



ROTC ALUMNI

Chapter Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 1

Jacksonville, Alabama

January 2015

Update From the Chapter President



Greetings fellow Gamecock Battalion Alumni. On behalf of the ROTC alumni board of directors, I hope that you and your family enjoy a safe and prosperous new year. Quite a bit has happened since our last newsletter. We have a new PMS, celebrated our 19th annual alumni banquet, recognized COL Barry F. Graham as our Military Alumnus of the

Year, presented 21 scholarships at the fall awards ceremony, participated in the fall commissioning ceremony, and recognized our first four Chapter Champions.

LTC David Wood is our new PMS, coming to us from a recent assignment as the Afghan National Security Forces Logistics Development Branch Chief for Regional Command – East. Although LTC Wood has only been with the program a few months, he hit the ground running, making a rapid assessment of the issues and causes of the program not commissioning 15 lieutenants a year (Cadet Command's measure of a viable R.O.T.C. program), formulating a plan, and working that plan in order to produce 15 or more lieutenants a year. We are excited about LTC Wood's plan and the energy that he brings to the chapter.

We had the pleasure of recognizing COL Barry F. Graham ('88) as our 2014 Military Alumnus of the Year. Barry currently serves as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, for Third Army/USARCENT which conducts split-based operations between Shaw AFB, SC and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. We were very fortunate to have COL Graham come home from Kuwait to join us.

On December 4, the alumni chapter participated in the fall awards ceremony, presenting twenty-one, \$1,000 scholarships. Our scholarship sponsors currently contribute \$500 each annually, which is matched by the university.

On December 19, we participated in the commissioning ceremony for our three newest lieutenants and newest members of our alumni chapter.

During our alumni banquet, I had the pleasure of recognizing our first Chapter Champions. This award is intended for those whose ongoing support and commitment to the chapter is unmatched. COL (Ret.) Therman Greene ('59), LTC (Ret.) Joe Serviss ('69), LTC (Ret.) Bruce Pickette ('68), and Dr. William A. Meehan are the first of our Champions.

Chapter Status

The Department of the Army considers R.O.T.C. programs that commission less than 15 lieutenants a year to be non-viable. Our program has produced an average of 13 lieutenants for the past five years, placing us in the non-viable program category. Some of you may have heard that our program was included on a list of programs being recommended for closure. I am happy to report that the list was not processed and the program will remain in operation, but still faces a period of uncertainty as to what the program may look like in the next few years. MG Peggy Combs, the Commander, Cadet Command, is adamant about not closing any programs at this time, but will take her cues from the Pentagon based on funding availability and the need for R.O.T.C. Commissioned Cadets. Although the program is still operational, we may face issues over the next couple of years as we do not have enough cadets to meet the 15 lieutenant requirement in our MS III and MS IV classes. Dr. Meehan and LTC Wood had an opportunity to address visitors from Cadet Command on October 30 and made a strong case for keeping our program off of any closure lists, especially given that we will begin to meet the commissioning requirement beginning with our current crop of MS IIs.

Chapter Officers

We are looking for members who would be interested in serving as either the 1st Vice President (succeeding me at the end of the year) or the 2nd Vice President. We have a dedicated core group of long-time chapter officers who have carried the alumni chapter since its inception and are looking to bring in new officers to learn and carry on the tradition and efforts of the chapter.

If you are interested in being considered for one of these roles, please e-mail me at cbuxton@cdc.gov or Charles.h.buxton2.mil@mail.mil.

New PMS



LTC David Wood was initially commissioned in May 1997, as an active duty Quartermaster Officer from the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs with a Baccalaureate in History. LTC Wood also holds a Master's Degree in English from the University of Nebraska. LTC Wood has served in various leadership positions including, Platoon

Leader, Company Commander, Battalion S-3, and Brigade Support Operations Officer. He has had 2 combat rotations: Operation Iraqi Freedom I and Operation Enduring Freedom XIV. LTC Wood has numerous awards and decorations which include the Bronze Star Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Pathfinder Badge. LTC Wood is married to the former Jennifer Burton of Colorado Springs, Colorado. They have two children, Emily and Jacen.

