



Reveille

Newsletter of the CCAC Issue 56 – October 2023

Inside this issue:

Greetings From the PMS	1
President's Desk	1
LTC LeClair Biography	2
Farewell letter: LTC Smith	4
Remembering Preston A. Weatherred	5
2023 Cadet Orientation	6
Hall of Honor 2024	5
2023 Cadet Orientation	6
Alumni Updates	7
Arlington Pistol Team	7
Class of 1964	10
Air Attack on Tarleton	11
Taps	14
Membership	15
UTA Unit Tribute Plaque	16

Greetings From the PMS

By LTC Greg LeClair,
Professor of Military
Science

Ciao a Tutti! Just arrived to the Maverick Battalion from Naples, Italy, where I commanded 1/650th Military Intelligence Group, Allied Command Counterintelligence from 2021-2023. What a change of pace and culture shock moving from Naples, Italy, to Dallas, Texas. To say that I am missing my previous assignment in Europe would be an understatement; however, with every new day as Professor of Military Science here at The University of Texas at Arlington, I forget more and more about the lavish quality of life in southern Italy and the taste of Sorrento lemons. It is time for me to embrace Dallas-Fort Worth culture and



enjoy the wide variety of world-famous Tex-Mex and BBQ to captivate my senses at dive restaurants and food trucks abound. I look forward to deep cultural experiences like the Stockyards, rodeos, the JFK Museum, and the Cowboys. These new opportunities for raw culture should help

unseat any lingering cravings for fresh caught paccheri e peschi under the shadowed waterfront of Castello Argonnesse at Ponte Ischia.

They tell me that everything is bigger in Texas. Dallas-Fort Worth appears to be no exception to that saying. For sure the traffic is bigger - just drive down I-35 at 1700. Just drive anywhere. Further, DFW Airport hosts an impressive 1,800 flights per day, with more than 260 destinations, including dozens of direct flights internationally to Asia, Latin America, and Europe. Data supports that there is as many people living in the DFW Metroplex as the combined population of some 30 U.S. states. There are some things that I'm slowly getting reacquainted with and accustomed to – uniform wear.

(Continued on pg. 2)

President's Desk

By BG (ret.) Ricky Gibbs

Recently, I attended the 2023 Maneuver Warfare Conference at Fort Moore, Georgia, formerly named Fort Benning. The theme for this year's conference was "Driving Change." As you may already know, the Army is transforming how it fights and how it is organized to fight. The Army is shifting its focus from counterinsurgency to large scale ground combat with Army Divisions as the unit of action. I think it is important for our young leaders to hear what Army leadership is focused on, so here is a summary of what I heard from our Army Senior leaders.

GEN Randy George, the new Chief of Staff of the Army C(SA), opened the conference by describing what the Army would see or expect on the battlefield in the future...things like ubiquitous sensing, unmanned systems, effective long range ground systems and integrated air and missile defense, 3D print-



(Continued on pg. 3)

“You are the future of this legacy — Mavericks Lead the Way!”

Greetings *(continued from pg. 1)*

Perhaps the strangest part of my culture shock is not coming to the hot climate of Texas, but wearing my uniforms again! In my last command, civilian attire was mandatory in the workplace...and now? It's back to the basics of camouflage, going out to the field, leading Soldiers, not Allied special agents, and providing leadership Presence to a great team of Cadets.

But enough about me. Our new Senior Military Instructor, MSG Matthew Russell, is now fully on board and engaged in the organization. As a team, you'll see plenty of us, and we roam the Maverick Battalion to observe and provide feedback and guidance. The Maverick Battalion remains manned and ready with exceptional expertise of world-class military cadre who tirelessly continue to expertly teach, coach, train, and mentor our cadet population - especially you MS3s who are preparing for CST in summer 2024. Get ready for Land Navigation y'all!

I would like to thank CPT Callahan and MSG Russell for holding down the Maverick Battalion's gap in leadership handover earlier this year. They jumped into the fight without a PMS and SMIS. Appreciate ya. We also want to thank our UNT cadre, especially CPT Spasic, and the whole of our Texas National Guard teammates for hosting our three-day Fall FTX at the Mineral Wells training area. We trained a lot, learned a lot, and boy was it hot out there! The event was a great success as we focused heavily on Land Navigation, Leadership lanes, and Ruck Marching. Spring FTX will focus on additional attributes and competencies as we prepare for CST and develop the junior population for increased leadership roles.

Now, FTX complete, we prepare for the USACC CG's visit to Maverick Country in October, where we will be hosting the Commanding General of Cadet Command, MG Munera. We will highlight our new resources and instructional accommodations at the University of Texas at Dallas up in Plano, where by summer of 2024 we will have established a new Provisional Extension unit of the Maverick Battalion. The nation's population has shifted over the last 20 years and the growth of high school and undergraduates within the Dallas area is an increasingly focused market, particularly in the north of Dallas. This is a prime contender for the reallocation of additional resources under MG Munera's "Reset 2030" by which USACC is responsive to population changes across America. Under the new program, some select ROTC battalions will realign their programs to meet the increase or decrease in growth markets, consolidating hosts and extensions or the expanding hosts with new or additional extensions that were former crosstowns. In any case, it is business as usual for those of us at UTA and UNT; however, in the coming semesters and years we can expect significant cadet population growth to coincide with our focus at UT Dallas up in Plano. We are excited to integrate and be a part of their team and welcome the new expanded relationship into the Maverick Battalion.

