On May 16, 2014, The University of Texas at Austin Army ROTC program commissioned twelve new Second Lieutenants into the United States Army. The ceremony began after the completion of the Joint Commissioning Ceremony in the Bates Recital Hall where all of the University of Texas ROTC programs were awarded their commissioning certifications and given their oath of office by President Bill Powers. Senator Cruz of the state of Texas was the guest speaker and promised the new Second Lieutenants that he and his colleagues would work hard to support them during their careers.

Shortly after the Joint Ceremony, the Army Commissioning Ceremony began with remarks given by Lieutenant Colonel Travis Habhab, the Professor of Military Science for UT Army ROTC, and Colonel Michael Dietz of the Texas Army National Guard, father of newly commissioned —Cont. on Page 2

Texas Army Clinches Victory in 2014 President’s Cup

This year Texas Army won the President’s Cup for the first time in four years. The President’s Cup is a trophy awarded annually at the conclusion of the Tri-Service Games. The competitors are the Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marines ROTC programs. In the fall the Cadets compete in: Max Team Sit-Ups, Max Team Push-Ups, Max Team Pull-Ups, Dodgeball, Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Soccer and Frisbee, and in the spring compete in: Murph (crossfit), Relay Race on the Stadium Ramps, Bench Press, Marine Obstacle Course, Tire Flip, Tug Of War, Marine Combat Fitness Test, 4x100 meter sprint, and the Mogadishu Mile (a team race carrying various pieces of equipment).

This year, Texas Army defeated both opponents handily, taking 1st place in over half of the events and taking 3rd only once out of both semesters. In several cases, cadets performed at an incredible level worth noting. The Mogadishu Mile team lapped both other teams demonstrating their ability to work as a team and push through pain. On the Tire Flip team, Cadet Samantha Ruiz’s sub 2:00 time was significantly faster than the next closest female’s which was over 10 minutes. Cadets competing in the Sit-Up competition each scored an average of 23 sit-ups more than their opponents. The Dodgeball team mercilessly accumulated the most face shots, or so they tell everyone.

Overall it was a team effort and an accomplishment that could not have been achieved without the support of every cadet. We look forward to housing the trophy for years to come.
Second Lieutenant Aiden Dietz. The auditorium laughed as Colonel Dietz began his speech with comedic satire about the ways of military life for new Second Lieutenants. Senior Cadet Wenning said that, “Colonel Dietz gave such great and realistic advice because he discussed real experiences from his twenty plus years in the Army.” After both speakers, the new Lieutenants received their oath of offices, first salutes, and certifications into the MOAA by (ret) Colonel Pierce. Also, as graduates from the University of Texas at Austin’s ROTC program, the new Lieutenants received a membership to the UT Army Alumni Organization, the Caissons, which provides them with a lifelong connection to past and future UT Army commissionees. On behalf of the friends, family, staff, and Alumni of UT Texas we would like to congratulate all the commissionees.

Texas Army Cadets Take a SHARP look at Sexual Assault

This year the Cadets and Staff of the Texas Army ROTC Program have taken an active role in the community standing up against sexual harassment and sexual assault. This semester we tried to excel beyond our previous involvement and completed two separate major events that worked to reduce sexual assault and harassment in our community.

Texas Army devoted an entire leadership lab to the discussion of Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) related issues. To create a dialogue the MSIV Cadets acted out scenarios that pertained to sexual assault and harassment. The rest of the battalion was divided into different points of view for discussion before coming together to discuss as a whole. Instead of merely lecturing cadets on this important topic we allowed them to dive below the surface and identify the causes, effects, and solutions they will need to understand as leaders.

Texas Army also took an active role in events on the UT campus. A large group of faculty and cadets attended the Take Back the Night event hosted on the main mall of campus. This event brought together students and different campus organizations to say in unison, “We will not stand for sexual assault or sexual harassment in any capacity.” The cadets also listened to a guest speaker who participated in the first Take Back the Night in 1973 in San Francisco.

Texas Army knows that Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment as unacceptable in the work place or the community and plans to continue their efforts to promote an atmosphere that prevents any type of harassment.
Seniors Study the Battle of San Jacinto

On Friday February 21st, 2014 the Texas Army Senior class, LTC Habbah, and Military Science instructor SFC Fleeger went on a staff ride to the historical ground of the Battle of San Jacinto. The purpose of a staff ride is to relive battles that have happened in the past, and learn lessons from the leaders involved. Prior to the staff ride cadets were divided into groups and given informational packets to read about all sides involved in the battle. Cadets departed Camp Mabry on Friday at 630 am to make the nearly 200 mile journey to the site of the battle. Despite some bumps along the road to include a flat tire, the class and cadre made it safely to the site.

