



Reveille

Newsletter of the CCAC Issue 58 – July 2024

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**The 2025
Hall of
Honor will
be held on
Saturday,
March 1,
2025.**

A Semester to Remember

By LTC Greg LeClair, Professor of Military Science

Greetings from Fort Knox! Hope everyone is enjoying a safe and enjoyable summer season – and of course for many Cadre and Cadets it's time for Cadet Summer Training.

Spring Semester was a sprint! We accomplished so much in such a small amount of time. The Maverick Battalion commissioned a total of 17 officers into Mission Set 24.

Our Cadet Alumni were on full display in February. We had a very successful Alumni Hall of Honor ceremony where we inducted two former Cadets, LTC (Retired) Michael (Mike) Morrow and COL (Retired) Paul Berg, on a very special day. On behalf of all the Mavericks, congratulations once again!

Meanwhile, our senior Cadets and Cadet leadership enjoyed a high-quality Staff Ride to Washington-on-the-Brazos and San Jacinto Battlefield! What an incredible legacy and history Texas has on its road to independence. I was personally humbled to learn and understand the struggle and cultural significance behind what it means to be a Texan.

Further, the Maverick Battalion conducted the customary Cadet Change of Command where CDT/LTC Daniela Villagrán relinquished command to CDT/LTC Reese Surles. The Maverick Battalion is appreciative of the accomplishments during CDT Villagrán's tenure and we look forward to CDT Surles breathing his own passion and energy into the program. Best wishes in Command, CDT Surles - now, go forth and lead our new Cadet Staff, new MSI Cadets and the rest of the Maverick Battalion through the formative Fall Semester.



In April, CDT/CSM Deon Rodriguez was sworn in as The University of Texas at Arlington Student Body President! What an incredible feat to maintain an exceptionally high grade point average and dedicate your time as CDT CS...all the while achieving the highest student office on UT Arlington's campus. Mega-congratulations CDT Rodriguez, and way to represent the U.S. Army and the Maverick Battalion.

(Continued next page)

President's Desk

By BG (Ret) Ricky Gibbs



Ladies and gentlemen, current and former Mavericks, this year we celebrate the 249th birthday of the United States Army and 249 years of Soldiers' service to our nation.

The Army is one of the oldest institutions in our country. Born on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress established it, the Army is a year older than the Declaration of Independence and thirteen years older than the Constitution.

(Continued next page)

A Semester to Remember *(continued)*

The Mean Green Cadets at our Extension University up in Denton, The University of North Texas, hosted the Maverick Battalion's Spring Cadet Dining-In. What an impressive venue with tremendous support from the university. A fun night was had by all. Congratulations to Cadet Elle and her team for all their hard work to make the event such a success. My sincere thanks to all the efforts behind the scenes to pull off such a great venue and program – at zero cost!

Speaking of our Mean Green Extension University – the Commanding General of U.S. Army Cadet Command has seen fit to announce that The University of North Texas will become its own Provisional Host Program by 2026. That means they'll be resourced with their own Cadre, Staff, equipment, etc., and will formally stand-up in about 18 months from now. The decision to establish a new host program stems from the Commanding General's "Reset 2030" plan and as a result of the hard work of our Cadre in Denton achieving high enrollment and commissioning numbers. Extraordinary efforts and way to impact up and out beyond the organization. A special thank you goes out to Texas Army National Guard Captain (promotable) Kurt Spasic who led our efforts at The University of North Texas and really pushed hard to achieve such high enrollment and encourage contracting, scholarships, and perpetuate a positive environment that minimized attrition in the program there. As a result of his intellect and performance, he was selected by the Texas Army National Guard to Command the North Texas Army National Guard Recruiting Battalion. Congratulations Kurt and well done supporting Army ROTC and establishing the conditions for a new Provisional Host University in Denton, Texas!

Never forget – military training initially began at our 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.

We are the legacy – past, present, and future. Mavericks Lead the Way!

President's Desk *(continued)*

“The Army theme this year is ‘Honoring the Past, Defending the Future’”

The Army theme this year is “Honoring the Past, Defending the Future,” and our focus is on how the Army has supported our nation and will continue to do so.

