



19th Course

Inderjit Kashyap 19/E - NOIDA



The course credits cover seven gallantry awards and a total of 12 three stars ranks. Course participated in the 1962, 1965, 1971 & 1989 major operations. Post service, the course excelled as think tanks and served airlines, real estate, financial services, and industry ranging from automotive, to manufacturing, hotels, tourism, hospitality, sports, engineering, and the corporate world with distinction. As cadets they witnessed international cricket in Bombay stadium. 1st ever NDA Course to bring out a Diamond Jubilee Commemorative First Day Cover and have it released on the exact date.

The Cadet Days – 02 Jan 58 to 10 Dec 60

2nd Jan 1958, saw a new Course assembling at the NDA, and it was the 19th Course. The 200 plus arrived from various backgrounds, some familiar with the life and events to come, others had some idea whilst most unaware on what lay ahead. In the 60s, Services career was top and most sought after; hence huge enthusiasm on joining.

Sports: It was during the Novices Boxing that the 19th course sports talent surfaced. This continued in every sports field, throughout the three years at the academy.

Boxing: Suresh Chand & B Kumaresan

Athletics: KD Singh, BJS Oberoi, TPS Kohli, VK Mehta

Basketball: Fateh Singh & Inderjit Kashyap

Squash: VV Natu & S B Jirge

Polo: VK Nair, Y S Ahlawat & Bini Shergill

Tennis: R N Sehgal

Cricket: DK Sharma, VS Mehta, Inder Puri & V S Sapatnekar

Academics 1st term saw large relegations, due to Academics but later the course got into the groove. The Commandant Gen Habibullah, though a sports enthusiastic and soft on sportsmen, was particular for Academics performance, hence the relegations.

International Cricket: It was Commandant Gen Habibullah's enthusiasm for cricket that NDA hosted international teams:

West Indies - Services Cricket match. Our course thus became privileged to see world class players like Rohan Kanhai, Charlie Smith, Gary Alexander & Gilchrist in action for 3 days at the Bombay Stadium, when the Academy was given a holiday. A K Sengupta, a 5th termmer then, scored a century & went on to represent India. He was from 15th NDA Course.

India - NDA Cricket match: A one day with UK bound team with ML Jaishima, Subash Gupte, Vijay Manjerkar, Desai, AG Kirpal Singh and others.

Academy Sub Maj: Sub Maj Bora, ASSAM Regt was an institution in himself. Apart from his excellent command over English, he was affluent in Spanish & other Indian languages. Amazingly, he always addressed cadets by name.

Change of Commandant: Around the 4th term R Adm Samson took over from Maj Gen Habibullah and the difference in their styles took us a little while to adjust. It was a very pleasant change; the latter was heard very little whereas Admiral Samson interacted freely. A play, HASAN, was staged as a farewell event for Gen Habibullah and it was a grand play indeed with a cast of nearly 300.

Academy Auditorium: During our tenure, we also saw the inauguration of the auditorium, a big relief from seeing the movies in the Shed like Cinema Hall, where only two Squadrons could attend. Defaulters during the move show ended up carrying cycles on their heads as a mass punishment.

Passing out Parade: 19th NDA Course graduated 10 Dec 1960. KD Singh was the ACC and SK Sriram the ACA. Both came again to lead the Course in paying homage at The Hut of Remembrance, during the Golden Jubilee. Thus, the Course mates of three years departed for their respective Service Academies & then their career thereafter.

The Service Days – 17 Dec 61 to Jan 2000

The Course had a real baptism of war within 6 months and participated in the 1962 Operations, followed by 1965, 1971 & 1989 operations. A total of seven gallantry awards: One MVC, one KC and five VrCs .

