



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOL XXI, JULY 2014

The Alumni Newsletter is an unofficial news bulletin published in the interest of the Baylor AFROTC Alumni Association. Contents of this newsletter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps or Baylor University.

Det 810 Cadre

Col James C. Parsons
Commander
AS200/400

Maj Tony Schmidt
Operations Officer
AS100/300

TSgt Keisha Sallee
NCOIC, Personnel

SSgt Nicole Powers
NCOIC, Administration

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HAILS, FAREWELLS & HAPPENINGS



Commissioning class with Congressman Flores and Col Parsons at Dining Out

This year was a great one for Baylor Nation. We commissioned 17 Lieutenants into various career fields, and have one more in October. This year concluded with the commissioning event presided over by Lt Gen Mike Holmes, AETC/CV. Over 250 people attended. This year, we marched in the Homecoming Parade, had a great career day with 22 career fields represented, held an alumni open house and several other great events. Also, Congressman Bill Flores joined us for our Dining Out at the Ridgewood Country Club. For the underclassmen, we had an 83% selection to Field Training – well above the national average and we are once again at the top in the region for our students' GPA! Our new Region Commander is Col Jeff Staha. He was moved over from the University of Texas.

Cadre Change

Returning this year are **Colonel Parsons**, **Major Schmidt**, **TSgt Sallee**, and **SSgt Powers**. We had to say goodbye to Major Garza after three years as the Recruiting Flight Commander. We wish her all the best in her retirement! We also lost Captain Nicholas Head, the Education Flight Commander. Nick is a 2009 Baylor Alum who separated in July...all the best! Mrs. Erica Johnson moved over to HR and was replaced by **Mrs. Roberta Shipp** (yes Bob's wife!).

PROMOTION NEWS!



SSgt Powers and TSgt Sallee Reenlistment ceremony

Both of our NCOs were picked up on the promotion boards this year! Congratulations to **MSgt(s) Sallee** and **TSgt(s) Powers** for their hard work and unyielding dedication to this detachment, AFROTC and the Air Force.

WACO WOUNDED VETERANS RUN

We hosted the 1st Annual Waco Wounded Veterans 5K Run at Lake Waco Dam, on 14 Sept 2013. Det 810's own **SSgt Nicole Powers** organized this event for the Waco community with two goals in mind: to raise as much money for Wounded Warrior Project as possible and to start a Baylor/Waco tradition that will last for years to come.



Wounded Warrior Project Run volunteers

With 200+ participants, Det 810 raised \$4800 in the first year and donated all proceeds to the WWP. This year's event is 13 Sept at 0800... hope to see some of you there! You can register at Active.com.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

◆ The Maj Gen Marsh scholarship endowment awarded scholarships to the following cadets, **Joanna Guhl** (Nursing), **Brenna Cole** (Math), and **Angela Valencia-Gowing** (Economics). This year the torch was passed! Maj Gen Marsh left the committee chair. This Fall, **Col Gary Praiesel** ('68) will preside over the committee. We also invite you to become part of the Marsh Scholarship selection board to be held on Friday before Homecoming at 1400 on 31 Oct. AS300, **Ken Skelton** was the recipient of the \$500, Scottish Rite scholarship award. Finally, the In-College Scholarship program was alive and well with 2 cadets being awarded scholarships; **Cadet Sarah Williamson** (AS100) and **Cadet Jordan Newman** (AS250).

◆ **Soldiers of the Wooden Cross Scholarship Fund** – this fund is established with Waco Foundation to provide college scholarships for undergraduate students with a connection to the military who have demonstrated exemplary service to their community and country. Deacon **Frank Jasek** has written a book, *Soldiers of the Wooden Cross: Military Memorials of Baylor University* and published it with the assistance of friends and others interested to see its completion, but have no desire to benefit from its production. The book tells the story of each of the Baylor veterans killed in service who are honored on the plaques across campus located on the granite lampposts. Rather than receive personal financial benefit, Mr. Jasek desired to establish a scholarship fund with the book proceeds and so established the *Soldiers of the Wooden Cross Scholarship Fund* for this purpose. Proceeds of all book sales go to the fund. Any other person may make additional contributions to the fund acceptable by Waco Foundation.

Please consider purchasing a book from Amazon, the Baylor Book Store or contact him directly at soldierswoodencross@gmail.com

◆ **The Corps of Cadet's Endowment Fund – Mr. Jim Gooch** ('69) is spearheading the effort for an endowment portion of our Corps of Cadets Fund. Once it reaches \$50,000, it will be self-sustaining—please join him in contributing to this worthy cause.



Commissioning class of 2014

COMMISSIONEES 2013-2014

Daniel Sessions – Pilot
Brian Saunders – Cyberspace Officer
Elise Saunders – Intel Officer
Paul Schlaudraff – Pilot
Casey Sharpe – Pilot
Jacob Bleth – Cyberspace Officer
Jonathon Bomar – Developmental Engineer
Brandon Burton – Nuclear & Missile officer
Brandon Dittmar – Nuclear and Missile Officer
Katie Flachsbart – Developmental Engineer
Blake McTee – Air Liaison Operations officer
James Oltman – Aircraft Maintenance Officer
Kathryn Richardson – Pilot
Kelly Lefler – Personnel Officer
Brandon McClendon – Aircraft Maintenance
Katherine Cribb – Intel
Shelley Gregory – Public Affairs

FTP FT HOOD TRAINING

The Field Training Preparation cadets had the opportunity in April to spend a weekend in the field with an Air Force weather squadron at Ft Hood. After a few hours of instruction regarding topics on SABC, land navigation, unit tactics and field conditions, cadets were issued rucks, body armor and weapons. They were transported via convoy to a remote location from where they had to use land navigation and small unit tactics to evade attack and reach their base camp. After a night in the field, cadets had spent time at the electronic weapons range where they had the chance to qualify on the M4, as well as receive familiarization with various other rifles and heavier weapons. Throughout the weekend, the sophomore cadets were given chances to lead the various missions and leadership projects. The cadets gained valuable experience in field operations, the deployed environment, and the enlisted perspective from the personnel at Ft Hood. They will use this information when they attend AFROTC Field Training at Maxwell AFB and JFTC Camp Shelby this summer.