This year in Honoring the Past, we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on 6 June and the Normandy Landings, the strategic victory of World War II. The Battle of Normandy was the most genuinely strategic victory. It achieved the intimate blending of all categories of military forces existing at the time. It and nothing else enabled the Allied powers to achieve the political objective; namely, to put an end to the Second World War by carrying the conflict into the very heart of Germany.

My wife, Sharon, and I were privileged to visit Normandy on this 80th Anniversary. It was an emotional experience as we walked the battlefield at Pointe du Hoc where the Rangers scaled the cliffs to silence the massive German guns with overwatch on the beaches of Normandy. During this visit, I ran into Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), “Rakkasans.” As a young Captain, I commanded two companies in the 3rd Brigade. It was a thrill to see these outstanding young men and it confirmed for me that the future of our Army is in good hands. *(Continued next page)*



Omaha Pointe du Hoc
American Cemetery

President's Desk *(continued)*



Meeting up with soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, "Rakkasans" at Pointe du Hoc.

The Army has always challenged our Soldiers and civilians to be all they can be. There are more than two hundred jobs for soldiers and more than five hundred jobs for Army civilians from which to choose. If you want to find a purpose and pursue your passion, you can do that in the Army through a wide range of interest areas.

By providing practical, hands-on training and support to cultivate skills and interests, our people are on a path for long-term success – in the Army and beyond.

For 249 years, the U.S. Army has answered the call to defend and support America against both foreign and domestic challenges, and we'll continue to do so in the future.

Our Army is the best trained and most prepared in the world, making it ready to face any obstacle it may encounter, including natural disasters, public health emergencies and, of course, our nation's adversaries.

Our Soldiers, Civilians, Reserve and Guard units are ready anytime and anywhere. They are experts in a wide range of professions, including doctors, lawyers, scientists, cyber security, mechanics and researchers.

Our Army civilians work on programs that have scale and impact far different than anything they could work on in the private sector. They learn new skills that help further their career and make the Army successful. *(Continued on page 5)*



Pointe du Hoc.



National Guard Monument Memorial at Omaha Beach.



Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument

UTA Commissioning



UTA Commissioning 5-11-2024 of 6 new 2LTS.
L-R in picture above:

- 2LT Camden Sipe, Transportation Corps
- 2LT Yeowen Park, Quartermaster Corps
- 2LT Jameel Mainor, Medical Service
- 2LT Leean Ramirez, Transportation Corps
- 2LT Oscar Villar, Military Intelligence
- 2LT Zachariah Campanini, Military Intelligence



The long line continues from our beginning on campus in 1902.

Guest speaker COL Stephen Ruth,
Director, Task Force Strategic Officer
Recruiting Detachment (SORD), U.S.
Army Recruiting Command, Houston
Texas



President's Desk

(continued from page 3)

integrated into their local communities, yet still serve in the Army.

We have 1.1 million people serving in the Army today – whether Soldiers, Guard or Reserve or civilians. We are deployed in 140 different countries around the world. The Army's global reach and our ability to conduct operations anywhere in the world play a large part in our ability to defend America, whether from enemies or from natural disasters and public health emergencies.

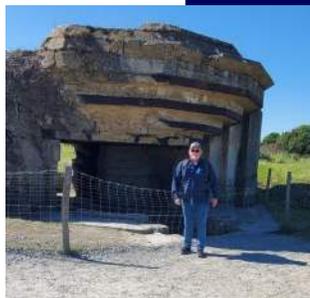
The Army supports national and local authorities by providing crowd and traffic control during civil disturbances, fighting wildfires, providing assistance to victims of tornadoes and earthquakes, and supporting cyber security operations at the local, state and federal levels.

During hurricane season, the Army is prepared to help local citizens. In fact, the Army Corps of Engineers and National Guard Soldiers have already begun rehearsing for hurricane scenarios, with plans to help FEMA and state authorities with evacuations, search and rescue missions, debris management, food and water distribution, temporary housing, emergency power generation, and support to local law enforcement agencies.

Of course, for those considering Army service out there today, I want to be clear that while you may volunteer to join, you are a professional Soldier – with a competitive salary and benefits like housing and healthcare. Army service provides you the possibilities to be all you can be.