Upon arrival at the site, located outside of downtown Houston, the group was received by an expert on the history of the battle. Cadets received a brief on the weapons used during the battle, even viewing a replica musket like the kind used during the battle. Cadets walked the routes once walked by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna leader, president of Mexico, and General Sam Houston, leader of the Texas troops. Cadets were able to analyze decisions made by these leaders such as using terrain to their advantage or use of security positions. Cadets discussed why General Sam Houston was able to initiate a surprise attack against the Mexican Army and eventually capture the Mexican president. After the tour cadets were able to ask questions and discuss what they learned. Cadets were then able to visit the Battleship Texas and take group tours. Overall the trip was an insightful learning experience that helped prepare our seniors for their commissioning.

Cadets Let Loose at the Spring Dining Out

May 2, 2014 was a night to remember. The Texas Army ROTC program, after a long, hard semester, took a much deserved break at the Hilton Garden Inn for the programs annual Spring Dining-Out. The evening began as the sunset—literally and figuratively—on the end of the school year. The hotel’s 18th floor ballroom, which boasted a spectacular view of Austin’s skyline, provided a picturesque background for cadets to take pictures together before the evening began.

What really stole the show was the video parody the classes put together in remembrance of the funnier moments during the year. Transitioning from the laughter the video evoked, cadets were sobered during the recognition of MSG Robert Campbell as he was presented with gifts from each of the four MS classes as a sendoff into retirement.

The event was ultimately a reminder that though Texas Army ROTC is a rigorous training program, developing positive relationships with peers, and learning to take time to laugh and relax, is also key to an organization’s success.
Joint Field Training Exercise

On the first weekend of April, Cadets from the Longhorn Battalion participated in a joint field training exercise at Camp Bullis with the ROTC programs from St. Mary’s University, University of Texas San Antonio, and Texas State University. Over the course of three days, Cadets practiced basic Soldier skills, learned to collaborate among new peers and built camaraderie between the different battalions.

The first day started off with a friendly individual ruck march competition. Cadets then developed confidence and proficiency in their day and night land navigation skills.

MSI’s and MSII’s had a different training experience from the MSIII’s. On Saturday, MS I’s and II’s went through a round robin consisting of a leadership reaction course (LRC), and two different virtual training simulations. The next day they showed off their competitive spirit in a team ruck march and obstacle course.

MSIII’s spent the weekend conducting platoon lanes in preparation for LDAC. Critical thinking and tactical knowledge was challenged and assessed as Cadets faced variables while carrying out three missions. Each lane lasted four hours with platoons completing an ambush, attack, and key leader engagement. ACS students and friends of Texas Army came out to help support training, acting as the opposing forces, village leaders, and lane walkers. Despite the weather pouring rain on the cadets all weekend, Texas Army proved itself once again as a one of the best ROTC programs in the nation by receiving the best ratings of all participating colleges for both our upper and lower classmen.

MS1s Gain Weapons Familiarization

On March 19th, the University of Texas’ Army ROTC MS1 class took a field trip to Fort Hood, led by their instructor CPT Jared Hepler. At Fort Hood, cadets had the opportunity to explore various weapons in a virtual simulation. The Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) provided cadets with realistic situations and air-compressed weapons that have the same weight, recoil, and sounds of the actual weapons of a typical Army squad. NCOs taught the cadets the reloading process of M4s, M16s, M9, M203 grenade launchers, and M249 SAW guns. Overall, the hands-on experience helped familiarize cadets with the process of shooting a realistic weapon like they will throughout their future careers, and for many MS1s it was their first experience shooting a firearm.

After grabbing lunch at the PX, the cadets went to the airfield to tour 3 different helicopters (CH-47 Chinook, AH-64 Apache, and OH-58 Kiowa) and talk to the pilots of the 166th Aviation Brigade. They learned the firing capabilities and special characteristics of each helicopter, and got to converse with Tennessee Army National Guardsmen specifically about the commissioning of the Kiowa helicopters. Cadet Heather Rovner expressed her hopes for commissioning in the aviation branch, saying “It was great getting a chance to talk to actual pilots and hear about some of their experiences.”

Overall, the trip allowed cadets to further experience their potential futures as officers in the U.S. Army, and learn more about the weapon systems that our army uses.
Ranger Challenge Buddy Competition

LAWRENCE, KS – On the weekend of April 19th the University of Kansas Army ROTC program hosted the 20th Annual Best Ranger Buddy Competition in Sesquicentennial Park. 20 years ago the competition began as a small event to promote physical aptitude and military competence among students in and around the University of Kansas. It has grown tremendously in the past decade, however, encompassing ROTC programs in 3rd, 5th, and 7th Brigades. Cadets from schools across the central United States competed in events assessing their physical fitness, basic soldier skills, and critical thinking.

