Arnold Air Society is an organization for the students in advanced Air Reserve Officer's Training Corps who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the scope and mission of the United States Air Force, promoting American Citizenship, and creating close and more efficient relationship among Advanced Air Science Cadets and Faculty.

Arnold Air Society came to the Ohio State Campus on January 9, 1950. Prior to that date, the Air ROTC Honorary had been called Prop and Wing. After becoming part of Arnold Air Society, it had to be designated as a squadron. General Curtis E. LeMay, Commanding General of the Strategic Air Command, as a distinguished graduate of Ohio State University ROTC program, was asked to have his name designate this division. He accepted and the General Curtis E. LeMay Squadron was born. At present it has 79 members, who meet every other Tuesday at 7:30 at the Military Science Building.

The qualifications for membership consists of passing a screening board and test, having a relatively high point hour, enrollment in the Advanced Air Science program, and going through the informal interating held each Autumn and Spring Quarter. This year's projects consisted of a formal and informal dance, each quarter, a combined dance with Anchor and Chain, and also a Blood Drive during Winter and Spring.

The Navy comes in force every year as is evidenced by this scene taken at the annual Quarter Deck Ball. Reserve officer students and officers alike mingle at the dance which is an event every Spring Quarter.
Arnold Air Society

Officers

Donald Lukens, Commanding Officer
Don Cherry, Executive Officer
Richard Peters, Assistant Recorder
Roger Payne, Treasurer
Gerry Scheiman, Sergeant-Major
Captain Frederick C. Thayer, Advisor

Arnold Air Society, founded in 1948, has as its purpose, the creation of a closer working relationship among future officers, and promotion of understanding and relationships between the cadet corps and officers.

During the year, A.A.S sponsored for the second straight time, their Arnold Air Queen into the 1953 Military Ball Queenship. This year's winner was Miss Nita Hunt from Bethesda, Ohio, while last year, Miss Peggy Poorman from Columbus copped the Arnold Air Queen and Military Ball Queen titles. Men who backed the contest this year were Aran Bedrosian and Bud Gerzina, Queen Co-chairmen. The Society thanks these men for doing a terrific job.

Besides coming out tops in queenships, Arnold Air also had the best in cooperation when it sponsored a block drive. Almost 300 pints were garnered for Korean service men this year.

Much credit is due to Buzz Hinekman and Bud Gerzina for their hard work in getting 40 new pledges this year and the several parties and formals held throughout the year were all attended by a full membership of 90 men.

Thanks are also in order to Squadron Advisor Captai Frederick C. Thayer. Under his capable guidance, men of the Arnold Air Society are looking forward to an even greater season during 1953-54.
National awareness week scheduled for POW/MIAs

By Teresa Hackathorn
Lantern staff writer

More than 100 Ohioans have yet to return from the jungles of Vietnam and the hills of Korea. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

The Arnold Air Society, a national service organization within Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC), is sponsoring a national awareness week Nov. 7-13, for the prisoners of war and the missing in action from the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

The events are planned to make the public more aware of the POW/MIA situation.

On Saturday, 142 yellow ribbons with names of Ohio POW/MIA's were tied around the trees on the Oval.

Local churches have been notified and asked to offer a moment of silence in remembrance of those still unaccounted for.

The big event planned for the week is a 24-hour run on the Oval beginning at noon Tuesday, where the runner will carry a flag symbolizing those missing.

"Our goal is to have at least one person running for 24 hours," said Andy Smerekovsky, a senior from Bedford and member of the Arnold Air Society.

Tom Richardson, a freshman from Marysville and member of the Arnold Air Society, said the sign-up sheets to volunteer for the run filled up fast.

Members of ROTC are scheduled around the clock for 15 minute intervals, which will be dedicated to POW/MIA's from Ohio. They will either wear a POW/MIA T-shirt or carry the POW/MIA flag.

"Anyone can join in the run to help support or just cheer the runners on as they run around the Oval," he said.

He said that the runners will dedicate each 15 minute interval to a different POW/MIA.

The kick-off lap will have a large group of people as will the final "victory lap" he said.

"We're trying to generate support and peace of mind for the families of those that are missing," Smerekovsky said.

The Arnold Air Society is being backed by a tri-ROTC effort.

The cadets and midshipmen have worked together on projects to promote awareness.

"By putting the issue in the public eye maybe it will make the people think," he said.

The campus can get involved by ordering pins, wrist bands and T-shirts at the booth on the Oval. The proceeds will go to the Ohio Chapter of the National League of Families.

The wrist bands are stainless steel and have the name rank and date of loss of a POW or MIA. The idea for the wrist bands began during the Vietnam conflict.

A California organization called VIVA, Voices in Vital America, began the wrist band operation but went out of business in the mid-seventies.

"Other independent companies continued the wrist band sales but they did it for personal profit," said Liz Flick, the Ohio coordinator for the Ohio Chapter of the National League of Families.

She said the league started to produce the wrist bands about five years ago, copying the original as close as possible.

The bands cost $5.50 and the proceeds go to the league to help cover the costs of their handouts.

The league is made up of family members of the POW/MIA's. It is a network of families that work together and support each other. They work to inform the public and make it aware of those still missing, she said.

He said students today have not had to deal with a conflict that took their friends and family away to foreign lands. Because of this, they tend to forget the sacrifices made so that we can live as we do.
ROTC program wins awards for community service efforts

By Stephanie Rohal
Lantern staff writer

The Arnold Air Society, an extracurricular honor organization of the Ohio State Air Force ROTC program, won two national awards April 16 in Atlanta.

The 38-member society competed against 51 other squadrons for eight national awards and won the Maryland Cup and the Eagle Award. The awards recognize the program’s campus and community service work for 1990.

"The Maryland Cup is given to an outstanding large squadron based on their pledge program, officer development, professional qualities, and community service," said Cadet Maj. Mark Stoller, a junior from Cincinnati. "The Eagle Award is given for outstanding contributions to civil affairs."

The society last won a national award in 1983 when it won the Maryland Cup. None of the other 26 colleges in the Ohio Valley have won since 1983.

Col. Edward T. White Jr., adviser of the society and a professor of air science, said he was more proud of the Eagle Award.

"That award symbolizes to me an awareness that goes beyond yourself," White said. "That’s the purpose of the Arnold Air Society — to make future leaders of America more aware of the people around them."

Reading for the blind, practicing conversational English with international students, visiting Children’s Hospital and nursing homes, and working with Special Olympics are some of the campus activities and community services the society provides.

The society, founded in 1949, is named for Gen. Hap Arnold, a five-star general in World War II. According to its constitution, the society was started to create better relationships between Air Force officers, to aid in their development and to further Air Force traditions.
Pride

Members of the Arnold Air Society run through the Oval with an American flag during the Veterans Run and Candle Lighting Ceremony, Wednesday.