And today we salute those men and women who have CHOSEN to serve their nation, as well as their families. We appreciate the Army family members for their contributions and sacrifices as their Soldiers train, and sometimes deploy, to defend our country. Thank you all for everything you do.

The Army's legacy has been built on our history, displayed in the dedication, courage and heroism of the American Soldier. Today, we commemorate all who answered the call to service since the Army's founding in 1775. Happy birthday, U.S. Army!



Standing at entrance to main observation bunker at Pointe du Hoc.



Omaha Beach today.

“The Army's global reach and our ability to conduct operations anywhere in the world play a large part in our ability to defend America.”

UNT Commissioning



UNT Commissioning 5-16-2024 of 7 new 2LTs. L-R in picture above:

- 2LT Sophia Bazzelle, Signal Corps
- 2LT Peace Egar Signal Corps
- 2LT Joshua Hartler, Signal Corps
- 2LT Miguel Noguerras, Military Intelligence
- 2LT Nickoali Pounce, Infantry
- 2LT Nathan St John, Transportation Corps
- 2LT Darion Tate, Ordnance Corps

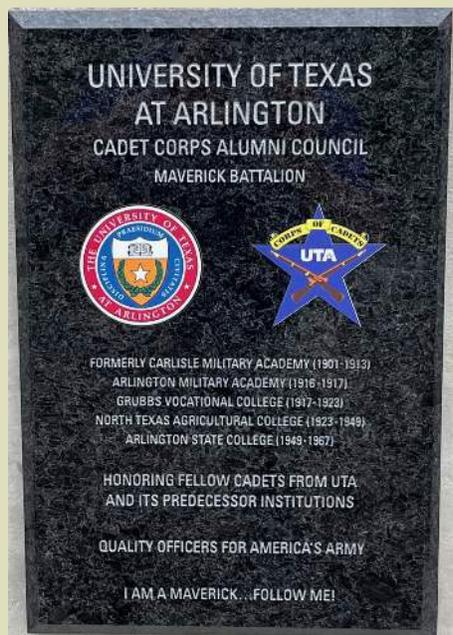


The long line continues from our beginning on campus in 1902.

COL Lillian I Woodington, III Armored Corps Provost Marshal and Protection Chief (not shown) attended as guest speaker.

NMUSA Unit Tribute

By Guy White



Thanks to everyone for your support in making the UTA Unit Tribute at the National Museum of the U.S. Army a reality.

Our plaque was installed on the museum's "Wall of Remembrance" in time for Memorial Day observances and the grand festival celebrating the Army's 249th birthday.

The UTA Unit Tribute joins unit tributes from an elite group of academic institutions with long histories of producing outstanding officers for America's Army (Norwich, Virginia Military Institute, Pennsylvania Military College, among others).

A duplicate unit tribute plaque – for placement on the UTA campus – has been fabricated and is en route to Arlington. Will keep you posted as decisions related to the location and timing of its installation are made.



2024 Medal of Honor Parade

By Bunky Garonzik



A soldier does not win the Congressional Medal of Honor. They *earn* the Highest Military Decoration from the United States Armed Forces. Beginning in 1861, there have been over 3500 MOH recipients from all branches of American Military Service, and there are 19 who have actually earned 2 MOH awards. Texans have their share, and Arlington and UTA soldiers are among those who have gone over and above the call of duty. Audie Murphy—the most decorated soldier from WW2—is from Hunt County, Texas. I had the great honor to meet Roy Benavidez, from South Texas, who was awarded the MOH. It was presented by President Ronald Regan. Take the time to read “Reagan’s Remarks on Presenting the Medal of Honor to Roy P. Benavidez — 2/24/81.” The presentation will make you even more honored and proud to be an American.



“Arlington and UTA soldiers are among those who have gone over and above the call of duty.”