The University of Texas at Austin fielded a single two man team this year to compete and scout out the event for future years. Before the sun rose, Senior Travis Strahan and Sophomore Michael Gonzales lined up next to over 200 other teams to begin a 15K ruck march. They would finish the ruck in less than 1 hour 29 minutes, fast enough for 15th place in that event. The rest of the day consisted of 6 military skills lanes made up of various exercises and events. Each lane combined physically strenuous activity with the need to maintain composure, access domain knowledge, and think critically about the problem at hand. Cadet Gonzalez notes, each lane left cadets exhausted after about 10 minutes of maximum effort and a sprint to the finish line. “The most challenging part had to be the buddy rushes straight into a hill climb. I felt like I would never make it to the top.” The final event of the day was a 3 mile buddy run that tested the endurance and mental toughness of every competitor. “I was running on fumes during that last mile”, says Cadet Strahan.

Texas Army finished in the top quarter of the 172 male-male teams who competed that Saturday. The Best Ranger Buddy Competition is well-executed event that serves a dual purpose of ROTC community involvement and giving cadets a chance to test their limits. Texas Army hopes to send multiple teams next year to compete, build esprit de corps, and hopefully, take home the trophy in 2015.

Critical Thinking Leadership Lab

One of our last labs to wrap up a great semester at Texas Army ROTC was the Commander's Challenge Critical Thinking Lab led by MAJ Hermann. The challenge was something that has been presented to groups of people ranging from 5 year olds to MBA students, and requires participants to create the tallest structure using simple everyday items. We were given uncooked spaghetti noodles, string, tape, and a marshmallow in order to accomplish this task, and were instructed to build the tallest freestanding structure possible, with the marshmallow on top. Whichever team's structure had the marshmallow at the highest point after the allotted time, won the challenge.

Separated by MS class, cadets broke off into teams of 4-6 to accomplish this mission. The time hack was short and the task seemed simple, but it was anything but. As cadets, we all aspire to be leaders. For my team, this really put a handicap on accomplishing the task at hand. I was paired with cadets Dye, Figurski, Stoop and Fechner—all strong cadets and even stronger leaders. We had a lot of great ideas, but the problem that we ran into was utilizing our time in an effective manner. We discussed these great ideas for the majority of the time and when we finally started, we didn't have enough time to complete the task. Our structure tumbled before the time was up and we were disqualified as a team.

The second round, we were not allowed to talk as a group without having the ‘talking marshmallow’ in our hand. This may seem like a handicap, but it forced us to listen to each other more, and actually start work on making the structure. This time, we built a successful structure, though it was one of the shorter ones. The restriction on talking really improved how effectively we communicated to each other.

The final round had the top teams from each class level pitted against each other in a final battle to construct the tallest structure. This lab helped us to work together and see how communication could make or break a mission. It was a great bonding and team building experience for the grade levels!
Farewell to MSG Robert Campbell and MAJ Wade Aubin

This semester we are saddened that we must bid farewell to two valued members of our facility:

**MSG Robert Campbell** joined the Texas Army ROTC team in August 2012 as the Senior Military Instructor (SMI). Already a seasoned veteran of two wars and 25 years of active service, MSG Campbell brought a great deal of knowledge to the Texas Army community. As SMI, MSG Campbell’s primary responsibilities included oversight of all training for Texas Army cadets. Almost half of last year’s MS3 class received overall E for Excellent marks at the Leadership Development Assessment course at Fort Lewis, WA. This is a direct result of MSG Campbell’s leadership. We would like to extend our gratitude for not only his efforts in transforming the Texas Army community, but for his service to his nation.

**MAJ Wade Aubin** served as the Texas Army Battalion Executive Officer (XO) for the past 3 years. His primary responsibilities involved carrying out the intent of the Battalion Commander on all day-to-day functions. MAJ Aubin went above and beyond this role. He ushered in a new passion for physical training in Texas Army. He introduced what is known as “Crossfit” to the Battalion. Every week, MAJ Aubin worked closely with the Ranger Challenge team to improve strength, endurance, and flexibility. His humble demeanor, immense work ethic, and overall leadership set the example for others to follow. We wish him the best of luck in future endeavors, and thank him for his service to the Texas Army community.

