



CORPS OF CADETS

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY



Howdy!

From the Commandant: The 2014-2015 State of the Corps

Howdy and Greetings from Aggieland! The 2014 – 2015 school year was a very successful year for the Corps of Cadets filled with many highlights and accomplishments. We are all proud of our cadets and the way they represented our Corps and our university throughout the year. We feel confident that we are achieving the mission of the Corps of Cadets to **“develop well-educated leaders of character who embody the values of HONOR, COURAGE, INTEGRITY, DISCIPLINE and SELFLESS SERVICE, are academically successful, highly sought-after, and prepared for the global leadership challenges of the 21st Century.”**

Keeping the Aggie Network up to date about the accomplishments of our Corps is important to us, and helps us to spread the message about how the Corps of Cadets continues to make a big difference in the lives of young men and women who will become the future leaders of our communities, our state, and our nation. We hope you enjoy the following recap of the 2014 – 2015 school year for the Corps of Cadets. I think you’ll see that our Corps is truly an organization to be proud of, and that our credentials – our cadets – are making a big difference at Texas A&M, the state of Texas, our great nation, and the world!

Academics

It was truly an exceptional year for the Corps academically! I am proud to say the Corps posted the highest Grade Point Averages (GPA) on record for both the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters! The cadets posted a Fall 2014 term overall GPA of **2.93!** Over half of the cadets (53%) posted a GPA of 3.0 or better, and 154 cadets posted a perfect 4.0 GPA. Corps freshmen outperformed their University counterparts by a good margin. The cadets posted a Spring 2015 term overall GPA of **2.98.** Once again, more than half of the cadets (57%) posted a GPA of 3.0 or better and 155 cadets posted a perfect 4.0 GPA. Corps freshmen and sophomores once again outperformed their University counterparts. For the first time in Corps history, the senior class (Class of 2015) finished their time in the Corps with both a term and cumulative GPA above a 3.0.

It was a very successful year for our cadets, highlighting that Academics is our number one priority, and that our efforts toward that priority are producing very good results. This year we increased efforts in academic support sponsored by the Office of the Commandant, and worked closely with the colleges to help our cadets succeed academically – especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses and upper-level specialized departmental courses. Our cadets continue to excel academically and prove that they can achieve academic excellence while being members of

the Corps of Cadets. Congratulations to the Corps of Cadets for all the success they achieved this year academically!

Corps Strength



This year the Corps of Cadets started the year with a strength of 2,470 cadets – slightly larger than the year before and once again the largest Corps since 1970! Our recruiting efforts are showing great progress, with the Corps population growing by over 25% since 2010! We are proud of our growth, and look forward to continued growth in the future.

Here are some Corps strength “snapshots” from this past year:

- 938 cadets joined the Corps last year
- Corps Strength on the first day of school was 2,470
- 344 female cadets – 14% of the Corps (largest number of female cadets on record)
- Overall fish attrition for the year was 20%
- We expect a Corps strength of nearly 2,550 for the Fall 2015 semester

Commissioning

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is still the number one producer of military officers for our country outside of the three service academies. This past year, despite all of the military services downsizing, Texas A&M continued to produce a large number of high caliber young men and women for our military. This May alone we commissioned 130 cadets into the Armed Forces – a record number of our men and women choosing to serve their nation, and the highest single commissioning number at Texas A&M since 1984. We expect to commission close to 200 of our cadets into the military by the end of the year in December – an indication of the faith and confidence that the Department of Defense has in our Corps to produce some of our country’s finest military officers. I am extremely proud of our young Aggie officers who have chosen to serve our country in the military during time of war. A legacy over 100 years old of Aggies serving our nation during time of war continues today, and we should all be proud.

