

Russell J. Maziarka '73

Russ Maziarka came to Sam Houston from the Chicago, IL area in 1969. At Sam Houston he was in the Counter guerrilla Company for 4 years, Fusiliers, Scabbard and Blade, and was on the Corps Staff in '72-'73. He was also very active in organizing, coaching, and participating in ROTC intramural sports teams.

When making branch selections in 1972, Russ put Infantry for his first three choices. In December 1973, Russ was commissioned into the Adjutant General Corps, all the while protesting that he couldn't even spell it.

Russ did not take the traditional career route for AG officers, opting for the road less traveled, or, in his words, the bastard child. In the early 80's he went to the Special Forces Qualification Course and earned his Green Beret, allowing him to do his AG work in Special Forces Groups.

He ended up with a very interesting career with many unusual and interesting assignments. He was a U.S. Military Representative to NATO, Deputy Chairman of NATO Military Committee, was a General's aide, worked in nuclear weapons, was at the Pentagon on 9/11 and had to handle mortuary affairs for those killed in the attack.

After retiring as an O-6, he went right on with his military work as a civilian, working with TRADOC Campaign Plans, future weapons, and other interesting things, and he is still doing it.

Not bad for a guy that couldn't spell AG.

Col (R) Maziarka currently resides in Gurnee, IL with his wife Mary Ann (Minn), and plans to retire again at the end of March 2019.

Update 16May19, Russ passed away yesterday (15May19).

From Larry Joiner, originally '73, CG 1969-1971, USN 1971-1975.

I can still see him, Paul Wilson and I with our mohawks standing in front of Bill Baine (CG CO) and Bart Reddoch (CG 1SG). Even though I haven't seen him in a long time he is still in my memories and in my heart.

Larry Joiner

From Larry Booth '73

I probably played a jillion hand ball and paddle ball games with Russ and don't recall ever coming close to winning one.

In the spring of 1973, we had a CG function out near the three oil tanks. I don't remember exactly what it was, but it did not involve weapons and tactics, but rather camp fires and beer. This wasn't planned, but late that night when things got quiet, myself and another CG found ourselves having to police up the bodies and load them into my pickup to haul back to Huntsville. Due to a lack of foresight and PP Planning, we didn't take a headcount when it started. As a result, the next morning we found out that Russ had collided with a tree in the dark and knocked himself out. In the dark, we had also missed another guy that didn't respond to our yells. Sometime in the very early morning hours they had both made their way back to where we had been, only to find the rest of us gone. They walked out, finally stopping at a house and getting someone to drive them in. Can you imagine what would happen to someone now if they were knocking on doors along east 190 at 2 or 3 in the morning?

If you have further information or would like to share a memory, please send to shsumsac@gmail.com