

Corry dedicates exhibit in honor of 'On the Roof Gang'

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Corry Station Public Affairs

Important history fades further away with each generation, until reminders such as monuments, books or holidays bring memories back.

On Nov. 20, NTTC Corry Station made sure that the pioneers of cryptology will not be forgotten. A cryptologic training exhibit was dedicated in honor of these men who have come to be known as the "On the Roof Gang."

According to available records, the Navy's CT rate got its start in 1928 when a select group of Navy and Marine Corps radio operators were given specific cryptologic training in a steel reinforced concrete blockhouse on the roof of the sixth wing, old Main Navy Building in Washington, D.C. Thus evolved the name "On the Roof Gang."

As the training and technology continually expanded, roof classes were moved during the early years of World War II to Bainbridge Island,

Wash. After the war, the CT school was moved to Imperial Beach, Calif., where by 1955 it had grown into a ma-

major activity.

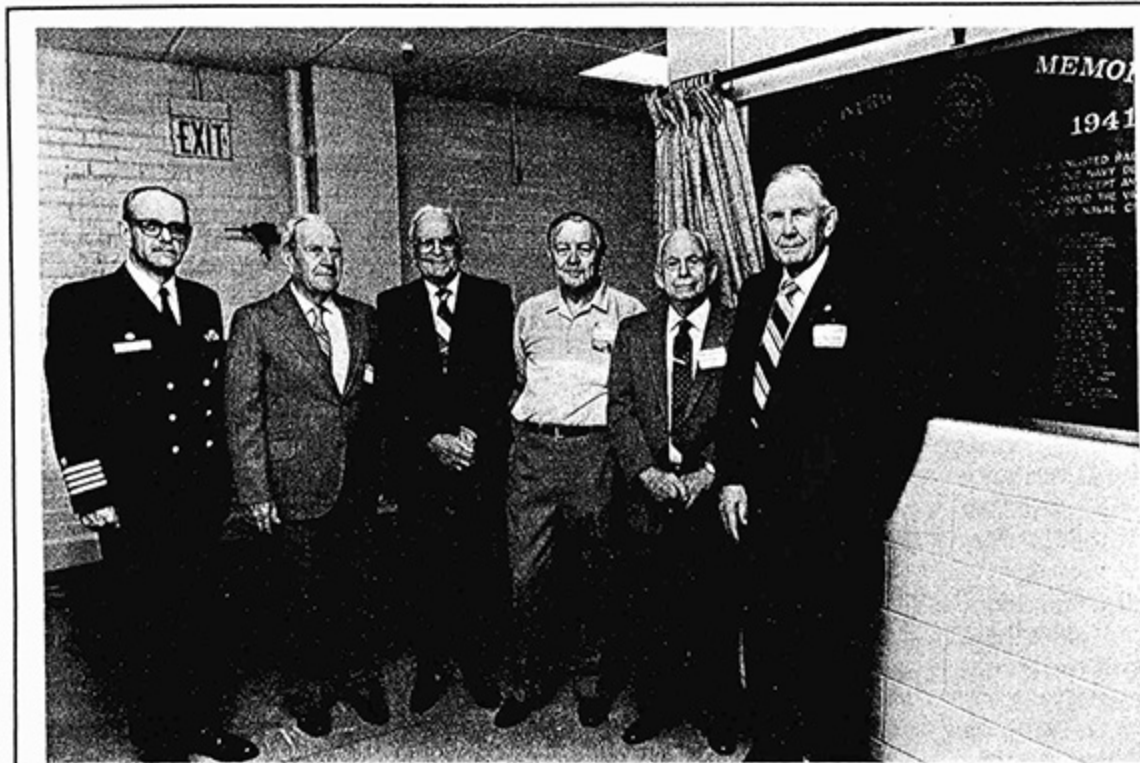
In 1960, the growing school was again relocated, this time to Corry Station. Since

the station's first graduating class in 1961, Corry has graduated more than 50,000 CTs. Today Corry Station trains

most of the Armed Forces' cryptologists through class "A" and class "C" schools.

The exhibit contains old and new photos of U.S. security bases and operations worldwide, old photos of OTRG members at work and on graduation day, and antiquated communications equipment donated by the National Cryptologic Veterans Association. Such memorabilia as 1942 Traffic and Decryption Intelligence Charts of the Japanese Navy and charts of U-boat position estimates are also featured.

Five OTRG members attended the dedication. One, retired Capt. Albert Pelletier, said he never really imagined CT technology would advance like it has. "In the early days, we didn't have much," he recalled. "A shack, a few typewriters, radios and batteries...whatever we could borrow, bum or steal. We were unofficial so we couldn't get very much."



The unveiling of the bronze "On the Roof Gang" plaque fostered pride in Corry Station CO, Capt. David Gill, and OTRG members (from left) Charles Quinn, Jesse Randle, Glenn Evans, James Pearson and Albert Pelletier.