

Texas Caissons Alumni Association

Dedicated to Serving The University of Texas Army ROTC Program

June 2004

www.txcaissons.org

Edition 2004-2

May 2004 ARMY ROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

The University of Texas Army ROTC program commissioned three Second Lieutenants on May 21, 2004, in the Quadrangle Room of the Texas Union. Our new Army Officers are:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>DEGREE</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>
Bradley D. Smejkal	Victoria, TX	BS-Human Development	Adjutant General Corps
Luke E. Talbot	Killeen, TX	BBA-Finance	Field Artillery
Clare B. Worley	Las Cruces, NM	BS-Nursing	Army Nurse Corps



2LT Smejkal and 2LT Orozco



2LT Talbot and CPT Talbot



2LT Worley and CPT Ramsey

The commissioning was quite a family affair. First, LT Smejkal was sworn in by 2LT JoAnna M. Orozco, herself commissioned in December 2003 and a Caissons Scholarship recipient. LT Smejkal's parents pinned his new 2LT bars and UT Cadre SSG Mayberry earned the Silver Dollar salute. Next, 2LT Talbot was sworn in by his brother, Captain Kurt Talbot who also pinned on the new Lieutenant rank. Their father, MSG Ronald Talbot, was the first enlisted member to salute new LT Talbot and earn the silver dollar. The silver dollar used was of significance. It had been given to MSG Talbot when he was a boy, by his father. Dad returned the coin to his son, 2LT Talbot, and wished him the best in his career. Then 2LT Clare Worley was sworn in by CPT Corey Ramsey; pinned by her sister, Dixie Michelle Pettigrew; and first saluted by her brother, SP4 Richard Worley. As has become custom, the Caissons presented each new 2LT with a "lucky" \$2 bill and a first year's free Caissons membership. All these were significant occasions for our new Caissons, their family and friends.

JOINT ROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Following the Army ceremony, a Joint Services Commissioning Ceremony, recognizing new officers from all UT ROTC units, was held in Bass Recital Hall. The guest speaker for the joint ceremony was MG Mike Taylor, Commanding General, 49th Armor Division, Texas National Guard. Joining MG Taylor were over 20 distinguished faculty members including Dr. Larry Faulkner, President of The University of Texas and the Dean of School of Liberal Arts, Dr. Richard Lariviere. The 323d Army Band from Ft Sam Houston, Texas, provided music for the ceremony. MG Taylor and Dr. Faulkner personally congratulated each newly commissioned officer.



Joint Commissioning with MG Taylor, CG, 49th AD and the 323rd Army Band

BAND MEAL EXPENSES COVERED BY CAISSONS

As often happens, minor glitches occur in scheduling unit activities; and this was the case in feeding the members of the 323rd Army Band when they came to Austin for the Joint Commissioning Ceremony on May 21st. When meal funding was not received as expected, several Caissons members offered to make contributions toward the cost of lunch for the Band. We offer a huge thanks to the Caissons that paid for the meals and allowed the 323rd Army Band to be a part of this important and impressive Joint Commissioning Ceremony.

WEB SITE

Hooray... our web site is established and operational. It's a work in progress, but its up and running. A very special thanks to Joe Gonzales for taking the lead in this project. Also thanks to Bob Smylie for having some of his folks actually build the site and for hosting it. Thanks also to Roger Booker who coordinated the effort to design the homepage and other graphics. Take a look at: <http://www.txcaissons.org>.

THE VIETNAM PROJECT – Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas has established the Vietnam Archive to collect and preserve the historical record of the Vietnam War. In addition to collecting materials concerning Vietnam, The Vietnam War and Southeast Asia, the Vietnam Archive currently administers two projects: the Oral History Project and the Virtual Vietnam Archive. Their Website: <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu>.

On December 17, 2000, The Vietnam Archive received a \$2 million grant from the US Congress and the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences to create the Virtual Vietnam Archive. The Virtual Vietnam Archive contains documents, photographs, audio and video recordings, maps and images of artifacts. The Virtual Vietnam Archive can be used for any type of research project and is available free to anyone with Internet connection.

The Oral History Project was initiated in 1999 to create and preserve a more complete record of the wars in Southeast Asia through recorded interviews with the men and women who participated in these wars. The Oral History Project is partnered with the Library of Congress Veteran Oral History Project as well as the Navy Foundation and Marine Corps History Division. If you, a friend or relative would like to participate, they can contact Dr. Richard Verrone at vaoralhistory@ttu.edu. The Archive staff will send you two questionnaires (one on biographical data / one on military experience). They will then follow-up with an interview to be recorded. The interview can be by phone from the comfort of your home or office. You only have to answer questions that you feel comfortable with, there is no pressure to dig up details unless you so desire.

