



# Reveille

## News From The Front

By LTC Jeffrey Wood,  
Professor of Military Science, UTA

### Inside this issue:

Greetings from the 100<sup>th</sup> Maverick Battalion! That's right...100 years this year. We have the largest Cadet Corps now, compared to the past several years, and are working hard to boost enrollment. Credit goes to UTA and my wonderful cadre. My XO has the front office squared away, my recruiter is hitting on all cylinders, training is going well, and my instructors are all doing a great job with our new standardized Cadet Command curriculum.

The seniors this year have done a great job of planning and executing the majority of our training. They all did a great job at Summer Camp and once again proved to be a step ahead of the rest. Miss Nkechi Itheme is the Cadet Battalion Commander this year. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting this fine young American, you are missing out.

We have a new training officer, CPT David Harris. He replaces MAJ Robert Jean, long an icon in the program, who returned to active duty. He is currently in Kuwait and doing fine. We welcome CPT Harris from the beaches of Hawaii.

The NCOs-MSG Hunter, SFC Currie, and SGT Reinstadtler are all going strong and continue to be

great examples of the Army's professional Non-commissioned Officer Corps.

Miguel Castillo is still the Admin Tech (now called a Human Resource Assistant). We value his service and the continuity he provides. We have a new university employee in John Gerik. John is a retired Naval Officer and is happy to be back surrounded by the brotherhood of arms.

The semester got off to a bang with our fall FTX at Fort Wolters. The cadets did well and gave us plenty of things to discuss in our lectures. We then moved on to the University's Alumni Gala where we had the privilege of honoring two greats, LTG (R) Hollingsworth and GEN Tommy Franks. It was definitely a night to remember and one the cadets will cherish throughout their careers.

We are commissioning five great officers this December and are on track to commission another nine in May.

I am grateful this holiday season for the great nation in which we live and for which I serve. I have the greatest job in the world!

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### Upcoming Events:

- Annual CCAC Dinner  
Feb. 21, 2003
- Hall of Honor  
Feb. 22, 2003

## The Epic March To Fort Hood

By LTC (ret) Joel Ward

The year was 1960. Arlington State College (now UTA) was transitioning from a two-year to a four-year college, and getting ready to send its first class to Summer Camp at Fort Hood. COL Kirk P. Brock, the PMS&T, along with his staff, perhaps concerned about the self-confidence of their first Summer Camp class (coming from such a small, unheralded school as ASC) and wanting the first class to do well, decided upon a bold strategy. The class would march the 160 miles from Arlington to Fort Hood. COL Brock and staff devised a plan to make the cadets believe the march to Fort Hood was the cadets' idea, but all of the cadets knew it wasn't their idea. The "forced march" was to be lead by CPT Latham, a highly decorated Korean veteran. Sixteen out of 28 camp bound cadets "volunteered" to march 160 miles to Fort Hood, near Killeen. The next thing I knew, we were spending weekends on 25-mile "practice marches" and running to and from the training site at a farm north of Arlington—to toughen us. Then came the day.

**Saturday, June 11**—After families and girlfriends said "goodbye," CPT Latham, with 16 of us in trail in military fatigues, web harnesses, pistol belts, canteens, ponchos, and combat boots, marched south on Cooper Street, continuing along State Highway 157. We marched on the shoulders of the road most of the time, in two columns. The temperature soared above 100 degrees. The reflection of the sun's heat off the pavement made it hotter. With CPT Latham setting the pace, we walked up hills, and jogged down. With 33 miles completed, we camped the night in Joshua, sleeping on the ground in ponchos on a school yard.

**Sunday, June 12**—The team continued the march at 5 a.m. after, trekking 6 miles to Cleburne and having breakfast at a local café. Shortly after we resumed the trek, Billy Clark had to drop out of the march due to blistered feet. He had not been able to

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## Cadet Corps Endowed Scholarship Fund

The purpose of this endowment is to generate annual scholarship monies for many cadets. Our hope is to build this fund to at least \$250,000 by 2010. This fund will help attract and educate many future cadets, as well as help ensure that the U.S. Army ROTC program stays (and grows) at UTA. The endowment will be managed by the University of Texas' professional money managers. LTC (ret) Mark Martin, recently retired as the Professor of Military Science at UTA, started the fund through the sale of "Cadet Echos" reprints. The Cadet Corps Alumni Chapter has taken up the torch to continue building the fund. If you would like more information about the details of the endowment, just send an email to Jerry Thomas at [jthomas@decisionanalyst.com](mailto:jthomas@decisionanalyst.com). Currently, the endowment balance stands at approximately \$5,000. Many thanks to those who recently contributed to the endowment, and a special thanks to Rex Latham who gave \$500. (Whenever you wish to make a contribution, send to the attention of: Kerri Ressler at UTA Alumni Office, 505 Nedderman Drive, Campus Center, Suite 109, Arlington, TX 76010).

