



# Reveille

Newsletter of the CCAC

Issue 59 – December 2024

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*Announcing:*

## 2025 Military Science Hall of Honor Ceremony and Luncheon

Saturday, March 1, 2025 - 10:30-1:30 p.m.  
University Center Rosebud Theater and Bluebonnet Ballroom,  
University of Texas at Arlington

**Save-the-Date:**

Registration will open on the CCAC website on Jan. 1, 2025

Website: [www.cadetcorps.org](http://www.cadetcorps.org)

Inductees to be announced

## A Fall to Be Proud Of

**By LTC Greg  
LeClair,  
Professor of  
Military Science**

Hey, Team – Happy Fall Semester! Lots going on this Fall across the Maverick Battalion and our Extension Program's Mean Green and Comet Battalions. We have accomplished so much in such a small amount of time.

First, I'm happy to announce that the Carlisle Cannons are soon to be Back in Action! The Maverick Battalion is working across several lines of effort to effect a reinstatement for the usage of the cannons on campus. In October, we influenced the UT Arlington Student Government to adopt a resolution

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## President's Desk By BG (Ret) Ricky Gibbs

Hello, my fellow Mavericks. I hope this issue of the newsletter finds you happy and safe. I hope you all had a fantastic, joyous Thanksgiving celebration! This is the time of year I think back on my Army career and my five combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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## ***A Fall to Be Proud Of (continued)***

and reinstate the cannons on campus. On 31 October, I was invited to enter the chambers and present our case directly to the Student-wide Senate. As a result, I'm proud to report that Resolution 24-20 passed with an overwhelming majority and is now signed by the UT Arlington Student Government President. We continue to work directly with UT Arlington Police regarding safety protocols, and the cannons themselves are receiving a technical inspection down at Fort Cavazos to ensure they're fully mission-capable. Exciting semesters ahead for the gun teams – red cords and pant stripes will return! You can read more here: [https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/student-senate-introduces-2-resolutions-announces-campus-election-results/article\\_2e66d382-966f-11ef-ae06-7ff277ac6871.html](https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/student-senate-introduces-2-resolutions-announces-campus-election-results/article_2e66d382-966f-11ef-ae06-7ff277ac6871.html)

The Maverick Battalion started off the semester with a celebratory Welcome Back Leadership Lab where we welcomed new Cadets to the program, contracted and provided scholarships to existing Cadets, and introduced new Maverick Battalion Cadet Leadership. Furthermore, we also brought in campus media and newspaper to document our unveiling of Carlisle—our new Spirit Horse here on campus, located directly in front of College Hall. Dressed in camouflage and military-style saddle and blanket, Carlisle is of course a nod to our shared heritage going back to the initial founding of this institution. The horse stands proudly to honor the legacy of what was the Carlisle Military Academy and its alumni. A sharp-looking Maverick indeed—be sure to see Carlisle next time you find yourself back on campus, or you can read more here: [https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/spirit-horse-carlisle-gallops-to-college-hall/article\\_5f9f31c2-64ee-11ef-8fce-8fe72ce2fcb9.html](https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/spirit-horse-carlisle-gallops-to-college-hall/article_5f9f31c2-64ee-11ef-8fce-8fe72ce2fcb9.html)



Our new Extension Program's Comet Battalion at UT Dallas hosted the Superintendent of The United States Military Academy at West Point, LTG Steven Gilland, as the keynote speaker at the Fall 2024 West Point Society of North Texas Leadership and Ethics Conference. The conference provided more than 200 distinguished high school students interested in military, leadership, and STEM careers from multiple school districts across North Texas an opportunity to meet both USMA and ROTC Cadet mentors, hear from distinguished leaders, and to connect with other like-minded students.

In the last Reveille article from July 2024, I highlighted that Maverick Battalion's Cadet Deon Rodrigues was elected as the University of Texas at Arlington Student Government President. **I'm now exceptionally proud to announce that Cadet Rodrigues has subsequently been selected as the Chair of the Undergraduate Committee of the University of Texas System Student Advisory Council where he represents all 13 universities' student governments across the UT system.** Cadet Rodrigues is currently a Cadet Company Commander for the Maverick Battalion and the UT Arlington Ranger Challenge OIC. He led rigorous training to prepare a team to compete in TF Ranger Challenge and the Bataan Memorial Death March, where the UT Arlington Team finished ahead this year by two places amongst some fierce competition! He was our former Cadet CSM for the Maverick Battalion over the course of two academic semesters last year. He brings an unmatched "can do" attitude and drive to develop those around him. Additionally, he serves as a mentor for the ROTC Student Organization and keeps the cadet battalion informed on outreach events and fundraising opportunities throughout the community. He truly creates a Cadet culture of involvement, motivation, discipline, and stewarding the profession within the Maverick Battalion and across the UT Arlington campus.

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## **President's Desk (continued)**

I remember the sadness of being away from my family on Thanksgiving, but also, I remember the very strong bond shared between me and my Army family. I was very thankful of the pride, determination, and commitment by the Soldiers to accomplish the mission for our great nation, for their comrades, and for their unit.

As we close out this year 2024, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2025.

