

Texas Caissons Alumni Association

Dedicated to Serving The University of Texas Army ROTC Program

October 2004

www.txcaissons.org

Edition 2004-3

Nov 6 Caissons BBQ – LTG Sanchez – Iraq War Leader

US Army Lieutenant General Richard Sanchez will be our special guest here at UT for the 6 November game against Oklahoma State. This is a rare opportunity to get up close and person with a great Army combat leader. LTG Sanchez will spend November talking with UT Faculty and students. His visits include Dr Larry Faulkner, Dr Ed Dorn, students at the LBJ School, and Senior Service College Fellows studying at UT. Saturday, November 6th, LTG Sanchez will join the Caissons, cadets and active duty military guests for the BBQ meal before the Oklahoma State football game. LTG Sanchez then will join the UT Presidents Pre-game reception and later present the game ball before the football game. Bring your money for the BBQ plates (we subsidize the food costs for UT cadets and the active duty guests) and join us in a Longhorn welcome for LTG Sanchez.

Member Updates: email and locator data

We are trying to keep operational costs down by posting the Caissons Newsletters on our Caissons site, thus reducing postage costs. We can do this best if we have current email and USPS mail addresses. If you move or change email addresses, or know of a Longhorn who does, please send the updated information to the editor or John Boswell. (Artfly@earthlink.net or jboswell@accdvm.accd.edu)

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	1989 MAJ Micki McCassey
1958 Andy Hebert	1969 James Shaw	1989 MAJ James L. Wilmeth IV
1958 Donald L. Carmichael	1969 James A. Smith	1990 MAJ Kathleen Meilahn
1962 Thomas Knapp	1969 Robert P. Smylie	1991 Katherine Graef
1964 W. Keith Setzer	1970 Joe Gonzales	1992 David S. Dougherty
1964 Gregory Wene	1970 Manuel Nunes	1994 CPT Sherri Shadrock
1964 MG (Ret) Frank Henderson	1971 William Knox	1995 CPT Brett Jackson
1964 Herbert Evans	1972 Wayne and Tina Thompson *	1995 Steve Sin
1965 John Seawell	1972 Philip Winnsborough	2002 LT Jennifer Rossie
1966 Carroll Kirkpatrick	1972 MG Raymond Barrett	2002 Liv K. Medrano
	1974 Dr. Wesley Stafford	2002 Raul Medrano
	*Family Membership	

CAISSONS DUES REMINDER

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.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

September saw the award of the Texas Caissons Scholarships for the tenth year. This year's recipients are all MS IV's in the Army ROTC program. Our 2004 Scholarship recipients are:

The Ward Blacklock Memorial Scholarship - Jonathan Walker – Senior finance major from Austin, TX.

The Tommy Pham Memorial Scholarship – Michael Nunn – Senior economics major from Des Moines, Iowa.

The Russell Steindam Memorial Scholarship - Jonathan Sry – Senior chemistry major from Bailey, Texas.

DEPLOYED LONGHORNS

MAJ Micki McCassey UT'89

Fellow Caissons,

Hello from Camp Victory, Kuwait. I've been over here for almost three weeks. Back track a little, I was at Ft. Leavenworth, KS for CGSC over the last year. In July, we PCSed to Ft. Lewis, WA and I'm currently assigned to the 1st Brigade (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), 25th Infantry Division as the Support Operations Officer. Once I found out my pinpoint assignment at Fort Lewis, I knew that this deployment was going to happen sometime this fall. I'll be in Kuwait for a few more weeks running the RSOI for the brigade (receiving the brigade and pushing them forward into Iraq). Initially, the brigade set will be way up north, vicinity Mosul. It is definitely hot here (highs in the low 100's) and the sand gets into everything. Overall, conditions are not as bad as I expected. The hours are long but it makes the time go by faster.

While I'm deployed, Everett will continue to work on the east coast. His main client is in Philly, so instead of going between work and where I'm located, he will be spending every other week working from our second home in Key Largo, FL (which by the way has now survived all four hurricanes!). He'll be in Philly for the Army-Navy game the first weekend of December if any one else has plans to go up there.

I think it is safe say I will not be able to attend our annual football game gathering this fall. Best way to reach me is via this email rather than my personal one. michelle.mccassey@us.army.mil. Hope this finds each of your well. Hook 'em Horns! MAJ M3

Michelle M. McCassey, MAJ, ODSupport Operations Officer
25th BSB, 1st Brigade (SBCT), 25th Infantry Division (L)

MAJ James L. Wilmeth IV UT '89

From: james wilmeth [mailto:wilmeth@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, October 04, 2004 1:30 PM

Subject: Letters From the Front 4 Oct 04

Letters From the Front, 4 October 2004, Vol 2 No. 5

Hello, everyone.