## Sam Houston Rifles

This section will be devoted to news and events related to those who were members of the Sam Houston Rifles, also known as the "Jodies." If you have Jody news or information, please send to Jerry Houston at [JerryhAIT@aol.com](mailto:JerryhAIT@aol.com).

## Recruiter's Report

By MAJ Kevin Smith,  
APMS, UTA

School year 2002-2003 started with the largest enrollment in over 10 years. We grew from 76 cadets in the Fall of 2001 to 115 cadets in the fall of 2002. What is even more heartening is that the quality of cadets continues to rise. This is evidenced by the unprecedented number of "Brigade Pool" scholarships awarded in October-November of this year. We were given ten additional 4-year scholarships and one additional 2-year scholarship by the U.S. Army. This means that of our 50 freshmen that started this fall, we now have 13 on 4-year scholarships and two on 3-year advance designee scholarships. We are hoping to add 3-5 more to the scholarship rolls in the spring.

This is only the beginning of the Maverick Battalion's quest for excellence. We are looking for students who are scholars, athletes, and leaders. We want students who do well academically, who are physically fit and have a fitness ethos, and who are willing to work hard and take charge. Most of all we want dedication, determination, and the willingness to serve as selfless leaders. We are not spending time in high schools but are, as directed by U.S. Army Cadet Command, focusing on those students who have already committed to UTA. Our job is to convince the best and brightest who are, and will be, attending UTA to give ROTC a try. We are confident that once they try us out, most will stay.

We truly believe we have the best leadership development course in the world, and are privileged to have the opportunity to work with some of America's finest young men and women.

(If you know students who might qualify to join the UTA Corps of Cadets, please have them contact MAJ Kevin Smith at [krsmith@uta.edu](mailto:krsmith@uta.edu) or 817-272-5652).

## TAPS

This section will be devoted to the memory of former cadets. If you have information on any former cadet who has passed away, please send it to Jerry Thomas at [jthomas@decisionanalyst.com](mailto:jthomas@decisionanalyst.com).

## Where Are They Now?

### Miki Ludwig



Miki Ludwig, 2002

Mr. Mikio (Miki) Ludwig, a 1981 DMS graduate of the UTA Army ROTC, began his career by enlisting in the U.S. Navy. After nine years, he attended UTA on the GI bill. There, PMS LTC Ray Andre recruited Miki into the U.S. Army ROTC program. He was commissioned in the Signal Corps in June 1981, and served in the Army for 16 years. He also completed his masters in education degree from Boston University in 1989. He proudly served with distinction for 25 years between the Navy and Army.

Miki now lives in Copperas Cove, Texas, with his wife, Diana. They have two grown children, Kale and Mirynda. Though "retired," Miki continues to serve the Army as a civilian contractor in G3, III Corps, coordinating the fielding and training on various state-of-the-art, tactical digital communications systems. Miki also currently serves as CCAC chapter Secretary. His email address is [Mikio.Ludwig@hood.army.mil](mailto:Mikio.Ludwig@hood.army.mil).

### Rex Latham

Mr. Rex H. Latham, a 1965 DMS graduate from UTA, served as an airborne infantry officer from 1965-69 with tours in Vietnam and Thailand, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Combat Infantryman's badge and Parachutist badge. After completing a master's degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency. During his 27-year career, he rose into the senior ranks of the CIA.

Now "retired," Rex and his wife, Ellen, live in the Washington, D.C. area. They have two grown children (one a UTA graduate). Rex works as an onsite program manager for Electronic Data Systems. He was recognized as a UTA Distinguished Alumnus in 2000 and inducted into the Hall of Honor in 2002. His email address is [rhatham@hotmail.com](mailto:rhatham@hotmail.com).



Rex Latham, 2002

Please send a photo and brief biography, to tell us where you are now. We'll publish 2 or 3 biography's in each issue. Send this information to Jerry Thomas at [jthomas@decisionanalyst.com](mailto:jthomas@decisionanalyst.com).

## The University is Growing by Leaps and Bounds!

Kerri L. Ressler, UTA Alumni Association

UTA's enrollment is growing rapidly. Two large apartment complexes opened on campus this year, and both are full of new students (with a waiting list).

Construction on a dazzling new \$37 million, 123,000-square-foot Chemistry and Physics Building will begin in nine months. The new facility will be located east of the Chemistry Research Building. A new \$8.5 million continuing education facility, set to begin construction this fall, is a joint venture between UTA and the city of Arlington. The 60,000-square-foot building at west Mitchell and south Pecan Streets will house UTA Continuing Education and approximately 11 Metroplex agencies, all focused on job training and retraining. "The facility will provide one-stop shopping for employer training needs and will provide an excellent new location for UTA's Continuing Education program," said Dr. Witt, UTA President.

