PMS Notes: I would like to start by offering my apologies for the duration between the last few updates. As usual, it has been a chaotic, yet productive school year to date. I’m happy to note that UTSA continues to be one of the largest producers of Army officers in the state. We have 185 Cadets attending class at UTSA and our three affiliates, San Antonio Community College, Palo Alto and Northwest Vista. We occupied our new battlespace in the recently constructed Plaza Norte Building in NOV ’11 and now have it fully operational. Our Cadets had another great summer at Fort Lewis. 6 Cadets graduated in DEC ‘12, 21 more will commission in May. We participated in Ranger Challenge events as far away as Utah, and had two members on this year’s winning Army Ten Mile team come from UTSA. I’ll highlight each of those in the pages ahead.

- LTC Scott Sonsalla, Professor of Military Science

UTSA Graduates Six 2LTs
LTG William Caldwell, Commander General for 5th Army and Fort Sam Houston, served as the guest speaker at the Fall 2012 commissioning ceremony. During the ceremony UTSA commissioned 6 Cadets (4 Active, 1 x TX NG, 1 x USAR).

2LT Steven Moon – AG, Active Duty
2LT Carine George – MI, Active Duty
2LT James Wingard – CM, Active Duty
2LT Andrew Patton – EN, Active Duty
2LT Kimberly Larrick – MS, USAR
2LT Felix Arriola – IN, TXNG

UTSA Cadets Dominate National Rankings – UTSA has produced a number of great officers in the past, and this years class is no exception with 5 Cadets reaching National Distinguished Military Graduate status. Several UTSA Cadets finished high on the National OML. Of the nearly 6,000 Cadets on this year’s list, only 32 were able to achieve a perfect score. UTSA’s Patrick Anderson and Bryan Lunn were among those 32 perfect scores. A third Cadet, Steven Moon, just missed the top 100 Active Duty Soldiers coming in at #104. There are 273 Army ROTC programs in the United States . . . Placing three Cadets in this upper echelon is further testament to how our program has grown in recent years.

Seniors Conduct Goliad Staff Ride – On January 11th, the senior class conducted a staff ride to Goliad, TX, site of La Bahia, a sister mission to the Alamo. La Bahia is the longest standing Fort West of the Mississippi and has played a critical role in Texas history. It was once home to General Galvez who left the safety of its walls to fight the British off the coast of Texas near what is now Galveston. It is also the site where the original Lone Star flag was flown and where the original declaration of Texas was signed before it was temporarily rescinded. The Cadets studied the fort and its role in Texas independence through the context of today’s counter-insurgent fights in Afghanistan and Iraq. When they were done, lunch was provided at a local restaurant courtesy of Alumni donations.

Our Spring commissioning will be held on 17 1100 MAY in the UTSA Retama Room. We anticipate 21 2LTs to commission at that time. All Alumni are invited to attend.

Upcoming Events
17 MAR Bataan Death March
12 APR UTSA Army ROTC Golf Scramble at Fort Sam Houston (Fundraiser)
23 APR Spring Awards Ceremony
26 APR Spring Formal
17 MAY Spring Commissioning
UTSA Sentinel – (FEB 13)

UTSA Assists NCAA Athletic Programs – The toughness and resilience of UTSA Army ROTC Cadets has been well documented as of late. However, it took a new turn last semester when several of the school’s athletics teams approached us about supporting them through innovative training designed to build confidence and mental toughness. Since that time, UTSA’s women’s Tennis, Soccer and Softball teams have benefitted from rugged Army PT as well as trips to the Camp Bullis obstacle and confidence courses.

Roadrunner Cadets support the UTSA Tennis team at the Field Leaders Reaction Course.

Paypal Donations accepted at: armyrotc@utsa.edu

Scholarship and Recruiting – UTSA’s recent growth provided a unique opportunity for our program to expand. As part of the CG’s Urban Recruiting Program, San Antonio and six sister cities including New York and Chicago. This plan provided several new Army scholarships to UTSA Cadets. The effort has led to a near record enrollment of 195 Cadets for the Spring 2013 semester. This year’s scholarship recipients:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Gonzalez</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
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<td>Inez Beltran</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Gomez</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy Hernandez</td>
<td>4 yr</td>
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<td>Brian Timmons</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
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<td>Jeramiah Johnson</td>
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<td>Markdavid Mercado</td>
<td>4 yr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Cline</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carly Anders</td>
<td>4 yr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy White</td>
<td>2 yrs (GRFD)</td>
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The Army remains the number one supplier of College Scholarships in the United States. If you know someone that is interested, have them contact MAJ Rivera, our Recruiting Officer, at (210) 458-5607. We will be holding a Spring Scholarship board on 29 March to identify potential high school candidates.