Military training initially began at this institution when it was the Carlisle Military Academy. Since 1902, hundreds of outstanding young men and women have been prepared for service as officers in the U.S. Army as a result. You are the future of this legacy - Mavericks Lead the Way!

LTC LeClair Biography

Lieutenant Colonel Greg LeClair is a native of Syracuse, New York, and commissioned through the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School in 2003. Lieutenant Colonel LeClair is a U.S. Army Military Intelligence Officer, currently the Professor of Military Science for the U.S. Army Cadet Command's Maverick Battalion, which includes several universities and colleges around the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area. He is a former Adjunct Professor of National Security Affairs and Intelligence Studies at Excelsior University and Broward College.

His civilian education includes a Master of Science in International Relations, National Security Affairs, from Troy University and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, International Relations, from the University at Buffalo. Lieutenant Colonel LeClair is

(Continued on pg. 3)

LTC LeClair Biography *(continued from pg. 2)*

the former Commander and Special Agent in Charge for Region I, Allied Command Counterintelligence, 650th Military Intelligence Group, responsible for NATO counterintelligence support to Allied Command Operations and Allied Command Transformation equities in Southern and Eastern Europe. He has over ten years of overseas assignments serving as an intelligence officer, operating in conjunction with Allied and Coalition militaries throughout Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007-2008 as a human intelligence advisor to the Iraqi National Police. He served as Chief of Russian Military Assessments for NATO Land Forces Command at Izmir, Turkiye. His previous assignments include Brigade and Battalion Operations Officer, Chief of the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Captain School, Executive Officer to the Director of Intelligence at USSOUTHCOM, Doral, Florida.

He is an honor graduate from the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Special Agent Course and graduate of the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Combat Action Badge, Netherlands' Nijmegen Vierdaagsekruis, the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, and the Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton Award for Excellence in Military Intelligence.

Lieutenant Colonel LeClair's father, Michael, served in the Vietnam War and is a Purple Heart recipient. His mother, Jane, is retired from the Nuclear Energy and Cyber Security Industry. Lieutenant Colonel LeClair has two children – Jack and Reagan.

President's Desk *(continued from pg. 1)*

ing forward on the battlefield, electric/silent vehicles, and commercial advances for C2. Given all this, the Army must change how we are organized and how we train. The Army must change how it acquires new things. Every formation is going to have to learn how to use unmanned systems.

CSA focus areas: Warfighting; Continuous transformation; Strengthen the Profession; and Delivery of Ready Combat Formations. Our formations must be Trained/Fit/Lethal and, if challenged by time in training, then Commanders should focus on things that make their unit more lethal and cohesive. The Army will fight at every echelon. The Army needs to have a lower overhead in training Battalion and higher. For Warfighters, we need to reduce the amount of "pucksters," et al. We will relook at ReARM. We have too long lead times on parts, and we must fix it. We must provide soldiers and families better predictability and will do this through better Unit Training Management (UTM).

Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA)

Weimer talked about the changing character of war and stated that the Army must transform how it trains noncommissioned officers. Warfighting is the reason we exist.

Regarding Delivering Ready Combat Formations, GEN George talked about creating Applications and Websites to improve Soldier and family support. He further went on to talk about improving the industrial base. He believes the Army has too much excess, and appointed a two-star general to fix the issue. A method that he will explore is the use of passive inventory systems. For Continuous Transformation, he talked about tablets for commanders to improve Command and Control. He will modernize and transform the Army. For him, modernization means new technology and equipment, while transformation means how we train and operate.

To Strengthen the Profession, SMA Weimer stated that Soldiers and Leaders must be brilliant at the basics. The Army will reinvigorate branch magazines, such as the Cavalry and Infantry magazines. Create phone

APPs and put more emphasis on standards and discipline.

Another often-talked about theme was that the Army is a profession and not just a job. So, in closing for you cadets, soon to be lieutenants in the Army, and to those young leaders now serving our Army, I leave you with this quote from an article I read while serving on Staff Duty as a Platoon Leader in 3/75 Infantry Ranger Battalion written by Major James W. Bellah. It best describes for me the Profession of Arms.

"A dead soldier who has given his life because of the failure of his officer is a dreadful sight and a crime before God. Like all dead Soldiers, he was tired before he died, hungry undoubtedly, dirty, wet, and possibly frightened to his soul. And there he lies-dead needlessly, on top of all that-never again to see his homeland. Don't be the officer who failed to instruct him properly-who failed to lead him well! Burn the midnight oil, lieutenant, that you may not in later years, look at your hands and find his blood still red upon them!"



**Kevin R. Smith, GS
(LTC ret.)**
Talent Acquisition
Officer / Recruiting
Operations Officer

See You Later

By Kevin R. Smith, GS (LTC ret.)

Maverick BN Corps of Cadet Alumni family,

I hate saying goodbyes, so instead I will say “see you later.”

I started working as the ROO at UT-Arlington on 17 SEP 2001, so 22 years later I am now starting the next segment of my life.

I have seen our ROTC program make 479 new lieutenants for the Army. I estimate I have seen over four thousand that have been enrolled in the program at one point or another. I am now seeing my students retire from the Army and move on to civilian careers. Hopefully “we” (all of you played a major part) made a difference in these lives.