Hollingsworth Leadership Excellence Program

The Hollingsworth Leadership Excellence Program continues to grow and develop to ensure that we are producing exceptional leaders for corporate America in the public sector as well as organizations in the private sector. This year, 140 members of the class of 2015 were awarded the Certificate in Leadership Study and Development – a 12-credit hour, university-recognized, academic award noted on the official Texas A&M transcript. We also have continued to expand the internship program to provide cadets experience in numerous career fields. The leadership of the Hollingsworth Leadership Excellence Program is working with over 150 companies and organizations who are interested in providing cadets internships or full-time jobs. Over 170 cadets from the Class of '16 are participating in some form of internship this summer. Our goal is to provide an internship for any cadet that wants one

and to help cadets find a job upon graduation. If you are interested in either providing internships or full-time jobs to cadets, please contact Ken Allison at 979-458-0436 or kallison@corps.tamu.edu.

ROTC Programs



Our Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine ROTC programs work hard year-round to guarantee that those cadets seeking a commission receive the best training possible for their path to commission. This year, our outstanding ROTC Programs achieved some significant honors and accomplishments:

Army

- The Army ROTC Ranger Challenge Team placed first out of all Army ROTC teams in the nation and fourth out of 58 teams competing internationally at the prestigious Sandhurst competition held at the United States Military Academy. This marks the second consecutive first place finish for Texas A&M Army ROTC and the second top five finish after placing 2nd last year at the Sandhurst Competition.
- Army ROTC is on pace to commission up to 100 2LTs this year with 14 Cadets distinguishing themselves as Distinguished Military Graduates and 97% of Cadets earning one of their top three Military Specialties of choice.
- 261 Cadre and Cadets will participate in Army Summer Training this year. Over 20 Cadets were selected for highly competitive Military Schools such as the Special Forces Combat Dive School, Airborne & Air Assault School as well as acting as platoon leaders in Active Duty Army units throughout the United States, the Pacific, and Europe. 23 Cadets were selected for language and train abroad immersion experiences to over 10 different countries. 10 Cadets were selected for prestigious internships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over 160 Cadets will attend Basic and Advanced military training at Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Leonard Wood Missouri and Fort Jackson South Carolina.
- Cadet Christopher Hooker '15 received the George C. Marshall Award as the outstanding Army ROTC cadet for the year at the Army Cadet Command George Marshall Awards & Leadership Seminar, hosted at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.
- The Army ROTC program's commitment to academic achievement remains steadfast with back to back semesters of their cadets posting above a 3.0 GPA – well ahead of the University Average.

Air Force

- Air Force ROTC commissioned 45 officers in Fiscal Year 2015, most of any of the 144 AFROTC Detachments
- 58 of 58 cadets nominated – 100% - were selected to attend Air Force Summer Field Training. This selection rate is 8% higher than the national average
Texas A&M Air Force ROTC cadets achieved a 92% selection rate for rated categorization (Pilot, Combat Systems Officer, Air Battle Manager, Remotely Piloted Aircraft), 9% higher than the national average,
- The entire Air Force ROTC cadet wing, 500+ cadets, posted a 3.04 Term GPA, with approximately 60% of cadets in STEM majors
- Three Texas A&M Air Force ROTC cadets were handpicked nationally to participate in the highly competitive US Air Force Title X Cyber Wargame. Only five cadets were selected nationally - three of the five cadets were from Texas A&M
- Texas A&M Air Force ROTC Detachment 805 was named the Best Detachment of 36 AFROTC

detachments in the US Southwest Region

Navy/Marine

- Two Navy/Marine ROTC cadets received national and Texas state recognition for their exemplary military and academic performance. Cadet and Midshipman First Class Seth Cochran '15 was presented a Naval Submarine League Award and Cadet and Midshipman Second Class Dylan Rogers '16 was awarded a Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership Award.
- Texas A&M Navy ROTC exceeded the Naval Service Training Command nuclear accession quota, producing seven nuclear officers – a first for Texas A&M.
- Texas A&M continued a tradition of excellence with the 35 midshipmen who were sent to Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. Of the 35:
 - 13 graduated in the top 25%
 - 11 received honors for perfect physical fitness scores
 - 2 received Highest Academic GPA Awards
- Navy/Marine ROTC Battalion Scholarship students posted a spring semester GPA of 3.00.