UTSA Cadets Dominate Civilian Scholarship Program – Each year the Army awards thousands of scholarships to high school students. Lesser known is the civilian sponsored scholarship program supported by AUSA, USAA and others that target our juniors and seniors of the 273 nation-wide ROTC programs. Each year 40-50 scholarships are provided to these Cadets. The most prestigious of these scholarships is the LTG Timothy Maude Memorial Scholarship, named after the senior ranking service member killed in the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon. This scholarship awards $5,000 to two deserving seniors as well as a trip to DC to receive the award at the national AUSA convention. This year UTSA completed an historical first becoming the first school to sweep both of the scholarships as Cadets Bryan Lunn and Patrick Anderson were each selected to receive the $5,000 scholarship.

UTSA didn’t stop there as Cadets Crecencio Buentello and Bryan Guerra were both awarded $1,000 scholarships from USAA and CDT Nicole Pellew was awarded one of three scholarships provided by the local Society of American Military Engineers.

In all, UTSA captured almost 10% of the national awards.

Gutierrez Leads Army 10-Miler Team

In 2011 UTSA sent its first team to the annual Army 10-Miler in Washington DC. That team placed second among ROTC teams in the state of Texas. We continued that tradition this fall when sophomore Kelley Gutierrez travelled to Washington as part of a brigade All-Star team composed of Cadets from 4 schools. The team competed in the co-ed open division and placed 6th out of 270 teams. Cadet Gutierrez was also part of last year’s winning Diploma Dash team that trounced the Air Force ROTC in head to head competition.

Portions of Cadet Gutierrez’s trip were made possible through alumni contributions.
Ranger Challenge Team Reaches New Levels – For the past three years UTSA’s Ranger Challenge has so thoroughly dominated local competition that it began looking for additional competition. We got that call this fall as the team was selected to travel to UTAH to compete against 38 other teams in a head-to-head competition that would determine who would represent Cadet Command at West Point’s Sandhurst competition this spring. It was an uphill battle for the team as they challenged perennial powerhouse BYU on their home turf and in a competition they were hosting. Additionally, the team had less than 45 days to train on tasks that had not been executed at UTSA in recent years including river crossings and one-rope bridges. In the end, the team placed 8th and had the potential to place much higher if not for some unfortunate luck and timing.

Currently, team members Jamal Sarhani and Juan Gongora are preparing to be the first UTSA team to compete in the National Ranger Challenge Buddy Team Challenge to be held in Kansas in late April 2013. If you would like to support them, please consider making a contribution to the alumni association.

Cadets to Host Golf Scramble at Fort Sam Houston
UTSA Army ROTC is looking for both players and sponsors for this inaugural event to be held at the Ft Sam Houston Golf Club. See attached flyer.

images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/AUSA/attach/Golf_Scramble_Flyer.pdf

For any business that selects an executive sponsorship we will be extending an invitation to our military formal on April 26th and our Spring Awards ceremony where our key sponsors will be recognized. We feel that this will give those businesses a direct view of the cadets and the program they are supporting.

Although we are still working on solidifying the 1st and 2nd place prizes we are looking at having some good course prizes. Brown Dodge is interested in sponsoring a hole-in-one and giving away a Dodge Dart for whoever gets one. I know that these fundraisers are more for fun and not the prizes but its nice to know the possibilities are there.

3 Selected for CULP –
UTSA reached a personal high for Cadets selected to the Cultural Language Program that allows the Cadet to study in a foreign country for summer days during the same. In recent years Cadets have travelled to Argentina, Costa Rica and the Philippines. This years Cadets will travel to Lithuania (Sheyondra Evans), Cape Horn (Kristen Gomez) and to the Republic of Georgia (Jack Gonzalez)
A final appeal from the PMS —

Alumni, first I would like to thank all of your support over the past 3 years. Through your support I have been able to allow Cadets to push themselves mentally and physically. The results have been off the charts. 40% of our graduates are selected for National Distinguished Military Graduate Status (national average = 20%). 80% of our graduates go on to serve on active duty (nat’l average = 50%) and over 90% have obtained their first choice of branches. The program has grown from 60-70 active Cadets in 2010 to the 195 that are currently attending classes at UTSA, Wayland Baptist, Palo Alto, San Antonio Community College and Northwest Vista. We have grown from a small program, to one of the strongest in a Brigade spanning from Arkansas to Wyoming. The Ranger Challenge team is virtually unbeatable and our Cadets are going head to head with active duty Soldiers at the Army 10-Miler and Bataan Death March . . . And beating them.