And with the help of many we are bringing in almost \$500,000 a year in civilian dollar benefits to the program and the students, and almost \$1.4 million a year in Army Scholarships for our students.

There were many factors in my decision to retire. It was a tough decision. I love the program, the alumni, the university faculty and staff, the community, and most of all the students. But it is time. The last major factor was that I have family that need my help right now. So, I’m buying a house near Fort Cavazos to move my mother-in-law with us and probably very soon my parents as well.

Here is my personal contact email: Kevinsmith371@yahoo.com—if you need anything at all, just ask, and I’m there.

I want to thank you for all you do as you all continue to be great and do great things. Most of all thank you for making a difference in the world every day especially for our students.

**See you all later,
Kevin**

LTC Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1978, and in 1981 he left active duty and joined the 47th INF DIV Army National Guard to continue his college degree. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Corps in 1983, and in 1985 he branch transferred to aviation. Later he returned to the Illinois National Guard as a flight platoon leader flying medivac missions for the state while he completed his bachelor’s degree from Eastern Illinois University.

In 1988, he returned to active duty and was assigned to an aviation battalion at Fort Carson. He also became a Pilot in Command conducting high altitude search and rescue missions in the Rocky Mountains, covering five states. He is credited with two live saves.

In 1990, his unit deployed to Operation Desert Storm in Iraq where he flew combat missions as Flight Platoon Leader. He attended the Aviation Officers Advance Course and the U.S. Air Force Joint Fire Power Control Course before being assigned as Flight Platoon Leader in Germany. While stationed in Europe he deployed to Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, supported the United Nations mandated no-fly zone in Iraq, and helped oversee flight operations to successfully fly in humanitarian relief supplies to besieged Yugoslavia in Operation Provide Promise.

He left active duty in 1997 and served in the National Guard. In 2000, after completing the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC), he became the Director of Instruction for the CGSC. LTC Smith’s last deployment was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a Crisis Action Team Chief with HQ 7th Army.

In 2001, LTC Smith came to Arlington where he made significant contributions to UTS’s Reserve Officers Training Course as Assistant Professor of Military Science and Recruiting Operations Officer. LTC Smith recruited over 2,040 cadets, and many of them eventually became 2nd Lieutenants in the Army. LTC Smith’s tireless efforts were instrumental in enabling the Maverick Battalion to exceed recruiting and retention goals. The 5th Brigade, Cadet Command regularly uses his standard operating procedures as the standard for others to follow.

LTC Smith is also active in his community, volunteering at food closets and homeless shelters. He is a Chamber of Commerce member and sits on the Champion Education Board. He was inducted into the UTA Military Science Hall of Honor in 2015. LTC Smith currently resides in Grand Prairie with his wife Mary. Their son, Samuel Smith, is a Sergeant in the U.S. Army.

Remembering Preston Alonzo Weatherred: Alumnus, Citizen, Soldier

Written and Researched By Mark B. Latham, CCAC Historian

Who was Preston Alonzo Weatherred? He was a Texan born and bred, who had multiple roles throughout his distinguished lifetime. He was a student of liberal and military arts, an Esquire (practicing lawyer), an officer in the National Guard and Army of the United States, a general officer in the Texas Army National Guard, a public servant, a writer, and even a college English instructor. He was the first graduate of the Carlisle Military Academy, the forerunner of The University of Texas at Arlington. The Preston A. Weatherred Award for outstanding and exemplary leadership of cadets of the Maverick Battalion is named for Preston Alonzo Weatherred.



The Preston A. Weatherred Award was conceived to recognize the most outstanding and exemplary cadet with the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) of its namesake:

- Knowledge of strategy and tactics, law and policy
- Skills of literacy, argument, and persuasion
- Ability to follow, lead, and command.

The Weatherred KSA were proven in rigorous academic, military, legal, and political fields of endeavor, in times of peace, war, and unrest. The Weatherred Award was designed to recognize the same KSA in our most outstanding and exemplary cadet of the Maverick Battalion. Two early Preston A. Weatherred Award recipients achieved the rank of Army general officer. May we remember Preston Alonzo Weatherred, our first graduate of the Carlisle Military Academy and recall the Preston A. Weatherred Award to active duty, to recognize our most recent outstanding and exemplary graduate of the Maverick Battalion at The University of Texas at Arlington.



Mark your calendars now for Saturday February 24, 2024. The Cadet Corps Alumni Council and the UTA Corp of cadets will host the 44th Annual Military Science Hall of Honor.

Honoree information and timing coming soon!

Stan Thompson,
VP—Hall of Honor

Save the Date!
Hall of Honor 2024
February 24, 2024

CCAC Scholarship Awards

For strong GPA and military leadership potential plus a commitment to commissioning, as well as high moral character and integrity.

MS-1s

Lacap, Elijah - UTA
Bently, Donald - UTA
Hernandez, Luis UTA
Tuggle, Satrio - UTA
Iacoviello, Luke - UD
Karlán, Carson - TCC
Magill, Lucy - UTA
Saberón, Simon – SMU

MS-2s

Shin, Anthony - UTA
Kelley, Miguel -UD
Sanchez, Mireya -SMU
Young, Jackson - UTA
Evans, Emilie - UTA
Kim, Isaac -UTA
Sanders, Aushea -UTA

MS-3s

Villagran, Daniela - UTA
Park, Yewon - UTA
Shittu, Yusuf - UTA
Bowie, Noah - UTA

Preston A. Weatherred Award presented to Lance Bokinski (not shown) for demonstration of highest standard of leadership.