Well, we here in beautiful Afghanistan are eagerly anticipating the upcoming elections. The rhetoric has been harsh at times, with the candidates trading sometimes vicious, personal attacks, but democracy has never been very neat. The incumbent is looking strong, but continues to struggle with certain issues, especially with respect to the War on Terrorism. Luckily, the population, despite some flaws in the electoral system, has indicated a determination to get out and vote. I am, of course, talking about the Afghan elections, scheduled for 9 October 2004. Every indication is that they will turn out en masse and vote, despite Taliban warnings and actions. Election

workers assisting in the voter registration process have been killed, folks have been stopped at illegal checkpoints, been searched, and have been executed if they possessed a voter registration certificate, and whole provincial populations have been threatened if they participate in the first ever democratic elections in Afghanistan. Yet, over 10 million of them have registered and will vote. This is really amazing to watch. These folks want democracy, and it is very humbling to be able to help them in that effort.

That said, I wanted to talk about a recent trip I took out to Herat, Afghanistan. Herat is a lovely little town in the western part of the country, quite near the Iranian border. If some of you happen to be news junkies, Herat is where, several weeks ago, the government of Afghanistan, with 'help' from the coalition, ousted the regional warlord (who also happened to be the governor...welcome to Afghan politics) who was viewed as an obstacle to a safe, secure, and democratic Afghanistan. It made the news, but only at the scrolling ticker level. This operation, while largely ignored by the media, was an incredible success. It displayed the ability of the Afghan army and police forces to deploy to a trouble spot on a moment's notice and quell inter-factional violence that might threaten to erupt into civil war. It also displayed that I actually learned something from two years in school, as I was one of the folks that put the plan together! During the run up to the operation, I was sitting at the Afghan Ministry of Interior, leading a large group of Afghan Army and Police Generals through a rudimentary military decision making process. Despite 15 years in the army and significant schooling, both civilian and military, NOTHING prepared me to lead this particular planning process. We sat on the fourth floor of a heavily guarded ministry building in downtown Kabul, in stifling heat, with a group of people who have (how to say this and remain culturally sensitive) different personal hygiene habits than even deployed US soldiers. I lead the group, using an interpreter from Dallas, Texas, through a planning process to secure a town of approximately 250,000 people. A great deal of work went into this operation by a significant amount of people; from the planners here at my headquarters, to the guys on the ground. We were a bit disappointed that it only got a scrolling ticker, but such is the reporting when it comes to a success. Had we lost a soldier or two, it would have been the leading story, with a picture of a burning something...as long as it was on fire and looks American.

So, the operation was a success. The 'obstacle' was removed, with little or no bloodshed, despite very dire predictions by some, and the elections are still on track, even in Herat. Fast forward two weeks and there is a delegation of folks heading out to Herat for a grand opening of a regional headquarters, and my boss, citing the work I had done putting the plan together for the region, invited me along. As working every day on the same tiny compound gets very tiresome, any excuse whatsoever to leave is enthusiastically accepted. I donned my Kevlar and body armor and joined about 50 other folks on a Belgium C-130 aircraft for the short, 90-minute flight to Herat. As I sat in the rear of the aircraft, I thought how nice it was to leave Kabul, if only for the day. I was being provided the opportunity to witness an opening ceremony for an Afghan Army headquarters; a true cultural experience. Besides, I had poured over maps of the area, sometimes into the wee hours of the night, trying to determine battle positions for our forces, so I thought it would be cool to see how my vision of the battlefield synched with the ACTUAL battlefield.

I was lost in this sort of self-congratulatory, wistful thinking as we rolled down the runway and lifted off. My daydreaming was quickly shattered, however, when I suddenly heard a popping sound and saw bright flashes. Now, I am read into the enemy situation, and my mind raced to remember if there was a credible missile threat. I reached for my seat belt to pull it tight, and glanced around to witness what I thought would be mass panic. Well, not quite. APPARENTLY, as a matter of course, the C-130 pilots will shoot flares out the side of the aircraft as a diversion for potential (key word) anti-aircraft missiles. As an added bonus, just as I am tentatively coming to terms with the fact that the airplane isn't getting peppered with enemy fire, the pilot decides to practice his evasive maneuvers. I don't know how many of y'all have flown in a C-130 (I know one of you actually flies them...please bear with me), but they are an incredibly maneuverable aircraft. Truth is, after the initial thought of, "Oh my God, I'm gonna DIE", it was a lot of fun. It is truly like riding a roller coaster. I also think there is a little 'pilot showing off' factor in there as well. Suffice it to say, I had one hell of a ride to Herat. The landing, while done without the benefit of flares, was almost as exciting. We were dropping at such a fast rate, that at times, I was weightless. My super-computer watch/altimeter/barometer/cappuccino maker was telling me that we were dropping at a rate of 700 meters per minute. That is less flying and more obeying the law of gravity, as far as I'm concerned. Anyway, at the last minute, we pulled up and landed; sort of like that goofy bird that you see on the Animal Planet.