Researchers: The Vietnam Project has a major international staff with resources involving the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and political personnel from the US, the former Republic of South Vietnam and the Peoples Republic of Vietnam. If you work with students, school projects or need to research that “great American novel” you are writing, this is the source for YOU.

ATTENTION ALL COMBAT ZONE DEPLOYED UT ARMY ROTC GRADS: WE WANT YOU!

(To tell us where you are)

The Texas Caissons would like to keep in touch with you while you're doing heavy duty overseas. Please send us your address by e-mail to jboswell@accd.edu or by snail-mail to John Boswell, 114 Brittany Dr., San Antonio, TX 78212-1720. And if you know of other UT Army ROTC grads deployed to a combat zone, please let us know their addresses as well. Starting from near the top, MG Barrett, UT '72 informs us that COL Fred Rudesheim UT '81 is the Brigade Commander of the 3rd Bde, 4th Inf Div. Let us know where or with which units other Longhorns are serving.

NEW AROTC AND CAISSONS SNAIL MAIL ADDRESSES

A second reminder that the mailing address for the Army ROTC office at UT has changed, and accordingly the Caissons' new snail address is:

**The Texas Caissons Alumni Association Inc.
The University of Texas at Austin – Military Science
1 University Station C3603
Austin, Texas 78712-0315**

If you have mail for the AROTC Office or the PMS, insert the name of your correspondent in place of the Caissons title. **Update all those address books, both virtual and paper.**

LIFE MEMBERS. Our Honor Roll continues to grow. If you are not yet a Caissons Life Member, please consider making that commitment.

LIFE MEMBER HONOR ROLL

PMS Robert P. Higley	1966 BG (Ret) Robert L. Herndon	1974 Brian Shivers
PMS David Sain	1967 Keith Maxie	1976 Ernest Banasau, Jr.
PMS LTC Brian Cooper	1967 Edwin Dorn	1976 Charles P. Busbey
PMS Cadre LTC Matt Faddis	1967 Bob Binder	1977 Phillip Umphries
1951 James Sutton	1968 Preston C. Hunt	1980 George Soriano, Jr.
1952 Bob Hallmark	1968 Greg Choban	1980 COL Robert Roach, Jr.
1952 Ross Blumentritt	1969 Charles Baker	1980 George Soriano, Jr.
1955 Robert A. Bell	1969 Gary Gosdin	1985 Albert Lara
1955 Frank Moody	1969 Bruce G. Luna	1988 MAJ Rene Rodriguez
1955 Jack Painter	1969 LTG (Ret) Lawson Magruder III	1988 C. Wayne Marotto
1957 Gary Hite	1969 Michael Moran	1990 MAJ Kathleen Meilahn
1958 Andy Hebert	1969 James Shaw	1990 Michelle McCassey
1958 Donald L. Carmichael	1969 James A. Smith	1991 Katherine Graef
1962 Thomas Knapp	1969 Robert P. Smylie	1992 David S. Dougherty
1964 W. Keith Setzer	1970 Joe Gonzales	1994 CPT Sherri Shadrock
1964 Gregory Wene	1970 Manuel Nunes	1995 CPT Brett Jackson
1964 MG (Ret) Frank Henderson	1971 William Knox	1995 Steve Sin
1964 Herbert Evans	1972 Wayne and Tina Thompson *	2002 LT Jennifer Rossie
1965 John Seawell	1972 Philip Winnsborough	2002 Liv K. Medrano
1966 Carroll Kirkpatrick	1972 MG Raymond Barrett	2002 Raul Medrano
	1974 Dr. Wesley Stafford	*Family Membership

CAISSONS DUES REMINDER

Thanks to those of you who have paid your membership dues. If you are not in that august group, please take a moment and do so. Annual dues are \$25. We offer a 3 for 2 special that allow you to pay for three years' membership for the equivalent cost of two single year memberships. The total is \$50. The Board recently approved the creation of a **Family Life Membership** category, pegged at **\$400** per couple. **The first couple to take advantage of this offer was Wayne Thompson UT '72 and his wife Tina, UT '74.** A dues form is in the last pages of this newsletter. Remember that we are a totally voluntary organization, so 100% of your dues go to assisting the UT Army ROTC Department, primarily through emergency loans and scholarships to cadets. Thank you for your continued support. You can use our great Caissons web page and PayPal to make your dues payment.