I almost forgot! Happy Veterans Day ya'll! It was a busy one this year. The Maverick Battalion supported more than 15 different events with our Cadet Cohort and Cadet Color Guards across the DFW Metroplex. Of note, The Maverick Battalion paraded and marched a Company of Cadets and Rifles through Arlington's Entertainment District as part of the Inaugural Texas Veterans Day Parade. I had the honor of being asked to join several flag officers from our sister services on the reviewing stand. You can read more about it here: [https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/arlington-honors-service-sacrifice-with-inaugural-texas-veterans-day-parade/article\\_9aa4b846-a094-11ef-aaa6-3735b952a72a.html](https://www.theshorthorn.com/news/arlington-honors-service-sacrifice-with-inaugural-texas-veterans-day-parade/article_9aa4b846-a094-11ef-aaa6-3735b952a72a.html)

Additionally, The Mean Green Battalion hosted a spectacular football game between University of North Texas and The Black Knights of the United States Military Academy at West Point on 9 November at DATCU Stadium in Denton. A solid opportunity for cadet optics, recruiting event, with color guard and cadets on the field and cannon display. Our cadre further organized a flyover of several AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopters from 1-227 Aviation at Fort Cavazos: [https://www.tiktok.com/@ntx\\_tj03/video/7435441793325649198?is\\_from\\_webapp=1&sender\\_device=pc&web\\_id=7436877502888314411](https://www.tiktok.com/@ntx_tj03/video/7435441793325649198?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7436877502888314411)

Earlier this semester, 2-7 Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, hosted the Cadets of The Maverick Battalion at Fort Cavazos for a cavalry museum tour, information session on officer branches, and motor pool tour of M1A2 Abrams and M2 Bradley IFV. This was a tremendous opportunity for Cadets to interact with NCOs, ask questions and learn more about different officer branches, and interface with real military hardware. See more highlights from the event right here: [https://www.army.mil/article/280946/branch\\_day\\_a\\_key\\_decision\\_for\\_future\\_leaders\\_at\\_ut\\_arlington#:~:text=By%201st%20Lt.,opened%20National%20Mounted%20Warrior%20Museum.](https://www.army.mil/article/280946/branch_day_a_key_decision_for_future_leaders_at_ut_arlington#:~:text=By%201st%20Lt.,opened%20National%20Mounted%20Warrior%20Museum.)

Other ongoing efforts include working directly with Museum Region West, U.S. Army Center of Military History. We are requesting Historical Military Museum Artifacts (a Towed 105) for inclusion and display with the establishment of a Veterans Memorial on UT Dallas Campus. What an exciting opportunity for our Cadets to be responsible for the caretaking of a historical military artifacts on campus. More to follow on this in the months to come!

Winter Commissioning will occur on Saturday, 14 December 2024. We plan to commission 8 Cadets from across the program. I sincerely hope that everyone enjoys a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season.

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!**

## *The State Of Affairs*

*By Jerry Bob Houston*

In an effort to keep everyone updated, here are some takeaways from our August 2024 Executive Committee Board meeting:

The Cadet Corps Alumni Counsel has two new board members. Mike Morrow has stepped up as our new Vice President for Membership, and Arthur Cleveland joined us as a Member-at-Large.

LTC LeClair attended the meeting, which gave us an opportunity to discuss a few subjects that would otherwise have taken us much longer. It is helpful to have a good working relationship with the Military Science Department.

Our Scholarship Fund is doing very well, especially with the reenergization of the “Gold Bar Program,” which brought in \$1,595 last year for the scholarship fund. This year we are able to provide \$10,000 to the PMS to award cadet scholarships. These awards will be for the 2024/2025 school year and will be awarded to the cadets during Orientation at the start of the school year in fall of 2025.

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## ***The State Of Affairs (continued)***

The upcoming Hall of Honor is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2025. Be sure and save the date. We have unofficially moved the Hall of Honor Committee, the Development Committee, and the Marketing Committee under Ken Smith, our Financial Secretary. Ken is coordinating the Hall of Honor preparation with the help of Stan Thomas, Mike Parker, Jerry Houston and Sarah Nahhas. This year's Hall of Honor will be similar to last year's, but we are planning to encourage more visitation and group pictures.

The CCAC is looking into the feasibility of having our own challenge coin. This project is in the early development stage.

Jerry Thomas had saved the First Place National Pistol Trophy won by our pistol team in 1962 from being thrown out by a previous Military Science administration. LTC LeClair said he would be happy to have the trophy and would proudly display it in the department.

Thanks to generous contributions, a copy of the Tribute Plaque that has been installed at the National Army Museum in Washington D.C. was made. We are working with the UTA administration and the Military Science Department to place the plaque in the flagpole area outside the Military Science Department.

Ken Smith led us in a discussion about our annual budget. We are in good shape currently, but it could be better. One of our biggest expenses is our website. Aaron Brown and others on the Board are researching less expensive alternatives. The board also approved a \$2,000 donation to the Maverick Battalion from Hall of Honor 2024 proceeds.

After the Board meeting, some of the Board members attended Cadet Orientation and Awards at the University Center. As in the past, members of the Board helped present scholarship awards to our cadets. Following the orientation, we gathered around a new UTA Spirit Horse that has been given to the Military Science Department. Spirit Horses are a common sight on campus. The Military Science horse is painted with a camouflage design and distinctive saddle. We will coordinate a visit to our Spirit Horse (named Carlisle) during the Hall of Honor.

One last note: After the two Tribute plaques were finished and the original was installed at the museum, we had some remaining funds in our tribute contribution account. The board decided to purchase a commemorative brick that reads "University of Texas at Arlington ROTC Producing Quality Officers for America since 1902" "I Am A Maverick." Our brick has been placed in section H3 of Warriors' Plaza at the museum. It's adjacent to the reviewing stand/parade field. All of this was made possible through the hard work of our members and Hall of Honor member Guy White.

We hope to see you at the Hall of Honor on March 1, 2025. We also encourage you to join the "Gold Bar Program." If that is not something you want to do, consider contributing to the scholarship fund. It is hard to believe that our organization has established an endowed fund that will give around \$10,000 each year from now on because your contributions are invested in an endowment with the University of Texas System.

Happy Holidays to all!

Jerry Bob Houston



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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.*