N C Kohli, VrC (<i>Posthumous</i>) 1962	R Puri (Killed-in-Action) 1962
P Singh, KC (<i>Posthumous</i>) 1962	VS Mehta (<i>Killed-in-Action</i>) 1962
S Dagur (<i>Killed-in-Action</i>) 1962	HC Gujral, VrC (<i>Posthumous</i>) 1965
VK Bhatia, VrC** 1965 & 1971	Manjit Singh, MVC 1989
Brig A P Datta, VrC, 1971	

A total of 12 from the course rose to three-star ranks:

R K Sawhney, <i>Fmn Cdr & PSO</i>	Avtar Singh, <i>Head of Regt</i>	P Gokarn, <i>Head of Regt</i>
P J Jacob, <i>Vice Chief, Service HQ</i>	H R S Mann, <i>SO Comd HQ</i>	V K Bhatia, <i>C-in-C</i>
Amarjit Singh, <i>Head Tech Dept</i>	Sudhir Kumar, <i>Comdt Trg Est</i>	AS Krishnan, <i>PSO Service HQ</i>
Y K Mehta, <i>PSO & Comdt Trg Est</i>	Rameshwar Singh, <i>Dept Head</i>	J S Rai, <i>C-in-C & Comdt NDA</i>

Post Service Days – 2000 onwards

Several from the course post retirement, joined a varied range of professions:

Think Tank Organisations: V K Nair, Joe Thomas, and R K Sawhney

Air India: V Mayadev, Y P Sharma and V K Koshal

Industry (Automotive & Manufacturing): Surjit, Amarjit Singh and MM Dewan and DS Arora

Industry (Hotels and Tourism): Suresh Hiremath, IC Kewlani, Deepak Verma and DN Das

Industry (Hospitality and Garment): Fatah Singh and Sood

Real Estate: Arvinder Singh and V K Talwar

Financial Services: PJ Jacob

Overseas: George Poonen (USA), KD Singh (USA), MS Chadha, SK Sriram (USA) and AK Saroj (Tanzania)

Course Directory: This has been developed and as of date approximately, 200 officers & ladies' details are included. Regular updating has been done and the latest edition will be out in about a fortnight.

Coming Back

Fifty years of struggle and glory,
Fifty years of an ongoing story,
Fifty beats of a nostalgic heart,
All coming back to the start.



Ramesh Sharma

Resounding footsteps,
down the corridor of time,
The magic of youth, in its very prime,
Memories jostling comradeship flowing,
Bonds at the strongest and still growing.

Turning back the hands of clock,
Near the majestic Sudan Block,
Savouring the warmth
of a childhood home,
At the Riding School and
the Gliderdrome.

The 'Squadron', standing tall and serene,
Silently asking – where have you been?
And the answer just swells in the heart,
I was always here- never did depart.

Coming back is enshrined in time,
Like a lovely poem, like a beautiful rhyme,
In times of happiness, in times of trial,
Remember the Reunion,
remember the Sundial.

Course Get togethers: The Course Get togethers were started sometime in 1992, in the NCR by VK Talwar and a few others. The Course Association was formed sometime in 1999 with DN Sood's assistance of the office back and with that the 'Course Family' took shape.

Annual Get togethers: With PJ Jacob's assistance, this became an annual feature. Spouses of all Course mates who had left for their heavenly abode, were to be honorary members and guests at every Course Function. P Gokarn then continued with the support after Jacob retired. After his retirement, the onus has been with D N Sood and his support continues even after two decades.

City based Get togethers: Whilst Annual event has been a regular feature for those in the NCR, the Chandigarh Chapter hold a dinner every month and roughly 20 plus couples attend. In the NCR the attendance is 35 couples plus. It has been the endeavour to provide all possible help to spouse(s), on the officers' demise. Also, the ladies continue to be with the 'Course Family'.

Diamond Jubilee: We did commemorate it on 10 Dec 20, but it was under the shadow of Covid-19 and we could only have the First Day Cover released with

only about ten attendees and a lunch thereafter. From amongst the Course Mates, D N Sood, P S Bawa and Inderjit Kashyap could attend. We are 1st ever NDA Course to bring out a Diamond Jubilee Commemorative First Day Cover and have it released on the exact date.



Release of the Album of the Commemorative 19th Course Diamond Jubilee First Day Cover
(L to R: D N Sood- 19/ I, PS Bawa, 19/A, Director Postal Dept, Inderjit Kashyap 19/E, P K Gulati, 25/ F)

