



# Reveille

## From The Desk Of The President



Please excuse me while I take some time to share with you my personal pride in the promotion of **Colonel Ricky Gibbs** to Brigadier General (see the accompanying article). He was one of my cadets.

He was an outstanding cadet throughout the program and served as the Corps Commander his senior year. We all knew he was headed for great things. We have been tracking him over the last few years and are elated with his promotion. Needless to say it is an event that only a very small percentage of officers achieve.

I also expect another of my former cadets, **Col (P) Lester Simpson** (Class of 1980), to be promoted to Brigadier General in the Texas Army National Guard shortly after the new year begins. He was a member of the Sam Houston Rifles and served on the Cadet Corps staff. He currently commands the 176<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade. We will highlight Colonel Simpson in our next newsletter. He has been selected for induction to the Military Science De-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Corps Alumnus Makes BG

**Colonel Ricky Gibbs**, Class of 1982, was promoted to Brigadier General December 3 at a ceremony held at Fort Riley, Kansas. General Gibbs is currently serving as the Deputy Commanding General for Maneuver of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. The division headquarters is scheduled to deploy early next year.

General Gibbs was commissioned a 2d Lt of Infantry at UTA. He has a B.A. Degree in Physical Education, a Master of Science in Management from Troy State University, and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

His military education includes the Infantry Basic and Advanced Course, Combined Arms Service Staff College, Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

His duty assignments took him from Platoon *(Continued on page 2)*



**Pursuit of Excellence**

The CCAC and UTA Military Science Department  
**2010 Hall of Honor**

**Saturday  
February 27, 2010**

**Reception starting  
10:30a.m.**

**University of Texas  
at Arlington**

**Palo Duro Lounge in  
the University Center**

For information and luncheon reservations, call Sarah at 817-640-6167 ext. 408, or email at [ccac\\_uta@yahoo.com](mailto:ccac_uta@yahoo.com)

## Rehash of the Cannon Caper

**By Bunky Garonzik**



Well, looks like we have another cannon heading our way. Old man Carlisle must be smiling down on UTA. **SFC Somogye** and **Major Jeannie** picked up a 75mm howitzer cannon from Texas Tech on 17 November. Not sure if it was a magical twitch of her genie nose, but Jeannie is a genie, and we are one step closer to our TO&E battery of six cannons.

Cannons have always been a part of the landscape at UTA, ASC, or any of the other various names of the institution over the years. In fact we even had a Civil War cannon on campus for a short time. Looking back to Reveille archives of July 2003, we ran a story about that cannon. I suppose there is a certain irony that I organized that little caper, and some 48 years later, I get another chance to write about it. Turn the clock back, once again, nearly five decades:

It was the fall semester of 1962. The Corps of Cadets were a voting block to be reckoned with on campus at Arlington State College. Nationwide, lines in the sand were starting to be clearly drawn between the two factions of military and non-military students. The war in Viet Nam was daily headline news. Protests, Kent State, and burning ROTC Armories, Draft Cards and American Flags seemed to be the order of the day. At ASC, the Sam Houston Rifles represented the most radical of the "pro-military"

Major Jeannie Deakyne and SFC Somogye



- Cecil T. Anderson*
- David J. Anderson*
- Raymond and Pat Andrae*
- Theron R. Arrington*
- William Barnett*
- Jonathan J. Beville*
- Billy J. Blankenship*
- Ruth M. Boyd*
- David R. Braden*
- Ernest L. Brister*
- Wyatt A. Britten*
- J.C. Brown, Jr.*
- Fred U. Campos*
- Charles C. Cannon Jr.*
- Miguel E. Castillo*
- Pat Choate*
- Lloyd C. Clark*
- Arthur G. Cleveland*
- J.J. Collmer*
- James P. Coughlin*
- Gerald D. Cox*
- Joseph S. Dancses*
- Mrs. Robert J. Darrah*
- Anthony F. Daskevich II*
- Archie P. Davis III*
- Jean A. Deakynne*
- Ricardo F. Diaz*
- Mark A. Dickens*
- Scott A. Downey*
- Henry A. Dufeu*
- Al Ellis*
- Paul S. Faidley*
- Charles E. Feuerbacher*
- Willard F. Filyaw*
- Daniel L. French*
- David H. Gaines*
- Antonio C. Garcia*
- Allan Garonzik*
- George B. Garrett*
- Brian M. Gellman*
- Sheldon J. Gerron*
- Ricky D. Gibbs*
- John R. Glaze*
- Wayne E. Glenn*
- Boyd D. Goldman*
- Everette E. Gray*
- William S. Gribble*
- Ronald L. Harris*
- Herman Harrison*
- William H. Herndon*
- Gary C. Hitt*
- James F. Hollingsworth*
- Jerry B. Houston*
- Walter H. Huth*
- Robert W. Irish*
- Jimmie A. Kepler*
- Mark T. Lamkin*
- Mark B. Latham*
- Rex H. Latham*
- Willard Latham*



**2010 Hall of Honor**



LTC (Ret)  
Lee B. Wilson

The **2010 Hall of Honor** is right around the corner— February 27. Two candidates will be inducted to the UTA Military Science Hall of Honor as the 84th and 85th members. Send your reservation for the luncheon before February 10 to reserve a spot. The reception and the ceremony itself are open to all. Call 817-640-6167, ext. 408, for information.

**LTC (Ret) Lee B. Wilson**, as a member of the Sam Houston Rifles, served as a Rifleman, Squad Leader, First Sergeant, and Team Executive Officer. In the Cadet Corps he advanced to Platoon Leader and Deputy Corps Commander. He was President of the Cadet Officers Club for two years. He graduated in 1962 with a BBA degree as a Distinguished Military Graduate. His assignments included three combat tours with the 5th Special Forces Group in the Republic of South Vietnam. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1984. Lee B. and his wife Suzanne live in Killeen, Texas, and have two children and one grandchild.



COL (Promotable)  
Lester Simpson

**COL (P) Lester Simpson** received an early commission in the Texas Army National Guard in 1980 and graduated from UTA in December 1983. As a cadet, he commanded the Sam Houston Rifles in 1979 and 1980, winning numerous trophies and the State of Texas Championship. He was selected for promotion to Brigadier General by the Adjutant General of Texas for his dynamic leadership, impeccable personal and professional credentials, multiple deployments and broad experiences, and commitment to mission accomplishment. Lester and Antoinette Simpson have four children and they reside in Rowlett Texas.

**Jodies Take a Look! More on a Call to Arms**

We mentioned in the last issue of the Reveille that the Old Jodies are going to do a short routine at the HOH ceremony. Well, the response was overwhelming. Don't miss out. The plan is for one practice session—most likely on Friday February 26. We'll probably work in a meal, of course. This routine will not be at the level of a competition four decades ago, but we think that with one little practice, we can really look pretty decent. You will receive a copy of the video, and some photographs. Great opportunity to show the grandkids some important history. Plus, I guarantee you will have a blast. There will be no age discrimination, and we want all takers! Certainly we recognize that some of us are in better or worse shape than others, and Orlando is going to design the routine with this in mind.

For those who can't make the one practice session, or feel a little too far removed from '30 Count,' you are still in the mix. We will initially line up ALL the Jodies, do a few very basic 22-5 movements, then turn the routine over to the guys who have had the opportunity to practice.

The important thing is to have as many Jodies as possible participate. This may be our Swan Song, so please plan to participate. Let me know, and all further information will come to you by email.

Bunky [bunkyg5@verizon.net](mailto:bunkyg5@verizon.net) (new email address)

*Brigadier General (Continued from page 1)*

Leader to Brigade Commander while serving with the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Assault Division, 82d Airborne Division, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. He has served two tours in Iraq. He performed various staff assignments with the Ranger Training Brigade, Combined Arms Command at Fort Leavenworth, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fifth Army, Department of the Army Staff and Chief of Staff, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. He also served as the Aide De Camp to the CG, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and as the Aide to the CG, Fifth Army.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal (2 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (6 OLC), Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (7 OLC), and the Army Achievement Medal. He is also authorized to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, Joint Staff Identification Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

General Gibbs is the first graduate since the 70's to make General Officer. We extend our congratulations for his outstanding service and accomplishments that bring great credit to him, UTA, and the US Army.



Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs repeats the oath of office Dec. 3 at Fort Riley. (U.S. Army photo by Shelley Roten, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office)

**The CCAC has a new email address: [ccac\\_uta@yahoo.com](mailto:ccac_uta@yahoo.com)**  
 Contact President Ray Andrae at [randraej@aol.com](mailto:randraej@aol.com) and Sarah Nahhas at [snahhas@decisionanalyst.com](mailto:snahhas@decisionanalyst.com)



**Where Are They Now?**

**By Bunky Garonzik**



Joe Billy Swift

If you can hang around on the planet long enough, you will bubble to the surface eventually, and someone from your past will reacquaint with you. Over the last decade this newsletter has made more than a few passing remarks about **Joe Billy Swift**.

We talked about his years on the ASC Rifle Team where he and his roommate, Henry Dufeu, competed for National Titles. We covered his bow and arrow experiment where he shot an arrow through two adjoining steel doors between the rooms at Davis Hall. I'm pretty sure we made mention of. "The Bullet," his 1958 blue Impala with a 4-speed transmission. (That's the car the "Donut Dolly" destroyed. She was instructed that she had to shift four times, but she could never quite get which order. Often times, she would leave a red light in fourth gear, then at about 50 would go to first!)

All through college, there was no doubt that Joe Billy was going to be anything but a "Leg"—an In-

fantry Officer. But sometime after jump school, he figured there was no sense in jumping out of a perfectly good airplane, and he became a pilot. Fixed wing, of all things! So then we had an Infantry Officer assigned to Artillery Unit for a little over a year in Viet Nam. The Army works in mysterious ways—even back then. We still have some E4 in DC throwing darts for the next assignment. Next, Swift gets assigned to Helicopter Training and a second trip to Viet Nam.

Some 32 Air Medals later, and a couple of Distinguished Flying Cross's and a Bird on his shoulder, Joe Billy and his wife Betty ended up back in the Metroplex—this time, working for Bell Helicopter, Bombardier, and Air Special.

Retired, but wanting to go back to work, Joe Billy donates his time to teaching kids and volunteering at the Flight Museum at Love Field. Give him a shout, he'd love to hear from you: [jswift2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jswift2000@yahoo.com)

There is no truth to the rumor that Taylor is his granddaughter! She is much taller, much prettier, and can actually carry a tune!

**Join the CCAC**—all membership funds go to the **Cadet Corps Endowed Scholarship** to support cadets at UTA.

**Congratulations to the Fall 2009 Commissioning Class**

**2LT Joseph C. Bishop** is from Fort Worth, Texas. He will graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. He is branched Military Police Corps and will attend the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

**2LT John J. Manning** is from Grand Prairie, Texas. He will graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in Visual Communications. He is branched Aviation and will attend the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

**2LT Jason L. Robinson** is from Arlington, Texas. 2LT Robinson will graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in Nursing. He is branched Nurse Corps and will attend the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



2LTs Bishop, Robinson, and Manning

*From the President's Desk (Continued from page 1)*  
partment Hall of Honor in February. We extend our congratulations to Colonel Simpson on his accomplishments.

Most PMS's still serve a three year tour. Since the mid 70's the number of cadets commissioned each year is smaller in number than earlier times. Over the last 30 years UTA has commissioned an average of 20 or less a year. To have two of those 600 selected for promotion to BG from UTA is unbelievable. I would expect that there are very few PMSs who can claim that honor, and I am proud to do so.

Well, another year is over as we welcome in the new year. I hope that this has been a good year for everyone even with the hard times we find this country in today. It is especially hard for the young men and women in uniform who are serving our country as we fight two wars involving multiple deployments. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers.

I hope that you are making plans to attend the 2010 Hall of Honor ceremony on February 27. Efforts are underway to make it a memorable event. Look forward to seeing you there.

*Ray Andrae, CCAC President*

**CCAC Life Members**

*(Continued)*

- Joe Lopez
- Mikio E. Ludwig
- Gene G. Lunt
- Mark D. Martin
- Axel Martinez
- James T. Mathis
- E. Ronelle McAbee
- George C. McDowell
- James M. McGinn
- Darrin P. Milner
- Jillian L. Morales
- Allen O. Morris
- Michael W. Morrow
- Sarah Nahhas
- William W. Neal
- Wendell H. Nedderman
- David A. Neveau
- Michael W. Parker
- Sergio Perales
- Larry and Claudia Pink
- William Postlethwaite
- Clarence W. Potter
- Clifton A. Potter
- R. Zack Prince
- Jimmie A. Redden
- Thomas V. Remediz
- Ronald M. Rendleman
- Orlando L. Reyes
- William P. Roe
- Eric A. Rosson
- Robert R. Roten
- Michael A. Saltarelli
- Jeffery K. Saunier
- Thomas A. Schneider
- Charlie E. Seyster
- James S. Sibley
- Lester Simpson
- Dale W. Smith
- Kenneth E. Smith
- Kevin R. Smith
- William C. Sonricker
- Mark C. Stevens
- Donald J. Stevenson
- Harold C. Teubner
- Jerry and Betty Thomas
- Edward H. Thompson
- Susan M. Tillotson
- Scott A. Townsend
- Elmus S. Ussery
- Robert P. Vaughan
- Andrew C. Ward
- Joel H. Ward
- Gene H. Weidemeyer
- Elmer G. White
- Jerry E. Whitehead
- Lee B. Wilson
- Martin B. Woodruff
- Valin R. Woodward
- John K. Yim

*(Blue – new member)*

*Rehash of the Cannon Caper (Continued from page 1)*

movement, or Jodies as we were nicknamed. Not only the best in the land when it came to precision marching, but we were hard core in dedication and physical stature. The Jodies were campus leaders, future heroes, and career Army officers who had a tradition of excellence as the oldest organization on campus.