UTA Corps of Cadets 2023 Cadet Orientation

On August 24, 2023, the Maverick Battalion started the fall semester by welcoming new PMS LTC LeClair. Five Cadets contracted, and the CCAC provided 19 cadets with a total of \$7,500 in scholarship funds.

We are excited to kick off the semester by welcoming our new cadets into our ranks and by recognizing some of our outstanding cadets who earned scholarships and endowments with our Cadet Corps Alumni Counsel.

Cadets Houle, Evans, Iacoviello, Kim, and Flood were sworn in by our new Professor of Military Science, LTC LeClair.



CCAC 2023– 2024 Scholarship Recipients



Cadets taking the contract oath: Cadets Houle, Evans, Kim, Flood and Iacoviella.



Cadets at orientation.

Alumni Updates

By Rex Latham, Senior Advisor to the CCAC

One of the Cadet Corps Alumni Council's (CCAC) missions is to connect alumni across the decades. This Reveille feature is an effort to do so. By updates on fellow alumni, we hope to create bonds that will span age differences and appreciation for what is going on in our fellow alumni's lives. We also want to share some history of UTA and our Military Science program.

For this issue we contacted two CCAC Life members and asked them to share memories, history, challenges and accomplishments at UTA it transitioned from a two-year to a four-year insti-

tution and strived to "make a name" and enhance the reputation of our ROTC program and institution.

Dennis O'Connor shares the history of creating our championship Pistol Team from scratch and some career bits, while **Colonel "Tal" Anderson** shares the impact our Military Science program had on him, although he had to transfer to TCU for his degree as UTA was not then prepared to grant a four-year degree in his field of study.

Arlington State College Pistol Team: Remembering the Amazing 1961–1963 Seasons

By Dennis O'Connor

In the fall semester of 1961, the Arlington State College (ASC) Corps of Cadets had grown to approximately 600 members. At that time, Arlington State College had recently become a four-year degree-granting institution, part of the Texas A&M system. Rapid economic growth in the DFW area and a growing emphasis on college education, particularly in technical and scientific fields (following the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik in 1957), had led to a significant increase in Arlington State's student body. Due to this growth and the draft registration requirement for all young men aged 18 and over, the Corps of Cadets had also experienced rapid expansion.

Sponsored activities available in team sports for cadets were the Rifle Team and the Sam Houston Rifles Drill team. With a larger number of cadets, there was a need for another competitive team activity to allow greater engagement among a larger number of cadets. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Ray Calvert was newly assigned to the cadre of the ASC ROTC detachment. SFC Calvert had competitive pistol shooting experience and was assigned as the coach and developer of the new Pistol Team. Funding was obtained to acquire High Standard .22 caliber target pistols, ammunition, and other necessary equipment for fielding the team.

At that time, the rifle range, cadet armory, and quartermaster operations were located under the school library building (now called College Hall) on the south side of the street from the E.H. Hereford Student Center. ROTC offices now occupy the entire space, but the rifle range no longer exists. At the time, it was an amusing topic of conversation how ASC students in the library above had to study while rifle practice or competition was taking place below them—with the sounds of gunfire rattling around the library. These poor library students were about to face further challenges when pistol practices and competitions were added to the library's cacophony (unlike the single-spaced shots of rifle shooters, pistol competitions involved rapid and timed firing stages by multiple guns simultaneously).



(Continued pg. 8)

Pistol Team *(continued from previous page)*



SFC Calvert had to add facilities to the rifle range to accommodate pistol practice and competition. He constructed frames to hold the targets, which, using a system of pulleys and levers, could be turned to and away from the shooter during the timed firing stages. There also needed to be tables for shooters to place guns, spotting scopes, and other items at the firing lines. These tables needed to be movable to clear the way during rifle competitions.

Notices recruiting shooters for the team were posted on the bulletin board, and approximately ten prospective members received coaching from SFC Calvert in the rules of what was then called Bullseye pistol shoot-

ing and in the techniques of accurately firing a match pistol. This type of shooting involved competitors standing at the firing line, 50 feet from the target, with their bodies at approximately a 45-degree angle to the line. The shooting arm extended the pistol toward the target, aligning the sights for precise aiming, and carefully squeezing the trigger to minimize disruption to the bullet's point of impact.

Competition for Intercollegiate Pistol involved the three stages of fire of the National Match Course. The Slow Fire stage comprised ten rounds fired over a ten-minute time period. The Timed Fire stage had two strings of five rounds each, with a 20-second time limit for each string of shots on a target. Rapid Fire consisted of two strings of five rounds each, with a 10-second time limit for each 5-shot string. The paper targets had a circle with a small center ring and concentric rings. Targets for timed and rapid fire had a larger bullseye than the slow fire target. The center ring counted as 10 points, with each ring farther from the center counting fewer points (9, 8, 7, 6, etc.). Points were scored based on which ring the round hit, with a maximum score of 300 for the total of 30 rounds fired.

After the initial formation of the Pistol Team, certain traditions, similar to those held by the Sam Houston Rifles and the Rifle Team, needed to be established. A team sweetheart was elected, and it was decided that the team's identifying fourragere (a braided cord worn on the shoulder) would be the red and silver one used by the rifle team but worn on the right shoulder.