Everyone who wore the uniform has reason to be proud, and for those who experienced combat, it moves you up a notch as it relates to respect. UTA and the Sam Houston Jodies have shown support and honor for the MOH recipients each April in Gainesville, Texas, home to the Medal Of Honor Parade. 2024 was the 17th year that Jodies have marched in the parade. Our marchers are from 81 years old on down, and though a number of our group have passed, other Jodies have joined the marcher group. Much of our drill movements are part of our DNA—yes a bit rusty, but still good enough to get the applause from those attending the parade, and we have a combined service to our country of over 200 years. This year, current cadets from the Maverick Battalion provided the color guard.



2024 Medal of Honor Parade (continued)

After the parade, the Jodies and their wives had their traditional party and lunch at Sandra's Party Barn in Argyle, Texas. Lots of fun to relive old memories, catch up on what we have done since UTA, and just have a good time. Some of our group comes from different parts of the country, and I think we connect from as much as a span of about 25 years from the oldest to the youngest. With no Jodies at UTA anymore, the absence of drill team competitions, and less attention in the Army with Drill and Ceremonies as well, the continuation of the parade participation is obvious for the future; but as long as we get enough marchers to not embarrass ourselves, we will march!

The opening of the National Medal Of Honor Museum in Arlington in the near future will hopefully be a shot in the arm for the old Jodies. **Give 'em Hell, Jodies.**



Photo courtesy of Bill Phillips

Above left: The Jodies in 1964 at Laredo, TX, for George Washington's Birthday Parade. Some of these same marchers were at the 2024 MOH parade. 60 years down the road, there is a good chance that the '64 group is in better shape! I (Bunky) am second on left; Kennedy is far right. Campos and Floyd are in the mix.

Side note: I was the photographer for the yearbook – actually named the *Reveille* – but for the picture I gave my camera to Bill Phillips, who was kicked off the team for bad grades, and we snuck him on the bus, and he hid in the restroom so the sponsor wouldn't see him. Bill dropped out of school, went to Vietnam, later became the assistant to the Governor in Nevada, and later was in charge of the Republican Convention in Dallas. His brother is Bob Phillips, the Texas Country Reporter.



Exerpts from President Ronald Reagan's Medal of Honor presentation to Roy P Benevidez

February 24, 1981

Men and women of the Armed Forces, ladies and gentlemen:

Several years ago, we brought home a group of American fighting men who had obeyed their country's call and who had fought as bravely and as well as any Americans in our history. They came home without a victory not because they'd been defeated, but because they'd been denied permission to win.

They were greeted by no parades, no bands, no waving of the flag they had so nobly served. There's been no "thank you" for their sacrifice. There's been no effort to honor and, thus, give pride to the families of more than 57,000 young men who gave their lives in that faraway war.

Bob Hope, who visited our men there as he had in two previous wars, said of them, "The number of our GI's who devote their free time, energy, and money to aid the Vietnamese would surprise you." And then he added, "But maybe it wouldn't. I guess you know what kind of guys your sons and brothers and the kids next door are." Well, yes, we do know. I think we just let it slip our minds for a time. It's time to show our pride in them and to thank them.

(Continued on page 11)



2024 Hall of Honor Report

By Stan Thompson



On February 24, 2024, the Cadet Corps Alumni Council and the UTA Corps of Cadets hosted the 44th Annual Military Science Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor was well attended. It started with the formal Induction Ceremony in the Rosebud Theater, where COL (Ret) Paul Berg and LTC (Ret) Mike Morrow were inducted. Dr. Rebecca E. Deen, the Senior Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, was the guest speaker. The Luncheon followed the Induction Ceremony in the Bluebonnet Room, where the President of UTA, Dr. Jennifer Cowley, was the guest speaker. COL (Ret) Jerry Bob Houston spoke on the status of the CCAC, and LTC LeClair spoke on the status of the Maverick Battalion. We are still waiting for a confirmation on the date for next year's 45th Hall of Honor.



From Left: c/MAJ Santiago McMunn, Inductee LTC (Ret) Mike Morrow, and Stan Thompson.



