



# Reveille

Newsletter of the CCAC Issue 61 – June 2025

## Reflecting On The Semester



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

Mavericks – I hope everyone’s summer season is off to a great start.

What a remarkable Spring 2025 semester for the Maverick Battalion. We realized a tremendous amount and achieved a multitude of goals as an organization. First, congratulations to our latest 2LTs who successfully achieved their officer’s commission this semester. Across all of our locations, we commissioned

30 new officers into the Army this fiscal year – easily demonstrating the Maverick Battalion’s relevance in 5th Brigade and as a strong producer within Cadet Command. That being said, our recruitment efforts are at an all-time high. I’m pleased to report that as of 1 June, the Maverick Battalion is tracking more than 80 inbound prospects for the Fall 2025 semester across all Mission Sets at UT Arlington and our remaining extension unit at UT Dallas. Having a large recruitment pool will enable our cadre the marked advantage of training with increased rigor for an even higher degree of focused quality on those we select to contract and commission.

Spring semester saw a very successful Hall of Honor event for the Alumni Corps on 1 March where we inducted two highly accomplished members, Jeannie Deakayne and Steve Kennedy, and officially reinstated the Carlisle Can-



nons. Special thanks to Ken Smith and Sarah Nahhas for making the event such a tremendous success.

We have advanced our partnership with the new National Medal of Honor Museum as well as the City of Arlington through increased participation and cooperation. We continue to increase our reputation and significance in the local area as an important partner that is constantly sought after for presence, performance, as well as our enablers to the community.

*(Continued next page)*

### Inside this issue:

President’s Desk	2
2025 MOH Parade Review	4
Spring 2025 Commissioning	6
U.S. Army Birthday Celebration	7
2025 HOH Review	8
Spring Dining In	10
Women’s Flag Football Announcement	10
West Campus Groundbreaking	11
Free Will	11
Taps	12
Membership	13
2026 HOH Announcement	14



UTA Cadre SFC Grannell’s promotion to MSG during the 2025 Hall of Honor.



CDTs Abdalrahman, Gutierrez, Manghera, Highfill, and Akindayomi alongside a reinstated Carlisle Cannon.



Members of the newly named Lora Rimmer Color Guard with LTC Lora Rimmer at the 2025 Hall of Honor are, from left to right, CDT De La Garza, CDT Qi, LTC Lora Rimmer, CDT Fain, CDT Munoz, and CDT Cooper. LTC Rimmer is a former UTA Professor of Military Science.



## Reflections *(continued)*

Over the summer, UT Arlington will break ground and begin the redesign, beautification, and emplacement of the monument area outside of College Hall. Improving the aesthetics of our footprint on campus is something we can all benefit from.

Sharpening our image will better memorialize the program's storied history and our strong Alumni Corps as well as drive a more professional image for future prospects to enjoy increased organizational pride.

We hosted our first joint athletic military competition with several JROTC programs across the Metroplex. It was a test of strength and determination in a variety of physical challenges for these young Cadets. We look forward to continuing this new tradition and bringing in many more programs in future iterations. We must increase the spirit of athleticism and competition in the high school JROTC populations in order to encourage interest in the military profession and a stronger desire to lead while continuing their journey of character in SROTC.

The program conducted a joint-FTX in April with Baylor and TCU out at Camp Wolters and successfully prepared more than 90 camp-bound Cadets for Cadet Summer Training. It was an immense operation bringing together 5 geographically separate ROTC programs to train together and prepare to lead others under challenging circumstances.

Spring 2025 was our last semester managing the ROTC extension unit at The University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. LTC Scott Pieluszczak is now on the ground, and we look forward to the formal standup ceremony on 8 September to uncase their new colors as a provisional-host ROTC program to officially mark the occasion.

Having closed out UT Arlington's Spring 2025 semester, we now look ahead to Cadet Summer Training 2025. Most of the cadre are already on the ground at Fort Knox helping to observe, coach, and mentor the more than 3,000 Cadets who arrive for training each year. Our Cadets will join others from more than 250 programs across the nation to demonstrate their ability to perform individual tasks and collective abilities to work together as a team, both as leaders and followers. We wish our camp-bound Cadets success this summer.

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

By BG (Ret) Ricky Gibbs, President of CCAC

**Dear friends and fellow Mavericks,**

This June 14th, we celebrated the 250th birthday of the United States Army and 250 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 13 years older than the Constitution.

