in 2017 leaving more than \$46 million in fund surpluses and having added over a half billion dollars in infrastructure to the city. A great legacy by a "real mayor" (not a figure head) and an outstanding Peacock Kadet.
11. An old tree next to Birkhead Hall fell. Fortunately it fell away from the Barracks Building.
12. We have just received the sad news that PMA Board Member and Life Member **William "Bill" Morse Jr. '56** has passed away. Our condolences to his wife **Helen** and his brother **Earl Morse, PMA Class of '50**. Bill was very active with our Board for many years and we will miss his input dearly.



Fallen tree by Birkhead Hall.

Col. Don and the Yearbook

As a one-year cadet in 1963 -1964, I never dealt with Colonel Don up close as it took me nearly a year to learn how to get into trouble. By the time I did, I was graduating. But, before PMA, I had great skills at "having fun" in Midland, chasing girls, racing cars, pulling pranks and more. My parents' hopes that I would get serious about life were going unfulfilled. So, I was enrolled at Peacock and kept my head down. Mostly.

Years later, about 15 years ago, I had occasion to be in San Antonio visiting a client of my law firm, The City of San Antonio. There was some time left before I had to return to Austin where I lived and ran my law firm of about 20 lawyers at the time. Why not see what the academy looked like, so I found my way back to the lake and then headquarters. Wow! The headquarters building looked exactly as it had before. I parked and went up the steps, knocking on the door. I opened it and the lady at the desk asked me in. I'm in a suit, tie and wearing lawyers' shoes – a dead giveaway.

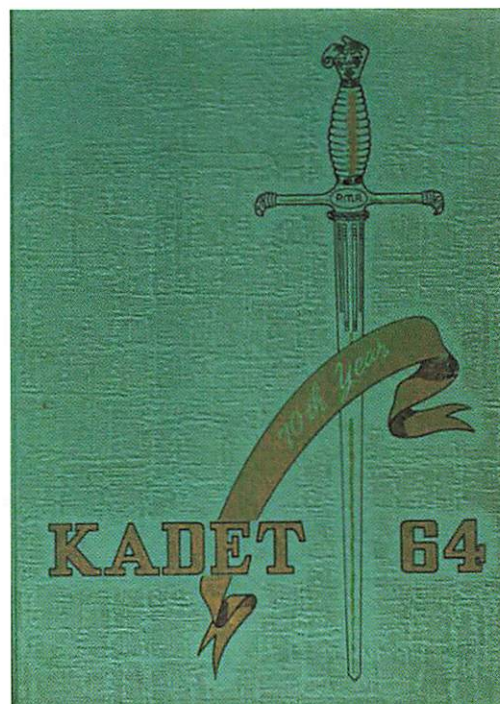
It looks very much like it had the few times I was into that part of the Peacock Headquarters when I was a Kadet. Then, the Time Machine started to whirl. I was asked if I wanted to see Colonel Don! What? Is he still there, running things? She leads me into his office and introduces me to the Great Man who is, of course, behind his same desk as he was decades earlier. I was stunned.

The Colonel seemed pleased to see me and as I sat before him, he asked me how I was and what I had done with myself since graduation from the academy. Luckily for me, I had totally disregarded the advice given me by our career counsellor about going to trade school and learning to be a plumber. I always disregarded advice from adults back then and had happily told the Colonel I thought I'd go to law school at UT and become an attorney. And indeed, I had done just that.

The Time Machine whirled more. Colonel Don rose from his chair and asked me what I had given as my career goal in the yearbook. Had I met the goal I'd set for myself so long ago? Oh Lord! Come and take me now because I was certain I had put something incredibly stupid in the yearbook. As he walked to a wall of yearbooks, I could feel I was coming to the moment of ultimate shame. Colonel Don mumbled that I was in the class of '64 and I was tempted to say otherwise, but quickly, he pulled that year's book off his shelves. "Harris, Harris, yes, here it is..... ah! Career goal..... lawyer!"

The one time I had been a bit serious in my time at the academy and it had been when I had written this as my goal. Colonel Don closed the book, replaced it and looked at me. "Well Harris, it looks like you met your goal." Relief swept over me as I finished my brief visit with Colonel Don. I hardly remember what was said then as I found myself out the door and back into reality. Colonel Don knew how our minds worked and most likely, he could tell that the relief on my face was in not being caught joking around, 40 years later. Thanks, Colonel, for everything!

Herb Harris '64



Zouave History and Tradition

All Peacock Kadets are familiar with the emblematic Peacock Zouaves, their distinguishing uniforms and their precision drill routines. We remember them performing in the middle of the Peacock Parade Field at the rate of 280-300 steps per minute and ending with a re-conquest and scale of the Zouave "Castle" wall. Ever since their introduction in the spring of 1940, the Peacock Zouaves were an important attraction in parades and military ceremonies celebrated at Peacock or in public demonstrations.



Zouaves carrying wounded during Civil War.



But probably some of you are not familiar with the origin of the Zouaves, their history in Africa and Europe, how they were introduced in American military regiments and why did Peacock Military Academy, specifically Col. Donald Peacock, decided to establish them as an icon of Peacock tradition.

The Zouaves were utilized by the French Army from 1830 when they recruited Berber volunteers of the Zwawa tribes of Algeria. The name Zouave came from the French pronunciation of "Zwawa". By the 1850's the majority of Zouaves were French, but included other ethnicities. The French Army had Zouaves through 1962 at which time they were

disbanded after the Algerian independence from France.

The French Zouaves served fiercely in North Africa, the Crimean War, Franco-Austrian War 1859, Mexican Intervention of 1860's, Franco-Prussian War 1870, Boxer uprising in China, WWI and also WWII.