Practice sessions were held after classes. Once team members demonstrated proficiency and proper safe handling of the pistols, they were granted access to the range, guns, and ammunition without coaches present, at specified times that did not conflict with rifle practice times. Some members had prior experience in the sport and effectively coached less experienced shooters. Robert Wood had prior experience and was a former enlisted Army MP, while Robert Kizer was a seasoned competitive shooter in civilian competitions. Both proved to be helpful as student coaches, and other team members were diligent learners who quickly gained competence.

SFC Calvert arranged "shoulder-to-shoulder" matches with teams from other schools, both at home and away, as

(Continued pg. 9)

Pistol Team *(continued from previous page)*

well as "postal" matches in which teams fired on certified targets and mailed them to judges for scoring. "Standing on the same firing line in shoulder-to-shoulder fashion is more difficult than firing in postal matches or against your own teammates because of the increased mental pressure that affects the small motor nerves and muscles needed to properly control sight alignment and shot release of a match target pistol and was great experience for matches to come in the future."

Teams like Texas A & M, The Dallas Revolver and Gun Club, and others visited ASC for matches, contributing to ASC shooters' experience, focus, and proficiency from the shoulder-to-shoulder competitions.

SFC Calvert scheduled a major shoulder-to-shoulder match for March 3, 1962, when ASC hosted the Southwest Sectional meet with four schools in attendance. ASC claimed first place as a team, with the Air Force Academy in second place and Texas A&M in third. ASC also secured the first four individual places, with Bob Kizer achieving the highest individual score of 290.

On March 31st, the team participated in a postal match that included competitors from all over the United States, including the U.S Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, Rutgers University, and other schools, all of which were larger and had much longer traditions than ASC. In late April, it was announced that ASC had secured first place team in the NRA National Intercollegiate Postal Match, a national championship. The second team from ASC secured 11th place, with Bob Kizer ranking fifth individually and Bob Wood ninth.

To summarize the fall semester of 1961, the team had won 19 out of 22 Postal matches, including matches against an FBI team, Naval Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and others. Over the fall and spring semesters, they also won all of their shoulder-to-shoulder matches, except for an outdoor match at the Dallas Revolver and Gun Club. These achievements added to the major successes in the NRA Southwest Sectional and the National Intercollegiate Postal Pistol Match.

About Dennis O'Connor



Dennis O'Connor graduated from UTA (then Arlington State College) as a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1964 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He was Captain of the Pistol Team 62/63 and is a Life Member of the CCAC. He spent two years on active duty as an Artillery Officer with the 82nd Airborne Division and participated in Operation Power Pack, the US and Organization of American States intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965. He also spent 10 months as a

member of the 82nd Airborne Pistol Team.

He left active duty in July 1966 and entered the active Army Reserve assigned to the 12th Special Forces Group in Fort Worth from September 1966 to August 1969, eventually becoming an A Team commander. His civilian career was as a Bell Helicopter Stress Analyst.

He obtained an MBA from TCU in 1970 and changed careers to become a Construction Manager for US Home in Hou-

ston. That began a career in homebuilding, construction and real estate development with increasing levels of responsibility. He retired as a Senior Vice President, Development of Icon Partners in Dallas in 2008.

In his nearly 40-year career he constructed or developed nearly 200 homes and townhomes, 6,000 apartment units, and 500,000 square feet of retail and commercial office space in 10 cities and 5 different states.

The Class of 1964

Colonel (Ret.) Cecil Talmadge (Tal) Anderson attended UTA (then Arlington State College—ASC) from September 1960 through school year 1962-63. He is a Life Member of CCAC. His degree plan required him to transfer to Texas Christian University for his final year because ASC did not have a four-year degree program for his major. There were limited four-year degrees available at ASC in the early 60's. Tal graduated TCU and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Adjutant General Corps in August 1964. He is quick to point out that the quality of ASC's ROTC was far superior to what he experienced at TCU and it was ASC that gave him a solid foundation and understanding of what an Army officer should be.

Tal had not planned to become a career officer, having entered active duty as a reserve officer, but an outstanding noncommissioned officer at his first duty station convinced him to apply for a Regular Army Commission, which resulted in his serving for 28 plus years before retiring in 1993. Colonel Anderson had a variety of assignments, including Chief, Personnel Management, 9th Infantry Division, Vietnam; Deputy Adjutant General, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood; Assistant Chief of Staff-G-1, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood; Administrative Officer, Defense Intelligence Agency, The Pentagon; Administrative Officer, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, The Pentagon; Chief, Enlisted Personnel Career Branch, HQDA Personnel Command; two tours in Europe, Chief of Personnel Services, Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army (as a lieutenant); Chief of Staff, 1st Personnel Command and Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G-1 (as a Colonel); and Chief, Enlisted Replacement Division, Headquarters, 8th Army, Korea.

In Tal's final assignment, he served as the Director of Personnel and Community Activities at Fort Hood. One of the duties of that position was to serve as senior officer liaison to the Killeen Independent School District Board of Trustees. Following his retirement, the school district offered Tal a position in the district's human resource development department, which started his second career. Tal served in multiple positions as a senior administrator, culminating in service as Executive Officer to the District Superintendent. Tal retired from Killeen ISD in October 2013 after twenty years with the district.