The ceremony was nice, and, as I alluded to earlier, turned out to be quite the cultural experience. It was blessed by a religious elder, who chanted a prayer in the traditional Islamic fashion. Very cool. Then, we heard about two hours of speeches in Dari or Pashtun (couldn't tell which one). We had a quick Afghan lunch, consisting of rice, fruits, warm Pepsi, and some type of meat (not further identified), and flew home. Oh, and the landscape looked exactly as I had thought....Lots of sand and dust, several camels, and nothing like the windward side of Oahu!

Well, I hope this LFTF finds you all well. Thanks for the thoughts, prayers, emails, and letters. I would especially like to thank Eric and Ann for the nice package of cookies and football magazines and Bruce and Joan for the book. That will definitely come in handy! Also, congratulations, Miguel. I wish I could have been there for your wedding, but know that I was thinking of you that day!

That's all for now.

Jamie

PS. The Task Force Area of Operation in Western Afghanistan assumed a name last week. It is now called **Task Force Longhorn**. I am pleased!

LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND

On Thursday, September 16th, I attended a celebration for the return of US Marine Captain Carl E. Long from his last tour in Vietnam. Gone for over 34 years, Carl finally came home to the United States and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Carl E. Long and I were close friends in high school and roamed the streets of northeast Dallas nearly every weekend. A great competitive rifle shooter, he was a Co-Captain of our high school rifle team. Carl took a different college path and attended Texas A&M. By our senior year in college, Carl was the Captain of the Texas A&M rifle team as I was captain of the UT team. Even intense competitions were enjoyable reunions for us.

We both graduated in 1966; he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Marine Corps and I went off to be an Army 2LT Infantry paratrooper in the 101st Airborne. Carl was an infantry platoon leader in Vietnam when severely wounded in May 1967. He returned to the Corpus Christi Naval Hospital for convalescence; and after his recovery and rehabilitation, Carl was assigned to the Marine Corps School at Quantico, Virginia, until 1969. Carl volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam and was trained as an aerial observer. In early 1969, Carl was assigned to the 1st ANGLICO team in Vung Tau, Vietnam. ANGLICO members flew in OV-10 Bronco observation aircraft to perform reconnaissance; control artillery, naval gunfire, and aircraft strikes against the enemy.

Carl's OV-10A crashed into a swamp in Phuoc Tuy Province, on December 20, 1969. Access to the crash area was extremely difficult and recovery efforts by an Army Special Forces team in 1969 were unsuccessful. Captain Carl Long was classified as Killed In Action, Body Not Recovered for the next 34 years.

His remains were finally found and recovered through the exceptional efforts of the US Joint POW/MIA Recovery Command and its Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii. For those Caissons that remember LTC Brenda Alicea, former UT PMS, this is the unit in which she served in Hawaii, before coming to UT. The unit's continuing mission is to search for, do archeological digs for, recover, and identify US military personnel remains from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. There are still 123 Texans listed as Missing In Action in Southeast Asia as a result of the Vietnam Conflict. Captain Carl Long's remains were recovered and identified by May 3, 2004. Assisting in the identification were his Texas Aggie class ring and his engraved watch.



Carl's burial ceremony was attended by High School classmates, Texas Aggies representing class years that ranged from 1964 to 1995 and members of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Carl's widow, daughter and six week-old grandson attended; with the ceremonial flag presented to his daughter.

With full ceremonial splendor including the US Marine Corps Band, black horses and caisson, firing squad, and a 40-man Marine Honor Guard; Captain Carl E. Long finally came home to his family, friends and America.

Steve Stevenson UT'66

LIFE AFTER THE ARMY, STAYING IN TOUCH

There are some jobs out in the civilian world that enable you to stay in touch with your former military life. "Consulting" is one of those jobs.

Joe Gonzales, UT and AROTC class of 1970 (Caisson, Lifetime Member), is a senior consultant with Bearing Point. On active duty for 29 plus years, Joe retired in 1999. His last active duty assignment was as Chief of Staff at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), FT Sam Houston, TX. Like many individuals in his situation Joe decided he wanted to continue working. As a hospital administrator Joe pursued that line of work initially upon retirement. He was the CEO at Hendry Regional Medical Center in Clewiston, Florida from 1999-2002. He returned to Texas and San Antonio and through networking found his current job. That networking was with Frank Novier, UT and AROTC class of 1971, and a Managing Director with BearingPoint. This part of BearingPoint deals with the Public Services sector in general, and DOD healthcare issues more specifically. Currently, Joe is the site coordinator at FT Bliss providing the training required to prepare the National Guard's Brigade Combat Team's Soldier Medics to current Army 91W MOS (combat medic) standards. Due to deployment dates and the need to train these soldiers in a condensed period of time, the 5th Army turned to BearingPoint to put together a package of instructors, curriculum, equipment, and medical supplies to conduct training at FT Bliss and FT Hood. BearingPoint used their experience of incorporating macro and micro simulation with training the 91Ws at the AMEDD Center and School, FT Sam Houston, and in a short time the support package to conduct this training was put in place.