Many other exciting projects are on the drawing board, and we'll keep you updated as these new developments unfold. Each time you return to campus for the Annual Cadet Corps Alumni Dinner, or the Hall of Honor Ceremony, you will be surprised at how the campus is changing. Growth is exciting!

join the toughening preparation marches. MAJ Hord served as the ambulance to evacuate Billy back to Arlington. We continued down Highway 174 toward Lake Whitney. We encountered a rainstorm, drenching all of us to the skin. We camped that night near Kimball Bridge. A couple of cadets cooked veal cutlets and a few innocent bystanding grasshoppers for the team. I remember how good it tasted. That night we tried to dry our clothes and equipment by building fires and hanging our damp fatigues on limbs over the fires. Mike Marsh awoke the next morning to find that his shirt had fallen into the fire.

**Monday, June 13**—The team was up early and continued to Lake Whitney where CPT Latham permitted us to take a swim. It felt so good. Despite this relaxation, we were sore and it was very hard to get up and hit the road again. Our feet were blistered from walking the gravel shoulders of the highway. Mike Marsh wore his poncho over his shoulders to avoid sunburn until MAJ Hord could bring a new shirt from Arlington. Gene Weidemeyer was the next casualty. He pulled a tendon and was unable to continue. At lunch we stopped at a roadside café. CPT Latham had reminded us that we must act like officers and gentlemen when we went inside. Bob Darrah was so hot and thirsty that when the waitress did not offer any water, he went to the counter, picked up a pitcher filled with ice and water and gulped directly from the pitcher. All the cadets broke into hysterics. We made it 21 miles to Meridian. Before we jumped into our bedrolls, we chopped up six watermelons and made them disappear in record time. That night there was a heavy dew that made all of our gear wet again.

**Tuesday, June 14**—The team breakfasted at a restaurant near Meridian. MAJ Hord told us that we were being reported in all of the Metroplex newspapers. Now we **had** to make it to Fort Hood. My boots were becoming extremely uncomfortable. During a break CPT Latham asked me how I was doing and inspected my feet. My big toes were badly blistered and hurt to the bone when I took any steps. He asked me if I wanted to quit. I considered it, but I just couldn't. "I'm OK sir," I said. I was determined to gut it out. We continued and covered 25 miles nearing Turnersville. Camping in the open close to the road, another storm unleashed its wrath on us just before midnight, making us move under a bridge. We were just barely asleep again when a strobe of light broke our slumber. It was a farmer with a flashlight and a shotgun. He suspected us to be escapees from the reformatory at Gatesville. As luck would have it, MAJ Hord had stayed with us that night, carryall and all. I believe if MAJ Hord had not assured the farmer that we were not escapees, that he would have held us hostage until the highway patrol came to get us. MAJ Hord convinced him to let us continue.

**Wednesday, June 15**—We were up and moving at 4 a.m. en route to Turnersville. We stopped at the town's only café for breakfast. It was so small that we could not get all of us inside. The owner, Mrs. Wallace, took us to her home where she prepared a feast including the best biscuits I have ever tasted. Back on the road, we covered only 17 miles that day, arriving in Gatesville to a huge and warm reception. We were greeted by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce Manager, Alfred H. Hopkins, who personally served us a tub of cold lemonade, and the County Judge, Norman Stone, who placed the city's park and swimming pool at our disposal. We bedded down for the last night. We were only eight miles from our destination.

**Thursday, June 16**—We marched out of Gatesville at daybreak and into Fort Hood. On this final day, the temperature was cooler, but the dirt trails were dusty and hilly. With shoulders back, we marched proudly down that last hill loudly singing Jody chants. We were met by Fort Hood Commander, MAJ GEN Edward G. Farand, a welcoming party, and the press. Even CPT Latham was smiling. "I am very pleased. I feel there is nothing that these boys can't do," he proudly said. Yes, he was proud of us and we were proud of ourselves. Of the 16 cadets who started the march 14 completed the 160-mile saga.

**Epilogue**—The Fort Worth and Dallas newspapers reported "General Greets Tired A.S.C. Men" and "Snappy Cadets Complete Long Trek." CPT Latham distinguished himself and UTA in his military career by eventually rising to the rank of MAJ GEN. Of the 28 cadets attending Summer Camp, 19 returned home as Distinguished Military Students with recommendations from the Camp Commander for Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG). The ROTC program concluded its Cinderella year in grand fashion.

#### The Marchers

Billy Clark	Ed MacConnell	Gene Weidemeyer	Ronald Rendleman
Michael Marsh	Roger Kannady	Gerald G. Osburn	Ronald W. King
James Hunter	Billy Bob Pinkerton	Joel H. Ward	Arthur G. Cleveland
Robert Roten	Bob Darrah	Zack Prince	Allan E. Jensen

(This story is condensed from Joel's original account. As soon as we get the CCAC website up, we will post the full-length original article. We would love to have comments and written accounts from other march participants to post on the website as well. Please send to [jthomas@decisionanalyst.com](mailto:jthomas@decisionanalyst.com).)

If you have firsthand knowledge of a Cadet Corps story, exploit, or caper, please type it up and email it to Jerry Thomas at [jthomas@decisionanalyst.com](mailto:jthomas@decisionanalyst.com). We hope to include one such story per issue, and then we will move the stories to the CCAC section of the UTA Military Science website as a permanent record.