Field Training Preparation cadets ready to go into the field at Ft Hood

HOMECOMING RECEPTION/ ALUMNI CAREER DAY

Baylor AFROTC Det 810 was chosen to lead the entire University's Homecoming parade this past year! In addition to a great parade and color guard, Det 810 opened its doors to host the annual Marsh Scholarship and Alumni Reception. Retired General Marsh was present and announced that he'd be passing the reigns for managing the Marsh Scholarship. Det 810 would like to thank him for all the years of dedicated service to the Detachment and for the countless scholarship opportunities he enabled through his generosity.

In addition to the alumni reception, Det 810 hosted its first annual Alumni Career Day! By capitalizing on the influx of alumni to the area during homecoming, current cadets were able to talk with recent alumni about life in the Air Force and exciting career opportunities. In total, a dozen alumni attended, representing nine different Air Force jobs including pilot, navigator, air battle manager, doctor, engineer and intelligence, to name a few. The staff at Det 810 would like to extend our appreciation to the alumni who participated and open the invitation for more alum to attend this year's career day 31 Oct and alumni reception 1 Nov immediately following the parade until 1200.



Detachment 810 at Baylor Homecoming Parade

AFPC CAREER DAY

In preparation for the junior class selecting their Air Force career plans, Det 810 invited young officers from the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB to attend a career day event at the Baylor Science Building in Waco, Texas. 136 cadets attended to meet with the 22 active duty officers to discuss their various career fields and learn what to expect in the Air Force. As one of the largest career days in recent history, both active duty visitors and cadets enjoyed the opportunity for mentorship and networking.

- 31 Oct (1400) – Marsh Scholarship Board (Speight Plaza Bldg – Suite 100)*
- 31 Oct (1530) Alumni Career Day*
- 1 Nov– Det 810 Open House (following the parade until 1200) Refreshments will be provided*

This year's homecoming game is against the Kansas J-Hawks. Kickoff time has not been announced and the status of the campus (open/closed) during games is TBD.

*Please RSVP to Mrs. Shipp at Roberta_Shipp@baylor.edu

CADET ACTIVITIES

◆ Texas Field Day

Det 810 hosted Texas Field Day, an annual sports competition between all AFROTC detachments in Texas. Sports included track events, basketball, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, and many more. Det 810 took second overall, losing to UT by only half a point! UT will host next spring.



Texas Field Day soccer team

◆ Steppin' Out

Cadets participated in Baylor-wide community service event Steppin' Out, benefitting the city of Waco. Cadets did yard work for a neighborhood in the Waco community. The cadet wing participates in this event annually.

◆ Incentive Rides

Lt Shelley Gregory (T-6) and Cadet Collin Couch (T-38) received incentive rides from 80th FTW at Sheppard AFB. Aim High!



2d Lt Shelley Gregory after T-6 incentive ride

◆ German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

Five seniors had the chance to qualify with Army ROTC to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. Events included a combat first aid exam, ruck march, distance run, sprint

test, full uniform swim, and pistol marksmanship event. **Blake McTee**, **Collin Couch**, and **Paul Schlaudraff** qualified Gold, **Morgan Evans** qualified Silver, and **Kathryn Richardson** qualified Bronze.

◆ NATCON

Arnold Air Society members traveled to Washington DC for a five-day conference. At this event, members had the opportunity to network with cadets from detachments all over the nation, as well as hear from keynote speakers **Madeline Albright** and **CSAF Gen Welsh**.



Cadets meet CSAF Gen Welsh



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Please let us know if you will join us for Homecoming activities this October 31st and November 1st. We'd love to see you all, learn from your experiences and show off our detachment and Cadet Wing!

Name: _____ Marsh Scholarship board member? Yes No
 Address: _____ Participating in Career Day? Yes No
 E-mail: _____ Rank/Title: _____
 Phone: _____ AFSC/MOS: _____
 Class Year: _____ Duty Station: _____

Thank you for your continued support of our program, and our future Air Force leaders.!

Chaplain Maj Gen Gerald E. Marsh Scholarship Endowment: \$10 \$15 \$25 Other \$ _____

Betterment of the Corps Fund: \$10 \$15 \$25 Other \$ _____

You can give electronically via <https://www.baylor.edu/give/index.php?id=49837&a=2&c=814>

Become a Warrior Bear – The newest Bear Foundation membership level is now available to Baylor Air Force or Army ROTC graduates, or members of the military. Explore the membership benefits at: <http://www.baylor.edu/bearfoundation/index.php?id=96016>

HONORARY COMMANDER PROGRAM

The Honorary Commanders' Program is a civic outreach initiative hosted by the Det Commander.

The purpose of the Honorary Commanders' Program is twofold: It allows our community partners to gain awareness of our important military mission, and it allows our military members and their units to learn more about the communities in which we live.

Mr. Lloyd Coffman was our first Honorary Commander for Det 810. He's the Hewitt VFW Post Jr vice, VA service rep and McLennan County Veterans Affairs President. Mr. Coffman and his wife Ruth attended our Dining Outs, parade and LLAB.



Distinguished Guests at Dining Out