Update from the PMS, LTC David Wood

I would like to thank the Alumni for your kind reception of my family and me. We feel very much part of this rich tradition here at JSU and the ROTC program. I also want to thank you for the continued outstanding support you give this program and its Cadets. I firmly believe that we have all the key components to turn the program back onto the trail of consistent success.

Here are some key program updates:

We continue to move forward in rebuilding the program despite the uncertainty that surrounds our program and the 38 other ROTC programs that are viably challenged. We should receive word in FEB 15 as to the future of the Annual Program Review system and an initial decision on probations and guidance on program closures. I firmly believe we will not be closed but we will be required to make changes in our manning structure. We made our commission mission last year and we will fall one short this year. I remain concerned about the impact of our Mission Set 16 cohort on this process. I am proud of the hard work that we have placed into re-building Mission Sets 17-19. JSU's support for our program remains outstanding. We just received word this month of the University granting 25 ROTC tuition scholarships that will greatly enhance our ability to recruit quality freshmen (to include those recently returned from Basic and AIT) by awarding a scholarship equivalent to six credit hours.

Our program continues to move in a positive direction during this time of change. Our Cadets recognize the Army's need for quality officers. This past year's Accessions demonstrate just how

competitive Active Duty commissions are as seen in this cohort's average 3.4 GPA and over 270 APFT score. We continue to stress that all three Components must have quality leaders as we continue to meet the Nation's requirements.

Positive signs of our recruiting campaigns can be seen in the growth of our Spring MS II class with the addition of five Cadets and in our Spring MS I class with the addition of 11.

This next summer's Cadet Summer Training will reflect the commitment to training and developing adaptive, problem solving leaders. The MS IIIs will attend the Cadet Leadership Course this summer. The greatest change from years past is the removal of the evaluation system which is now replaced by a counseling program. Additionally, we will send 5-6 MS Is and 3-4 lateral entry students to Cadet Initial Entry Training.



ROTC ALUMNI SHIRTS

Thanks to Joe Serviss ('69) and his coordination with Get Personalized, we now have ROTC alumni shirt ordering information available on the JSU ROTC website. Here are the details:

The ROTC Alumni Chapter has made arrangements with Get Personalized, an embroidery company in Jacksonville, to provide soft collar polo shirts with JSU ROTC Alumni logos. Get Personalized is located at 213 Pelham Road S. They are located just north of the square between the Gamecock Pawn Shop and Armstrong Florists. You can also find them on Facebook at Get Personalized (www.facebook.com/getpersonalized1) or you can call them at 256-782-1122.

Two styles of shirts are available, a 100% Polyester Willow Pointe with WillowTec Moisture Management technology, and a 100% Preshrunk Cotton Pique fabric shirt. Additional information is listed below.

100% Polyester Willow Point (Short Sleeve)

Available in both men's and ladies (men's have three buttons and ladies have no buttons)

Colors: Red, White, Black, & Grey

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, & XXL

Price: \$40.00 Postage: \$5.00

100% Preshrunk Cotton Pique fabric (Short Sleeve)

Only available in men's sizes

Colors: Red, White, & Black

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, & XXL

Price: \$30.00 Postage: \$5.00

Military Alumnus of the Year



COL Barry F. Graham was our 2014 Military Alumnus of the Year. A native of Calhoun County, COL Graham was a Distinguished Military Graduate of JSU in 1988. COL Graham holds a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from JSU and a Master's Degree in International Relations from Troy State University. He has completed a plethora of military courses culminating as

a U.S. Army War College Intergovernmental Fellow in Washington, D.C. COL Graham has served in a number of key leadership positions including, Platoon Leader, Brigade S-3 Air, Battalion S-2, Division G-2 Plans Officer, Senior Intelligence Observer/Controller at the Combat Maneuver Training Center, Corps C2 Operations Chief, Division G-2, Executive Officer to the Program of the Army G-2, and Commander of the Army Support Activity at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. COL Graham has numerous military awards and decorations which include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Parachutist Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Army Staff Badge, and the Combat Action Badge. COL Graham and his wife Bunny have four children, Mary Beth, Seth, Anne and Emma.

Newly Commissioned Officers (and our newest Alumni Chapter Members)

Since our last newsletter, our program commissioned 10 officers:

2LT Matthew P. Baker	Ordnance	Active Duty
2LT Desmond L. Clay	Quartermaster Corps	Active Duty
2LT Jordan A. Gavino	Signal Corps	National Guard
2LT Dayton G. Grissam	Military Intelligence Corps	National Guard
2LT Andrea C. Groce	Medical Service Corps	Army Reserve
2LT Kimberly J. Stiles	Military Police Corps	Active Duty
2LT Matthew E. Madden	Medical Service Corps	Army Reserve
2LT Misha J. Dantzler	Transportation Corps	Active Duty
2LT Samuel E. Pugh	Transportation Corps	National Guard
2LT Jabrell K. Smith	Infantry	National Guard

Mentors Still Needed

Company grade officers willing to serve as mentors should send their contact information, branch (or branches) that they can mentor and their component (active, guard, or reserve) to Sandy Hunter ('04) at sandy.wilson12@gmail.com.

Field grade officers willing to serve as mentors should send their contact information, branch (or branches) that they can mentor and their component (active, guard, or reserve) to David Crenshaw ('91) at david.e.crenshaw.mil@mail.mil.

Key Event Dates for Spring 2015:

6 JAN 15	Formal Assessment of FALL 14 to the JSU Leadership
22-25 JAN 15	Ranger Challenge Competition
13 FEB 15	Gamecock Military Ball
FEB 15	Secretary of the Army provides viability guidance to Cadet Command
APR	
19-22 MAR 15	Gamecock Battalion hosts a Brigade-level FTX for UAB, Alabama A&M, and ourselves
3-4 APR 15	Battalion ROTC & GRFD Scholarship Board
24 APR 15	(Tentative) Spring Awards Ceremony
27-29 APR 15	Mini-Camp
1 MAY 15	Spring Commissioning Ceremony (seven new LTs) and Commencement
17-19 MAY 15	Initial Cadre and Cadet Departures for Cadet Summer Training

ROTC ENDOWMENT FUND

The endowment fund has grown from \$33,107 to \$34,242. If you are interested in making a donation to the fund which will be used to fund scholarships in the future, please make your check payable to the JSU Foundation with "for ROTC Endowment" written at the bottom of the check. Please send checks to:

JSU Foundation, Rock House
700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265



Congratulations

Chapter Operating Fund

Following the banquet, our chapter operating fund stands at \$3,663. This fund allows us the flexibility to respond to chapter requests for assistance allowing us to provide funding for equipment and other needs. If you would like to donate to the chapter operating fund, please make the check payable to the JSU Foundation with "for Fund 4510" written at the bottom of the check.

Please send checks to:
JSU Foundation, Rock House
700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265



Thank you for your continued support of the chapter. I am excited by the successes of the cadets and all of the efforts of our chapter has made and will continue to make to support them. If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for all that you do!

Chuck

Alumni of the Year Nominations

Anyone may make nominations for Military Alumnus of the Year. Nominations are due no later than the end of June and include a biographical sketch and photograph. The nominee:

- Must be a graduate of Jacksonville State University
- Must be an officer on active duty or an active Guardsman or Reservist
- Must join or be a member of the JSU Alumni Association
- Must play an active role in promoting the university
- Must have shown outstanding military achievement, and,
- Must be available to attend Homecoming to receive the award

Selection is through consensus of the chapter's board.

JSU ROTC ALUMNI CHAPTER
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Presorted
Standard
Non-Profit
U.S. Postage

Address service requested