From Left: c/MAJ Santiago McMunn, Inductee COL (Ret) Paul Berg, and Stan Thompson



COL (Ret) Jerry Bob Houston



LTC Greg LeClair



Dr. Jennifer Cowley



Dr. Rebecca E. Deen

2024 Military Science Hall of Honor *(continued)*



LTC (Ret) Rex Latham



Major General (Ret) Rex Latham cutting the cake

Exerpts from President Ronald Reagan's Medal of Honor presentation to Roy P Benevidez

(continued from page 9)

I have one more Vietnam story, and the individual in this story was brought up on a farm outside of Cuero in De Witt County, Texas, and he is here today. Thanks to the Secretary of Defense, Cap Weinberger, I learned of his story, which had been overlooked or buried for several years. It has to do with the highest award our Nation can give, the Congressional Medal of Honor, given only for service above and beyond the call of duty.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are honored to have with us today Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, U.S. Army, Retired. Let me read the plain, factual military language of the citation that was lost for too long a time.

"Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army, Retired, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." Where there is a brave man, it is said, there is the thickest of the fight, there is the place of honor.

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of the Congress the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army, Retired, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

On May 2, 1968, Master Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. Benavidez distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions while assigned to Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of May 2, 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Benavidez was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Sergeant Benavidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position, he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head.

(Continued on last page)



Taps

Dr. Allan Saxe



The loss of a legend.

Dr. Allan Saxe, beloved Professor of Political Science, died at the age of 85 on June 18. He began his career at Arlington State College in 1965 and continued to teach until his retirement in 2019. Undoubtedly, many members of the Arlington Cadet Corps had the privilege of attending his classes.

Saxe was perhaps known as much for his philanthropy across campus and the city of Arlington as he was for his teaching. He reportedly donated half of his salary to varied projects around the city.

In 2020, Dr. Saxe announced that he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. His beloved wife Ruthie became his primary caregiver.

A dedicated Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at Arlington, Dr. Allan Saxe inspired countless students with his passion for education, his astute observations of all things political, his wry wit, and his ability to laugh at himself.

The University declared August 18th as Allan Saxe day. The picture left taken that day, shows CCAC Member and History Department Faculty member Joseph Carpenter and his wife Georgianna visiting Dr. Saxe and Ruthie.

Carpenter said of Dr. Saxe,

"Beyond the classroom, Dr. Saxe's generosity knew no bounds. His life is a testament to the profound impact one individual can have on a community. He is one of the most unique individuals I have ever met. I am proud to be numbered among his friends."

The CCAC renders a hand salute to Dr. Saxe for his impact on the lives of so many.

***UTA has
declared
August 18th
as Allan Saxe
Day.***

Membership

Currently, our membership consists of 204 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.