For "old timers" from the 1960's ROTC period at ASC, Tal credits one person for his development as a cadet...that



COL (Ret.) Cecil Talmadge and his lovely wife, Carole

being Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Lee B. Wilson, who passed away not long ago. Lee was his ROTC Platoon Leader during Tal's freshman year. Also, he credits another person from that time period, Sam Houston Rifle member, Allan Jenson, for introducing Tal to his wife of what will be 60 years in January 2024. They met at a ROTC 1960 homecoming float-building event behind old Davis Dorm in Fall 1960. Carole is Allan's sister. Tal and Carole have a son who is a retired Field Artillery Lieutenant Colonel, a daughter, whose husband is a retired non-commissioned officer, two granddaughters, and two grandsons. So, an Army family. Tal holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Commercial Advertising Art) degree from TCU and a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Pepperdine University. Tal's hobbies include owning/driving sports cars (35 years with Corvettes) and currently, a 2018 Fiat 124 Spider sports car... showing these cars at car shows across Texas, painting landscapes about Texas, and drawing caricatures.

Retirement life at 81 is good! For current UTA cadets reading this, the years pass far too quickly. Make the most of every one and know that, in Tal's opinion, there is no great calling than being in the service of our country.

“Make the most of every year and know that there is no greater calling than being in the service of our country”

The Air Attack on Tarleton

By Jerry W. Thomas

[From the CCAC historical files, this account was published twenty years ago in 2003 in Issue 2 of the Reveille. Author Jerry Thomas has updated the story and added details.]

The winds of wars were swirling in Europe. Germany had overrun Poland. The Soviet Union had just invaded Finland. The Great Depression was in full force, and the U.S. national unemployment rate was 17.2%. The year was 1939 and the month late November. Arlington was a small rural town surrounded by cotton farms. Just south of the town was the North Texas Agricultural College (NTAC, forerunner of Arlington State College and later UTA). All male NTAC students were members of the Cadet Corps. On the NTAC campus, the students were at fever pitch, preparing for the coming battle—not the war in Europe, but the big Thanksgiving football game with John Tarleton State College (JTAC), a sister institution in the Texas A&M System (now Tarleton State University in Stephenville).

The rivalry between the two schools was intense, partly because of history and tradition, partly because the cadets had few other diversions. Most of the students were desperately poor and could not afford off-campus entertainment of any type. By 1926, the rivalry between the two schools had become so “spirited” that the two schools cancelled all scheduled football games from 1927 to 1933. The football rivalry resumed in 1934, apparently without any loss of mutual antagonism toward the opposing college. Each year, cadets at both schools built a huge pile of logs, scrap lumber, and wooden boxes for a great pre-game bonfire and homecoming celebration to inspire their respective football teams. Students made frequent attempts to raid the other campus and set fire to its “pile” ahead of schedule. According to the Tarleton Student Handbook (which counts this story as one of its major traditions), the students

were driven by “the desire to cause premature conflagration to the accumulated rubbish.”

On Monday, November 27, 1939, a raiding party from Tarleton burned NTAC’s bonfire “pile” and then burned Tarleton’s initials into the NTAC football field as an added insult. The students at NTAC were greatly agitated by these hostile actions, and after some “inspirational potions” a large group of NTAC students retaliated. The Regimental commander at NTAC, ROTC Lieutenant Colonel Nicky Naumovich, plotted revenge. The plan of attack involved both air and land operations. On the afternoon of November 29, three truckloads of NTAC cadets headed for the Tarleton campus in Stephenville. At the same time, Chester Phillips, Jr., a freshman cadet from Caddo Mills and a student pilot, led the air assault.

Selecting Cadet James E. Smith from San Antonio as his co-pilot and bombardier, Chester rented a small Taylorcraft airplane (single engine, two-seater) at Meacham Field in Fort Worth, loaded it with a sack full of phosphorus “bombs,” and took off for the Stephenville campus. A second Taylorcraft plane piloted by Hatton Sumner, another NTAC student pilot, took off shortly after Chester’s departure. Hatton’s airplane also carried phosphorus “bombs” and was the backup plan if the first aircraft failed to ignite the Tarleton bonfire pile.

Meanwhile, word of the impending land



Chester Phillips; World War II.

(Continued next page)

Air Attack *(continued from previous page)*

attack had reached Dean Edward E. Davis at NTAC. Alarmed, he telephoned a warning to Tarleton and dispatched Major Max Oliver, the NTAC Commandant, to bring the errant raiders home.