Corps Global Leadership Initiatives Program

The Corps of Cadets sent 78 students on three Corps International Excursions in May 2015. These cadets experienced diplomatic, informational, military, economic, religious, and cultural insights during the three excursions to Germany and Poland, Georgia and Armenia, and Singapore and Indonesia. The cadets gained a greater understanding of the global challenges facing our nation in countries strategically important to us, while also expanding their global awareness and leadership skills. Next year we will continue this exciting, high impact program with three more excursions, with destinations yet to be determined. These excursions are free to our cadets (the only requirement is for them to have a passport), are highly competitive, and extremely educational.

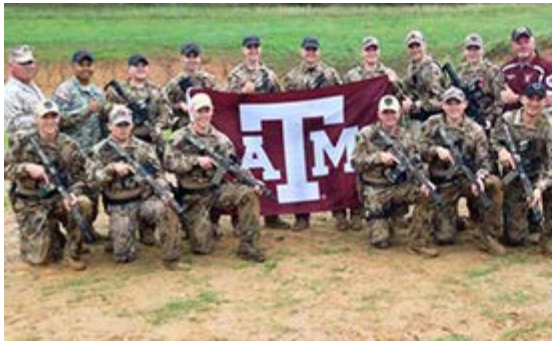
In addition to our Excursion Program, many cadets traveled abroad in support of the DOD initiative PROJECT GO (Project Global Officer) – a collaborative initiative that promotes critical language education, study abroad, and intercultural dialogue opportunities for ROTC students. Cadets traveled to China, Morocco, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia as part of Project GO, and gained valuable experience and insights that will serve them well as military officers in the future.

The Corps International Exchange program is also growing rapidly. Two Lieutenants from the German Armed Forces studied at Texas A&M as members of the Corps of Cadets during the year, and seven Aggie cadets studied at Helmut Schmidt University (HSU) in Hamburg, Germany. In Spring 2015, four cadets traveled to the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, Australia to begin an inaugural exchange program with them. We will in turn host three to four cadets from Australia this fall.

In February 2015, the Corps hosted 35 Republic of Korea ROTC cadets for a three-week leadership program. The Korean cadets stayed in the Corps dorms, ate in Duncan Dining Center, attended classes with our cadets, and interacted daily with their Aggie hosts. We are exploring options with the Korean ROTC Association to increase the number of participants and reciprocate by having Texas A&M cadets visit Korea for a similar experience.

Our Corps Global Initiatives Program has grown over the past three years, and we hope to continue to expand on that success. Of the many students from Texas A&M that travel and study abroad as part of their education, the Corps of Cadets now sends over 12% – a fact that we are very proud of!

Corps Athletics



The Corps competitive sports program continues to grow and excel. The program offers competitive athletes an opportunity to participate in college sports while developing leadership skills as members of the Corps of Cadets. We have 11 Corps teams that compete across the state and nation, some as members of intercollegiate club sports conferences. Among this year's accomplishments, the Corps Triathlon team swept the top three spots in their age group in two races, and one team member finished first overall in the race. The Corps Baseball team – coming off a Club Baseball National Championship in 2014 – went undefeated during the regular season and captured a conference title before being eliminated in the regional championships. The Corps of Cadets Marksmanship Unit (CCMU) participated in the annual meeting of Combat Weapons Teams from each of the United States Service Academies and Senior Military Colleges and won the 2015 Championship Trophy. The CCMU team finished 84 match points ahead of 2nd place United States Military Academy at West Point. The CCMU also took first place in the Centerfire and Rimfire Divisions at the Scholastic Pistol Program Winter Regional, and the CCMU Clays Team took first place in Division II at the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Collegiate Clay Target Championships. Our Corps sent two teams to compete in the Army 10 Miller last fall, and both teams finished extremely well, and were well received by the crowd in Washington DC. Our Corps Men's and Women's Basketball teams both finished second in the highly competitive "Flying Irish Invitational Basketball Tournament" at Notre Dame this year as well.