New Cadet Chain of Command

**Chain of Command Spring 2014**

Alpha Company  
CO: Peta  
XO: Kim  
1PL: Archilla  
2PL: Garcia

Bravo Company  
CO: Fechner  
XO: Scammerhorn  
1PL: Casteneda

S1: Tran L  
AS1: Beiter  
S3: Stoop  
AS3: Dominguez  
S4: Ruiz  
AS4: Dye  
S5: Maino P  
S6: Henderson W  
PAO: Seidule

BN CO: Bickham  
BN XO: Henderson J  
BN CSM: Calica
Texas Army Supports National Salute to Veterans Week

Each year during the week of Valentine’s Day, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes the Veterans they care for with the National Salute to Veterans Week. This event is a weeklong “thank you” to each of these Veterans. Cadet Ronnie Willis, one of our seniors, did an outstanding job planning and coordinating the weeklong volunteer events.

This year, over 30 Cadets from the University of Texas Army ROTC were involved in meeting and thanking over 1,000 Veterans at the Austin Veteran Affairs Outpatient Clinic throughout the week. Cadets and Cadre members from the Army ROTC program came to the clinic to visit with these Veterans each day of the week. They brought with them refreshments, Valentine’s Day cards, and a hearty thank you for all of the Veterans. These weeklong activities culminated with a hot dog and hamburger cookout for the Veterans on Valentine’s Day which gave the Cadets to interact and visit with those that have served before. At the end of the day over 400 meals were served.

In addition to providing a lot of camaraderie with the Veterans, the Cadets assisted many other schools and organizations with their visits to the clinic. All together, over 1,000 Veterans were visited with 300 balloons and over 4,500 handmade Valentine’s from the local elementary schools. The Cadets were also able to meet and assist with Veteran Service Organization members from the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars State President and her staff along with members of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Through this experience, the Cadets were able to speak with individuals who have served our Country in wars, conflicts and during peace time. Many of the Cadets came away with a greater understanding, appreciation and comprehension of the paths they are about to embark on for themselves as Army Officers.

The 2014 Commissionees of the Longhorn Battalion

As the year comes to a close we would like to recognize those that we have commissioned into the United States Army this academic year. In total, we commissioned 19 highly qualified officers this year into both the active and reserve service.

### Fall 2013 Commissionees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Duty Station</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2LT Kayla Gonzalez</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>Louisville, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Krishan Gupta</td>
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### Spring 2014 Commissionees

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<tr>
<td>2LT Christina Bonneau</td>
<td>Adjutant General</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Allegra Bouth</td>
<td>Quartermaster</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
</tr>
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<td>2LT Aiden Dietz</td>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2LT Eric Flores</td>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>Round Rock, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2LT Melinda Flores</td>
<td>Adjutant General</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Rachel Haungs</td>
<td>Nurse Corp</td>
<td>Fort Sam Houston, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2LT Jarmarion Jenkins</td>
<td>Medical Service Corp</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Sean Neky</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>Fort Benning, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Travis Strahan</td>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>Fort Bliss, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Ronnie Willis</td>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>Terrell, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Stephen Wisniewski</td>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LT Justin Wyett</td>
<td>Military Intelligence</td>
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### Summer 2014 Commissionees

The following cadets will also commission in the United States Army during this summer. They most of them have not yet received their branch or duty location.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cadet Adam Frye</td>
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<td>Cadet Quinn Romasko</td>
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<td>Cadet Jake Walker</td>
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### End of Camp Commissionees

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<tr>
<td>Cadet Francisco Betancourt</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cadet Paul Hanneman</td>
<td>Infantry</td>
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As a follow-up to his 2011 history of UT’S Army ROTC Unit Texas Fight, John Boswell (UT AROTC, class of ’69) has published a 113 image pictorial history of military activities on the Forty Acres dating back to WWI, with special focus on The University’s outstanding Army ROTC unit. All profits from this pictorial history book’s sale will be contributed to UT Army ROTC Gold Bar fund for Cadet training, activities, and retention. It is a great way to learn more about an important aspect of UT’S history, and to support UT’S program to produce Army Officers to defend the nation.

To order this work, please contact John Boswell at: bevoboswell@yahoo.com

Support Texas Army ROTC

If you are interested in supporting Texas Army ROTC with donations to help fund training, team building, and extracurricular events, click on our website (http://www.texasrotc.com) and then click “Support Us”.

Texas Army T-Shirts now in the COOP

Show off your Texas Army pride by purchasing a shirt from the University COOP at the University of Texas! To purchase a t-shirt simply click on our website (http://www.texasrotc.com) and then click on the t-shirt.