Because of the NTAC Dean's telephone warning, Tarleton students were lying in ambush to repel the attack and protect their bonfire pile. Chester Phillips, Jr., the lead pilot, apparently made a first pass to survey the bonfire pile and obstacles around the pile, and then made a second pass much closer to the ground so that James could drop the "bombs" on the rubbish pile. According to some reports, one of the bombs set fire to the Tarleton "pile," but the defenders quickly extinguished the fire. While most of the bombs missed the wood pile, a board hurled at the airplane did not. One of the Tarleton defenders, L.V. Risinger, had climbed the school's water tower near the wood pile, and from that high point hurled a two-foot long 2X4 toward the aircraft. It struck the propeller and brought the small plane down. Chester managed to fly the "wounded" plane over what is now the Hall of Presidents, barely clearing a rock fence, and crash-landed into a clump of trees. (Or some say, came to a stop three feet away from crashing into a rock wall). Chester and James survived the crash, only to be captured by the Tarleton defenders. Meanwhile, the three truckloads of cadets likewise fell into ambush, and most of the attackers were captured. Each of the captured cadets had a block-T cut into his hair, according to Col. Charles McDowell (a JTAC defender and later the Professor of Military Science at UTA). Several of the JTAC students climbed atop the bonfire pile to make speeches about the "spirit" between the two schools, and to tell their defeated rivals to "take your plane and go back home." The NTAC boys were treated to hot coffee and doughnuts and set loose to return to Arlington. A picture of the crashed airplane appeared in the next

issue of Life Magazine, according to some accounts (but we have not been able to find any issue with the photo). The Associated Press did pick up the story, however, and many newspapers across the U.S. carried the story (including the Chicago Tribune). Hatton Sumner, piloting the second airplane, saw the first plane crash and decided it was time to hurry back to Meacham Field.

According to the Fort Worth Telegram, discipline and quiet prevailed on both campuses the next day. Chester, the first pilot, and his bombardier, James, had to appear before the Federal Civil Aeronautics Authority for a routine investigation into the incident. Dean Davis of NTAC told the Dallas Morning News that, "There is no ill will between the student bodies, but the enthusiasm gets out of hand, interferes with normal schoolwork, and might result in an unfortunate accident. It is all in fun now, and no one has been hurt, but such raids as were made by Tarleton boys and the one made at Stephenville Tuesday night by our students could very well result seriously." He added, "There is a possibility that the athletic contests will be suspended between NTAC and Tarleton."

The much-anticipated football game was held as planned in Arlington, Thursday, November 30, 1939. Arlington's great opportunity for redemption and revenge reverberated in the stadium, but this was not the year. The Tarleton "Plowboys" beat the NTAC "Hornets" 7 to 0 (or 6 to 0). Afterwards, officials of the two schools held a meeting in Stephenville to discuss disciplinary actions and future relationships between the two schools. Faculty committees of both schools agreed to eliminate the traditional bonfire preliminaries to the annual football game. They also agreed that the 1939 football game would be the last Texas Conference contest for each school. However, athletic relations between the two

(Continued next page)

Air Attack *(continued from previous page)*

schools would continue, with faculty supervision of pre-game activity. The matter of disciplinary action toward the student raiders from both schools was left to the individual schools.

NTAC executives ratified the actions of the Stephenville conference and instructed the discipline committee of North Texas Agricultural College to confer with the students who were known to have participated in the raid. The discipline committee, which included Dean Davis and Major Oliver, decided to expel James Smith, the bombardier, for the remainder of the semester, and to recommend the suspension of Chester Phillips' flying license for six months to the FCAA for violating flying rules of safety. For the other students there would be a discussion on behavior and a warning against similar activities in the future. At John Tarleton, Dean J. Thomas Davis (some say the brother of NTAC's Dean Davis, some say not) said that he was not certain that any severe discipline would be meted out.

Many of the bonfire raiders and defenders served their country well during World War II. The few still alive (in 2003) remembered the incident. Col. Charles McDowell, then in the UTA Foreign Language Department (Soviet Studies) was one of the JTAC bonfire defenders who helped to bring the plane down. He remembered his group of defenders throwing everything that they could get their hands on up at the plane as it came over. L.V. Risinger, the young man reportedly responsible for the successful 2X4, became a hero at Tarleton. Their present-day Homecoming Bonfire is dedicated to him. He died in 1994. James Smith, the UTA "bombardier," left UTA and almost assuredly fought in World War II, although his trail has been lost.

Chester Phillips, Jr. did not let the Tarleton crash landing daunt his flying career. With

U.S. involvement in World War II fast approaching, Chester joined the Army Air Corps, as did many of the young cadets at both schools. He trained military pilots, and when the war began in earnest, he was shipped out to Shipdham, England. According to a Blackie Sherrod column in the Dallas Morning News, Chester was assigned to a B-24 Liberator, called the "Little Beaver." German submarines at the time were causing havoc to Allied shipping, and Chester's mission in May of 1943 was to destroy the submarine pens at Kiel. He and his crew encountered German fighter planes and heavy anti-aircraft flak. Chester and several of his crew were killed instantly. Others bailed out and were held as POWs for the rest of the war. Chester is buried in Liege, Belgium—4,954 miles from his Texas home. His medals include Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, and Purple Heart. The pilot of the second plane, Hatton Sumner, died during a military flight training exercise in California in August 1942.

Aaron Williams, a native of Greenville and a relative of Chester Phillips, the pilot, told Blackie Sherrod that "If Chester were here, he probably would get a good chuckle to know that people are still talking about his airplane antics." Chester and all the others who participated in the abrupt ending of the Tarleton flight would be amazed at the all the stories and myths spawned by the ill-fated flight.

(Sources: Dr. Stuart Chilton's columns in the Stephenville Empire-Tribune, Chris Guthrie's article for the Tarleton State University library, the Dallas Morning News, records at UTA, and memories and stories of military science cadets at UTA).

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Taps

COL (Ret.) Everette Gray, JD



COL (Ret) Everette Gray passed away December 7, 2022.