Quad Master Plan

The most comprehensive renovation project ever undertaken on the Quad since its initial construction in 1939 is well underway. The renovation will transform the Quad into a 21st century living learning environment for our cadets, while preserving and enhancing the Quad's historic appearance. Dorms 6 (Lacy), 7 (Leonard), and 8 (Harrell) have been completely renovated and occupied, and the state-of-the-art Buzbee and Ash Leadership Learning Centers (LLCs) are open to support cadets' academic success. Over the next year Dorms 1-5 (Spence, Kiest, Briggs, Fountain, and Gainer) will be renovated and two new LLCs – Plank and Ash II – will be constructed. The following year Dorms 9-12 (Whitely, White, Harrington, and Utay) will be renovated and the re-paving and landscaping of the Quad will be completed. The Quad renovation will be completed prior to the start of the fall 2017 semester. Over the next two school years, while dorms are undergoing renovation, some cadets will be residing in Aston and Dunn Halls in the Commons. We are excited about the renovations to the Quad, and look forward to a completely renovated Quad in just two years. What an exceptional living learning community the Quad is going to be for our cadets in the near future!

Music Activities Center (MAC)

Texas A&M has announced exciting plans to build a new Music Activities Center that will accommodate more than 1,300 student musicians in the university's bands (including the world-famous Fightin' Texas Aggie Band), choirs and orchestras. The new facility will replace the E.V. Adams Band Hall, which can no longer safely accommodate the bands and ensembles that practice there. Located on the corner of George Bush Drive and Coke Street, the facility will include a 100-yard artificial turf practice field, soundproof practice rooms with extended access, four new rehearsal halls and adequate storage space for instruments.

To fund the construction of the Music Activities Center, the university has committed to funding half of the \$40 million necessary for the project. The other \$20 million will come from donor support through the Texas A&M Foundation. You can support the Music Activities Center with an online donation through the Texas A&M Foundation at <http://bit.ly/1HeJULm>.

Other Notable Accomplishments



- For the first time in the 139 year history of the Corps, a female was selected to become the Cadet Colonel of the Corps. Alyssa Michalke '16 from Company B-1 will serve as the Corps Commander for the 2015 – 2016 school year.
- Two former Corps units were reactivated at the beginning of the school year: Squadron 11 (Heavens 11) and Company G-2 (Gladiators). This brings the total number of Corps company sized outfits to 44, and the total number of units reactivated in the Corps in the last four years to 11. A major unit, 3rd Regiment, was also reactivated.
- For two years in a row, the Student Body President elected by the Texas A&M students has been a cadet. This past year, Cadet Kyle Kelly, '15, was the elected Student Body President.
- 26 cadets were selected to “Who’s Who Among American Universities and Universities” at Texas A&M for the 2014-2015 school year – 46% of the total students selected at Texas A&M.
- The “40th Anniversary of Women in the Corps” Celebration on campus hosted former female cadets from the past four decades to discuss old times, receive updates on the current Corps, look at the renovations and upgrades to the current facilities, and discuss the future of the Corps.
- The Class of '18 Fish Drill Team once again captured the National Championship for precision drill teams at the Tulane Invitational Drill Meet.
- A Corps Review was held for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, who was in town to speak at the annual Texas A&M Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) conference. The Corps was extremely honored to host Chairman Dempsey for the review on the Quad and for dinner afterward at Duncan Dining Hall.
- The Corps of Cadets played a big role in Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Inauguration Ceremonies on Tuesday, January 20. The Ross Volunteers – the Honor Guard for the Governor of Texas – formed the traditional Saber Arch for the Inauguration Ceremony on the steps of the Capitol. The Aggie Band, Ross Volunteers, and Parsons Mounted Cavalry then participated in the Inaugural Parade down Congress Avenue. The Ross Volunteers again formed the Saber Arch for the Governor and his family at the Inaugural Ball that night.
- Four of our cadets traveled with a delegation from The Association of Former Students to dedicate an Aggie Memorial at Corregidor Island to honor those Aggies who fought at Corregidor and held Aggie Muster during that famous battle. Cadets Mariah Stanley, Brendon Crouch, Morgan Cochran and Grant Weaver represented our Corps in the dedication of the Aggie Memorial at Corregidor.
- The home of the Parsons Mounted Cavalry (PMC), The Fiddler's Green, is currently undergoing a major renovation thanks to generous donations from former students. The new facilities will include a new tack and half-section building containing a leather shop, restrooms, and an office, with storage and display space for wagons, cannons, and 50 sets of tack. The renovation also includes the replacement of over 8,000 feet of fence, including adding welded pipe fencing around the training arena and the addition of 16 additional acres. The project should be completed by the fall semester.