Older than the nation it defends, the U.S. Army has made a difference in the history and founding of America. This year we are celebrating how America's Army has challenged, empowered and equipped our Soldiers, because "Be All You Can Be" is more than just a slogan, it's the Army way of life.

*(Continued next page)*

## President's Desk

*(continued)*

***“Our Army is the best trained and most prepared in the world, making it ready to face any obstacle it may encounter...”***

For 250 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.

Soldiers in the Army Reserve and the National Guard serve part-time, so they are integrated into their local communities, yet still serve in the Army.



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.

Army service provides you the possibilities to be all you can be. I salute those men and women in Maverick Battalion who were recently sworn in as second lieutenants 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!**



## Medal of Honor parade and party 2025

By Bunky Garonzik

This year's event, held in Gainesville, Texas on April 12th, was special and significant. Of course, the main goal is to honor that very special group of our military who have excelled above and beyond. And this year we also honored one of our own who served over three decades in uniform: **MG (Ret) Lester Simpson**, who had been part of the marchers since the group of Jody Alumni became an integral part of the event decades ago. He will be missed. Taking his place was BG (Ret) Ricky Gibbs.

This event is even more significant because of the opening of the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas. And even more relevant because UTA is only one of three colleges to have two Medal of Honor recipients (with the exception of the Military Academies). At our advanced age, we recognized that our marching is not at the level of our competition days on the Sam Houston Rifles Drill Team, but even pushing 80, some of the drill movements are part of our DNA.





After the parade, we gathered at Sandra's Party Barn for a party and lunch, and some of our other veterans and spouses joined us. A special flag raising ceremony, and bagpipes from Col Mark Lat-ham, and a dedication to Major General Simpson preceded the party-lunch. Thanks to Col Ken Smith for all he does for the organization, and to all the folks who often come from faraway places to support the men and women in uniform. Thanks also for inspirational comments from General Gibbs. Truly a proud event for all who served our great country. Hoping all who participated as well as others will join us next year.



*Photos courtesy of Jill Phenix Martinez*

## Spring 2025 Commissioning



UTA Maverick Battalion commissioned 23 new 2LTs during May 2025.

The guest speaker was LTC David Volz, AV, Admin Contracting Officer, Defense Contract Management Agency, Missile Division, and soon-to-be Commander, SW Region, DCMA, Missile Division whose HQ is located in Fort Worth.

CCAC Alumni members Steve Kennedy and Ken Smith attended. 2LT Moore received a Replica Gladius award for excellence from AUSA Representative Col (Ret) Huston. Also, attending from Killeen, was LTC (Ret) Raymond Castillo, UTA ROTC Class of 1979, and Col (Ret) Bob Bedell, MBA from UTA, Norwich ROTC.

**Eight new officers from UTD/SMU:** Peter Adesanya, MP, UTD; Patrick Almond, USAR FC, SMU; Samantha Cresci, Chem, SMU; Miguel Kelly, TC UTD; Jadon Klipsch, TXNG TC, SMU; Santiago McMunn, AG detailed FA, UTD; Ivanna Ogunbor, USAR, MI, SMU; and Jennifer Trisch, USAR MP, UTD.



**Seven new officers from UTA:**  
(shown left to right)

2LT Yusuf Shittu, USAR EN

2LT Gabriel Vivoni, Dallas Baptist, Active Duty Branched IN, detailed FI

2LT Jared Wells Joiner, TX NG EN

2LT Jennifer Ojukwu, TX NG EN

2LT Allen Marez, Active Duty TC

2LT Jackson Young, Active Duty MP

2LT Christopher Moore, Active Duty AG

## Spring 2025 Commissioning (continued)



### **Eight new officers from UNT:** (shown left to right)

- 2LT James Clark, TXNG IN
- 2LT Charlie Flock, MS
- 2LT Kendrick Frost, MS
- 2LT Brandon Giunca, FA
- 2LT Dontrell Mitchell, TXNG OD
- 2LT Katherine Ortiz, TXNG SC
- 2LT Alfonso Villacon TXNG FA
- 2LT Patrick Zuege, FC.



## U.S. Army's Birthday Celebration

By Ken Smith

I was honored to attend Fort Worth's early celebration of the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army on Friday, June 13th, at the new Fort Worth City Hall, formerly Pier 1 Corporate HQ.

Several veterans from across the services were there, plus City Council member and USMC Reservist Charles Lauersdorf and his wife, Amanda Lauersdorf, former Army Captain and potential JROTC Instructor at Richland High School. Jeff Gault, CEO AUSA Local Audie Murphy chapter for Army Scholarship Foundation also attended.