This success has been possible through your contributions. Each year I receive an average of about $15 of spending money per Cadet from UTSA. This barely covers our daily supplies. However, you, the Alumni have supported us with $6,000 in donations. As great as this sounds, I am making one final appeal to you to support the UTSA Army Alumni Association. There are more than 500 members of the UTSA Army Alumni Association. However, 60% of the $6000 that has been contributed came from just 1% of this group. Five alumni have stepped forward and donated more than $3500.

If each of the 500+ other alumni were to support the program with an annual contribution of just $10, it would provide the program with more than $5000 in funds that will allow our Cadets to maintain their elite status. There are many ways to support the program. Some alumni have chosen to set up a monthly contribution through the UTSA website. Others have made a simple donation. Others have helped by simply paying for a Cadet’s dinner at the Spring Formal.

Thank you again for all you’ve done. Please provide my successor, LTC Alfred Silva, with the same support.

- LTC Scott Sonsalla
  Professor of Military Science

Paypal Donations accepted at:
armyrotc@utsa.edu

Cadets rehearse Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) during a recent training lab

MS IV Aaron Wolf leads MS I and MS II during a computer simulated convoy exercise at Camp Bullis.
Executive Sponsor - $2,500
- Recognition on Golf Scramble Website
- Recognition at Award Ceremony
- Signage at Entrance
- Signage display minimum of one hole
- One registered foursome team
- Logo on tournament t-shirt
- 2 free mulligans
- Company information in welcome kit
- 2 invitations to the ARMY ROTC Formal

Platinum Sponsor - $1,500
- Recognition on Golf Scramble Website
- Recognition at Award Ceremony
- Signage at Club House area
- Signage display minimum of one hole
- One registered foursome team
- Logo on tournament t-shirt
- Company information in welcome kit

Gold Sponsor - $1,000
- Recognition on Golf Scramble Website
- Signage display minimum of one hole
- One registered foursome team
- Logo on tournament t-shirt

Special Sponsor - $250
- Recognition on Golf Scramble Website
- Logo on tournament t-shirt

Silver Sponsor - $750
- Recognition on Golf Scramble Website
- Signage display minimum of one Tee Box
- Two free golfers
- Logo on tournament t-shirt

Bronze Sponsor - $500
- Recognition on Golf Scramble Website
- Signage display on one Tee Box
- Logo on tournament t-shirt

Specified Sponsor - $1000
First come first choice
- Signage at Driving Range
- Signage at Putting Green
- Signage at Dining Area

4 Person Best Ball Scramble
All players will receive golf cart, green fees, and food at the conclusion of play. Shotgun Start begins at 1300.

Registration
Register online at www.roadrunnerbattalion.com until March 31st, 2012.
**Registration will end earlier if a 120 players are registered. Late registration, if available, will be at an additional $25 per player. Tournament will be rain or shine and the Straight Scoring method will be used for this years tournament. Males will use the white tees and females will use red tees. For more information please visit the website or call C/LTC Bryan Guerra at 210.882.6665.

Prizes
Individual Entry - $100       Team Entry (4 members) - $320

Mulligans may be purchased for $5 each, two (2) per player, at the beginning of the tournament.

1st and 2nd Place ◆ Closest to the pin ◆ Longest drive ◆ Hole-in-One
UTSA student Andrew Bland IV receives $81K Army ROTC scholarship
(Jan. 24, 2013) -- Andrew Bland IV, a UTSA freshman cadet majoring in political science, received an Army ROTC scholarship valued at more than $81,000 on Jan. 5 during the NCSA Athletic Recruiting breakfast at the Hyatt Regency hotel in San Antonio. The event was associated with the U.S. Army All American Bowl. The scholarship was presented by Col. Erik Peterson, deputy commander, U.S. Army Cadet Command. Bland was joined by his father, Andrew Bland III.

NCSA (National Collegiate Scouting)

UTSA ROTC cadet Patrick Anderson ranked nationally in top 10
(Nov. 19, 2012) -- UTSA Army ROTCs Patrick S. Anderson has been ranked one of the top 10 senior cadets in the United States, according to the U.S. Army Cadet Command Order of Merit List. The ranking includes all seniors across the country and names the top 20 percent as Distinguished Military Graduates. It measures senior cadets according to their academic strengths, athletic prowess in the Army Physical Fitness Test, and overall performance in ROTC and the Leader Development and Assessment course.