CCAC Life Members

Christopher Ambrosio	Anthony F. Daskevich II	Ashley Kaestner	Hannah Peoples	John W. Sone
Cecil T. Anderson	Archie P. Davis III	Steve Kennedy	Sergio R. Perales	William C. Sonricker
Christopher Anderson	Jean A. Deakyne	Jimmie A. Kepler	Bill R. Phillips	Bernardino L. Sosa-Roldan
David J. Anderson	Ricardo F. Diaz	Imran Khan	Claudia M. Pink	John J. Soules
Nathan Arauco	Mark A. Dickens	John B. Kidd	Larry D. Pink	Mark C. Stevens
Theron R. Arrington	James L. Doty, III	Gaylon L. King	Billy B. Pinkerton	Donald J. Stevens
Amanda Augustine	Scott A. Downey	Brittney Lamb	Steven Porter	Shannon Swenson
William Barnett	Eddie Drain	Mark B. Latham	Clarence W. Potter	Joe Billy Swift
Raymond F. Beall	Henry A. Dufeu	Rex H. Latham	Alma Pressley-Pellegrini	Robert M. Tarbet
John T. Bell	Al Ellis	Willard Latham	R. Zack Prince	Betty A. Thomas
Paul E. Berg	Paul S. Faidley	Jorge Lemus	Carlos Quijas	Jerry W. Thomas
Jonathan J. Bevill	Charles E. Feuerbacher	Joe Lopez, Jr.	Christopher Rainsberger	Edward H. Thompson
Jody L. Bills	Michael John Francis	Joe Lopez, Sr.	Jimmie A. Redden	Stanley I. Thompson
Barry N. Birdwell	Daniel L. French	Roger C. Lowe	Thomas V. Remediz	Randy J. Threet
Billy J. Blankenship	David H. Gaines	Mikio E. Ludwig	Ronald M. Rendleman	Susan M. Tillotson
Charles Blumenfeld	Antonio C. Garcia	Mark D. Martin	Orlando L. Reyes	Annette Davenport Tomlin
Bryan E. Bolt	Allan Garonzik	Axel Martinez	William C. Riggs	James E. Tomlin
Caroline Boutelant	George B. Garrett	Norman L. Matthews	Lora A. Rimmer	Scott A. Townsend
Cornelius Brady	Brian M. Gellman	Robert D. Matkin	RC Roark	Gregory R Trnka
Ernest L. Brister	Justin Gerron	E. Ronelle McAbee	Barry Robinson	Elmus S. Ussery
Wyatt A. Britten	Sheldon J. Gerron	Gary H. McBride	Anthony Robledo IV	Barbara Vogl
Aaron Brown	Ricky D. Gibbs	Michael Scott McCallum	Mrs. William P. Roe	Anthony Vuong
David L. Brown	John R. Glaze	Gary McFadden	Linda Kaye Rogers	Edward T. Walsh
J.C. Brown, Jr.	Boyd D. Goldman	James M. McGinn	Eric A. Rosson	Andrew C. Ward
R.D. Brown	Everette E. Gray	Darrin P. Milner	Robert R. Roten	Lloyd M. Warren
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Fred U. Campos	Earl E. Hansen	Allen O. Morris	Jeffrey K. Saunier	Gary L. Weber
Charles C. Cannon, JR.	Donald S. Harris	Courtney A. Morris	Thomas A. Schneider	Gene H. Weidemeyer
Amador Cano	Ronald L. Harris	Michael W. Morrow	Andrew Scoggin	Robert L. Weigler
Michael Carrol	Herman Harrison	Ronald L. Munden	Joseph Scott	Elmer G. White
Oran B. Carroll, II	James J. Henderson	Keegan Murphy	Charlie E. Seyster	Jerry E. Whitehead
Miguel E. Castillo	William H. Herndon	Sarah G. Nahhas	Eric J. Sheppard	Michael S. Williams
Pat Choate	Gary C. Hitt	William W. Neal	James S. Sibley	Floyd Wine, Jr.
Arthur G. Cleveland	Hayden R. Hoffman	David A. Neveau	Antionette Simpson	Martin B. Woodruff
David O. Colvard	Matthew Hoffman	Philip T. Nickols	Lester Simpson	Felix Woods
Diane Ortiz Colvard	Tanner Holman	Ronal J. Nolan	Dakota Slay	Lloyd W. Woolverton
Gerald D. Cox	Jerry B. Houston	Jeffrey M. Novotny	Craig Sloan	Stanley Wright
Travis Crook	Daniel P. Hughes	Dennis O'Connor	Dale W. Smith	John K. Yim
Joseph S. Dances	Robert W. Irish	Michael W. Parker	Kenneth E. Smith	
Charlotte Darrah	William L. Jacobs	Laura Pavlik	Kevin R. Smith	
	William P. Jones			

CCAC Annual Members

Charles An	Douglas E. Kopp	Michael S. Porterfield
Patrick Avila	Charles W. Marietta	Larimen T. Wallace
John Bradley	Joe R. McClintock	James P. Ward
Joe Carpenter	Van A. Nine	Stephen Wiles
Donald Chamberlain	Leonard B. Olsen	Randall T. Wolf

Exerpts from President Ronald Reagan's Medal of Honor presentation to Roy P Benevidez

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Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft, and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke cannisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and the classified documents on the dead team leader. When he reached the team leader's body, Sergeant Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sergeant Benavidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter. Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, re-instilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a build-up of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sergeant Benavidez mustered his strength, and began calling in tactical air strikes and directing the fire from supporting gunships, to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction attempt.

He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier. In the ensuing hand-to-hand combat, he sustained additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed, and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft. Sergeant Benavidez' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.

Ronald Reagan:

Sergeant Benavidez, a nation grateful to you, and to all your comrades living and dead, awards you its highest symbol of gratitude for service above and beyond the call of duty, the Congressional Medal of Honor.



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.