# Review of the 2025 Hall of Honor



Each year the Department of Military Science hosts the Hall of Honor, recognizing outstanding contributions former students and supporters have made to our country and/or to their communities. This year's Military Science Hall of Honor was a resounding success! On March 1, 2025, Jeannie Deakyne and Steve Kennedy joined 121 other UTA Military Science alumni who have been recognized with a place in the Military Science Hall of Honor at The University of Texas in Arlington.

The day started with the posting of colors by the newly named LTC Lora Rimmer Color Guard, the all-female color guard at UTA, to begin the Induction Ceremony for the new honorees. While the Cadets hosted and ran the show—led by c/LTC Christopher Moore—the Cadet Corps Alumni Council provided the invocation by COL Jerry B. Houston and direction and oversight by COL Ken Smith. Dr. Elizabeth Newman spoke at the ceremony, as did COL Mike Caldwell of the Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington.

Once the honorees had been duly inducted, lunch was served in the Bluebonnet Ballroom. A warm welcome was given by UTA President Jennifer Cowley. After lunch, remarks were given by CCAC President Rick Gibbs and Professor of Military Science Gregory LeClair.

As is standard every year, and much anticipated, the I Am A Maverick pageant and the Silver Cup Ceremony were followed by LTC Mark Latham on the bagpipes, TAPS, and the Retiring of the Colors. A benediction was given by newly inducted Steve Kennedy, the CCAC Chaplain. And the final touch was the Cake Cutting Ceremony that according to tradition, is performed by the oldest and the youngest Military members present—in this case, LTC Charles Feuerbacher and Cadet Munoz.

After the ceremony and luncheon, guests went outside the University Center to see the Carlisle Cannons and watched the current and the Alumni Sam Houston Rifle Teams perform. In its role of supporting today's cadets, and bringing together former cadets and friends, the Hall of Honor event has become a very special, not-to-be-missed event on campus.

# Review of the 2025 Hall of Honor

*(continued)*



Seated: COL (Ret) Joe B. Swift, COL (Ret) Charles Feuerbacher, Steve Kennedy, Jeannie P. Deakyne, COL (Ret) Jerry B. Houston, Jerry W. Thomas, Theron Arrington

Standing: Fred Campos, BG Rick Gibbs, LTC (Ret) Lora Rimmer, Allan (Bunky) Garonzik, COL (Ret) Guy White, Stan Thompson, COL (Ret) Mike Morrow, James Tomlin, COL (Ret) Ken Smith

## Spring Dining In



The UTA Maverick Battalion Spring Dining In was held on 25 April 2025 at Walnut Creek Country Club in Mansfield, TX. LTC Gregory LeClair and the Maverick Battalion hosted Cadets, Cadre, Alumni, and 1SG (Ret) Jeremy Hubacek. 1SG (Ret) Hubacek was the guest speaker. The grog was concocted and found suitable for consumption by LTC LeClair. Alumni Council Members Charles An and Ken Smith attended and were included in the Receiving Line. About 65 Cadets attended the formal event.



## UTA Women's Flag Football Is Here!



Football is back! The University of Texas at Arlington is adding women's flag football to its intercollegiate athletics program, becoming the first NCAA Division I university in Texas to do so—and staking a bold claim in one of the nation's fastest-growing sports.

UTA will begin competition in spring 2027. It becomes just the fifth NCAA Division I university nationally to add women's flag football and the third college across all divisions in Texas. The program will call Maverick Stadium home and begin hiring coaches and signing players later this year.

This marks the first sport addition for UTA since women's golf was added for the 2017-18 season, and this brings the total number of sport offerings for UTA's division of intercollegiate athletics to 16.

*Press release from UTA Alumni Relations Department*

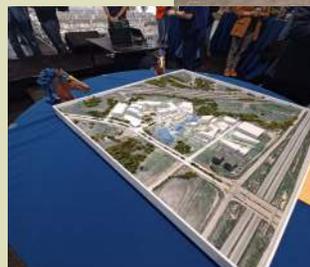
# West Campus Groundbreaking Ceremony



The UTA West Campus groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 3, 2025. UTA West will be located off Walsh Ranch Road in Parker County, south of the I30/I20 merger. UTA President Jennifer Cowley and her staff hosted the event, supported by the Moving Mav Band Drum Line. Remarks were made by local dignitaries from Parker County, the City of Weatherford, the Walsh Ranch Family, and University Staff, including Vice President Administration and Economic Development John Hall. The new 52-acre campus is scheduled to open fall of 2028. New freeway access and road upgrades are already ongoing. The event was also attended by CCAC Executive Council members Paul Faidley and Ken Smith.