Colonel Gray is a 1968 Distinguished Military Graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington, a Distinguished Graduate of the University, and Commencement speaker for the School of Engineering in 2010. He was commissioned a Regular Army Second Lieutenant in the Chemical Corps, with an initial branch assignment in Air Defense Artillery. His distinguished career included assignment as an ADA platoon leader and executive officer and Brigade Chemical Officer in Germany. In 1970 he served as a Company Commander in Vietnam. From December 1973 to June 1977, he was a Physicist and a Mil-

tary Intelligence Officer at the U.S. Army Foreign Science and Technology Center in Charlottesville, VA. From June 1977 to June 1979, he was Chief of Data Management for operational tests of a new missile system and a new laser guided artillery warhead at the U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency in Falls Church, VA. His later assignments included Assistant Professor of Physics at the United States Military Academy at West Point and Division Chemical Officer for the 3rd Armored Division in Frankfurt, Germany. From July 1987 to July 1989, he commanded the U.S. Army Depot Activity in Hermiston, Oregon. He then served as the Chemical

Corps Branch Chief at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, VA. He was promoted to Colonel in October 1990 and assigned as Deputy Director of the Office of Research and Advanced Technology at the U.S. Department of Energy. He served as Acting Director of the office from April 1992 until his retirement on July 1, 1993.

Following his retirement, he earned a Master of Engineering degree in Nuclear Engineering and a Juris Doctorate. A 1997 Inductee in the Hall of Honor, more details of his accomplishments can be found there.



Robert R. Roten

Robert R. Roten passed away on August 5, 2023.

He was inducted into the CCAC Hall of Honor in 2020 and served on the Cadet Corps Alumni Council Board of Directors. During his teen years as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), he advanced to Major and commanded his unit in the Texas Wing. He spent six months in Turkey as part of the cadet exchange program. In 1955, Robert enrolled in Arlington State College and joined ROTC. He sought a degree in Electrical Engineering, but Arlington State, then a Junior College, offered only two-year programs. After two years of ROTC, he was se-

lected as a cadet advisor until he transferred to Texas A&M for degree completion. After a year he returned to Arlington, then a four-year college, where he completed his Electrical Engineering Degree. Robert again enrolled in ROTC and as a Junior he participated in the "Long March" to Fort Hood for Summer Camp, creating a lasting bond among those who marched. He graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate and was commissioned 2ND LT, Ordnance Corps, in the first commissioning ceremony and was among the first degreed engineers to graduate from Arlington. His active duty included Ordnance

assignments at Aberdeen Proving Grounds and Fort Sill, OK.

After the Army, he had a career in plant management with E.I. DuPont and Campbell Soups. While serving in Sumter, South Carolina, as Plant Engineer, he led the evaluation of employee property and expedited aid and recovery funding following Hurricane Hugo. He spent his retirement years organizing and participating the Paris Texas Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT) activities for tornado disaster emergency relief.



Membership

Currently, our membership consists of 201 life members and 16 two-year members.

If you are not a full-time member, please consider becoming one this year!

Head over to this link for membership information:

<https://cadetcorps.org/Join-us>.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns re: membership at dianecolvard@gmail.com.

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UTA Unit Tribute Plaque

By Guy White

In early August the CCAC Executive Committee was approached with a proposal to create a UTA Unit Tribute Plaque at the National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA) memorializing our alma mater's 100+ year history of providing outstanding officers to serve our country.

NMUSA, located near Fort Belvoir, VA, has been open since November 2020 and is the world-class flagship of the Army museum enterprise. Museum admission is free to the public. It's operated by the Army Historical Foundation and is largely manned by volunteers. As a component of the museum's fundraising efforts, it displays unit tribute plaques along its entrance path to honor past and present Army units and organizations, including academic institutions that have contributed to the Army's ranks through their ROTC programs. This link will take you to the museum's website: <https://thenmusa.org/>

The Executive Committee reached out in September to CCAC members to determine the degree of member support and willingness to contribute to the plaque proposal. The response was quick and clear and, within just a couple of weeks, generous UTA ROTC alumni contributed over \$6,000 to fund not only a plaque to be installed along the Path of Remembrance at the museum but also a duplicate plaque for display on the UTA campus.

We are currently receiving CCAC member comments on a draft plaque design and will soon submit our design to the Army Historical Foundation for final approval and fabrication. The UTA Unit Tribute will be installed at the museum



before Memorial Day 2024. We will keep you updated on plaque design, submission, fabrication, and installation progress.

I want to thank everyone for your generous support to this effort. The UTA Unit Tribute plaques will share the legacy and accomplishments of the UTA ROTC program with visitors to the National Museum of the U.S. Army and further spread the history of the UTA ROTC program on campus.



Cadet Corps Alumni Council (CCAC)

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The Cadet Corps Alumni Council (CCAC) has a twofold mission:

First, to support The University of Texas at Arlington's (UTA) Military Science program and enable it to continue developing outstanding future leaders of the U.S. Army.

Second, to facilitate comradeship and communication among Military Science alumni across the decades and recognize their service and achievements.

Our next newsletter will be issued in **January 2024** with information about the **Hall of Honor — February 24, 2024**.

If you would like to submit information or stories for publication, please sent it to Sarah Nahhas at snahas@decisionanalyst.com; information or updates on fellow alumni should go to Rex Latham at rex.h.latham@icloud.com.