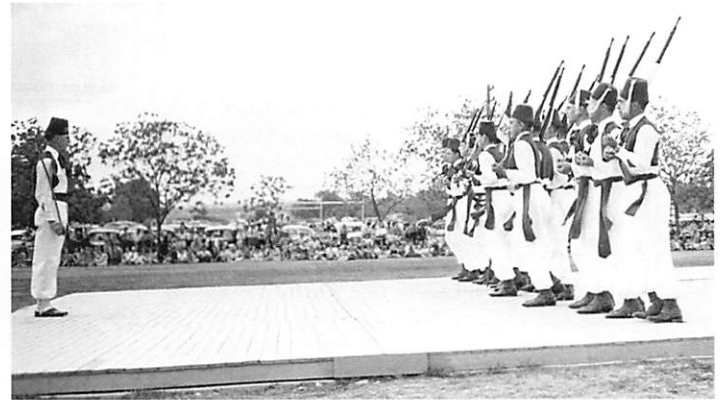
In 1855 US Army Captain George McClellan was stationed in Europe as an official observer of the Crimean War. He, witnessed the Siege of Sevastopol and observed the French Zouaves in action against the Russian troops. McClelland who would later command the Union Army of the Potomac praised the Zouaves "as the finest light infantry that Europe can produce; the beau ideal of a soldier".

The Zouaves were also brought to the attention of Americans by Elmer Ellsworth, who obtained a Zouave drill manual from a French sword instructor and former physician for French Zouaves during the Crimean War. Ellsworth later formed the United States Zouave Cadets. He began developing dramatic exercises along with theatrical additions, and



First Peacock Zouaves climbing wall.

The Union's 14th Brooklyn received its nickname "The Red Legged Devils" during the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861 referring to the regiment's colorful red trousers. As the regiment repeatedly charged, Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson yelled to his men: "Hold on Boys! Here come those red-legged devils again".



Peacock Zouaves drilling on wood platform (1940's)

Zouave volunteer units quickly disbanded after the Civil War. The last Zouave regiment, a militia unit from Wisconsin, retired its garb in 1879. Later, several military academies took up the tradition and created drill teams within their institutions. One of them was Peacock Military Academy's neighbor, Lakeside Institute, which was located by West Lake (Woodlawn Lake) in San Antonio, Texas from 1906-1912.



French Zouaves 1920

under his training, in 1859, the Zouave Cadets won the national military drilling competition in Chicago. They were a smash hit with their flamboyant uniform of loose red trousers and bright red fez caps. Ellsworth later commanded a Zouave Regiment called the Fire Zouaves (11th New York) during the Civil War. He became the first Union Officer killed in action. Thus, the first Union Officer killed was a Zouave. A Fire Zouave under his command, Corporal Francis Brownell, earned the first Medal of Honor of the war. Ironically, the war's last Union fatality was also a Zouave: Seventeen year old William Montgomery of the 155th Pennsylvania, killed by a Confederate artillery shell just one hour before truce took effect.

Zouave units were raised on both sides of the American Civil War. The Union had more than 70 volunteer Zouave Regiments. The Confederacy fielded about 25 Zouave companies. A feature of American Zouave units was the light infantry tactics and drills they employed. They moved at double time rather than marching to a stately cadence and they lay on their backs to load their rifles. To fire they rolled prone and sometimes rose to one knee. A famous Confederate Zouave unit was a volunteer company within the Louisiana Tigers. The Tigers were a volunteer company raised in the New Orleans area. Later, Louisiana battalions and regiments became known as Tigers. A wealthy New Orleans merchant, Mr. Keene Richards, outfitted the units with uniforms. Because he was "so impressed by their drill and appearance during training, he elected to outfit Captain Alexander White's Company B in the Zouave fashion with gold trim jackets, sashes, fezzes with tassels and outlandish cotton ship pantaloons along with white canvas leggings.



JACK SEIGLER '73 ORDERS LAST PEACOCK ZOUAVES TO FIRE AT WILL! Kneeling: Stephen Aulbach, Scott Everard, Don Loebbaka, Unidentified gun loading Zouave. Standing: Gerald Zuniga, Arturo Wolf, Charles Reed, Ted Nevels.

Colonel Donald Peacock introduced the Zouaves to Peacock in 1940. Donna Peacock describes in Parade Rest I how Col. Don became fascinated with a newsreel about an Elks Club Zouave competition. He immediately contacted a local club and discovered that, although a San Antonio team no longer existed, the captain of the former team lived in the city. This is how an enthusiastic Joe Pace became the first instructor for the PMA Zouaves. He selected the 16 finest drilled cadets and started a tradition.

The Peacock Zouaves perfected an elaborate routine of fast cadence, precision drill of intricate and spectacular movements and also emulating some Zouave battle maneuvers. Some movements were "star to the left, break star, cog wheel, Queen Anne Salute, at a rate of over twice the normal cadence of a military marching unit. The performance was climaxed by a thrilling wall-scaling demonstration. The entire team charged with rifles, the Captain with his sword, and the guide-on with his flag, then ascended a 10 foot imitation castle wall in approximately 30 seconds. Colored smoke bombs reinforced the spectacle.

The Peacock elite drill team's first performances in 1940 and 1941 offered the following local newspaper praise: "...smoother than most Russian ballets was the drilling of that crack team, the Zouaves of Peacock Military Academy". Their appearances at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium, Battle of the Flowers Fetes and many others culminating with their last appearance at the San Marcos Baptist Academy in 1973, were always outstanding and remain engraved in many memories.