PayPal. For those of you who want to use the Internet for more than email, PayPal is now available to pay your Caissons membership dues and / or make a contribution to the Caissons Operations Fund. Under our Caissons Web Page at <http://www.txcaissons.org/>, go to the xlink "How To Join". Scroll down and you can select the type of membership that applies to you. I paid my 2004 dues with three clicks! Make it easy on yourself to pay or upgrade your Caissons membership. PayPal is a completely secure means of electronically paying bills through your credit card or bank account. **Make the leap!** Go over to the Caissons web site now (www.txcaissons.org) and make that payment.

Contributions to the Texas Caissons Scholarship should still be made by check, **payable to The University of Texas**, annotated for the Texas Caissons Scholarship in remarks, and mailed to the **Texas Exes**, The Ex-Students Association, Attn: Scholarships, P.O. Box 7278, Austin, TX 78713-7278. This also makes the contribution tax deductible **and** eligible for corporate matching funds, if your firm has that great program.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: George Soriano

Twenty-five years ago, as an Army ROTC cadet in my junior year, I recall when the Iran hostage crisis erupted. Remembering my history and how major conflicts were met with accelerated officer programs, I told a friend of mine, "if this thing blows up, we're all getting commissioned early, and we're out of here." Well, it didn't turn out that way but since then we've had Grenada, Beirut, Panama, Haiti, Gulf War I, Somalia, Bosnia/Kosovo, Afghanistan, Gulf War II, and countless other minor conflicts scattered across the globe. Increasingly, over the past 25 years and most significantly with the first Gulf War and now with the global war on terrorism, Afghanistan and Iraq, the Army Reserve is being tapped to bolster and augment active forces all across the globe.

UT Army ROTC primarily produces officers for the Reserve component. These new officers are almost guaranteed to be called up for service overseas. Of the approximately 210,000 active reserve soldiers, 62,000 are deployed overseas and the deployments will only go deeper into the pool as the war progresses. Present mission requirements will keep American troops on the ground in Iraq through 2006 and probably beyond that date depending on the strategic and political situation.

This year, we're sending 22 cadets to Basic and Advanced Camps. These cadets will eventually be commissioned and sent off to serve their country. They, along with our recent graduates, will serve during a time and in an era never before seen nor experienced in our nation's history. They will fight against an enemy that wants to destroy our way of life and what we stand for; an enemy that is purportedly living among us; and an enemy that will cause our discipline and integrity to be tested as never before. To defeat this enemy, we as a nation and as an Army need to maintain our integrity and discipline to demonstrate to the world (what remains after we're done with the terrorists) that we are what we say we are and we stand for those values we say we stand for and for which we are willing to die.

Warfare as we know it, has forever changed. While we as veterans and members of the Caissons can share our experiences with Longhorn cadets, those experiences are far different than the battlefield our new officers now face. The paradigm of warfare has shifted, dramatically. The Army is adjusting its doctrine and training to defeat this enemy - an enemy that has brought the war home to us. We will defend our values not only because they are right but also because they are worth defending.

In the end however, we will be standing victorious. There can be no other outcome.

LTC George Soriano, UT Army ROTC Class of 1980

CAISSONS CALENDAR:

- 1. Care Package Stuffing: Late June or early July**
- 2. NEXT CAISSONS MEETING:** The Texas Caissons will meet at **11:01 AM** at **Scholtz's**, in Austin, on **Saturday, July 24, 2004.**
- 3. Caissons BBQ – Saturday November 6, 2004 (Football game Oklahoma State @ UT, time TBD)**

Texas Caissons Alumni Association Membership/Scholarship Form

Here is your opportunity to join and help. Please complete and return with your payment to the Texas Caissons address below.

To: The Texas Caissons Alumni Association, Inc.

 First Name MI Last Name SSAN

 Street Address City State Zip

() ()
 Work Phone Home Phone E-mail UT Class year

 Signature Date

Caissons Scholarship Fund

I will help: Caissons Scholarship Contribution \$ _____.

Scholarship checks payable to The University of Texas.
 Corporate Matching Funds form attached (if applicable)

Caissons Membership Dues (2004)

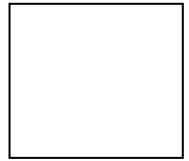
Caissons dues payable to The Texas Caissons.

Caissons Life Membership	\$ 250.00	_____
Caissons Family Life Membership	\$ 400.00	_____
Caissons Annual Membership dues	\$ 25.00	_____
Caissons 3 for 2 Dues Membership through 2006	\$ 50.00	_____

Please check one.

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TO:

PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD. ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED