

Retired NROTC leader joins student ranks

By DAVID ABERNATHY
Staff Writer

In viewing the domesticity of Commander Bill Bailey's home, complete with children's toys strewn across the floor, it is difficult to picture this man living in a dirty prison camp in North Vietnam. But Bailey, who was recently honored for 25 years of service in the Navy, endured six years as a prisoner of war.

His life today is quite different. Bailey spent the last four-and-a-half years of his Navy career as the executive officer of the Naval ROTC program at UNC before officially retiring at the beginning of January. His duties included being a class advisor and teaching leadership courses.

His entire career has definitely not been as safe and comfortable as the past four years have been. Entering the Navy during his college years because he wanted to fly, Bailey spent almost two years in flight training before he was sent to Vietnam to fly an F-14 plane on bombing runs. In June of 1967, after 187 missions, his plane was shot down. "The plane went into a spin," Bailey said. "It scared the living day-

lights out of me. You have a numb feeling, but procedures are going through your head because we had practiced them hundreds of times."

Bailey ejected and parachuted into Nam Dinh, a village near Hanoi. "I was captured immediately," he said. "I didn't even have time to get my parachute off."

After blindfolding the prisoner, the North Vietnamese took Bailey to Hanoi, where they interrogated him intensely for three days and two nights straight about the location of future bombing runs.

"You reach a point where you are hurting so bad from the torture that you talk," Bailey said. "I had to tell them something. I ended up telling them the targets that I had been on in the last week."

One method of torture used to make the POWs talk was known as the "rope trick." It involved tying the prisoner's hands behind his back and bending him forward.

"People had dislocated shoulders from that," Bailey said. "The pain was excruciating. I lost the use of my left hand for about two months from the ropes."

After lying his way through the

questioning, Bailey was thrown into solitary confinement for six months. "It was a very traumatic experience," Bailey said. "I lost track of time. I was a walking zombie."

The Vietnamese had a policy of restricting communication among the prisoners and to their families in America. The daily routine consisted of leaving the cell twice a day to pick up food and once a day to get a bucket for urination and defecation.

"That made it downright boring," Bailey said. "We developed a tap code so that you could communicate with someone lying in a cell next to you. Unfortunately I didn't know the tap code."

In January of 1973, almost six years after Bailey's plane was shot down, a peace treaty was signed, allowing the American POWs to go home. The Red Cross worked to get Bailey out as fast as possible because his father was sick from a heart attack. Bailey got home just in time — his father died three days later.

Bailey's attitude toward U.S. involvement in Vietnam did not change because he was a POW.

"I supported it then," Bailey said. "In retrospect, people weren't con-

cerned about Vietnam in 1966. I thought more about racial problems than I did Vietnam."

And contrary to the lack of respect the G.I.s encountered when they returned home, the POWs received a hero's welcome. "Since those people (G.I.s) came home as individuals, they never had a welcome home," Bailey said.

For his bravery and dedication during the war, Bailey received several awards, including two Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

He also got something else due to the war — his wife. Several million bracelets were sold in the U.S. with the names of American POWs. Bailey corresponded with the woman who had purchased a bracelet with his name on it, and soon after the war they were married.

"I call myself a mail-order groom," Bailey said. "It's funny how chance works."

Lady Luck was certainly smiling on Bailey. He and his wife have three children, and now that he has retired from the Navy, Bailey is working on a second career — education. He is a full-time student in the UNC doctoral program for educational administration and eventually wants to work as a high school principal when he graduates.

Bailey said he wants to work in an educational system in the South. "The educational system in the South has not been that good for everybody," he said. "I enjoy the thought of better educating people."



Bill Bailey poses with the framed medals given to him at retirement

Tickets

Understanding during the construction of the Smith Center. Students were originally promised about 1,900 lower-level seats, but construction changed the final number. "The number of available seats shrank in the process of development and design of the building of the arena itself," he said.

Hoolahan said the confusion resulted from the transition in CAA leadership since the early stages of the Smith Center. "There hasn't been clear and accurate communication down the line as we've changed leadership roles."

During a meeting Wednesday between Geer, Hoolahan and Associate Athletic Director Richard

Baddour, Geer said the athletic department officials told her they could do nothing about the number of student seats.

They said the number of student tickets is not flexible, because so many seats must be reserved for Rams Club members.

Geer said she is waiting for student reaction to determine the next course of action. "I'd like to hear from other students to see if they'd like to do something about this situation," she said. "The people that care, I need to know they care."

Geer said she will contact Student Body President Kevin Martin and Student Congress Speaker Neil Riemann about the situation. "This

is no longer just a CAA issue," she said. "We don't have to sit here and say, 'There's nothing we can do.'"

When the Tar Heels played in Carmichael Auditorium, students were allocated about 3,000 seats; now they receive about 7,000 total. But Geer said students were better off in Carmichael because all the seats there were roughly equivalent to lower level Smith Center seats.

from page 1

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Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Saturday and Sunday events are printed in Friday's calendar and must be submitted on the Wednesday before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, 104 Union. Items of interest lists ongoing events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

Thursday

3:30 p.m. **University Career Planning and Placement Services** will have an interviewing skills workshop for seniors and graduate students in 209 Hanes.

4 p.m. **UCPPS** will have an experiential learning workshop on internship basics and how to find one in 210 Hanes.

4:30 p.m. **Women's Forum** will meet in the Campus Y lounge. Everyone is welcome.

5 p.m. **Association of International Students** will meet in 208-209 Union to discuss Chile. All are welcome.

5:45 p.m. **Baptist Student Union** will have a spaghetti dinner during the weekly worship program at the Battle House, across from Kenan Dorm.

6 p.m. **Presbyterian Campus Ministry** will have pizza night at the Student Center. All students are invited.

6:45 p.m. **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship**.

7 p.m. **Theta Chi Fraternity** will have an informal rush meeting in Gerrard Hall. All interested men are encouraged to attend.

Circle K will have a new member meeting in 210 Union.

UNC Outing Club will meet in the Union.

7:30 p.m. **UCPPS** will sponsor a presentation by Price Waterhouse at the Carolina Inn.

Items of Interest

Phi Eta Sigma National Honors Society will be awarding \$35,000 in graduate and undergrad-

uate scholarships this year. Phi Eta Sigma members may pick up information about the awards in 300 Steele. Local deadline for applications is February 20.

GPSF is offering information on the in-state application process. See the bulletin board outside Suite D, Union.

Institute for the Arts and Humanities has cancelled Friday afternoon open house until further notice.

UNC Glee Clubs and The Carolina Choir will be having auditions for membership soon; sign up at 106 Peabody.

North Carolina Memorial Hospital Volunteer Services will be holding volunteer registration weekdays until Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 966-4793 for more information.

Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity, is having sign-up for Spring Rush Jan. 17 through Jan. 20 beside T-2 in New Carroll.

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