"It's his character, determination and hard work -- knowing what's expected of him -- which makes him such a strong leader and student," said Executive Officer Maj. Benjamin McMahon.

According to McMahon, UTSA's ROTC program is recognized as one of the top three in Texas, and Anderson's accomplishment is a testament to that.

A UTSA business major, Anderson has been on active duty for seven years. He is stationed at Fort Sam Houston and enrolled at UTSA as a result of its geographic proximity and the strength of its ROTC program.

"UTSA has an excellent ROTC program," said Anderson, "And, its being so close to Fort Sam and other military bases makes it very competitive. There are many cadets with military experience and training."

Cadet Anderson hopes to work in the medical field in administrative management. "In 10 years, I see him as a battalion commander or lieutenant colonel," said McMahon. "Really, there is no limit to what he can do."

At the scholarship presentation are Andrew Bland IV (center) with his father Andrew Bland III (left) and Col. Erik Peterson. (U.S. Army photo by Steve Arel)

Spring Scholarship Board
Do you know a college bound senior that may have missed out on the National ROTC Scholarship program? If so, there is still an opportunity to compete for a 3 or 4 years scholarship. Every year UTSA receives a select number of campus based scholarships to award to deserving students at UTSA. In order to select the best, we host a spring Scholarship Board. This year’s board will be held March 29. If you know someone that is interested, have them contact MAJ Rivera at (210) 458-5607 or melva.rivera@utsa.edu

Spring Formal
The Roadrunners will hold their Spring Formal on April 26, 2013 at the Embassy Suites on the Riverwalk. It’s a great way to kick of Fiesta San Antonio. If you would like to attend the event, send a note to scott.sonsalla@utsa.edu. Ticket prices are not yet available.
Gregory R. Aguilar, a former Army medic who is now an Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) cadet at UTSA recently was honored as a Soldier Hero at the 13th annual U.S. Army All American Bowl game. Aguilar -- whose father served as a combat medic in Vietnam -- was guarding a U.S. military checkpoint in the Anbar Province of Iraq in 2003 on deployment with the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment. Sgt. Aguilar (as he was at that time) noticed a suspicious vehicle creeping up to the gate. Suddenly, gunfire erupted from the small vehicle as it broke through the first line of security nearly running Aguilar over as he began to return fire at the occupants.

Seconds later when the vehicle came to a halt and the gunfire from the vehicle ceased, Aguilar quickly assessed the situation and instinctively reverted to his role as the unit's senior medic, rushing to treat his fallen brethren.

"A vehicle rammed through our security and ended up killing one of our Non-Commissioned officers and injuring another," Aguilar said. "I was able to return fire upon the vehicle even though it was trying to run me over. After the vehicle went past my location, I went up to medically treat the Soldiers that were injured."

When the dust settled, one Soldier was killed and another was injured, but Aguilar's ability to shift from Soldier to medic helped to save the life of the injured Soldier. For his heroic actions during the firefight, Aguilar received a Bronze Star Medal with a V Device, one of the military's highest awards given to Soldiers in combat.

Since that time, Aguilar has accumulated numerous medals and awards for his service. The Army Soldier Hero program -- his latest honor -- highlights the achievements of Soldiers that have sacrificed their own safety to protect the lives of others. The Soldier Heroes selected for the game are paired with two high school athletes scheduled to play in the annual all-star game, and throughout the weeklong event the Soldiers mentored the young athletes on their experiences dealing with adversity and working as part of a team.

The first few days Aguilar was paired up with Austin Golson, a Florida State University verbal commit and John Montelus, a University of Notre Dame verbal commit and hopes his experiences as a Soldier will have a positive effect on the young football players as they prepare to move on to college.

Despite all of his recent accolades, Aguilar remains humble and is usually more comfortable away from the spotlight.

"I initially didn't want to be recognized because I do not like the spotlight," Aguilar said. "But, my battalion commander asked for me to do this. And, after much thought, I decided to support the ROTC program."

Supporting the ROTC program is just one of many sacrifices that Aguilar has made throughout his career to support his country and his senior military instructor at UTSA, Master Sgt. Joseph T. Walden, couldn't agree more.