For more information on UTA West, visit:

<https://www.uta.edu/west>



Create your

# FREE WILL

today!

FREEWILL UTA Development and Alumni Relations

Everyone should make a will or living trust, regardless of wealth. Having a plan in place ensures that your loved ones know your wishes. With a valid will or trust, you can choose who gets your property, name guardians for your minor children, provide a home for your pets, and more. It only takes 20 minutes, and you can update your documents at any time if your plans change.

UTA recently partnered with the will-drafting website FreeWill, creating an exciting opportunity for UTA supporters to write their wills 100% free of charge. By writing your will on FreeWill, you will also have the opportunity to put a charitable bequest in place to UTA which will ensure that you leave a legacy to the area of the University that you love.

Go to the UTA Alumni Relations website to learn more, or visit

<https://www.freewill.com/uta>.



# Taps

## MG (Ret) Lester Simpson



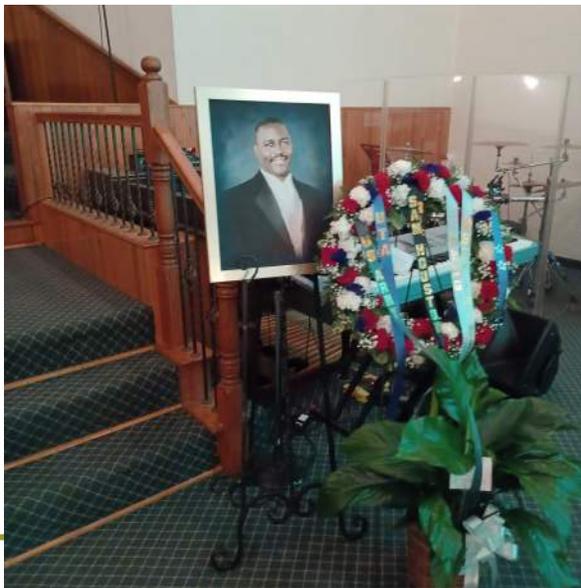
MG (Ret) Lester Simpson passed away on March 21, 2025. He was a Distinguished Military Graduate of UTA in 1983, and as a cadet, he commanded the Sam Houston Rifles in 1979 and 1980, winning the State of Texas Championship. He was commissioned as an infantry officer and served in key leadership and command assignments in the Texas Army National Guard. He was a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and received a Master of Strategic Studies degree in 2005.

He was selected for promotion to Major General by the Adjutant General of Texas for his leadership, personal, and professional credentials; multiple deployments and broad experiences; and commitment to mission accomplishment and taking care of soldiers. A recipient of many awards, honors, and medals, Major General Simpson was inducted into the UTA Military Science Hall of Honor in 2010.

Lester's friends and classmates turned out to honor him on June 4th at his wake and again on June 5th for his funeral service and full honors burial at the Dallas National Cemetery.

At the request of his wife Antionette, former members of the Sam Houston Rifles attended, attired in their Jody Jackets. The eulogy was presented by Lester's dear friend Alex Martinez. Alex related their joint journey from Killeen, Texas to The University of Texas at Arlington. The Jodies lined the front of the church and sang The Jody Hymn in his honor.

On April 12, 2025, The Jody Alumni Team dedicated their participation in the Gainesville, Texas, Medal of Honor Parade to MG Simpson with his General Officer Flag carried by the Rimmer Cadet Color Guard.



# Membership

Currently, our membership consists of 205 Life Members and 15 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 Mike Morrow if you have any questions or concerns about membership, at [cmorrow73@att.net](mailto:cmorrow73@att.net).

## CCAC Life Members

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

## CCAC Annual Members

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



*Announcing:*

# 2026 Military Science Hall of Honor

## Ceremony and Luncheon

Due to construction, the UTA University Center will not be available in 2026. Location on the UTA Campus will be announced in Jan 2026.

**Save-the-Date:**

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**  
**10:00 to 1:30**  
**Registration starts Jan 1, 2026**



### **Cadet Corps Alumni Council (CCAC)**

Primary Business Address:  
2670 E. Lamar Blvd.  
Arlington, TX 76011

817-640-6166, ext. 408

ccac\_uta@yahoo.com  
CCAC Secretary:  
Sarah Nahhas  
snahas@decisionanalyst.com

[www.cadetscorps.org](http://www.cadetscorps.org)

*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.*