At FT Bliss they are training their second class of medics and it is going well. Both the instructors (many prior military) and the students have a heightened sense of urgency as these units will leave here, do a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, FT Polk, LA, have two weeks leave, and then depart for Iraq. Needless to say, they are aware that their updated and new found skills can translate to saved lives on the battlefield. The work is pretty intense, 200 hours of instruction in 20 straight days, but considering the potential positive impact, it is extremely rewarding.

Joe Gonzales UT '70

CPT Steve Sin

A Note About the Military Intelligence Corps

As the war on terror has shifted to the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, the need for intelligence has been front-page news quite a bit. And with newly found attention and importance, the Military Intelligence (MI) Corps has, once again, become a very popular branch to apply for among soon-to-be commissioned cadets and officer candidates. I've been on the Army ROTC's mentor list for over two years now and I have fielded numerous questions about the MI Corps from cadets nationwide and want to share some of my thoughts with my fellow Longhorns.

So, just what is MI, and what can you expect from the branch? My own experience may be instructive. When it came time for me to submit my branch choices, I chose MI with branch detail to Air Defense Artillery. I thought that serving in a combat arms branch would establish my basic leadership skills and provide me a basic understanding of the Army's organization, capabilities, and operations. Afterwards, I wanted to transition to the MI Corps and work in the counterintelligence field – collecting national level intelligence. I had in mind the life styles of intelligence workers portrayed in TV programs such as "Mission Impossible", "The Agency" or "24". My career has not turned out quite as I planned; however, I am glad that it did not.

In order to understand what MI is all about, we must first understand why MI exists and what its primary roll is. MI, or Army Intel, exists to do one thing: to provide up-to-date intelligence to the commanders in the field so that those commanders can engage and destroy the enemy at the place and time of our choosing while preserving the maximum amount of our assets – most importantly the lives of our soldiers on the front line. The provision of up-to-date intelligence ranges from national level to the infantry squad level fighting against the insurgents in Iraq. You might ask where will most of the newly commissioned lieutenants fit in the grand scheme of the MI Corps?

During my tour as a MI Officer Basic Course (MIOBC) instructor, I observed that most of newly commissioned lieutenants were assigned to tactical level units belonging to divisions. Some individuals were assigned to MI brigades supporting Corps. None were assigned to national level agencies or activities. The split

between tactical and operational assignments was roughly 80% to 20% respectively. As a result, the large majority of MI lieutenants will be working either as assistant (sometimes as a primary) intelligence officers in battalions and brigades or as platoon leaders in MI units. All MI lieutenants, tactical or operational, will be working first with what is known as tactical intelligence -- tracking the enemy, analyzing their courses of action, and recommending to our commanders what you believe is the most likely enemy course of action. If your desire to join the MI Corps stems from using your specialized skills, such as a language, or a specific interest, such as being a counterintelligence agent or doing bio-chemical research, these desires may not be realized as a lieutenant in the MI Corps; however, do not be discouraged. There are numerous specialized programs within the MI branch and the Army that you can apply for. Most of these programs require you to be a branch-qualified captain before joining them.

I was glad that I had to spend several years in the tactical arena because the intelligence that I provided had a direct and immediate effect on our soldiers and their commanders. As a tactical intelligence officer, I was a part of the battle. My work was exhilarating, challenging, and exhausting. Working in the tactical arena taught me the importance of hard work, precision and perseverance in an urgent and unforgiving environment. Tactical intelligence prepares officers for work in operational and national intelligence because it gives you an understanding of what the commanders on the ground need. For that reason, most operational and national intelligence positions are available to branch-qualified captains and above. My career path illustrates this. I spent a portion of my tactical intelligence career providing battlefield intelligence in South Korea. Now that I am a branch-qualified captain, I am transitioning from a tactical intelligence officer to a Northeast Asia Foreign Area Officer (FAO). I am currently studying Japanese at the Defense Language Institute in preparation for in-country training in Korea or Japan. I am looking forward to contributing to our nation's strategic intelligence activities in Northeast Asia

If you have any questions about career opportunities as an MI officer, please feel free to contact me at steve.sin@us.army.mil.



CPT Sin is a '95 commissionee and is currently studying Japanese at the Defense Language Institute. His assignments include Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle Platoon Leader, Mechanized Infantry Battalion's Assistant Operations Officer, Brigade Intelligence Officer, Armored Cavalry Squadron Intelligence Officer, MI Company Commander, and MIOBC Instructor.

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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