Corps Trip to Fort Worth

This coming year the Corps of Cadets will once again conduct its Annual Corps Trip to the Dallas/Fort Worth area – just as we did on a regular basis when we were members of the Southwest Conference and regularly played TCU and SMU. On Saturday, September 26, Texas A&M will play Arkansas in the Annual Southwest Classic at AT&T Stadium (formerly Dallas Cowboys Stadium) in Arlington, Texas. At 9 AM on Saturday morning the Corps will begin the March-in and step off from 9th Street and Commerce in downtown Fort Worth. The march-in will conclude with a Pass in Review in front of the Convention Center on Commerce Street. This will be the largest Corps Trip in years with over 2,500 cadets marching through downtown Fort Worth. We hope to see you there supporting your Aggie Cadet Corps as they revive the tradition of the Corps Trip to Fort Worth!

Sponsor a Cadet Ticket

The Fort Worth Corps Trip and march-in is a mandatory event for all cadets. Our intent is for all cadets to not only march-in to Ft Worth, but also to attend the A&M – Arkansas game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington later that day. The Athletic Department has worked to get tickets for the Corps at a GREATLY reduced price of \$85 (they are usually priced over \$200). To offset the cost of the \$85 football ticket for each cadet (away game tickets are not included in the Sports pass cadets purchase), I am going to require the cadets to pay \$35 for their ticket, and am asking for monetary donations to cover the remaining \$50 of the ticket price. You can sponsor a cadet to attend the game with a small donation of \$50. Your generosity will ensure that our Corps can attend the A&M – Arkansas game and yell loudly as the 12th Man to spur our team onto victory over the Hogs. If you wish to sponsor a cadet to attend the A&M – Arkansas game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington on September 26, please make checks payable to the 12thMan Foundation Arkansas Corps Trip and mail your donation to:

12thMan Foundation
P.O. Box 2800
College Station, TX 77841-2800

You can also use credit card to pay for a ticket or tickets for cadets by going to the following link and making your payment on line: <https://www.12thmanfoundation.com/join/Corps-Trip-To-Fort-Worth.aspx>.

We are grateful for your generosity in supporting the ability of our cadets to attend the game! Beat the Hell Outta Arkansas!



I hope this update has provided you with the latest information on what has been a very successful year for the Corps of Cadets. As you can see, we remain confident that the Corps is clearly providing the right environment for young men and women to achieve academic success, to develop as leaders, to expand their global perspectives, to pursue professional and career development, pursue a military career, participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities, and prepare for the “global leadership challenges of the 21st century.”

We are very proud of all that our cadets achieved this past school year, and are excited about the coming year and even more successes for our Corps. Thanks to all of you for your support of our Corps, and we look forward to updating you throughout the coming year on our exceptional young men and women who will be members of the 2015-2016 Corps of Cadets!

Please feel free to pass this update on to others who may have an interest in our Corps and the many successes they have achieved.

Have a great summer! Beat the Hell Outta Arizona State at NRG Stadium in Houston on September 5!

Visit us on our Social Media Sites

I want to encourage all of you to go to our social media sites to keep up-to-date on what's going on in the Corps, including stories, photos and videos of our cadets in action. You do not have to have accounts with any of the sites to view the pages. Please visit our social media pages and keep in touch with our Corps!

[Corps Facebook](#)

[Commandant's Facebook](#)

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During the school year, the weekly Commandant's e-newsletter is distributed to those who wish to be kept up-to-date on the Corps of Cadets. To be added to this mailing list, submit your email to http://bit.ly/cmdt_parents.

Thanks for your support and Gig 'em!



BG(R) Joe E. Ramirez, Jr.
Commandant of Cadets
Texas A&M University

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