The other side of the coin, the Jody counterparts, or adversaries, were the Fraternities. Their purpose in life was to party. They dressed and acted in stereotypical fashion. The latest in clothes and fashion with “Gentlemen Quarterly” hairstyles. With no real goal or direction, these young men sought to become successful in life through a network of “who you know,” or “good old Frat buddy system.” To a man, these students were against the war, and, for lack of any real purpose, were the first to line up on the war protesters side along with the Hippies, Druggies, and Flag Burners. Alas, there were no fraternities at ASC to spar with. Under the Texas A&M System, no fraternities were allowed on campus. Suitable alternatives would be found elsewhere.

Within the ranks of the Jodies were two distinct elements, the serious students who were concerned about getting a degree and a commission (these cadets usually majored in history because of its reputation as an easily obtainable degree.) Typical of this “Type One” element were guys like Jerry Houston, Joel Ward, Gary Weber, and Rex Latham, Al Ellis—all corps leaders, good students, and future Hall of Honor inductees.

The other element of the Jodies was nebulous in nature, somewhat eclectic. These were the risk takers, the guys who lived on the edge. Most of this “Type Two” element ended up on the Sam Houston Rifles by “happenstance” rather than long-range planning. They could not care less about grades or learning anything in college. They had no real plans other than have a good time and hopefully obtain a commission—non-directional, with no real achievement goals. This group included guys like Doug Welch, Mark Lamkin, David Herr, Ron Watson, Doug Dulaney and Larry Pitz, Bill Phillips, and McBee. The common thread between the two elements was the dedication to the Jodies, and wanting to be the best in the world at *something*. There would be no Hall of Honor inductees out of the “Type Two” group (even though Welch would become an Army Colonel and decorated Green Beret, and the others had pretty successful careers).

A “mission” was *needed* to wreak havoc on the fraternity life-style. An unlikely “leader” of any clandestine mission emerged: Bunky Garonzik, after high school, lived and worked in the oldest and most dangerous area of New Orleans. To put things in perspective, his rent was \$7 a week. He was “street smart,” totally independent, snubbed authority, and never considered the consequences of his actions. His mentor was Ron Rendleman (later to become a helicopter hero in Viet Nam). Ron had first-



hand knowledge of the famous “105 Simulator between the walls at Davis Hall” incident. His reputation was legend, beginning at age 16, with his attempt to use his brand new cutting torch to cut down the flagpole at Highland Park High School, along with Charles Klemme and Fred Yarbrough (both future Jodies).

The Kappa Alpha fraternity at North Texas State University was picked as the target. This was not a random target. This route-step, anti-military group of party mongers had the audacity to have an authentic Civil War military cannon in front of their dormitory. A true contradiction in terms, to be sure. An oxymoron, of sorts. A spit in the face to anyone in uniform. Their cannon was going to vanish!

A recon mission was first necessary. G2-military intelligence (also viewed as an oxymoron in some circles) revealed that a pledge with a 12-gauge shotgun slept by the window overlooking the cannon. The cannon, intact, weighed over 1200 pounds. The mission was becoming complicated, but the cannon must go. The uniform consisted of blackened faces, Jody jackets reversed (the reverse side was all black), and black berets. Necessary tools were brought to disassemble the cannon that lay only a dozen steps from the dormitory. Assignments were given, and the raiding party practiced until they were as efficient as a Roger Penske pit crew. Vehicle allocations for each part of the cannon were made, and silent hand signals rehearsed. A sworn blood oath of secrecy about the mission was taken. (That may be a little dramatic!) Off to Denton. The mission was flawless. In less than seven minutes, the cannon was heading back to Arlington. One vital element was, however, overlooked—where was this fully operational, huge piece of military hardware now going to go?

Once re-assembled, the cannon completely filled Bunky’s third floor dormitory room on C ramp at Davis Hall. No problem. No one used the room to study anyway. The barrel alone weighed over 800 pounds, and the wheels stood nearly five feet tall. By three in the morning the solid brass barrel shined like a new penny, and the raiders admired their night’s work.

Ben Franklin once said, “*Three can keep a secret, if two are dead!*” By 8 a.m., half of the Corps of Cadets were lining up to view the trophy. No one can confirm that the C Ramp Commander, Dave (Possum) Murray informed the authorities, but by 9 a.m. the cops were swarming, and the cannon was once again taken apart and reassembled on the roof of Davis Hall. The Arlington Police SWAT team informed the Cadets, “*We know there is a cannon in the dormitory. We will be back in an hour. The cannon WILL be out front.*”

One final time, the cannon was taken apart and reappeared, intact, on the front lawn. A wrecker arrived and the cannon headed north. The Kappa Alpha’s now had a *shiny* cannon in front of their dorm, and Garonzik and others had added a footnote to the ongoing saga of capers at UTA. And I would wager that no one has ever discovered the Jody decal on the *back* side of the cannon’s brass KAPPA ALPHA FRATERNITY plaque.