"All of Aguilar's sacrifices for the Army and his nation are something for all people to emulate," said Walden. "He is a shining example of what a soldier should look like and the Army couldn't have chosen a better soldier to represent them at the game. Not only will he do a great job of representing his country, but he will also be a great mentor to the young players at the game because of the adversity he has faced in the Army and his ability to deal with it and make tough decisions. The players also face tough decisions as they move on to college to play football and can benefit greatly from Aguilar's experience."

After just a few days into the excitement of the weeklong festivities, Aguilar met with the players, and they have shared experiences and found out that they have a lot in common.

"I have had a great time meeting the players and sharing each other's experiences," said Aguilar. "We have had a lot to talk about because football and serving in the military really parallel each other because you are part of a team that depends on one another, and you have to know your role and work hard to succeed."
3 Cadets become Army's newest second lieutenants at All-American Bowl

SAN ANTONIO (Jan. 7, 2013) -- No mold exists for producing Army leaders. Every Cadet is different, requiring different instructional approaches, different mentorship and different motivational techniques. The trio of Cadets who commissioned Saturday on the Alamodome field prior to kickoff of the annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl illustrates the varied paths prospective second lieutenants take. One is a record-setting collegiate kicker. Another was so determined to be an officer that he shed nearly 100 pounds. And the other has had a life-long desire to serve.

"Veterans and active duty Soldiers know what this means," said Rockne Belmonte of Northern Michigan University.

"It gives a chance for others to see a different side of the Army." Belmonte, along with James Wingard of the University of Texas-San Antonio and Ashley Rodriguez of St. Mary's University, took the oath of office from Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, chief of the Army Reserve, in front of several thousand onlookers. The event was ceremonial for Wingard and Rodriguez, who actually commissioned in December at their respective universities.

Belmonte, who holds his school's record for career field goals and was first team all-conference this season, missed his battalion's commissioning because he was competing in an all-star game for seniors.

Saturday's ceremony was a chance for the public -- some of them current Soldiers, some of them military veterans, some of them potential future service members -- to witness the culmination of the Cadet-development process, one that evolves over the course of years. All three of the newest Soldiers said their experience in the ROTC reshaped their lives and set them on a path toward success.

For Belmonte, the commissioning was a fitting and unique experience, bringing together two loves -- football and the Army. And both will remain major parts of his life, at least for the short-term. Belmonte has achieved such success on the football field that he's being given a shot at playing professionally. Though he branched transportation and is now a commissioned officer, his service status remains uncertain. Belmonte leaves San Antonio next week for Arizona where he will train with Cardinals kicker Jay Feely to prepare to participate in the upcoming NFL combine. If he is drafted or signed, Belmonte will become a Reserve officer. If he isn't, he says he'll eagerly serve on active duty.

Saturday's ceremony tops his list of memorable moments in ROTC. "This is what you work toward" as a Cadet, said Belmonte, whose rank was pinned on by his parents. "Being able to do it at such a special event like this is pretty important to me."

Rodriguez sat in the stands at last year's All-American Bowl and watched a friend commission on the field. A little nervous, she was glad to now be in the same position as her former classmate. Rodriguez said she has always wanted to serve in the military, and ROTC gave her an opportunity to do so. The reason for wanting to be a Soldier is simple. "I love my country," Rodriguez said. Being in ROTC, she said, allowed her to be surrounded by people who share her values, values that were instilled in her as a child and that mirror those making up the foundation of the Army. Fellow Cadets "take them to heart as much I do," Rodriguez said.

Three years ago, Wingard was working at a San Antonio FedEx facility and attending a community college when one day he saw a sign touting ROTC hanging on a wall at the school. It piqued his interest. But Wingard faced a huge hurdle: himself. The then-sophomore, who stands 5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighed in at 275 pounds. He was so overweight and out of shape, he wasn't close to meeting the Army's height-weight standards and failed all three events of the PT test his first try. In fact, he couldn't post a passing score his first dozen or so attempts. Wingard, though, was running out of time to become part of the ROTC program. He needed to attend the Leader's Training Course, or LTC, to laterally enter the program as a junior, but only had six months to trim down and become fit. Through dieting and working out, he was able to shed 90 pounds and passed a diagnostic PT test just before attending the course. Having graduated LTC, the UTSA training regimen has further strengthened his performance, physically and mentally. "There were times I wanted to give up, but I knew (being an officer) is what I wanted to do," Wingard said. Being a Cadet transformed Wingard into a more focused individual, he said. His fitness improved (he has scored as high as a 295 on the PT test), his grades improved and his ability to lead others improved.

"Just the honor of actually getting to commission is huge," Wingard said. "For me, the things I've accomplished are amazing. This puts the icing on the cake."